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42 AIR POOJA GUPTA Personality Development Programme	44 AIR DIVYANSHU NIGAM All India Test Series, Ethics Case Studies, Essay Test	45 AIR ANIL BASAK FOUNDATION COURSE GS CLASSROOM PROGRAMME	46 AIR JUBIN MOHAPATRA Mains Advance, Pre Fast Track, PT365, Mains 365, AITS, PDP	47 AIR VINAYAK CHAMADIA All India Test Series, Sociology Test Series, Abhyaas	48 AIR SAI MANASA NC All India Test Series	49 AIR RAJAT RAVINDRA UBHAYKAR Ethics Case Studies, All India Test Series, Abhyaas, PDP	50 AIR ABHISHEK SHUKLA Mains Advance, PT365, Mains 365, AITS, Abhyaas, PDP

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A workshop on transforming Delhi's streets is being organized by the Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi, in which city makers, transport planners, and experts from London, New York City, Seoul, and Bogota will share their experiences in road design and transformation.

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Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Guest of Honour

Shri Satyendar Jain

Hon'ble PWD Minister

5th October, 2021 at 3 PM

"We are going to redesign and redevelop the roads of Delhi like the roads
of European countries so that Delhi can be made more beautiful and orderly"

- Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister, Delhi

Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi, Govt of NCT of Delhi





The bodies of farmers who died in Lakhimpur Kheri on Sunday being taken for post-mortem on Monday. Vishal Srivastav

VIOLENCE IN LAKHIMPUR KHERI: RS 45 LAKH TO NEXT OF KIN

Day after: Tikait mediates, UP says will probe, assures compensation

FIRs registered against Minister's son, unidentified miscreants

ASAD REHMAN & MANISH SAHU
LAKHIMPUR KHERI, LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 4

A DAY after four farmers were killed in UP's Lakhimpur Kheri after being hit by a convoy of cars, including one owned by Union MoS Ajay Mishra, and four others died in clashes, the UP government scrambled to contain the fallout by promising a judicial probe, registering an FIR on charges of murder against the Minister's son and announcing compensation totalling Rs 45 lakh each for families of the deceased farmers.

Near the site of the incident in Tikunia, farm protesters arrived in large numbers throughout Monday from different parts of the state and Punjab, Haryana and Uttarakhand. But the spotlight was on Bhartiya Kisan Union

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

VIOLENT HARVEST

PAGE 12

Sparks that ignited: MoS's speech to car that ran over protesters

ASAD REHMAN MAULSHREE SETH & MANISH SAHU
LAKHIMPUR KHERI, LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 4

IT LASTS just 29 seconds. But each chilling frame captures the horror of UP's Lakhimpur Kheri on Sunday afternoon when three SUVs, including one owned by Union MoS Ajay Mishra, ploughed through a group of protesting farmers, killing four of them.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



A video grab of one of the SUVs hitting the protesters

The video shows a group of protesters moving forward on a road next to farm fields and then being mowed down by a grey SUV that speeds up from behind.

Priyanka to Akhilesh, Yogi govt barricades Opposition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 4

THE YOGI Adityanath government Monday blocked roads, stopped flights and detained several to stop the Opposition from reaching Lakhimpur Kheri, where four farmers were killed in an incident allegedly involving a vehicle owned by Union

One man is thrown up over the bonnet before the vehicle speeds away, leaving a jumble of bodies on the side of the road.

The video was posted on Twitter Monday by Tractor to Twitter, an account that describes itself as a "campaign to support protesting farmers on social media against the farm bills". Four others were killed in the violence triggered by this incident.

On the ground, *The Indian Express* spoke to several eyewitnesses who described scenes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Disquiet in BJP ranks: some see plot, others a mishandling; Varun red-flags

RAVISH TIWARI, LIZ MATHEW & HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

WHILE A SECTION in the BJP sought to suggest that the Lakhimpur Kheri violence in which Union Minister Ajay Mishra's cavalcade run over four protesting farmers and four more died in violence, was a "pre-planned conspiracy," and insinuated "Khalistani links," there's an unmistakable disquiet in the ruling BJP months ahead of Assembly elections.

Key BJP state leaders are on the backfoot hoping the situation doesn't snowball.

"Raita phail gaya hai," (the mess has spread) said one Cabinet Minister in the Yogi government. Another Minister expressed his anguish at the leadership's handling of the situation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



SP's Akhilesh Yadav was detained on Monday. Express

Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra on Sunday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Global outage shuts down FB, Instagram, WhatsApp

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

LATE MONDAY, Facebook and the social media apps it owns, WhatsApp and Instagram, suffered a major global outage, including in India, lasting several hours.

The outage, which was not restored till the time of going to press, around 12.30am IST, potentially prevented billions of users of these apps across the globe from accessing, sending or receiving messages, on these platforms.

In a tweet, Facebook wrote, "We're aware that some people are having trouble accessing our apps and products. We're working to get things back to normal as quickly as possible, and we apologize for any inconvenience."

WhatsApp, too, tweeted: "We're aware that some people are experiencing issues with WhatsApp at the moment. We're working to get things back to normal and will send an update here as soon as possible. Thanks for your patience!"

India alone has 53 crore WhatsApp users and 21 crore Instagram users. Facebook has 41 crore users in India.

The Facebook family of apps suffered a major outage earlier this year in March, when the services were down for almost 45 minutes. Prior to this, in 2020

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

100 apply for 20 seats in DU college: all have 100%, all but one from Kerala

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

THE BA (Hons) programme in Political Science at Hindu College received more than 100 applications as of 5 pm on Monday with a 100% best-four subjects score as admissions opened at Delhi University on Monday — and all except one of these perfect scorers were from Kerala.

The college has 20 first-year seats in this course, and Delhi University cannot under the rules turn away any student who

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPLAINED Cutoff over capacity

EVERY COURSE and college has a sanctioned strength/capacity, but admissions cannot close until every applicant who meets the cutoff and is eligible, is admitted. Result: colleges begin with high cutoffs and then make adjustments as required.

Coal shortage beyond usual, situation touch and go: Power Minister

KARUNJIT SINGH & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

AS THE economy recovers from pandemic blows, a sharp surge in energy demand has triggered an unprecedented fuel shortage at the country's coal-fired stations, a situation that Union Power Minister R K Singh terms way "beyond" the normal post-monsoon supply crunch.

While there is expectation that the demand could start tapering off from the latter half of October, Singh said the bridging



of the fuel gap is still likely to be a "touch and go" affair and that he is bracing for a trying

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

PANDORA PAPERS - PART 2

AN INVESTIGATION BY THE INDIAN EXPRESS WITH INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS

Ex-chief of Military Intelligence and son set up firm in Seychelles; pegged inflow at \$1 mn

Lt Gen (retd) Rakesh Loomba's records linked to Mauritius bank; son denies, says had idea but shelved



THE SECOND LIST



PAGE 9

RITU SARIN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

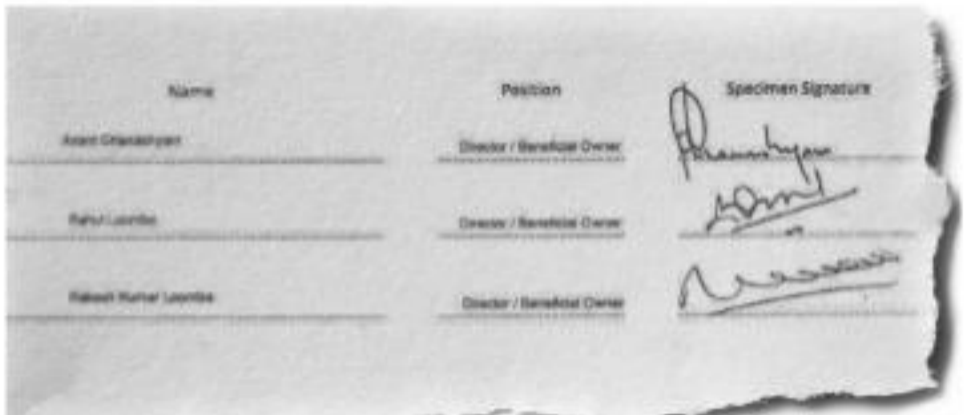
WITHOUT MENTIONING his military credentials while doing so, a top former Army officer incorporated a Seychelles International Business Company (IBC) shortly after the 2016 release of the Panama Papers shone the spotlight on secret global money flows, an investigation of records of Pandora Papers by *The Indian Express* reveals.

In December 2016, Lt General (retired) Rakesh Kumar Loomba registered Rarint Partners Ltd in Seychelles along with son Rahul Loomba.

When he retired in 2010, Lt Gen Loomba held the sensitive post of Director General of Military Intelligence (DGMI). Prior to that, he was the General Officer Commanding of 3 Corps.

An investigation by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Signatures of the three linked to the Seychelles firm

How Pramod Mittal 'owed' \$1 bn to Pramod Mittal — and got his deal

Trust shields Mittal assets from those who lent money to his businesses

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

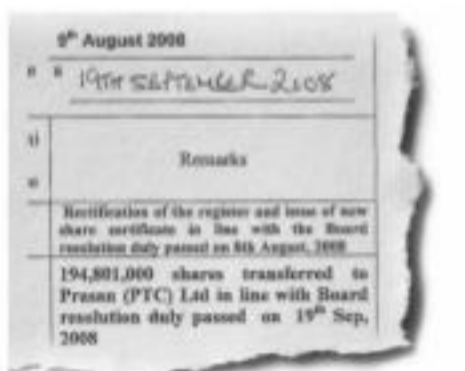
FACING BANKRUPTCY proceedings in UK since June 2020, steel baron LN Mittal's younger brother Pramod Mittal claimed zero income, total assets under £150,000 and denied ownership of his long-time London residence.

He did these to justify an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA) in which he offered to pay £4.4 million — or just 0.19% — of the £2.5 billion he said he owed to 20 creditors.

The IVA was approved by 75% of Mittal's creditors last October. Records investigated by *The Indian Express* show that Direct Investment Limited, the British Virgin Islands company Mittal claimed he owed over £1 billion to, and Meadswell Estates Limited, another BVI company that Mittal claimed owned his London resi-



Faces bankruptcy case in UK



In 2008, all shares of Direct Investment Ltd (BVI) were transferred to the trust where Mittal is a beneficiary

dence, belong to a Trust in which Mittal himself is a beneficiary.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

MULTI-AGENCY INVESTIGATION BY ED, RBI AND FIU

Govt orders CBDT-led probe into Pandora, black money judges say action will be taken

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

THE GOVERNMENT Monday directed a multi-agency probe involving the Central Board of Direct Taxes, Enforcement Directorate, Reserve Bank of India, and Financial Intelligence Unit to investigate the cases of Pandora Papers — the latest leak of offshore financial records investigated by *The Indian Express* in collaboration with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ).

Beginning Monday, *The Indian Express* has begun a series of investigative reports that show how Indian elites have

found ingenious new ways to ring-fence their assets abroad from scrutiny at home.

"The Government has directed today that, investigations in cases of Pandora Papers leaks appearing in the media under the name 'Pandora Papers' will be monitored through the Multi Agency Group, headed by the Chairman, CBDT," said a statement issued by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry said the Government has taken note of these developments and relevant agencies would undertake investigation in these cases and appropriate action would be taken as per law. It said it will engage with foreign jurisdictions

during the probe.

"With a view to ensure effective investigation in these cases, the Government will also proactively engage with foreign jurisdictions for obtaining information in respect of relevant taxpayers/entities."

The Government of India is also part of an Inter-Governmental Group that ensures collaboration and experience sharing to effectively address tax risks associated with such leaks."

While this is the eighth leak reported by this newspaper with ICIJ, the government said that following earlier leaks such as HSBC, Panama Papers and Paradise Papers, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4

IT'S MONDAY morning, but Jammu's Gujjar Nagar can't stop talking about Sunday night.

That's when Umran Mallik, the son of a local fruit and vegetable seller, clocked 150 kmph on his IPL debut for Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Umran isn't the first Indian to touch that magical mark — Javagal Srinath, Varun Aaron and Jasprit Bumrah are among those who have been there before — but cricket's obsession with young tearaways and the 150

milestone has triggered a growing buzz around the 21-year-old. It's been quite a journey for India's latest pace sensation, and one that had his father Abdul Mallik worried for a while.

Occasionally, when Umran would step out to play tennis-ball cricket at night, the father would secretly follow.

"You know how this age is. There are a lot of youngsters who are spoiling their lives by taking drugs and such. I was worried. But he (Umran) convinced us that the only 'nasha' (high) he has is playing cricket, so the family need not be worried. Sometimes, I used to hide and

see whether he was actually playing or not," Abdul, now an elated father, tells *The Indian Express*.

From being a net bowler for Sunrisers to rubbing shoulders on match day with the game's greats in IPL, life has moved rapidly for Umran who began his career just four years ago on a concrete pitch in Gujjar Nagar. At the IPL nets, he had been troubling teammate David Warner and on debut, consistently hit over 140kmph in his first over to hurry the likes of young India star Shubman Gill.

But then, Umran's real journey had begun quite a while back



Umran plays for Sunrisers Hyderabad. Express

when he landed at the coaching nets near his home without even proper cricketing shoes. "He was a simple lanky boy who wanted to bowl in the nets. I said, 'Ok, bowl'. We had a player who used to play for the J&K team. He saw Umran and told me, 'Sir, this boy has sheer speed and can be nurtured to play higher cricket'. Who knew then that three years down the line he will be playing IPL," says Randhir Singh Manhas, the coach.

Umran went for the under-19 trials in Jammu and was later picked for the J&K team. He was spotted by J&K veteran Parvez Rasool and coach Irfan Pathan,

who were looking for talent across the region. "Some of the junior players in our side used to be afraid to face him. They feared they would get hit. He had raw pace, which caught everyone's eye," Rasool says.

Pathan, the former Indian bowler, was also impressed. "You could make out his pace from the way the wicket-keeper used to collect his deliveries. He was a natural fast bowler. Like any young kid, he loved to hit batsmen, hit them on their thigh pads. He was a touch raw, he had a high jump while landing, so we worked on it," Pathan says.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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'KITCHEN LIKE PLAYGROUND FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE TO COOK': CHEF SARANSH GOILA

"One needs to look at regional recipes and cuisines from the lens of the world that we live in today where you revive these recipes but you present and market them in today's fashion," the chef said.

EXPRESS TECH

**APPLE IPHONE 13 REVIEW**

Is the phone worth the hype? Here's what we thought of it

EXPLAINED

**HOW CENTRE CAN GET AROUND MSP DEMAND**

Legal guarantee of MSP continues to be bone of contention

EXPRESS AUDIO

Examining Lakhimpur Kheri violence

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In today's episode of 3 Things, host Snigdha Sharma is joined by Asad Rehman to discuss the violence in UP's Lakhimpur Kheri after a minister's car ran over farm law protesters

FROM PAGE ONE

Disquiet in BJP

"Humko dono taraf se nuksaan hai. Hamara (BJP) karyakarta bhi mara aur sarkar bhi katghare mein khadi hai." (We are hurt both ways, BJP workers are killed and the government is also in the dock.)

"Political feedback is set aside, never discussed. When you rely only on bureaucratic feedback, this is what happens," added the minister underlining that even the bureaucracy had no sense of the build-up in the district.

"Aisi parishithiyon mein faaltu ki bayanbaazi se bacha jaata hai aur saanyam rakha jaata hai. Lekin kya kahein," added the second minister underlining how the political culture under the current leadership encourages a strong, adversarial attitude. They cite Mishra's provocative remarks a week before the incident considered to have fueled local resentment against farmers who planned protests against his function.

"I travelled across several districts for the party's organisational work in western UP today. There was no visible agitation except SP workers in their red caps at some places," said a UP BJP office bearer who travelled to Saharanpur to attend a meeting chaired by former Haryana Minister Captain Abhimanyu who is poll incharge for western UP and Braj regions.

Another Cabinet minister in the UP government was more circumspect: "I didn't notice the agitation spreading to other places... Let us wait and watch."

On Monday, BJP national secretary Y Satya Kumar, who is also the party's co-in-charge for UP, tweeted: "Was terrorist Bhindranwale a farmer? The way goons posing as farmers are carrying out violent agitations in Uttar Pradesh, it seems this is not a coincidence but a well-planned experiment. Jihadi and Khalistani, anarchic elements want to spread unrest in the state."

BJP UP spokesperson Harish Chandra Srivastava also alleged that Khalistanis had killed BJP workers in Lakhimpur on Sunday.

Incidentally, the senior leadership has not come down against these claims of Khalistan links.

Meanwhile, BJP MP from Pilibhit Varun Gandhi cautioned

that using "pejorative and demeaning" language against the "struggling farmers" is "unfair and cruel" and that it could lead to "further reaction among the people who at the moment are very peaceful."

"This is extremely unfortunate and it is also dangerous for the country. Because instead of understanding what the struggling farmers are saying we cannot start using pejorative language for them," Gandhi told *The Indian Express*. He was reacting to Srivastava's tweet.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Gandhi said that violence erupted after an individual or a group acted in criminal negligence and the administration cannot be blamed.

Pointing out that the community under attack has a "disproportionate presence in the armed forces," the three-term MP warned: "It's a community that has laid their lives down generation after generation to protect our nation and they are a community that is completely selfless in the way they sacrificed their lives. If we are going to talk about them in demeaning and pejorative terms, it is not only unfair and cruel but it (could) also, God forbid, lead to a reaction among people who at the moment are very peaceful... When you keep prodding somebody with the pejorative stick, sooner or later people will react which is dangerous for our country. This is something we have to stay miles away from."

Gandhi, who had written to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath seeking relief measures for the distressed and agitating farmers, wrote to the CM again Monday seeking to register a murder case against those involved in the death of farmers. And asked the CM for a CBI inquiry under the supervision of the Supreme Court.

Gandhi, a former general secretary of the BJP, also said the political leaders could wait for tempers to simmer down before visiting the area. "My view is that everyone must be allowed to go everywhere, practice free disposition of their views and total participation in any kind of mass movement politics... it's Constitutional. However, this must be done once the situation calms

Day after: Tikait mediates

(BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait who played a key role in facilitating the post-mortem of the four farmers who were killed after protesters kept the bodies overnight at a college ground.

Tikait and Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar were the only leaders allowed to enter the area amid a clampdown on the entry of Opposition leaders and Internet services.

Tikait remained closeted for most of the morning inside a school nearby with farm leaders and senior officials. Around 1 pm, some of the officials, including UP ADG (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar and Additional Chief Secretary (Agriculture) Devesh Chaturvedi, stepped out to announce a "truce".

"He (Tikait) has agreed to give a call to send the bodies for post-mortem. We have assured him that the families of the four farmers killed will be given Rs 40 lakh and farmers' insurance of Rs 5 lakh each. The government will give Rs 10 lakh each to those injured," said Laxmi Singh, IG Lucknow (range).

"A judicial committee headed by a senior judge will probe and we have promised the farmer leaders that a fair and swift investigation will be done.

down a bit so that because of politics, the situation isn't inflamed," he said.

Earlier in the day, in his letter to the CM, the Pilibhit MP called the "cruel incident of mowing down" as "heart wrenching" and that it had triggered anguish and anger among people across the country. He said there should be a compensation of Rs 1 crore to the next of each victim's family.

MoS's speech

That, they said, will haunt them for the rest of their lives. Farm leaders, local residents and sources in UP Police told *The Indian Express* that this was a "flare-up" waiting to happen after days of tension sparked by "provocative" gestures and remarks by Mishra aimed at protesting farmers.

"The vehicles drove in a zigzag manner. One of them was driven by Ashish Mishra (the son of Union MoS Mishra). The vehicles crushed the farmers. Our leader Tejender Singh Virk was dragged by the cars for a long distance. Some got stuck under the cars, but they didn't stop. I couldn't believe my eyes," said Gurmeet Singh, a farmer from Lakhimpur Kheri.

"The Minister's son realised that he may get caught, so he shot one of the farmers and fled," said Dilbagh Singh, a farm leader who was present. "Ashish Mishra did not expect such a crowd and tried to escape, resulting in the incident," said a senior police officer, who spoke to *The Indian Express* on condition of anonymity.

Farm leaders and police sources pointed to the Minister's visit to Lakhimpur Kheri — his parents hail from Banveerpur village in the district — last week. They said he "showed the thumbs-down" to some protesters. The situation escalated, they said, when a purported video started doing the rounds of the Minister mocking the protesters.

"Yeh desh kisanon ka desh hai. Hum bhi kisan hai, aap bhi kisan hain... Agar hum utar bhi jaate to unko bhagne ka raasta nahin milta. Peeth-piche kaam karne wale log... Aise 10-15 log shor machate hain... poorey desh mein phail jana chahiye tha agar krishi kanoon kharab hota (This country is of farmers. I am also a farmer; you are also a farmer... If I got down to action then they would not have even found a way to run away. There are about 10-15 people, who work behind your back... if the farm laws were bad, the protests

We have lodged an FIR. They are satisfied," Singh said.

Speaking to reporters, Tikait said: "We have been assured that the accused will be arrested within seven days."

Asked about the alleged vandalism and violence, he said: "The Home Minister (MoS) is a goonda, and his son can kill common people by running over them. Burning the cars of a goonda is not violence."

After the meeting, the bodies of the four farmers killed were taken to the district headquarters.

On Monday, official sources named the other four killed as Hari Om Mishra (35), the Minister's driver; Shyam Sunder (40) and Shubham Mishra (26), local BJP leaders; and Raman Kashyap (30), a journalist.

Later, speaking to *The Indian Express*, Tikait said: "We have also been assured that a government job will be provided to the families of the deceased." However, IG Singh said the protesters had not raised any demand for a job.

On Sunday, the protesting farmers had alleged that one of the cars that hit the crowd was driven by Union MoS Mishra's son, Ashish Mishra. The Minister

had denied this and said the car was being driven by the family's driver. He said that "assailants armed with swords and sticks" attacked the occupants of the vehicles and killed four persons, including his driver.

According to police, the incident occurred after farmers assembled in Tikunia to show black flags to UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, who was scheduled to visit Banveerpur, the village of MoS Mishra's parents, for an event.

Monday began with simmering anger on the ground amid heavy police deployment, including from other districts.

At Tikunia, the four bodies were kept in glass boxes next to a tractor, surrounded by family members and with hundreds lining up to pay their respects.

"I have come here because our brothers were trampled by a Minister's son while holding a peaceful protest," said Narender Singh (55), who owns around four acres in Shahjahanpur and has arrived with friends Malkheet Singh and Sitjeet Singh.

"Till now, people were saying it is a Punjab and Haryana issue. But now, the farm protests will spread in UP because of this incident," said Gurmeet Singh.

By evening, several protesters started leaving Tikunia, saying they were happy with the "agreement" between the state government and Tikait. "If he has agreed to send the bodies for post mortem, it must be for the best," said Gurmeet Singh (46), who had come from a neighbouring tehsil with his son.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* Monday evening, Chief Medical Officer (Lakhimpur Kheri), Shailendra Bhatnagar, said the post mortem of the four farmers was conducted. "The autopsy of the rest is going on."

"No one has been arrested so far," ADGP (Law and Order), Prashant Kumar said.

According to police, the first FIR was lodged by Bahaich resident Jagjeet Singh, against Ashish Mishra and 15-20 unidentified persons on various charges including murder, rioting, death by negligence and criminal conspiracy.

The second FIR has been lodged by a person identified as Sumit Jaiswal against unidentified miscreants protesting at the site. The case has been lodged on different charges, including murder, voluntarily causing hurt and endangering the life or personal safety of others.

ple, resulting in four other deaths. According to preliminary reports, the violence lasted for about half-an-hour," the senior police officer said. Police have denied reports of firing at the site.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* Sunday, Mishra had denied that his son was driving the vehicle. "It was his driver who was driving. As stones were pelted at the vehicle, it overturned and two farmers came under it," he had said.

Asked about his provocative speech, the Lakhimpur Kheri MP had said: "If anyone sees the entire speech, it will be clear that I was talking about assailants hiding among the farmers."

Yogi stops Opp

Almost exactly a year after the UP Police did its best to stop the Opposition from reaching the village of the Hathras murder-gang rape victim, the state administration detained Congress, Samajwadi Party and BSP leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Akhilesh Yadav, as they tried to make their way to Lakhimpur Kheri by road while prevented aircraft carrying Congress CMs Bhupesh Baghel and Charanjit Singh Channi from landing in UP. Several Congress leaders from Punjab were stopped on the Haryana-UP border.

The Congress pressed three demands -- removal of Union minister Mishra, arrest of those responsible for the farmer deaths, and compensation of Rs 1 crore to their families.

Vadra, the Congress general secretary and UP in-charge, was detained early Monday in Sitapur district, along with former Haryana MP Deepender Hooda, under Section 151 (to prevent commission of cognizable offences). Videos went viral of Vadra arguing with policemen late on Sunday night, asking them to show a warrant for stopping her. She later released a statement, saying "When force is used, it means the government has lost the moral right. I left home not to commit some crime but to meet the families of victims... If there was something wrong, where was the order to stop me or a warrant?"

Akhilesh, the SP chief, was stopped in Lucknow, and sat outside his residence in protest, before being detained for a couple of hours. Agitated party workers reportedly manhandled a police official, while a police vehicle was set

ablaze by unidentified persons.

BSP leaders said police were not letting them move out of their homes. Mayawati said BSP MP Satish Chandra Mishra was stopped, with officials saying prohibitory orders in Lakhimpur Kheri did not allow anyone to visit till the situation was normal. She said that given the high-profile accused, justice to the victims "does not seem possible", and demanded a judicial inquiry.

Vadra is being kept at the PAC 22 Battalion guesthouse in Sitapur, allegedly under house arrest, with Congressmen sitting outside in protest. A video showed her sweeping the floor of the guesthouse.

Rahul Gandhi tweeted: "Priyanka, I know you won't step back -- they are scared by your courage."

Other Congress leaders also claimed they had been put under "house arrest", including Salman Khurshid and Pramod Tiwari.

Baghel shared the letter issued by the administration instructing that his flight not be allowed to land at Lucknow. He asked how Section 144 in Lakhimpur Kheri could be used to restrain him in Lucknow. Adding that Vadra had been "manhandled", he said: "Fundamental rights in a democracy are being infringed upon... Is a visa required to go to UP?"

Congress leaders said Punjab Deputy CM Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa was detained at the Haryana-UP border, after being stopped from landing at Lucknow airport. Channi too could not make his way to Lakhimpur Kheri.

Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge said Vadra was "harassed, pushed, roughed up". "The country is now in the grip of an intolerant, autocratic, anti-farmer and anti-people government." Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal asked why Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, to whom Mishra directly reports, had "not uttered a word on this cold-blooded murder".

Akhilesh said "even Britishers would not have committed such atrocities against farmers" and demanded resignation of Mishra, as well as Rs 2 crore compensation for the families of the Lakhimpur Kheri victims along with a government job.

Lucknow Police Commissioner D K Thakur said they would take action if the sub-

inspector allegedly manhandled by SP workers came forward.

Also detained was Akhilesh's uncle and Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party chief Shival Singh Yadav.

Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad said he was detained in Sitapur, though he eventually made his way to Lakhimpur Kheri.

On Monday night, AAP MP Sanjay Singh was held in Sitapur and reportedly taken to a local guesthouse. He asked if offering condolences over the death of farmers was "a crime" in UP, and sought a high-level inquiry under a judge.

Criticising Opposition leaders for trying to go to Lakhimpur Kheri, state minister and spokesperson Sidhartha Nath Singh accused them of "political tourism" and said they "should have waited for at least 24 hours".

WITH INPUTS FROM ENR, RAIPUR

Coal shortage

"next five-six months". "I can't say I am secure... If you have 40,000-50,000 MW (of thermal capacity) with less than three days of stock, you can't be secure," Singh told *The Indian Express* in an interview.

Of the 104 thermal plants monitored daily, 15 with a generation capacity of 14,875 MW had zero days of coal stocks on September 30, while another 39 with a capacity of 52,530 MW had stocks of less than three days. Another 6,960 MW of capacity is facing plant outage due to the unavailability of coal.

In India, coal-fired power stations account for nearly 70% of the electricity generation.

India's coal crisis comes amidst a global energy crunch, as a sharp surge in demand across Europe, China and elsewhere, following the opening up of economies after repeated lockdowns and extended restrictions on movement of people, is beginning to test supply chains.

"I don't know whether I will be comfortable in the next five-six, four-five months... Normally the demand starts coming down in the second half of October... when it (the weather) starts cooling... But it's going to be touch and go," Singh said.

However, the minister asserted, his team is working with other ministries to avert a crisis, and that till now, "there is nowhere that we have not been able to supply the quantity of power demanded. If there has been load-shedding it must be for other reasons".

Apart from the surge in demand and the supply shortage post-monsoon, the coal crisis has been spurred by the deficient stock build-up in April-June 2021, and the sharp fall in imports due to high international prices of coal. Normally too, all-India electricity peak demand is recorded in October, which typically follows a monsoon-impacted mining output trough.

Besides, the economic revival after the second Covid wave has seen a rise in the share of coal-based power in the electricity mix -- to 66.4% from 61.9% in 2019.

The minister said there was another positive to the rise in demand -- that India's idle power capacity can be utilised optimally. The load factor -- a broad measure of a power plant's output during a period of time, as compared to its maximum output -- for India's electricity system was around 60%, meaning that about 40% of capacity was not being scheduled on a daily basis. Some of this is also because the new capacity addition has been in the form of renewables.

IPL debut

J&K gave Umran a chance last season when he played a game in the Vijay Hazare and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy tournaments. Soon, his friend Abdul Samad, who plays for Sunrisers, recommended his name as a net bowler.

And this season, when pacer T Natarajan was ruled out due to Covid, Umran got a chance as the replacement. "I was told that he bowled brilliantly in one of the net sessions to Warner, and didn't give him a chance," Pathan says.

Back in Gujjar Nagar, Abdul is basking in his son's 150 kph moment. "God has been kind, I never thought I would see my son play in the IPL," says the father.

Global outage

alone, four major WhatsApp outages had occurred, of which the most major one was in January, which was around three hours. After this, there was one in April, followed by a two-hour outage in July and a brief one in August.

According to The New York Times, which cited two anonymous Facebook security team members, the outage was not likely a result of a cyberattack because the technology behind the apps was still different enough that one hack was not likely to affect all of them at once.

DU college

meets the cutoff criteria.

DU approved more than 2,200 applications on the first day of admissions, with top colleges reporting a large number of applicants with 100% marks from the Kerala State Board.

The BA (Hons) Political Science course at Hindu College is one of the 10 programmes at DU this year where the first list cutoff for unreserved seats is 100%. "We have received 100% score applications from 33 unreserved candidates, 62 OBC candidates, 4 SC candidates, and 3 EWS candidates, which are either approved or in the process of being approved. Of these, all but one is from the Kerala State Board," said Chandrachur Singh, a member of the faculty at the political science department.

"Because all of these students meet the general cut-off, all of them will be taken as general admissions, and the number of reserved seats will have to be proportionally increased -- which means that the problem of our institutions and classes being stretched beyond capacity will continue," he added.

Miranda House had decided not to set the cutoff at 100% for any course -- highest it did was 99.75% for Political Science. But the college has received a number of applications from students with perfect scores, again from the Kerala Board.

"We are processing applications and I have approved around 100 so far. I believe we have received around 20 applications with 100% from the Kerala Board," Principal Bijayalaxmi Nanda said.

SGTB Khalsa College, which had set a surprisingly high first list cutoff of 100% for its B.Com programme, received no applications for this course on day 1.


"We have only 30 seats in the programme and it is a popular draw because there is no requirement for mathematics in the best of four subjects, so we wanted to be extremely cautious," Principal Jaswinder Singh said.

The college has kept high cut-offs for several courses in the first list -- 99% or higher in six arts, commerce, and science programmes.

The processing of applications at DU was put on hold for a couple of hours around noon because of concerns regarding some state Boards that include both Class 11 and Class 12 marks in mark sheets. Some colleges wanted to know whether to consider only the Class 12 marks or both sets of marks. The central admission team decided that only the Class 12 marks should be considered.

By 7 pm, the university had received 30,554 applications across colleges. However, only 2,286 had been approved, and 795 candidates had paid their fees.

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Fire stations to be opened at eight hospitals in capital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

THE DELHI Fire Services (DFS) is set to open new fire stations at eight hospitals to quickly respond to fire incidents and prevent casualties, said officials on Monday.

At present, there are 64 fire stations in the city — most of these are in North and Central Delhi.

The eight fire stations will be set up inside 500-bed hospitals that include Satyawadi Raja Harish Chandra Hospital, Maharshi Valmiki Hospital, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Bara Hindu Rao Hospital, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, and National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases.

In the last eight months, the DFS attended to more than 50 fire calls from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Safdarjung and other hospitals treating Covid patients.

The DFS has already set up a mini station at AIIMS and will soon set up more stations in other hospitals.

A fire official said, "We realised that fire cases increased during the pandemic. There were also calls regarding oxygen cylinder leakage, and SOS calls from newly built Covid centres. Though our stations are located at a distance of 3-4 km, it's difficult sometimes for the fire tenders to reach crowded hospitals. These new centres will help decrease the response time and then firemen can act

In the last eight months, the DFS attended to more than 50 fire calls from AIIMS, Safdarjung and other hospitals treating Covid patients. The DFS has already set up a mini station at AIIMS and will soon set up more stations in other hospitals

more efficiently."

The plan for the new stations has been sent to the Delhi government and Centre.

DFS Chief Atul Garg said he and his team have sent the proposal to authorities.

He said, "This will help avert many tragedies or even equipment loss which is common during hospital fires. Our teams will have a small office at these hospitals and can easily control fire incidents and alert us in case of a major blaze."

"We have already spoken to hospital authorities at AIIMS, and a fire tender has been stationed there. We are in touch with other hospitals and will soon start these stations. Each station will have 1-2 fire tenders, a team of seven firemen as well as water supply, pipes and stairs," added an official.

The Delhi Fire Service has more than 250 fire tenders and vehicles at different fire stations and at Headquarters.

It employs a staff of over 2,500 firefighters and officials.

NO SUBSTANCE IN MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATION FILED BY FIRM: SC

Apex court junks Supertech plea to modify demolition order of twin towers in Noida

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

THE SUPREME Court Monday dismissed Supertech Ltd group's prayer to modify the court's order directing demolition of twin towers in its Noida project in such a way as to save one of the towers.

The real estate firm had filed a miscellaneous application seeking relief. Dismissing it, a bench of Justice D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna pointed out that "grant of such a relief is in the nature of a review of the judgment of this court. In successive decisions, this court has held that filing of applications styled as 'miscellaneous applications' or 'applications for clarification' in the guise of a review is not to be countenanced. The attempt in the miscellaneous application is clearly to seek a substantive modification of the judgment of this court. Such an attempt is not permissible in a miscellaneous application... For the above

reasons, there is no substance in the miscellaneous application".

While stating that it was not seeking a review of the SC decision, Supertech had contended in the application that the basis of the SC judgment was that the minimum distance required under the building regulations has not been complied with and there is a violation of the green area.

The builder group prayed that it be allowed to comply with these conditions by slicing a portion of one of the towers while retaining the other.

Opposing this, Advocate Jayant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioner home buyers, said the application proceeds on the misconceived basis that there were only two objections in the judgment. He pointed out that in addition to the two, the court had also referred to various other violations including non-compliance of provisions of the 2010 UP Apartments Act and a reduction of the undivided interest of flat purchasers.



The court directed the two towers in Supertech's Emerald Court project to be demolished in three months. *Abhinav Saha*

On August 31, the apex court had directed demolition of two 40-storey towers, comprising about 850 flats, finding that they flouted regulations regarding distance to be maintained between buildings and fire safety.

The court also held that the towers, in the National Capital Region, were constructed "through acts of collusion" between officials of NOIDA (New Okhla Industrial Development Authority) and the group, and

gave the go-ahead for prosecuting them.

Upholding a ruling by the Allahabad High Court, the court directed the two towers, Apex and Ceyane in Supertech's Emerald Court project, to be demolished within three months, with the expenses to be borne by the developer.

Supertech will also refund all those who had purchased flats in the towers within two months at an annual interest rate of 12 per cent the court said. Besides this, Supertech has been ordered to pay Rs 2 crore to the Residents' Welfare Association of 15 other towers constructed as part of the original plan, which was then revised multiple times and the Supertech twin towers squeezed in.

HC directs Supertech to pay Rs 40 lakh to homebuyer

The Delhi High Court Monday directed Supertech Limited to pay

Rs 40 lakh to a homebuyer on or before October 31 to enable him to repay the home loan.

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in September had sentenced Supertech's managing director to 3-year imprisonment for non-compliance of directions issued by it in relation to possession of a residential unit to a homebuyer in its 'Upcountry' project in Sector 17A of Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Area.

Last month, the MDs' arrest was stayed by the court after the company undertook to make a payment of Rs 40,00,000 to the homebuyer. The court ordered Supertech to pay Rs 50,00,000 and stayed the arrest till October 4. The court Monday was told Rs 50 lakh has been paid, and that the company owes a total of Rs 1.78 crore to the homebuyer. Taking note of the submission and continuing stay on arrest, the court directed Supertech to pay another sum of Rs 40 lakh to the homebuyer on or before October 31.

EXPRESS Careers

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Online applications are invited from the Indian Nationals, who belongs to **SC/ST/OBC-NCL/EWS/PwD** category for the faculty positions in the level of **Assistant Professor (Grade I & II)** for various departments/schools of the Institute. Details about requirements/qualifications etc. for the above posts is available at IIT Guwahati website www.iitg.ac.in/spldrive-facrec. Last date for submission of online application is **15/11/2021**.

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3	Customer Relationship Executive	Contractual for Wealth Management	217	CRPD/SCO/WEALTH/2021-22/17
4	Investment Officer	Business Unit	12	
5	Central Research Team (Product Lead)		2	
6	Central research Team (Support)		2	
7	Executive (Document Preservation- Archives)	Contractual	01	CRPD/SCO/2021-22/16
8	Manager (Marketing)	Regular (MMGS-III)	12	CRPD/SCO/2021-22/15
9	Deputy Manager (Marketing)	Regular (MMGS-II)	26	

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Place: Mumbai
Date: 28.09.2021
General Manager

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IN REMEMBRANCE

Corps of Signals salutes its following Signallers who left us for their heavenly abode during the month of Sep 2021.

- IC-47983L Col (TS) Gumam Singh
- JC-387865Y Nb Sub Arun Kumar
- JC-384033M Sub Shaji V
- 15757311L Sigm Abhisekh Kumar
- 15748058N Sigm Binod Subba
- 15395128Y Hav Akhileshwar Prasad Singh
- 15713892N LHav Kumar B
- 15741025A Sigm Lokare Sandeep Keshav
- 15744567P Nk Prahlad Singh Choudhary
- 15709652Y LNaik Dilip Kumar D

On behalf of the Corps, we sincerely pray to Almighty for peace to the departed souls & strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.

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Possession Notice for Immoveable Properties of borrower by the Authorised Officer (For Immoveable property)

Whereas Punjab National Bank/ the Authorized Officer/s of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice/s on the dates mentioned in the account calling upon the borrower to repay the amount as mentioned in the account within 60 days from the date of notice(s) / date of receipt of said notice(s).

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred to him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned in the account.

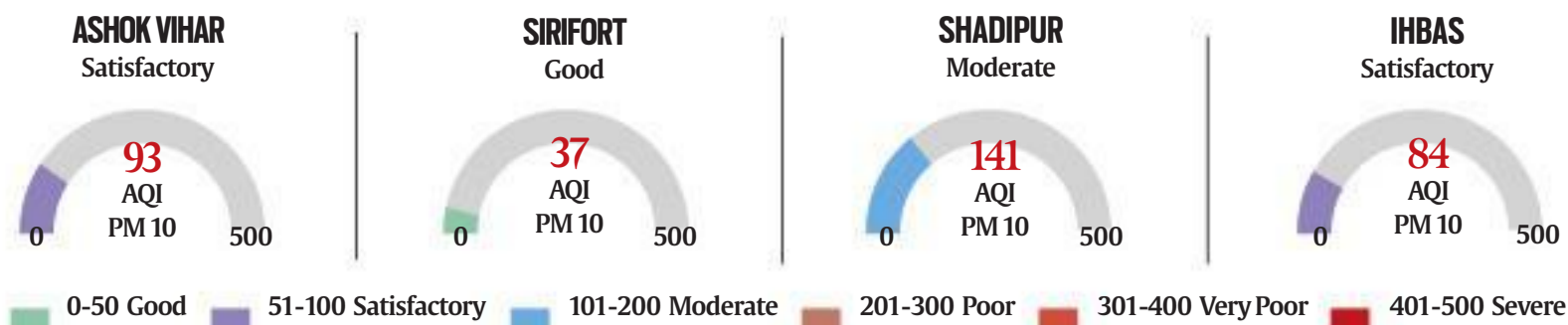
The borrower's guarantor's/ mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon.

Name of the Branch	Name of the Account/ Borrower	Name of the Owner of the property	Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice Affixed	Amount outstanding as on date of demand notice	Name of the Authorised Officer/s
Patna UBI	M/s Maya Fasion Prop.: Smt. Smita Verma W/O Avinash Verma A/c No.- 0045250034238 0045300023542 0045300023773	Sri Avinash Verma S/O Sri Dhruv Shankar Verma	Extension of EM of Flat No.-301 on 3rd Floor in Block-B, Ganesh Tower, Built up Area-981 sq.ft. vide Deed No.23838 Dated 03.10.2013, Mauza-Kumharar, PS-Agarkuan, Distt.-Patna, Khata No.530, Survey Plot No.258, Tauzi No.-595, Thana No.-12, pertaining to Sri Avinash Verma S/O Sri Dhruv Shankar Verma. Boundary North-Side set back of the Building, South-Flat No.-304 of building Block 'B', East-Flat No.302 of Building Block 'B', West-Front Setback of the Building.	22.06.2021	30.09.2021	₹15,63,540.22 (Rs. Fifteen Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty and paisa Twenty Two Only)	Prem Nath Mishra
Patna City	M/s Balaji Marble Partner: (i) Sri Krishna Kant (Mortgagor) S/o Binay Kumar Sharma (ii) Sri Abhishek Kumar S/o Late Tapendra Kumar A/c No.- 0381008700012644	Sri Krishna Kant S/o Sri Vinay Kumar Sharma	EM of Land and Building situated at Mouza-Shekhpura, P.S.-Phulwari, Bad Thana-Gaurichak, Hal Thana-Ramkrishna Nagar, Sub and Sadar Registry Office and Distt.-Patna, Plot No.-679, Khata No.-51, Tauzi No.28, Thana Code No.163, Revenue Thana No.-111, Area-1 Katha (3.125 Decimal) vide deed No.7408 Dtd. 15.03.2013 in the name of Sri Krishna Kant S/o Sri Vinay Kumar Sharma. Bounded By:- North-Sahayak Rasta Badhu Sri Ram Sewak Rai, South-Sri Jay Ram Singh Plot No.-680, East-Smt. Shanti Devi, West-Sri Bibhuti Prasad Singh.	01.06.2021	30.09.2021	₹1,06,47,813.44 (Rs. One Crore Six Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Thirteen and Paisa Forty Four Only)	Prem Nath Mishra
Patna City	M/s Sumitra Dal Mill Prop.: Krishna Dutta Guarantor: Sri Vijay Kumar alias Dr. Vijay Kumar S/o Sri Ram Chandra Prasad A/c No.- 0381008700013458	Dr. Vijay Kumar S/o Sri Ram Chandra Prasad	EM of Land and Building vide Deed No.-2856, Dated 02.06.1982 Situated At- Mauza-Safipur, Pargana-Bhimpur, Thana-Fatuha, Sub Registry Office-Patna City, Sadar Registry Office-Bankipur, Distt.-Patna, Thana No.-141, Tauzi No.-2189, Khata No.143 & 145, Part Khesra No.-308 & 477 Total Area-2 Katha, pertaining to Dr. Vijay Kumar S/o Sri Ram Chandra Prasad. Boundry:- North-Musafir Gope, and others, South-Din Dayal Singh, East-Plot Haja Niz, West-Ataur Rahman and others.	30.06.2021	30.09.2021	₹15,90,399.00 (Rs. Fifteen Lakh Ninety Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Nine Only)	Prem Nath Mishra

Date : 05.10.2021
Place : Patna

(Authorised Officer)
Punjab National Bank



S K Y W A T C H

FORECAST: Oct 5
Partly cloudy sky.
Very light rain/drizzle at isolated places

MAX: 35
1.1°C Above normal

MIN: 26
4.2°C Above normal

KEJRIWAL LISTS MEASURES

Dust to stubble burning: Delhi chalks out winter action plan to cut pollution

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

DELHI Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Monday said only buses and taxis coming to Delhi from other states should be converted into CNG, and specific areas in the NCR should be marked as pollution hotspots so that a plan for mitigation can be created to help fight pollution in the region. Announcing the winter action plan for pollution, Kejriwal said Delhi's biggest problem in the coming weeks will be pollution from paddy stubble burning in neighbouring states such as Punjab and Haryana. With Assembly elections approaching in Punjab, and the farmer agitation against the three farm laws still on, fining farmers for burning paddy stubble will be an uphill task. Kejriwal identified 10 areas of focus for the season ahead: measures to mitigate dust pollution; garbage burning; paddy straw burning and control through the Pusa bio-decom-



CM Arvind Kejriwal

poser; ban on firecrackers; installing smog towers; monitoring pollution hotspots; controlling vehicular pollution; effective operations of the green war room; and the Green Delhi app. "We launched the Green Delhi App to enable citizen participation in maintaining vigilance against pollution. We received 23,000 complaints on the app and were able to successfully resolve 93% of them. We started a green war room through which we analyse our fight against pol-

EXPLAINED

Other plans in place

A graded action plan for actions to take when air quality is in the moderate, poor, very poor and severe category also exists. This includes actions such as banning use of diesel generator sets, imposing the odd-even restriction for vehicles, and even shutting schools. Steps such as vacuum cleaning of roads, which the municipal corporations and PWD are responsible for, are also to be implemented.

lution in real time... A Program Management Room has been created in collaboration with the University of Chicago and GDI Partners for the green war room. We have recruited 50 new environment engineers as well. We have launched the Green Delhi

app through which citizens can connect and let us know wherever they see any instance of pollution. Our team will visit the location and take necessary action," Kejriwal said. Strategies to contain pollution take on urgency as winter approaches the city, because the accumulation of pollutants in the air becomes easier as it gets colder and winds get calmer. While Delhi's baseline pollution is high to begin with — the city did not see a single good air quality day so far in 2021 despite a long and heavy monsoon — paddy stubble burning makes things worse in the end of October and beginning of November as the wind direction carries the pollutants to the city. Kejriwal said the Delhi government is in touch with the Centre to get states to use the Pusa bio-decomposer (which helps paddy stubble decompose quicker, eliminating the need for farmers to set fire to their fields after harvest). "We appealed to the Centre as well many times, but they too

did not do anything. Because of this mess, farmers outside of Delhi will be compelled to burn their stubble residue. The smoke generated reaches and increases pollution levels here. The Delhi government found a solution to stop stubble burning in the form of the bio-decomposer. We are in touch with the Centre and hope that the solution will be implemented as much as possible," he said. The biggest contributor to pollution in the city in winter, meanwhile, is dust as per a source apportionment study done by IIT-Kanpur in 2013. Kejriwal said 75 teams have been constituted to check dust pollution at construction sites. Another 250 teams have been constituted to monitor incidents of garbage burning, he added. The government is also setting up an e-waste park, where e-waste such as old phones, chargers and computers will be used to make displays. Kejriwal said this will be the first park of its kind in the country.

In Palwal village, 4 kids die of fever in 2 weeks, road to health centre waterlogged



The Chhainsa village PHC is inaccessible to all; drains being cleaned (below). Abhinav Saha

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
CHHAINSA, HATHIN, PALWAL, OCTOBER 4

IN THE last two weeks, four children, all aged below five, have died "of fever" in Chhainsa village in Palwal's Hathin, prompting health department officials to conduct screening among 8,000 people to establish the cause and launch an investigation.

Health department officials Sunday set up a temporary outpatient department (OPD) at the village numbardar's house, where officials are screening people with fever symptoms for dengue, malaria, and other vector-borne diseases as well as Covid. Four cots have been kept in the temporary OPD, to function as "hospital beds", said officials. The primary health centre (PHC), built several years ago, is yet to be functional as the access road remains waterlogged. Dr Mahesh, medical officer, PHC Chhainsa, said, "There is 2 feet-water on the road that goes to the PHC and it remains waterlogged. So, it's not possible for people or staff to visit it. We have set up a temporary OPD here." Officials said that so far, at least four fever-related deaths have been reported. As per a preliminary investigation, on September 21, a nine-month-old girl died of suspected pneumonia after a one-day fever. On October 1, three children — a five-year-old girl, a two-month-old boy and a ten-day-old girl — were reported dead. Officials said the five-year-old girl died of 'dengue shock syndrome', the boy's death is under investigation, and the ten-day-old girl died from pneumonia and related symptoms. Azad (23), a cab driver, said his 5-year-old daughter Mubasira had high fever on September 30 and died the next day. "I took her to the government hospital in Nalhar for tests. Her platelet count was low. The next day she died at

the hospital. Her report said she had dengue," he said. Another resident, Nasser, said his nine-month-old daughter, Anam, died soon after contracting high fever: "On September 21, she had high fever. I took her to the local doctor in Hathin, who gave an injection. A few hours later, she died. Officials are saying the death occurred due to pneumonia. I suspect dengue... her platelet count was dipping." Mushtaq, a panchayat member, said that while a spike in fever cases was normal during monsoons, the deaths in a short span was alarming. "In every house, there are cases of fever. The drains are never cleaned. Officials only visited the village on Sunday after deaths were reported. The only way to access the road to the PHC is through a boat," he said, adding that several complaints had not been heeded to. As an earth mover picked up heaps of garbage from drains in the village on Monday, curious onlookers gathered around. "This is the first time in three years that drains are being cleaned in the village with a JCB," said Devender, a villager. Officials said over 50 staffers — Asha workers, ANMs, doctors — were conducting door-to-door screening in the village and taking samples. "So far, we have sent four samples suspected for dengue, whose reports are awaited. 44 rapid diagnostic tests for malaria have reported negative. A total of 69 fever cases

have been reported at the OPD," said Dr Mahesh. In Chilli village, over 13 km from Chhainsa, seven children had died in three weeks last month, causing panic. Officials in Chilli village had said a contamination of water supply was suspected to be the cause. Vijay Kumar, senior medical officer, Hathin, said, "So far, five deaths have been reported in Chhainsa in the last two weeks, out of which one is due to suspected dengue, while others are from pneumonia and neonatal deaths from complications during birth. We have set up a 4-bed facility and OPD in the village. Extensive fogging and anti-larvae measures are being carried out." SDM, Hathin, Laxmi Narayan, said, "I visited the village this week. Strict instructions have been issued for cleaning drains. Extensive fogging is being carried out. Several places in the village are waterlogged due to rainfall. A committee will be formed to find a solution to the access road to PHC. Currently, it's inaccessible." Palwal Chief Medical Officer Dr Brahmdeep Sandhu added, "The PHC has not been handed over to the health department. It is yet to be inaugurated. The panchayat was supposed to get work related to the road done. We have made adequate arrangements at the OPD to deal with the situation. I have written to the panchayat and public health department to get the drains cleaned on priority..."

BRIEFLY

Sushil moves court for bail in wrestler murder case

New Delhi: Olympic gold medalist and wrestler Sushil Kumar has moved a Delhi court for bail in the Chhatrasal Stadium murder case, alleging that police have left no stone unturned to file a false case against him. The Delhi Police chargesheet filed in the murder of 27-year-old junior wrestler Sagar Dhankar has accused Sushil of being the kingpin of this conspiracy.

Filling up potholes in Delhi topmost priority: Jain

New Delhi: PWD Minister Satyendar Jain Monday conducted a two-hour inspection to check the progress of the road reconstruction drive, which aims at filling potholes and repairing roads damaged due to high-intensity rainfall. He asked officials to ensure that all roads are repaired by October 20. "Filling up all potholes of Delhi is our topmost priority. Officials should focus on working efficiently and should strive to complete work within the directed time frame," he said. **ENS**



Delhi Traffic Police Monday briefly diverted vehicles headed towards the Ghazipur border due to closure of NH 9 and NH 24 by Ghaziabad Police in view of the Lakhimpur Kheri violence. Prem Nath Pandey

At Singhu, farmers stage silent protest against Lakhimpur deaths

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

PROTESTERS AT Singhu border Monday held a silent march following the deaths of four farmers in UP's Lakhimpur Kheri. The four farmers were killed Sunday in Lakhimpur Kheri after a convoy of three SUVs, including one owned by Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra, hit a group of farm protesters leading to a clash. The incident had sparked outrage across protest sites with the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) announcing a nation-wide protest Monday. SKM, in a statement, said: "There were spontaneous protests in response to the unfortunate developments in

Lakhimpur Kheri. Candlelight marches and rallies were taken out in several locations. In Puranpur and other locations, highways were jammed by protesting farmers. Thousands of farmers poured into Tikunia today, at the site of the violent incident, where the bodies of the martyrs were kept, and negotiations were held with the administration. The protests will continue over the coming days." On the main protest stage at Singhu, speeches were made by several people who spoke about the incident and the continued "persecution of farmers by the government". Those at the protest site said more people are expected to join as the agitation against the incident will be intensified. "The brutal murder of the farmers has

resonated across the country. Protests are taking place in so many states. Leaders are being arrested by police. Our momentum will continue, and farmers back home are eager to join. This will be our statement to a regime that doesn't care about our interests," said Baljeet, a farmer. The Delhi Traffic Police briefly diverted traffic headed towards the Ghazipur border and issued an advisory for commuters to not travel through Sarai Kale Khan due to closure of NH-24 and NH-9 in light of farmer protests on Monday morning. Travelers were asked to take the Anand Vihar route for Ghaziabad and DND for Noida. In a tweet later, traffic police informed commuters that NH-24 has been reopened and normal traffic movement restored.

Heavy barricading was also seen at the Ghazipur protest site as call for protests were made following the incident. Meanwhile, hundreds of Congress workers and members of student organisations staged protests against the incident outside UP Bhawan in the morning and demanded action. Around noon, Delhi Police detained over 95 protesters for violating DDMA guidelines and holding the protest without permission. DCP (New Delhi) Deepak Yadav said police gave several warnings to the protesters to leave but they didn't listen. "Members of Indian Youth Congress, SFI, RLD, AISA, AIKS, KYS, Janvadi Mahila Samiti, and Samajwadi Party were detained and taken to Mandir Marg police station," said police.

Locals help cops rescue kidnapped boy

New Delhi: A 14-year-old boy was rescued by police from an apartment in Rohini where two men were holding him captive. Police said the accused, Monu (20) and Ashok (23), were allegedly planning to kill the boy and had kidnapped him from near his house in Outer North district on Friday. On Sunday, residents at Utsav Apartments heard a boy screaming and called police. DCP (Outer North) Brijendra Yadav said his team was on patrol duty and acted on the information around 11 pm: "The team went to the apartment and found two men with the boy. He was tied up with ropes." While Monu is a driver, Ashok works at a repair shop. During questioning, Monu told police that his sister married the boy's uncle a few months ago but the family wasn't treating her well and sent her back home. As revenge, he kidnapped the boy. Police said the boy was later reunited with his parents. **ENS**

Don't interfere with spas that have valid licences: HC to police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

THE DELHI High Court Monday pulled up Delhi Police for alleged highhandedness against citizens and warned it against interfering with operations of spas which have valid licences and are following Covid-19 norms. Pulling up a police officer for allegedly not allowing a spa and wellness clinic to reopen at Chandni Chowk, Justice Rekha Palli said, "Aapko caution rahi hun mujhe ye kahani nai sunni ki roka nai, aapko caution kar rahi hun apne constable ko bhi bata dijiye. Ab wo time nai raha, lounge court aadiyega ek complaint leke roz." The counsel representing police said they are not restraining spa owners from running their place as long as they possess a valid licence and follow Covid

protocol and other guidelines. However, the court said it was dealing with matters daily involving complaints against police officers. It added that a 75-year-old man in another case has approached it saying he was beaten up by a police officer. "I hope they understand now; if they don't, I know what to do. Ultimately citizens only look up to us," said the court, while addressing the counsel and after reprimanding the police officer. The counsel told the court that they will look into it and that he will pass on the information "to the headquarters". The petitioner, Prince Jain, in the plea said the DDMA in August permitted reopening of spas and he got his licence renewed up to March 2022. However, he claimed staff of the local chowki started forcing him to shut down without any reason.

1,091 trees to be cut for SPA's new Vasant Kunj campus

SHIVNARAYAN RAJPUROHIT
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

A SUPREME Court committee has recommended felling of 1,091 trees for a proposed campus of the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) at the 'extended ridge area' in South Delhi's Vasant Kunj. "It is recommended that this Hon'ble Court may consider granting permission for diversion of 80,937 sqm (8 ha) deemed forest land on Morphological Ridge...", read a report of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC). Morphological Ridge bears ecological resemblance to the notified Delhi Ridge spread over 7,777 hectares and has been granted protection from projects for non-forestry purposes. The site area has a total of 2,495 trees, mostly kikar, of which 1,404 will be preserved. The 8 hectares of land, allotted by the DDA in 1983, has been in SPA's possession since 1987. The Delhi SPA campus is located near ITO in Indraprastha Estate and has two hostels at Friends Colony and IP Estate. The new campus at Vasant Kunj will have an administrative block, an academic block, two hostels, an auditorium, a mess block, connecting bridges among others. An

institution of national importance, SPA was established in 1942 under the education ministry. The proposed site at Vasant Kunj currently has a boundary wall and gates with a temporary office. The CEC report dated September 30 said the SPA project would benefit "people at large" and help the institute increase its student strength from 1,200 to 2,800 in the next 10 years. In March this year, the Ridge Management Board (RMB) gave its approval to cut 875 trees, which was later revised to 1,091 by the CEC. Of the total 8 hectares of forest land, 0.46 hectares fall within the notified forest. The CEC directed the user agency to modify "its construction plan and leave out the area falling in the notified forest. This area will not be put to any non-forestry use and shall be excluded from the boundary of the plot". Among various conditions laid down by the CEC are compensatory afforestation, forest clearance under the Forest Conservation Act, 5% of the project cost to be deposited with the RMB, and net present value of the trees cut. For afforestation, DDA has allocated 8 hectares of non-forest land at Dhulsiras Village in Dwarka. The land will remain under DDA ownership and will be categorised as 'protected forest'.

Prosecution like whip of monarch: Sharjeel

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

ARGUING FOR bail in a UAPA case against JNU student Sharjeel Imam in connection with the Northeast Delhi riots, his lawyer told a court Monday that his prosecution was more an example of a "monarch's whip rather than a government established by law". Advocate Tanveer Ahmed Mir, appearing before Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat, wrapped up his arguments while seeking Imam's bail and subsequent discharge. Mir said there were many prosecutions against Imam as he had criticised government's policies. "Since when does the government need affection of people? It's only monarchs and kings who need affection of people. We are not here to bow down before the government... This country... stands on principles of constitutional values. Those values we're committed to protect today in Sharjeel's case...", he told the court. Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad said from what he has understood from the arguments, it was "that if the government is not listening to your contentions, it can go to any extent, even if it paralyses the life of a common man".



7 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI **CONFIDENTIAL**



TOP OF MIND

AS THE Yogi Adityanath government scrambled on Monday to resolve the Lakhimpur Kheri standoff, there was buzz that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's programme in Lucknow on October 5 could be on the state leadership's mind – so that the issue does not overshadow the event. While the UP government did not allow politicians to travel to the district, farmer leaders were allowed to visit the area. The way state officials swiftly agreed to the demands of the protesting farmers, many in Delhi's power corridors believe that the PM's Lucknow schedule was a key factor behind it. The PM is scheduled to inaugurate "Azadi@75 – New Urban India: Transforming Urban Landscape" conference-cum-expo and digitally hand over keys of houses built under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban to 75,000 beneficiaries in 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh.

SHOWCASING R-DAY

DEFENCE MINISTRY has come up with a new website to showcase events for next year's Republic Day, as part of the celebrations marking the 75th year of Independence. Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar launched the website on Monday, "as a platform that connects Indians all over the world and celebrate India's Republic Day". All activities related to Republic Day celebrations throughout the country will be showcased on the website. It will also be "a single-point official source for all content related to Republic Day celebrations". The Defence Ministry is responsible for Republic Day celebrations every year.

ISRO VISIT

VICE PRESIDENT and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Marta Lucia Ramirez, who visited India from October 1-3, visited ISRO facilities and met representatives from New Space India Limited and the Human Space Flight Centre during her trip. Among other things, Colombia is also looking at space cooperation with India. Ramirez also met officials from Indian Council of Medical Research on exploring cooperation in biotechnology, co-production and technology transfers in the development of vaccines and pharmaceutical products.

Tripura BJP MLA slams party, praises Mamata

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, OCTOBER 4

TRIPURA BJP MLA Ashish Das on Monday targeted his own party, saying there is "dictatorship" in BJP-ruled states, and showered praises on Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee.

Speaking to reporters in Kolkata, Das said Banerjee's win in the Bhabanipur assembly bypoll has made her a "face" of the opposition. She has risen to become one of the most popular chief ministers, said Das, adding that "evil forces" would be destroyed by "matri-shakti" or mother force.

The MLA, however, did not specify who the evil forces were.

Das, who is in West Bengal for the past two days, also criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying he called for a fight against corruption but his government sold off national assets to private entities. "There was a time when the Prime Minister said 'Na khaunga, na khane dunga, desh nahin bikne dunga'. People of India are finding all national institutions being sold off today to private owners," he said.

"BJP-ruled states such as Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura have dictatorship running there. In this situation, West Bengal Chief



Tripura BJP
MLA Ashish
Das

Minister Mamata Banerjee has become a face for 2024 Lok Sabha elections," he said.

On why he endorses Banerjee's win despite being a BJP MLA, Das said, "Entire India is looking for a face today. I am proud as a Bengali... Bengalis had a huge contribution in the fight against British colonialism. But Bengalis didn't get proper political dignity. Many people now want to see Mamata Banerjee as the Prime Minister."

While there has been speculation about his visit to West Bengal, Das said he would make his plans clear on Tuesday.

Tripura BJP chief spokesperson Subrata Chakraborty said: "We don't have any such information about his switching over to the Trinamool Congress... We feel he is confused or else there is no reason to praise Mamata Banerjee. People of West Bengal now feel they made a big mistake due to pre- and post-election violence there."

However, he said the party has its eyes open. "We will take action when it is required," he said.

CAA protest: SC relief for rusticated UP student

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday allowed a student, who was rusticated for allegedly attempting to organise an anti-CAA protest in December 2019, to take his sixth semester examination for graduation from a Lucknow-based university.

A bench comprising Justices S K Kaul and M M Sundresh took note of the affidavit of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Language University, formerly known as Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Urdu, Arabi-Farsi University, that the student has submitted his "profound apologies" to the Vice-

Chancellor of the varsity.

The bench agreed to the submissions of senior lawyer Huzefa Ahmad, appearing for student Ahmad Raza Khan, that he be allowed to take up the exam in view of the subsequent developments.

"The petitioner is required to keep his conduct in a proper manner now and give no occasion to the University. Subject to the same, let the university give concessions. We grant the university liberty to take action against the petitioner in case the petitioner gives any occasion," it said in the order. **PTI**

SC clears NDMA's Covid aid plan: Rs 50,000 in 30 days

Don't deny relief on ground that death certificate does not mention Covid as cause: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

APPROVING THE National Disaster Management Authority's (NDMA) recommendation on ex-gratia compensation of Rs 50,000 from the State Disaster Response Fund for the families of those who died of Covid-19, the Supreme Court said on Monday that no state should deny the compensation solely on the ground that the death certificate does not mention it as the cause of death.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and A S Bopanna said the amount will be in addition to what is paid by the Centre and states by way of benevolent schemes, and will be applicable for future cases too. The compensation should be disbursed within 30 days of submission of

the application "along with the proof of death of the deceased due to Covid-19 and the cause of death being certified as 'died due to Covid-19'," the court said.

However, it added that "no states shall deny the ex-gratia assistance of Rs 50,000 to the next of kin of the deceased... solely on the ground that in the death certificate issued by the appropriate authority, the cause of death is not mentioned as 'died due to Covid-19'."

"The ex-gratia assistance... shall be disbursed by the District Disaster Management Authority/ district administration", it said, and added that the details of the district authority shall be published in the print media and electronic media within one week and given wide publicity.

The court said that "deaths occurring within 30 days from

the date of testing or from the date of being clinically determined as a Covid-19 case shall be treated as 'deaths due to Covid-19'," even if the death takes place outside the hospital/in-patient facility.

"Also, the Covid-19 case while admitted in the hospital/in-patient facility and who continued to be admitted beyond 30 days and died subsequently shall also be treated as a Covid-19 death," the court said, adding that family members of those who died by suicide within 30 days of being diagnosed as Covid-19 positive shall also be entitled to the ex-gratia.

If any family member has grievances regarding the death certificate already issued, he/she can move the district level grievance redressal committee to be constituted by states within one week. These committees can ex-

amine the medical records and take a call within 30 days, it said.

Hearing two petitions filed by Advocates Gaurav Kumar Bansal and Keepak Kansal, the Supreme Court had asked the NDMA to look into the question of providing ex-gratia compensation to the next of kin in the case of Covid deaths, and asked the government to frame simplified guidelines for issuing official documents to their family members.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) brought out guidelines which said that cases that are diagnosed through an RT-PCR/ Molecular Test/ Rapid Antigen Test, or that have been clinically determined in a hospital or an in-patient facility by a physician, will be recognised as Covid deaths.



A DAY AFTER BYPOLL VICTORY

TMC chief and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, with her nephew and MP Abhishek Banerjee, at a temple at Bhabanipur, a day after her bypoll victory in Kolkata. **PTI**

Mamata oath: TMC govt invites, Dhankhar says wait for gazette

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 4

IN A fresh standoff between the Raj Bhawan and the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, who was invited to administer the oath to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as an MLA on October 7, on Monday said he will wait till the official gazette notification on the Bhabanipur bypoll result is issued.

Speaking to reporters at the state Assembly, state minister Partha Chatterjee said, "We have requested the honorable Governor to administer oath to Mamata Banerjee on October 7 before noon. We want him to come to the state Assembly to administer the oath. We hope that by October 7, the gazette notification will be issued and he would honour our request by coming to the Assembly and administer the oath to Mamata Banerjee and two other MLAs."

Banerjee has won the Bhabanipur Assembly bypoll by a huge margin of 58,835 votes and broken her own record from the constituency in 2011. The TMC bagged two other Assembly seats of Jangipur and Samserganj on Sunday.

The request by the state government was made after it was learnt that Dhankhar had withdrawn Speaker Biman Banerjee's power to administer the oath of office to MLAs.

In reply to the state government's request, the Governor said he will take a decision once the bypoll result was published in a notification and brought to his notice. "Raj Bhawan response on the administration of Oath/Affirmation to the Members elected to the WBLA in bye-election from 159-Bhabanipur A/C, and the adjourned poll in 56-Samserganj and 58-Jangipur A/Cs



West Bengal Governor
Jagdeep Dhankhar

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HC relief for Suwendu, brother

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court on Monday ordered a stay on all further proceedings in a case of alleged tarpaulin theft against BJP MLA and Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suwendu Adhikari and his brother Soumendu.

Passing the interim order, Justice Kausik Chanda observed that political overtones of this criminal case cannot be brushed aside.

The court ordered that there will be a stay on all further proceedings till six weeks after the ensuing Puja vacation. **PTI**

held on 30 September, 2021. Once Gazetted Governor would take call," tweeted Dhankhar.

To remain chief minister, Banerjee needs to be sworn in as a member of the Assembly by November 4.

Days after his arrest, Assam Cong suspends MLA for 1983 stir remarks

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 4

DAYS AFTER he was arrested for "communally provocative" remarks on the eight people killed during the Assam Agitation in February 1983, legislator Sherman Ali Ahmed was Monday suspended by the state Congress unit.



SA Ahmed

An order signed by Assam Pradesh Congress Committee General Secretary Bobbeeta Sharma said Ahmed was suspended

"from Congress party with immediate effect for repeatedly violating the party's discipline."

Ahmed was arrested from his official residence Saturday after his comments to the local press on September 29 and 30, in reference to the recent eviction drive in Darrang district, drew sharp criticism.

On Sunday, the Kamrup District Chief Judicial Magistrate's court in Guwahati remanded Ahmed in two days' police custody. A senior police official told *The Indian Express* that Ahmed had been charged under Section 504 (breach of the peace) and 505(2) (creating enmity) of the IPC.

Ahmed, a three-time legislator from the Bagbar Assembly constituency in Barpeta district, found himself in a controversy after he reacted to statements made by BJP leaders that alleged encroachers in Sipajhar area had killed eight people in 1983 during the six-year-long anti-'foreigner' Assam Agitation.

In a video clip, the MLA purportedly says that the eight people who died during the 1983 violence (in Chalkhowa in Darrang district) were not "martyrs" but "killers", since they were also responsible for the death of many others from the Miya (Bengali-speaking Muslim) community.

BJP adds BSY's son in Karnataka bypolls team after omitting him from initial list

DARSHAN DEVAIAH
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 4

DAYS AFTER omitting his name from a list of leaders who will be in charge of party electioneering for the October 30 bypoll in Hanagal assembly seat, the BJP on Monday evening added the name of B Y Vijayendra, son of former Karnataka chief minister B S Yediyurappa, to the list of 13 leaders.

Before Vijayendra's name was added, Yediyurappa appealed to his followers to refrain from expressing anger against the non-inclusion of his son in the list of people in charge of the bypolls. The list was released by the party on October 1.

Incidentally, Yediyurappa's younger son was initially an aspirant for the Hanagal ticket but dropped out of contention.

"Some of our karyakarthis (workers) have expressed their anger and anguish about my non-inclusion in the list of in-charge for Sindgi and Hanagal by-elections. My appeal to them: please refrain from making comments that embarrass our party, leaders, or me," Vijayendra, who is a state BJP vice-president, tweeted on Monday.

The Hanagal bypoll was necessitated by the death of veteran BJP leader C M Udasi – Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's mentor – while the Sindgi bypoll was necessitated by the death of veteran JD(S) leader M C Managuli.

Both the BJP and Congress are yet to announce their candidates for the seats. While the BJP is expected to finalise the names on Wednesday, the state Congress has sent the names of Srinivas



BY
Vijayendra

Mane and Manohar Tahsildar for Hangal, and Ashok Managuli for Sindgi to the party high command to take the final call.

Sources said at the BJP core committee meeting on Sunday, candidates were shortlisted in the presence of Arun Singh, BJP's Kamataka in charge.

According to a senior BJP functionary present at the meeting, former MLA Ramesh Bhusanur emerged as a frontrunner for Sindgi, while Revathi Udasi, daughter-in-law of C M Udasi, emerged as the frontrunner for Hanagal.

BJP general secretary CT Ravi said the shortlisted names for the two constituencies have been sent to the party central leadership.

While Hanagal is in Chief Minister Bommai's home district Haveri in north Karnataka, Sindgi is in Bijapur region.

The bypolls are being seen as the first major test for Bommai since he became the Chief Minister in July, replacing Yediyurappa.

Bommai has expressed confidence of the BJP winning both seats. "Hanagal has been our constituency whereas Sindgi is a JD(S) fort, but take it from me, we are 100 per cent sure of winning both seats," he said.

The JD(S) has announced Naziya Shakeel Ahmed Angadi and Niyaz Shaikh as its candidates from Sindgi and Hanagal, respectively.

CONG SAYS SHOCKING, RJD FOCUS ON WIN Alliance partners RJD, Cong to fight both seats in Bihar bypolls

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, OCTOBER 4

GRAND ALLIANCE partners RJD and Congress are seemingly on a collision course, with both set to field candidates on Tarapur (Munger) and Kusheshwar Sthan (Darbhanga) seats going to by-elections on October 30.

While Congress leaders have accused RJD of taking a unilateral decision of putting up candidates in both seats, the RJD considers its candidates possess what it takes in electoral politics – "winnability".

In 2020 Assembly polls, RJD had contested Tarapur seat unsuccessfully against JD (U), and Congress lost Kusheshwar Sthan seat to BJP.

By-elections were necessitated by the death of Kusheshwar Sthan MLA Shashibhushan Hazari (BJP) and Tarapur MLA Mewalal Choudhary (JD-U).

On Sunday, RJD named Ajay Kumar Sah for Tarapur and Ganesh Bharti for Kusheshwar Sthan seats. This triggered an immediate reaction from the Congress, which was set to declare its candidate from only Kusheshwar Sthan.

Congress Legislature Party leader Ajit Sharma said: "We were shocked. Our senior leader,

Ashok Ram, lost from Kusheshwar Sthan by just over 7,000 votes to BJP's Shashi Bhushan Hazari." He said RJD had not consulted either Bihar Congress leaders or AICC's Bihar in-charge Bhakt Charan Das, or even the party's central leaders before taking the decision. "Now we will also field candidates from both seats," he said.

Sharma also said RJD had not followed the "gathbandhan dharma (alliance principles).

RJD spokesperson Mrityunjay Tewari, however, said: "Winnability is the most important criterion in elections. RJD national president Lalu Prasad and the state leadership decided to contest both seats after due consultation with the Congress."

On state Congress's denial of any consultation, Tewari said, "There are a handful of leaders, like Shakil Ahmed Khan, who have problems with this. Khan accuses us of having a tacit understanding of BJP. We can also accuse the Congress of being too close to Nitish Kumar.... Vote hamara, candidate tumhara (our votes and your candidate) will not do anymore."

Tewari said analysis of the voting trend in 2020 polls had shown that RJD could have won several seats that the Congress contested.

Ex-bureaucrat and Vajpayee aide, Shakti Sinha dies at 64

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

SHAKTI SINHA, a former IAS officer and private secretary to the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, died on Monday. The 64-year-old was honorary director at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Policy Research and International Studies at MS University, Vadodara and also involved in setting up the Delhi School of Public Policy and Governance at Delhi University. He previously served as Director of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library for three years.

Sources close to Sinha's family said he died of cardiac arrest

while asleep. "He was talking to his family till 2 am. When he didn't get up till 11 am, family members tried to wake him up only to find he was no more," a family friend said.

BJP leader Ram Madhav tweeted, "Shocked to hear about Shakti Sinha's demise. He was a member of the Governing Board of India Foundation and was scheduled to address a conference going on at Leh this afternoon..." In a Facebook post, Madhav said, "Shakti returned from Russia last week and was having some health issues but not really serious to take his life."

"How fragile the life is! Met Shakti Sinha ji only yesterday



Shakti Sinha
died of
cardiac
arrest

and had a long and enriching interaction..." tweeted Ajay Singh, Press Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind.

A 1979 batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, Sinha opted for voluntary retirement in 2013 while he was serving as Finance Secretary in the Delhi government led by Sheila Dixit. He earlier served as private secretary to Atal Bihari Vajpayee between 1996 and 1999 and later went on

to become his OSD when Vajpayee became the Prime Minister. He recently wrote a book on the former PM – *Vajpayee: The Years That Changed India*.

During his stint in the NMML between 2016 and 2019, Sinha oversaw the PMO's pet project – the Rs 270-crore Museum of Prime Ministers. Even as his selection met with strong resistance from the NMML executive council, with one of its members Pratap Bhanu Mehta resigning in protest saying the terms and conditions for the director's office were modified to accommodate him, the Centre had put its foot down.

Post the expiry of his term at NMML in 2019, Sinha had become a bit of a recluse, mostly focussing on academics and not meeting many visitors. Weeks before he passed away, he had told *The Indian Express*, "I am happy not being bound by any timelines and not reporting to anyone; I have lots of books to read and write now."

Between 2010 and 2012, Sinha served as the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar.

With an MA in history of modern India and China from Delhi University, Sinha also pursued a mid-career course in International Commerce and Trade from George Mason

University and was also known to be an expert on Afghanistan.

While serving in the government, Sinha took time off to work with think tanks in India and Singapore where he analysed subjects such as how badly designed state structures and distorted policies cause or exacerbate conflict and why economic policies did not work in the absence of supportive governance ecosystems. He also took leave to work for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (April 2006-December 2008). For a short period, he was also with UNDP, Afghanistan, as Strategic Policy Advisor.



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THE EIGHT WHO DIED

Divided on ground, united in grief: From 18-yr-old protester to 26-yr-old BJP worker

ASAD REHMAN
LAKHIMPUR KHERI, OCT 4

BESIDES THE four farm protesters who were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri after being hit by a convoy of cars, including one owned by Union MoS Ajay Mishra, among the four others who died in clashes on Sunday were two local BJP leaders, a journalist and a driver employed by Mishra's son, Ashish Mishra.

The four protesters who died have been identified as Gurvinder Singh (18), Diljeet Singh (35), Nachhattar Singh (55) and Lovepreet Singh (19). While Gurvinder and Diljeet were from Bahraich district, Nachhattar and Lovepreet were from Lakhimpur Kheri district.

"Gurvinder had completed his Class X and was looking to get work as a labourer in Qatar. All his dreams are gone with him," said his uncle, Naskeen Singh.

Gurvinder is survived by his

parents, brother Gursevak (22) and sister Rajni (20). "He had said that he was going for a good cause, and even if he died, it would be for a good cause. We didn't pay head... who knew this would happen," said Naskeen.

At the protest site in Tikunia, Lovepreet's sister, Gagandeep, was inconsolable. "He was our only brother," she said. Lovepreet is survived by his farmer parents, and two sisters.

Nachhattar's son, Mandeep (30), said he was in Almora for his Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) training, when he heard about his father's death. "I don't know what happened. We hope for justice," he said. Nachhattar is survived by his wife, Jaswant, Mandeep, daughters Amandeep (20) and Sarabjit (22).

"He had gone for the protest for the first time and said he would be back by evening," said Jaswant.

Diljeet's cousin, Sher Singh, said the dead farmer had left be-



Police personnel posted at Tikunia on Monday. Vishal Srivastav

hind two teenaged sons, Parmit Kaur (16) and Rajdeep Singh (14). "One of his sons had also gone for the protest with him. He is injured and undergoing treatment," said Sher Singh.

"Diljeet used to go for the farmer protests... He thought this movement is important for farmers," he said.

Shubham Mishra (26), one of

the four who died in the clashes, was a local BJP leader in Shivpuri, the district headquarters of Lakhimpur Kheri. On Monday, a few relatives and neighbours gathered outside his house to offer their condolences. Among them was his uncle, Anoop Mishra.

"A life is a life. We expect justice... We expect the government

to provide us the same treatment, on a par with the farmers who died," said Anoop. Asked if they had received any assurances from the administration or government, he replied: "No, we haven't. Only the local MLA came and met us... we have not been given any assurance on justice or compensation."

Shubham, a businessman, is survived by his wife Rekha and one-year-old daughter Angel.

His father, Vijay, a farmer, said he had not seen who killed his son, and hence couldn't level allegations against anyone. "I don't think the farmers could do something like this. It must have been done by anti-social elements," said Vijay, who has another son, Shantanu (24).

"How can someone do this to him. His head was completely crushed. He was identified by his clothes, as his face could not be recognised," said Shubham's friend Praveen Mishra.

Sunil Singh, the BJP's district

unit chief in Lakhimpur Kheri, confirmed to *The Indian Express* that Shubham was a party leader. "He was among the eight dead. Another party leader, Shyam Sunderi (40), who was a mandal mantri for Singhai block, also died in the violence on Sunday... I have full faith in the inquiry. Justice will be done to both sides and the accused will face action," he said.

He said Hari Om Mishra, the driver of Union MoS Ajay Mishra's son, Ashish, was also among the dead. "Hari Om was 35 years old, and belonged to Phardhan area of the district," he said.

The fourth person who died in the clashes has been identified as Raman Kashyap (30), a local journalist from Nighasan area of Lakhimpur Kheri district who worked as a stringer for Sadhna TV. "He was killed while he was shooting videos of the incident. He was beaten to death by the protesters," said Brijmohan Singh of *Sadhna TV*.

Violence was carried out in 'leftist' manner, says RSS affiliate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

MEMBERS OF political parties, and not farmers, perpetrated the Lakhimpur Kheri violence in a "leftist manner", RSS affiliate Bharatiya Kisan Sangh said Monday.

Four farmers were among eight people killed in Lakhimpur Kheri after a convoy of three SUVs, including one owned by Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra, hit a group of farm protesters, triggering a clash.

BKS termed Sunday's incident "unfortunate".

"Those involved in the incident were not farmers. They were from various political parties. The incident was perpetrated in leftist manner. People were lynched by beating them with sticks. Farmers cannot do such a thing," BKS said.

The RSS affiliate said the violence seems to have been perpetrated by professionals. "To take law into one's own hands, to kill publicly, it appears it has been done by professionals, executioners. No amount of criticism of the incident is enough. Those involved must be given the severest punishment," BKS said.

The union expressed condolences to the family of the deceased and demanded an independent inquiry.

The state government Monday said an inquiry has been instituted under a retired high court judge.

DESTINATION LAKHIMPUR KHERI



(Above) Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra detained while on way to the protest site; (Left) BKU leader Rakesh Tikait reaches Tikunia on Monday



Vishal Srivastav



Vishal Srivastav



Express

(Above) Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad addresses the crowd at Tikunia on Monday; (Left) Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav was detained while on the way to Lakhimpur.

BJP watches warily, had swept Lakhimpur Kheri in 2017 elections

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 4

THE DEATHS in Lakhimpur Kheri are giving the BJP some anxious moments ahead of the coming Assembly elections in a district where it had swept all the eight seats in the 2017 state polls. That had been a major jump from 2012, when the party had won just one seat in this district in Uttar Pradesh's Terai belt, with strong links to farming and a sub-

stantial Sikh population.

The largest district of UP, Lakhimpur Kheri is dominated by Brahmins, followed by Muslims and Kurmis among non-Yadav OBCs. It is 80% rural with a majority of the population surviving on sugarcane farming. Many of the farmers are prosperous Sikhs belonging to families settled in this fertile region post-Partition.

The BJP fears the spillover effect of the Lakhimpur Kheri violence will also be felt in border-

ing districts such as Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Sitapur and Bahraich, where too the party had made impressive gains in 2017. Of the 42 Assembly seats in these six districts, the BJP had won 37.

The Samajwadi Party, that had fought in alliance with the Congress, had got four seats, and the BSP one. The Congress had drawn a blank.

This was in a sharp contrast to 2012, when the SP had won 25

seats in this belt, the BSP 10, the BJP five and the Congress two.

The Nighasan Assembly segment in Lakhimpur Kheri, where the incident happened Sunday, has been won by the BJP thrice since 1993. Union Minister of State Ajay Mishra,

whose son was allegedly in one of the vehicles involved in the incident, lost from Nighasan in 2007 before winning in 2012.

Apart from taking all the seats

in the district, the BJP increased its vote share too by multiple times between 2012 and 2017. In Gola Gokarnnath Assembly segment of Lakhimpur Kheri, its vote share rose from 3.88% to 49%; in Kasta (SC seat), it went up from 7.36% votes to 44%; in Dhaurahra, from 5.89% to 36%; and in Palia, from 11.34% to 51%.

As the SP and Congress lead the Opposition protests against the Yogi Adityanath government over the incident, Congress Lakhimpur city president

Siddharth Trivedi said there would be a poll fallout. "The BJP is set to lose votes after this incident. Let's see who gets the most share from its loss," he said.

A local BJP leader admitted the unease in the party. "The farmers' agitation in Delhi had not much of an effect in UP. But the Lakhimpur Kheri incident has made farmers aggressive against us. They have also got the sympathy of non-farming sections. That is not good for the ruling party."

Roorkee church attack: DGP assures action; no arrests yet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 4

HARIDWAR POLICE have lodged an FIR after more than 200 people allegedly barged into a church in Roorkee area of the district, vandalised the premises and attacked people assembled there for prayers on Sunday.

The state government has authorised district magistrates of all 13 districts to use the stringent National Security Act for the next three months, citing incidents of violence in some districts, PTI reported.

DGP Ashok Kumar said an FIR has been lodged and action will be taken in the matter as per law.

Haridwar SP (Rural)

Pramendra Singh Dobal said a few people sustained injuries in the incident, one of whom has been admitted in a Dehradun hospital.

He said investigation has begun but no arrest was made until Monday evening.

According to Prio Sadhna, the church pastor's wife, on whose complaint the FIR was registered, the accused belonged to Hindutva outfits.

About allegations of involvement of Hindutva outfits, Dobal said, "That will be checked during investigation."

The case has been registered at Roorkee Kotwali under IPC Sections 395 (dacoity), 295 (injuring or defiling place of worship with intent to insult religion of any class), 296 (disturbing re-

ligious assembly), 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation), and 427 (mischief causing damage).

The FIR states that more than a dozen people had assembled in the House of Prayer church in Solanipuram, Roorkee, for morning prayers on Sunday when more than 200 men and women barged in, carrying iron rods. As per the complainant, the mob hurled abuses, vandalised the church, snatched valuables and mobile phones, assaulted the people gathered.

The complaint alleges that the accused fled with CCTV cameras and DVR.

Ahead of bypolls, Cong works to resolve rift in Meghalaya unit

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

A LAST-MINUTE intervention by the Congress high command ahead of bypolls to three Assembly constituencies in the state appears to have prevented a possible split in the party's Meghalaya unit, but a permanent solution remains a "work in progress".

The Congress's Meghalaya unit had landed in turmoil after former Chief Minister Mukul Sangma aired his disappointment over the appointment of Vincent H Pala as the state unit president "without consulting" him in August. As speculation over an imminent split in the party ranks gained momentum,

the Congress leadership summoned the two leaders to Delhi.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi met the duo on Sunday, while Congress president Sonia Gandhi met them on Monday. Speaking to *The Indian Express* after meeting Sonia Gandhi, Sangma, who is now serving as the Leader of Opposition, said: "As I have said, some issues require to be resolved and have to be looked at. There have been back to back meetings. The process is on, the consultations are on. The party will adopt steps that are appropriate," Sangma said.

Pala sought to downplay reports on the rift.

"It appears there was a gap in communication wherein he (Sangma) was not consulted or taken into confidence during my

appointment. I think the Congress leadership tried to call him but he could not be reached as the Assembly session was underway. It is a small issue. There is no personal enmity involved. He is a very senior leader," Pala said.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, Sangma underlined the need for political parties to "demonstrate cohesiveness and harmony" and "realise the magnitude of responsibility on them to preserve and protect democracy".

Specifically asked on whether the Congress will put up a united front in Meghalaya, Sangma said, "The whole objective (of the dialogue process) is directed towards that. All parties face such challenges. We will see how we navigate the issues."

How can you say will protest when matter in court: SC to farmer body

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

THE SUPREME Court on Monday asked a farmer outfit that approached it seeking permission to hold protests against the three farm laws at Jantar Mantar what it wanted to protest against, given that the laws are not in force and were stayed by it.

A bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar also said that when incidents like Lakhimpur Kheri happen, "nobody takes responsibility" and added it will examine whether a party which has already approached a Constitutional court seeking remedy has an absolute right to simultaneously protest on the streets over the same issue.

"You are saying you want to protest, protest what? The Act has been stayed by the Court. The Centre has said it will not be implemented," Justice Khanwilkar asked as a petition filed by the farmer organisation, Kisan Mahapanchayat, seeking permission to hold protests at Jantar Mantar came up before the bench also comprising Justice C T Ravikumar.

"After hearing learned counsel for the concerned parties and the Attorney General for India, we deem it appropriate to examine the central issue as to whether the right to protest is an absolute right and, more so, the writ petitioner having already invoked the legal remedy before the Constitutional Court by filing writ petition, can be permitted to urge, much less assert, that they can still resort to protest in respect of the same subject matter which is already sub-judice before the Court," the court said in its order after hearing Advocate Ajay Choudhary, the counsel for farmer outfit, Attorney General K K Venugopal and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

On the previous date of hearing, the court had asked the outfit to file an affidavit stating that it is not part of the protests blocking highways.

On Monday, Choudhary told the bench the outfit has filed an affidavit stating it is not involved in any blockage on any route.

The bench then sought the

AG's assistance and asked "once a party approaches the court challenging the validity, where is the question of holding protests?"

Agreeing, the AG said, "The Government has made it very clear they are not going to withdraw the three laws, so the only choice is for them to take forward their challenge to the three laws... We are on principle. Once you go to court and challenge executive action, how can the same party say that the matter is before court, nevertheless I will still protest?"

Choudhary said the protest was not only against farm laws but also to seek, among others, the implementation of the Minimum Support Price as a statutory right.

But the bench asked, "What is the point protesting at Jantar Mantar when the procurement authority are the states?"

The court said the parties before it cannot do both—challenge a law and then go on protest. "Either come to court or to the road... Once matter is sub-judice, how will protest go on same issue?", asked the court.

Choudhary sought to contend that the right to protest and right to approach the court are not mutually exclusive.

The outfit had also filed a plea before Rajasthan High Court challenging the laws. The court said it will transfer the HC matter to itself. Venugopal said a large number of petitions have been filed and added the protests cannot go on forever. He also referred to the violence in Lakhimpur which left eight people dead on Sunday. "An unfortunate incident happened yesterday at Lakhimpur," said the AG, adding such incidents destroy public peace.

"Exactly. When such events happen, no one takes responsibility! There is damage to property," remarked Justice Khanwilkar.

SG Mehta too backed the AG and said "once matter is before the highest constitutional court, no one should be on roads..."

Another SC bench on Monday issued notice to 43 farmer organisations/representatives, including Rakesh Tikait and Yogendra Yadav, on a plea by a Noida resident highlighting the traffic problems on account of the blockade of highways by the protesters.

WHAT THEY SAID

Is this Ram Rajya? No, this is Killing Rajya. Killing Raj is going on there, instead of what they said about establishing Ram Rajya....No humanism prevails in this (UP) state. Farmers are brutally killed. There is no democracy. Only autocracy.

farmers and stifling the voices of opposition leaders who show solidarity with them?

SANJAY RAUT
SHIV SENA MP



MAMATA BANERJEE
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

Expressing solidarity with bereaved families of farmers, I'm leaving for Lakhimpur Kheri to be with my brothers and sisters in this hour of grief. I've also sought permission from UP government to allow landing/taking off of chopper at the site.

CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI
PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER



Only a dictator government can do this. Does the ruling BJP in UP want to end democracy? In this way, the violation of civil rights is also against the spirit of the Constitution... The unlawful detention of opposition leaders is against democratic values.

ASHOK GEHLOT
RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

Farmers have been run over allegedly by the car of a minister's son (in Lakhimpur Kheri). Where does such cruelty come from? Does the BJP have a new strategy of crushing

BJP and Modi government have no business to not allow political parties to reach victims of the barbarism inflicted on farmers. Strongly condemn this draconian throttling of democracy. Sacrifice of our brave and determined farmers will not be allowed to go in vain.

SITARAM YECHURY
CPI(M) GENERAL SECRETARY

Farmers were killed, and MP Sanjay Singh, who was on his way to meet the family members of those farmers and pay his condolences, has been kept halted on the roadside since late last night...Yogji, tears of the family members of the farmers will weigh heavy on you.

MANISH SISODIA
DELHI DEPUTY CM

One can't even compare the oppression unleashed in J&K since 2019 but the common denominators are obvious. What started in J&K was sadly met with an air of indifference & has now engulfed the entire country. When will we speak up?

MEHBOOBA MUFTI,
PDP CHIEF

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PANDORA PAPERS

2021

AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

FUNDS WERE ROUTED VIA BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Offshore footprint found in origins of IPL teams Rajasthan Royals, Kings XI Punjab

Gaurav Burman and Suresh Chellaram, both related to Lalit Modi, had acquired stakes in IPL franchisees

P VAIIDYANATHAN IYER
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

INVESTMENTS BY offshore entities in Indian Premier League (IPL) franchisees Royal Multisport Private Ltd (owners of Rajasthan Royals) and KPH Dream Cricket Private Ltd (owners of Kings XI Punjab), which kicked up a row in 2010 and led to their temporary expulsion from the league, find their footprints in the Pandora Papers.

Internal documents of Panamanian corporate services firm Aleman, Cordero, Galindo & Lee Trust (BVI) Limited or Alcolgal, that set up entities in the British Virgin Islands, establish the ownership of these IPL franchisees either wholly or partly with Indians who are British citizens, and are related to Lalit Modi who founded IPL.

The documents reveal the links of Gaurav Burman, fifth generation scion of Dabur's Burman family and husband of Lalit Modi's stepdaughter Karima, with the Kings XI Punjab franchisee. And also that of Indian businessman in Nigeria, Suresh Chellaram, whose wife Kavita is sister of Lalit Modi's late wife Minal, with the Rajasthan Royals franchisee.

It was not just the investment by offshore entities in franchisees that raised eyebrows after the IPL was founded in 2008 with plans to conduct 20-over format cricket tournaments. It was a larger tussle between the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and Lalit Modi who had suddenly emerged as a parallel power centre and was allegedly routing investments into these franchisees through people close to him.

Gaurav Burman, according to Alcolgal documents, had lent \$2 million to Bantree International Ltd, a BVI company, for the "purpose of making a shareholder loan" to its Mauritian subsidiary Colway Investments Ltd. Colway, in turn, was a shareholder in KPH Dream Cricket.

Financial statements of KPH Dream Cricket for 2008-09 submitted to the Registrar



Alcolgal records shows Gaurav Burman, fifth generation Dabur family scion, is sole shareholder of Bantree International, BVI, linked to Kings XI Punjab

of Companies showed that Colway held 4,47,700 shares (acquired at a premium of Rs 104.27 each for a total consideration of Rs 5.11 crore) in the franchisee.

When contacted, Burman told *The Indian Express*: "Everything to do with KPH Kings XI was thoroughly investigated by the BCCI and the Enforcement Directorate. The BCCI had actually terminated our franchise. We went to

court and won that case. Our franchise was restored."

Alcolgal documents also reveal that Chellaram was the sole shareholder in Tresco International Ltd, a BVI company, which in turn held 44.15 per cent in EM Sporting Holdings, a Mauritian company, the owner of Royal Multisport. Latest financial statements for Royal Multisport for the year ending

March 31, 2020, show that EM Sporting Holdings Limited as the company's holding entity with near 100 per cent shareholding.

The Alcolgal documents show that the UBOs of Tresco were Suresh Chellaram's wife Kavita, son Aditya and daughter Amisha. Responding to questions, he confirmed that his wife and two children were the shareholders of Tresco when it was active.

"Tresco transferred its interest in the Rajasthan Royals prior to being wound up. Tresco made all relevant filings and disclosures in all relevant jurisdictions until its winding up," he said.

The UBOs – Gaurav Burman and the three Chellaram family members – of the two offshore entities Bantree and Tresco, respectively, are British citizens. Burman's UK address, the country's Land Registry shows, is a freehold property owned by Elephant Services Limited, another BVI company, since March 15, 2010. Burman is UBO of Elephant Services, according to Alcolgal records.

Owners of Radico Khaitan, manufacturer of IMFL, have their assets in offshore trusts

No illegitimate bank accounts or trusts anywhere in world, says liquor company

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

LALIT KHAITAN and his family, owners of Radico Khaitan, manufacturer of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL), have their assets in offshore trusts, the Pandora Papers show.

According to documents of the Trident Trust, British Virgin Islands, a trust deed for Timberlane Trust was settled between Timberlane Group Foundation, Panama (settor), and Trident Trust, BVI (trustee), in 2012.

The deed mentions Lalit Khaitan and Abhishek Khaitan as "beneficiaries" of the trust. Lalit is Chairman and Managing Director of Radico Khaitan Limited and his son Abhishek is its Managing Director.

The Timberlane Trust deed declares "50,000 shares of USD 1 in the company Beecool Global Holdings Limited" as its "Trust Fund".

The Timberlane Group Foundation was established in Panama on October 3, 2012, and Beecool Global Holdings Limited was incorporated in BVI on April 26, 2012.

The Register of Directors of Beecool Global Holdings Limited states that ever since September 4, 2012, the Timberlane Trust held



The document that names Lalit and Abhishek Khaitan as beneficiaries

50,000 ordinary shares of USD1 each of Beecool Global Holdings Limited.

On September 3, 2012, Lalit Khaitan signed an "Affidavit of Good Standing" to Trident Trust. Later, these shares were transferred to Lalit and Abhishek, data shows. In fact, respective share transfer forms dated October 30, 2013, state that Trident Trust (BVI), as trustee of The Timberlane Trust, transferred 25,000 shares of Beecool Global Holdings Limited to Lalit Khaitan and 25,000 shares to Abhishek Khaitan "for valuable considerations received".

A Declaration of Agent dated October 5, 2012, states that Ultimate S.A., a company constituted according to laws of the Island of Nevis, acted as Fiduciary Founder of the Timberlane Group Foundation. This declaration was signed by one Martha Salazar, a Panamanian citizen and director of the Ultimate S.A.

A letter of 2012 by Timberlane

Foundation to Trident Trust regarding Timberlane Trust mentions the role of law firm OP Khaitan & Co. as it writes and advises that "until further notice, future correspondence regarding the Trust should be forwarded" to the email of Gautam Khaitan, owner of the law firm.

Documents on Radico Khaitan show that Ashutosh Patra, a senior partner in OP Khaitan & Co., was appointed as independent director of the company from September 30, 2014, for a period of five years.

Lalit and Abhishek, according to the records, had formed another trust earlier but that was revoked after over a year. In fact, A Deed of Revocation of the Pinnacle Trust, available in the data from Alcolgal, states that in December 2006, Lalit Khaitan and Abhishek Khaitan "revoked" the settlement dated September 12, 2005, about Pinnacle Trust "in its entirety".

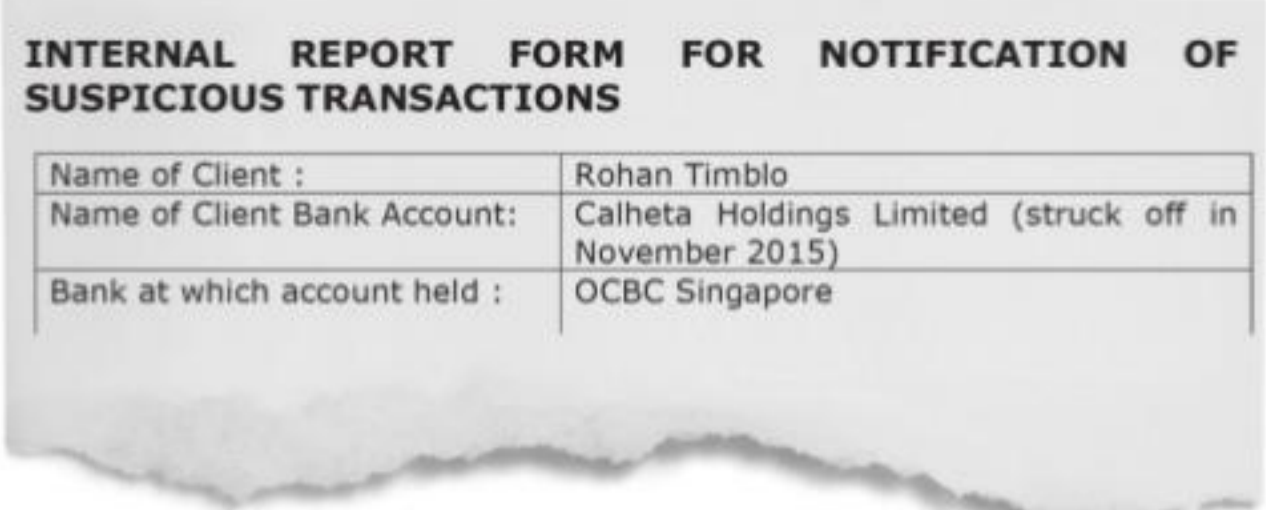
A "letter of wishes" related to Timberlane

Trust notes Lalit and Abhishek as "first beneficiaries" and also has a detailed explanation on who among others – Abhishek's wife Deepshikha Khaitan, their son Shivraj Khaitan, daughter Devika Khaitan, and Smitha Mandelia, and Shailja Saraf – will get what after them. It also notes that "in the event of none of the beneficiaries mentioned" and "none of them have any children and/or legal heirs", the fund shall be "distributed 100 per cent to a Cancer Research Institute in India at the sole discretion of the Trustees of the Trust."

Email exchanges between officials of the Trident Trust show they may have moved their assets later from the Timberlane Trust as well.

On March 17, 2015, Warren R Luyt, Managing Director of Trident Trust, BVI, wrote to his colleague Donnette Matthew about three trusts including the Timberlane Trust: "Please check the extensive correspondence on these trusts. The bank has closed, the clients have disappeared, the bankers are not willing to assist. Please do whatever you have to close the Trusts and write off the fees."

The Indian Express sought comments from Lalit Khaitan and Abhishek Khaitan on their interests in the offshore entities and whether they had declared these to Income Tax authorities. In response, Dinesh Kumar Gupta, Vice-President, Legal, Radico Khaitan, said: "Neither Radico Khaitan Ltd nor the Khaitan family have or had any illegitimate bank accounts or trusts anywhere in the world. We have followed all applicable laws & regulations of the country."



Rohan Timblo is named in the Suspicious Transaction Report

Family trust of Goa miner Timblo's son, transactions under Singapore scanner

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4

AN OFFSHORE family trust owned by Rohan Timblo, son of Goa-based miner Radha Timblo; its three underlying companies; and transactions with two Bulgarian citizens, have come under the scanner of the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS), the Pandora Papers show.

Records reviewed by *The Indian Express* reveal that in 2018, the IRAS sought information from Asiatic Trust Singapore Pte Ltd that provided corporate trustee services to Timblo.

The IRAS asked for details of Timblo's Colares Trust in Singapore and its three underlying firms – Calheta Holdings Ltd in Samoa, Cazar Finance SA in the British Virgin Islands and Panama-based Corylus Assets Inc.

Multiple emails sent by *The Indian Express* to the Timblo family and a text message to Radha Timblo did not elicit any response.

Records show the inquiry by the IRAS was preceded by two suspicious transaction reports (STRs) by Asiatici.

The first STR was filed after Timblo in January 2015 sought to add two unrelated persons of Bulgarian origin – Martin Vladimir Dobrev and Tchavdar Tchavdarov Tzenov – as beneficiaries of his family trust, Colares, that was set up for family wealth succession.

This STR also flagged a Euro 172200 loan transaction in favor of Dexter Capital Ltd, a Bulgarian firm owned by Dobrev and Tzenov. As per the STR, the loan amount was exactly the amount that Calheta Holdings had in its bank account.

While Asiatici did not allow Timblo to add the Bulgarian nationals as beneficiaries of the trust, it allowed the loan transaction to go through in November 2015.

However, Asiatici also filed an STR with the Singapore Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), records show.

Immediately after the loan transaction, both Colares Trust and Calheta Holdings were struck off in November 2015 and February 2016 respectively.

"While carrying out due diligence prior to executing the loan transaction for Dexter, the organization (Asiatici) discovered that the subject (Rohan) was recently implicated in a mining scandal involving Timblo Private Limited, an enterprise owned by his mother Radha Timblo and where the subject is named as one of the directors together with his brother Chetan Timblo," the first STR stated.

"Chetan Timblo has since been questioned with regards to the Indian Black Money case involving tax evasion and fraud in India. In a government affidavit filed in the black money case with the courts, the subject is also alleged to hold an illegal bank account abroad, but no further details are available at this time," it stated.

In October 2014, the Indian government informed the Supreme Court that it has initiated prosecution against the Timblo family including Radha Timblo, Chetan Timblo, Rohan and Mallika Timblo for allegedly stashing black money abroad. At that time,

Radha Timblo denied wrongdoing.

The government action was based on the findings of an Income Tax Department probe into Timblo Pvt Ltd and its managing director Radha Timblo that began in 2010.

The tax authority alleged that Radha Timblo declared the existence of two foreign bank accounts at Wing Hang Bank Ltd and Bank of Communication, Hong Kong, during a tax survey on the mining company in 2010.

Subsequently, the tax department alleged that Timblo Pvt Ltd had under-invoiced iron ore exports to a Japanese firm and diverted the additional sale proceeds to these two bank accounts.

The tax authority also submitted its findings on Timblo with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up to track down black money cases under the chairmanship of former Supreme Court judge M B Shah.

The Pandora Papers show that in June 2016, Asiatici filed a second STR, this time on Calheta Holdings. The STR said that following the first STR by Asiatici, Rohan Timblo in May 2016 visited the office of Asiatici to clear outstanding issues.

Timblo, according to the STR, requested for documents pertaining to the trust structure set up with Asiatici including the bank account records of Colares Trust and Calheta Holdings.

"Rohan declined to make payment of fees by electronic transfer and ended up paying cash for the additional time charges to make duplicate statements. Also he specifically instructed me (Asiatici officer) not to use the email address he provided earlier and that he does not want email communication at all," the Asiatici officer said in the June 2016 STR.

According to records, Colares Trust was set up in 2011 as a family trust with Rohan Timblo, his wife Mallika Timblo and their children as the ultimate beneficiaries.

The trust was set up by Rohan Timblo to receive profits from the mining business in India.

According to the trust structure, Calheta, one of the three companies controlled by it, held money to "accumulate and grow" Rohan Timblo's family wealth for his "wife and kids".

Two other firms, Cazar and Corylus, were formed by the trust to invest in "truck-stop business in Bulgaria" and "property project and related investments in Bulgaria (building, renting or selling holiday homes and luxury apartments)" to be managed by a UK property agent.

According to financial records of the companies owned by Colares Trust, in February 2013, Rohan Timblo in two transactions remitted through the trust Euro 600000 and Euro 60000 to his father-in-law Dilip Mahabal Kulkarni for a private investment and for acquiring stake in Bulgarian firm EM Boyana Ltd, respectively.

Incidentally, in November 2014, Timblo's wife and children were removed as beneficiaries of the Colares Trust.

This was a month after the Indian government said it had initiated action against the Timblo family under the Income Tax Act for allegedly stashing black money in offshore accounts.

Family behind premier hospital in Delhi set up offshore firm with assets worth \$35 mn

SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

THE FAMILY that runs Sitaram Bhartia Institute of Science and Research in Delhi set up a trust in Cayman Islands, which went on to acquire a company there with at least two Swiss bank accounts and assets worth over \$35 million at one point, records in the Pandora Papers investigated by *The Indian Express* show.

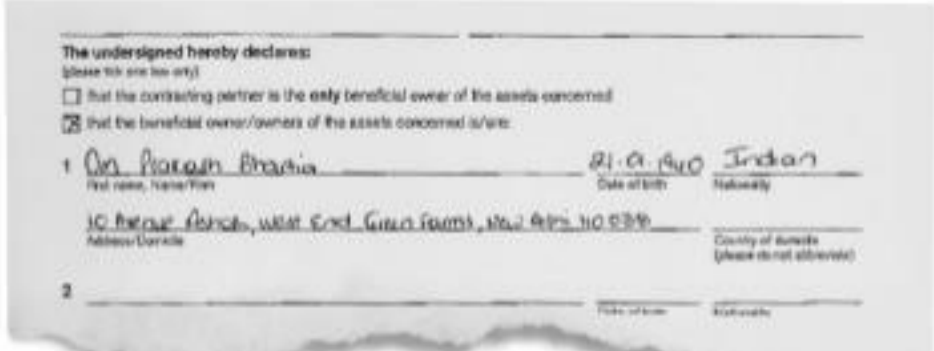
The Sitaram Bhartia Institute is a multi-specialty hospital in South Delhi's Qutab Institutional Area, and is run by the Bhartia family with Abhishek Bhartia as director.

In 2006, the family set up The Bhartia Family Trust in Cayman Islands. In the same year, the trust acquired Carmichael Inc. By the end of June 2007, records show, Carmichael

Inc had assets worth \$35.39 million, and held accounts with Switzerland-based banks, Julius Baer and UBS. It had also appointed Switzerland-based Altis Investment Management AG to manage funds and paid \$56,638 to the company for the year ended June 2007.

Julius Baer Trust Company (Cayman) Ltd was Trustee of The Bhartia Family Trust. Carmichael Inc's resolution on January 16, 2008, states: "Carmichael Inc was incorporated as an Exempt company in the Cayman Islands on August 27, 2003, and is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Bhartia Family Trust. The company was acquired by its current shareholder in May 2006. The company's principal activity is investing in marketable securities."

The annual declaration of Carmichael Inc for the year ended June 2006 said its opera-



Om Prakash Bhartia is named as beneficial owner

tions were "mainly outside the Cayman Islands".

Records of fiduciary service providers including Overseas Management Company (OMC) Trust show that Om Prakash Bhartia, Abhishek Bhartia's father, is the beneficial owner of the Carmichael Inc. His Delhi address is on record.

Om Prakash Bhartia is the son of late Sita Ram Bhartia and is a director in seven companies in India: BCH Electric, Bhartia Holdings Pvt Ltd, Bhartia Vidyut India Pvt Ltd, Bhartia Investments, Bhartia Logitech, Bhartia Powerloom Factory and Rajyashree Powerloom Factory. Abhishek Bhartia is also a director in these companies.

Despite being the beneficial owner of Carmichael Inc, O P Bhartia is not a director on the company's board. Records list Valerie Mullen as the board chairman and Ingrid Powell as secretary. Both individuals were representatives of CI Directors Ltd, which is a subsidiary of Julius Baer Group AG.

Documents show that of \$35.39 million assets of Carmichael Inc, \$12.4 million was in cash and equivalent, and \$22.9 million (market value \$24.25 million) in investments.

The profit and loss statement of Carmichael Inc shows that the company had no business income and was only earning on investments. The total income of the company was \$3,44,000 (net dividend income, bond interest, bank interest), and the net realised gains on investment for the year ended June 2007 was \$1.62 million.

Records show that in 2007, the shareholders gave unsecured interest-free loans

amounting to \$24.69 million to Carmichael Inc. Subsequently, the company renewed the investment advisory agreement with Altis Investment through a resolution in November 2007 and revised the annual fee with effect from July 18, 2007. The company held its bank account with Julius Baer and UBS and made a set of payments: investment management fee of \$55,638 to Altis Investment, portfolio fee of \$73,062 in the year ended June 2007, and bank charges of \$67,191.

A written resolution of Carmichael Inc shareholders, dated Jan 8, 2008, on financial statements ended June 2007, shows that the company was still controlled by "The Bhartia Family". The resolution was signed by two directors "For and on behalf of Julius Baer Trust Company (Cayman) Ltd as Trustee of The Bhartia Family Trust".

The OP Bhartia family did not respond to questions emailed by *The Indian Express*.

FROM PAGE ONE

Ex-chief of Military Intelligence and son set up firm in Seychelles; pegged inflow at \$1 mn

The Indian Express of secret records of Aabol, an offshore service provider based in Mahe, Seychelles, part of the Pandora Papers, reveals that Loomba's company had a linked bank account with Mauritius ABC Banking Corporation, where father and son, as Directors of Rarint Partners Ltd, pegged the company's "expected" annual deposit/turnover as \$1 million. The initial deposit in the account, also opened in December 2016, was \$100,000 and the "expected" annual expenses of the Seychelles company, which the bank account opening form states would be engaged in "consultancy," was estimated at \$500,000.

Besides the Loomba duo, the third Director of Rarint Partners Ltd is Anant Ghyanashyam, a resident of Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.

All three are named as first Directors and Beneficiary Owners (BOs) of the company.

While Ghyanashyam has 34% shareholding in the company, Lt Gen Rakesh Kumar Loomba and Rahul Loomba have 33% each. All three have signed the company opening and the Mauritius bank-account opening forms.

The residential address of the Loombas, in an upscale apartment complex in Gurugram, figures at several places in the data.

According to the Memorandum of Association of

Rarint Partners, the authorized capital of the company was \$100,000 which consists of 1,000,000 shares of 10 cents (\$0.10) each.

Records show that at the time of its inception, on December 1, 2016, a resolution was passed by the three Directors that all records of Rarint Partners Ltd would be maintained at an address in Paschim Vihar, New Delhi.

This address, records investigated show, belongs to a company called Cerule Consulting.

The bank account opening documents are listed among the ones being dispatched in connection with Rarint Partners Ltd.

Contacted by The Indian Express, Rahul Loomba responded on behalf of himself and his father. He described the third shareholder, Anant Ghyanashyam, as his business partner.

"In 2016, we had conceived an idea of working in Southern Africa and went ahead in formulating a company in November 2016 and subsequently applying to open a Bank Account. However, the account with ABC Bank was never ever opened as we did not go ahead with our business plan. No payment was done for the subsequent years for the company license fees. Thereafter, in 2017, we were informed by our advisor that the company will be struck off. It is amply clear that there was neither any business nor any contract ever conducted in the said company, and therefore no question of even opening a Bank Account."

He added: "Not only were we never asked about the rank or designation but more importantly, it was also not brought up by us, as officially, rank of a military or police person is never shared for security reasons, on private or business visit, unless the officer is part of an official delegation."

Loomba added that the bank had conformed to him that Rarint Partners "did not have an account with the bank."

This despite the fact that records show several invoices, such for incorporation of Rarint Partners Ltd. (\$415), and for processing the bank account opening application (\$345), have been sent by Aabol to one Vineet Agarwal at the Paschim Vihar address.

Besides Rarint Partners, Rakesh Kumar Loomba is also a Director with several other Indian companies and foundations.

According to Registrar of Companies (RoC) records, these are: BBV International Private Limited; Defence Welfare Housing Association; Pravasinian Foundation; Sainik Infrastructure India Limited; Indo Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Samaj Pidit Sewa Charitable Foundation and Jan Kalyan Samvad Foundation.

How Pramod Mittal 'owed' \$1 bn to Pramod Mittal — and got his deal

In effect, he was his own creditor and approved his own agreement.

Indeed, UK's Moorgate Industries, whose demand for £130 million was key to Mittal's bankruptcy and necessitated the IVA, had alleged that Mittal's family members appeared to be shareholders in some of the companies he claimed to owe money to and that some of them had approved the "shameful" agreement in bad faith.

Records of corporate service providers Trident Trust (Pandora), Appleby (Paradise) and Mossack Fonseca (Panama) investigated by

The Indian Express now confirm this. Mittal did not respond to queries sent to his lawyer in London.

Direct Investment Ltd (BVI), a family asset arrangement for Pramod Mittal and younger brother Vinod, was set up in 1995 when eldest brother L N Mittal parted ways to build his steel empire.

Pramod's holding company in Isle of Man, Global Steel Holdings Limited (GSHL), was a wholly owned subsidiary of Direct Investment Ltd. GSHL went into liquidation in 2018.

Through GSHL, Mittal co-owned (51%) Bosnia's Global Spat Koksna Industrija Lukavac (Gikil), a producer of coke used in steel making, with the Bosnian government. In 2006, Mittal stood guarantor for Gikil's debts. By 2013, he was being chased by Moorgate Industries as Gikil failed to repay \$166 million.

In 1995, along with Direct Investment Ltd (BVI), a family Trust was set up by Pramod's father ML Mittal with Pramod as the settler-protector. According to Pandora records, the purpose of this trust, ABC Settlement Trust (Belize), was "advancement, protection, development, growth and well-being both physical and financial of the family members."

These included Pramod's wife Sangeeta; daughters Vartika and Shrishti and son Divyesh. Since 2001, the Trust held all 194,801,000 shares worth \$1 each of Direct Investment Limited (BVI).

In 2008, a new trust structure with Pramod Mittal as a beneficiary and Prasan PTC Ltd (BVI) as trustee was put in place. In September 2008, ABC Settlement Trust transferred to Prasan PTC Ltd (BVI) all the 194,801,000 shares of Direct Investment Limited (BVI). By 2012, Mittal was in trouble

after local authorities foreclosed the assets of Global Steel Philippines Inc, a GSHL subsidiary. In this case, too, Mittal personally guaranteed the company's liability — approximately \$348 million plus interest — to Steel Trading Corporation of India.

He finally cleared the dues with substantial help from brother Lakshmi Mittal in March 2019.

Within months, Pramod Mittal was arrested for alleged fraud and misuse of office in Bosnia. Rajib Das, a Dubai resident and one of the two key Gikil officials arrested along with Pramod Mittal, served as a director in Prasan PTC Ltd (BVI). Das also served as a director in Meadswell Estates Limited (BVI) that owns Pramod Mittal's London house.

Meadswell (BVI) was set up in 2002 and was managed by Mossack Fonseca and Zedra Trust Co (Jersey) — formerly Barclays Private Bank and Trust Ltd — until September 2016 when the corporate service providers finally flagged that the company never disclosed any beneficiary or source of funds.

In response, Meadswell (BVI) switched to Vistra (UK) as its new administrator.

In 2008, show records of Appleby, Mittal made an "inter group transfer" of an aircraft registered in the name of Global Aircraft Limited, a Bermuda company, by transferring its shares from GSHL to Prasan PTC Ltd, the BVI Trust company.

Simultaneously, GSHL also transferred all shares of Meadswell (BVI) — i.e. the ownership of the London property — to the Trust.

Govt orders CBDT-led probe

into Pandora, black money judges say action will be taken

Government already enacted the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 with an aim to curb black money, or undisclosed foreign assets and income by imposing suitable tax and penalty on such income.

"Undisclosed credits of Rs 20,352 crore approximately (status as on 15.09.2021) have been detected in the investigations carried out in the Panama and Paradise Papers," the Ministry said.

Meanwhile, the two former Supreme Court judges who head the Government's Special Investigating Team (SIT) on black money have said "action" will be taken on the fresh revelations.

The SIT was set up by the Modi Government in 2014 following its first Cabinet meeting and has so far submitted seven reports to the Supreme Court.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, SIT Chairman, retired Supreme Court Judge, Justice MB Shah said: "This is a very important matter for us. The investigation shows what is happening in the country without the knowledge of the so-called experts."

Justice Shah said he will soon write to the Government about the details of offshore assets contained in The Pandora Papers.

Vice chairman Justice Arijit Pasayat said: "I have officially approached the CBDT and asked them what action has been taken or proposed to be taken on the Pandora Papers. The ongoing investigation shows the challenge posed to the system by tax evaders."



Aryan Khan at a Mumbai court on Monday. Ganesh Shirsekhar

Aryan, 7 others to stay in custody till Oct 7; 3 more held

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4

THE NARCOTICS Control Bureau (NCB) was allowed custody of Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan till October 7 after it told a magistrate's court Monday that while the 23-year-old was not found in possession of drugs, they needed his custody to probe evidence "pointing towards international drug trafficking" based on his phone chats.

While the NCB sought his custody for a week, the court gave extension till October 7. Seven others arrested Sunday were also sent to custody till Thursday.

Aryan's lawyers told the court that the NCB had not produced any evidence to connect him to the alleged drugs seized from a party aboard a cruise ship on Saturday. The NCB claims to have found drugs on the other seven held from the ship, Cordelia.

On Monday, it arrested three more people, including another passenger from the ship, after it returned to Mumbai from its trip. While the NCB counsel had Sunday sought Aryan's "reasonable custody" for only two days, on Monday, the senior-most law officer of the Union government in Maharashtra, Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, appeared in court on behalf of the NCB and argued that "shocking incriminating material" had been seized from the accused's phone.

"There are links in the form of pictures, chats, etc pointing towards international drug trafficking. There are several suspicious characters whose identities are not known. There are conversations about procuring narcotic drugs in bulk, discussions on modes of payment other than cash or bank transfers. Several code names are used... It is necessary to confront the accused with various persons. There are international transaction linkages, we may need to take inputs from other agencies," ASG Singh told the court.

The NCB claimed chats from the time Aryan was studying in

the US to as recently as July 2021. To the court's query on what the chats proved, the ASG said they were relevant to find out who the suppliers, financiers were.

Granting extension of custody, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate RM Nerlikar said: "The fact (is) that the co-accused were found in possession of intermediate drugs and these three (Aryan, Arbaz Merchant and Munmun Dhamecha) were accompanying them. Investigation is of prime importance, the same is useful for prosecution and for the accused to prove their innocence."

Singh said while no drugs had been seized from Aryan, investigating him was needed "to unearth other aspects like who was the supplier". The ASG went on to argue that drugs had become common among youngsters, and a "high-profile" person is considered a role model. He said the NCB was also investigating the organisers of the cruise party.

Aryan's counsel Satish Maneshinde contested that he had not even boarded the ship when the authorities began conducting a check. He said Aryan's belongings and person were searched and nothing found, and that while "6 gram of charas" were found on Arbaz Merchant, Aryan had no links to it. "He was accompanied by one-two friends. While they were allowed to go, the NCB took Aryan's phone," Maneshinde said. "The NCB may claim that drugs were seized from other accused. But I have no connection with them, they are not my friends, nor can the drug seizure from others be foisted on me," Maneshinde said on behalf of Aryan. He also said the NCB could not make a serious allegation like international drug trafficking without any corroboration.

Apart from Aryan and Bandra resident Merchant, the NCB had arrested Sunday Delhi-based Munmun Dhamecha, Gurgaon resident Vikrant Chhokar, Ishmeet Singh, make-up artist Gomit Chopra, Nupur Satija and Mohak Jaswal.

— WITH INPUTS FROM MOHAMED THAYER

MUNDRA HEROIN HAUL

Key accused sent to judicial custody before remand ended

GOPAL KATESHIYA
RAJKOT, OCTOBER 4

THE SPECIAL Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act court sent Rajkumar P, a key accused in the Rs 21,000-crore Mundra heroin haul case, to 14-day judicial custody on Sunday, a day before his remand was to end on Monday.

"The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) produced Rajkumar P in the court on Sunday, a day before his remand was to end, as it no longer required him for custodial interrogation. The court sent the accused to 14-day judicial custody. With this, there is no accused in DRI custody in this case," a source privy to the case told The Indian Express on Monday.

While granting remand to Rajkumar, a Coimbatore resident and the key accused who allegedly used WhatsApp to broker the deal between the Indian company and a Iranian exporter, on September 26, a Sunday, the same court had directed the DRI to investigate if "Mundra Adani Port, its management and its authority has gained any benefits" from the import of 2,990 kilograms of heroin.

The September 26 order passed by Additional District Judge

CM Pawar, said, "it requires to be investigated... what is the role of authority and officers of Mundra Adani Port while such consignment/container was sent/imported from foreign nation to India and landed at Mundra Adani Port... how management, authority and officer of Mundra Adani port was completely under dark and oblivious about the fact of import of such consignment... and whether Mundra Adani Port, its management and authority has gained any benefits from import of such consignment of NDPS substances in India".

The court also asked the DRI to investigate "the modalities and the process for scanning and checking of such container and consignment at foreign nations and at Mundra port when the said consignment/container was sent/imported from foreign nation to India and landed at Mundra Adani Port".

The Bhuj court had sent Chennai-based couple Machavaram Sudhakar and his wife Govindaraju Durga Purna Vaisali, whose firm Aashi Trading Company had imported 2,990 kg of heroin in two cargo containers officially declared as containing semi-processed talc stones, to judicial custody after their 11-day DRI remand ended.

Rajnath: Great need for R&D in futuristic defence tech

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

"CHANGES ARE being seen in every field" and "there is a great need for research and development in futuristic defence technologies", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday.

Amid changes in technology and increasing global security concerns, it is imperative the Indian defence industry focus on modernisation of the military and look at niche technologies, he said. He said different labs of the Defence Research and Development Organisation are working on technology in areas such as quantum computing, artificial intelligence and nanotechnology.

In his address after conferring DRDO's

Dare to Dream and Young Scientist awards, Singh said, "Our aim is to equip our forces with the latest machinery to deal with any challenge." He said that "today changes are being seen in every field," including trade, economy, communication, strategic affairs and military power. "These changes happening around the world are increasing the security requirements of the nations equally."

"Due to the importance of global security concerns, border disputes and maritime affairs, countries around the world are today focusing on their military modernisation and the demand for military equipment is increasing rapidly," he said.

DRDO young scientist labs and advanced technology centres, he said, have started working in areas like nanotechnology, quantum computing, AI and robotic technologies.

Stalin writes to 12 chief ministers: Need united fight against NEET

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 4

IN AN effort to build a strong resistance group against National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NEET), Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Monday wrote to his counterparts in 12 states asserting that it was important to assert their constitutional right and position in deciding the method of admission to higher educational institutions.

Along with the letter, Stalin is also sending copies of the Justice A K Rajan Committee report on the impact of NEET on socially backward students and the recently passed Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Act, 2021. A team of DMK MPs have been tasked to directly handover the Rajan Committee report to brief CMs about the efforts taken by the Tamil Nadu government on the issue.

The letter — sent to CMs of Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Delhi, Kerala and Goa — calls for a united effort to restore the primacy of state governments in administering the education sector, as envisaged in the Constitution.

Stalin said the A K Rajan Committee's objective was to suggest alternative admission procedures which would benefit all students, the feasibility of implementing such alternatives and the legal steps to be undertaken to implement such "fair and equitable" methods.

"Our considered position has always been that the move by the Union Government to introduce NEET goes against the spirit of the federalism and violates the constitutional balance of power by curbing the rights of state governments to decide on the method of admission in the medical institutions founded, established and run by them," the letter said.

The letter said the support of CMs from other states was crucial to "ensure that students of our respective states, hailing from rural areas and marginalised sections of the society, are not put to hardship in obtaining admissions to higher educational institutions." "We need to put up a united effort to restore the primacy of state governments in administering the education sector, as envisaged in our constitution," the letter said.



Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin

Mineral Resources Department

Government of Madhya Pradesh

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR,

DIRECTORATE OF GEOLOGY AND MINING

Phone & Fax 0755-2551795 Email- dirgeomn@nic.in

Notice for Request for Proposal

RFP No. 13297/DGM/2021

Bhopal, Dated: 29.09.2021

“RFP for Selection of Consultancy Agency for Establishment of a Project Management Unit at State & Districts Level for District Mineral Foundation under Directorate of Geology and Mining, Madhya Pradesh,”

Directorate of Geology and Mining, Madhya Pradesh, invites proposals from suitable Consultancy Agency for Establishment of a Project Management Unit for District Mineral Foundation as per the requirements of the Directorate.

For detailed scope and other terms and condition, please refer the RFP document available at:

• <https://mptenders.gov.in/>

• <http://www.mineralresources.mp.gov.in/>

• <https://ekhanij.mp.gov.in/>

Interested Agencies who qualify as per the criteria mentioned in the RFP document, may submit their proposals online through the <https://mptenders.gov.in>

only latest by 30.10.2021 till 05.30PM.

Any updated, corrigendum, addendum etc. shall be made available only at MP Tenders portal.

Sd/-

(Director)

Directorate of Geology and Mining

G-17714/21

कोरोना से बचने की नीत बाते बहुत जरूरी, टीका लगवाना, मास्क पहनना और अपना दो गज दूरी।

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM				
Sr. NO.	NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT
1.	CIVIL SURGEON ESI HEALTH CARE PARIWAR	NO.-CS/ES/TENDER/ FBD/21/659 DATED 18.09.2021 TENDER ID NO 2021_HRY_185270_1	TENDER CANCELLATION	https://haryanaprocurement.gov.in
2.	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, NUH	NO 2662-87 NIT DT 06.09.2021	THE DATE OF RECEIPT OF THE TENDER INVITED VIDE THIS OFFICE LETTER NO 2662-87/ NIT DATE 06.09.2021 WORK AT SR. NO 1 IS EXTENDED UPTO 18.10.2021 NON THE TENDER WILL BE OPENED ON 19.10.2021 ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS SHALL REMAIN THE SAME	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in				5074/HRY

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM				
Sr. NO.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH.	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH.
1.	UHBVN	NIT NO. 37/SE PROJECTS/ AMR	APPOINTMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION AGENCY FOR ESTABLISHING AMR SYSTEM FOR 11 KV FEEDERS AND THEIR O&M FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS IN R-APDRP & IPDS AREAS OF UHBVN & DHBVN. EXTENSION OF DATE UPTO 09.10.2021	www.uhbvn.org.in
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in				5072/HRY

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE/TRD/JJP, acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-tenders for following works: **S.No. 1 NIT NO. EL/TRD/JP/10/2021-22 Name of work:** Annual Maintenance contract of Cummins make engines of 08 wheeler tower wagons over Jaipur division for 02 years through OEMs/ authorized dealer. **NIT cost (Rs.): 87.31.543.15 Earnest money (Rs.):** Bid Security Declaration **Tender opening date:** 25.10.2021 **Note:** **Date & time of closing e-tenders:** On tender opening date Upto 15:00 hrs **Date & time of opening e-tenders:** On tender opening date after 15:00 hrs **Complete details of tender can be seen on website:** <http://www.ireps.gov.in> **541-DH/21** Please join us on  NW/Railways

epaper.indianexpress.com



VIOLENT HARVEST

All behind killing of eight at Lakhimpur Kheri must be brought to book. For due process, MoS Ajay Mishra must be told to step down

THE BJP GOVERNMENT has a playbook, a response pattern, vis a vis popular protest. First, for the longest time, turn the back on it. Let the issue fester, and try to tire out the protesters, while actively seeking to delegitimise them, by labelling them “anti-national” and calling them other names. Then, if matters escalate, bring out the barricades and the force. Treat it like a law and order issue in a police state, and don’t let leaders of the Opposition come to the site of the protest or the violence, to do what is surely their job as politicians and people’s representatives, and which the BJP itself despatches delegations to other states in similar circumstances to do — listen to grievances, lend support to demands for accountability, express sympathy and solidarity for victims. At Lakhimpur Kheri, after the violence on Sunday which left eight people dead, UP’s Adityanath government, which has honed this repertoire of responses to a dismal art, has exhibited the now-familiar distrust of the people and disrespect to the political opponent. A Union minister’s cavalcade and his son are accused of running over four farmers who were protesting against the minister — he had made uncivil and provocative remarks that do not behave his office on the farmers’ movement at a public meeting earlier. Four others were killed allegedly in retaliatory violence. All the guilty must be identified and punished after due process of law. But the blanket lockdown in the immediate aftermath of this grim sequence of events — the security cordons, the refusal of permission to visit to a chief minister from one state and the deputy CM from another, the detention of leaders of non-BJP parties in UP — squarely indicts the state.

As sections in the ruling BJP in the state try to pass the blame to the victims, the Supreme Court has reportedly asked why farmers continue to protest when the three farm laws they are agitating against have been shelved by the Centre and stayed by the court. It has questioned the continuing protests in a matter that is in court. With due respect, these are not the questions after Sunday. Instead of curbing or circumscribing the people’s fundamental right to protest, the government needs to address two other issues that have been highlighted by the farmers’ protest and its own responses to it so far — the need for a constitutional democracy to be a safe house for citizens’ dissent and protest, without fear of intimidation by the state; and the need for a political, not a police, response by the government to the protester.

There is another urgent imperative after the events on Sunday. No probe into the incident in which eight lives were lost will be seen to be free and fair, or carry any credibility unless Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra is asked to step down from his office. The minister should be asked to go, for the processes and procedures of accountability to begin, and for them to be taken to a conclusion that is not only just but also seen to be so.

AN ETHICAL UPGRADE

Facebook whistleblower’s revelations point to a contradiction between social media’s business model and public good

NO ONE AT Facebook is malevolent, but the incentives are misaligned.” Frances Haugen — the Facebook whistleblower who provided documents to *The Wall Street Journal* as well as US government agencies about the degree to which the social media giant is aware of, and consciously exploits, the harm its applications cause — hasn’t revealed anything that most people aren’t already aware of. But her interview to *60 Minutes* underlines the challenge: There appears to be a fundamental contradiction between how social media is designed and the public good.

The documents leaked by Haugen, and her recent interview, indicate that Facebook’s much-touted “safeguards” against hate speech, incitement to violence as well as content harmful to the mental well-being of young people are, at best, window dressing. For example, under political pressure, the company tweaked its algorithm and gave lower priority to polarising political content ahead of the 2020 US presidential election. But, as soon as the polls were over, it removed these safeguards, an action Haugen believes was at least partially responsible for the riots at the Capitol in Washington on January 6. The company also seems aware of the role it has played in inciting ethnic violence in certain parts of the world. There are documents detailing how Instagram, one of its most prolific products, increases notions of shame around the body and depression among teenage girls. But, according to Haugen, since teenagers suffering from these issues tend to fall deeper into social media, little is done to address them.

As the whistleblower has pointed out, the issue is not one of malice on the part of Facebook’s leadership. AI-based algorithms are designed, in essence, to keep people on the site/app as long as possible, and it is this time and the data so collected that is eventually monetised. The fact is that content that elicits an emotional response — outrage and anger is usually the path of least resistance in this regard — “engages” people more. For all its talk of connecting people and building communities, the company appears to be agnostic when it comes to content and social impact. According to Haugen, in every conflict between profit and the public good, her erstwhile employers chose the former. The contradiction between the technology and profitability of social media, and public good can be addressed, to some degree, by robust regulatory mechanisms. In the longer run, however, the technology behind the apps will need an ethical upgrade.

GRUMPY BOND

Daniel Craig gave the James Bond myth what it desperately needed: An update

DANIEL CRAIG’S 007 is no longer in Her Majesty’s Secret Service. He would have gotten off Bond duty earlier, had Covid-19 not pushed back the release of his fifth and final Bond film, *No Time to Die*, by over a year. Fifteen years ago, when Craig’s *Casino Royale* was released, the British actor seemed an unlikely candidate for the role of the secret agent — too sullen and unflamboyant, too working-class even compared to Sean Connery and Roger Moore, and a mite less toxic in his masculinity. But he will be remembered by Bond-lovers for giving the franchise what it desperately needed: An update.

By 2006, neither the unbelievable toys — cigarettes that launch rockets and cars that come front-loaded with machine guns — nor the high-adrenaline action were enough to hide the datedness, the sexist swagger, the emotional stunting and the apologia of being the empire’s “last super-hero” at the heart of the Bond myth. Craig dropped most of the gadgets, found some vulnerability. The films became slicker and better produced, the action less incredulous, even if the Aston Martin B5 still hung around. Agent 007 now had a back story — of being raised by a foster father, of having his heart broken by spirited women. Through the five films, Craig appeared to grow wearier and more sneering of the conventions of the franchise. In an interview to *The New York Times*, he has said he would be satisfied if he is remembered as the Grumpy Bond. Given the surprises in store in *No Time to Die*, he might be remembered for much more.

And so, the inevitable question: Who will be the next Bond? A section of the fandom is rooting for a woman or a black man as 007; others are shuddering in distaste at the thought of such subversions. Craig has an interesting suggestion, in keeping with the spirit of the time. “Don’t women and actors of colour deserve better roles than James Bond?”



SONALDE DESAI

THE MUCH-TOUTED EASE of Doing Business Index (EoDB) is dead. The flagship product created by the World Bank came under attack on grounds that its data was modified in response to pressure from countries like China and Saudi Arabia. As a result of an independent audit, the index has now been abandoned by the Bank. The question for us is, should we try to revive it or sing its requiem and move on? What are the lessons from this for the future of international indices that rank countries on a range of outcomes in the hope that it will shame them into performing better? An autopsy of EoDB is needed before we can answer this question.

World Bank researchers developed the EoDB ranking system under the assumption that better laws and regulatory frameworks would increase the ease of doing business and improve economic performance. It collected data from respondents in various countries regarding existing laws and regulations on multiple dimensions, validated them through internal scrutiny, and then combined them into an overall index that allowed us to rank countries. For example, the index included dimensions like procedures involved in starting a business, getting construction permits, getting an electric connection, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, and paying taxes, among others. Each dimension was weighted equally and added up to create a score.

If we want to create an internationally comparable index, we must ask similar questions. Yet, many of these questions may not be locally salient in economies at different levels of development. For example, EoDB asked questions about the ease of getting an electric connection, where India’s score improved from 70 in 2015 to 89 in 2020. However, the devil is in the details. It is not getting a connection that is the problem, rather the reliability of electricity supply that hampers Indian industries. In addition, most of the questions focused on

Ease of doing business controversy highlights power of data, and political influence such indices can wield

The EoDB experience has highlighted both the power of data and the political influence such rankings can yield. Should we try to reform the index or give up on it? The decision rests on the answer to two questions. First, are there universally acceptable standards of sound economic practices that are applicable and measurable across diverse economies? Second, if the indices are so powerful, should their construction be left to institutions like the World Bank that bring not just knowledge but also wield the heft of global economic power? For the moment, the answer to both seems to be a no.

hypothetical cases about limited liability companies. However, the World Bank’s own enterprise survey shows that 63 per cent of Indian enterprises are sole proprietorships and only 14 per cent are limited partnerships. Once we include unregistered enterprises, this number is likely to be even smaller. Thus, focusing on protecting minority owners’ rights in this tiny segment of Indian industries and using it to rank the business climate in India does not seem particularly useful.

What is ironic is that the index placed tremendous faith in formalised systems while simultaneously disdaining bureaucratic structures embedded in this formalisation. The dimension dubbed getting credit is an interesting example. Unwary readers might think it has something to do with the ease of obtaining credit in a country. Not so. It is simply based on bankruptcy laws and the existence of a credit rating system in a country.

The problem with EoDB is not simply that it is a crude measure that poorly captures the business climates of complex and informal economies like India. A bigger problem is that it had acquired such power that countries competed to improve their rankings. Why does the index matter so much that countries stoop to pressure the World Bank to improve their rankings? For example, India ranks 139th out of 149 on the World Happiness Index, yet we pay little attention to it while climbing the ranks on the EoDB ladder has been made an explicit policy goal.

The answer lies in the potential consequences of ranking. Countries assume that their EoDB ranking will attract foreign investors. Since foreign investors often have no real way of assessing the underlying business climate in any country they may use the rankings as a signal in making their investment choices. Empirical evidence about this presumed impact is questionable. There is indeed some evidence that the score on EoDB is associated with FDI, but this associ-

ation exists mainly for more affluent countries. Studies by Dinuk Jayasuriya, and Adrian Corcoran and Robert Gillanders show that this association is weak for poorer countries. For instance, in 2020, China was the largest recipient of FDI despite ranking 85th on the EoDB.

One of the less visible parts of the EoDB exercise was the underlying political message. Regulation, often treated synonymously with bureaucratic hurdles, is bad, and abandoning regulations will bring positive results. In a review of EoDB, Timothy Besley highlighted the anti-regulation bias that underlay the “Employing Workers” measure, which looks at the ease of hiring and firing workers and rigidity of working hours. Led by the ILO, there was sufficient opposition that this dimension, though reported, be dropped from the final rankings.

Nonetheless, the presumed economic consequences, as well as political benefits associated with improving the rankings, encouraged many countries to try and “game” the system by making superficial improvements on indicators that are being measured and, when that failed, by putting explicit pressure on the World Bank research team as the current debacle shows.

This leaves us with an interesting dilemma. The EoDB experience has highlighted both the power of data and the political influence such rankings can yield. Should we try to reform the index or give up on it? The decision rests on the answer to two questions. First, are there universally acceptable standards of sound economic practices that are applicable and measurable across diverse economies? Second, if the indices are so powerful, should their construction be left to institutions like the World Bank that bring not just knowledge but also wield the heft of global economic power? For the moment, the answer to both seems to be a no.

The writer is Professor and Centre Director NCAER-NDIC and University of Maryland. Views are personal



REKHA SHARMA

FARMERS PROTESTING at the Delhi borders against the three farm laws are at the receiving end again — this time of the Supreme court’s ire. On September 30, while hearing a petition of a single mother who complained that it is taking her two hours instead of 20 minutes to travel to Noida, the court observed that public roads and highways cannot be blocked perpetually. On the following day, another bench of the Supreme Court was even more scathing in its observations against the farmers. The petitioner before the said bench was the Kisan Mahapanchayat, seeking permission to hold a peaceful protest at Jantar Mantar. The Bench reportedly said, “there is no question of holding the protests when you have come to the courts. You have strangled the entire city, and now you want to enter the city and hold protests”. With the greatest respect to the members of both the benches, they are being very uncharitable to the farmers.

The aforesaid observations of the Supreme Court are totally at variance with what a bench presided over by the then Chief Justice S A Bobde had said on December 17, 2020: The farmers have a constitutional right to continue with their protests as long as their dissent did not descend into violence. It further observed “we clarify that this court will not interfere with the protests in question. Indeed, the right to protest is part of a fundamental right, and can be exercised subject to public order.” Should the Supreme Court be seen as speaking in different voices? No one has alleged that the farmers are a

THEIR RIGHT TO PROTEST

SC’s observations on protesting farmers show disturbing lack of empathy

threat to public order. The Haryana government fired the first salvo against the farmers by putting barricades at the Haryana-Delhi border, digging up the highway and using force, including tear gas, and water cannons to prevent them from entering Delhi. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha claims that as many as 248 farmers died within just 87 days of the protests. Some unconfirmed reports put the figure of deaths at over 600. How many policemen have died at the hands of the farmers? Fortunately, none. This goes to show that the farmers’ protests have been peaceful.

Starting from our freedom struggle, history is replete with instances of agitations and dharnas at public places. In the recent past, Anna Hazare’s India against Corruption movement was allowed at Jantar Mantar. Similarly, Ramdev was permitted to hold his sit-in at Ramlila Maidan. The farmers have also been seeking permission to assemble at Ramlila Maidan or Jantar Mantar, but till date they have not been granted permission. Why are the farmers being treated differently? Should they protest and march in the air?

Coming to roadblocks, the farmers have time and again said that they do not wish to cause inconvenience to the public. They allege that it is the police which is blocking entry and exit points at some places to discredit their movement. Has the SC examined this before blaming the farmers? The court has expressed concern over a commuter’s inconvenience, but what about the farmers? Why no empathy for them, given that they have braved scorching heat and chilling winter,

rains, hail and storms for almost a year?

Neither has the government shown any inclination to resume dialogue with the farmers. In this context, what comes to mind are the words of Martin Luther King, in a letter from Birmingham jail to fellow clergymen who had objected to his holding protests at Birmingham. “You may well ask, why direct action? Why sit-ins, marches and so forth? Isn’t negotiation a better path? You are quite right in calling for negotiation. Indeed, this is the very purpose of direct action. Non-violent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community that has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks to dramatise the issue so that it can no longer be ignored.”

The SC says that there is no question of protests when the farmers have come to the courts. Given the fact that the farmers have been agitating since November 2020, and the matter has received national and international attention, has the court shown any urgency to hear the petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the three farm laws? It is believed that the committee appointed by the SC had submitted its report in March 2021 in a sealed cover. Why is the SC sitting over the report? When will its findings be revealed to the public?

In conclusion, let us treat the farmers with dignity and respect. And let us not cut the hand that feeds us.

The writer is a former judge of the Delhi High Court

OCTOBER 5, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

PM BLAMES PAK

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi declared in Canberra that India would not allow itself to be “caught napping” by Pakistan, which had jumped “a decade ahead of us” by acquiring sophisticated armaments. She said that she could not face people or Parliament if they thought that India, which had been invaded five times in three decades and which had been “caught napping” twice, was not fully prepared to meet any eventuality. Mrs Gandhi’s remarks came in response to a question about how she reconciled her call for halt to the arms race with the fact that she was going to Paris next month to sign an agreement

for the purchase of 150 Mirage-2000 planes.

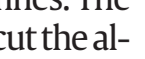
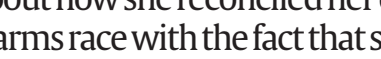
NSA IN PUNJAB

THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT has decided to use the National Security Act against the protagonists of Khalistan. Instructions are believed to have been sent to district magistrates throughout the state to detain members of the Dal Khalsa, National Council of Khalistan and other militant Sikh organisations under this Act. It is not known how many persons have already been detained under the Act. Police have detained Sohan Singh, former director of health services, and Jamail Singh, former joint director of animal

husbandry in Punjab, who are reported to have organised seminars during the last two years in support of the Khalistan movement.

RESERVES DEPLETED

FOODGRAIN RESERVES WITH the government are at a precariously low level. As on September 1, they stood at 11.36 million tonnes, which is two million tonnes less than on the same date last year. With one million tonnes pumped into the PDS during September, the reserves must have plummeted to a little over 10 million tonnes. The government is understood to have cut the allocation to several states this month.



The contest for the moon

The breakdown of the post-Cold War harmony among the major powers has set the stage. India must take a hard look at its own interests



RAJA MANDALA
By C RAJA MOHAN

A YEAR AGO, eight countries led by the United States signed the so-called Artemis Accords. The accords are an agreement to abide by a broad set of principles to guide the expanding human activity on the moon — ranging from mining resources to setting up lunar colonies. The eight signatories were from Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States. Since then, many others have joined — Brazil, South Korea, New Zealand, and Ukraine. The US has invited India to join the accords and some preliminary official discussion on the issue took place between the two sides when Prime Minister Narendra Modi met US President Joe Biden at the White House for the bilateral summit last month. Separately, at the summit of the Quadrilateral Forum that followed the bilateral discussion, Modi and Biden, along with the Australian and Japanese premiers, agreed to set up a new Quad working group on outer space. The growing commercialisation and militarisation of outer space have triggered the interest of the Quad leaders. As technological capabilities grow, nations are looking beyond the near-earth space (or the “brown waters” in the maritime jargon that continues to shape the outer space discourse) to inter-planetary probes and deep space research (the “blue waters” if you will). These trends have brought the moon into sharp focus. As space-faring powers seek routine access to the moon — as opposed to the lunar landings of the 20th century driven by political prestige — their attention has turned to what is called the cis-lunar space, or the volume between the orbits around the earth and moon.

No national activity in the cislunar space in recent years has been more ambitious than that of China. Beijing’s lunar mission, named after the Chinese moon goddess Chang’e, was unveiled in 2007. Since then, China has put two spacecraft in lunar orbit (Chang’e 1 and 2) and landed two rovers on the moon (Chang’e 3 and 4). Chang’e 4 had the distinction of being the first to land on the far side of the moon that can’t be seen from the earth. The Chang’e 5 launched last year brought lunar material back to the earth. The last time a mission returned with lunar rock was the Soviet Luna 24 in 1976. China’s ambitions are much larger. The next moon missions — Chang’e 6, 7, and 8 — could contribute to the construction of an International Lunar Research Station in the south pole of the moon. The ILRS will have a space station orbiting the Moon, a base on the surface that will have several intelligent robots performing a variety of jobs. To support the ILRS, Beijing hopes to build a super-heavy rocket Long March CZ-9 before the end of this decade. It is expected to carry at least 50 tonnes to the moon. For a comparison of the scale, the payload of the Chandrayaan-2 launched by India’s PSLV rocket in July 2019 was about four tonnes. China has also added an international dimension to its moon plans by inviting other countries to participate in the ILRS project. Russia, once a leading space actor, has now



CR Sasikumar

joined hands with China on the ILRS. Russia is reviving its Luna series of probes to the moon to complement the Chinese efforts. The launch of Luna-25, set for last month, has now been postponed to May 2022. Luna 25, 26 and 27 will work in tandem with Chang’e 6, 7 and 8 to undertake expansive reconnaissance and develop techniques for ultra-precise landings on the moon. Together, these missions will lay the basis for the second stage of ILRS — a joint construction of the lunar base — starting from 2026. As geopolitical considerations drive Russia towards China, space cooperation has become an extension of their strategic partnership against America. Russia is also threatening to cut off space cooperation with the US. It is a co-operation that emerged during the Cold War and has expanded since then. The US, which raced to the moon in the 1960s, shut down the Apollo programme in the early 1970s. The broad advance of Beijing’s space programme, across the civilian and military domains, and its deepening collaboration with Moscow has shaken America out of its prolonged neglect of the moon. The Trump administration announced plans to put astronauts back on the moon by 2024. The new project was named Artemis, after the Greek goddess and twin sister of Apollo. The structure of the Artemis programme is similar to China’s ILRS. It involves the construction of a permanent space station orbiting the moon, called Lunar Gateway, and a surface presence at the south pole of the moon that is supposed to have ice and could sustain future human activity. There is no doubt about the urgency in Washington about restoring America’s leadership in lunar exploration in the face of the Chinese challenge. Like China, the US too decided that it cannot go alone and is looking for partners for its Artemis programme. One of the consequences of the growing lunar activity is the pressure on the current international legal regime — centred around the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. The OST says outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, “is not subject to “national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use

China’s ambitions are much larger. The next moon missions — Chang’e 6, 7, and 8 — could contribute to the construction of an International Lunar Research Station in the south pole of the moon. The ILRS will have a space station orbiting the moon, a base on the surface that will have several intelligent robots performing a variety of jobs. To support the ILRS, Beijing hopes to build a super-heavy rocket Long March CZ-9 before the end of this decade. It is expected to carry at least 50 tonnes to the moon. For a comparison of the scale, the payload of the Chandrayaan-2 launched by India’s PSLV rocket in July 2019 was about four tonnes.

or occupation, or by any other means”. It declares that outer space shall be the “province of all mankind” and its use “be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries”. The sweeping universalism of the OST remains very inspiring; but it was easy to celebrate it when there were no capabilities on the earth to exploit outer space for commercial and military gain. That situation is changing, thanks to the advances in space technologies and the expansive investment of resources by major powers. Many provisions of the OST are increasingly subject to competing interpretations and vulnerable to new facts on the moon created by the first movers. The breakdown of the post-Cold War harmony among the major powers has added fuel to the fire on the moon and set the stage for a prolonged geopolitical contestation for the moon. That is the context in which the US is promoting the Artemis Accords to preserve the OST regime in relation to the moon and promote transparency, interoperability, emergency assistance, and peaceful international cooperation. But Russia and China don’t look enthusiastic about working with the US. That leaves other space-faring nations like India to make choices. The Artemis Accords would hopefully nudge Delhi to initiate a comprehensive review of India’s interests on the moon and develop strategies to pursue them through a stronger national lunar mission and deeper partnerships with like-minded countries. Delhi must also legislate a strong regulatory framework to promote India’s space activity and protect its international interests. India should take a hard look at the emerging challenges to the current space order, review some of its past political assumptions about the nature of outer space and contribute to the development of new global norms that will strengthen the essence of the Outer Space Treaty. The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express



ABHISHEK BANERJEE AND SUMEDHA VERMA OJHA

Roots of democracy

India’s ancient republics deserve an important place in our shared view of the past

ON SEPTEMBER 25, while addressing the UN General Assembly in New York, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an important historical point: India is not just the world’s largest democracy, but also the “mother of democracy”. This assertion would unsettle several long-held Western notions about our world, and it should. The existence of proto forms of democracy and republicanism in ancient India is part of humanity’s common heritage and deserves an important place in our shared view of the past. There are two pillars of the modern world. The first is science-based rational thinking, and the second is democracy. It is also telling that both are often believed to be Western inventions, reflecting Western ascendancy over our world. In recent years, there has been a move to recognise advances in science made in the past by non-Western societies. The Pythagorean theorem, for instance, was well known in ancient India. It would be more historically accurate to refer to the Fibonacci numbers perhaps as Pingala’s numbers or Hemachandra’s numbers. But old beliefs and the assumptions that go with them are still strong. As Joe Biden noted last year, they don’t tell you how a black man contributed to the making of the electric bulb. In a similar vein, it is time to fix the historical record on the origins of democracy. The evidence for republics in ancient India has always been available in plain sight. In the Mahabharata’s *Shanti Parva*, republics (*ganas*)

are mentioned along with the essential features of administering them. The Vedas describe at least two forms of republican governance. The first would consist of elected kings. This has always been seen as an early form of democracy, later practised in Europe, especially in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 16th-18th centuries. The second form described in the Vedas is that of rule without a monarch, with power vested in a council or sabha. The membership of such sabhas was not always determined by birth, but they often comprised people who had distinguished themselves by their actions. There is even a hint of the modern bicameral system of legislatures, with the sabha often sharing power with the samiti, which was made up of common people. The “vidhaata”, or the assembly of people for debating policy, military matters and important issues impacting all, has been mentioned more than a hundred times in the Rig Veda. Both women and men took part in these deliberations, a far cry from the Greeks who did not admit women (or slaves) as full citizens of their “democracies”. Other sources appear in the *Ashutadhyayi* of Panini, the *Arthashastra* of Kautilya, as well as a variety of ancient Buddhist and Jain writings. Buddhist and Jain texts list 16 powerful states or mahajanapadas of the time. After Alexander’s invasion in 327 BCE, Greek historians also record Indian states that did not have kings. The Lichhavi state of Vaishali, in particular, deserves special mention. Buddhist writ-

ings describe in detail Vaishali’s rivalry with neighbouring Magadha, which was a monarchy. The long battle of attrition between Magadha and Vaishali, which the former won, was a fight also between two systems of governance, *ganatantra* and *rajatantra*. Had the Lichhavis won, the trajectory of governance may well have been non-monarchical in the Subcontinent. Was the rajatantra an “off with his head” kind of system with concentration of powers in one person? No. Instead, any state is thought of as composed of seven elements. The first three, according to Kautilya, are swami or the king, *amatya* or the ministers (administration) and *janapada* or the people. The king must function on the advice of the *amatyas* for the good of the people. The ministers are appointed from amongst the people (the *Arthashastra* also mentions entrance tests). As per the *Arthashastra*, in the happiness and benefit of his people lies the happiness and benefit of the King. Isn’t this the lodestone of democracy? It would be unreasonable to expect republics in ancient India, as with the Greek city of Athens, to have developed full-fledged democratic institutions as we understand them today. As late as the 1780s, when America was founded, voting rights were restricted to (white) males who owned property or paid taxes, which amounted to a mere six percent of the population. The idiosyncrasies of that old system are still visible today. As with sci-

entific advancement, democracy remains and will always be a work in progress. Another criticism of the idea of India as the “mother of democracy” would be that there is no surviving direct line between the ancient *ganas* and the modern republic of India. However, the same applies to ancient Greek city-states. If the line survives, it is as a way of thinking. The stability of India’s democratic institutions is more or less an exception among post-colonial states since 1945. This is best explained by an ancient system of thought that contains expressions of democracy. Why is it so important in the 21st century for us to recognise the origins of democracy in ancient India? There are at least two reasons. First, as a growing power on the world stage, India has to offer its own narrative on world history, as well as provide the world with a vision. We as a nation are not aspiring upstarts. We are the nation that inspired great journeys, from those of Alexander to the voyage of Columbus. The other reason relates to the general loss of confidence in the US. The power struggles of the near future are becoming clear. It is also a struggle to define history and take it forward. At this time, an India that sees its own democracy as a pale imitation of an Anglo-American system is neither good for itself nor the world. Banerjee is a scientist, columnist and author. Verma Ojha is a historian, author of historical fiction series, ‘Urnabhih’

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“The PLA has done an excellent job! This can be seen as a form of the National Day military parade in the Taiwan Straits, which used to be held at the Tiananmen Square in Beijing. It is a clear and unmistakable declaration of China’s sovereignty over the island.” — GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

The Aadhaar loophole

Vulnerabilities in Aadhaar-enabled payments are putting poor people at risk of being swindled



JEAN DRÈZE AND VIPUL PAIKRA

A SERIES OF recent scams have exposed the vulnerabilities of the Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS). The AePS enables a person to withdraw money from her bank account anywhere in the country using a local “business correspondent” (BC). A BC is an informal bank agent equipped with a biometric Point-of-Sale (PoS) machine — a kind of micro-ATM. If you want to withdraw, say, Rs 500 from your bank account using a BC, you just have to give him the name of your bank and submit yourself to Aadhaar-based biometric authentication (ABBA). The BC will give you Rs 500 in cash, and his own account will be credited with the same amount. For this to be possible, your bank account must be linked with Aadhaar. So far so good. But what if the BC enters “one thousand rupees” in the PoS machine even as he gives you five hundred? In that case, one thousand will be debited from your account, and credited to the BC’s account, but you will only get five hundred — fraud! This is unlikely to happen if you are educated and alert. You will ask for a receipt, and the BC will promptly give you the receipt generated by the PoS machine. BCs, however, routinely deny receipts to poor people, if they demand one at all. As a safeguard, some PoS machines have a voice-over, but the voice-over is easy to disable. There lies one major vulnerability of AePS. A corrupt BC can even get away with asking a gullible customer to put her finger in the PoS machine under some pretext, without giving her any money. This is what happened to Nagina Bibi, an elderly woman who lives in Vishunbandh village of Latehar district in Jharkhand. A roaming BC came to her house one day, from a neighbouring district. Claiming that he was helping her to get a gas subsidy, he persuaded her to put her finger eight times in the PoS machine and withdrew Rs 24,000 from her bank account without her knowledge. Most of this money consisted of her meagre pension and hard-earned wages, saved for her daughter’s marriage. Later on, Nagina discovered that Rs 24,000 had been withdrawn from her account. She complained to the bank manager, but he pleaded helplessness. He had no record of the fraudulent BC (only “AePS” showed in his transaction records). From his point of view, this was a matter between Nagina and the “acquirer bank”, that is, the bank that had deployed the concerned BC. He added that he could request more detailed transaction records online if Nagina filed an FIR. The police, however, refused to register an FIR. Many similar cases of AePS-enabled fraud have emerged in Latehar. Most of them are unresolved. Even if the BC can be traced, it is easy for him to claim that he did disburse cash as per records — it is his word against

the victim’s. In short, corrupt BCs operate with virtual impunity. All this, however, is just a trailer. A friendly BC told us that similar plays were being used across Jharkhand for mass embezzlement of scholarships intended for minority children. After preliminary enquiries, confirming his allegations, we alerted the media and a detailed investigation by The Indian Express exposed the scam. Briefly, the scam worked as follows. Corrupt middlemen bribed school principals to obtain names of minority children and other information such as the school’s Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) code and login. They submitted scholarship applications on behalf of the children after opening Aadhaar-linked bank accounts for them using a local BC. Children were given nominal sums of money and the rest was siphoned off without their knowledge. This was made possible by AePS. Had children been required to collect their scholarships from bank premises, they would have learnt the correct scholarship amounts from their passbooks, if not from a bank employee. The scholarship scam in Jharkhand shows that AePS-enabled fraud is not a sporadic problem but a systemic vulnerability. The AePS is a valuable facility for those who are able to use it safely. Like other micro-ATM systems, it has helped to decongest banks. It can be particularly useful to migrant workers who have no ATM facility. But AePS comes with serious risks of being cheated for those who are not clear about how it works. These risks are magnified when banks refuse to disburse small amounts to their customers and send them to BCs instead, a routine practice in rural Jharkhand. There are ways of reducing the vulnerabilities of AePS. For instance, BCs could be required to make manual if not digital entries into printed customer passbooks. That would act as a permanent, verifiable receipt that cannot be denied to the customer so easily (a blank entry would be incriminating). Ensuring that BCs are clearly identified in transaction records would also help. So would SMS alerts, when the customer has a mobile number. Roaming BCs should perhaps be banned, at least in states with low literacy levels. And most importantly, better grievance redressal facilities must be made available to the victims of AePS fraud. And now, the happy end. Nagina belongs to a workers’ organisation, so she decided to fight back. She and her comrades ultimately managed to prevail on the bank manager and the police to trace the culprit, who was arrested and charged. It emerged, however, that he had swindled many other people in the same fashion, and that other corrupt BCs were also prowling in the area. According to the cybercrime cell in Latehar, some recent acts of AePS-related fraud involve lakhs of rupees. Nagina’s victory is the exception, not the rule. The vulnerabilities of AePS are putting countless people in danger of being robbed of their hard-earned savings. Drèze is Visiting Professor at the Department of Economics, Ranchi University; Paikra is an independent researcher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHINA’S RESPONSE

THIS REFERS TO report, ‘Why are Chinese military jets flying into Taiwan’s defence zone’ (IE, October 2). It describes the PLA’s normal and routine exercises near the island of Taiwan as “incurSION”. Taiwan and its affiliated islands are a sacred and inalienable part of China’s territory. The military activities carried out by the Chinese People’s Liberation Army in the Taiwan Strait are completely lawful and legitimate, which are necessary actions to address the current security situation in the Taiwan Strait and to safeguard national sovereignty and security.

Spokesperson, Chinese Embassy in India, Delhi

DUBIOUS WAYS

THIS REFERS TO the report, ‘After Panama, it’s Pandora: Facing heat, elite Indians find new ways to ringfence wealth in secret havens’ (IE, Oct 4). Kudos to *The Indian Express* team working with ICJ for carrying out the investigation that has literally opened a Pandora’s box. Without prejudice to the ongoing revelation and its legal consequences, it is shocking to see cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar’s name and photo alongside Iqbal Mirchi, Nile Ambani and Nira Radia. Unlike others the former is a Bharat Ratna awardee, India’s Highest Civilian award. All these worthies mentioned in the report seem to be sceptical of the government claims of ease of business and investor

friendly ecosystem in India. LR Murmu, Delhi

TAX HURTS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Gaining momentum’ (IE, October 4). It analyses the income and expenditure of the Union government based on the data released by the Controller General of Accounts. It talks about the upward trend on the tax collection but does not analyse its impacts on the overall economy. There is an increase in indirect taxation increases, mainly tax and cess on petroleum products. This revenue reduces the in hand income/savings of citizens, which, in turn, lowers consumption and has an impact on the overall economy. Suchak D Patel, Ahmedabad

PERSONALITY CULT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Diplomacy, not conquest’ (IE, October 2). The unending publicity given to only one face in the government does not speak of a healthy trend. The country perceives the PM’s visit to the US an achievement rather than a diplomatic move to further the country’s national interests. The purpose of the visit is lost under publicity by the supporters who go by the personality cult and do not see the visit from the perspective of the purpose its meant to serve for the country. Sukriti, Kurukshetra



MEANWHILE

ACTOR WILLIAM SHATNER TO FLY TO SPACE

Captain Kirk is rocketing into space next week — boldly going where no other sci-fi actors have gone. Jeff Bezos' space travel company, Blue Origin, announced Monday that "Star Trek" actor William Shatner will blast off from West Texas on October 12. "Yes, it's true; I'm going to be a 'rocket man!'" the 90-year-old tweeted.

Whistleblower says FB 'chooses profits over safety'

RYAN MAC & CECILIA KANG
OCTOBER 4

JOHN TYE, the founder of Whistleblower Aid, a legal non-profit that represents people seeking to expose potential lawbreaking, was contacted this spring through a mutual connection by a woman who claimed to have worked at Facebook.

The woman told Tye and his team something intriguing: She had access to tens of thousands of pages of internal documents from the world's largest social network. In a series of calls, she asked for legal protection and a path to releasing the confidential information. Tye, who said he understood the gravity of what the woman brought "within a few minutes," agreed



Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen talks with CBS' Scott Pelley on "60 Minutes", in an episode that aired Sunday. AP

to represent her and call her by the alias "Sean."

She "is a very courageous person and is taking a personal risk to hold a trillion-dollar company accountable," he said.

On Sunday, Frances Haugen revealed herself to be "Sean,"

the whistleblower against Facebook. A product manager who worked for nearly two years on the civic misinformation team at the social network before leaving in May, Haugen has used the documents she amassed to expose how much

Facebook knew about the harms that it was causing and provided the evidence to lawmakers, regulators and the news media.

In an interview with "60 Minutes" that aired Sunday, Haugen, 37, said she had grown alarmed by what she saw at Facebook. The company repeatedly put its own interests first rather than the public's interest, she said. So she copied pages of Facebook's internal research and decided to do something about it.

"I've seen a bunch of social networks, and it was substantially worse at Facebook than what I had seen before," Haugen said. She added, "Facebook, over and over again, has shown it chooses profit over safety."

Haugen gave many of the documents to *The Wall Street*

Journal, which last month began publishing the findings. The revelations — including that Facebook knew Instagram was worsening body image issues among teenagers and that it had a two-tier justice system — have spurred criticism from lawmakers, regulators and the public.

Haugen has also filed a whistleblower complaint with the Securities and Exchange Commission, accusing Facebook of misleading investors with public statements that did not match its internal actions. And she has talked with lawmakers such as Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Marsha Blackburn and shared subsets of the documents with them.

On Tuesday, she is scheduled to testify in Congress about Facebook's impact on young users. **NYT**

Pandora Papers: Rich and powerful deny wrongdoing, Imran forms probe panel

King of Jordan, Czech PM among those to issue denials

REUTERS & PTI

WASHINGTON, ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 4

THE CZECH prime minister and the king of Jordan were among global figures denying wrongdoing on Monday, after the leak of what major news outlets called a secret trove of documents about offshore finance.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday set up a high-level commission to probe Pakistanis named in the Pandora Papers, a day after several members of his inner circle, retired civilian and military officials, businessmen as well as owners of top media outlets were listed in the leaks.

The Kremlin said it had seen no evidence in the leak of hidden wealth among Russian President Vladimir Putin's entourage, after documents suggested Putin's mistress had used offshore funds to buy a flat in Monaco.

The dump of more than 11.9 million records, amounting to about 2.94 terabytes of data, came five years after the leak known as the "Panama Papers" exposed how money was hidden by the wealthy in ways that law enforcement agencies could not detect.

The International



Pakistan PM Imran Khan

Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), a Washington, D.C.-based network of reporters and media organisations, said the files are linked to about 35 current and former national leaders, and more than 330 politicians and public officials in 91 countries and territories.

Pakistan's Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry tweeted that a high-level probe commission would bring facts before the people of the country.

"The high-level cell under the Prime Minister's Inspection Commission will investigate all individuals mentioned in the Pandora Papers and will present facts before the nation," the minister said.

In addition to key members of Khan's Cabinet, retired civilian and military officials, businessmen as well as owners of the country's top media outlets have owned companies and

trusts holding millions of dollars in offshore jurisdictions.

In a statement issued late on Sunday, Khan said: "My government will investigate all our citizens mentioned in the Pandora Papers and if any wrongdoing is established, we will take appropriate action. I call on the international community to treat this grave injustice as similar to the climate change crisis," he had said.

Jordan's King Abdullah, a close US ally, was reported to have used offshore accounts to spend more than \$100 million on luxury homes in the United Kingdom and the United States.

The royal palace said in a statement it was "no secret that His Majesty owns a number of apartments and residences in the United States and the United Kingdom. This is not unusual nor improper".

Days ahead of the Czech Republic's October 8-9 parliamentary election, the documents reportedly tied prime minister Andrej Babis to a \$22 million estate near Cannes, France.

Speaking in a television debate, Babis, who was a billionaire before he entered politics, denied any wrongdoing.

"The money left a Czech bank, was taxed, it was my money, and returned to a Czech bank," Babis said.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Lars Vilks

SWEDEN

Lars Vilks, who drew sketch of Prophet, dies in car crash

SWEDISH ARTIST Lars Vilks, who stirred worldwide controversy in 2007 with drawings depicting the Prophet Muhammad with the body of a dog, was killed in a car crash near the southern town of Markaryd on Sunday, police said. Vilks, 75, who had been living under police protection since the drawings were published, was travelling in a police vehicle which collided with a truck. Two police officers were also killed. "This is a very tragic incident. It is now important to all of us that we do everything we can to investigate what happened and what caused the collision," Swedish police said in a statement on Monday. "Initially, there is nothing that points to anyone else being involved." **REUTERS**

MYANMAR

Suu Kyi tired, seeks less court time over lawyer

MYANMAR'S DETAINED former leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Monday asked a judge to reduce the frequency of her court hearings due to strained health, her lawyer said, but assured the public there was no concern about her condition. Suu Kyi, who is on trial and attending court sessions in multiple cases since her overthrow in a Feb 1 coup, requested hearings in each case be handled every two weeks, not every week, chief lawyer Khin Maung Zaw told media. "She is tired. At her age, it is not convenient to sit for hearings every day of the whole week," he said by phone. **REUTERS**

OMAN

7 more killed amid tropical storm Shaheen

SEVEN MORE people were killed in Oman as heavy winds and rain swept through the country after tropical storm Shaheen made landfall, the national emergency committee said on Monday on its official Twitter account. Four people had been killed on Sunday including a child. Latest data showed that the storm had subsided, the civil aviation authority said on Monday, warning that scattered rainfall was still expected. **REUTERS**

Protests get harder for women in Afghanistan amid risks and red tape

ZEBI SIDDIQUI & PARNIYAN ZEMARYALAI
OCTOBER 4

WOMEN in Afghanistan who object to what the Taliban have said and done since returning to power are finding it harder to protest, now that impromptu demonstrations have been banned and previous rallies were broken up by gunfire and beatings.

Resistance within families and concerns over sharing information over social media that could identify people involved are also acting as deterrents, according to six female protesters Reuters spoke to across the country.

Sporadic demonstrations by women demanding that the Taliban respect their civil freedoms have been captured on social media, as have the sometimes violent responses, drawing



Afghan women protest in Kabul last month. Reuters

the world's attention to issues of equality and human rights.

The last time the Taliban ruled in the 1990s, they banned women from work and girls from school, allowed women to leave their homes only when accompanied by a male relative and insisted that women wore all-enveloping burqas. Those who broke the rules were sometimes whipped in public by the Islamist militants' "moral police".

This time Taliban are promising greater freedom for women, including in education and employment, in accordance with their interpretation of Islamic law.

Yet older girls are still not back at school, there are no women in senior positions in the new government, the Women's Ministry in Kabul has been shut and the Taliban have said women will only be allowed to work in a small number of jobs.

Women wanting to express their anger publicly are struggling to do so. Six who took part in demonstrations after the Taliban stormed to power on Aug. 15 said they had not done so since early September.

"We have a lot of plans to stage more protests, but unfortunately due to security concerns, we are not going out much right now," said Nasima Bakhtiyari, a former government worker. **REUTERS**

EU drug regulator backs Pfizer vaccine booster for 18 and older

ASSOCIATED PRESS
AMSTERDAM, OCTOBER 4

THE EUROPEAN Union's drug regulator gave its backing Monday to administering booster shots of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine for people 18 and older.

The European Medicines Agency said the booster doses "may be considered at least 6 months after the second dose for people aged 18 years and older."

The agency's human medicines committee issued the recommendation after studying



The European Medicines Agency said the booster doses "may be considered at least 6 months after the second dose". AP

data for the Pfizer vaccine that showed a rise in antibody levels

Britain sends military to solve fuel crisis as driver shortage persists

ANDREW BOYERS
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, OCT 4

BRITISH MILITARY personnel in combat fatigues arrived on Monday at a BP storage depot after the government ordered the army to help deliver fuel to tackle an acute shortage of truckers, a Reuters reporter said.

Britain's supply chains for everything from pork, petrol and poultry to medicines and milk have been strained to breaking point by shortages of labour in the wake of the Brexit and Covid crises. Panic buying of fuel amid the



Military personnel at Buncefield Oil Depot. Reuters

shortage of truckers triggered chaotic scenes across major cities last week with queues of drivers stacked up. Some have had fist fights over the pumps while others hoarded fuel in old

following boosters given around 6 months after the second dose in people from 18 to 55 years old.

The agency also said it supports giving a third dose of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or the Moderna vaccine to people with severely weakened immune systems at least 28 days after their second shot.

The agency said its decision came after studies showed that an extra dose of the vaccines increased people's ability to produce antibodies against the virus that causes Covid-19 in organ transplant patients with weakened immune systems. **AP**

water bottles.

"As an extra precaution, we've put the extra drivers on," Prime Minister Boris Johnson's finance minister, Rishi Sunak, told BBC radio. "The situation has been improving now for I think over a week every day... it's getting better and as demand settles back to more normal levels the strong expectation is things will resolve themselves."

Reuters reporters said they saw at least two dozen gas stations still closed across London and southern England. Drivers were still queuing outside those stations which were open. **REUTERS**

China mounts largest incursion yet near Taiwan

BEN BLANCHARD & YIMOU LEE
TAIPEI, OCTOBER 4

CHINA BLAMED the US on Monday for increased tensions over Taiwan, as the island fired Beijing as the "chief culprit" after reporting the largest ever incursion by China's air force into its air defence zone at 56 aircraft.

Chinese-claimed Taiwan has complained for a year or more of repeated missions by China's air force near the democratically governed island, often in the southwestern part of its air defence zone close to the Taiwan-controlled Pratas Islands.



China flew 52 fighter planes toward Taiwan on Monday, the self-ruled island said. AP

But since Friday, when China marked its national day, the country has embarked upon a

massive ramping up of its missions, with almost 150 aircraft flying into the defence zone over

the space of four days.

The latest mission included 34 J-16 fighters and 12 nuclear-capable H-6 bombers, which all flew in an area in the vicinity of the Pratas Islands, according to a map provided by the ministry. A further four Chinese fighters were spotted on Monday night, taking the total to the day to 56 aircraft.

Taiwanese fighter jets scrambled to warn away the Chinese planes, while missile systems were deployed to monitor them, it added.

The United States on Sunday urged China to stop its "provocative" military activities near Taiwan, while the island's government has also condemned Beijing,

China's Foreign Ministry, responding to the US statement, said it was the United States which was being provocative and harming regional peace, with its arms sales to Taiwan and warships sailing regularly through the Taiwan Strait.

"China is resolutely opposed to this and takes necessary countermeasures," it added.

"Engaging in Taiwan independence is a dead end. China will take all steps needed and firmly smash any Taiwan independence plots," the ministry said. "China's determination and will to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity is unwavering." **REUTERS**



Fumio Kishida (centre) is applauded after being elected as Japan's PM, on Monday. AP

New Japanese PM takes office, calls election on Oct 31

REUTERS
TOKYO, OCTOBER 4

JAPAN'S NEW prime minister, Fumio Kishida, on Monday called a parliamentary election for October 31 and vowed to bolster the country's response to the coronavirus pandemic, shortly after being formally confirmed by lawmakers in the top job.

Kishida, a 64-year-old former foreign minister with an image as a consensus builder, had unveiled his Cabinet earlier in the day.

"I want to ensure we implement large-scale, bold coronavirus countermeasures and economic policies. To do that, we must ask the people whether they trust me, Kishida, to carry out these policies," he said at his inaugural news conference.

"I would like to pursue a politics of trust and compassion with the people's mandate," he said, drawing on the main theme in his campaign to become leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), making politics more accessible to the public.

While Kishida may enjoy a honeymoon period usually afforded new governments, analysts said he probably didn't want to lose time, given risks posed by the pandemic.

His decision to call an election came as a surprise to most analysts who had expected the election to be held in November. Parliament will now be dissolved on October 14.

Kishida said he would consider Covid-19 relief payouts, adding he had also instructed ministers overseeing the pandemic response to come up with policies on vaccinations, to strengthen the medical system and to expand testing to help reopen the economy.

New coronavirus cases in Tokyo on Monday totalled 87, the

EXPLAINED Abe's influence still strong

DESPITE HAVING stepped down as Japan's leader last year, citing ill health, Shinzo Abe retains great influence, something that is apparent in the announcement of the new Cabinet under Fumio Kishida. Abe's support has been seen as critical to Kishida's elevation to the post of prime minister, and Kishida has responded by naming a number of Abe loyalists to key Cabinet positions, including appointing the former PM's brother Nobuo Kishi as defence minister.

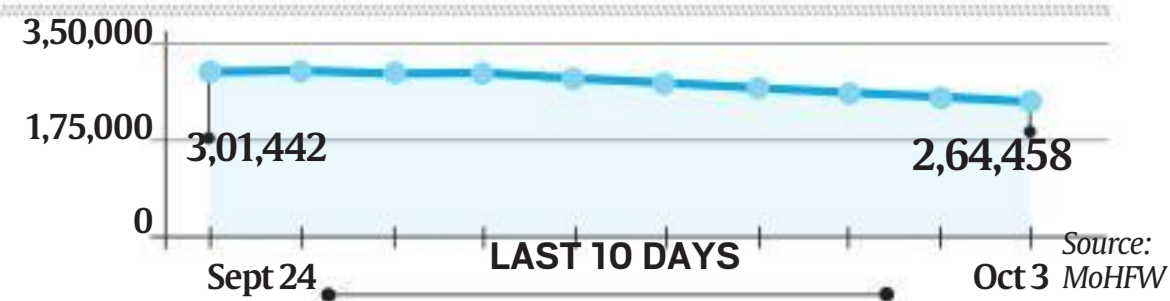
lowest since Nov. 2 last year. Kishida's predecessor Yoshihide Suga enjoyed support ratings of about 70% soon after taking office a year ago, but came under heavy fire over his handling of the pandemic. Following Suga's decision to make way for a new face, Kishida beat three contenders for the LDP leadership last week, paving the way for parliament to formally elect him premier on Monday.

Kishida's Cabinet features allies of Abe, Japan's longest-serving premier, who quit last year citing ill health as his dream of another term faded.

Of the 20 posts, 13 were filled by people with no prior cabinet experience, in line with Kishida's pledge to promote fresh faces, but many heavyweight jobs went to allies of Abe or of outgoing finance minister Aso.

"He won the election with the support of Abe and Aso, so now it's time for him to return the favour; it's not the time for him to cut them off," said political analyst Atsuo Ito.





SIMPLY PUT

Nobel for deciphering the science of touch

David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian identified the mechanism through which touch detectors communicate with the nervous system. What are the implications of their research for medicine?

AMITABHSINHA
PUNE, OCTOBER 4

THE FIVE senses through which human beings perceive and experience the world around them are well known. The internal mechanisms inside the human body through which we become aware of, and respond to, light, sound, smell and taste have been fairly well-understood for several decades. The understanding of how we sense through touch – the perception of hot or cold, squeeze or strain or the feeling of physical pain – eluded scientists for long.

Until David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian, working independently in the United States, made a series of discoveries in the late 1990s and early 2000s to figure out the touch detectors in our body and the mechanism through which they communicate with the nervous system to identify and respond to a particular touch. For their ground-breaking research, which is still continuing, 66-year-old Julius and 54-year-old Patapoutian were declared joint winners of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Physiology on Monday.

The Physiology Nobel is the first one in sciences to be announced. The Nobel Prize in Physics will be announced on Tuesday, followed by the one in Chemistry a day later.

Sensors

Julius and Patapoutian have been awarded the prize “for their discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch”. Simply put, they discovered the molecular sensors in the human body that are sensitive to heat, and to mechanical pressure, and make us “feel” hot or cold, or the touch of a sharp object on our skin.

Artificial sensors are familiar in today’s world. A thermometer is a very common temperature sensor. In a room, a table or bed would not be able to perceive changes in temperature even when they are exposed to heat, but a thermometer would. Similarly, in the human body, all the molecules do not sense heat when they are exposed to it. Only very specific proteins do, and it is their job to relay this signal to the nervous system, which then triggers an appropriate response. Scientists knew that such sensors must exist, but were not able to identify them until Julius discovered the first heat receptor.

“It was a very fundamental discovery. The identification of heat receptor by Julius in the late 1990s came through a very tedious scrutiny of hundreds of genes for their sensitivity to temperature. Today, we have very efficient computers and models that can reduce the work, and fast-track the process, but in those days a lot of painstaking research was required. That first discovery led to identification

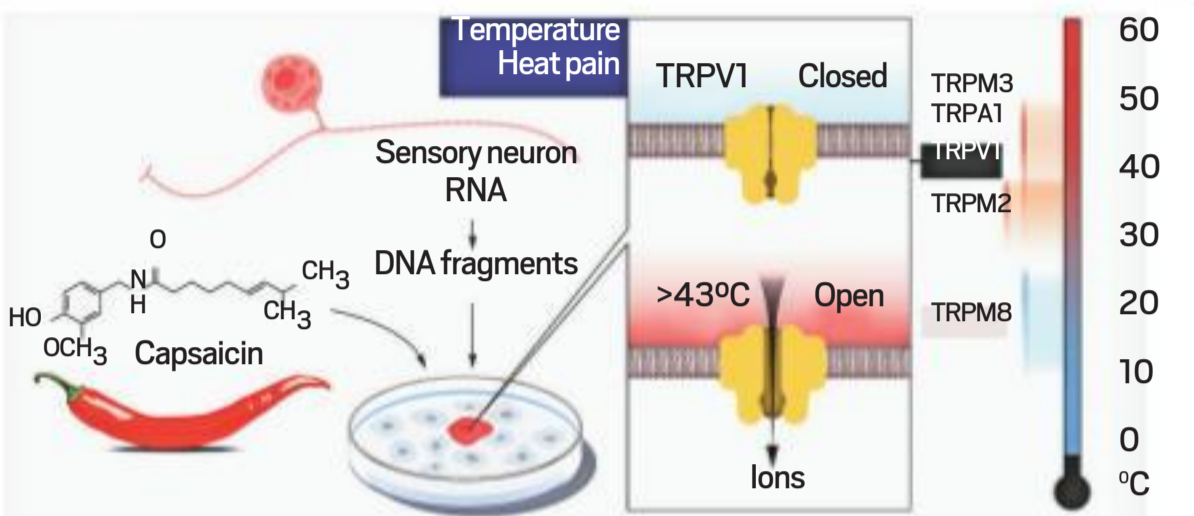
NOBEL FOR PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE



DAVID JULIUS utilised capsaicin, the compound that give chilis their ‘heat’, to identify a sensor that responds to heat.



ARDEM PATAPOUTIAN discovered a novel class of sensors that respond to mechanical stimuli in the skin and internal organs.



The discovery of the receptor TRPV1 paved the way to the unravelling of additional receptors, which together code for temperature sensation.

nobelprize.org



UP NEXT

■ Tuesday, October 5: Physics
■ Wednesday, October 6: Chemistry

■ Thursday, Oct 7: Literature
■ Friday, October 8: Peace
■ Monday, October 11: Economics

UP’s ‘Punjabi’ farmers: history, contribution

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, OCTOBER 4

THE FOUR farmer protesters killed in Lakhimpur Kheri of Uttar Pradesh on Sunday had Punjabi names — Lovepreet Singh, Daljeet Singh, Nachattar Singh and Gurvinder Singh. This may have come as a surprise to some, but Punjabis have settled in UP and Uttarakhand since Partition when they were allotted land in the Terai region, then a thickly forested region unwanted by locals.

Despite their long association with the land that they have tamed and cultivated, they are sometimes stereotyped as “outsiders”, especially when trouble breaks out.

Post-Partition migration

The first wave of farmers who settled in the region were from Shekhpura and Sialkot regions of East Punjab, Pakistan. They were allotted land in the Terai by the Indian government following Partition. In the initial years, they struggled to cultivate the land, then mostly forested and inhabited by wild animals. Later, as they made the land cultivable, it attracted farmers from Punjab, where agricultural land was becoming scarce and expensive. A farmer in Punjab could buy 10 acres in Terai after selling his one acre back home.

Punjab was the first state to adopt novel farming techniques to increase crop production as part of the Green Revolution. Many small farmers migrating from Punjab to Terai grew new high-yielding varieties of wheat and rice with the help of machines.

Sikhs in UP

There are Sikhs in UP who have no link to Punjab. Sikh Gurus travelled through UP and Uttarakhand, and both states are the site of many historical gurdwaras. Many Sikhs today have ancestors who had adopted Sikhism when the Gurus had visited.

Many Sikhs from Punjab had migrated to UP during the 18th century, too. However, mass migration from Punjab only for farming started after 1947. This peaked in the 1960s and 1970s, but never stopped completely.

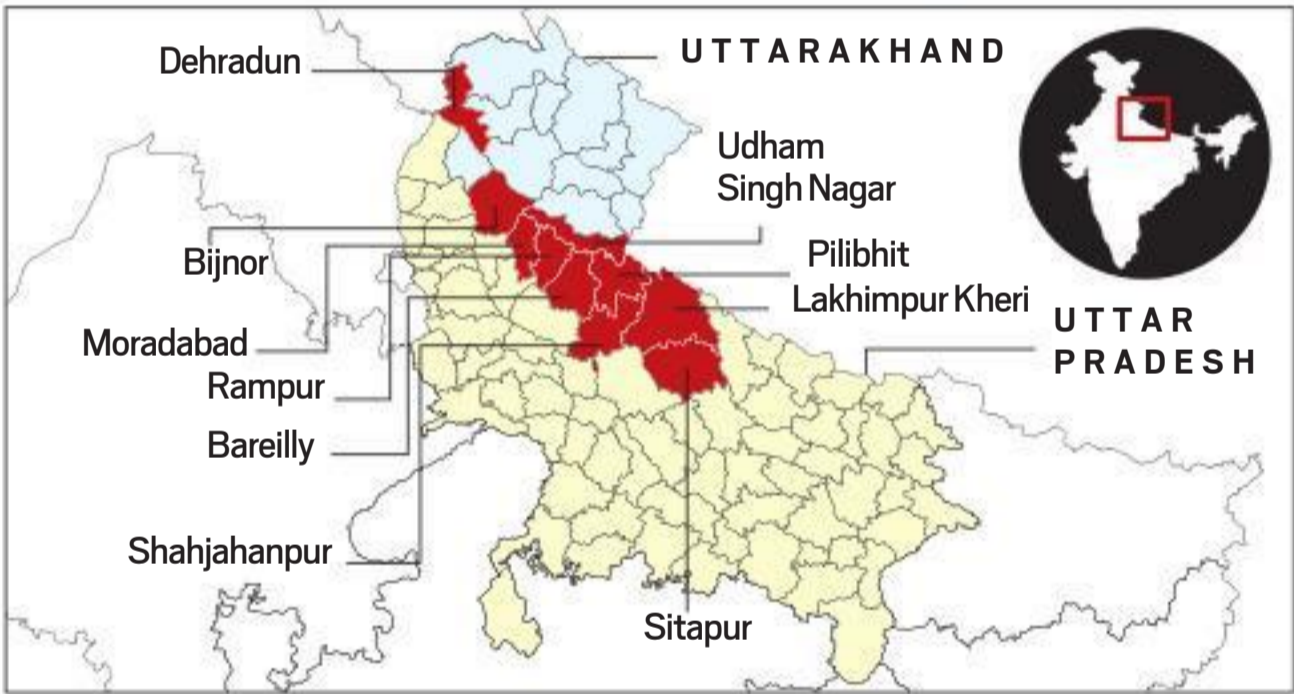
Political representation

The first Mayawati government acknowledged the importance of Punjabis by naming a district after Shahid Udham Singh of Punjab, a martyr of the Freedom Movement. The district, which has a significant Sikh population, now falls in Uttarakhand.

The Assemblies of both UP and Uttarakhand have Sikh representatives. Baldev



Farmers protest in Lakhimpur Kheri, where four protesters were killed on Sunday. PTI



Districts in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand with a significant population of settlers from Punjab after Partition.

Singh Aulakh is a minister in the UP government. The Samajwadi Party had made Punjabi politician Balwant Singh Rammowalia a minister in Akhilesh Yadav’s government.

Proposed eviction

Last year, the UP government had asked police to remove migrants from Punjab from their homes and lands in parts of UP due to land-related issues. Then Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh and the Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) eventually raised the issue with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Jasbir Singh Virk, president of Sikh Sangathan, UP and Uttarakhand, says around 33,000 acres cultivated by migrants in 36 villages is at stake. “Most of them were allotted this land during Partition, and now it is being cultivated by the third or fourth generation. Some of them have lost the allotment papers,” he said. “In those days, this was unwanted land and no one had imagined it could be used for farming. These migrants

gave their sweet and tears to cultivate this land. Today it is developed. So now government and locals want to grab this land by making legal excuses. We protested and the state government responded to our plea. A decision is pending but we are hopeful that the government will decide in our favour.”

Lakhimpur Kheri

Lakhimpur is the one of farthest districts of UP to which farmers from Punjab migrated. It’s not the first time that farmers from the Terai region have taken part in the farm agitation. On January 26, Navreet Singh from Rampur had died during violence in Delhi. A farmer from Pilibhit had committed suicide on the Delhi border during the agitation.

Navreet’s grandfather Hardeep Singh Dibdiba, who is also a writer, said, “Although migrant farmers responded to farmer unions’ call, the latter disowned Navreet after January 26. They realised their mistake later. The unions must weigh the long-term impact of their actions on farmers who have migrated to UP.”

TELLING NUMBERS

Lakhimpur Kheri: UP district with most Sikhs, top contributor to state’s farm GDP

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

LAKHIMPUR KHERI, where eight people including four farmers were killed after Union Minister Ajay Mishra’s cavalcade hit protesting farmers and clashes erupted on Sunday, is the largest of the 75 districts of UP, and contributes most to the state’s agricultural GDP.

Lakhimpur Kheri is also home to the largest Sikh population in the state. The 7,680-sq-km district shares a border with Nepal, and comes under the Lucknow administrative division. It is home to UP’s only national park, Dudhwa.

LEADER IN FARM GDP: According to District Domestic Product data released by the Directorate of Economics & Statistics, the district contributed Rs 12,414.40 crore — 3.38% — of the state’s Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries sector GDP of Rs 3,66,727.16 crore in 2019-20. That year, the share of the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries sector in the District Domestic Product of Lakhimpur was 45.30%, higher than that of Uttar Pradesh as a whole (23.7%) and India (18.4%).

LARGEST SIKH POPULATION: Lakhimpur Kheri is home to the largest concentration of Sikhs among all the districts of UP. According to Census 2011, of the state’s 6,43,500 Sikh population, 94,388 — or 15% cent — were living in Lakhimpur Kheri.

While the share of Sikhs in the state’s population was just 0.32%, it was 3.24% in Lakhimpur — there were 6.43 lakh Sikhs in the district’s total population of 40.21 lakh.

Two Pfizer shots stay effective against hospitalisation for all variants: study

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, OCTOBER 4

A NEW study has reconfirmed the effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (BNT162b2) as far as hospitalisation is concerned, and across all variants of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19. The study from Kaiser Permanente and Pfizer, published in *The Lancet*, has found that two doses are 90% effective against hospitalisations for all variants, including Delta, for at least six months.

It was conducted on subjects in the United States.

The findings

Effectiveness of the Pfizer vaccine against all SARS-CoV-2 infections declined over the study period, falling from 88% within one month after receiving two vaccine doses, to 47% after six months. However, effectiveness of the vaccine against hospitalisation remained at 90% overall and for all variants, the study found.

These findings are consistent with preliminary reports from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and those of the Israel Ministry of Health, which had found reductions of BNT162b2 against infection after approximately six months, the study authors noted.

The analysis

Researchers analysed 3,436,957 electronic health records from the Kaiser Permanente Southern California (KPSC) health system between December 4, 2020 and August 8, 2021. During the study period, 5.4% (184,041 people) were infected with SARS-CoV-2. Among those infected, 6.6% (12,130) were hospitalised. The average time since being fully vaccinated was between three to four months.

A whole genome sequencing and viral



PAPER
CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

nant strain in the United States.

Vaccine effectiveness against the Delta variant infections at one month after two

lineage analysis of 8,911 PCR-positive SARS-CoV-2 samples from the study cohort determined that the Delta variant comprised 28% of the overall proportion of positive sequences. During the study period, the proportion of positive cases attributed to the Delta variant increased from 0.6% in April 2021 to nearly 87% by July 2021, confirming the Delta variant had become the dominant

doses of BNT162B2 was 93% and fell to 53% after four months. Effectiveness against other variants at one month after receiving two doses was 97% and declined to 67% after four months. Effectiveness against Delta-related hospitalisations remained high (93%) for the duration of the study period.

The authors, however, note that analyses with longer follow-up to measure the rate of waning for Delta compared to other variants are warranted.

The takeaway

The researchers say the study underscores the importance of monitoring vaccine effectiveness to determine which pop-

ulations should be prioritised to receive booster shots. “While this study provided evidence that immunity wanes for all age groups that received the vaccine, the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has called for additional research to determine if booster shots should be made available to all age groups eligible for this vaccine. In line with the recent FDA and CDC recommendations and considerations for booster shots should take global Covid-19 vaccine supply into account as people in many countries around the world have not yet received a primary vaccination series,” the study’s lead author Dr Sara Tartof, from Kaiser Permanente, said in a statement.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Manjit Kaur Anand R/o 10,Gopal Nagar, Ashok Nagar, West Delhi, PIN-110018 wish to inform that the name of my father and husband have been wrongly mentioned as 'ISHWAR DAS MEHTA' and 'Gurmit Singh' in my passport , however the correct name of them is 'ISHWAR DASS MEHTA' and ' Gurmeet Singh Anand' for future purpose

0070756126-1

I, Manjeet Kaur w/o Gurmeet Singh Anand r/o 10,Gopal Nagar, Ashok Nagar,Tilak Nagar,West Delhi, PIN-110018 have changed my name to MANJIT KAUR ANAND

0070756125-1

I, Kalu Ram S/O Maia Ram, R/O- 610, Shakurpur, J J Colony, Anandvas, North West Delhi- 110034, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Kamal Bhatt.

0070756087-1

I, Jitender Kumar S/O Har Narain Makhija, R/o H. No. 155 R, Model Town, Panipat, Haryana- 132103, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Jitender Kumar Makhija.

0070756088-1

I, Ishu Choudhri, S/o Rajesh Choudhri, R/o H.No-150/7, Hans Enclave, Village-Naharpur Roopa,Gurgaon-122001,Have Changed My Name To Ishu,For Future.

0040586858-4

I, Amit Shrivastava S/O Rajesh Kumar, R/o Flat No- 180, Vijayee Veer Awas Apartment, Sector- 18 A, Dwarka, N.S.I.T. Delhi-110078. I have changed the name of my minor daughter Dhananya Shrivastava aged about 13 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Dhananya Shrivastava.

0070756097-1

I, Alka Sharma, W/O-Shri Arun Sharma, R/O-B-4/41-C,Keshav Puram, Delhi-110035,inform that Vandana Sharma and Alka Sharma both the names are one & same person.

0040586903-3

I, Ajay Kumar Singh Singholi S/O Late Balvant Singh, R/o Flat No-14 New Jal Bharat Apartment, Plot No- 5, Near Tringa Chauk, Dwarka Sector- 4, Delhi-110078. I have changed the name of my minor Son Aarush Singholi aged about 13 Years and He shall hereafter be known as Aarush Singh

0070756104-1

I, Shobha alias Shoba Rani Makhija , W/O Jitender Kumar Makhija R/o House No. 155 R, Model Town, Panipat, Haryana-132103, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Shobha Makhija.

0070756089-1

I,hitherto known as AARYA TYAGI, Date of Birth 11/11/2008, Son of Mr. Rahul Tyagi employed as Associate Manager in the Accenture Noida, Residing at F-256, Ganga Sagar, Meerut, Defense colony , Uttar Pradesh-250001, have change the name of my minor son AARYA TYAGI, aged 12 years and he shall hereafter be known as LAKSHAY TYAGI.

0070756153-1

I, Jesse Monga D/o Suminder Singh Monga, R/o-223, Ground-Floor, Kailash Hills, New Delhi-110065, have changed my name to Jessie Monga.

0040586903-9

I, Sonia W/o Joginder Singh R/o 269, DDA Flats, New Seemapuri, Delhi - 110095 have changed my name to Bhavna

0040586898-1

I,Shweta Juneja daughter of Shri Vijay Juneja, Resident of E-82 Amar Colony, Lajpat Nagar-IV New Delhi-110024 do hereby Solemnly affirm and declare that both Shweta and Shweta Juneja is the one and same person, i.e., me Shweta Juneja.

0040586812-1

I,Santosh Kumar R/O House No. 151-152, Pocket 19, Sector 24 Rohini Delhi . I have changed name of my Son from AROUSH SETH to YOJEET SETH vide affidavit dated 4th Oct 2021 attested by Ms.Savita Dahiya Notary Govt of India. In future my son shall be known as YOJEET SETH.

0040586806-1

I,Ritu Wadhwa W/O, Mohit Wadhwa R/o 90 National Park, Lajpat Nagar-4 have changed my name to Ritu Arora for all purposes.

0040586870-1

I,Rajesh S/O, Chander Parkash R/o 1104/29, Krishana Colony, Opposite: Arya Public School, Sec-7 Gurgaon have changed my name to Rajesh Sharma for all purposes.

0040586865-1

I,Pooja Devi W/O, Raj Kumar R/o Poo Chhavian Nagar, Teh. Palampur, Dist. Kangra, Himachal Pradesh 176059 have changed my name to Vicky Devi for all purposes

0040586865-1

I,Nellu Dahiya W/O, Naresh Dabas R/o House No-18,bhaiya Wali Gali,budhan Pur,majra Dabas,delhi, - 110081 have changed my name to Nellu

0040586872-1

I, TAVLEEN SINGH BHATIA, S/O DAVINDER SINGH, R/O-I-94 LAJPAT NAGAR-1 DELHI-110024,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AS TAVLEEN SINGH.

0040586863-8

I Naveen Kumar S/O, Vijender Kumar R/O 39/9 Kishan Garh Vasant Kunj New Delhi 110070 have changed my name to Naveen Gandas and my father name to Bijender Gandas for all purposes

0040586868-1

I,Manvir Singh and Anita Residents 76-D Aravali Apartment Sector-52 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar U.P. They declare that my son's Prince Chaudhary's passport and educational certificates were wrongly mentioned Manveer Chaudhary and Kamlesh. The correct name is Father's Manvir Singh and mother's name is Anita

0040586832-1

I,Mamta W/o Mr. Ashok Kumar R/o 46-A, Kh.No. 86-87/21/2, 1st Floor, Shiv Vihar Colony, Karala, North West Delhi-110081have changed my name to Mamta Verma for all purposes.

0040586822-2

I,MD FAHAD, S/o Mohd. Tahir Khan R/ o 264/2,Hamza Manzil,4th floor,Zakir Nagar New Delhi-110025 have changed my name from Mohd.Fahad Khan to MD FAHAD, now we will be known as MD FAHAD for all future purposes

0040586880-1

I,Gargi Sahu D/o Pawan Kumar R/o House No-24, F-Block, Vikas Puri, Tilak Nagar, Rajouri Garden West Delhi, Delhi-110018, India, have changed my name to Gargi for all future purposes

0070756143-1

I,Ashok Kumar Verma S/O Late Desh Raj R/o 46-A, Kh.No. 86-87/21/2, 1st Floor, Shiv Vihar Colony, Karala, North West Delhi-110081 have changed my name to Ashok Kumar for all purposes.

0040586822-1

I,Abid S/O, Zaheeruddin R/o House Number 193 Gali Number 10 Jafrabad Seelampur Delhi 110053 have changed my name to Abid Ahmad for all purposes

0040586874-1

I,Abhijeet S/O, Naresh Dabas R/o House No-18, Bhaiya Wali Gali,budhan Pur,majra Dabas,Delhi 110081 have changed my name to Abhijeet Dabas

0040586873-1

I, PRATIMA KUMARI R/o A 461, ROHINI , New Delhi - have changed my minor child's name from ADHYAN PANDEY to ADHYAYAN RAJVANSH

0070756120-1

I, SATYENDRA ACHARYA, S/O.SUBODH ACHARYA, ADD-C-10A FIRST-FLOOR NEAR-ASHOK-NAGAR NEAR YOG BHARTI PUBLIC-SCHOOL NEW-ASHOK-NAGAR VASUNDHRA-ENCLAVE EAST DELHI-110096.Changed my name to SATYEN ACHARYA,permanently,

0040586858-6

I,SARVAN KUMAR SHAH,S/O,RAM CHANDER SHAH, ADD-D-1036,BLOCK- D NEW FRIENDS COLONY SOUTH DELHI-110025.Changed my name to SHARVAN KUMAR SHAH,permanently.

0040586858-9

I,RAMA KANT,S/O.GOKUL CHAND GARG,ADD-3105,3RD-FLOOR GALI SANGAT RASHAN PAHAR GANJ CENTRAL,DELHI-110055,changed my name to RAMAKANT GARG,permanently.

0040586858-10

I,Anant Aggarwal, S/o Sh. Kushal Kumar, R/O B-831, Gaur Green Avenue,Abhay-Khand-II, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014,have changed my name to Anant Kumar,for all future purposes.

0040586869-8

It is for general information that I,Jatin S/O-Surender Kumar,Residing at,H.No.7/544,Jwala-Nagar,Shahdara,Delhi-110032,declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly-written as Jatin Tomar and Surender Kumar Tomar in my X/XII-class Educational-Documents.The actual-name of mine and my father are Jatin and Surender Kumar respectively which may be amended accordingly.

0040586912-1

I,sayed Saad Ali,S/O,Khalid Anjum,Haad, No.7 west laxmi market near SBI BANK khureji khas,East delhi-110051,changed my name to Saad Ali,permanently.

0040586858-5

I,devyani d/o-Ashok Sharma, house.no.119,second-floor ashoka enclave part-1,fbd-121003,have changed my name to devyani sharma,in all purpose.

0040586863-4

I,Virender Kumar Sharma S/o Madan Mohan Sharma R/o-QU-256-C,Pitampura Delhi-110034,inform that Virender Kumar Sharma and Virender Sharma is same person.

0040586869-10

I,Veena Sharma,w/o Sameer Sharma R/O-Brij vihar; P.O-Chander-Nagar Ghaziabad declare that correct date-of-birth of my son Sawastik Sharma is-05/08/2008 instead of-05/08/1985.his birth place:Nagpur Rural Maharashtra.

0040586863-1

I,Sarika Prasad Chikara D/o,K.K. Prasad R/o,Flat-No.721, Green-View Apartment,Pocket-2,Sector-19,Dwarka, N.Delhi-75,have changed my minor son's name Shriyans Prasad to Shriyans Prasad Chikara.

0040586869-4

I,Sahiba Sachdeva,D/o Gagandeep Singh R/o-B-234,TF, West Patel-Nagar,Delhi -8,have changed my name to Sahiba Kaur Sachdeva.

0040586863-3

I,SURABHI D/O-YASHPAL MANOCHA R/O C-31,THIRD-FLOOR,GANESH NAGAR,DELHI-110018,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SURABHI MANOCHA,FOR ALL PURPOSES.

0040586858-2

I,SHRIDHAR GOPAL S/O VEER MATHUR R/O C-36,FIRST-FLOOR,PANSCHEEL ENCLAVE,DELHI-110017.CHANGED MY NAME TO SHRIDHAR GOPAL MATHUR.

0040586903-6

I, KRITI KHURANA D/O SURINDER KHURANA, R/O- H NO-B-2/227, YAMUNA VIHAR, DELHI, 110053, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KRITI

0070756111-1

I,SHARVAN ARORA,S/O.SOHAN LAL ARORA,R/o,41,Shivpuri, Opp.Happy English-School,Krishna-Nagar,Delhi-110051, have changed the name of my minor son,from VIBHU ARORA to VIVAAN ARORA.

0040586863-6

I,Rashmi Pandey,D/O-Ashok Kumar Pandey R/O-32,first floor,sec-1,vaishali,GZB-201010,have changed my name,from Rashmi Kumari to Rashmi Pandey,for all purpose.

0040586903-4

I,REETI SINGHAL,W/O NEERAJ KUMAR SINGHAL,R/O FLAT.NO-003,MAGNUM TOWER,GH-1,OMAXE NRI CITY,GREATER NOIDA,UTTAR PRADESH-201306,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RITA SINGHAL.

0040586863-11

I,RAVINDER,S/o Late Sh.Mohinder R/O RB-225,Reserve Bank-Colony,Sector-6, R.K.Puram,New Delhi-110022,have changed my minor daughter's name,from SOHANI to SUHANI,for all future purposes.

0040586903-10

I,Priyansu Yadav,son of,JWO Indrajit Yadav,resident of,SMQ.No.-109A,Air-Force Station Arjangarh,New Delhi-110047,have changed my name,from Priyansu Yadav to Priyanshu Yadav vide affidavit dated-03/10/2021,before New-Delhi.

0040586911-1

I,Pankaj Mehra,S/o Mekan Singh Mehra R/o-2492, Gali.No-65,Block.E-2, Molarband-Extension,Badarpur,New,Delhi -110044,have changed my name from Pankaj Mehra to Aakash Mehra,for all future purposes.

0040586903-8

I,PUJA PRADHAN W/O SURENDRA KUMAR GUPTA R/O-58,PASCHIM ENCLAVE,PASCHIM VIHAR,DELHI-110087.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO POOJA GUPTA.

0040586858-1

I,PARSHANT BHATT,S/O SHANKAR BHATT, R/O S-251, SCHOOL-BLOCK, SHAKARPUR, DELHI-110092,Have changed my name,from PRASHANT BHATT to PARSHANT BHATT,for all purposes.

0040586863-2

I,PADAM SAIN,S/O JODHARAM,204, PANA HARIJANBASTI, VILLAGE NANGALTHAKRAN DELHI-39,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM PADAM SINGH TO PADAM SAIN.

0040586911-8

I,Mujahid Ali,S/o-Shoukat Hussain,R/o-B-3, Street-No-20A, Zakir-Nagar, Jamia-Nagar, NewDelhi-25,that name of my minor, daughter has been,mistakenly entered,in her passport-no.N0091359 as Arrahma,instead of Arrahma Ali.

0040586869-1

I,Monika W/O Yogesh Sharma,R/O Flat No-244, Ground-Floor Netaji Subhash Apartment Pocket-1,Phase-2,Sector-13, Dwarka Delhi-110078,changed my name to Monika Sharma.

0040586863-9

I,Mohd Haroon S/o Mohd Iqbal R/O C-1/10 Old Jasola Village, Jamia Nagar Delhi 110025 have changed my name from Mohd Haroon Ansari to Mohd Haroon for all purposes

0040586836-1

I,Manjit Singh,S/o Tarlochan Singh,R/o S-221/09,Gali.No-7,Vishnu-Garden, Tilak Nagar,Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Manjeet Singh,for all, future purposes.

0040586908-1

I,Kumari Priyanka D/o Ghanashyam Sharma R/o L-255 Shastri,Nagar Delhi-110052,have changed my name to Priyanka Sharma for all,purposes.

0040586903-2

I,Ashbani Kaur Chadha D/o,Jasmeet Singh Chadha R/o-Q-23,Rajouri-Garden, N.Delhi-27,inform,that Ashbani Chadha and Ashbani Kaur Chadha both are one and same person.

0040586869-7

I,JAYA SRIVASTAVA,D/O,RANJAI JI SRIVASTAVA, ADD-24, GROUND-FLOOR,G BLOCK,NEAR-SANATAM DHARAM MANDIR NARAINA VIHAR NARAINA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE SOUTH WEST DELHI-110028.Changed my name to JAYA SHRIVASTAVA, permanently.

0040586858-7

I,Hemant Sachdeva,S/o Late,Krishan Parkash Sachdeva,R/o-R-40,Rajouri-Garden Delhi-27,have changed my name,for Hemant Kumar Sachdeva,for all,future purpose.

0040586863-5

I,Harish Khatri/Harish Kumar Khatri,S/O Shyam Lal R/O Flat No-378, Ground Floor Pocket-5,Sector-2,Rohini, Delhi-110085,changed my name to Harish Kumar.

0040586863-10

I,GIRESH CHANDER RATHORE S/O-SH.MEGHNATH RATHORE, R/O- RZB-3,JEEVAN PARK,UTTAM NAGAR,NEW DELHI-110059,INFORM THAT GIRISH CHANDER RATHORE AND GIRESH CHANDER RATHORE,BOTH NAME ARE SAME PERSON.

0040586858-3

I,Deepika w/o Shyam sunder R/o-3493A/1, Narang-Colony Tri-Nagar North West delhi.Delhi-110035,have change my name Radhika to Deepika,for all future purposes.

0040586903-7

I,DEEPAK SETHI,S/O W.R. SETHI,R/o C 002,J M FLORENCE TECH ZONE 4, GREATER-NOIDA WEST, GAUTAMBUDH NAGAR,U.P.201306,changed my name to SHASHI KHANNA.

0040586908-3

I,DAVENDER SINGH BHATIA,S/O LAL SINGH R/O I-94 LAJPAT NAGAR-1 DELHI-110024,HAVE CHANGE MY NAME AS DAVINDER SINGH

0040586863-7

I,Asad Raza Zaidi,S/o-Syed Zafar Zaidi,R/o-A-27/31, Lane-No.1, Johri-Farm, Noor Nagar Extn.,Jamia-Nagar, NewDelhi-25,have changed,my name to Syed Asad Raza Zaidi.

0040586869-2

I,ASHOK KUMAR S/O- HANSRAJ JAIN R/O-B-7/64, SECTOR-5, ROHINI, DELHI-110085 have changed my name to ASHOK KUMAR JAIN.

0040586858-11

I,ABHISHEK,S/O SHASHI KHANNA,R/O C 002,J M FLORENCE TECH ZONE 4, GREATER NOIDA WEST, GAUTAMBUDH-NAGAR, U.P.201306,changed my name to ABHISHEK KHANNA.

0040586908-2

I, Y. Zamruth Begum W/o Saleem Ahmed R/o 438-G, Sadh Bhavana Apartment, Sector-5, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP-201010 have changed my name to Muskaan for all future purposes.

0070756145-1

I, Virender Pathak S/o Radhey Shayam Pathak R/o H.No-21/10, Phase-I, F-Block, Street 4B, Qutub Vihar, New Delhi-110071 have changed my name to VIRENDER KUMAR for all future purposes.

0070756146-1

I, Virender Kumar S/o Radhey Shayam Pathak R/o H.No-21/10, Phase-I, F-Block, Street 4B, Qutub Vihar, New Delhi-110071 have changed my minor son's name from ADITYA to ADITYA PATHAK for all future purposes.

0070756148-1

I, Vipin Kumar Bhatia S/O Inder Raj Bhatia, R/o Gali Madho Prasad, Gurudwara Road, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh-247001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Vipin Kumar.

0070756107-1

I, Vijay Prakash S/o Sh.Mohan Lal, R/o-B-385, Pandav- Nagar, Near Shadipur-Depot, New Delhi-110008, have changed My minor son name from Yash to Yash Prakash,for all future purposes

0040586825-1

I, Surinder Pal Mohan S/O Brij Lal Mohan, R/o House No- 82, Sector-55, Huda, Gurgaon, Haryana- 122011. Declare that Name of Mine has been wrongly written as Surinder Pal in my Pension Pay Order No- MJ/ PN/ 02506/2016. The actual name of Mine is Surinder Pal Mohan, which may be amended accordingly.

0070756090-1

I, Sunil S/O Choote Lal R/O N-49/261, Gali Sewak Clinic Haider pur Village Delhi-110088 have changed my name to Sita Ram.

0040586869-9

I, Shreshtha Jaiswal S/o Durgesh Jaiswal R/O C-141/63, South Humayunpur, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh-273005, have changed my minor son's name from Parth U Jaiswal aged 9 months to Parth Upreti Jaiswal forever

0070756157-1

I, Sarika Prasad D/o K.K. Prasad R/o,Flat-No.721, Green-View Apartment,Pocket-2, Sector-19, Dwarka, N.Delhi-75 have changed my name to Sarika Prasad Chikara.

0040586869-3

I, Sanchit Kumar S/o Rajinder Kumar R/O A-136,Ashok Vihar Phase-2,Delhi-110052 have changed my name to Sanchit Rohilla permanently.

0040586903-1

I, Sahdev Singh Chauhan S/o Prabhu Singh Chauhan R/o VPO-Dhoom Manikpur, Dadri, G.B.Nagar U.P. have changed my son's name from Abhipreet Chauhan to Yathesh Singh Chauhan for all future purposes.

0070756149-1

I,Reema Chugh W/o Ashish Sood R/o B3B/-4, Janakpuri, N.Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Reema Sood for all purposes.

0040586869-6

I,Ravinder Mohan S/O Dilbag Singh Kadian Employed as Indian Navy as Rank MCMECH II, P.No. 136351R, Posting Address:The Senior Officer, Anvesh Cell (Yard S- 20), INS Venderuthy, C/o Fleet Mail Office, Kochi- 682004 R/o Flat No-101, Varuna Navy Apartments, Ernakulam- Kochi, Kerala- 682020, having Permanent Address H. No-1958, Ramnagar, Behind Petrol Pump, Dist- Panchkula, Haryana- 133302, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Ravinder Mohan Kadian.

0070756105-1

I, Ranvir Kaur W/O Amandeep Singh Dhindsa, R/o Chhropor, Sambhalshi, Samalkhi, Shahbad, Kurukshetra, Haryana- 136135. Declare that Name of My Mother has been wrongly written as Sawarnjeet Kaur in my Graduation Certificate No- GCG (P) 2006-990, that Name of My Mother Name has been wrongly written as Sawarnajeet Kaur in My 12th Class Certificate No- 272930. The actual name of My Mother is Charanjeet Kaur, which may be amended accordingly.

0070756099-1

I, Rajesh Kumar S/O Late Dr. Hari Nandan R/o 22/139A, 2nd floor, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat nagar-4,New Delhi 110024 have changed my son's name from Vaibhav R Kumar to Vaib

PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION BILL: JOINT HOUSE PANEL TO MEET ON OCT 20

Looking at ‘bigger umbrella’, PDP Bill likely to include non-personal data

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

THE JOINT Parliamentary Committee on Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill of 2019 is likely to meet this month to formally adopt a resolution to widen the ambit of the Bill to include non-personal data as well, sources in know of the development said.

The next meeting, likely to happen on October 20 under the Chairmanship of P P Chaudhary, will deliberate upon this proposal, sources said, adding that other changes to the proposed Bill such as amendments to Section 91 (2), which so far says that the provisions of the PDP Bill would not apply to anonymised data.

Following the changes, the new Bill is likely to be called just

the Data Protection Bill of 2021 instead of Personal Data Protection Bill, a source in the know of the development told *The Indian Express*.

“The idea to include non-personal data is to have a bigger umbrella, which will act as sort of an architecture if any amendments are to be made in the future. The inclusion of provisions for non-personal data will mostly be done on the basis of the recommendations of the Ministry committee,” an official said. Mails to the Parliamentary panel seeking details of the proposed changes remained unanswered.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has in September 2019 constituted a panel, chaired by Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan, to deliberate upon and discuss various aspects of non-personal data.

EXPLAINED
E Almost 3 yrs in the waiting

THE PERSONAL Data Protection Bill, first proposed by the government in 2018, has been pending for nearly 3 years now. It has seen several changes to the original draft drawn by retired Supreme Court judge Justice B N Srikrishna.

In its report submitted in July 2020, the panel had suggested a data-sharing regulation to shift data’s “economic benefits for citizens and communities in India” as well as help the government in policy making and service delivery.

However, in certain categories such as data related to national security or strategic interests such as locations of government laboratories or research facilities, even if provided in anonymised form can be dangerous. Similarly, even if the data is about the health of a community or a group of communities, though it may be in anonymised form, it can still be dangerous, the panel had said.

“Possibilities of such harm are obviously much higher if the original personal data is of a sensitive nature. Therefore, the non-personal data arising from such sensitive personal data may be considered as sensitive non-personal data,” the panel had suggested.

The JPC may call industry experts on non-personal data for submissions and explain the aspects before taking a final call, one official said.

“There are some concerns that there is no standard definition for non-personal data, or that who will be in charge of non-personal data and whether there will be a separate regulator. All these issues will be discussed in upcoming sittings,” the official said.

The Personal Data Protection Bill, first proposed by the government in 2018, has been pending for close to three years now. It has seen several changes to the original draft drawn by retired Supreme Court judge Justice B N Srikrishna, who also said that the revised Bill was “a blank cheque to the state”. The latest version of the bill, in complete contrast to earlier 2018 draft, says that a committee for selection of Data Protection Authority, will include the Cabinet Secretary, the Law Secretary and the IT Secretary.

INTERVIEW WITH POWER AND RENEWABLE ENERGY MINISTER

‘Green hydrogen push for refining, fertiliser sectors; PLI for electrolysers in the works’

Working on plan to bundle bids for renewables: Singh

THE GOVERNMENT is working on plans to boost the use of green hydrogen in the oil refining and fertiliser production sectors, including a likely announcement on a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for electrolyser manufacturing to give an impetus to the domestic hydrogen value chain. Speaking to KARUNJIT SINGH & ANIL SASI, Union Power and Renewable Energy Minister R K SINGH said the coal shortage situation this time is serious and is being handled at an inter-ministerial level, and that the situation presents both a challenge and an opportunity at the same time. He also talked of a bundling plan for future renewable energy bids. Edited excerpts:

The coal shortage in China is leading to serious disruptions in power supplies. How serious is our own depleting coal stocks situation?

China seems to be having a huge crisis. Thank God, we are managing. The demand has gone up tremendously. We touched 200 Gigawatts (one GW is a thousand mega watts) during the Covid period, and the demand has been hovering around 170-180 GW, continuously. I expect the demand to go up again to near about 200 GW and stay there. So, this is stretching our resources... We have had to manage coal (supplies). I had a meeting with the Minister for coal and the Minister for railways and we planned as to how we shall meet this, because the requirement of coal is going to go up substantially.

How much of this is something that is seen annually post-monsoons, when there is inevitably a coal shortage phase?

This is beyond the (normal) post monsoon (supply crunch). I have been here for some years now, I haven’t seen something like this on a continuous basis... Demand is not going to go away, it’s going to increase more and more. That’s what I tell my officers, it is not something that is just a passing phase... because we’ve added so many new consumers... Most of them are lower middle class consumers and poor so they are buying fans, lights, televisions sets so their demand is growing. The good thing also is that we also see that this is an indication of the increased economic activity in the country, so that’s a good thing. I see it as a challenge but I see this also as an opportunity. Opportunity in the sense that I had some units which were not being utilised now they are all being utilised.

There is an anomaly in the case of renewables in terms of those who’ve bought power



R K Singh, Union Power and Renewable Energy Minister

THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW

from developers earlier end up paying more. So, there is a perverse incentive to perhaps wait.

This has struck us. We are working on a proposal which should be taken up in a few days that in the future, bids will be bundled. If there is one bid, suppose you get a rate of Rs 2.5 (per unit) and the PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) is signed (between the generation utility and the Discom). In the next bid, suppose SECI (Solar Energy Corporation of India) gets Rs 2.40 per unit then it will be averaged out. The person who signed it at Rs 2.50 (per unit) will get it at the average of Rs 2.50 and Rs 2.40 and the fresh PPAs will be at that average. Similarly, if a third bid comes at (Rs) 2.30, so now it will again be aggregated and the PPA will be at the new resultant rate and all the people who signed earlier will also pay only at that resultant rate. This will take care of it.

What about the government’s green hydrogen push?

What we are going to do is that we are going to put a mandate. Now, grey hydrogen and grey ammonia (both generated from natural gas or methane, through a process called steam reforming) will be gradually replaced by the green hydrogen and green ammonia (generated using renewables). Now where is grey hydrogen used? One is of course refining, it’s a major sector. So we are going to put a mandate, let’s say beginning with 15 per cent or 20 per cent, where 20 per cent of what they are consuming to begin with will have to be green hydrogen and then it will go up to maybe 30-40 per cent. And in four years we expect the price of green hydrogen to match that of grey hydrogen. In a maximum of four years, the prices will come down. After that no mandate will be necessary...

Similarly we are going to put up a mandate for blending of PNG

and LNG with green hydrogen. You can blend up to 15 per cent without any change in the chemistry of the pipes. For fertilisers, the total grey ammonia which is used is 15 million tonnes, which has to be replaced. What is imported is 2.6 million tonnes. So the total which has to be replaced is 17.6 million tonnes. As far as grey hydrogen is concerned, it comes to 5.2 million tonnes, which has to be gradually replaced.

Is there a scheme for pushing domestic manufacturing of electrolysers?

Earlier, we had started the talks of mandates at 10 per cent in refining and 5 per cent for fertiliser manufacture, but we will raise that to 15 or 20 per cent (for refining). But, in the earlier trajectory (10 per cent) alone our requirement for electrolysers is about 8,800 MW. There isn’t that much capacity in the world. In the world, the total manufacturing capacity for electrolysers which is installed is just about 2,000 MW. So, naturally we have to make our own electrolysers. So, that is one of the proposals that we need a PLI (production linked incentive scheme) for electrolyser manufacturing because there is no world supply.

How much production capacity for electrolysers are we aiming to create in India?

I am thinking of something in the range of about 15,000 MW over five years. In fact we want at least 10,000 MW in the next two years or three years because without that we will not be able to start. One green hydrogen plant has been set up (by a private player). That is just about 1 megawatt. That electrolyser had to be imported. For them the cost was I think \$350 or \$300 per kilowatt.

The cost of setting up a plant for manufacturing is not very much. The capital cost of setting up a 1,000 MW electrolyser plant is about Rs 125 crore. The PLI we are proposing is \$50 per kilowatt. There will be bidding, but the ceiling would be \$50 per kilowatt.

Association for e-comm formed

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

TO PROVIDE a dedicated platform to the e-commerce industry to achieve a common ground, an association, Confederation of Indian E-Commerce (CIE), has been formed. Established as a trust and a not-for-profit organisation based out of New Delhi, the organisation will work closely with the policy makers and plans to provide a platform to share best practices for the budding MSMEs and traditional retail.

With key e-commerce companies being invited to be a part of the confederation, CIE, which will be an apex body of the industry, “intends to be the neutral voice of the industry by bringing the government, the industry, policy makers and the consumers on one platform,” according to a statement. The confederation will leverage the national missions — Startup India, Digital India and the Aatmanirbhar Bharat programmes — for the e-commerce industry, it said. “It aims to provide a dedicated platform for the retail and e-commerce companies to take up economic or policy issues with the government and other relevant agencies. Support to MSMEs and traditional retail ...,” the statement said.

‘Infra finance by banks, NBFC-IFC sluggish in Q1FY22’

Total infrastructure credit by banks and NBFC-Infrastructure Finance Companies (NBFC-IFCs) remained sluggish in the first quarter amid Covid disruptions, Icra Ratings said



Over Rs 111 lakh crore is the target of infrastructure investment set by the central government under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) over FY20-FY25

Source: Icra Ratings/PTI

Air India bid: Ministerial group holds meet, ‘announcement soon’

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

THE AIR India Specific Alternate Mechanism (AISAM), a group of Ministers led by Home Minister Amit Shah, met on Monday to discuss the national carrier’s disinvestment, sources said.

While it is unclear whether the AISAM approved the proposal to ratify the winning bid, a senior government official said that “an announcement will be made soon”. In addition to the Home Minister, the AISAM comprises Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

The *Indian Express* reported Saturday that the Tata Group has

FLAG CARRIER’S DISINVESTMENT



■ **The Air India Specific Alternate Mechanism, a group of ministers led by Home Minister Amit Shah, met Monday to discuss the flag carrier’s disinvestment, according to sources**

emerged as the frontrunner to acquire Air India. The Mumbai-

based conglomerate has placed the highest bid — over Rs 5,000 crore more than SpiceJet promoter Ajay Singh, who participated in his individual capacity in the bidding process, according to people in the know.

Once the winner is announced, the share-purchase agreement will be signed with the winning entity within 15 days, and the transfer process will begin immediately afterward.

Representatives of both bidders were called for meetings on two occasions earlier this week, during which the share-purchase agreement was discussed to help them take a long-term view of Air India’s various liabilities, and plan the funding accordingly.

FROM SECURITIES MARKET FOR ‘FRAUDULENT TRADING’

Sebi bars biz show anchor, 5 others

New Delhi: Sebi on Monday barred Pradeep Pandya, who served as an anchor on stock market shows on a business news channel, three other individuals and two entities from the securities market for indulging in fraudulent trading.

In its interim order, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) also directed impounding Rs 8.4 crore-worth of proceeds from the fraudulent trades. CNBC Awaaz anchor Pradeep Pandya, Alpesh Furiya,

Manish Furiya, Alpa Furiya, Alpesh Vasanji Furiya HUF and Manish V Furiya HUF have been restrained from buying, selling or dealing in securities till further orders.

Pandya and Alpesh Furiya have also been ordered to “cease and desist” from undertaking, directly or indirectly, any activity related to giving investment advice, sell or buy recommendations, publishing of research reports related to securities via any media till further orders. **ENS WITH PTI**

‘Evergrande to raise \$5 bn from sale of property unit’

Hong Kong: China Evergrande will sell a majority stake in its property management business for more than \$5 billion, Chinese media said on Monday, a deal which would be the largest asset sale yet at the debt-laden property developer if it goes ahead.

Evergrande Property Services Group, a spin-off listed last year, also requested a halt and said it referred to “a possible general offer for shares of the company.” **REUTERS**

Invesco stresses on EGM demand before NCLT

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4

INVESCO DEVELOPING Markets Funds on Monday reiterated its demand before the Mumbai Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) that Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEEL) should convene an extraordinary general meeting (EGM), chaired by a retired high court judge.

“Our apprehension of ZEEL board not calling an EGM has come true. We are not concerned with the outcome of the EGM, but only concerned that an EGM

should be called,” Invesco’s counsel Mukul Rohatgi told the bench.

The Companies Act empowers shareholders holding at least 10 per cent of voting rights to convene an EGM, in case the company is not willing to do so. However, Invesco’s counsel said that it cannot call an EGM, as there were more than 2.5 lakh retail shareholders in the company and ZEEL was not providing their details (contact and mailing details).

Meanwhile, as per a PTI report, the Ahmedabad bench of the NCLAT dismissed a Gail India petition challenging insolvency resolution plan of Alok Industries. **FE**

BRIEFLY

Pension revision

New Delhi: The RBI has allowed banks to amortise additional liability on account of revision in family pension over 5 years starting FY22.

NARCL licence

New Delhi: The National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) got RBI licence.

Coal India supply

New Delhi: Coal India supplied 1176 MT of coal to power utilities in July-September.

MSME scheme

New Delhi: The deadline for Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt for stressed MSMEs is March 31.

Aditya Birla fine

New Delhi: Sebi fined Aditya Birla Money Ltd over Rs 1 crore for violating rules. **PTI**

Oil past \$81

New York: Brent crude rose \$2.34, or 3%, to \$81.62 by 1632 GMT, after OPEC+ said it would stick to its current output policy. **REUTERS**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
EMPALEMENT OF ADVERTISING AGENCIES FOR SWR
For and on behalf of the president of India applications are invited to form a panel of advertising agencies for Handling of Railway Advertisements including Display Campaigns in Print Media, PR work of South Western Railway. Advertising Agencies with INS accreditation and a full-fledged working office with all facilities in Hubballi can apply for empanelment. Duly filled in application in the prescribed form with all the relevant documents in sealed envelope marked on the top "Application for empanelment of Advertising Agencies" may be sent to reach the Office of the Chief Public Relations Officer, South Western Railway, Fourth Floor, Rail Soudha, Gadag Road, Hubballi-580020.
Last Date for submission upto : 15:30 hrs. on 02.11.2021
Date of opening : 16:00 hrs. on 02.11.2021
For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in.
PUB/218/AAV/PRB/SWR/2021-22
Chief Public Relations Officer, Hubballi
S.W.Railways @ sw_rly SWRRLY southwesternrailway SWRRLY

MADHYA PRADESH PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
Tilhan Sangh Bhawan, 01, Arera Hills, Bhopal
URL : www.mpphscil.mp.gov.in, PHONE : 0755-2578915
Dated : 04.10.2021

TENDER NOTICE
Tender for following items floated on GeM portal dated 04.10.2021
1. Online GeM Portal Tender Ref. No. GEM/2021/B/1571174 for Laptops uploaded on date 04.10.2021.
2. Online GeM Portal Tender Ref. No. GEM/2021/B/1572947 for All in One PC, Printer and Scanner uploaded on date 04.10.2021.
Prospective bidders are requested to visit <https://gem.gov.in> for further details.
M.P. Madhyam/102176/2021 CGM (TECHNICAL)

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No. 21/2021 Dated 01/10/2021
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender through IREPS only for supply of following items: Tender Closing Time: 14:00 Hrs.
Sl. Tender No. Description in Brief Qty. Tender Due on
1 38211579 Adapter (Narrow Jaw) Class E 6 x 11 5489 Nos. 25-10-2021
2 16211457 Fuel pump Motor 20 Nos. 20-10-2021
3 45215005 A Roof mounted AC package unit 02 Sets 13-10-2021
4 30211413 Screw coupling assembly 819 Nos. 20-10-2021
5 56215138 Electric Point Machine 34 Nos. 18-10-2021
6 30211612 Arrangement of UTC type rubber vestibule 359 Sets 26-10-2021
7 30211109 Wearing piece for side bearer on bolster suspension 1105 Nos. 29-10-2021
8 16211458 B Repair kit to Interstate Diesel 384 Nos. 29-10-2021
9 33211076 Speed Sensor to FIRTIL 125 Nos. 22-10-2021
10 30211331 Overhauling Kit for Aluminum 729 Sets 26-10-2021
11 38211113 A Flap Door Boxn Boxhns 746 Nos. 01-11-2021
12 16211459 Overhauling kit 40 Sets 01-11-2021
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/216/AA/PRB/SWR/2021-22 Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi
S.W.Railways @ sw_rly SWRRLY southwesternrailway SWRRLY

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
'Khanji Bhavan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad -500 028
CIN:L13100TG1958G0101674
CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT
e-Tender Notification (DOMESTIC BIDDING)
Tender Enquiry No.: HO (Contracts) / ISO / IMS / 2021 / 250 Dated: 05.10.2021
MSTC Ref. No.: NMDC / HO / 57 / 21-22 / ET / 270
E-tenders in two bid systems are invited for the work of "Appointment of Certifying Body for Re-Certification of Integrated Management System for NMDC Projects" from prospective domestic, experienced, qualified and eligible bidders who fulfil the Pre-Qualification Criteria.
Detailed SOT/NIT and tender document including pre-qualification requirements can be viewed/downloaded from NMDC's website <http://www.nmdc.co.in/nmcdctender/default.aspx>, CPP Portal: www.eprocure.gov.in on latest active tenders and MSTC Website: https://www.mstccommerce.com/eprocure/home/nmcd/buyer_login.jsp from 05.10.2021 to 02.11.2021.
The tenders are required to visit the above-mentioned websites for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.
For further clarification, GM (Contracts), NMDC Ltd., Hyderabad can be contacted on Gen. No. 040-23534746, email: contracts@nmdc.co.in.
General Manager (Contracts)
Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam / ISPAT IRADA

CSIR-TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE DIGITAL LIBRARY UNIT
14, S.V. MARG, NEW DELHI-110067
Telephone: 011-47011293; email: tkdlsupport@csir.res.in
Advertisement No. TKDL/03/2021
CSIR-TKDL Unit is a unit under Concl of Scientific & Industrial Research which is an autonomous body of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (Min. of Science & Technology), Govt. of India.
CSIR-TKDL Unit invites applications from eligible candidates for engagement of project staff in the streams of **Information Technology, Siddha and Sowa Rigpa** for its Project entitled "Digitization of Indian Systems of Medicine- Siddha and Sowa Rigpa" (Project No. MLP0005). The locations of the project activities include Delhi, Chennai, Palampur and Leh. The engagement in the said project is purely on temporary and contractual basis. The detailed advertisement is available on CSIR website: www.csir.res.in.
Last Date for receipt of applications: 26 October 2021
Under Secretary
CSIR-TKDL Unit
davp 36202/11/0020/2122

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL
General public is hereby informed that this girl namely Babita D/o Ram Bahadur R/o C-135, Gali No. 7, Nathupura, Delhi Age : 13 years Height : 4'6", Face : Oval, Complexion : Shallow, Build : Thin, Identification: Old scar mark over right eye, wearing black & white colour striped suit-salwar and red colour chappal in feet, has been missing since 08.09.2021 from her house. In this regard FIR No. 495/21 dated 09.09.2021 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi.
Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO : P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph. : 011-27812560
Fax: 24368639
Tel.: 24368638/24368641

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a man namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found on 30.09.2021 at Km Pole No. 11/4 to 11/2 Down Line Badali to Adarsh Nagar Opposite Max Hospital, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 8A dated 30.09.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi. Dead Body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi mortuary for 72 Hrs. for identification. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:
Name: Unknown, Age: About 25-27 Years, Height: 5'6", Built: Medium, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Blue Jens Pant, Blue under wear, Brown Colour Belt & White Colour Shirt.
If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.
SHO
Police Station Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi
DP/307/RLY/2021 Ph.: 011-23692455, 9811998063

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-08/2021-22
1. The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned below:-
2. Nature of Work : Road Work
3. No. of work : 1 No.
4. Tender paper Cost : Rs. 10,000.00
5. Class of Contractor : Super Class.
6. Available of bid document in the website : From 10.00 A.M. of 07.10.2021 to 5.30 PM of 28.10.2021
7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.29.10.2021 at 11:30 AM
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha
OIPR- 34117/11/0048/2122

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Moradabad for & on behalf of the President of India, e-tender for the following work:-
S. N. Name of Work & Place Area (in sq-meter) Reserve Price for 90 Days (excluding GST) Earnest Money (2% of reserve price of 90 Days) Completion Period Address of Website from which tender documents can be downloaded Last Date & Time of submission
1. Quotation for Cycle, Scooter, Motor-Cycle Stand at Roorkes Railway Station. (A-Category) 1138.35 Sq-m ₹2,51,063.01 ₹5,100 to be paid through online payment gateway 90 Days www.ireps.gov.in (E-tendering mode) Upto 14:00 hrs. on 13.10.2021 and will be open on the same day
2. Quotation for Car Parking Stand at Haridwar Railway Station (A-1 Category) 1523.38 Sq-m ₹4,96,764.49 ₹10,000 to be paid through online payment gateway 90 Days Upto 14:00 hrs. on 13.10.2021 and will be open on the same day
Note : 1. In case of any difficulty helpdesk and learning centre available on the website IREPS may be approached. 2. Tenderer(s) are advised to read tender document carefully before participating in the tender.
Tender Notice No. 21-10/Parking/MB/2021-C Date: 04.10.2021 2254/21
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi
TENDER NOTICE Date: 05.10.2021
Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.
NIT No. Brief Item Description Estimated Cost (₹) Cost of EMD (₹) Due Date & Time of Submission Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/21-22/ RB/AR/RB/958 ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR VARIOUS DIVISIONS IN BRPL 87.81 Crores 7.98 Lacs 25.10.2021 15:30 HRS 25.10.2021 15:45 HRS
CMC/BR/21-22/ RB/AR/AM/943 RATE CONTRACT FOR SHORTLISTING OF AGENCY FOR MEDIA BUYING FOR TWO YEARS IN BRPL 2.5 Crore for one Year 5.0 Lacs 25.10.2021 15:30 HRS 25.10.2021 16:00 HRS
CMC/BR/21-22/ RB/AR/KB/945 RATE CONTRACT FOR PROVIDING PULL/ PUSH SMS SERVICES FOR TWO YEARS IN BRPL 2.4 Crore for one Year 4.80 Lacs 25.10.2021 15:00 HRS 25.10.2021 15:30 HRS
Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/- (Including GST)
For any query call on 011-49207235 or e-mail on brpl.eauction@relianceada.com
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com
Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC11H527 Telephone No. : +91 11 4920 7235 | E-mail : brpl.eauction@relianceada.com | Website : www.bsesdelhi.com

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN : U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Engineering Building, HEC, Dhuurwa, Ranchi – 834004, Email:- cecr2018@gmail.com
NOTICE
"2" TIME EXTENSION"
[NIT No. 112/PR/JBVNL/2021-22]
Selection of agency for "Supply, Installation, Maintenance and Operation of Bill Collection Any Time Payment (ATP) machines at various locations under the jurisdiction of JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED under Rate Contract Arrangement"
Extended Timelines for participating in the above e-tender is detailed below:
Sl. No. Event Timelines
i Last date & time of receipt of bid documents (Online) Upto 07/10/2021 at 18:00 Hrs.
ii Last date of physical submission of Tender Fee & EMD Upto 11/10/2021 at 13:00 Hrs.
iii Due date for opening of Technical Bid (Part-I) 11/10/2021 at 16:00 Hrs.
Bid uploading / opening will be through e-tendering norms only. The complete Tender documents and amendments can be downloaded through website www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in Bidder may contact help desk of e-Procurement system at the following web address: www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in.
Contact Officials:-
General Manager (Revenue)- 8987504018
Electrical Executive Engineer (Revenue) – 9661842194
Sd/-
General Manager (Revenue)
PR No. 252185 PR 254357 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd (21-22). D

WESTERN RAILWAY VADODARA DIVISION
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
E-TENDER NOTICE NO DRM - BRC 098 TO 102 OF 2021 - 22
Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (WA/C), Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodara - 390 004 for the following works:
Sr. No. Tender No. & Name of Work Approximate cost of the work Earnest money to be deposited
1. **DRM BRC 098 of 2021-22:-** Surat-Miyagam Section (Up and Dn Lines):- Through Sleeper Renewal at isolated location 14.497 Kms. on Dn line & 11.685 Kms. on Up line by PQRS method & other associated works under jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (South) Vadodara. Total TSR 26.182 Kms. ₹2,67,85,714.13 As per bid Security declaration
2. **DRM BRC 099 of 2021-22:-** Under water cleaning, scour repairing and videography of substructure at piers of bridge no. 452 and bridge no. 502 important bridge of DEN(S) BRC's jurisdiction. ₹30,59,908.58 As per bid Security declaration
3. **DRM BRC 100 of 2021-22:-** Vadodara-Getratpur Section (Up and Dn lines & Yards) & Anand - Godhra (SA) Sections:- Through Rail Renewal with 60 kg (90 UTS) rails 10.283 Kms on isolated locations, Renewal of Switches, Crossings, Trap points, Glued Joints, Switch Expansion Joints, Transportation of P. Way Materials, Renewal of PRC sleepers on breathing zone of SEJs etc. & other associated works under the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (North)-Vadodara. ₹2,18,49,992.12 As per bid Security declaration
4. **DRM BRC 101 of 2021-22:-** Maintenance of mechanical type lifting barrier for engineering manned gates for Two years for ANAND-GODHRA section under the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer North Vadodara. ₹24,69,748.50 As per bid Security declaration
5. **DRM BRC 102 of 2021-22:-** Vadodara Division:- Construction of new Type II staff quarters for group "C" as safety category staff. (Total 139 Units) at Various location on Vadodara Division. ₹17,15,21,982.16 As per bid Security declaration
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Tender is to be submitted on 27.10.2021 before 15:00 Hrs. and is to be opened on same date at 15:30 Hrs. Web site particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen & Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased: Website:www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager (WA/C) Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodara – 390 004. WRC21NIT of 2021-22 dated 20.09.2021 144
Like us on [Facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on [Twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)

Office of Executive Engineer
Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Hazaribag
Short Tender e-Procurement Notice
(1ST Call)
Tender reference:- DWSD/DARI/PPWSS/HZB/20/2021-22 (1ST Call) dt.-: 04.10.2021
Sl. No. Particulars Estimated Cost (in Lakhs) EMD Cost (in Lakhs) Cost Of BOQ (in Rs.) Time of Completion
1. Detailed survey, designing and drawing, Construction of R.C.C. Pump House, 1.0 MLD capacity Unconventional Water Treatment Plant, RCC Elevated Service Reservoir - 200 Kilo Litre capacity Staging height- 16 m, Staff Quarter, Compound wall, Supplying and laying Raw and Clear Water rising main and Distribution Network, House Connection, Supplying and Installation of Centrifugal pump motor and Five years operation & maintenance with allied works etc. all complete job for Dari & adjoining village Rural pipe Water Supply Scheme under D.W. & S. Division Hazaribag on turnkey basis." 830.21 08.31 10,000.00 24 Months + 03 Months (Trial and run)
2. Date of Tender uploading in website Date:- 09.10.2021 up to 02:00 PM 18.09.2018 at upto 03:00 PM
Date of Pre-bid Meeting Date:- 18.10.2021 at 12:30 PM in the office of the 24.09.2018 at 12:30 PM in the office of Engineer-in-Chief, D. W. & S. Department Jharkhand Ranchi
3. Last date receipt of Bid Date:- 30.10.2021 upto 05:00 PM
4. Last date submission cost of BOQ and EMD (in hard copy) Date:- 01.11.2021 upto 04:00 PM in the office of the 1. Executive Engineer, D. W. & S. Division, Hazaribag
5. Superintending Engineer, D.W. & S. Circle, Hazaribag
3. Regional Chief Engineer, D.W. & S. Department Ranchi Zone, Ranchi
6. Date of opening tender Date:- 02.11.2021 upto 03:00 PM 05.11.2018 upto 04:00 PM 21.08.2018 at 03:30 PM
7. Name and address of office inviting tender Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Hazaribag
8. Name and address of tender opening officer Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Hazaribag
9. Contact no of e-procurement office 06546-262291
10. Helpline No. of e-procurement cell 0651-2480345
1. Estimated Cost & EMD Cost may be changed.
2. Only Registered Contractor in this department may participate in the said tender.
3. Further details can be seen on website- <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
Executive Engineer
PR254359 (Drinking Water and Sanitation)21-22*D D.W. & S. Division, Hazaribag

Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency, (UPNEDA)
(Deptt. of Additional Sources of Energy, Govt. of U.P.)
Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow UP. Tel.No.9415609008, 0522-2720779, 2720829
Website: www.upsavesenergy.com, www.upneda.org.in, E-Mail: ashok.upsda@gmail.com, ho_ashok@rediffmail.com
Bid NO.: 03/ EC /UPNEDA/SDA/2021 Tender Notice
UPNEDA invites bids from experienced and interested consultancy firms /consortiums for "To organise Workshops cum training program for farmers and other related stakeholders on energy conservation in Agricultural sector." The detailed scope of the work with eligibility conditions is described in the Bid Document.
The tender document is available at the website www.etender.up.nic.in. The interested bidders may view, download bid document and submit their bid upto the date mentioned in the table below:
a) Publication on NIT 05.10.21
b) Availability of the bid document on web site (date and time) 05.10.21 to 26.10.21 upto 5:00 PM
c) Pre-Bid Conference (Through Webinar / Video Conference) 13.10.21 at 11:30 AM Google meet link: <https://meet.google.com/pdm-sjon-obw>
d) Bid submission end date and time 26.10.21 upto 06:00 PM
e) Technical bid opening date and time 27.10.21 at 11:00 AM
f) Financial bid opening date To be decided after evaluation of Technical Bid
g) Venue of opening Technical & Financial –bid is UPNEDA Head Office
The hard copies of the required documents (as detailed in the bid document), should reach UPNEDA's head office latest by 27.10.21 upto 10:00 AM. Tender received after the due date and time will not be considered. The Director, UPNEDA reserves the right to reject any/all offer without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of the Director UPNEDA shall be final and binding.
Director, UPNEDA

Government of Maharashtra
Forest Department
Mumbai Mangrove Conservation Unit - Mumbai
68/B, Kamgar Nagar, Kurla (E), Mumbai-400 024.
E-mail : dfommcu@gmail.com
Parent Portal : <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
Tender Notice
ONLINE Tender Forms in B-1 Format for the following work are invited by the Divisional Forest Officer, Mumbai Mangrove Conservation Unit, Mumbai, 68/B, Kamgar Nagar, Kurla (E), Mumbai-400 024, from the contractors registered with the Government of Maharashtra in Appropriate class of Tender Notice.
The blank tender documents should be downloaded from Government web site <http://mahatenders.gov.in> from 05.10.2021 at 11.00 am to 29.10.2021 at 03.00 pm. Blank Tender documents will not be sold by this office; interested contractors have to download tender documents from the web site. For any queries in this regard the interested contractors can contact on Telephone No. 022-25220097 during office hours.
All requisite information required for the submission of Bid Capacity documents is available in the above said web site.
If any assistant is required regarding e-Tendering (upload/download) please contact NIC Help Desk number : 1800 3070 2232
Sr. No. Name of work Estimated cost Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.) Time limit for completion Cost of Blank Tender Form (Non-Refundable)
1 2 3 4 5 6
1. Construction of RCC Protection Wall of 2.55 mt Height to Survey No. 17 at Vashi Village of New Mumbai Range of Mumbai Mangrove Conservation Unit. 84,19,510/- 84,195/- online net banking mode 3 Months (Including Monsoon) Rs. 2,000/- online net banking mode
2. Construction of RCC Protection Wall of 2.55 mt Height with Y-Type Barbed wire fencing to Survey No. 209 at Vikroli of TCFS Mumbai Range of Mumbai Mangrove Conservation Unit. 84,92,310/- 84,923/- online net banking mode 3 Months (Including Monsoon) Rs. 2,000/- online net banking mode
1) No changes are to be made by the contractor in the tender documents published on the web site. If any changes made the tender documents will be rejected & action accordingly will be taken against the contractor. Information published on the government web site will be final.
2) Right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason there of is reserved.
Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer,
Mumbai Mangrove Conservation Unit
DGIPR/2021-2022/C-2199

GOVT. OF ASSAM
DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE, ASSAM
UZANBAZAR, GUWAHATI
No.DSW(SJ)87/2021/1
Notice Inviting Tender
Directorate of Social Welfare, Assam, Uzanbazar, Guwahati-1 invites e-tenders in two bid system affixing Court fee stamp of Rs.8.25 only, for supply of Wheelchair from the reputed Manufacturer/ Authorized Dealer for procurement during the financial year 2021-22. The terms & conditions and details of items to be supplied are described in the Tender Document. Important dates of the tender :
Sl. No. Scheduled Start date Start time End date End time
1. Tender publishing 04/10/2021 05:00 PM NA NA
2. Tender download 04/10/2021 05:00 PM 30/10/2021 05:00 PM
3. Pre-Bid Meeting No pre-bid meeting will be conducted due to the COVID19 pandemic. Bidders may sent the queries through email at directorsocialwelfareassam1@gmail.com till 08/10/2021. If during tender period Covid 19 protocol allows to hold such meeting in that situation matter will be notified in due course.
4. Bid submission 04/10/2021 05:00 PM 30/10/2021 05:00 PM
5. Bid opening 01/11/2021 11:00 AM NA NA
Tender documents may be downloaded from the official website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>.
The bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions from the website shall submit their tender online on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in> with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand) only for each tender by crossed Demand Draft/Banker's cheque issued by a Nationalized Bank/ Scheduled Commercial Bank drawn in favour of the Director of Social Welfare, Assam, Uzanbazar, Guwahati-1 and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted online- date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
The bidders shall have to submit the proof of payment of Earnest Money Deposit of Rs. 2.00 lakhs only in the form of crossed Demand Draft/ Bankers Cheque/ Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR)/Bank Guarantee drawn in favour of Director, Social Welfare, Assam from a Nationalized Bank/ Scheduled Commercial Bank and payable at Guwahati.
The Tenders should be submitted through e-procurement system only.
The original crossed Demand Draft/Bankers Cheque for tender fee and Demand Draft/ Bankers Cheque/ Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR)/Bank Guarantee for E.M.D. along with 1 no. of samples of wheelchair as per prescribed specification & other necessary documents should be submitted to the Director of Social Welfare, Assam, Uzanbazar, Guwahati-1, in a sealed cover, on or before the last date and time of submission of tender. The cover should be superscripted with the details of the tender as shown above. Samples are not returnable.
The Director of Social Welfare, Assam, Uzanbazar, Guwahati-1 reserves the right to change the opening time and date of the tender due to administrative reason by notifying the same on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>. The Directorate of Social Welfare, Assam will not be liable for any delay in submission of tenders and system errors (if any).
Janasanyog No. 6296/21
Director
Social Welfare, Assam
Uzanbazar, Guwahati-1

Pinki to fight for bronze after losing nail-biting semi-final



The pivotal moment when Pinki almost pinned Germany's Nina Hemmer before losing 6-8 in the World Championship semi-final. *Twitter/Screenshot*

Oslo : Indian wrestler Pinki nearly pinned her German rival Nina Hemmer before losing the heart-stopping 55kg semifinal 6-8 to miss out on a historic final at the World Championship even as the country's men's freestyle squad drew a blank after Rohit's defeat in the bronze medal play-off here on Monday.

In a fast-paced action-packed semifinal, Pinki trailed 0-4 after Hemmer effected a take-down move and followed that up with a quick gut wrench. Pinki kept looking for her moves and found one from a right leg-attack, pushing the back of the German on the mat for two points. She kept Hemmer in tight grip and held her in that position for more than a minute but the referees were not convinced to give away a 'fall' result. After the breather, Pinki levelled the score and then took a 6-4 lead with consecutive take-downs but Hemmer again refused to throw in the towel and pulled off two

more two-pointers to emerge winner. No Indian woman wrestler has ever played a World Championship final.

Meanwhile, Ravinder played his heart out in the men's freestyle 65kg bronze play-off but lost by fall to Mongolia's Tugla Tumur Ochir. In the absence of big guns like Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya and Deepak Punia, only Rohit and Ravinder (61kg) could reach the medal rounds while others made early exits.

In the women's 62kg category, Sangeeta Phogat made a confident start by beating Germany's Luisa Niemesch 5-2, but lost her pre-quarterfinal 4-6 to Brazil's Laís Nunes De Oliveira. Sangeeta, who is making a comeback to competitive wrestling after three years following knee issues, effected some splendid double leg attacks in both her bouts but lost points on counter attacks and also ran out of steam against the Brazilian. **PTI**

14-year-old Naamya Kapoor wins gold in Jr shooting WC

Lima: India's 14-year-old shooter Naamya Kapoor fired her way to the gold medal ahead of her celebrated compatriot Manu Bhaker in the women's 25m pistol event of the ISSF Junior world Championship here on Monday. Kapoor shot 36 in the finals to claim the top prize ahead of France's Camille Jedrzejewski (33) and 19-year-old Olympian Bhakar (31), who has already won three gold so far in the tournament. Bhaker settled for bronze after the French marksman prevailed in a shoot-off. Another Indian, Rhythm Sangwan, finished fourth. Kapoor was sixth in the qualification with a total of 580 as Bhaker (587) and Sangwan (586) grabbed the top two spots. Delhi's Kapoor had shot the second best score of 583 in qualification to finish fifth in the national shooting selection trials at the Dr Karni Singh Range in August. India lead standings with seven gold, six silver and three bronze. **PTI**

Eng out of Jr Hockey WC; notes India's rules for UK citizens

London: England pulled out of the FIH Men's Junior World Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar next month, citing a number of COVID-related concerns and taking "note" of the Indian government's mandatory 10-day quarantine protocol for all UK nationals. England Hockey said in a statement that it has informed world hockey governing body, FIH, of its decision to "unfortunately" withdraw from the November 24-December 5 tournament. "...with a number of COVID-related concerns in place, and with player and staff wellbeing in mind, it has become untenable for our team to participate. We note that on Friday the Indian government announced a mandatory ten-day quarantine for all UK nationals," the statement said. India imposed curbs on all British nationals arriving in the country after UK made it clear that even fully vaccinated Indians will have to undergo 10-day quarantine as it has issues with India's COVID-19 vaccine certification. **PTI**

Golf surges ahead... in patents

Data shows 83,267 patents related to golf have been filed from 2000-2019

SHAHID JUDGE
OCTOBER 4

WHILE HOLDING on to their key values and traditions, most sports have made serious attempts to modernise over the years. There have been thousands of patents filed for inventions made to find new and improved ways to train and compete across various disciplines. Golf - considered by many as one of the more traditional sports - has been the most innovative in terms of patents filed since the turn of the new millennium.

According to data by Sagacious IP, a global intellectual property research and consulting firm, there have been 83,267 patents filed relating to golf between 2000 and 2019. Football is a distant second in this regard with 22,397 and tennis third (20,195). Cricket, meanwhile, has seen 1,916 patents filed in that period.

Understanding 'patents'

A patent, once granted, secures the intellectual property of the inventor for a designated period of time in exchange for monetary compensation.

According to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), "A patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product of a process that provides, in general, a new way of doing something, or offers a new technical solution to a problem."

There is a difference, however, between patents 'published' and 'granted.' According to UpCounsel, a website providing legal services, "Just because a patent application is published, it won't always be granted. Patent applications are published in order to make the public sphere aware of what is seeking patent protection. This means that, if the patent isn't actually granted to the work, the public can learn from the work anyway."

Patents 'granted,' meanwhile means what the term suggests - that the patent has been approved and is protected by intellectual property rights.

Golf leading the way

The first patent filed related to golf was in 1891 when Frances Archibald Fairlie introduced improvements in metal-headed golf clubs. The sport has seen over 83,000 patents filed between 2000 and 2019. However, so far only 26,541 of those applications have been 'granted.'

Some of the patents granted relate to collection of data, its storage and analysis - data such as golf swing or scoring chart of a player.

Interchangeable club heads

Quite simply, this patent published in July 2014 relates to a single golf club shaft being fitted with interchangeable heads. Generally, a golf bag will contain numerous clubs with varying heads on the top -



One of the patents involved a single golf stick being fitted with different heads, thus minimising the total number of clubs a golfer would need to carry. *AP*

a putter and driver, for example.

With this new invention, though, the size of the golf bag reduces as a different club head can be screwed on or off a single shaft.

Golf glove holder

Another published patent - dating back to 2002 - is the golf glove holder mounted on the golf cart.

It was specifically designed to provide players with a quick way of drying their gloves that may have become damp due to sweat.

Making football modern

Between 2000 and 2019, 22,397 patents were filed in football, and 7,392 granted. The first patent filed in football dates back to 1907 when Maria Henriette Godey created an outer casing or envelope for soccer balls, according to Sagacious IP.

The online gaming industry has developed several football games, which have been patented as well.

Portable football goal

Probably one of the most important inventions to have aided the current trend of multi-purpose sporting venues across the world is the 1986 invention of the portable football goal. Essentially, the frame of the football goal post can easily be dismantled and stored when not required, and can just as easily be erected when a football match has to be played.

Motion graphics on the ball

Visual designs on a football don't just serve as a cosmetic effect. In 2017, Nike was granted a patent for the motion graphics on a ball. It es-

entially means there are designs in one or more contrasting colours on the casing of a football that allow data to be assessed - for example, the number of rotations per minute of a ball in flight after a free-kick is hit, etc.

Cricket chirping at patents

Cricket has only seen 332 patents granted from the 1,916 filed between 2000 and 2019. The sport's first patent came in 1894, when William David Cameron invented improvements in bats.

A large number of cricket's modern patents have been about apps that collect and disseminate data. But there have been a decent number that relate to on-field changes as well.

Rain cricket

In 2011, George William Beldam invented a cricket ball that doesn't lose its shape when damp, and can be used to conduct play during the rain. Various other factors, however, have marred the implementation of this patent, such as low visibility and bats getting damaged.

Mongoose cricket bats

As the 2021 IPL season nears its completion, it's worth remembering that in the second season of the T20 league in 2009, former Australian opener Matthew Hayden decided to play with a Mongoose bat. The bat had a longer handle and shorter wooden face at the bottom. The face, however, was much thicker - almost three times that of a conventional bat. It provided greater power when facing yorkers or low-full tosses.

Despite Hayden's success with that bat, it did not catch on.

Indians made to sweat by 10-man Bangladesh in SAFF opener

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MALE, OCTOBER 4

INDIA ALLOWED a 10-man Bangladesh to come back and score a shock goal after talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri's 76th international strike to play out a 1-1 draw in their SAFF Championships opener here on Monday.

The 37-year-old Chhetri, playing in his 121st match for India, struck in the 27th minute to place himself just a goal shy of legendary Brazilian Pele (77 goals from 92 matches).

He is now in the fourth spot in the list of highest scorers among active footballers, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (111), Lionel Messi (79) and UAE's Ali Mabkhout (77).

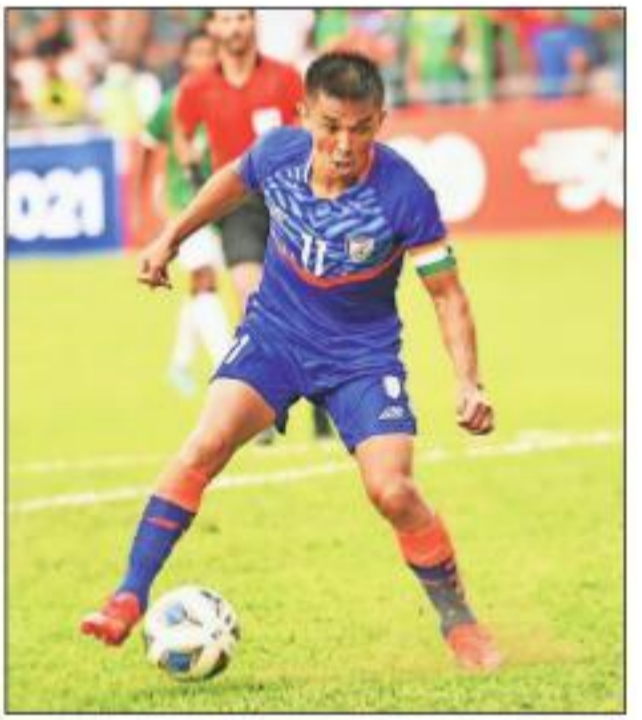
India were the better side in the first half and even though they lost possession quite often, they seemed to be cruising. They also had numerical advantage from 54th minute onwards after Bangladesh player Biswanath Ghosh was sent off for committing a foul on Liston Colaco.

But Igor Stimac's men failed to stop the swift counter-attacking Bangladeshis on their tracks and conceded a goal in the 74th minute. The Bangladeshis, playing under a new coach after the 2022 World Cup qualifiers, pulled one back in the 74th minute despite numerical inferiority.

Yasir Arafat sent a diving header from a swinging corner kick into the Indian goal.

Bangladesh have always been a difficult opponent for India who had needed a late equaliser to draw the first leg of the 2022 World Cup qualifiers in Kolkata before winning 2-0 in the second leg.

India play Sri Lanka in their second round-robin league match on Thursday.



Sunil Chhetri scored his 76th international goal in the 1-1 draw. *AIFF*

CROSSWORD 4552

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8												
9												
11												
15												
19												
20												

ACROSS
1 Tackle some vote manipulating (7)
5 Different from the inside or outside (5)
8 When one may have a change of scene during a break (2,3,8)
9 One is disturbed by the din (5)
10 Not conscious there's a new aura about (7)
11 Get to grips with the staff problem? (6)
12 They usually lead to the quarry (6)
15 Restoration novel in authentic setting (7)
17 Business lacks go in Pakistan (5)
19 It gives one no real alternative (7,6)
20 In the garden it reinforces saltpetre (5)
21 Somehow ends Red China (7)

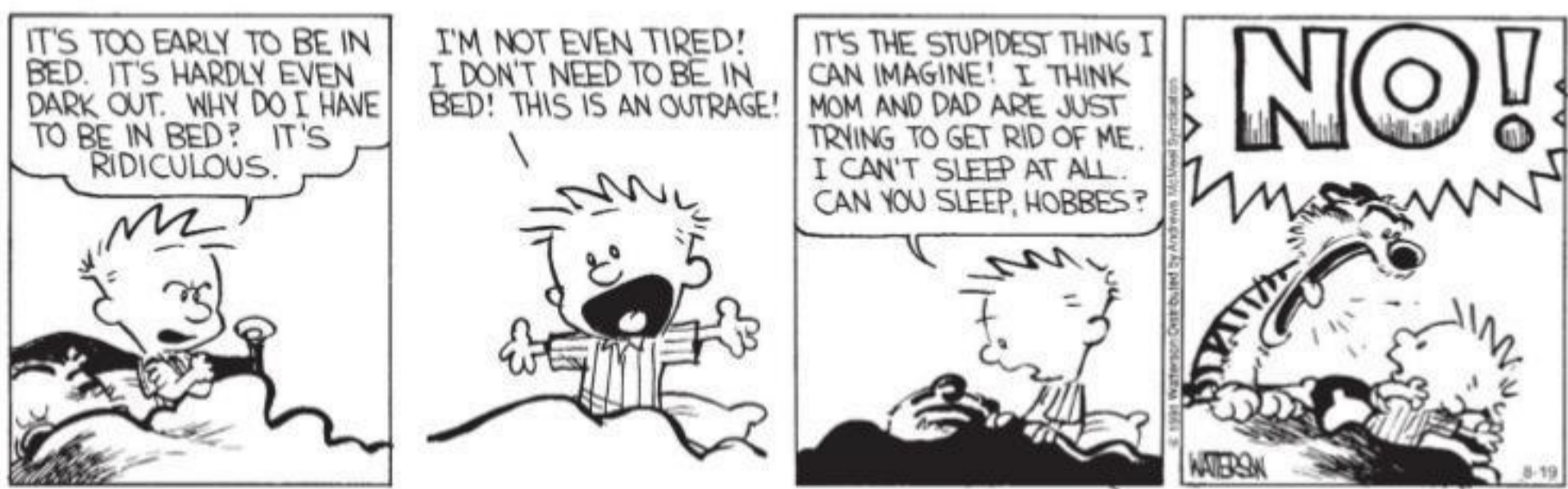
DOWN
1 Work to rule? (5)
2 Rather old to be harnessing a horse? (7,2,1,3)
3 Seaborne territorial detachment from the Arctic (7)
4 One in the biology class is very bright (6)
5 Showing love for a musical drama (5)
6 Be strongly inclined to be an intellectual? (4,1,4,4)
7 They take no end of towels (7)
11 Are designed then made of clay (7)
13 Please put in an old-fashioned way (7)
14 Not open for business yet clinched the deal (6)
16 A question of property (5)
18 Wild goose yarn? (5)

Solutions Crossword 4551: Across: 1 Realm, 8 Inchoate, 9 Onset, 10 Discover, 11 State, 12 Pet, 16 Gille, 17 Infirm, 18 Nee, 23 Meant, 24 Executed, 25 Basic, 26 Entwines, 27 Flirt. Down: 2 Einstein, 3 Lie still, 4 Incite, 5 Shock, 6 Waive, 7 Heard, 12 Pen, 13 Tie, 14 After all, 15 Frontier, 19 Eleven, 20 Sexes, 21 Petty, 22 Quail.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

_____, and the world will imagine the worst - Marcus Valerius Martialis (7,1,4)

BTA AE

FTALO

EOVCLN

ERUCFW

SOLUTION: ABATE, ALTOFT, CLOVEN, CUREFV
Answer: Conceal a flaw, and the world will imagine the worst - Marcus Valerius

Difficulty Level 4s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

		9	6					
6			7		3			
	4			9		6		
1		2		6				8
3								1
8			9		7			2
		3		7		1		
			3	2			6	
				4	5			

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SUDOKU 4615

1	9	6	4	2	5	8	3	7
5	4	7	6	3	8	2	1	9
2	3	8	7	1	9	6	4	5
9	2	3	1	4	6	5	7	8
4	6	5	2	8	7	1	9	3
8	7	1	5	9	3	4	6	2
3	5	2	9	6	4	7	8	1
6	1	9	8	7	2	3	5	4
7	8	4	3	5	1	9	2	6

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4614

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Somewhere along the line you appear to have upset someone whose influence could help you in the future. There is no time like the present for putting shaky relationships back on a firm footing. At work you need to take a more creative course. Is there a new skill you can learn?

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)

The financial picture remains rather uncertain, possibly because you have allowed an opportunity to slip through your hands. Optimism is all very well, but don't allow unrealistic hopes to influence your actions. While your head is in the clouds keep one foot on the ground.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The current relationship between Jupiter and Saturn is undoubtedly positive, and you should use the opportunity to implement plans which you have been considering for some time but frankly felt were not in your line of business. Oh - and within the month you will have forgotten that certain current problems ever existed.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The emotional Moon is now impacting on a sociable area of your horoscope, revealing that you have everything to gain from associations with other people, especially those who are clearly in the know. Even at work you'll have to operate as part of a team. Go it alone and you may do yourself long-term damage.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

The period you've just been through has not been entirely to your liking. However, every astrological cloud has a silver lining, and very soon the benefits derived from recent upsets will be made plain. In the end you'll decide that the wait was worth it.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

Tensions are building up at home, although there is no reason why this should be considered bad. Anything which forces you to get out of your rut and make improvements is to be welcomed. There seems to be a great deal going in your favour at home, so any difficulties could be a result of your own impatience.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

You are fortunate to be born under the sign of Venus, a planet which has been affording you a great deal of protection lately. Now, however, you must learn to stand on your own two feet. It's fine to depend on partners sometimes, but not all the time.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

You may have been sitting on confidential information or keeping a secret on behalf of a friend. However, be prepared for everything to come into the open before the week is out. There is no way that partners will let you off the hook, so you'd better have your story ready.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Seeing as there is shortly to be a critical planetary alignment in your sign, you should tread carefully. It's necessary to retain your sense of optimism regarding the future, yet your downfall could be over-confidence. My advice would be to double-check every detail.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Today's lunar positions offer you the strongest possible advice to listen to close partners. You may be astonished at the quality of their ideas, and quite possibly pleasantly surprised by the outcome. Your other planets are pointing the way to monetary success.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 20)

It will seem terribly unfair when people who hardly know you feel they have the right to comment critically on your behaviour. Yet this is what may happen today and tomorrow, so don't rise to the bait. You'll get everything you need by watching and waiting until the time is right.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

A professional upset is on the cards, yet the changes which result may be to your liking. Meetings or communications at the end of the week may clarify the picture, so don't sign on the dotted line just yet. In fact, a commitment may not be necessary until next year.

Super-Het finisher

West Indian ensures Delhi Capitals cross the finish line after a minor hiccup while chasing CSK’s 136



Shimron Hetmeyer scored an unbeaten 28 from 18 balls under pressure in Delhi Capitals' win over Chennai Super Kings. [iplt20.com](#)

SYNOPSIS:

Dhoni under bowls Bravo as Dhawan & Hetmeyer sparkle in Delhi's win.

SRIRAM VEERA

OCTOBER 4

WHY WAS Dwayne Bravo given just two overs, the 18th and the 20th? That decision from MS Dhoni might well have proved the difference between a win and a loss.

It was a two-paced tacky pitch ideally suited for Bravo's slower ones that grip the surface. Dhoni wasn't asked the question at the post-match but in a general observation on the pitch, he said he thought taller bowlers who hit the deck posed more problems.

That would fit a bowler like Delhi's Kagiso Rabada, who has the ability to pound the track with his slow cutters, and not someone like Josh Hazlewood or even Deepak Chahar, who bowled seven overs between them. Bravo cannot only serve out the full dipping slower ones but also possesses the ability to deliver the cutters that grip the surface.

Bravo puzzle

Be as that may be, Bravo nearly won the game in his two overs, the 18th and 20th of the chase, when he was brought out of the cold storage. He could have sealed it in his first itself had K Gowtham held on to a regulation catch at long-on that would have taken out the danger man Shimron Hetmeyer. Instead, it ran away to the

POINTS TABLE					
	M	W	L	NRR	Pts
DC	13	10	3	+0.526	20
CSK	13	9	4	+0.739	18
RCB	12	8	4	-0.157	16
KKR	13	6	7	+0.294	12
PBKS	13	5	8	-0.241	10
RR	12	5	7	-0.337	10
MI	12	5	7	-0.453	10
SRH	12	2	10	-0.475	4

boundary to leave Delhi Capitals needing 18 from 14.

But Bravo wasn't done yet. He nearly pulled it off in the final over when he had to defend just six runs. It came down to three from four after a dot ball, when he induced Axar Patel to squirt one of his typical well-outside-off slower one straight to covers. This time, though, Bravo slipped a full ball on the pads and Kagiso Rabada helped it away to the fine-leg boundary.

Hetmeyer roars

The man who celebrated the most was Hetmeyer, hopping, pumping his fist, and roaring away. And why not, it was a lovely gem from him under pressure. When Hetmeyer walked out at No.7, below R Ashwin, Delhi Capitals required 39 from 35. Ashwin's promotion was quite understandable as Shikhar Dhawan was still there, and Ashwin had shown in the previous game that in a run-a-ball situation

UAE to allow fans for T20 World Cup

Dubai: Stadiums in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will operate at 70% of capacity for the Twenty20 World Cup, the organisers said, though conditions in Oman, where preliminary rounds are due to be played, have still to be fully assessed following a cyclone. Tropical Cyclone Shaheen struck coastal areas of Oman, including the capital of Muscat on Sunday, two weeks before preliminary round matches of the tournament commencement on Oct. 17.

REUTERS

on a slow pitch, he could do the job adequately. As it transpired, not only Ashwin but Dhawan too combusted, slamming a wide half-volley to cover fielder.

Hetmeyer worked the singles until the 18th over when he thumped Bravo to the straight boundary. He nearly holed out the next ball but not only did Gowtham relieve him, he also got a four. When 15 runs were needed off nine, he walloped Josh Hazlewood over the backward square-leg boundary to bring back parity.

There was some controversy in the final over when the umpires called a full toss wide outside off that didn't land on the pitch as a wide. Ricky Ponting, Delhi's coach, was livid as he rightly felt it should have been a no-ball with a free hit on offer.

But Delhi held their nerves to finish the game.

Dhawan does a Dhawan

There aren't many batsmen more suitable than Shikhar Dhawan in a sub 150 kind of a chase. Especially on slow tracks. And especially these days, when he is in red-hot form and can attack from the start when he decides.

It was a fine knock from Dhawan on how to go about the chase in these conditions. He took calculated risks with the new ball against Deepak Chahar. Scratch that; risk, it wasn't. He went down the track to hoist Chahar a couple of times beyond the boundary but he is one of the best exponents of that to the seamers in recent years.

When most others do that, you can sense the adrenalin rush and feel the risk. Dhawan advances steadily — doesn't charge, doesn't skip, doesn't rush. He maintains his shape admirably - doesn't open up, stays side-on, shoulder pressing forward and executes his shot well. And can pull out of any intended big hit if the ball isn't quite there, as he would to Shardul Thakur in the 15th over.

In the end, he fell hitting a wide half-volley from Thakur to cover to usher in some drama in the chase but his contribution was vital. Just as Ambati Rayudu's fine 55 was in giving Chennai something to bowl.

BRIEF SCORES: Chennai Super Kings 136 for 5 (Rayudu 55, Axar 2-18) lost to Delhi Capitals 139 for 7 (Dhawan 39, Hetmeyer 28*, Thakur 2-13) by three wickets

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Ruturaj & seasons in the sun



Anrich Nortje celebrates Ruturaj Gaikwad's wicket but the decision was reversed after the latter went upstairs. [iplt20.com](#)

It's a testament to Ruturaj Gaikwad that the Delhi Capitals exploded in joy and sunk in disappointment within a minute. Anrich Nortje thinking he had his man lbw in the first over, fist-pumped and roared. The most expansive celebration was Shimron Hetmeyer's running all the way from the boundary to hug the bowler. Once Gaikwad sent it upstairs and DRS reprieved him, he had a

quiet smile with Faf du Plessis. Nortje turned grim and Hetmeyer slumped his shoulders. 16 runs came from that over, filled with wides and leg byes that ran to the boundary. Rishabh Pant put in an acrobatic dive to get across the first slip to gather a wide swinging delivery; or it'd be 20 runs. Previously, his first movement invariably went left and late on the ball to his right. Not any more.

Pant's Patel-rap

Communications-wise, Axar Patel-Rishabh Pant has to be the most exciting bowling-keeping combo. The doggerels from the not-so-distant past of India-England Tests, the left-arm spinner teasing England batsmen earlier this year and Pant serenading him: "*Thoda sa aage, Milkha Singh bhaage, pyara Axar jaage*". Then there was: "*Ollie Pope ko Lollipop do, ball ghoomega toh ye jhoomega*." Against CSK, Patel was in the middle of an excellent spell and true to T20 cricket's matter-of-fact nature, Pant's instructions to his spinner was about not letting the pressure slip. After Moeen Ali got out to Patel, Ambati Rayudu played a firm push to the bowler's left. Readily, Pant's sharp-shooting came: "*Oye Patel, ruk, ruk, ruk...*" Patel acted on his captain's command and ran around to get a hand to ball. Rayudu rotated the strike though, much to Pant's expressive chagrin.



Gowtham's oopsie daisie

CSK's Krishnappa Gowtham could have probably ended the chase in the 18th over when Shimron Hetmeyer slugged Dwayne Bravo towards him at long-on. Delhi Capitals had needed 22 runs from 15 balls at that stage and Hetmeyer was keen. Gowtham took a couple of steps forward and started to bend down his knees as the ball began to dip. He went for the Australian way, cupping his palms out but had to keep going down to cover for the dip. Yes, he could have taken it in the Indian way with palms up but not that the Australian way was wrong. Just one of those days, where it didn't come off. Perhaps the pressure, perhaps it dipped more than he thought and by the time his knees touched the ground, the ball popped out of his palms. So did the game.



c. Smile b. Roar

Shardul Thakur had just struck Ravi Ashwin's cup noodle-selling back pad while his flick lagged, before the scramble seam did its thing and struck the off-stump. Next, Thakur opted for the shorter delivery to Shikhar Dhawan. The set batter would try to pull as the ball whooshed past his bat to the keeper. Dhoni would stir up an appeal with Thakur in unison and the umpire didn't harbour a doubt. A cheeky smile from Dhoni preceded the Ultraedge being ultra disinterested in jagg the flatline as Dhawan lived to tell a snippet. He was quiet the next two deliveries before Thakur hurried the final ball into the slot and Dhawan wanting to break free, would drive it to Moeen Ali who hopped, pouched the ball



and then broke into a surprise smile. Thakur, denied earlier, roared. Dhoni had had the first smile though.

England will only play Ashes series if best players in squad

ASSOCIATED PRESS
OCTOBER 4

ENGLAND WILL only travel to Australia for the Ashes series across December and January if its leading players are in the squad.

That was the message from the England and Wales Cricket Board on Monday, with the governing body saying it will announce this week if the tour will go ahead amid concerns about restrictions in place in Australia due to the pandemic. An ECB statement said there has been "regular and positive dialogue" with Cricket Australia about arrangements for Ashes series, one of the biggest occasions in cricket. However, England's players are concerned about the conditions they will have to live in after arriving in Australia, such as the quarantine arrangements and whether family members can travel.

The ECB said the priority was to ensure the tour can take place "with conditions for players and management to perform at their best." "We will continue talking to our players this week to share the latest information and seek feedback," the ECB said.

Tellingly, the governing body added that the squad selected needed to be "befitting a series of this significance." With the World Twenty20 competition taking place in the United Arab Emirates and Oman from Oct. 17-Nov. 14 and the five-test Ashes series beginning on Dec. 8 until mid-January, plus

England's players are concerned about the conditions they will have to live in after arriving in Australia, such as the quarantine arrangements and whether family members can travel

quarantine either side and before the Ashes, some players could be away from home for more than three months.

Ben Stokes, England's star allrounder, is currently missing for England because he is taking a break from cricket to protect his mental health. England captain Joe Root has n't committed to taking part in the Ashes amid the ongoing talks, and Australia captain Tim Paine said last week "the Ashes are going ahead ... whether Joe is here or not."

The ECB statement suggests this is not the case and that England will not countenance taking a weakened squad to Australia.

England's international schedule has undergone repeated changes during the pandemic. The team returned home early from tours of Sri Lanka and South Africa in 2020 while the fifth test against India in the countries' recent series in England was abandoned on the morning of the match after the Indians decided not to play due to fears over a COVID outbreak in its touring group.

Park ji-Sung urges Manchester United fans to stop singing ‘racist’ dog meat song at games

DANIEL VICTOR
LONDON, OCTOBER 4

PARK JI-SUNG, a fan-favorite former player for Manchester United, asked the soccer club's fans on Sunday to stop singing a song in his honor that includes the racist stereotype that Koreans eat dog meat.

As a decorated midfielder for the team from 2005 to 2012, Park earned the adoration of the team's fans, who bestowed upon him a common honor in the soccer world: a song or chant, often performed in the stadium, with lyrics intended to praise him.

But the reference to dog meat was "very uncomfortable to me," even though he was proud that fans made a song for him and he understood they did not intend to offend or hurt him, he said on an official team podcast released on Sunday.

He thought he had to accept it, he said, having come to Britain from South Korea as a young player who was unfamiliar with the culture. But he heard fans sing the song again in August when Hwang Hee-chan, a South Korean, made his debut for the Wolverhampton Wanderers in a game against Manchester United.

"I should probably speak out more loud this time," Park said on the podcast. Even if fans didn't mean any offense, he said, "I have



Park Ji-Sung said he empathised with his compatriot Hwang Hee-chan, who made his debut for the Wolves in a game against Manchester United. *File*

to educate for the fans to stop that word, which is these days usually a racial insult to the Korean people."

Manchester United said in a statement that it "fully supports Ji-sung's comments and urges fans to respect his wishes."

References to dog meat have long been used as an attack on Koreans overseas, a stereotype rooted in the country's longstanding battle over the ongoing, but diminishing, practice of raising dogs for human consumption.

Most Koreans do not eat dog meat now; a September 2020 survey by Nielsen found that 84 percent of Koreans either have never eaten it or do not intend to do so in the future.

The culture has "changed enormously" over the decades and even more rapidly in recent years, said Lola Webber, a director of campaigns to end dog meat consumption for Humane Society International. Most younger Koreans are appalled by the thought, she said, though some older Koreans still seek

I have to educate the fans to stop that word, which is usually these days a racial insult to the Korean people. In Korea, things have changed a lot. It is true that historically we have eaten dog meat but these days, particularly the younger generation, they really dislike it."

PARK JI-SUNG
FORMER MANCHESTER UNITED STAR

out the meat at specialized restaurants.

"It is not part of mainstream culture by any means in South Korea," she said. "It hasn't been for a very long time, but especially in the last few years, there's been a very vocal opposition." Last week, President Moon Jae-in of South Korea suggested banning the consumption of dog meat, recognizing it as an international embarrassment.

The world's top soccer clubs have consistently wrestled with racist behavior by some of their fans. In 2017, Romelu Lukaku, who is Black, asked Manchester United fans to stop singing a song for him that contained a racial stereotype. Some fans refused, following the song with a new one: "We're Man United, we'll sing what we want." **NYT**



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