

UN Puts India in 'Shameful' List of 38 Countries for Reprisals on Rights Activists

Agency
Geneva, Sept 14,

The UN listed 38 "shameful" countries including China and Russia on Wednesday which it said had carried out reprisals or intimidation against people cooperating with it on human rights, through killings, torture and arbitrary arrests.

The annual report from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also included allegations of ill-treatment, surveillance, criminalisation and public stigmatisation campaigns targeting victims and human rights defenders. "The world owes it to those brave people standing up for human rights, who have responded to requests to provide information to and engage with the United Nations, to ensure their right to participate is respected," Guterres wrote. "Punishing individuals for cooperating with the United Nations is a shameful practice that everyone must do more to stamp out."

The 38 countries included 29 countries with new cases, and 19 with ongoing or continuing cases.

The new cases were in Bahrain, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mali, Morocco,



Myanmar, Philippines, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela. Governments frequently charged human rights activists with terrorism or blamed them for cooperating with foreign entities or damaging the state's reputation or security, it said. "(There is a) disturbing trend in the use of national security arguments and counter-terrorism strategies by states as justification for blocking access by communities and civil society organisations to the United Nations," the report said.

Women cooperating with the UN had reported threats of rape and being subject to online smear campaigns, and

UN staff often encountered people who were too afraid to speak to them, even at UN headquarters in New York and Geneva.

UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Andrew Gilmour, who will present the report to the Human Rights Council next week, said in a statement that the cases in the report were the tip of the iceberg.

"We are also increasingly seeing legal, political and administrative hurdles used to intimidate – and silence – civil society," he said.

Some of the countries listed are current members of the Human Rights Council, which adopted a resolution last year reaffirming that everyone – individually or in association with others – had a right to unhindered communication with the UN

Sensex climbs 300 points on positive economic data, rupee recovery

Agency
Mumbai, Sept 14,

The BSE benchmark Sensex reclaimed the 38,000-mark by surging over 300 points in opening trade Friday on heavy buying by domestic institutional investors as the industrial production grew at 6.6 per cent in July and retail inflation cooled to a 10-month low.

The 30-share barometer pushed higher by 318.85 points, or 0.85 per cent, to 38,036.81. The gauge had risen 304.83 points in the previous session on Wednesday.

Sectoral indices were green across the board, with metal, power, PSU, realty and oil &

gas stocks posting sizeable gains of up to 1.66 per cent. The NSE index Nifty was trading above the 11,400-mark, up 84.90 points, or 0.75 per cent, at 11,454.80.

Buying activity picked momentum after data released by Central Statistics Office (CSO) on Wednesday showed that industrial production grew at 6.6 per cent in July, while retail inflation cooled to a 10-month low of 3.69 per cent in August.

The rupee's recovery by 50 paise to 71.68 against the dollar in early trade on the government's assurance that all steps would be taken to ensure the domestic currency does not depreciate to

unreasonable levels also added to the momentum. PowerGrid, emerged top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 3 per cent, followed by Yes Bank at 2.11 per cent.

Other big gainers that lifted both the key indices were Maruti Suzuki, Sun Pharma, Vedanta, SBI, Adani Ports, IndusInd Bank, ONGC, NTPC, ICICI Bank, Coal India and Tata Steel. However, stocks of software exporters such as Wipro, Infosys and TCS were under pressure after the rupee continued its recovery against the dollar.

Domestic institutional investors (DIIs) remained net buyers, picking up shares worth a net of Rs 541.44 crore

on Wednesday. However, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) gave up shares worth a net of Rs 1,086.39 crore, provisional data showed.

Stock exchanges remained closed Thursday on account of Ganesh Chaturthi. Most other Asian markets too were in a better shape, tracking positive cues from Wall Street on optimism over China-US trade talks.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.79 per cent, while Japan's Nikkei was up 0.97 per cent in their early deals. Shanghai Composite Index, however, was down 0.26 per cent.

The US Dow Jones Industrial Average had closed 0.57 per cent higher on Thursday.

Nirmala Sitharaman blames HAL, A.K. Antony for UPA's Rafale deal collapse

Agency,
New Delhi, Sept 14,

The negotiations for procurement of 126 Rafale jets under the UPA government fell through as state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), did not have the required capability to produce the jets in India in collaboration with French company Dassault Aviation, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday.

Ms. Sitharaman also said that an unprecedented intervention in 2013 by the then Defence Minister A.K. Antony when the cost negotiation committee was giving final touches to the deal put the final nail in the coffin.

After rounds of negotiations with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), Dassault Aviation felt that the cost of the Rafale jets will escalate significantly if they were to be produced in India, she said during an interaction with PTI editors and reporters at the agency's headquarters here.

"Dassault could not progress in the negotiations with HAL because if the aircraft were to be produced in India, a guarantee for the product to be produced was to be given. It is a big ticket item and the IAF would want the guarantee for the jets. HAL was in no position to give the guarantee," she said.

The defence minister said the then government could have come forward and pumped in resources into HAL, but they did not. She said she has no intention of undermining HAL, but "why could not the then defence minister say that we will pump in all the required resources into the HAL. He could have done it. That was not done," Ms. Sitharaman said, adding that the current government was initiating steps to strengthen the state-run aerospace company.

On Mr. Antony's intervention, Ms. Sitharaman claimed he held back the file at a stage where he did not have any role to play. However, she



did not elaborate on reasons for Mr. Antony's action.

'Rafale planes will be 9% cheaper'

Ms. Sitharaman said the weapon systems, avionics and other key add-ons to the Rafale aircraft, expected to be delivered beginning September 2019, will be "much superior" than that negotiated by the UPA, and her government is getting the planes for 9 per cent cheaper than what was earlier agreed upon. The previous UPA government started negotiating in 2012 with French Dassault Aviation to buy 126 Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA).

The plan was for Dassault Aviation to supply 18 Rafale jets in fly-away condition while 108 aircraft were to be manufactured in India by the company along with HAL. However, the deal could not be sealed. In 2016, the Modi government signed a government-to-government deal with France for purchase of 36 Rafale jets at a cost of Rs 58,000 crore.

The Congress has been alleging irregularities in the deal. Rebutting charges of corruption in the deal, Ms. Sitharaman also asserted that people of the country

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have put a closure on the issue as they have trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"There is a trust in the prime minister. He is not going to be corrupt. So with all this, I think mentally, people of India have reached a closure on it, saying there is no corruption here," she said. Ms. Sitharaman ruled out calling the opposition parties for a meeting to allay their concerns over the Rafale deal, saying they are "throwing an allegation" without any basis as well as showing no concern for operational

preparedness of the air force.

The Congress has repeatedly criticised the deal for the 36 Rafale jets, alleging that the government was procuring each aircraft at a cost of over Rs 1,670 crore as against Rs 526 crore finalised by the UPA government.

Ms. Sitharaman said the Rs 526 crore figure refers to the bare aircraft, capable of just flying and landing, and does not take into account the avionics, arsenal and other associated technologies that make it a complete fighting machine.

Assam Rifles conduct lecture on Sanchayika Day

IT News
Imphal, Sept 14,

Mantripukhri Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) conducted lecture on Sanchayika Day at Cheingmeirong Company

NE among states not responding to SC orders on criminal cases against MPs, MLAs
Courtesy Shilong Times
Shillong, Sept 14,

All north-east states are among the 25 Indian states and union territories that have not responded to Supreme Court orders for information about the number of criminal cases pending against their MPs/MLAs and the setting up of special courts to exclusively try them. Twenty-five states and Union Territories, between November last year and August 2018, have failed to respond to repeated the Supreme Court orders. On September 12, the apex court took note of the nonchalance from the States and Union Territories and their dealings with legal battles against criminality and corruption in politics.

A three-judge Bench led by Justice Ranjan Gogoi recorded the names of the said States and Union Territories in a six-page order.

The twenty-five states and union territories includes Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, etc.

Operating Base on 13th September. A total of 40 students and ten teachers of SenaiSindam Residential High School and Cheingmeirong Upper Primary School, attended the lecture. The lecture was conducted to encourage the students to develop the good habit of savings for the betterment of their future. The students showed a lot of enthusiasm and positive spirit during the whole event.

On the other hand, Units under command 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) saved lives of

snake bite victims on 13th September. Keithelmanbi Battalion and Tulihal Battalion saved lives of Mrs Madhubala and Mrs Prema Devi respectively from different villages of Khumbong and Patsoi. Both the ladies were bitten by poisonous snakes and were immediately rushed to the unit hospitals. The patients were readily attended by the medical teams under the Regimental Medical Officers. The timely action by the medical teams not only saved precious humans lives but also reinforced good faith among the locals.

Original certificate lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my original certificate of my class XII exam bearing roll number 3628842 of 2012 issued by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) New Delhi on the way between MM Higher Secondary School, Wangkhei, Imphal East and Konung Mamang Bazar, Imphal East district on July 20, 2018.

Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Riyanandan Nongmaithem (24 yrs)
S/o Nongmaithem Sunila Kumar Singh
Sagolband Moirang leirak Machin, Imphal West

Admit Card lost

I have lost my original admit card for my class XII examination issued by the Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur (COHSEM) bearing Roll No. bearing Roll. No 23666 of 2018 on the way between Thoubal to Ukhongsang on 3/09/2018.

Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Thongam Umashangkar Singh
S/o Th. Tiken Singh
Ukhongsang Maning Leikai