

BORDER FACE-OFF

Jaishankar meets Chinese counterpart amid LAC tensions

The talks between the two ministers took place in the backdrop of a massive spike in border tensions in eastern Ladakh



Srivastava reiterated India's position that it is committed to resolve the current situation through peaceful negotiations.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Moscow/New Delhi, September 10

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi met in Moscow on Thursday amid hopes of a possible breakthrough in reducing tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

The talks between the two foreign ministers took place in the backdrop of a massive spike in border tensions in eastern Ladakh triggered by fresh face-offs between Indian and Chinese troops along the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

military presence in the region by sending additional troops, battle tanks and other weaponry. The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) has also beefed up its presence in the area where the situation remained very tense.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh held talks with his Chinese counterpart General Wei Fenghe on the margins of another SCO meet in Moscow last Friday, but apparently the meeting did not yield any tangible outcome.

2G scam: HC seeks replies of A Raja, others on CBI, ED pleas for early hearing of appeals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, September 10

THE DELHI HIGH court on Thursday asked former telecom minister A Raja and others to respond to the CBI and ED pleas seeking early hearing of their appeals challenging the acquittal of individuals and firms in the 2G spectrum allocation scam cases.



Justice Brijesh Sethi issued notices to all the respondents - individuals and firms -- asking them to file replies and listed the matter for hearing on September 21. The two investigative agencies have sought early hearing of the appeals which were listed for hearing on October 12.

logical conclusion and the agencies' leave to appeal be heard at the earliest. Leave to appeal is a formal permission granted by a court to a party to appeal a decision to a higher court.

CBI has also sought advancing the hearing of the appeal challenging the acquittal of Essar Group promoters Ravi Kant Ruia and Anshuman Ruia and six others in a separate case arising out of the 2G scam probe.

He submitted that he had completed his arguments on behalf of CBI on January 15, but thereafter, the matter could not be heard due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the hearing, additional solicitor general Sanjay Jain, representing the ED and the CBI, said it will be in public interest that the country's largest trial which was conducted at the public exchequer's cost be brought to its

Amit Mahajan and N K Matta added that as Justice Sethi will demit the office on November 30, the appeal be heard and decided expeditiously as if the part-heard matter, which has consumed a lot of judicial time, will be heard afresh by another bench it will cost too much to the public exchequer.

reserved its order on two separate pleas by two firms, which were acquitted in the 2G scam related money laundering case, seeking release of their properties attached by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Advocate Vijay Aggarwal, representing the two firms, said they were ready to execute an indemnity bond of the value of the properties as a surety and if the appeal by ED is allowed against the acquittal, it will deposit the amount with the agencies as equivalent to the properties' value.

Jain opposed the pleas saying the high court is yet to decide the 'leave to appeal' applications of the agencies and till the time they are not decided, hearing an interim plea is "abuse of process of law".

He said the court can keep the firms' applications in abeyance till the time it decides the plea for granting leave to appeal and added that the theory of indemnity bond was completely alien to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

A special court had on December 21, 2017 acquitted Raja, DMK MP Kanimozhi and others in CBI and ED cases related to the scam.

Modi appreciates role in boosting Indo-Japan ties in call to Abe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, September 10

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi on Thursday held a telephonic conversation with his outgoing Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe and conveyed his gratitude for playing a key role in greatly strengthening ties between India and Japan.

In the talks, Modi apprised Abe his intention to work closely with the new government of Japan and wished him the very best for the future, the ministry of external affairs said.

Govt to Nabard: Ensure interest reliefs on farm loans are duly passed on

FE BUREAU New Delhi, September 10

THE GOVERNMENT ON Thursday asked the lenders to the farm sector including Nabard to ensure that farmers repaying their agriculture loans in time do get the assorted interest reliefs without delay.

Currently, the Centre gives 3% additional interest subvention over and above normal interest subsidy on short-term crop loans on timely repayment, making the effective interest rate at 4%. Some states like Gujarat further subsidise the interest to near zero.

The minister suggested that Nabard should resolve this using technology so that farmers do not wait for the benefit. He cited the recent PM-Kisan direct benefit transfer of ₹17,000 crore to over 8 crore farmers at once and hoped that such technological intervention is possible to resolve pending issues for the benefit of farmers.

"Farmers get the additional subsidy benefit only after government releases its share and it takes even one year or more to realise these subsidies," said a manager of a public sector bank.

He said the Odisha government released its share of subsidy a few days ago, though claim of which was sent in September 2019. Odisha disburses 2% additional interest subsidy on agriculture credit making the effective rate at 2% in the state.

After years of negotiations, India and Japan on Wednesday signed the landmark agreement that will allow their militaries access each other's bases for logistics support

attained in partnership between the two countries in the last few years will continue unabated in the future.

Last month, Abe decided to resign citing health issues.

"Prime Minister Modi expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Abe for his personal commitment and leadership in greatly strengthening the relationship between the two countries," the MEA said.

Rafale inducted into IAF: Stern message to those eyeing India's sovereignty, says Rajnath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Ambala, September 10

FIVE FRENCH-MADE MULTIROLE Rafale jets were inducted into the Indian Air Force on Thursday at a glittering ceremony here, in a major boost to the country's air power at a time when it is engaged in an escalating border dispute with China.

Using the occasion to send a signal to China over the border row in eastern Ladakh, defence minister Rajnath Singh said the induction was crucial considering the atmosphere being created along the frontier and called it a "big and stern" message to those eyeing India's sovereignty.

Singh said Rafale is considered one of the best combat aircraft globally and the deal to procure the jets was a "game changer" for India's national security.

A traditional 'sarva dharma puja', a ceremonial water cannon salute to the Rafale fighter jets and an aerial drill featuring breathtaking manoeuvres by the aircraft marked their induction into the IAF's 'Golden Arrows' squadron at the Ambala Air Force station.

"The induction of Rafale jets is a big and stern message to the entire world, especially to those eyeing our sovereignty. This kind of induction is very important for the kind of atmosphere that has been created on our borders," the defence minister said.

"We understand very well that with changing times, we also have to prepare ourselves. I feel proud to say that our national security has been a big priority for Prime Minister

long association. His leadership and commitment have been vital in taking India-Japan partnership to new heights. I am sure this momentum will continue in the coming years," Modi tweeted.

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The induction ceremony of the newly acquired Rafale jets in Ambala on Thursday TASHI TOBGYAL

Narendra Modi," he said. Besides Singh, the nearly two-hour ceremony was attended by French defence minister Florence Parly, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria and top executives of major French defence firms involved in the Rafale deal.

Bhaduria said the induction of Rafale jets could not have happened at a more opportune time, considering the security scenario.

He said the Golden Arrows squadron has already flown the aircraft and undergone intense integrated training with other combat fleets, including firing advanced weapons.

"So this formal induction today also marks the operational induction of this aircraft into the IAF. We are good to go and deliver," he said.

In her address, Parly said France is fully committed to integrate the Indian defence industry with France's global

Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project, under the framework of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

They agreed that the strong and enduring partnership between the two countries will play a critical role in charting the course for the global community in the post-Covid world.

The MEA said the two leaders expressed appreciation for the support provided to resident citizens in each other countries during the Covid-19 pandemic and agreed that such efforts must be continued to sustain the strong people-to-people ties between the two countries.

General Eric Autellet, Vice Chief of French Air Force, chairman and chief executive of Dassault Aviation Eric Trappier, and CEO of missile maker MBDA Eric Beranger.

"We are very proud to be equipping the IAF's Rafales with a full comprehensive weapon package that includes the game-changing Meteor and MICA air-to-air missiles and the SCALP cruise missile to conduct deep strike missions in a complex and severe environment," Beranger said later.

Ten Rafale jets have been delivered to India so far and five of them are held back in France for imparting training to IAF pilots. The delivery of all 36 aircraft is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2021.

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