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**PANDORA PAPERS – PART 7**AN INVESTIGATION BY THE INDIAN EXPRESS
WITH INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF
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Kamal Nath's son, Agusta deal key accused had offshore links



Trident Trust's company opening form shows Bakul Nath as Beneficial Owner

RITUSARIN

NEW DELHI, OCT 10

KEY PERSONS indicted in the controversial AgustaWestland helicopter deal figure in the Pandora Papers because of their offshore networks and alleged money flows, an investigation of records by *The Indian*



Express has revealed.

From Bakul Nath, the NRI son of Congress veteran and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, to case accused Rajiv Saxena, these records provide fresh evidence in the corruption scandal which has had the CBI and ED filing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

After 2 months, India, China top generals meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

INDIA AND China held the 13th round of Corps Commander-level talks on Sunday at Moldo. The meeting, which started around 10.30 am, ended around 7 in the evening.

The Indian delegation was led by Lt Gen P G K Menon, com-

mander of the Leh-based XIV Corps, which is responsible for the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. The Chinese side was headed by Maj Gen Liu Lin, commander of the Xinjiang military district.

No details of the meeting were immediately available.

Since the standoff began in May 2020, the two sides have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**THERMAL PLANT WORRIES**

Enough coal stock, fears of crisis misplaced: Govt

Delhi Deputy CM compares Govt
reaction to medical oxygen crisis**KARUNJIT SINGH**
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

THE COAL Ministry said on Sunday that India has sufficient stocks to meet the demand for coal in thermal power plants, and that fears of a disruption in power supply are "entirely misplaced".

Thermal power plants in the country are currently facing a shortage of coal due to a sharp uptick in power demand, restricted supplies due to heavy rainfall in September, low accumulation of stock in April-June,

and a sharp increase in the price of imported coal.

The ministry's statement came in response to an accusation by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia that the Centre was trying to "run away" from the coal crisis.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, asking that the Centre ensure adequate supplies of coal and natural gas to thermal power plants supplying Delhi, three of which had coal stocks of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4Post-lockdown
demand up, dip
in local stocks**ANIL SASI**
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10**EXPLAINED**

INDIA'S ELECTRICITY sector is faced with a perfect storm: a precipitous, and clearly unanticipated, spike in nationwide energy demand that is severely testing the fuel supply chain feeding the coal-fired

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Immoral to turn events into 'Hindu vs Sikh' battle: Varun Gandhi

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

BJP MP Varun Gandhi on Sunday said any "attempt to turn [the violent incidents in] Lakhimpur Kheri into a Hindu vs Sikh battle" is "an immoral and false narrative", and "it is dangerous to...reopen wounds that have taken a generation to heal".

"We must not put petty political gains above national unity," Varun posted on Twitter. The Lok Sabha MP from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**BUSINESS AS USUAL**

By UNNY

Lakhimpur:
Police launch
raids to trace
Ashish's 'friend'**MANISH SAHU**
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 10

AFTER THE arrest of Union MoS Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra on murder charges, the UP Police Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Lakhimpur Kheri incident has started conducting raids to trace a relative of former Congress MP, the late Akhilesh Das, for questioning in the case. The Indian Express has learnt.

On Monday, the police are also likely to seek custody of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Study draws co-relation between bird mortality and artificial lighting

Indian cricket Ravichandran Ashwin has often been called 'disgraceful' for not following the 'Spirit of the Game'. But what exactly is the spirit of the game? Is it really necessary? And does it create more problems than it solves?

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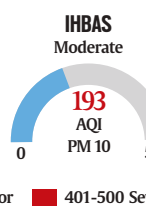
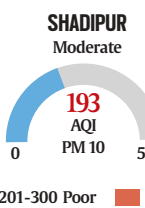
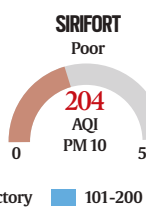
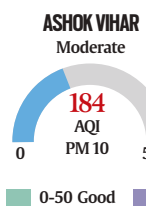
BAKUL NATH: His name figured in the interrogation report of Rajiv Saxena who is currently on bail. Case records show that Saxena, in alleged collusion with Delhi-based lawyer Gautam Khaitan, received Euro 12.40 million in the account of Interstellar Technologies from AgustaWestland. This was allegedly laundered further to pay other middlemen and public servants.

Hyatt Hotel in New Delhi and the Yak & Yeti Hotel in Kathmandu. The trust he set up for Saraf is called Varunisha Trust.

In the case of Aditya Khanna, Gautam Khanna appears as the "professional intermediary" for the Glacier Trust incorporated by Trident Trust in BVI. The company, through a complex structure, holds restaurants in London – Tamarind

Varun had earlier written to UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asking for relief measures for the distressed and agitating farmers. After some BJP leaders linked the violence in Lakshimpur Khori to alleged 'Khalistanis', Varun had told *The Indian Express* that it was "unfair and cruel" to use "pejorative and demeaning" language against the "struggling farmers", and that it is

Ashish Mishra's lawyer Awadesh Kumar Singh, said that there is no evidence against his client and that there is no video clip that establishes his presence at the spot. Singh confirmed that Ashish had submitted a "pendrive containing videos and photographs" to police.



SISODIA HITS OUT

‘Centre turning blind eye to power crisis’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

DEPUTY CHIEF Minister Manish Sisodia Sunday said the Centre was shutting its eyes to the impending power crisis in the country despite state governments raising concerns. He was reacting to Union Power Minister R K Singh's statement earlier in the day, saying there was no power crisis in Delhi.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had also written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention and highlighting the low availability of coal in thermal power plants that provide electricity to Delhi's DISCOMs.

The Ministry of Power issued a statement later in the day, saying that Delhi's power demand will be met and that there will be no shortage of supply in gas for running gas-based power plants in the city.

“Ministry of Coal and Coal India have assured that there is ample coal available in the country to meet the demand of power plants... The Minister (RK Singh) has directed that distribution companies of Delhi will get as much power as requisitioned by them as per their demand. NTPC and DVC have been directed to give full availability as per the requirement of DISCOMs. GAIL India Limited has been advised



Deputy CM Manish Sisodia

to make gas available from all sources,” the statement said.

Sisodia, however, compared the situation to the oxygen shortage faced by Delhi during the second Covid wave in April and May.

“For the past three-four days, CMs of different states have alerted the Centre about the coal shortage. The Power Minister, however, said today that there was no crisis at all and these were rumours. He also said that Arvind Kejriwal should not have written to the PM. I am saddened that the union cabinet minister is being so irresponsible. At a time when CMs of different states have sought your intervention, you are criticising them for it. It shows that the BJP has reached a stage where it is not being able to run the government and is running away from reality. Something similar had happened when the oxygen cri-

sis had hit. Governments, doctors, and patients' attendants were telling them that there was a shortage of oxygen but instead of believing them, they were making fun of them. We saw later what the result was,” Sisodia said.

Thermal power plants have been witnessing a shortage of coal for the past few days. While the national average of coal availability in power plants is four days, it is one day in several power plants supplying to Delhi, including NTPC Dadri I and Jhajjar.

Sisodia said a coal crisis will quickly turn into an electricity crisis, which will hit all industries.

“The Centre's policy of shutting their eyes to problems is wrong. If the Centre does not acknowledge the crisis, we will be in trouble and will have a crisis across industries. States such as Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Delhi are all saying there is a crisis, states are planning power cuts, but the Centre doesn't want to admit there is a problem... Governments can work well in cooperation, not confrontation,” he said.

The power ministry, meanwhile, warned DISCOMs that action will be taken against them if they resort to load shedding despite being power available as per power purchase agreements.

In fresh push to remove abandoned vehicles from streets, MCDs to auction, recycle them

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

IN A fresh push to clear abandoned vehicles from Delhi's streets, the three civic bodies will paste notices asking owners to remove them in a week else they will be towed away. Those vehicles that are beyond their operational age will either be auctioned or recycled.

Deputy Commissioner of North MCD Himanshu Gupta said, “Owners will be given a week's time to remove such cars. Else, these will be picked up by the corporation and auctioned off or recycled as such vehicles cannot ply on roads as per pollution control norms.”

Diesel vehicles over 10 years old and petrol vehicles over 15 years are not allowed on roads of Delhi-NCR. “Vehicles older than 15 years will not be released. Those that are fit to ply will be released after the owner pays a fine,” said Gupta.

A senior official said the fine will be between Rs 1,500-Rs 3,000 depending on the weight of the vehicle.



The owner will get a week to remove their vehicle else it will be towed away

taking. The same will be shared with the transport department.

On Saturday, more than 50 vehicles were removed from roads and lanes in the Karol Bagh Zone as part of a special drive. Commissioner Sanjay Goel said the North MCD has declared Saturdays as ‘dumped vehicles removal day’.

“These vehicles make the entire area dirty and pose a traffic hazard,” he said, adding that more such drives will be undertaken.

In Northwest Delhi, dip in street crime since launch of all-women patrol team

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

NEARLY THREE months since the launch of women-centric beats and intensified patrolling in Delhi's Northwest district, police Sunday said there has been a 31% dip in crimes against women and 23% dip in street crimes in the area. According to police, the dip is mainly because of women beat officers who have been deployed on streets and at crime-prone areas every day.

In July, the Northwest district had introduced an all-women beat at each police station to patrol the streets two to three times a day on bikes and police vans. This was done to ensure safety of women in the area and curb crimes against women.

Senior officers deployed 46 women constables in sensitive areas and asked them to conduct house checks, patrolling, and conduct surveys at high footfall areas such as parks and malls. Most of these constables were earlier working at public facilitation desks. The constables were also provided with two-wheelers and vans to help them in patrolling.

Police said the drive has not only helped citizens but has motivated women constables in the



The district had introduced an all-women beat at each police station to patrol the streets on bikes, police vans



district to perform better. DCP (Northwest) Usha Rangnani said the 46 constables have solved more than 116 cases in the last three months and arrested 137 criminals.

“These constables were sent to JJ clusters and markets in Jahangirpuri, Shakarpur, Pitampura. They also covered malls, metro stations and schools. We wanted the presence of women among our staff so that people can freely approach us and file complaints. Now, more women approach us and tell us about men who

either stalk or harass them. They trust our constables,” said the DCP.

While more complaints of molestation, harassment and abuse were reported, there was a decrease in the number of cases and PCR calls in the area.

According to data provided by the Delhi Police, there has been a 31 per cent dip in crimes against women and a 23 per cent dip in street crimes such as snatching and robbery where women are targeted.

The woman constables have also helped several com-

plainants by providing them with legal help in cases of dowry harassment.

A total of 243 women senior citizens who live alone in residential areas such as Pitampura and Model Town were provided medical and legal aid by the constables.

One of the constables, T Zolian Sangi (24), conducts patrolling on a bike.

Sangi said she now feels “motivated” about her job and wants women to feel safe like she does: “We go to malls, parks and colonies at least two times a day. I have interacted with school children, their mothers, old women and working individuals. We get different complaints every day and try to resolve their issues.”

Another constable, Kiran from Bharat Nagar, recently chased and fought off a man who allegedly snatched a woman's phone in Bharat Nagar. Kiran was on patrol when she heard the woman screaming.

“She ran after the snatcher who had a knife and fought with him bravely and apprehended him,” said a police officer.

DCP Rangnani said she will ask senior officers to deploy more women in the district to bring the crime rate down and improve public-police relations further.

The South MCD too is set to follow suit and will intensify its operations in the coming days, said senior officials. A senior North DMC official added, “Unclaimed vehicles will be used in our ‘waste to wonder’ initiative.” Under this initiative, the civic bodies have been making artefacts and monument replicas from scrapped iron. These have been placed in parks — like Bharat Darshan park in Punjabi Bagh — and turned into a tourist attraction.

Murder at SGT university: Many students return home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, OCTOBER 10

TWO DAYS after a 21-year-old student of SGT University was shot dead allegedly by another student on campus, several classmates of the victim have left their hostels and returned home. They have decided against attending classes for a few days till the accused persons are arrested.

Vinit Kumar, a fourth-year student of Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery, was shot dead on Friday. Police have booked four students from the same university on murder charges.

A classmate said, “After the incident, many day scholars and at least 20 students of the hostel returned home. It is difficult to attend classes. Students have only been discussing this [incident] and our parents are worried...”

A university spokesperson said: “... We are ensuring that all necessary security arrangements are in place for safety of students... Some students have left hostel, but teachers are in constant touch with them...”

DCP (West) Deepak Saharan said, “Four crime teams are conducting raids to arrest the accused persons. We have some leads and they will be arrested soon.”

2 policemen caught taking Rs 50k bribe held by CBI

New Delhi: A sub-inspector and an assistant sub-inspector have been arrested by CBI, officials said Sunday. Police said the two were allegedly caught taking a bribe of Rs 50,000 from another officer, SI Manoj, at Malviya Nagar police station. SI Manoj was earlier posted in South district. On August 3, a woman constable lodged a complaint against him alleging rape. The investigation was handed over to SI Romi Memroth.

Officials said on Saturday night, Manoj came to the station to meet Romi to hand over ‘documents’. Since she wasn't there, she sent her subordinate ASI Lekhrum to get it. Meanwhile, a team of CBI officials received a tip that Manoj would be coming to the police station and went there. They caught Lekhrum taking a bag with Rs 50,000 cash. He told police that SI Romi asked him to collect the money. **ENS**

Swara Bhasker files harassment, stalking complaint

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

BOLLYWOOD ACTRESS Swara Bhasker has filed a complaint against two men after allegedly being stalked and harassed on various social media platforms.

The Delhi Police on Sunday said they have registered a case at Southwest Delhi's Vasant Kunj police station.

Gaurav Sharma, DCP (Southwest), said the actress filed a complaint on Sunday alleging that a Twitter user and a YouTube influencer were circulating messages and posts on social media.

“There are also some hashtags being used online with regard to one of her movies. A criminal case has been regis-



The actress has filed a complaint against two men. Police on Sunday said they have registered a case

tered at Vasant Kunj (North) police station. We are investigating the matter,” said the DCP.

The actress will record her statement at Patiala House court on Monday.

To maintain CP smog tower, DPCC set to sign agreement

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

THE DELHI Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) will soon sign an agreement with Tata Projects Limited and National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) for operations and maintenance of the smog tower at Connaught Place for the next four years.

Inaugurated in August, the smog tower has been costing the Delhi government dear. According to Anwar Ali Khan, project in-charge and DPCC senior environmental engineer, a total of Rs 12 lakh will have to be shelled out per month — roughly amounting to around Rs 1.44 crore per year. This does not factor in the use of electricity. The tower consumes around 1,150 kWh of energy. DPCC is the nodal agency for the Connaught Place tower and Tata Projects had executed the project, while NBCC was the project management consultant.

The smog tower has already resulted in expenses worth Rs 20 crore. Of this, Rs 13 crore was spent to install the tower and was paid to Tata Projects as well as NBCC as consultancy fee. The University of Minnesota was also paid for the design and drawings. The remaining amount was paid

to IIT-Bombay and IIT-Delhi. IIT-Bombay was paid for research equipment, software, modeling study and deployment of researchers, while IIT-Delhi was paid for a monitoring component, Khan said. Additionally, the filters — 5,000 in two layers — will have to be changed every three months. These filters are imported from the USA.

NBCC's role is now going to be a supervisory one for the operations team, Khan said. The agreement with Tata Projects and NBCC has been prepared and is likely to be signed next week, he added. They were each initially taken on for a period of 10 months while executing the project. IIT-Bombay has suggested ‘monitoring protocols’, Khan said. This includes running it for 8 hours every day — from 8 am to 1 pm and from 3 pm to 8 pm, after a break. The institute will collect readings from the sensors at the tower. Once the agreement is signed and an operator is on board, Khan said the tower will function round the clock. Apart from the built-in monitoring, around 24 sensors will be placed at different locations within 1-km radius to study the impact of the structure. The DPCC's air lab will also be roped in to monitor its effect, Khan added.



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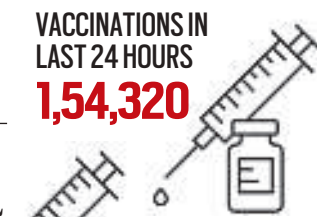


6 THE CITY



CORONAVIRUS
IN THE CAPITAL

VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS
1,54,320



TOTAL CASES 14,39,195			Total	Vacant	
			HOSPITAL BEDS	17,150	16,904
		ICU BEDS		3,854	3,778
	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
Oct 9	30	52	0	62,450	
Oct 10	28	58	1	58,989	
Total	347*	14,13,759	25,089	2,82,65,141	

Total active cases

Two men arrested for using dating app to pick their targets, rob them

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, OCTOBER 10

TWO PERSONS were arrested by Noida Police for allegedly targeting people on a dating application and robbing them.

According to police, the accused — Deepanshu Chaudhary alias Deepu and Amit Singh — were arrested after a brief encounter in Sector 62 on Sunday evening. They are involved in multiple incidents of chain snatching and loot, said police.

"We have been carrying out operations to curb street crime. A barricade was set up in Sector 62 and we found two accused driving a motorcycle without a registered number plate. We intercepted them but the duo opened fire and we fired in self-defense. One accused received injuries and was rushed to a hospital while the other man was arrested. We are ascertaining their criminal history," said Ranvijay Singh, ADCP, Gautam Budh Nagar.

According to police, the accused would befriend unsuspecting victims on a dating app called BlueD. They would speak to the victims for a few days before asking them to meet them at a certain location. Once the victim arrived, the accused would assault and rob them of their valuables, said police.

In such incidents, most of the victims shy away from filing an FIR, police said.

Police have also found links of the accused with Ashu Jaat, leader of the Mirchi Gang and a dreaded gangster who was arrested from Mumbai last year. Police said Deepanshu served time in prison for giving shelter to Ashu Jaat when he was on the run.

Deepanshu has more than a dozen cases registered against him while Amit is named in more than two dozen cases across NCR, said police. Police have recovered nine mobile phones, a country-made pistol and a stolen Pulsar from their possession.

BRIEFLY

Dalit woman gangraped in Jewar

Noida: A 55-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly gangraped in a field near her house in Jewar on Sunday. Police said a complaint has been filed and a case registered under IPC section 376 (D) (gang rape) and relevant sections of the SC/ST Act. No arrest has been made yet, added police. "As per her testimony, a case has been registered. She has been able to identify one accused. Gangrape can be determined once we have evidence suggesting involvement of other accused," said Vrinda Shukla, DCP Crimes Against Women.

Delhi cop held for murder

New Delhi: A Haryana Police sub-inspector was allegedly shot dead by a relative inside his house in Safdarjung Enclave Sunday morning. The accused is a Delhi Police constable and has been arrested.

Man held for killing wife, mother-in-law

New Delhi: A 32-year-old man allegedly shot dead his wife and mother-in-law after a heated argument with them over his lifestyle habits, said police Sunday. DCP (Dwarka) Shankar Chaudhary said, "The accused, Mahesh, was apprehended and has confessed." **ENS**

HARDLOOK

Delhi to UP to Mumbai — weeks after 10 'terror' arrests, police join the dots

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL & SAGAR RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, OCTOBER 10

FROM A 22-year-old from Delhi who studied in the UAE to a 45-year-old auto driver from Mumbai once arrested for trying to target LK Advani — most of the 10 people arrested over the past three weeks in connection with an alleged terror module have little in common, leaving police forces in the national capital and Maharashtra with the task of connecting the dots. The key similarity so far is that eight of the 10 have no previous criminal records.

It was on September 14 that Delhi Police's Special Cell picked up six people from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra, with officers alleging they had links to Pakistan's ISI and Dawood Ibrahim's associates, and were planning terror attacks in the country during the festive season.

In the days since, police have managed to establish links between some of them — even as senior officers say their "handlers" had made every effort to have them work in silos and keep interaction to a bare minimum.

This, investigators said, is a new pattern — while people who were part of terror modules earlier would be trained in the same camp and were taken care of by one handler, this time they were divided into groups of three. "Earlier, the arrest of even one person would expose the whole plan. This time, they kept people separate so they couldn't share details with anyone," an officer said.

Announcing the arrests, Special CP (Special Cell) Neeraj Thakur had said, "We have arrested Jaan Mohamed Shaikh (47), a resident of Maharashtra; Osama alias Sami (22), a resident of Jamia Nagar; Moolchand alias Saaju (47), a resident of Rae Bareilly; Zeeshan Qamar (28), a resident of Allahabad; Mohd Abu Bakar (23), resident of Bahraich; and Mohd Amir Javed (31), a resident of Lucknow." Days later, Osama's uncle Humaidur-Ur-Rehman, now a key accused, surrendered in UP and was arrested.

"The arrested persons were tasked with executing separate aspects of the alleged terror plan. Underworld operative Jaan Mohamed Shaikh alias Sameer Kaliya, a close contact of Dawood's brother Anees Ibrahim, was hired by a Pakistan-based person to ensure the smooth delivery of IEDs, sophisticated weapons and grenades to people in India. Osama and Zeeshan, both trained terror operatives, were asked to conduct reconnaissance of suitable locations in Delhi and UP for placing the IEDs," Thakur said.

The exact details of locations they allegedly meant to target, though, remain scarce.

Pakistan to Lucknow to Delhi

Police say the delivery of

THE MEN, THE ALLEGATIONS, THE LINKS

Mohd Amir Javed (31)

resident of Lucknow, arrested by Special Cell on Sept 14

■ Works in a private company involved in the dry-fruit business. A relative of Humaidur-Ur-Rehman and friend of Osama.

Osama alias Sami (22)

resident of Delhi's Jamia Nagar, arrested by Special Cell on Sept 14

■ Along with arrested accused Zeeshan Qamar, allegedly trained in Pakistan, conducted recce in Delhi for terror attack. Studied in a madrasa in UAE and ran a dry fruits business in UP and Delhi.



Mohd Abu Bakar (23)

resident of Bahraich, arrested by Special Cell on Sept 14

■ A friend of Osama's, he allegedly accompanied him to hide the consignment of weapons.

Humaidur-Ur-Rehman (45)

resident of Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, surrendered before UP police on Sept 14, arrested by Special Cell on Sept 15.

■ Rehman, Osama's uncle, is accused of handling a Delhi-bound consignment of weapons once it landed in Lucknow. He is also accused of sending Osama to Pakistan to train. Ran a business selling dates.

Zeeshan Qamar (28)

resident of Allahabad, arrested by Special Cell on Sept 14

■ Trained alongside arrested accused Osama in Pakistan, conducted recce in Delhi. BCom graduate from a college in UP. Neighbour of accused Humaidur-Ur-Rehman and was allegedly radicalised by him.

Jaan Mohamed Shaikh alias Sameer Kaliya (47)

resident of Dharaavi, arrested by Special Cell on Sept 14

■ Believed to be in touch with accused Zakir as well as Osama. Used to sell gulta. Police allege he is a close contact of Dawood's brother and was responsible for smooth delivery of IEDs, weapons and grenades to India. On instructions received from handlers abroad, he was allegedly supposed to go to Delhi and meet five others to plan a terror attack.

Zakir Hussain Shaikh (45)

resident of Mumbai, arrested by ATS on Sept 18

■ An auto driver, he allegedly received instructions from his handler, suspected to be his brother Sagir, via a Malaysian phone number. Believed to have been in touch with Jaan Mohamed. Held in 2001 for plot to assassinate LK Advani.

Rizwan Momin (40)

resident of Mumbai, arrested by ATS on Sept 19

■ Accused of sheltering Zakir, destroying his mobile phone and throwing it into a drain. His bank account was also used by Zakir to harbour money.



Moolchand alias Saaju (47)

resident of Rae Bareilly, arrested by Special Cell on Sept 14

■ Was allegedly tasked by Dawood Ibrahim's brother, Pak-based Anees Ibrahim, to receive consignment of IEDs, weapons in Delhi.

IEDs, weapons, and grenades was done from Pakistan via drone.

"The consignment was then picked up from the border area of Pakistan-Punjab and dropped off at Lucknow, from where it was allegedly picked up by Osama and his uncle Humaidur-Ur-Rehman in their car. Police are looking for the person who made the drop to Lucknow — he had shared the latitude and longitude coordinates along with the picture of the drop location in Lucknow with the ISI, and they shared it with Osama's father, who allegedly sent it to his son," a senior police officer said.

A lookout circular has been issued for Osama's father, believed to be in Dubai.

The consignment was supposed to be sent to Delhi. "Sameer, the underworld operative, and Rae Bareilly resident Moolchand were tasked by Pakistan-based Anees Ibrahim to receive it in the national capital," Thakur said.

The Dubai connection

To bolster their case, officers of the Special Cell have also found three 'star witnesses' — including accused Humaidur-Ur-Rehman's brother-in-law, who claims he was asked by him to go to Pakistan to train.

According to police, when Rehman was working in Dubai as a cab driver last year, he re-

ceived a call from his elder brother, also based in Dubai, to "arrange two men for training in Pakistan". The two were first supposed to be sent to Muscat, police said.

"Rehman gave the task to Osama and his brother-in-law (the star witness), and dropped them off at Lucknow airport, but his brother-in-law got scared and did not go ahead with the plan. In Muscat, Osama met Zeeshan, from where the two were taken to Pakistan with help from a human trafficker. They eventually reached Pakistan's Gwadar airport, and after completing training at Thatta in Karachi, they returned to India via the same route," a senior police officer said.

The Maharashtra arrests

In Mumbai, the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has arrested three people so far in connection with the alleged terror plot, though it is yet to identify the intent of the group or the places they were planning to target.

The ATS suspects the three were working in coordination with the module busted by the Special Cell.

"The three who have been arrested so far, in collaboration with the six accused arrested by the Special Cell, were planning to do something big. While they

definitely have terror links, we are yet to unearth the complete conspiracy and find out the places they were planning to target," a senior ATS official said.

Following the arrest of Jaan Mohamed by the Special Cell, the ATS arrested an autorickshaw driver named Zakir Hussain Shaikh and a teacher, Rizwan Momin, from Mumbai on September 18 and 19 respectively.

The ATS claims Zakir, a resident of Jogeshwari, is suspected to have been in touch with Jaan Mohamed alias Sameer. Police believe Zakir was operating on instructions from his handler, who the ATS suspects is his brother Sagir, through a Malaysian phone number.

Both Zakir and Sagir are said to have criminal antecedents. ATS officials said that Sagir, an alleged Chhota Shakeel operative, had been tasked with recruiting people for terror-related activities in India while Zakir was the local liaison. The latter had been arrested in 2001 and served a sentence for being involved in an alleged plot to assassinate BJP leader LK Advani.

The second person to be arrested is Rizwan Momin (40), in whose home Zakir had stayed from September 14-17 after the Special Cell first made an announcement of the six arrests.

Rizwan is accused of sheltering Zakir and also destroying his

mobile phone and throwing it into a drain near his house in Mumbai.

An ATS official claimed he was "aware of the conspiracy" and "broke Zakir's phone in such a way that we are finding it difficult to retrieve data".

Police also allege Rizwan's bank account was being used by Zakir to harbour money, and they have also learnt that one of the six accused arrested by the Special Cell stayed at Rizwan's home while doing a recce in Mumbai.

The third person to be arrested is 50-year-old Mohammed Irfan Rehmat Ali Shaikh, a tailor residing in Bandra, who was picked up on September 30. Zakir was arrested by the ATS from Irfan's house. "Zakir's brother Sagir would send money on Irfan's name that was allegedly used for terror-related activity. Recently, Rs 50,000 was sent for Zakir through Western Union and it was routed via the USA," an ATS officer said. Investigators said they have written to Western Union to seek details on who sent the money.

Police claim that Irfan also provided his phone to Zakir through which he communicated with his handlers in Malaysia. All three accused came from poor financial backgrounds and reside in slum pockets in the city.

Bal Bharati branch derecognised: DoE withdraws order

School had moved Delhi High Court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

THE DIRECTORATE of Education (DoE) has withdrawn its October 1 order derecognising Bal Bharati Public School, Pitampura. This comes after the school moved the Delhi High Court. The court has now laid out a procedure for DoE to follow, giving the school opportunities for hearings if it wishes to issue a fresh order against it.

The DoE had issued the order withdrawing its recognition of the school on grounds that it "illegally" increased fees in the years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 without its approval. The order had directed that the school would not be allowed to take new admissions from the 2022-23 session. It further said the school could continue functioning till the end of this academic year, after which students would be shifted to nearby private schools run by the Child Education Society or nearby government schools.

Following this, the school petitioned the High Court against two orders issued by the DoE — the first being the order withdrawing its recognition, and the other being an order dated August 16 in which the DoE had rejected the statement of fees submitted by the school for 2019-2020.

The DoE stated that various "discrepancies" were found in the school's fee proposal for the year 2019-2020 through an evaluation conducted by a team of chartered accountants appointed by it, but the school stated that the report was not shared with it and that they

were not given a chance to respond to it.

During the hearing on October 8, Justice Prateek Jalan noted that the DoE's standing counsel "submits that the DoE is agreeable to withdraw the impugned orders... in the facts and circumstances of this case, and to grant a hearing to the school on the issues raised therein".

Disposing the petition following DoE's withdrawal of its order, the court has directed that the directorate must supply a supplementary statement to the school within 15 days if it wishes to raise any other issues with regard to the 2019-2020 fee statement.

"The DoE will also supply the materials relied upon, including the report of the chartered accountants, to enable the school to respond to the alleged discrepancies identified against it," states the court's order.

The school is to be given three weeks to respond to the allegations and file any documents to support its contentions. Before any fresh order on the school's 2019-2020 fee proposal, the DoE has been directed to give the school "an opportunity of hearing".

After this exercise, if the DoE wishes to take any action regarding the school's recognition, it has been directed to first issue a show-cause notice and grant a personal hearing.

"Naturally, the question of proceedings for withdrawal of recognition of the school on this ground will arise only in the event the DoE comes to a conclusion adverse to the school with regard to the fee proposal for the year 2019-2020," the order states.

Bio-decomposer to be sprayed on Delhi fields starting today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

THE PUSA bio-decomposer solution, expected to help decompose paddy stubble and avoid burning of crop residue, will be sprayed in farmlands in Delhi from Monday onwards, according to a communication from the Delhi government.

Spraying will begin from Fatehpur Jat village in Narela. A total of 4,000 acres of harvested paddy fields will be sprayed with the solution which the government began to prepare in September in collaboration with the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. The government is spending around Rs 50 lakh for the solution and for spraying it.

The spraying of the solution is part of the Delhi government's winter action plan. A third-party audit was conducted to assess the impact of the decomposer, and the report has been submitted to the Commission for Air



A total of 4,000 acres of harvested paddy fields will be sprayed with the solution. Archive

Quality Management, the communication stated.

According to the audit report, organic carbon and nitrogen in the soil had increased after the use of the decomposer solution. Some farmers said the need for fertiliser had reduced, and the number of times the field had to be ploughed was also reduced, the release from the government said.

DURGA PUJA PREP AT CR PARK

Fewer orders, staff: Sculptors, artisans work under Covid shadow

ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

DESPITE THE looming shadow of Covid on Durga Puja festivities this year, artisans and labourers in CR Park are hoping to make more profits than the previous year. They say there is a little more work than last year, but a lot less than before.

Sitting in his workshop inside the Kali Mandir complex, Govind Nath (49) says he would make anywhere between 50-70 sets of idols till two years ago. This year, he has made 13.

The height of the idols too has reduced — he used to sculpt idols that were around 20-30 feet tall while the tallest idol he sculpted this year is around 8-feet tall. "There has been very little work for the last two years.

The price of raw material, which is brought from Bengal, has gone up," says the third-generation sculptor, adding that his team of 12 workers has also shrunk.

Puja committees have made preparations keeping the DDMA's guidelines in mind. Prodip Ganguly, secretary of the CR Park Kali Mandir Society, says, "Devotees will be allowed inside only for worship. Aarti and pushpanjali will take place online... There are no restrictions on the height of the idols but since immersion processions are not allowed, the idol has to be smaller than before."

Nath says most orders are for idols smaller than 5 feet. An idol of around 3 feet would cost around Rs 25,000. However, his profit margin is as low as Rs 2,000.

On Sunday, he readies the idols for departure with help from



two workers. A few of his orders are from CR Park and nearby areas like Kalkaji and Alaknanda, while others go to places in Gurgaon. Once the idols are ready, they are wrapped in paper to ensure they do not break.

Across his workshop is a tem-

porary shed filled with bundles of colourful cloth which would be used for the pandals. Sitting inside at his sewing machine is Gourang Biswas (50), who stitches the edges of white cloth which will be used as the backdrop.

He says he learnt 'karigari'



Preparations at CR Park's Kali Mandir; (top) Sanjay Roy, a helper, says it is his first year working in the area. Gajendra Yadav

over 25 years ago and used to run a small shop in his hometown in Nadia district in West Bengal. When he realised there was not much profit there, he moved to Delhi and started working on contracts with companies that do pandal decorations for vari-

ous festivals. But since the festivities are restricted and there are fewer pandals this year, the number of working days is lesser and the daily wage is lower than before. He earns Rs 550 per day. Earlier, with overtime during peak season, he would make

around Rs 750 per day.

For Sanjay Roy (53), a helper tasked with miscellaneous activities such as carrying and folding the cloth, this is his first year working in CR Park. He lost his job as a peon at a private company because of the pandemic. He used to earn a salary of Rs 14,000 per month. Now, he works for a daily wage of Rs 400 a day.

At a ground near Chandralok Cinema, not too far away, sculptors hustle to get the idols ready and then load them onto trucks. Here too, the number of idols are lesser in number and smaller in size than before. Bappa (35), who came around a month ago from Nadia district, says, "I have been coming to Delhi for four years. But, I didn't come last year." They will get monthly salaries depending on the number and size of the idols they make and sell, he adds.



New Delhi



7 Govt & Politics



SEEKING AUDIENCE

KEENTO keep the Lakhimpur Kheri issue politically alive, the Congress is now planning to approach President Ram Nath Kovind. The party has sought an audience with the President to draw his attention to the controversy. The Congress has been demanding the sacking of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra and would ask the President to direct the government to dismiss him from the council of ministers. AICC general secretary in charge of organisation KC Venugopal has sent a letter to the President seeking an appointment for a party delegation comprising Rahul Gandhi, A K Antony, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mallikarjun Kharge, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

SCALING PEAKS

ITBPIG Lhari Dorjee Lhatoo, who is currently negotiating the Ladakh standoff with the Chinese PLA at the Chishul-Moldo border in the Corps Commander level meeting, set the tone by leading a contingent to a 21,000-foot summit in the region days ahead of the talks on Sunday. Along with 20 members of ITBP's North West Frontier, which included four women, Lhatoo scaled a 20,000-foot peak as well. The expedition on the eastern Ladakh border was held between September 28 and October 6. Following the expedition, the highest peak was named Nurbu Wangdus after an ITBP head constable from Ladakh who died in an avalanche in Uttarakhand in 2019. An IPS officer of the Manipur cadre and hailing from Darjeeling, Lhatoo comes from a family of mountaineers.

SAFE DISTANCE

WITH THE easing of Covid protocols, political parties have begun preparing for their big meetings. While the BJP has announced its National Executive meeting on November 7, the Congress Working Committee will meet on October 16. But the meetings are expected to look different in these pandemic days. The first glimpse of changes was visible when the CPI(M) politburo met on Saturday at AKG Bhavan. While the politburo members used to sit around a round table in the pre-Covid time, this time they sat face to face on separate rectangular tables. The meeting was held in the hall where normally the party's Central Committee meetings and news conferences are held. Other parties also would have to plan bigger venues to accommodate their top leaders, keeping with the social distancing norms.

Modi a democratic leader, patient listener, says Shah

Praises PM's contribution to school enrollment, says 'an illiterate person is such a burden on the country'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

HAILING PRIME Minister Narendra Modi as a "democratic leader", Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said even his critics will agree that the Union Cabinet has never functioned in such a democratic manner as it is functioning in the Modi government.

Rejecting allegations that Modi is an autocratic leader, Shah said he has not seen a "patient listener" like the Prime Minister, who gives importance to all worthy suggestions given by anyone irrespective of designation or position in the hierarchy.

In an interview to Sansad TV, Shah said Modi does not hesitate in taking political risks for decisions that are in national interest, and at times has taken bitter decisions for the welfare of the nation.

Responding to a question that opposition and critics term Modi an autocratic leader, Shah said, "...I have closely seen both Modi and his style of working. I have never seen a patient listener like him. Whatever may be the issue, he patiently listens to everyone and speaks least, and then takes a proper decision. He takes decisions patiently after considering suggestions given by all, including a small-time official or worker."

"Those who have worked with him or at times there are critics also among those who worked with you, they all would agree that the Union Cabinet never functioned in such a democratic way..." he said.

Shah spoke at length about how Modi, after becoming CM of Gujarat, worked for tribals and gave them rights enshrined under the Constitution.



Amit Shah

Speaking about Modi's contribution to education, Shah said, "At that time [when Modi became CM of Gujarat] the biggest problem was dropout in schools.... He started enrollment of children in school in the manner of a festival. And took enrollment to 100%..."

Speaking about how Modi contributed to increased enrollment in schools, Shah said, "When you evaluate this you will know what could be its contribution in the nation's progress, in Gujarat's progress. Ek anpadh aadmi desh par kitna bada bojh banta hai. Na jo apne Samvidhan ke diye hue adhikaro ko jaanta hai, na samvidhan ne humse jo apesha kari hai wo dayitva ko jaanta hai. Wo kaise ek achcha nagrik ban sakta hai? Iske andar amulchur parivartan hai. (An illiterate person is such a burden on the country. He neither knows the rights given to him by the Constitution nor does he know the duties expected of him by it. How can such a person become a good citizen?)"

Shah said Modi always maintained that he is in power to change the country for the better and not merely to run the government. Therefore, he does not hesitate in taking harsh and risky decisions which may be against the party's supporters but are in the interest of the nation, Shah said.

WITH ENS, NEW DELHI

CONG KISAN NYAY RALLY IN VARANASI

Govt shielding MoS son; only BJP, its billionaire friends safe: Priyanka

Cong general secy invokes Durga, leads chants of 'Jai Mata Di' during speech

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 10

CONGRESS GENERAL secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Sunday accused the BJP-led central government of shielding Union minister Ajay Mishra and his son Ashish in the Lakhimpur Kheri case. Launching the party's 2022 UP election campaign from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi, she said only BJP leaders and their "billionaire" friends are safe in the country.

Priyanka began her speech at the party's Kisan Nyay rally by invoking Goddess Durga. "I am on a fast and I will start my speech with the *stuti* (prayer) of Maa," she said. The Congress general secretary recited two shlokas in Sanskrit and led people in chants of 'Jai Mata Di'.

Priyanka attacked the BJP on multiple fronts — from the farmers' stir to inflation and unemployment — and urged people to usher in "*parivartan* (change)" in the state by replacing the Yogi Adityanath government.

"In this country, only two groups of people are safe — BJP leaders and their billionaire friends. No one belonging to any religion or caste is safe; neither labourers, nor the boatmen, Dalits, minorities, the poor, women are safe. In this country, the Prime Minister, his ministers, those in power and all their billionaire friends are protected," Priyanka said.

LAKHIMPUR KHERI

MVA allies gear up for bandh, BJP says parties playing politics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 10

THE SHIV Sena, Congress and NCP will work together to ensure the success of the October 11 state-wide bandh, announced by the three parties last week.

On Wednesday, the state cabinet, presided over by CM Uddhav Thackeray, had passed a resolution expressing regret over the deaths in Lakhimpur Kheri.

After their meeting, Jayant Patil, Irrigation Minister and state NCP chief, said: "The MVA has called a state-wide bandh on October 11 against the Lakhimpur Kheri violence and appeals to people to participate."

The Shiv Sena and Congress subsequently expressed their support for the bandh.

On Monday, Congress leaders including state chief Nana Patole and city chief Bhai Jagtap will go to Raj Bhavan and hold a sit-in. The Sena is said to have told its party cadre to ensure that shops remain shut on Monday.

The Opposition BJP censured the MVA over the bandh call. BJP MLA Atul Bhatkalkar said, "They are trying to capitalise on the Lakhimpur Kheri incident. If anyone is forcing shutting of shops, the BJP will come on the road and stop it."

Cultivation shift: Telangana to move encroaching farmers away from forests

REENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 10

THE TELANGANA government will move landless, non-tribal farmers engaged in shifting cultivation inside forests to peripheral areas as it looks to combat deforestation, it is learnt.

As part of this, Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has instructed officials to prepare guidelines to appoint Forest Protection Committees.

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar will directly accept complaints and applications on *podu* (shifting cultivation) lands in forests. Officials will conduct a survey of the particular lands and initiate action. A Survey of forests in the state will begin from November, and boundaries



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi being felicitated during the 'Kisan Nyay' rally in Varanasi.

Alleging Ashish Mishra was being shielded by the BJP government, Priyanka said, "Last week, the son of Union Minister of State (Home) Ajay Mishra mowed down farmers with his vehicle. Families of all the victims said they want justice... You must have seen that how the government was busy protecting the minister and his son. While the administration was busy stopping Opposition leaders, police were deployed to stop me at night and put the family members of the victims under house arrest. Not a single policeman went to catch the accused. Instead, he was sent an invitation by police (for questioning)"

"... and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister (Yogi Adityanath) is backing the minister from a public forum," she added.

Questioning Prime Minister Modi for not visiting Lakhimpur Kheri to meet the families of the farmers killed, Priyanka Gandhi said: "The Prime Minister can visit every corner of the world... can go to America, Japan... but he cannot go to the border of Delhi to talk to the farmers protesting against the three new farm laws... The Prime Minister came to Lucknow but could not travel two more hours to visit the families of the farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri to wipe their tears and hold their hands."

"All the families of the farmers killed in Lakhimpur Kheri said they have no hope for justice... If someone faces atrocities in this country, where would one go for justice if the government, the CM, the PM, the MoS Home, the MLAs, all have joined hands and have turned their backs on the people," she asked.

She ended her speech with 'Jai Mata Di' and greeted the people on Navratri. As the meeting started, Priyanka, Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel and other Congress leaders chanted 'Har har Mahadev'. It was followed by a reading of excerpts from the Quran and the Gurbani.

Blow to NC as key leaders from Jammu quit; likely to join BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 10

IN A major setback to the National Conference, senior leaders Devender Singh Rana and Surjit Singh Slathia resigned from the party on Sunday.

Both are likely to join the BJP in New Delhi in the presence of senior party leaders.

"*Ek nai subah hogi, ek nai shuruaat hogi; aur Mata Vaishnodevi ki kripa se, Jammu sambhag ki ek nai awaz hogi* (There will be a new dawn, a fresh beginning, and with the blessings of Mata Vaishnodevi, Jammu division will have a new voice)," Rana said while announcing his resignation from the NC. He has not elaborated on why he and Slathia quit the party.

A National Conference spokesperson tweeted, "(Party



Devender Singh Rana and (right) Surjit Singh Slathia

president) Dr Farooq Abdullah has received and accepted the resignations of Mr Slathia and Mr Rana. No further action or comment is deemed necessary."

Rana, considered close to former J&K chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah, was the provincial president of the party in Jammu division. He is Union Minister of State in the PMO Dr Jitendra Singh's younger brother. Late on Sunday, the NC appointed Rattan Lal Gupta as the party's Jammu

provincial president.

Earlier in the day, in a brief interaction with media persons while leaving for Delhi, Rana talked about the Jammu declaration — a concept proposed by him to forge unity and reinforce trust between diverse and divergent regions of Jammu and Kashmir. "Jammu shall get its rightful place and the voice for strengthening Jammu and Kashmir will come from Jammu division," he said, adding that there will be no compromise on the interests and aspirations of the people of Jammu division.

In response to a question, he said that he had written letters to all political parties seeking support for the Jammu declaration. Some parties responded, he said, but the maximum support came from senior BJP leaders from both J&K and the Centre.

Second phase of Malabar exercise from Oct 12

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

The second phase of the Malabar naval war gaming exercise with the four Quad members — India, US, Japan and Australia — will take place in the Bay of Bengal from October 12 till October 15.

The Navy said India will be represented by INS Ranvijay, INS

Satpura, P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft and a submarine, in the multilateral exercise.

The first phase of Malabar 2021 was held in the Philippines Sea between August 26 and 29.

For the US, Navy aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson along with two destroyers, USS Lake Champlain and USS Stockdale, will participate. Japan Maritime Self Defence Force will be represented by JS Kaga and JS

Murasame, and the Royal Australian Navy will be represented by HMAS Ballarat and HMAS Sirius. "The Second Phase of the exercise would build upon the synergy, coordination and interoperability developed during the first phase of the exercise and would focus on advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare," the Navy said.

EXPLAINED Encroachment by non-tribal farmers

THE TELANGANA government has given land ownership titles to tribal communities that have traditionally been cultivating in forests for decades. More than 3 lakh acres have been allocated to such farmers. It is the issue of non-tribal farmers encroaching upon forest lands and engaging in shifting agriculture that has been red-flagged by forest officials and political leaders.

would be fixed with coordinates. Several MLAs had earlier raised the issue of encroachment of forests by farmers, who clear a portion of land to raise crops one season and move to a different location next season, clearing large areas of forests. Kumarum Bheem-Asifabad MLA Athram

Sakku said cultivation is taking place in the middle of forests, posing a threat to environment and wildlife.

Rao gave an assurance in the Assembly that his government would initiate action to put an end to it. Sakku said, "During a meeting with Chief Minister K

Chandrasekhar Rao, we sought stringent measures to be taken to stop the exploitation of forests, and better protection... The CM has directed officials to launch an action plan from October third week to settle the podu lands issue in the state."

Forest Minister A Indrakaran Reddy said farmers cultivating in the middle of the forests would be shifted to the periphery and provided land. They will be given land ownership certificates, power supply and water, besides being brought under welfare schemes.

The Chief Minister said the authorities would take all protective measures to ensure that forest land is not encroached upon. Rao said the rights and livelihood of traditional forest dwellers will be protected.

COAL SHORTAGE

Sidhu tweets advice to own govt, gives CM son's wedding a miss

Lands in Jammu to visit Vaishno Devi temple

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 10

A DAY after ending his hunger strike at Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh, PPCC chief Navjot Singh Sidhu Sunday visited the Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu along with Cabinet minister Vijay Inder Singla and MLA Dr Raj Kumar Chhabbawal.

Sidhu did not attend the wedding of Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's son, which was attended by Congressmen from the state. Channi is hosting a reception on Monday. It is unclear if Sidhu is planning to attend this amid reports of tension between him and the Chief Minister over the appointment of the Advocate General and DGP.

"Darshan of the primordial mother during Navratras is synergising... Washes away all the dirt from the soul!! Blessed to be at the lotus feet of Mata Vaishno Devi," he said in a tweet. Sources said he went straight to Jammu from Lucknow airport.

A few hours before tweeting



Navjot Singh Sidhu

pictures about his Vaishno Devi visit, Sidhu advised his own government through a tweet: "Punjab must prevent & prepare, rather than repent & repair... Private Thermal Plants floating guidelines, punishing Domestic Consumers by not keeping Coal Stock for 30 Days should be penalised. It is time to aggressively work on Solar PPAs, & roof-top solar connected to the Grid!"

He was referring to the coal shortage being faced by the state.

His tweets on the government have sparked controversy earlier too.

He is yet to withdraw his resignation. There has been no word on it by the party leadership.

Sources close to him said the tweet on private thermal plants was not indicative of any conflict between him and the Chief Minister.



Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi during his son's wedding at a Mohali gurdwara. Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Congress general secretary Harish Rawat and MP Manish Tewari were among those present. Jasbir Malhi

Hindus converting for marriage are committing wrong, says RSS chief

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

RSS CHIEF Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said that Hindus who were converting to other religions for marriage were committing a wrong. He said this was happening for small selfish interests and because Hindu families were not giving their children the values of pride for one's religion and traditions.

"*Kaise matantaran hota hai? Apne desh ke ladke, ladkiyan dusre maton mein kaise chali jaati hain? Chhote chhote swarthon ke karan. Vivah karne ke liye. Karne wale galat hain wo baat alag hai. Lekin hamare bachche hum nahi taiyyar karte?* (How does conversion happen? How do our girls and boys embrace other religion? For small selfish interests, for marriage. It's another matter that those who do it are wrong. But aren't we preparing our children)," Bhagwat said during an event in Uttarakhand's

Haldwani, where he addressed RSS workers and their families. "Humko iska sanskar ghar mein dena padega. Apne swa ke parti gaurav. Apne dharm ke prati gaurav. Apne puja ke prati aadar. Uske liye prashn aayenge to uttar dena. Confuse nahi hona (We need to give them these values at home. Instilling pride in our self, our religion and respect for our praying traditions. If there are questions asked, answer them, don't be confused), he said.

Bhagwat's statements on conversion come at a time when several BJP-ruled states have brought laws against alleged "love jihad" or what they call religious conversion for marriage. These laws are understood to have been brought under pressure from the RSS.

Bhagwat spoke at length about Indian family values and



'Hindu families must teach values to children'

preserving them. He also raised the issue of how at most RSS events, only men were visible.

"The aim of RSS is to organise Hindu society. But when we organise RSS programmes, we see only men. Now if we want to organise the whole society, then it has 50% women," he said.

Bhagwat said Indians had always shared their wealth with others. He said India had a lot of wealth until the Mughals came.

"From 1st Century to the 17th century — before the Mughal loot of the country started — India was economically the most prosperous country in the world. That is why it was called the golden bird," Bhagwat said.

The RSS chief also spoke about the need for parents to be careful about what their children were watching on OTT platforms.

"The OTT platforms show all kinds of things. What comes in the media is not with the perspective of what will good for children and for our value system. We have to teach our children what to watch and what not to at home," Bhagwat said.

Extolling virtues of Indian family system, Bhagwat said the West was studying Indian family system. But added that there were forces working to destroy these values. "To keep people enslaved, West sent opium to China. The youth got addicted to opium and then the West ruled China. In our country too this is happening. When you see drug cases and where these drugs are coming from you will know where it is coming from and why. And who is benefiting from it," he said.



New Delhi



BRIEFLY

KARNATAKA

Kannada actor Sathyajith dies at 72

Bengaluru: Noted Kannada film actor Sathyajith died in a hospital here on Sunday following prolonged illness, family sources said. He was 72. Sathyajith was his screen name, whereas his actual name was Syed Nizamuddin. The actor who made a mark with his debut movie 'Ankush' in Hindi in 1986 with Nana Patekar, had acted in more than 600 movies. His prominent movies were *Yuddha Kanda*, *Mandya Gandu*, *Police Story*, *Shiva Meccida*, *Kannappa*, *Nyayakkagi*, *Nanu*, *Sangharsha*, *Apthamithra* and *Padma Vyuh*. The seasoned artist had donned various roles ranging from villain to comedian. He has worked with iconic actors of the Kannada film industry such as Rajkumar, Ambareesh and Vishnuvardhan. **PTI**

ODISHA

Journalist's son found dead, probe launched

Bhubaneswar: The body of a man, identified as the son of senior journalist Nabin Das, was Sunday recovered from a pond at Patrapada village in the outskirts of the state capital, a police officer said. The deceased was identified as 30-year-old Manish Anurag Das, the eldest son of the editor of Odiya daily 'Nirbhay'. Manish had gone missing from Infocity police limits on Saturday. Family members alleged that he was kidnapped and later killed. "We have registered two cases, one at Infocity police station and another at Tamando police station after recovering the body," Bhubaneswar DCP U S Dash said. **PTI**

MADHYA PRADESH

50 fall sick after eating at feast; five serious

Gwalior: In a case of food poisoning, at least 50 people, including women and children, fell sick after eating food served at a feast in a village in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district, an official said on Sunday. The incident occurred in Damora village on Saturday evening. The condition of five people is serious and they were shifted to the Gajra Raja Medical College (GRMC) and Hospital here after receiving initial treatment at the Morar Hospital in the Gwalior district, he said. "They fell sick due to food poisoning. Of them, five people are serious. The doctor and paramedical staff were sent..." said Dr Alok Purohit, in charge of Morar Hospital. **PTI**

ALAKA SAHANI

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 10

IN SPACE-STARVED Mumbai, it's rare to find a wall of books in the middle of a restaurant. Rarer still to be able to walk in and browse through exclusive photobooks, coffee-table collections and special editions that once belonged to a Bollywood power couple — Nargis and Sunil Dutt.

Neatly arranged on either side of a wall at Café Mommyjoon, a Bandra eatery co-owned by the late couple's younger daughter Priya Dutt Roncon, are Sam Shaw's iconic photobook *The Joy of Marilyn: In the Camera Eye*, Yousuf Karsh's *Portraits of Greatness*, a tome on Edvard Munch's artwork, among many others — each bearing a small oval-shaped stamp that

8 arrested after woman raped on train to Mumbai

VALLABH OZARKAR

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 10

KALYAN RAILWAY Police on Sunday arrested another four persons for allegedly sexually assaulting a 20-year-old woman in front of her husband and co-passengers on the moving Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express between Igatpuri and Kasara stations in Maharashtra on Friday evening.

All eight accused have now been arrested, police said; four had been arrested hours after the crime was reported.

Kashinath Helam alias Kalshya (22), Dhananjay Bhagat alias Guddu (18), Akash Shenare (19), and Rahul Adole (21), were arrested from Igatpuri on Sunday. Arshad Shaikh (19), Prakash Pardhi alias Pakya (20), Arjun Pardeshi (20), and Kishore Sonawane alias Kalu (25), had been arrested earlier.

Seven of the accused are from Igatpuri; the eighth, Arshad Shaikh, is from Mumbai.

Arshad is said to be a drug addict who was headed back to

Mumbai. According to police, he did not know the other men before they met at Igatpuri.

"He (Arshad) was in possession of cannabis. He had a chance meeting with the other seven accused at Igatpuri when he was returning to Mumbai on Friday. They struck up a friendship and started smoking cannabis. They were high when they decided to board the Pushpak Express and rob passengers," a police officer had said on Saturday.

As per police, the men boarded the train as it was pulling out of the station. "The men, who had knives, belts, and blades, threatened and robbed the passengers," Deputy Commissioner of Police Manoj Patil said.

Nine passengers were robbed of their cell phones, six had cash snatched from them, and the woman was sexually assaulted. "When her husband and a co-passenger tried to intervene, the robbers assaulted them with weapons," Patil said.

When the train stopped at Kasara, the passengers raised an

alarm, and railway staff chased and caught two of the eight alleged criminals, who led police to another two.

"The victim is stable and has been discharged from hospital. All the accused have been arrested. Investigations are on," Quaiser Khalid, Commissioner of Police, Railways, Mumbai, said.

Police Inspector Shardul Valmiki of the Kalyan GRP said seven accused were produced in court and remanded in police custody until October 16. The other accused will be produced in court on Monday.

There were no Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel on the train. Railway officials said RPF teams are deployed after 10 pm, on trains and stretches that have a history of criminal incidents. The Pushpak Express reaches Kalyan well before 10 pm, and does not have a history of crime, the officials said.

The Central Railway RPF will have a review meeting on Monday on security on trains. "We will also coordinate with the Government Railway Police," an officer said.

‘They had knives, knuckle dusters’

VALLABH OZARKAR

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 10

THE DACOITY and sexual assault that took place on Pushpak Express on Friday occurred between Igatpuri and Kalyan stations, a distance covered in 28 minutes by trains traversing the Kasara Ghat.

Gulfam Ali (25), who was in the same compartment as the woman who was assaulted, and was instrumental in catching one of the accused, said eight men had started behaving aggressively as soon as they got into the train.

"They started off first by heckling people in the compartment. However, as soon as I left the station they became violent," Ali told *The Indian Express*.

"They had knives as well as knuckle dusters with which they

were threatening people and asking for money. They assaulted a few passengers. When I tried to intervene, one of them hit me on my head with a sharp object and I started bleeding. I was scared and kept quiet," Ali, a cook returning to Mumbai after the lockdown said.

Ali said that when the train reached Kasara Ghat section, which has a number of train tunnels, the eight started misbehaving with the woman.

"They had robbed a few passengers when the train reached Kasara Ghat section. It was at this time that they set their eyes upon the woman and started misbehaving with her. Her husband put up a fight. I also resisted their behaviour, but they assaulted both of us. They also made an attempt to throw one person out of the train... They assaulted the woman very badly. We all were

feeling helpless and powerless since there was no one in the train who could stop them as all of us were terrified," he said.

The assault ended when the train reached Kasara station. "We all started screaming when the station came. However six of the accused had jumped out of the train by then. When one of the accused was trying to flee, I gathered courage and caught hold of him. The other passengers came out in support. We then locked him up in the toilet. The commotion led to the police entering our compartment and they subsequently caught another accused. We then handed over the person to the police," Ali said.

"I am shaken up by the incident and still feel scared. However, I feel bad that in spite so many of us being there in the train we could not save the woman from being assaulted."

Study: Heatwave events increasing in India, occurring in new regions

ESHA ROY

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

A RECENT analysis by the Mahamana Centre of Excellence in Climate Change Research (MCECCR) at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences, has found a spatial shift of heatwaves in India, with this weather event now occurring in new regions in the country.

Heatwaves are defined as prolonged episodes of extreme temperature over any region. Apart from temperature, humidity is an important parameter considered for declaring heat-related stress.

The MCECCR study has looked at temperature data of pre-monsoon (March-May) and early summer monsoon (June-July) seasons from the India Meteorological Department,

EXPLAINED Links to rise in mortality

THE PRESENCE of humidity in the environment prevents the thermoregulatory mechanism of evaporative cooling of the body through perspiration, which can cause heat stress. An increase of 0.5 degrees Celsius in mean summer temperatures can cause an increase of heat-related mortality from 2.5 to 32%, and an increase in the duration of a heatwave from 6 to 8 days and result in an increase in the probability of mortality by 78%.

spanning 65 years from 1951 to 2016, to assess the monthly, seasonal, decadal and long-term

Pilgrimage stop in first stretch of revamped rail link to Nepal

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

IT REMAINED shut for years but will now have been seen again — in a new avatar.

Popular since the early 20th century, the rail link between Nepal and India is ready to resume on the neighbouring country's first-ever broad gauge passenger service. The first stretch is ready: a 34-km line between Bihar's Jayanagar and Nepal's Kurtha, with the Hindu pilgrimage city of Janakpur Dham in between.

On October 21, the Nepal Railway Company is slated to take over the assets of the 68.73-km Jayanagar-Bardibas link from Indian engineering major IRCON, which built the line. And in another first, the Jayanagar station will have a parallel building operated by Nepal Railway Company.

The Indian Railways has assured its Nepal counterpart of all assistance so that operations can start at the earliest. The Konkan

THE LINK

Full line: 68.73 km, Jaynagar in Bihar to Bardibas in Nepal

First stretch done: 34 km line, 1 hour; Jaynagar to Kurtha, via Janakpur Dham

Coaches: 2 Diesel Electric Multiple Unit ac trains made in Integral Coach Factory, Chennai

Railway Corporation Limited has got the contract for operations and maintenance of the line, and will train and develop manpower provided by Nepal, as per the bilateral understanding.

Nepal has been asked to start operations preferably by this year. "It has been stressed by us that early operations will avoid deterioration of assets," an Indian official told *The Indian Express*.

Sources said that considering

the significance of the project and with connectivity to the pilgrimage site of Janakpur involved, the inauguration of the first commercial service would be a politically "high-profile" affair for which date and time will be jointly worked out.

In 1937, the British had built a narrow gauge line to ferry cargo, mainly logs, from Nepal to India. However, over time it became a popular passenger service before it was stopped in 2014 for conversion to broad gauge.

New Delhi decided to carry out the entire gauge conversion work, including trains to operate on the link. The second stretch of 17 km from Kurtha to Bijalpura is also getting the finishing touches. For the remaining portion up to Bardibas, land is being handed over to IRCON. The construction cost of Rs 784 crore for the entire stretch is being borne by India in the form of a grant to Nepal.

As per the tentative schedule of services, the train from Jaynagar to Kurtha will take

about an hour, halting at six stations in Nepal in between — Inerwa, Khajuri, Mahinathpur, Baidehi, Parwaha and Janakpur. A total of three daily trips are being planned, said officials.

The Nepal Railway Company will deputise the commercial staff, from station master to ticket checker — all to be trained by India.

The line is being seen as a small link to a larger plan of deepening India's ties with Nepal through the Railways, bypassing the influence of other neighbouring countries in this strategically vital region.

Earlier this week, the India-Nepal Joint Working Group signed an agreement for a final location survey for a broad gauge line between Bihar's Raxaul and Kathmandu. When done, it will be a hill railway that will direct rail connectivity between Nepal's capital city and the Indian network, opening multiple avenues for cross-border movement.

FULL REPORT ON

www.indianexpress.com

Naveen writes to PM on issue of rice procurement

Bhubaneswar: As the impasse continues over procurement of surplus parboiled rice from Odisha by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Sunday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention in the matter.

Stating that non-lifting of surplus parboiled rice from Odisha due to the Department of Food and Public Distribution restrictions could severely affect the state's paddy procurement operations and affect over 10 lakh farmers in the state, Patnaik wrote: "... Your kind personal intervention is requested for issuing a direction to DFPD to accept the estimated surplus parboiled rice from the State for the next KMS (Kharif marketing season) 2021-22. Further, reasonable time may also be given to the State to align itself with the requirements of DFPD." **ENS**

TRACKING THE SECOND SURGE

588 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN

NEW CASES: 18,328

ACTIVE CASES: 2,28,768

TOTAL VACCINATION: 94,70,10,175

DAILY DEATHS

196

TOTAL DEATHS

4,50,785

WEEKLY CFR

0.89%

OVERALL CFR

1.34%



TESTS TODAY: 14,38,627 | TOTAL TESTS: 58,40,34,320

WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 1.40% | OVERALL POSITIVITY: 5.82%

STATES REPORTING MOST CASES

STATE	NEW CASES	ACTIVE CASES	WEEKLY POSITIVITY	TOTAL VACCINATION
■ Kerala	10,691	1,11,597	11.80%	3,66,05,168
■ Maharashtra	2,294	33,449	1.90%	8,72,93,283
■ Tamil Nadu	1,329	16,130	0.96%	5,01,74,988
■ Mizoram	1,170	14,663	15.38%	11,70,741
■ West Bengal	760	7,649	2.09%	6,41,59,179

STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS

STATE	TODAY'S DEATHS	TOTAL DEATHS	WEEKLY CFR	OVERALL CFR
■ Kerala	85	26,337	0.73%	0.57%
■ Maharashtra	28	1,43,136	1.54%	2.19%
■ Tamil Nadu	15	35,783	1.12%	1.35%
■ West Bengal	11	18,905	1.69%	1.21%
■ Karnataka	10	37,885	1.19%	1.27%

Note: Data as on Oct 10; vaccination numbers as of Oct 9. Deaths include those caused by comorbidities.

On café menu: books from Nargis-Sunil Dutt collection

ALAKA SAHANI

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 10

says 'Dutts, Nargis-Sunil Library, Bombay'.

The collection makes a delightful revelation about how passionately Nargis and Sunil Dutt collected a wide range of books over the years. "My mother was an avid reader. My father was an avid collector of books. Mom would finish a book in a couple days while dad took longer as he would read very diligently and underline what he liked," recalls Dutt Roncon, who inherited their rich collection.

Before Café Mommyjoon opened last year, she went through piles of her parents' collection before choosing about 1,500 titles to be kept at this Bandra café, which specialises in Middle-Eastern cuisine.

These books are kept on both sides of a wall that's built right in the centre of the café's indoor space. "In fact, the café is designed



At Café Mommyjoon, owned by Priya Dutt. *Express*

keeping in mind the placement of books," says Dutt Roncon, adding that since she has about 1,000 more titles at home, she plans to rotate the books.

Dutt Roncon says her parents' deep interest in popular culture and personalities is reflected in

their choice of books.

On the café's shelves, apart from the books on Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe — the couple are known to be fans of the singer-performers — are a number of titles about personalities from different fields, including

The Greatest: My Own Story by Muhammad Ali, *The Films of Akira Kurosawa* by Donald Richie, *Steinbeck: A Life in Letters*, *Michael Jackson: Dancing the Dream*, *Luis Bunuel* by Ado Kyrou and *The Western Films of John Ford*.

There are several fiction titles and thrillers, including Ian Fleming's James Bond series and James Hadley Chase's page-turners. "Both my parents were interested in history. Mom was a voracious reader of fiction too," says Dutt Roncon.

The café has at least two different biographies of Swedish actor Ingrid Bergman along with her autobiography, titled *My Story*. Were the Dutts a fan of the *Casablanca* actor? "Yes. Dad thought mom was a lot like Bergman," recalls Priya. Some other titles about film personalities include *The Films of Paul*

Newman, *The Films of Frank Capra*, and *Bogart* by Allen Eyles.

The café has come up at the same space that used to be the office of Ajanta Arts, Sunil Dutt's production house that made movies such as *Mujhe Jeene Do* (1963) and *Reshma Aur Shera* (1971). Later on, as he turned to politics and joined the Congress, the space served as an office space for him and Dutt Roncon, both of whom were elected to the Lok Sabha.

While reading was encouraged, the Dutts didn't force their children, says Dutt Roncon. "While we were growing up, the family used to hang out in the library room. My mother bought the collection of Nancy Drew's books for my sister (Namrata)," she reminisces.

FULL REPORT ON

www.indianexpress.com

Mandaviya asks people to not let guard down against Covid

Bengaluru: Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday asked people to not let their guard down against Covid-19 as the disease is under control but it has not gone away completely. "The fight against Covid will go on in future because coronavirus is still amongst us. Coronavirus is certainly under control but it has not gone away," Mandaviya said at the launch of Covid field hospital here.

The minister appreciated the Karnataka government for its

preparedness to deal with any emergency caused by Covid in future. "Dealing with an outbreak of disease depends on the thinking of the government. The Karnataka government has decided to set up dedicated field hospitals in remote areas, which shows how prepared it is to deal with the outbreak in future," he said.

Mandaviya also said that according to an Indian Council for Medical Research panel, those who took first dose of the vaccine become 97 per cent safe. **PTI**

Dream 11 suspends ops in Karnataka after FIR

NANDAGOPAL RAJAN & KIRAN PARASHAR
NEW DELHI, BENGALURU, OCTOBER 10

FANTASY SPORTS platform Dream 11 on Sunday decided to suspend its operations in Karnataka following the registration of an FIR against its directors Harsh Jain and Bhavit Sheth under the amended Karnataka Police Act. However, the company is soon likely to challenge in court the amended law, which seeks to ban online gaming. In its announcement Sunday, Dream 11 said, "In order to allay our users' concerns, we have decided to suspend operations in Karnataka," adding that "this decision is without prejudice to our rights and contentions under law". Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Sanjeev M Patil told *The Indian Express* that a case has been registered under sections 79 and 80 of the Karnataka Police Act. "We cannot divulge any information as the investigations are underway," he said. The Karnataka Police

(Amendment) Act, 2021, which got the Governor's assent on October 4, says the words "gaming means and includes online games, involving all forms of wagering or betting, including in the form of tokens valued in terms of money paid before or after issue of it, or electronic means and virtual currency, electronic transfer of funds in connection with any game of chance..." Supreme Court lawyer and Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS) adviser Gopal Jain said Sunday the amended law can be challenged with a writ petition in the Karnataka High Court as it is ultra vires, being contrary to Supreme Court judgments on Article 19(1)(g) related to the right to business and Article 14 because it's "manifestly arbitrary". "First, it misclassifies a game of skill with other categories to which it does not belong. Second, if a complaint or an FIR has been registered one can approach the High Court to quash it because no offence is made out," Jain told *The Indian Express*. **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

Rlys commissions double tracking project in Goa

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, OCTOBER 10

THE SOUTH Western Railway (SWR) on Sunday commissioned the doubling of the 15.2-km railway line between Sanvordem-Chandorgao-Margao in South Goa. "As part of doubling, Non interlocking work has been completed at Sanvordem, Chandorgao and Madgaon," the SWR said in a statement on Sunday. The doubling of the railway track is among the three linear projects in Goa opposed by environmentalists in the state. Preparatory works began on

September 25 and the pre non-interlocking work was taken up on October 3, officials said. SWR general manager Sanjeev Kishore said that commissioning of this double line will improve train mobility in the section as the trains need not wait for crossing. Raising serious environmental concerns, the Supreme Court's Central Empowerment Committee (CEC) had in April shot down the key rail expansion project. These projects were cleared by the Centre last year despite red flags being raised at various levels. The matter is, however, yet to be heard by the Supreme Court.

Bihar man killed in Srinagar went there out of compulsion, say kin

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, OCTOBER 10

"MAI MAZDOORI karta hoon, lekin tum log zaroor padhna (I may labour, but you must surely study)," Virendar Paswan would tell his four daughters and two sons before leaving his home in Bhalgalpur, Bihar, for Kashmir in September 2019. Last week, the *paani puri* seller was gunned down in Srinagar, one among several civilian killings that have shaken the region. Paswan was cremated in Srinagar against his family's wishes. They got no support in transporting his body to his

home village of Jagdishpur in Bhalgalpur. "I wanted to see him one last time. But no one from the district administration approached us," said Paswan's wife Putul Devi. The Bihar government later announced compensation of Rs 2 lakh to the family. They have not received it yet. "Some politicians have come. Even if we get compensation, it is of little help. My husband is gone forever. Had Bihar offered him a job or a small business, he would have been with us," she said. His elder son Vikram Paswan told *The Indian Express*: "My father would also make sure we

study hard and not take up manual work. Everyone goes to school in my family. It is now my job to ensure that no one in my family turns to labour like my father." The Class 11 student recalled how his father had left a job as a machine operator in Kolkata in 2017 as he had not been able to meet growing expenses of his family. "With his savings of years, he bought an auto-rickshaw at Jagdishpur but it did not work out," said Vikram. He again left for Kolkata in 2018 only to return in 2019 to Jagdishpur, where the family owns a house but no agricultural land. It was compulsion that

forced Paswan to go to Srinagar. Some 30 people from the village had been working in Kashmir and asked him to accompany them. With no job prospects at home, Paswan took the advice. "He would earn Rs 12,000 per month before lockdown. But after the pandemic, his income shrank and he would send Rs 15,000 after a gap of eight months. We still managed," said Vikram. Paswan was supposed to return home this Dussehra. Six other village residents working in Srinagar have also come home, said Vikram. "But they will return to Srinagar. There is no work here."



Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu protest the killings. *Express*

Kashmiri Pandit body for genocide tribunal to probe Kashmir killings

Jammu: The Panun Kashmir, a body of Kashmiri Pandit migrants in Jammu, on Sunday demanded that the government create a genocide tribunal on the lines of the Nuremberg Tribunal to try the perpetrators of the killings of minorities in the Valley. Describing the employment package for displaced Hindus of

Kashmir as a "brazen denial of genocide policy", Panun Kashmir chairman Dr Ajay Churungoo said that it has nothing to do with their return and rehabilitation in the Valley. "Instead it has been aimed to hostage them to a fascist Muslim order in Kashmir," Churungoo said. **ENS**

20th arrest in cruise ship drug bust: Nigerian held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 10

THE NARCOTICS Control Bureau (NCB) investigating the drug trail in the cruise ship drug bust case arrested a Nigerian national in Mumbai on Saturday and seized an intermediate quantity of cocaine from him. This is the 20th arrest in the case, including two Nigerian nationals. On Saturday night an NCB team mounted surveillance and intercepted Nigerian national, Okaro Ouzama, and found the drugs on him. Ouzama's name had cropped up during the questioning of another accused arrested in the case. "We are making efforts to explore the foreign linkages of the case on the basis of interrogation of all the accused persons," said Sameer Wankhede, IRS, zonal director, NCB Mumbai. Ouzama was allegedly the drug supplier of Abdul Shaikh, who was arrested earlier in this

Arbaaz Merchant 'supplier' remanded in 1-day NCB custody

Mumbai: A Holiday Magistrate Court in Mumbai on Sunday remanded alleged drug supplier Shivraj Ramdas Harijan (33), recently arrested in a ship drug raid case, to Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) custody till October 11. Special Public Prosecutor Advait Sethna for NCB informed Magistrate SD Kamat that 62 gm of "dark brown sticky substance purported to be charas" was recovered from Shivraj and his one-day custody was required for further interrogation. Sethna told the court that Shivraj is a drug supplier to Arbaaz Merchant, a co-accused in the case. The NCB, in its remand application, stated that the initial probe revealed that Harijan has vital links in the supply chain of contraband and therefore his role, involvement in the 'conspiracy' between the persons arrested needs to be investigated through custodial interrogation. **ENS**

<div>इंडियन बैंक</div> <div></div> <div>Indian Bank</div>		<div>इलाहाबाद</div> <div>ALLAHABAD</div>				
Stressed Asset Management Branch, Khajpura, Jagdeoopath, Bailey Road, Patna-800014						
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES						
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.						
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank) Stressed Asset Management (SAM) Branch, Patna, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 29.10.2021, for recovery of bank's dues from the following borrower and guarantors.						
Sl. No. & Branch	Name of the Account	Description of the Charged/Mortgage Property	Name of the Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Amount of Secured Debt	Reserve Price (in Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit
1. SAMB Patna	i. M/s Maa Durga Enterprises, Flat No.102, Ram Prem Enclave, West Anandpuri, Near Jal Parishad, Rajapul, Patna-800001, Bihar ii. M/s Maa Durga Enterprises, Office: Manjha House No.7, Vivekanand Park, Road No.2, Near Alpna Market, Patliputra Colony, Patna-800013 2. Sri Raushan Kumar S/o Suresh Sharma, Flat No.102, Ram Prem Enclave, West Anandpuri, Near Jal Parishad Rajapul, Patna-800001 Bihar, 3. Smt. Archana Kumari W/o Sri Srikant Saran, 302, Hope Royal Residency, Vijay Nagar, Rukanpura, Patna-800014, 5. Smt. Jhalo Devi W/o Dwarikanath Prasad Singh, Amahara Bihta, Patna-801118	Equitable Mortgage-All that part and parcel of the property along with present and future construction there on: Property situated at Mauza-Amhara, Thana-Bihta, Pargana-Manner, P.S Bihta, District-Patna, Plot No.-4105, Area-51 Decimal, Plot No.4105,4106, Area-9.02 Decimal Total Area-60.02 Decimal, Computer Code 37, Khata No.135, 1216, Tauzi No.-16899, Thana No-44, within the jurisdiction of sub register office, Bikram and District Registry Office Patna in the name of Ms. Jhalo Devi W/o Dwarika Nath Prasad and bounded as follows: North-Sri Devendra Singh & Angerra Sharma, South-Sri Bhubaneshwar Mahato & Krishna Tamoli, East-SH Bihta-Aurangabad Road & Krishna Tamoli, West-Sri Deo Kumar Singh.	Ms. Jhalo Devi W/o Dwarika Nath Prasad	₹2,11,13,755/- (Rupees Two crore eleven lacs thirteen thousand seven hundred fifty five only) as on 23.09.2019 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon less recovery if any	₹1,70,67,000/- (Rupees One crore seventy lakh sixty seven thousand only)	₹17,06,700/- (Rupees Seventeen lakh six thousand seven hundred only)
2. SAMB Patna	M/s J M Institute of Speech & Hearing Sri N.K.P. Singh (Gen Secretary), Sri Mukesh Jha (Treasuerer), Sri Sumnayu Bhardwaj (Secretary) Unit Location: Turki Muzaffarpur Registered Office: Indrapuri Road No.05, Keshri Nagar, Patna-800024 Sri Manoj Kumar and Smt. Manisha Kumari, both add 616, Indrapuri, Road No.05, Keshri Nagar, Patna 800024	A) Land property in the name of Smt. Manisha Kumari Mauza-Mahmadinagar Urf Rosara bahar town Paragana-Kasma ilake Thana & sub registry- Rosara District-Samastipur, Tauzi No.6424, Thana No.69, Halka 10 & 11 details as under:- (i) Sale Deed No.1353, Date 08.02.2000, Khata No.505(old), 890(old), 261(new), Khesra No.217,218,161(old), 160,162,163,164,165,166,169,190,191,193,195(New), Area-04 katha 10 dhur, Bounded: North-Khesra no. 170,181 & 182(old), Khesra no.203(New), South-Khesra No.192,193(old), Khesra no. 172 & 173(new), East-Khesra No. 182, 183, 189 (old), Khesra No.204 & 205 (new), West-Rajkumar Rai Sakin Sakarpura, Maheshwar Singh.	Smt. Manisha Kumari W/o Sri Manoj Kumar, 616, Indrapuri, Road No.05, Keshri Nagar, Patna 800024	Rs.190237816/- as on 16.08.2018 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon less recovery if any	₹ 1,70,00,000/- (Rupees One crore seventy lac only)	₹ 17,00,000/- (Rupees Seventeen lac only)
(ii) Sale Deed No.1354, Dated 08.02.2000, Khata No.505,890 (old) & 260(new), Khesra No.217, 218, 161, 160, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 169, 191(Old) & 195, 193(New), Area-4 katha 10 dhur, Bounded by: North-Khesra no.181,182 & 170(old), Khesra no.203(New), South-Khesra No.192 & 193(old), Khesra no.172 & 173(new), East-Khesra No.182,183 & 189(old), Khesra No.204 & 205(new), West-Raj Kumar Rai, Maheshwar Singh. (iii) Sale Deed No.11186, Dated 07.11.2001, Khata No.773(old) & 141(new), Khesra No.192,212(old) & 173(new), Area-01 Bigha 13 Katha 13 dhur, Bounded by: North-Nij Khariddar, Bipin Kumar Choudhary, South-Raja Purve, East-Sewak Jha, Kameshwar Jha, Bhola Jha, West-Pramod Bajaj, Ratneshwar Nayak Urf Munna.						
B) Landed property in the name of Sri Manoj Kumar, Mauza-Shahjiahpur Bhataulia Paragna-Visara, Thana-Musahari, Sub Registry & District-Muzaffarpur, Thana no.415 Sale Deed No.28473, Dated 18.12.2002, Khata No.61, Khesra No.57, Area-84.5 decimal, bounded by: North-Rambriksh Singh, Shivi Rai Vagairah, South-Education India Vagairah, East-Satya Narayan Prasad Singh, West-Sadak.						
C) Land and Building in the name of M/s J.M Institute of Speech & Hearing Mauza-Chhajian Harishankar, Marariya, Anchal-Kudne (Turki), Thana-161, Dist.-Muzaffarpur details as under:- (i) Sale Deed No.13575, Dated 09.06.2008, Khata No.1964, Khesra No.10116, Area-1 acre 85 decimal, bounded by: North-Nij Mokir Alah, South-Nij Mokir Alah, East-Khesra no.10116, West-Nij Mokir Alah. (ii) Sale Deed No.13550, Dated 09.06.2008, Khata No.2691, Khesra						
				₹ 1,85,90,000/- (Rupees One crore eighty five lac ninety thousand only)	₹ 18,59,000/- (Rupees Eighteen lac fifty nine thousand only)	
				₹ 25,68,27,000/- (Rupees Twenty five crore sixty eight lac twenty seven thousand only)	₹ 2,56,83,000/- (Rupees Two crore fifty six lac eighty three thousand only)	
Detail of encumbrance, Outstanding Dues of Local Govt, Electricity, Property tax, Municipal Tax, etc. if any known to the Bank: Not Known				Last Date & time for Registration and Submission of EMD amount: 27.10.2021 through https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auCTION/home/ibapi Till 5.00 PM.		
Date & Time of e-auction: 29.10.2021 from 11.00 AM to 3.00 PM at the platform of http://www.mstcecommerce.com with unlimited extension. Bid incremental amount is Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only). Property ID: for Sl. No. 1. IDIB1804, for Sl. No. 2. IDIB1802A, IDIB1802B, IDIB1802C				For further details and Terms & Conditions, Contact: Shri Rajat Sinha (Chief Manager) Mob.: 9162910272		
For downloading further details and Terms & Conditions, Please Visit: (i) https://www.mstcecommerce.com (ii) https://www.ibapi.in				*Applicable tax to be borne by the bidder.		
Bidders are advised to visit the website (www.mstcecommerce.com) of our e-auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance please call MSTC HELPDESK No.033-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact ibapiop@mstcecommerce.com and for EMD status please contact ibapiin@mstcecommerce.com. For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://ibapi.in and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number "18001025026" and "011-41106131". Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with https://ibapi.in and www.mstcecommerce.com.				Date : 07.10.2021		
Place : Patna				Authorised Officer Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank)		



The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

LIFTING OFF

Sale of Air India to Tatas signals government's determination to push forward with the privatisation agenda

AFTER SEVERAL FAILED attempts, the Union government, on Friday, announced the sale of the national carrier Air India to Tata Sons. This marks the first major outright privatisation of a public sector company in almost two decades. That there was little opposition to the sale from employees of the beleaguered PSU or, for that matter, from political parties, suggests an acceptance of the fact that the government could no longer throw good money after bad. Considering the long-standing struggle to sell the airline, the pragmatism shown by the government this time around in tweaking the modalities of the sale agreement to make it an attractive proposition, sends an unambiguous message — about its determination to push forward with a privatisation agenda.

The deal will strengthen the Tata group's foothold in the aviation sector — it already owns stakes in Vistara and Air Asia. Taken together, the market share of the three airlines stood at 26.7 per cent in the domestic air passenger market as of August 2021. With this acquisition, the Tatas will also gain access to landing and parking slots at domestic and overseas airports at prime locations like London and New York, though dealing with high cost structures and a bloated payroll could prove challenging. It is possible that the Tatas may consider integrating all their aviation ventures leading to consolidation in the market — the condition that the new owner would be unable to merge the airline into an existing business for a three-year period has been waived.

With the conclusion of this sale, the government will no longer need to constantly infuse cash in the loss-making enterprise. It has pumped in around Rs 1.1 lakh crore since 2009-10 to prop up the airline. In 2019-20 alone, the airline's operational losses were to the tune of Rs 8,743 crore. This now frees up scarce resources, money better spent on providing public services like health and education. On its part, the government has also displayed flexibility in pushing the sale by retaining part of the debt, as previous attempts to sell failed to elicit interest with private players reluctant to step forward to take on the mountain of debt the airline was drowning under. The deal with the Tatas will be executed at an enterprise value of Rs 18,000 crore as against a reserve price of Rs 12,906 crore. Of this, Tata Sons will pay Rs 2,700 crore in cash, while Rs 15,300 crore of the airline's debt will be retained by it. The remaining debt will be transferred to a special purpose vehicle, part of which will be retired by monetising assets such as real estate. Now that this complex sale has been closed, attention will turn to the privatisation/disinvestment of PSUs that has been on the agenda for some time — Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Container Corporation and others — prompting a re-rating.

MUCH IN A NAME

Minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey's proposal to rename Corbett National Park ignores the reserve's rich history

IN 1936, INDIA'S first national park was named after Malcolm Hailey, the then governor of the United Provinces. After Independence, it was renamed Ramganga, after the river that flows through the park. In 1956, the protected area was rechristened once again, after Jim Corbett, the hunter-turned-naturalist, whose name had, by then, become part of the forest's lore — a rare instance of a public place being named for an Englishman after Independence. Now Union Minister of State for Environment, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, has proposed that the park do away with its association with the Englishman. Last week, Choubey reportedly noted in the visitor's book that he preferred the name "Ramganga National Park". The Uttarakhand government has reportedly opposed Choubey's proposal, but the minister's remarks have drawn justifiable outrage, and stoked fears of a replay of the BJP government's name-changing spree in the realm of conservation.

Names of public places, cities and streets, no doubt, have close links with the dominant political ideology of an era. But acts of rechristening are most often driven by a simplistic and, at times chauvinistic, reading of the past, one that is insensitive to the layered histories and identities of places. Born in Nainital to English parents, Corbett volunteered for the British Army in both the World Wars. But his writings show him as steeped in the ecosystem of Kumaon and Garhwal. They are suffused with empathy for both the people and nature. Writing about his childhood friend, Kunwar Singh, Corbett recalls, for instance, that "We had a name for every outstanding tree, for every water hole, game track, and nullah". The naturalist also struck a friendship with freedom fighter and UP's first chief minister, Govind Ballabh Pant. It was on Pant's insistence that the celebrated protected area came to be named after Corbett. In 1973, the park became the launchpad of Project Tiger — India's first tiger protection programme.

In more ways than one, Corbett National Park is a testament to the well-known adage of historians — the past lives in the present. In and around the forests of Uttarakhand, guesthouses, general stores, gift shops, even saloons, carry Corbett's name. It's this legacy that led Uttarakhand's forest minister Harak Singh Rawat to say that it would be "impractical to change the name of the park". He also added that Corbett "was a legend, a national pride" — a message that his colleague and his party would do well to heed.

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



COOMI KAPOOR

AS NEWS OF the Tatas taking over Air India spread, snappy jokes about *ghar wapasi*, "air-looms" and "Tata does not always mean goodbye" flooded social media. The mood was overwhelmingly sentimental: A perennially sick airline had returned to its roots, and was waiting to be nursed back to good health. While the sale of Air India is a big boost to the government's disinvestment drive, some wondered whether the investment, at a time when the aviation business is in the doldrums, made sound business sense for the Tatas. The deal bore the clear stamp of chairman emeritus of the Tata group, Ratan Tata, 83, an entrepreneur with a reputation for bold gambles, uninhibited by the bottom line, in acquiring marquee brands, whether in overbidding for the Anglo-Dutch industrial giant, Corus Steel, or purchasing Jaguar Land Rover when the auto sector market was down.

Unlike most business houses, the men at the helm of the Tata group will not have to face irate shareholders over their purchase. Sixty per cent of Tata Sons, the tightly held private company which runs the Tata empire, is owned by the two major Tata charitable trusts, with Ratan Tata as chairman. The Pallonji Mistry family owns 18.3 per cent of the company, but the Supreme Court ruled earlier this year that minority shareholders have really no say and cannot complain. A comforting monetary factor for Tata Sons is that it is the major shareholder of the flourishing Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India's second-largest company, a cash cow that has bailed out the group in the past.

Since the terms of the purchase agreement are yet to be clearly spelt out, it would be a mistake to assume that Air India is necessarily an albatross which the Tatas were strong-armed into purchasing for alternate considerations. The Tata group has coveted the airline ever since the Vajpayee government first talked of disinvestment, but was thwarted in its earlier attempts by politicians instigated by business rivals. Air India was,

With Air India, Tatas' affinity for airlines industry, service sector expertise will be tested

In August 1953, Jawaharlal Nehru nationalised all privately owned airlines and merged them into state corporations. JRD was deeply hurt that the company for which he had such great dreams was snatched away from him. The government added insult to injury by offering a paltry sum as compensation for the airlines' valuable assets. Still, in recognition of his role, JRD was appointed chairperson of Air India and a director of Indian Airlines. In March 1977, the Janata Party PM Morarji Desai dealt the unkindest blow — JRD was dropped from the boards of both Air India and Indian Airlines and it was left to his embarrassed successor Air Marshal P C Lal to break the news to him.

after all, the Tatas' baby and cruelly snatched away by the government, and run slowly to the ground by bureaucratic mishandling. Praful Patel as civil aviation minister played the role of principal hatchet man.

The history of civil aviation in India is inextricably linked to the Tatas. It is thanks to the late Jehangir Ratan Dadabhoy (JRD) Tata, the group's charismatic chairperson, that the first indigenous airline got off the ground in 1932. JRD, the first Indian to obtain a commercial pilot licence, joined the Tatas in the mid-1920s and started a postal air service from Karachi to Bombay via Ahmedabad in partnership with a former RAF pilot Nevill Vintcent. The Tatas' original investment was only Rs 2,00,000. On October 15, 1932, JRD inaugurated the airlines, personally flying the Puss Moth from Karachi. From a mail service, it was a small step to flying passengers. Within five years of operations, Tata Aviation Service had a punctuality rate of 99.4 per cent. By 1946, Tata Airlines carried one in every three passengers in the country. After independence, JRD conceived of a grand plan to turn his airline international under the name, Air India International, as a joint enterprise with the government. The government had 49 per cent equity. Air India was the first Asian airline to link east with west. JRD knew he could never compete in size against the big international European and American carriers of those days such as Pan Am, Trans-World Airlines, KLM and British Overseas. His aim was to ensure that Air India was second to none in the quality of service, equipment, maintenance and timing. The bowing maharaja, conceived by the irreverent marketing genius Bobby Kooka, was the iconic logo of the royal Indian hospitality offered aboard Air India. On his frequent trips, JRD made copious notes, listing the minutest of complaints, from the shabby appearance of an armrest to changing the menu to include piping hot bacon and tomatoes along with eggs. His wife Thelly and Kooka often helped in recruiting airhostesses.

In August 1953, Jawaharlal Nehru as prime minister nationalised all privately-owned airlines and merged them into state corporations: Air India and Indian Airlines. JRD was deeply hurt that the one company for which he had such great dreams and had invested the maximum time and energy was snatched away from him. The government added insult to injury by offering a paltry sum as compensation for the airlines' valuable assets. Still, in recognition of his role, JRD was appointed chairperson of Air India and a director of Indian Airlines. As unpaid chairperson, JRD continued to devote a large proportion of his time to the airlines and, as late as 1964, Air India topped the list of airlines surveyed by the London Daily Mail. In March 1977, the Janata Party Prime Minister Morarji Desai dealt the unkindest blow — JRD was dropped from the boards of both Air India and Indian Airlines and it was left to his embarrassed successor Air Marshal P C Lal to break the news to him.

Ratan Tata, JRD's successor as Tata chairman, also has a fascination for flying. As a college student in the US, he did odd jobs, even washing dishes, so that he could take flying lessons. He was the first Indian to fly an F16 Falcon fighter at the age of 70.

But is the Tatas' deep affinity for the airline business, the synergy that their other companies can provide and their known expertise in the service sector enough? The challenge, as PR honcho Dilip Cheriaj jokingly suggested, is, "To turn a babu brand into a Bawa brand". But the airline business today is very different from what it was 68 years ago. Low-cost airlines with minimum overheads and minus frills have generally proved to be the most successful models. The magic carpet treatment of yesteryears does not necessarily provide the key for a turnaround of an airline.

The writer is the author of The Tatas, Freddie Mercury and other Bawas

AUTUMN OF ANXIETY

Cost of living crisis has UK government on defensive. It needs to recapture narrative



RISHABH BHANDARI

THE RECENT ANNUAL gathering of the Conservative party in Manchester turned out to be a sombre affair. The initial hope was for a buoyant convention underpinned by a successful vaccination drive which ministers could proudly trumpet. But a growing cost of living crisis with fuel shortages, food-chain bottlenecks and rising energy prices changed the mood dramatically. While a winter of discontentment hasn't arrived yet, an autumnal anxiety has taken hold with clouds of uncertainty hovering. It is clear that Boris Johnson needs to urgently reset his premiership and reconnect with the electorate.

To be fair, the task of fashioning a post-Covid economic recovery was always going to be challenging. Johnson was not unreasonable in pointing out that in a post-Brexit environment, the country was inevitably going to encounter a "period of adjustment". That said, few would have predicted the chaotic scenes unfolding with fuel in scarce supply, wholesale energy prices spiking, supermarket shelves dwindling and inflationary pressures on the rise. When the army is called in to drive fuel tankers as an emergency measure, it is apparent that something has gone badly amiss. The timing could not have been worse. As the government's furlough scheme (which benefitted a quarter of all in employment) also comes to an end, there is justifiable unease about what might lie ahead. Recalling Shakespeare, "when sorrows come, they come not single spies, but in battalions". That said, the government has played a leading role in this almighty fiasco. Its ap-

The path ahead is unlikely to be straightforward for the Tory party. After a decade in office, there is a risk that the hunger for decisiveness could subside. But if they want to retain their status as a natural party of government, the Tories should be bold in pressing forward with a reformist mindset.

proach makes for a classic case study in what behavioural psychologists term as "confirmation bias". In other words, a tendency to see what one wishes to see and to ignore inconvenient truths. Warning signs from the industry about labour deficiencies in key areas such as haulage and food-chain logistics were given short shrift. Alarm bells had been sounded. But a government intent on "taking back control" and reducing unskilled immigration was unbending. It was only when fuel pumps ran out that it rushed out a hasty temporary visa scheme for some workers. What this sorry saga underlines is that Britain needs a grown-up debate about immigration more than ever. It needs an official approach that is willing to appreciate the role that demand and supply can play as an immigration lever rather than arbitrary quotas.

Where are the Tories headed then? The answer seems to be muddled at the moment. A bid to continue to court the working-class Brexiteer voters has seen the Tory party support greater taxation and spending policies. But the truth is the increased borrowing cannot be sustained forever. Nor is increasing the taxation burden the answer. Incessant borrowing stands to pass debts on to the youth. And increasing taxation — even to support laudable concerns such as social care — risks choking off a recovery before it has truly begun. The irony is fiscal conservatism and making the case for lower taxes — especially for the low paid — has all but been forgotten by an ostensibly centre-right government.

The government remains fortunate that the Labour party seems leaden footed and

astonishingly insular. Labour has not yet articulated a credible alternative plan. Nonetheless, the Tories would be foolish to be complacent. What should be their key priorities then? First, simplifying the structures of an inefficient state should be their core aim. Second, championing economic freedom and promoting innovation should be at the heart of its agenda. A post-Brexit Britain needs to embrace free trade and eschew protectionism. It is only through growth that Johnson's promise to "level-up" forgotten areas of the country — the so-called red wall — can be fulfilled. Allied to this would be a genuinely competitive tax regime to boost entrepreneurship. Alliances with like-minded democracies such as India need to be cemented too. This calls for strategic nous. As a case in point, the UK's reluctance to recognise Covishield and thereby annoying Indian partners seems blinkered. Finally, the emphasis needs to shift to upskilling a population. Harnessing opportunities for all ages remains essential to avoid long-term structural unemployment.

The path ahead is unlikely to be straightforward for the Tory party. After a decade in office, there is a risk that the hunger for decisiveness could subside. But if they want to retain their status as a natural party of government, the Tories should be bold in pressing forward with a reformist mindset. More than ever, Johnson needs to make the case for a global Britain that remains open for business.

The writer is a London-based lawyer and political commentator

OCTOBER 11, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

ANDHRA CRISIS

TWO ANDHRA PRADESH ministers, C Das and Chandrababu Naidu, who were suspended by PCC chief K Prabhakara Rao for defiance of party directives, handed over their resignation to CM T Anjaiah on October 9. Anjaiah, who returned from Delhi on that day, held consultations with the party chief and his ministerial colleagues. The two ministers were suspended by Rao for participating in the Chittoor zila parishad elections in violation of the party directive.

PUNJAB EXPLOSIONS

DESPITE AN INTENSIFIED police bundobast, bomb explosions continued to rock various

parts of Punjab for the fourth day on Saturday. Reports of explosions were received at Chandigarh from Moga and Gurdaspur. Similar reports were received from other places in the state as well, but could not be confirmed. A high-powered bomb was reportedly hurled at the residence of a police official in Moga on Friday night. No one was reported injured, although the house was damaged. In Ghuwana village of Gurdaspur district, some miscreants were reported to have thrown a bomb at a petrol pump. The damage was, however, not "extensive", an official said. No arrests were made. A senior police official told UNI that the police had taken fresh measures to curb the "growing activity of extremists".

SADAT'S FUNERAL

THE BODY OF the assassinated President Anwar Sadat was laid to rest on Saturday afternoon under the monument for the country's unknown soldier at a ceremony witnessed only by foreign dignitaries, a knot of high Egyptian officials and members of the late President's immediate family. The ceremony was held on an island with very tight security, stretching over 800 metres of an avenue along which lies the grandstand from which Sadat was reviewing a military parade when he was assassinated. A solid flank of soldiers stood shoulder-to-shoulder within the screened off avenue along which the body made its last journey. Within that area, there were soldiers watching soldiers.

THE IDEAS PAGE

A carbon policy for the farm

It must aim not only to reduce emissions but also reward farmers through carbon credits



FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH

BY ASHOK GULATI AND PURVI THANGARAJ

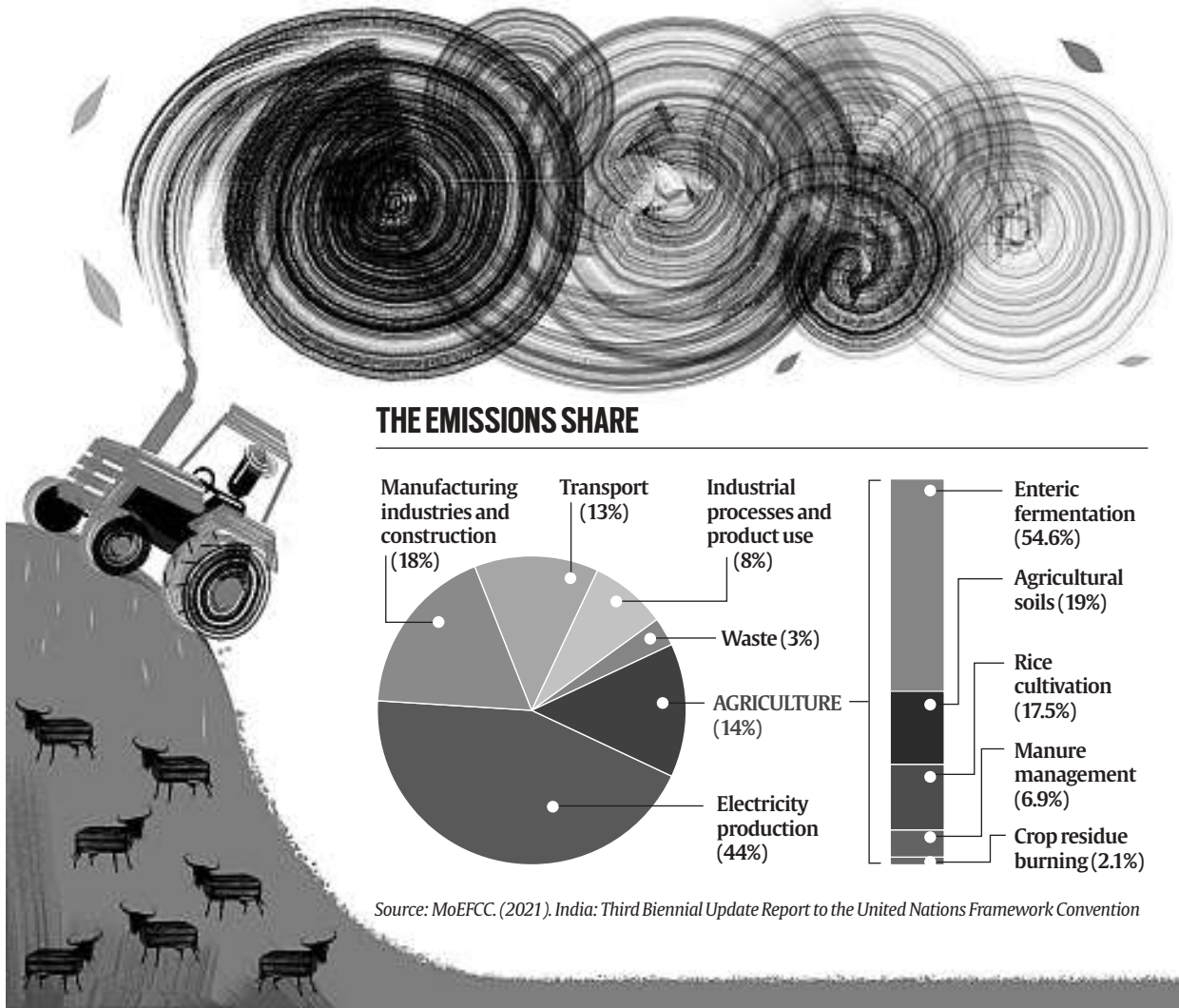
THE ASSESSMENT REPORT of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group - 1 has literally issued a “code red” to humanity as we rush towards a 1.5 degree Celsius hotter planet by 2040. The UK is set to host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow from October 31 to November 12 with a view to accelerate action towards the Paris Agreement’s goals. Union minister for environment, forest and climate change, Bhupender Yadav, says that the focus should be on climate finance and transfer of green technologies at low cost.

Despite developed countries having collectively emitted more than their estimated emission allowances and keeping the arguments of climate justice in mind, the action on the ground is already too late. Nations are still quibbling about historical global emitters and who should take the blame and fix it. But the fact that 22 of the 30 most polluted cities in the world are in India is a major cause of concern. We know well that Delhi is the world’s most polluted capital as per the World Air Quality Report, 2020. For those of us residing in Delhi, the winter months become a challenge as stubble burning in adjoining states and low wind speeds take the AQI beyond 300 on average, with some days going as high as 600 to 800, while the safe limit is below 50.

According to the Global Carbon Atlas, India ranks third in total greenhouse gas emissions by emitting annually around 2.6 billion tonnes (Bt) CO₂eq, preceded by China (10 Bt CO₂eq) and the United States (5.4 Bt CO₂eq), and followed by Russia (1.7Bt) and Japan (1.2 Bt). But global negotiations on climate change often talk about emissions on a per capita basis and the emission intensity of GDP. Of these top five absolute emitters, the US has the highest per capita emissions (15.24 tonnes), followed by Russia (11.12 tonnes). India’s per capita emissions is just 1.8 tonnes, significantly lower than the world average of 4.4 tonnes per capita. But negotiators are not likely to be convinced by this argument.

If one takes emissions per unit of GDP, of the top five absolute emitters, China ranks first with 0.486 kg per 2017 PPP \$ of GDP, which is very close to Russia at 0.411 kg per 2017 PPP \$ of GDP. India is slightly above the world average of 0.26 (kg per 2017 PPP \$ of GDP) at 0.27 kg, while the USA is at 0.25, and Japan at 0.21. But India ranked seventh on the list of countries most affected due to extreme weather events, incurring losses of \$69 billion (in PPP) in 2019 (Germanwatch, 2021). This is worrying. In our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted in 2016, India committed to “reduce emission intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 from 2005 level.”

Sector-wise global emissions show that electricity and heat production and agriculture, forestry and other land use make up 50 per cent of the emissions. But the emissions



Graphic: Ritesh Kumar, Illustration: CR Sasikumar

pie in India owes its largest chunk (44 per cent) to the energy sector, followed by the manufacturing and construction sector (18 per cent), and agriculture, forestry and land use sectors (14 per cent), with the remaining being shared by the transport, industrial processes and waste sectors. The share of agriculture in total emissions has gradually declined from 28 per cent in 1994 to 14 per cent in 2016. However, in absolute terms, emissions from agriculture have increased to about 650 Mt CO₂ in 2018, which is similar to China’s emissions from agriculture.

Agricultural emissions in India are primarily from the livestock sector (54.6 per cent) in the form of methane emissions due to enteric fermentation and the use of nitrogenous fertilisers in agricultural soils (19 per cent) which emit nitrous oxides; rice cultivation (17.5 per cent) in anaerobic conditions accounts for a major portion of agricultural emissions followed by livestock management (6.9 per cent) and burning of crop residues (2.1 per cent).

A carbon policy for agriculture must aim not only to reduce its emissions but also reward farmers through carbon credits which should be globally tradable. With the world’s largest livestock population (537 million), India needs better feeding practices with smaller numbers of cattle by raising their productivity. Rice cultivation on around 44 million hectares is the other culprit for methane emissions, especially in the irrigated tracts of north-west India.

While direct seeded rice and alternative wet and dry practices can reduce the carbon footprint in rice fields, the real solution lies

India ranks third in total greenhouse gas emissions by emitting annually around 2.6 billion tonnes (Bt) CO₂eq, preceded by China and the United States, and followed by Russia and Japan. But global negotiations on climate change often talk about emissions on a per capita basis and the emission intensity of GDP. Of these top five absolute emitters, the US has the highest per capita emissions, followed by Russia. India’s per capita emissions are significantly lower than the world average. But negotiators are not likely to be convinced by this argument.

in switching areas from rice to maize or other less water-guzzling crops. In this context, opening up corn for ethanol can help not only reduce our huge dependence on crude oil imports but also reduce the carbon footprint. If we can devise a system for rewarding farmers for this switch by making corn more profitable than paddy, it can be a win-win situation. And if we develop global carbon markets, India needs to clearly spell out in its policy how it would adjust carbon credits when it sells to polluting industries abroad so that emission reductions are not double counted in India and the country buying carbon credits.

Agricultural soils are the largest single source of nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions in the national inventory. Nitrous oxide emissions from use of nitrogen-fertiliser increased by approximately 358 per cent during 1980-81 to 2014-15, growing at a statistically significant rate of 5,100 tonnes per year. An alternative for better and efficient fertiliser use would be to promote fertigation and subsidise soluble fertilisers. Almost 70 per cent of the granular fertilisers that are thrown over plants are polluting the environment and leaching into the ground-water, while polluting the same. Ultimately, the government should incentivise and give subsidies on drips for fertigation, switching away from rice to corn or less water-intensive crops, and promoting soluble fertilisers at the same rate of subsidy as granular urea.

Gulati is Infosys Chair professor for Agriculture and Thangaraj is Research Assistant at ICRIER

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“It is no secret that ties between Pakistan and the United States are going through a difficult phase.” —DAWN

Fixing the tax leak

The Pandora papers reveal inequality of taxation, limits to legislative measures, and call for reform that makes tax avoidance illegal



SURANJALI TANDON

THE UNCOVERING OF roughly 12 million records of companies in tax havens by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) has only served to underline the endemic use of tax havens. The Pandora papers, as detailed in this newspaper, reveal the extent to which incomes and assets are being stashed away by the who’s who through artful skulduggery. Five years after the Panama papers, the latest exposé only reveals the legislative limits of preventing tax dodging across the world.

The Panama papers and Paradise papers had marked a significant shift in the public perception over notions of the rich paying their fair share of taxes. The resulting public pressure encouraged governments to take on a more proactive role in clamping down on shell corporations, improving tax transparency and introducing anti-avoidance measures. Reportedly, 16 out of 88 countries identified in the Panama papers undertook at least one substantive reform by 2019. India recovered Rs 20,352 crore from the investigations following the leaks. Yet, change has been slow and limited.

Over the years international initiatives have been undertaken to uncover the trail of untaxed or under-taxed funds. The OECD introduced the common reporting standard, using which countries could partner better to exchange the financial information of their residents. Today, 110 jurisdictions are signatories to the standard and, through 4,200 bilateral exchange relationships, have exchanged 84 million pieces of information uncovering \$107 billion in tax revenue.

However, there are countries that even today have not signed up to this framework. The conspicuous absentees are the United States (it employs the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act or FATCA to receive information unilaterally on US residents), the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. This essentially means that tax authorities looking to probe the siphoning of money from one country to another may not be able to procure substantive evidence if a country is not obligated to exchange such information.

In spite of the measures taken, financial secrecy thrives not just on pristine islands, but also in countries like the US. The Tax Justice Network reports that the US ranked second in the world, before Switzerland and after the Cayman Islands in financial secrecy. This is not surprising since states such as Delaware and South Dakota, as identified by ICIJ, are hotbeds for offshoring. The ICIJ claims that between 2000 and 2019, US-based trusts held assets worth more than \$1 billion (the amount mentioned for select trusts set up in the US) that include real estate and bank accounts in Panama, Switzerland, Luxembourg and the Bahamas.

Evidently, the days for offshoring are far from over. Individuals and corporations seek complex structures such as companies and trusts to hold assets in or operate via low-tax jurisdictions. In fact, as per the latest information reported by the OECD on coun-

try-by-country operations by select multinational companies, more than 40 per cent of the entities located in the British Virgin Islands, the Isle of Man, Bermuda and Mauritius, essentially performed the passive function of holding shares or equity instruments, indicating profit booking without real activity. Many of these countries have adopted a lax regulatory framework to remain economically relevant.

An important debate that emerges from these leaks, which is more relevant for India, is the distinction between tax avoidance and tax evasion. While from a moral standpoint both may be socially unacceptable, legally, parties to the former can only be reprimanded where it is established that the intent is to undermine tax law. In the past, as has been observed in landmark judgements such as that of Vodafone, a higher threshold for tolerance is applied to avoidance, especially in the name of economic benefits such as investment inflows.

Unfortunately, India’s FDI statistics hint at oblique investments through jurisdictions such as Mauritius and Singapore. In 2019, the stock of inward direct investment from these two jurisdictions reported by India exceeded what these countries reported as outstanding outward investments, thus indicating that investors, including India entities, were using them as conduits.

It is often challenging to unveil transactions, especially since corporate entities are treated as an entity separate from the shareholders. This places the burden of proof on tax administrators if the structure so adopted is solely to avoid taxes. Moreover, often the company/trust facilitating tax avoidance or evasion and the individuals associated with it are disassociated using layers of entities across countries. For this purpose, the concept of beneficial ownership gained prominence. Countries, including India, under the Companies Act maintain a register of beneficial owners that is accessible to regulators so that they can construct the true ownership pattern. However, there are limits to traceability due to non-cooperative jurisdictions.

As a result, while one may think that celebrities associated with entities operating in tax havens are indulging in scandalous behaviour, this may not be illegal. The ICIJ itself places a caveat — that there are “legitimate uses” of trusts and companies. And that the data does not suggest that “companies or other entities included in the ICIJ Offshore Leaks Database have broken the law or otherwise acted improperly.”

Despite initiatives to improve tax transparency, these leaks point to the continuing existence of these opaque structures. These range from golden passports that allow economic fugitives to flee, to the use of financial structures, legally designed to avoid tax and regulatory oversight. Over the years, to discourage countries from offering such deals to taxpayers, half-hearted attempts have been made at greylisting countries, often not resulting in any sanctions.

The scale of the offshore leaks reaffirms the sense of inequality in taxation. In response, the CBDT has, like in the past, ordered an inter-agency inquiry. While such inquiries can assuage public resentment, to truly reform the existing tax system socially unacceptable tax avoidance must be made impermissible in law.

The writer is assistant professor, NIPFP



PRANAB BARDHAN

How to reimagine nationalism

Opposition needs to assert a civic nationalism enshrined in Constitution

SUHAS PALSHIKAR (‘WHY opposition unity’, IE, September 4) has rightly asked for broader changes than any attempt at Opposition unity has to be based on, beyond just the tactics of winning elections. One of these major changes involves what he calls “effort at redefining nationalism”. In an IE piece two years ago (‘Uncivic nationalism’, October 12, 2019), I made the point that the Opposition is allowing the ruling party to hijack the idea of nationalism, and it is possible to envisage and restore an alternative, healthier form of nationalism. This article is mainly to elaborate on this idea.

The RSS-BJP idea of nationalism is based on a Hindu supremacist view, with a majoritarian religious community subordinating minorities and effectively turning them into second-class citizens. This is similar to the idea based on which Jinnah’s Muslim League formed Pakistan or Erdogan’s Islamic party is running Turkey, or, in an extreme form, the Nazis built the Third Reich in Germany. During our freedom struggle, Gandhiji and Tagore rejected this basis of nationalism. After Independence, we turned to a more inclusive form of nationalism based on the constitutional values of tolerance, respect for diversity and pluralism, and equal rights for all communities. This constitution-based nationalism was constructed not just by Nehru and Ambedkar, but also by Vallabhbhai Patel and Rajendra Prasad. At the time, the RSS objected to the Constitution because, as an editorial in *Organiser* pointed out, it was alien to the *Manusmriti*. Of course, it was alien, because

otherwise, the Constitution would have to allow for caste discrimination and suppression of the rights of Dalits and women, as prescribed by the Laws of Manu.

The RSS, some leaders of which have in the past openly expressed their admiration for the “efficient” Nazi ways of organising and mobilising society, called our Constitution “western”. This was deliberately ignoring the long tradition of the Bhakti movement in different parts of India (not to speak of the Sufis), which promoted inter-faith harmony and syncretic values, quite often rebelling against Brahminical dominance and orthodoxy.

The idea of ethnicity- or religion-based nationalism is borrowed from the West. In the past, it has devastated many western societies and in recent years such narrow, intolerant, nostalgic, xenophobic nationalism has been resurgent in some countries — from the Christian nationalism of evangelicals in the US or of the Catholics in Poland or the Slavic Orthodox-church followers in Russia. In some other countries, an alternative form of nationalism prevails. Germany is a good example. Having been burned by the narrow ethnic kind under the Nazis, German nationalism, by and large, has adopted (supported by all political parties, except possibly by the extreme parties like AfD) the form based on the liberal values of the constitution. The distinguished German philosopher Jurgen Habermas calls this “constitutional patriotism”.

Among democratic states, one of the earliest cases of making pluralism and liberal

constitutional values the basis of nationalism is that of the United States. Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg address starts with referring to the “nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal”. In 1973, Hannah Arendt, the German-born American political theorist, said in an interview with French television: “This country is united neither by heritage, nor by memory, nor by soil, nor by language, nor by origin from the same... and these citizens are united only by one thing—and that is a lot. That is, you become a citizen of the United States by simple consent to the Constitution.” In a 2009 speech, Barack Obama said, “One of the great strengths of the United States is... we do not consider ourselves a Christian nation, (but) a nation of citizens who are bound by ideals and a set of values”, as enshrined in the constitution. Despite its many historical (and often racially motivated) lapses, this is a major example in history of what Habermas calls “constitutional patriotism” or some others call “civic nationalism”.

As we have said before, this kind of civic nationalism draws upon the homegrown syncretic values of Indian history’s Bhakti movements in different parts of the country. I think it is imperative on the part of the Opposition parties to give up their silence or acquiescence (for fear they’ll be branded unpatriotic) on the issue of the narrow intolerant nationalism of the ruling party and stop following some kind of soft Hindutva—that way they’ll actually be playing into the hands of the latter and earn-

ing the contempt and ridicule of minorities, liberals, and the large number of religious Hindus who believe in an inclusive, tolerant form of Hinduism. They need to openly embrace the alternative form of civic nationalism and inspire mass mobilisation against the systematic violation of our constitutional values by the ruling party. By their egregious trampling upon the rights of minorities and dissenters, by branding most protests against the government as seditious or “anti-national”, by abusing supposedly independent agencies and constitutional bodies, by enfeebling various necessary institutions of checks and balance in a democracy, by decimating the federal structure through over-centralisation of power in the PMO, by using Parliament as a rubber stamp, and by persecuting and intimidating people through the assorted vigilantes of the Sangh Parivar, it is arguable that the ruling party is seriously damaging the “basic structure of the Constitution” and thus the basis of our civic nationalism. This way, they are also degrading India’s national prestige abroad, as any number of international rankings show.

By joining the fight for an alternative nationalism with that for restoring democracy, the Opposition can invigorate itself; it must mobilise in identifying and focusing on the “termites” that are eating at the vitals of our republic for all to see.

The writer is professor of graduate school at the department of economics, University of California, Berkeley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OLD SCOURGE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Shot of hope’ (IE, October 8). It is heartening that the WHO has given a green signal to the use of Mosquirix, an anti-malarial vaccine, to boost the health of millions of children at risk in Africa. Malaria kills one child below the age of five every two minutes and each year above 200 million new cases are reported. After the brain, the lungs are most affected in severe malaria. The approval will go a long way in reinvigorating the fight against malaria especially in areas where it is endemic.

Sunil Chopra, Ludhiana

COUNTING CASTE

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘The difficulty in counting caste’ (IE, October 8). The last four constitutional amendment acts have necessitated a thorough study of the socio-economic status of the population and the overall standing of different caste groups across various indices. The results will help the policymakers to fine-tune various welfare policies and critically assess the success of the constitutional schemes on affirmative action on the ground. A centralised caste Census along with the decennial general census would save thousands of crores of public money.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

RATING REVISION

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘At this rating’ (IE, October 8). The revision in rat-

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FIROZ BAKHT AHMED
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ing should encourage the global investors’ confidence a bit but for Gol it is a long road ahead because Moody has kept India at the lowest investment grade. The government must take all bold, big reforms to increase the pace of economic growth and this will have to be led by public investment alone. Vaccinating most of our population with both doses will help.

Bal Govind, Noida

DIGITAL INEQUALITY

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Digitise healthcare slowly’ (IE, October 6). Digitising of healthcare, if undertaken well, can be the panacea to several ills of the Indian medical system. But given the country’s digital divide, the fear that the scheme could aggravate the divide between the haves and have nots is not unfounded.

Mridula Pant, Lucknow

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IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

‘As elder partner, I should have picked up the phone to talk to Mahesh when things weren’t so great...’

LEANDER PAES

‘Could we have done things differently? I’m sure... But we still remain proud of what we achieved’

MAHESH BHUPATHI

Former doubles World No 1 tennis players MAHESH BHUPATHI and LEANDER PAES talk about winning despite differences, the missed medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics, the great value in all that they achieved, and finding closure in a tell-all docuseries. This session was moderated by Senior Correspondent Shahid Judge

SHAHID JUDGE: Both of you have had experience in front of the camera. But how does this docuseries compare to that?

Paes: Mahesh and myself have been getting offers over the last 20 years and that was to do a Bollywood feature film. None of that really excited us because we personally felt that to tell a 20-year story of how two young Indian boys pioneered through an ecosystem of sport that did not teach us how to win Wimbledon... we could not tell that story in a 90- or 120-minute feature film. So we decided to do a docuseries (*Break Point*).

Bhupathi: The way (directors Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari and Nitish Tiwari) wanted to tell the story, which was very real and very raw and not just with the two of us, but with family, friends, partners, colleagues, rivals, media who followed us at the time — I mean they are all part of the narrative. I don't think it could get any realer than this, which is a first in an Indian context. No sports story has ever been told in this format before.

SHAHID JUDGE: Winning the Chennai Open in 1997, your first tour-level title, what did that do for your careers?

Paes: The Chennai Open has always been very special for us. For one, it was about playing in our backyard. Two, the conditions were perfect for us to play and win in. Three, to come back home and play the only tournament on Indian soil. It was a huge thrill for us to actually celebrate with our fans. Even through our differences, even through us not getting along well sometimes — sometimes we weren't even communicating on the court, or off it — but still today, India has the world record of 24 undefeated Davis Cup matches in a row. That record is going to be very tough to break.

NIHAL KOSHIE: Do you guys have anything in common other than the trophies you have won? Is there a common love or passion for anything that you guys share?

Bhupathi: When we were travelling, we shared a passion for food, music and movies. I mean these are things that we did day in and day out together.

Paes: But more importantly, there is a bond in this brotherhood where I feel we complete each other. Things that Mahesh can do, I can't do and vice versa. We have learnt over the years to celebrate each other's differences, we can even laugh at each other's differences. Back then, in the late 90s, we were so engrossed in each other's lives that even if a heartbeat was different, it mattered. Even if one of us was looking in another direction for two minutes, the other would be like, 'What are you looking at? Concentrate on this.'

But when you're stuck in it, in this big bad world we live in, where everybody is scrambling for success... we forget to stop and actually smell the roses. But we're all running the race of life so hard that we forget to take a moment and ask each other, 'hey Hesh, how are you doing?' We won Wimbledon yesterday, but how are you doing?'

NIHAL KOSHIE: You have mentioned that there were tournaments where you didn't talk to each other for whatever reason. How difficult was it and how were you talking to each other have helped?

Bhupathi: Twenty years later, when you're reliving your story, it's easy to live in hindsight. But that's not a luxury any of us here have... Could we have done things differently? I'm sure we both could have. But we still remain extremely proud of what we have achieved.

MIHIR VASAVDA: Looking back now, do you feel that if things were better between the two of you, the generations that followed you would have benefited? Perhaps there would be more Grand Slam winners and Olympic medals?

Bhupathi: No, absolutely not. We won three Grand Slams. Nobody had won a Slam before we were around. If we won five, you guys would have said we should have won seven. If we won 10, you guys would have said we should have won 15. That's the nature of the beast.

As far as the Olympics go, the only people who can clarify this is Leander and me.



WHY LEANDER PAES, MAHESH BHUPATHI

Often called the 'Indian Express', Paes and Bhupathi have 30 Grand Slam titles between them. They were the first-ever Indian doubles pair to reach the World No 1 spot, and still hold the unbroken world record of 24 Davis Cup doubles wins on the trot. Just as famous as their tennis though was their unpleasant split. They recently launched a tell-all docuseries, *Break Point*



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

We know the quality of players we played against at the Olympics. We know the preparation we did. We were always playing super high-quality tennis. We put ourselves in positions to win a medal twice. Roger Federer had other plans once (2008), once we froze against the Germans (2004).

But if anybody tells me if we played five years together with each other we would have been guaranteed an Olympic medal, then that person doesn't know what they're talking about.

TUSHAR BHADURI: Leander, when you started playing Davis Cup, Ramesh Krishnan had to be converted to a doubles player because there wasn't a large talent pool. Same thing happened when Mahesh came in, it was just you two playing the entire tie. Would it have been easier if you had some more players to take some of the load off you?

Paes: I was fortunate that Ramesh came out of retirement in Davis Cup to play in 1993. We had a great run all the way — beating the French in Frejus. So you are right — Ramesh transformed his singles game into doubles. By the time Mahesh came around in Davis Cup, I knew we needed a larger talent pool.

In Jaipur, under the captaincy of Jaidip Mukerjee, I fought them tooth and nail and told them you've got to see this young kid Mahesh Bhupathi. Put him in the tie against South Africa (1994). They basically said no, we can't try him, he's not played on the tour, he's in college, and this and that. In practice, we were hammering everybody. Yet, they didn't believe in it; they played Gaurav Natekar in that tie and we lost.

Now, look what he (Mahesh) has won in his own individual career. He became India's first Grand Slam champion, and he's won 12 of them. That's huge.

Yes, there were times when I felt in my Davis Cup career that I wish there was a larger pool of talent to take the work load, because it takes months to recover after a Davis Cup tie.

SHIVANI NAIK: Something broke us when the Athens Olympics didn't go your way. Can you take us through the hours after that match?

Bhupathi: I don't think I talked to anybody in the world for the next few days. It was the worst moment of my career. People tried to pat us on the back, but we knew the opportunity that we lost can't be explained unless you go through it. We were so close and we didn't get it done. We knew the disappointment each of us felt for the team, ourselves, and the country. Even today, every medal is a premium. But it was just pure disappointment. The definition of 'disappointment' in the dictionary, you can put that time and date if you want.

Paes: Athens was (like) a stake in the heart. I had worked so hard to lose all the weight, get into shape for Athens. And then to have that off-day against the Germans (Nicolas Kiefer and Rainer Schuttler) is a real kicker. The four teams that were in the semi-finals, nine out of 10 times, Mahesh and I would not only be on the podium but we'd have the gold medal. That one hurts very badly.

Look back at the bronze medal match, one movement, one stay longer, one shot a fraction of an inch on Mario Ancic's volley — and we would be sitting here with our Olympic medal.

DEVENDRA PANDEY: Mahesh, if a Bollywood movie is made on the two of you, who should be cast?

Bhupathi: I am a big Amitabh Bachchan fan and I would love him to play me but 35 years ago. Today, I don't know.

Paes: And then who would you have played me?

Bhupathi: Someone shorter (*laughs*).

Paes: Aamir?

Bhupathi: Govinda! *Bade Miyan, Chotte Miyan.*

SHAHID JUDGE: There have been

complaints that the All India Tennis Association (AITA) has not been involved in creating world-class players. But you also came up from the same system, or lack of system...

Bhupathi: All of us had support from a particular ecosystem. I know Leander had talent and he was adopted by the Britannia Amritraj Tennis Academy (BAT). Sania Mirza had GVK Industries to support her from the time she was 10. I was living with my parents in the Middle East and we had the resources for whatever was needed to be done. These are all miracle stories. If you are expecting miracles to happen, it will.

This is why you have 10 French guys, 10 Spanish and 10 Americans in the top 100 because they all have systems. We don't have a system. I don't think it's a fair thing to say that you guys have made it despite the system, so what about today's players not making it because there is no system. How can anybody make it?

SRIRAM VEERA: Leander, there was an incident in your childhood involving you and your friend on a cycle banging into a black Ambassador car. Can you tell us that story?

Paes: That story is about my friend and Man Friday Liaqat. He would take me everywhere on his bicycle, from my house to the school every morning, football practice, tuition and back to South Club for tennis. One day we were coming down Theatre Road on the wrong side of a one-way street because we were late for tennis practice. And this black Ambassador came straight at us and we rode right into it. I started abusing the driver and hitting the bonnet of the car only to raise my head and realise it was my father. I got a hiding that evening!

SRIRAM VEERA: You mentioned the

look in Mahesh's eyes after winning Wimbledon, and that you did not have the maturity then to interpret it. What was the look and how would you have liked to interpret it?

Paes: Mahesh is quite introverted. He never expressed much, he never verbalised a lot. So back then, when things weren't going so great, I would look at Mahesh's body language to understand what he was feeling or I would look at his eyes, which are quite expressive, to understand what he was thinking. When we won Wimbledon, Hesh's first reaction was to put his head in his hands. I looked at him to see what he was thinking and his head was inside a Wimbledon towel and then I looked away. The timing of life is such that I looked away just as he looked back at me. And that is the look I'm talking about. The look in Mahesh's eye, in that instant, of what I know of him, showed me how much love and passion he had for me and for the team.

Maybe he didn't have the ability to verbalise it.

Maybe I should have picked up the phone next morning and asked him to come and have breakfast together. Or asked him why he wasn't there at my mixed-doubles match the night before, which might have hurt me because I'm a sensitive guy. I get hurt at times. Maybe as the elder partner I should have picked up the phone the next day and said, 'hey, let's go for breakfast together.' Or maybe an ice-cream or go watch *Sholay* together.

SHIVANI NAIK: Do you think you got your due adoration and endorsements or did the breakup cover all the great things you guys did?

Bhupathi: When we were growing up,

I don't think it's fair to say we guys made it despite the system, so why can't today's players do it because there is no system. How can anybody make it?

we were two kids who loved playing, going from tournament to tournament trying to win. After we won the French Open, there was barely any celebration because we had to get on a plane and go to the Queen's Club tournament the next day.

Endorsements 20 years ago, somebody wanted to sign us for J Hampstead, we went, 'Yayy'. Somebody wanted to sign us up for 7Up, we said, 'Ok, wow!'

It was not a machine like it is today. It has taken over Neeraj Chopra's life for the last two weeks... I think we were in an amazing space doing what we loved to do. We were playing at the highest level and winning. We were living our dream.

SHAHID JUDGE: Mahesh, you once said that you two were Indians who succeeded in a white man's sport. Given how the Europeans are dominating now, how much do you value your achievements today?

Bhupathi: I never took my tennis (wins) too seriously. Very early in my career, everyone was like, it's only doubles. Relax, take it easy. But having re-lived this journey over the last 18 months, and watching footage of matches I had never seen before, seeing the articles and the kind of people we had to compete against — the quality 20 years ago from the Woodies to the Knowles-Nestor — I think it gave me perspective for the first time on what we actually achieved.

And that gave me goosebumps. Now I'm proud and think that I deserve the attention I get. Earlier on, I was very blasé about it, but now when Leander and I walk into a room and people sit up and want to take notice, I feel like they should.

SHIVANI NAIK: Is this documentary a way of finding closure?

Paes: Yes, it's a way of healing. Mahesh and myself, over the last 18 months, we have had a chance to laugh at a few of the things we've done before. We've also been able to address a few conversations that were left open or left unsaid. We've also found our peace and our friendship and our brotherhood. And that's the fun part for me is that human connect.



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SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Taxing Big Tech where it earns profits

Amid a consensus that big multinational companies are funnelling their profits through low-tax jurisdictions, 136 countries including India have signed a historic pact to enforce a minimum corporate tax. A look at the deal, why the need was felt, and the challenges for India and other countries in implementing it.

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

AMAJORITY of the world's nations have signed a historic pact that could force multinational companies to pay their fair share of tax in markets where they operate and earn profits. One hundred and thirty-six countries, including India, agreed Friday to enforce a minimum corporate tax rate of 15%, and an equitable system of taxing profits of big companies in markets where they are earned. Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have not yet joined the deal.

The move is part of an evolving consensus that big multinationals are funnelling profits through low-tax jurisdictions to avoid paying taxes. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), comprising mostly developed economies, has led talks on a minimum corporate tax rate for a decade. A multilateral convention is to be signed next year.

The biggest impact is likely on Big Tech companies that have largely chosen low-tax jurisdictions to headquarter their operations.

What are the decisions taken?

The decisions effectively ratify the OECD's two-pillar package that aims to ensure that large multinational enterprises (MNEs) "pay tax where they operate and earn profits".

■ Pillar One aims to ensure a fairer distribution of profits and taxing rights among coun-

tries with respect to the largest MNEs, including digital companies. This would entail reallocation of some taxing rights over MNEs from their home countries to markets where they have business and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there.

■ Pillar Two seeks to put a floor on competition over corporate income tax, through a global minimum corporate tax rate that countries can use to protect their tax bases.

The 15% floor under the corporate tax will come in from 2023, provided all countries move such legislation. This will cover firms with global sales above 20 billion Euros (\$23 billion) and profit margins above 10%. A quarter of any profits above 10% is proposed to be reallocated to the countries where they were earned, and taxed there.

The move follows an earlier agreement among the G7 economies in London in June. The two-pillar solution will be delivered to the G20 Finance Ministers meeting in Washington DC on October 13, and then to the subsequent G20 Leaders Summit in Rome.

The two-pillar solution, according to Sumit Singhania, Partner, Deloitte India, will result in "a redistribution of \$125 billion taxable profits annually", and ensure MNEs pay minimum 15% tax once this is implemented. A consensus on global minimum tax "will practically make tax competition amongst nations rather unfeasible by narrowing down any such opportunities to rarest circumstances... In the end, two-pillar solutions ought to be reckoned

as enduring overhaul of a century old international tax regime, that's here to change the rule of the global profit allocation amongst taxing jurisdictions completely".

Why the minimum rate?

The new proposal is aimed at squeezing the opportunities for MNEs to indulge in profit shifting, ensuring they pay at least some of their taxes where they do business. According to Amit Singhania, Partner, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co., the two-pillar solution will ensure that "once again, the world will be global, at least in following the principles of taxation rather than following territorial laws".

In April this year, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen had urged the world's 20 advanced nations to move in the direction of adopting a minimum global corporate income tax. A global pact works well for the US government at this time. The same holds true for most other countries in western Europe, even as some low-tax European jurisdictions such as the Netherlands, Ireland and Luxembourg and some in the Caribbean rely largely on tax rate arbitrage to attract MNCs.

The proposal also has some degree of support from the IMF. While China is not likely to have a serious objection with the US call, a concern for Beijing would be the impact on Hong Kong, the seventh largest tax haven in the world, according to a study published earlier this year by the advocacy body Tax Justice Network. Plus, China's frayed relationship with

the US could be a deterrent in negotiations.

Who are the targets?

Apart from low-tax jurisdictions, the proposals are tailored to address the low effective rates of tax shelled out by some of the world's biggest corporations, including Big Tech majors such as Apple, Alphabet and Facebook, as well as those such as Nike and Starbucks. These companies typically rely on complex webs of subsidiaries to hoover profits out of major markets into low-tax countries such as Ireland, the British Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, or Panama.

The US loses nearly \$50 billion a year to tax cheats, according to the Tax Justice Network report, with Germany and France also among the top losers. India's annual loss due to corporate tax abuse is estimated at over \$10 billion.

What are the problems with the plan?

Apart from the challenges of getting all major nations on the same page, since this impinges on the right of the sovereign to decide a nation's tax policy, the proposal has other pitfalls. A global minimum rate would essentially take away a tool countries use to push policies that suit them. Also, bringing in laws by next year so that it can take effect from 2023 is a tough task. The deal has also been criticised for lacking teeth: Groups such as Oxfam said the deal would not put an end to tax havens.

Where does India stand?

India, which has had reservations about the

deal, ultimately backed it in Paris. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had last week said India is "close" to deciding the specifics of the two-pillar proposal and is in the final stages of deciding on the details.

India is likely to try and balance its interests, while asserting that taxation is ultimately a "sovereign function". India may have to withdraw its digital tax or equalisation levy if the global tax deal comes through. OECD said the Multilateral Convention (MLC) will "require all parties to remove all Digital Services Taxes and other relevant similar measures with respect to all companies, and to commit not to introduce such measures in the future."

To address "the challenges posed by the enterprises who conduct their business through digital means and carry out activities in the country remotely", the government has the 'Equalisation Levy', introduced in 2016. Also, the IT Act has been amended to bring in the concept of "Significant Economic Presence" for establishing "business connection" in the case of non-residents in India.

Also, there are apprehensions on the impact of this deal on investment activity. *The New York Times* reported on October 7: "India, China, Estonia and Poland have said the minimum tax could harm their ability to attract investment with special lures like research and development credits and special economic zones that offer tax breaks to investors."

Sitharaman on September 21, 2019 had announced a cut in corporate taxes for domestic

companies to 22% and for new domestic manufacturing companies to 15%. The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act, 2019 amends the Income-Tax Act, 1961 to provide for the concessional tax rate for existing domestic companies subject to certain conditions. Also, existing domestic companies opting for the concessional taxation regime will not be required to pay Minimum Alternate Tax.

This, along with other measures, was estimated to cost the exchequer Rs 1.45 lakh crore annually. The effective tax rate, inclusive of surcharge and cess, for Indian domestic companies is around 25.17%.

"While taxation is ultimately a sovereign function, and depends upon the needs and circumstances of the nation, the government is open to participate and engage in the emerging discussions globally around the corporate tax structure. The economic division will look into the pros and cons of the new proposal as and when it comes and the government will take a view thereafter," said a senior government official. The average corporate tax rate stands at around 29% for existing companies that are claiming some benefit or the other.

Another official said New Delhi was "proactively engaging" with foreign governments with a view to facilitating and enhancing exchange of information under Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements, Tax Information Exchange Agreements and Multilateral Conventions to plug loopholes.

ABDUL QADEER KHAN | 1936-2021

‘Father of Pak bomb’ and stealer of nuclear secrets, revered even after fall from grace

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 10

DR ABDUL QADEER KHAN, who died in Islamabad on Sunday (October 10) of Covid-related complications at age 85, was revered in Pakistan as the "father" of the country's "atom bomb". In popular lore, he is eulogised as the man who single-handedly ensured that Pakistan succeeded in to making nuclear weapons, and in this significant respect, made Pakistan an equal of India.

The international shame he brought Pakistan for running a rogue nuclear network and proliferating for personal profit did not dent his stature at all. Instead, the man who was born in Bhopal in 1936, and whose family migrated to Pakistan during Partition, was seen as a patriot, the victim of an international conspiracy to rob Pakistan of its nuclear jewels, and to defame the country.

Khan's nation honoured him with the titles of Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Order of Excellence, Pakistan's highest civilian honour) and Mohsin-e-Pakistan (Benefactor of Pakistan).

But his colleagues at the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission scoffed at his nuclear credentials — his main qualification was as a metallurgical engineer — and he was reportedly not the leader of the team that tested Pakistan's nuclear device in May 1998 after India carried out its tests in Pokharan, although he was present at the test site in Chagai. What everyone acknowledges, though, is his role in providing the first blueprints for Pakistan's centrifuges, setting it on the path to uranium enrichment.

Stealer of nuclear secrets

In February 2004, months after the US confronted Pakistan's then military ruler General Pervez Musharraf with evidence that Khan had been selling parts of centrifuges and material to Libya, North Korea and Iran, Musharraf was forced to take action. In an address to the nation, he denounced Khan in strong language.

Following this, Khan made a confession



Abdul Qadeer Khan waves to supporters in Islamabad in 2012, PTI

on national television and called it an "error of judgement" on his part. Balancing between opinion at home and intense international scrutiny, Musharraf pardoned him but placed him under house arrest. On the Pakistani street, however, Khan was a hero. His photographs were in shops and market-places, and his face painted on the backs of trucks and autos.

Pakistan was shocked, but Khan had been under western intelligence surveillance almost from the start of his nuclear technology career.

In 1975, a year after India detonated its first nuclear device, Khan, then working in Holland in a uranium enrichment facility as a German-Dutch translator, offered his services to then PM Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who wanted Pakistan to have its own nuclear programme.

The Dutch facility suspected him of stealing blueprints for making centrifuges and other components, but he returned to Pakistan before any action could be taken against him. In 1976, he joined Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission's nuclear weapons effort. He was convicted by a Dutch court for the theft.

Already in 2001, Khan had been forced by Musharraf to retire, and given the consolation title of Chief Advisor to the head of Khan Research Laboratories. Musharraf took this step because of suspicion about his activities. From then on, it was downhill for Khan.

Indeed, he had personified Pakistan's nuclear weapons effort from the 1981 onwards, when General Zia-ul-Haq, the then military ruler, renamed Engineering Research Laboratories after Khan. He was a more public personality than any of Pakistan's other nuclear scientists.

The 'secret' Pak bomb

It was Khan who outed that Pakistan had a nuclear device more than a decade before its retaliatory 1998 test. In 1987, he told the veteran Indian journalist Kuldip Nayar in an interview: "America knows it. What the CIA has been saying about our possessing the bomb is correct, and so is the speculation of some foreign newspapers. They told us Pakistan could never produce the bomb and they doubted my capabilities. But they know we have it."

Nayar asked him why Pakistan had not announced this achievement. Khan replied: "Is it necessary? America has threatened to cut off all its aid."

It was seen as a deliberate leak by Pakistan, as a message to Delhi, serving to hasten India's own nuclear weapons programme.

Rehab after Musharraf

After President Musharraf stepped down in August 2008, Khan petitioned the Islamabad High Court for his release. The new PPP government had already come under tremendous pressure to release him. In

2009, the court declared him a "free citizen," but only after it had brokered a "secret agreement" between him and the government. The court barred either side from making the details public.

The details of the agreement were contained in a US diplomatic cable leaked by Wikileaks in 2011. Under the agreement, Khan had agreed to a number of conditions, including not travelling outside Islamabad without informing the authorities in advance, not travelling abroad, and submitting names of visitors to his home for vetting.

According to the cable, then Interior Secretary Kamal Shah had assured the US Ambassador that the government of Pakistan retained all powers to keep him on a tight leash. Shah defended the court order by saying it had given the government "legal cover" for an "extrajudicial" house arrest.

Within minutes of becoming a "free citizen" though, Khan held an impromptu press conference outside his home in Islamabad's E-7 sector. He later took to writing a column in the Pakistani daily *The News*. In 2012, he also tried to float a political party named Tehreek-e-Tahaffuz-e-Pakistan, which, despite his personal popularity, sank without a trace by the following year.

The final years

In 2019, Khan moved a fundamental rights petition in the Supreme Court of Pakistan against the restrictions on his free travel across the country. During hearings earlier this year, counsel for Khan complained that he was not being allowed to meet his relatives and friends.

The court asked the government to get a list of the people Khan wanted to meet, and to resolve the matter. The judge described Khan as the "Mohsin (benefactor) of Pakistan", and said he should be well cared for.

The case was still being heard when Khan contracted Covid. He was moved to the military hospital in Rawalpindi, from where he was discharged after recovering from the virus. He died within weeks of complications in his lungs.

Karnataka anti-gambling law: what's changed, why it may face legal hurdles

JOHNSONT A
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 10

THE KARNATAKA legislature recently passed a Bill to amend the Karnataka Police Act, 1963, to ban all forms of gambling including online. The Karnataka Police (Amendment) Bill, 2021 aims to make gambling a cognisable and non-bailable offence and "curb menace of gaming through the Internet, mobile apps".

Tamil Nadu had passed the Tamil Nadu Gambling and Police Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 — in February, but it was struck down by the Madras High Court as being ultra vires.

Why has Karnataka amended the law?

Among the reasons cited by the state government is an order by the Dhanwad Bench of the Karnataka High Court (*Vageppa Gurulinga Jangaligi vs Kagswad police*, 2019)

that police cannot raid gambling dens without a written order from a magistrate, since gambling is a non-cognisable and bailable offence. The order by Justice P G M Patil set guidelines for police and magistrates to follow when a non-cognisable offence is taken up. It said the "SHO of the police station has no authority of law unless the jurisdictional magistrate permits the police officer for investigation of the non-cognizable offence".

Recent public interest litigations seeking a ban on online gaming and betting — where the High Court has sought the state government's stand on banning gambling — have also been a trigger for the amendments.

According to the statement of objects and reasons, the new law is needed to make gambling a cognisable and non-bailable offence (gambling in public streets remains cognisable and bailable). The new law has also been introduced to "include the use of cyberspace

including computer resources or any other communication device as defined in the Information Technology Act 2000 in the process of gaming to curb the menace of gaming through internet, mobile app".

What forms of gambling are covered?

The amended law covers all forms of wagering or betting "in connection with any game of chance" with the exception of horse racing and lotteries. It also puts betting on the skills of others in the category of gambling, and "any act of risking money or otherwise on the unknown result of an event including on a game of skill" is an offence. Unlike the existing law, which was not applicable to betting by players involved in a game of skill, the amended law provides an exception only to the playing of any pure game of skill and not to "wagering by persons taking part in such game of skill". "All forms of wagering or bet-

ting, including in the form of tokens valued in terms of money paid before or after issue of it, or electronic means and virtual currency, electronic transfer of funds in connection with any game of chance", will count as gambling.

What is the punishment?

The new law enhances maximum punishment for owners of gambling centres from one year to three years of imprisonment and fines from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1 lakh. The minimum punishment proposed is six months instead of the current one month and the fine is Rs 10,000 instead of Rs 500. For aiding or abetting gambling, the punishment has been enhanced to six months imprisonment and a Rs 10,000 fine. A first offence of managing a gaming house will attract a minimum sentence of 6 months in prison and a fine of Rs 10,000, a second offence 1 year and Rs 15,000, and a third 18 months and Rs 20,000.

Will these stand the test of law?

As mentioned, a similar law in Tamil Nadu was struck down by the Madras High Court after it was challenged by an online gaming firm. It ruled on August 3: "... when it comes to card games or board games such as chess or scrabble, there is no distinction between the skill involved in the physical form of the activity or in the virtual form. It is true that Arnold Palmer or Severiano Ballesteros may never have mastered how golf is played on the computer or Messi or Ronaldo may be outplayed by a team of infants in a virtual game of football, but Viswanathan Anand or Omar Sharif would not be so disadvantaged when playing their chosen games of skill on the virtual mode. Such distinction is completely lost in the Amending Act as the original scheme in the Act of 1930 of confining gaming to games of chance has been turned upside down and all games outlawed if

played for a stake or for any prize."

The partial inclusion of games of skill as acts of gambling in the amended Karnataka law is likely to come under scrutiny.

How have gaming companies reacted?

"The Bill in Karnataka seeks to paint all games including online chess, online farming with the same brush as online gambling. It has made some exemptions including online betting on horse racing. I am not sure that application of a judicial mind will see any compelling rationale to this move," said a corporate lawyer with a gaming company. "The government should consider regulation rather than legislation. The industry has submitted itself to the idea of regulation being brought in and already moved towards some steps of self-regulation. A comprehensive framework with active participation of the industry association is a prudent way forward," the lawyer said.

CROSSWORD 4557

ACROSS

1 Fanciful aim maybe to drink tea; possibly about four (11)

9 Loiters around Portuguese resort (7)

10 Whom some call a heavenly being (5)

11 Goodbye to depression (4)

12 Overall advice to the gardener with poor soil (3-5)

14 The occupant is at home with his wife (6)

16 Go into service? (4,2)

18 The odds are that it's almost lunchtime (3-2-3)

19 Where to see the Taj Mahal in a gracious setting (4)

22 Moslem leader said to be virtuous (5)

23 Break into or break under it (7)

24 It rises or falls to some degree (11)

DOWN

2 Where drivers stop (5)

3 Habit to boast about (4)

4 Famous London columnist (6)

5 It can let actors down on stage (4,4)

6 He was bound to serve his master (7)

7 Request from a confident operator or an eager heir? (5,2,2,2)

8 He checks the last move when he wins (5,6)

13 Is he in no hurry to act? (8)

15 Not a subject put on in advance (7)

17 Colour of one doing badly (6)

20 Reading between the lines perhaps (5)

21 Pen note for doctors to look at (4)

Solutions Crossword 4556: Across: 1 Salute, 4 Accurate, 9 Adroit, 10 Ordinary, 12 Crop, 13 Elder, 14 Move, 17 Paratroopers, 20 Person of note, 23 Ovid, 24 Sheer, 25 Afar, 28 Take time, 29 Cannon, 30 Meekness, 31 Abodes. Down: 1 Seascape, 2 Labyrinth, 3 Toll, 5 Corresponded, 6 Unit, 7 Amazon, 8 Elysee, 11 Pilot schemes, 15 Steer, 16 Craft, 18 Confined, 19 Bearings, 21 Bottom, 22 Pickle, 26 Stun, 27 Jamb.

JUMBLLED 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.

A person's character is but half formed till after ____ - Charles Simmons (7)

LVWEO

AELPDW

CEILS

ACINTK

SOLUTION: VOWEL SLICE, DEVIAP, CATKIN

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis

CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson

MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

SUDOKU 4621

Difficulty Level 5s

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.

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4620

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

It seems like so long since you had a clear idea of your direction that you may have given up hope of ever knowing where you're heading. Now that Mars is finally behaving itself, you'll be in a decisive mood. And that surely has to be good news.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The week shows every sign of ending on a restless note, with possible last-minute changes of plan. If you're still unsure of a new friendship, a secret plan, a financial deal, or an item of news, don't worry unduly. All secrets will be revealed early next month.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

You're still busy but, with Venus now in a strangely sympathetic position, there should be fewer complications than in recent days, and more time to get on with activities that genuinely inspire you. Get up-to-date today and you'll be well prepared for a brief panic in a few days' time.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

People you're close to may have different ideas over joint resources. The fact remains that domestic purchases are necessary, although as they could work out more expensive than expected, you should keep spare cash available. At work, your intuitions come in handy.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

It's useful to set at least one partnership on a more equal footing, and to make a break with any bad habits which have soured relationships in the past. The Sun will shortly be issuing one of its annual challenges to your sign, urging you to sit and take more notice of a partner's needs.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

It's a fine day to indulge a romantic fancy, perhaps to take a trip if you can liberate yourself from professional and domestic commitments. Be prepared for enjoyable but time-wasting diversions and distractions. Otherwise, you'll miss a chance to recharge your batteries.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You may still be disturbed by friends' behaviour, but there's a sense in which you have yourself contributed to any unwelcome developments. You should realise that people are imperfect creatures and try to be more tolerant in the future. The least you can expect is that partners make allowances for you as well.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

If your work involves writing, education, the travel industry or any other form of communication, expect surprises. Not all will be to your liking, but most will be of welcome long-term benefit. Wise Pisceans will even be planning enterprises over the next five years.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

There's still time to catch up with changed circumstances in your career and to press ahead with plans for promotion, together with activities which will enhance your status and prestige. But don't expect a final outcome just yet. After all, you're a patient soul.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

General planetary conditions are still muddled, so there's no harm in deferring important matters until the picture is clearer. Socially, sparks may fly, although arguments will be quickly made up. In fact, you might be surprised how easy it is to make peace.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Someone close may be acting out of character and a rival may have aroused suspicions but it's possible that you are misunderstanding perfectly innocent behaviour. You will be growing increasingly impatient about what you see as partners' inefficiency at home. But, then, that is only normal these days.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Partners are likely to make the running now and over the coming days. You may have a lot on your plate at work, in which case you must knuckle under and put in some overtime. Make sure that family members don't feel let down, and step in now to offer help where it's needed.

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Ref No : NFL/CMO/ABD/WSF/2021-22/02 Date: 11.10.2021

Bids are invited from the prospective bidders for procurement of Water Soluble Fertilizers for further marketing in states. For details visit website: <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> (e-tendering) & www.nationalfertilizers.com (Homepage).

E-Tender no. 2021_NFL_90505_1. Last date of Bid submission / Date of Opening of Technical Bid document is - 15.30 Hrs. on 20.10.2021 / 15.30 Hrs. on 21.10.2021. Any Corrigendum (s) to this tender shall be published only on our websites.

General Manager (Marketing)

@NFL_Kisan @nationalfertilizers National Fertilizers Limited

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

(HEALTH DEPARTMENT)

Office of Addl. Director Hosp. Admn. (M&TB),

18th Floor, Dr. S.P.M. Civic Centre, J.L.N. Marg, New Delhi-110002,

Ph.: 23226824-23226859

NOTICE FOR EMPANELMENT OF PRIVATE HOSPITALS,

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IN RESPECT OF MUNICIPAL BENEFICIARIES

Applications are invited from interested private hospitals, diagnostic centers and dental clinics that are empanelled under CGHS Delhi or DGEHS Govt. of NCT of Delhi for empanelment in respect of employees and members of Municipal Pensioner's Health Scheme of South Delhi Municipal Corporation, North Delhi Municipal Corporation and East Delhi Municipal Corporation. The details of the medical facilities to be provided, eligibility criteria and draft agreement are available on website www.mcdonline.gov.in For any query, office of undersigned can be contacted on above stated phone numbers or contact Joint Medical Cell at Phone No.23225758.

The applications along with requisite documents, duly completed draft agreement and requisite security deposit (if applicable) in the form of demand draft in favor of Commissioner South Delhi Municipal Corporation, should be deposited in the office of undersigned within 30 days of publication of this press advertisement.

(Dr. Ms. Alka Gupta)

RO No. 54/DPI/S/2021-22 Addl. DHA (M&TB)

Model Hospital Bapunagar

Employees' State Insurance Corporation

(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)

Near Hardasnagar Police Chowky, Ahmedabad-24.

(ISO 9001:2015 Certified) Phone: 079-22741566

Website: www.esic.nic.in, www.esic.in • Email: ms-bapunagar.gji@esic.nic.in

Notice Inviting E-Tender

E-tender under Two Bid system are invited for supply of Food Items in ESIC Model Hospital, Bapunagar, Ahmedabad.

Details, eligibility criteria, schedule and other terms & conditions of the tender and tender documents can be viewed and downloaded from ESIC Headquarter website www.esic.nic.in "Tenders" tab & <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. for the above said works and can be submitted till 01/11/2021 at 10:00 AM.

ESIC reserves the right to make any alteration / modification in the tender documents or scrap the tender at any stage without assigning any reason. Time extension / Clarification / Addendum / Corrigendum, if any, shall be published in above mentioned websites only.

Medical Superintendent

ESIC Model Hospital,

Bapunagar, Ahmedabad.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E- Tender Notice No

E-60-21-22

Divl. Rly. Manager, N.W.Rly. Bikaner

for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works up to 15.00 hours on 01.11.2021, as below:-

Tender No.: E-60, Name of Work with its Location: Hiring of various type of road vehicles such as Multi Utility vehicles, Tractor with trolley and Truck for transportation of Men and Materials in the jurisdiction of DEN/N/NWR/BKN. (For 02 years).

Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 10000015.44. Note- Other term & condition will be shown on N.W.Rly. website: www.lreps.gov.in [559-AJ/21]

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Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, HARSHIT PRASAD S/O SHIV PRASAD born on 26/08/2000 residing at G-905,906 SHAKURPUR, DELHI-110034 have changed my name to HARSHIT PRASAD CHANDERWAL vide affidavit dated 08/10/2021 at DELHI 0050185309-1

I Ashish Kumar R/o 47/4714 Regar Pura Karol Bagh New Delhi-110005 Have Changed My minor daughter's name from Mishti Pingolia to Mishra 0040587575-1

I Punam Rani W/O, Rajesh Luthra R/o 7/458 Behind Indira Park Jwala Nagar Shahdara Delhi have changed my name to Rekha Luthra for all purposes. 0040587576-1

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JOURNALISM OF COURAGE



SPAIN

BUILDING-SIZED LAVA BLOCKS FALL FROM VOLCANO

Blocks of molten lava as large as three-storey buildings rolled down a hillside on the Spanish island of La Palma while a series of tremors shook the ground on Sunday three weeks after the volcanic eruption. There were 21 seismic movements Sunday, with the largest measuring 3.8, officials said, shaking the ground in the villages of Mazo, Fuencaliente and El Paso.

TOP OF THE WORLD



The Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. Reuters

RUSSIA

Bolshoi Theatre performer killed in stage accident

A PERFORMER at Moscow's renowned Bolshoi Theatre was killed on Saturday in an accident on stage during an opera, the theatre said. The Bolshoi, one of Russia's most prestigious theatres, said the incident occurred during a set change in Sadko, an opera by Russian composer Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov. "The opera was immediately stopped and the audience was asked to leave," the theatre said in comments carried by the Interfax news agency. The Interfax news cited a source as saying that the performer, who was not identified, was crushed by a ramp during a change of scenery. Sources told the TASS news agency he had been killed by a falling piece of decor. **REUTERS**

YEMEN

Aden car bomb targeting officials kills 6

A CAR bomb targeting the governor's convoy shook Yemen's southern port city of Aden on Sunday killing at least six people, security and military sources said. Governor Ahmed Lamias and agriculture minister Salem al-Suqatri, both members of a separatist group, survived a "terrorist assassination attempt", the state news agency said. Killed in the attack were the governor's press secretary and his photographer, the head of his security detail and a fourth companion as well as a civilian bystander, a local official said. **REUTERS**

CZECH REPUBLIC

President taken to hospital amid post-poll talks

CZECH PRESIDENT Milos Zeman was taken to hospital on Sunday, bringing uncertainty at a key period when the president is due to lead political talks on forming a new government after a parliamentary election. A spokeswoman for the Central Military Hospital in Prague said Zeman, 77, was being hospitalised. Reporters saw an ambulance leaving the presidential chateau at Lany, west of Prague, soon after Zeman met PM Andrej Babis. **REUTERS**



Sebastian Kurz

Austria's ruling coalition fights to stay alive after Kurz quits

FRANCOIS MURPHY & ALEXANDRA SCHWARZ-GOERLICH
VIENNA, OCTOBER 10

AUSTRIA'S RULING coalition soldiered on on Sunday after Chancellor Sebastian Kurz quit to keep it alive, but a top newspaper likened his future role in parliament to Russian leader Vladimir Putin's stint as prime minister in name only.

Prosecutors placed Kurz and nine others under investigation last week on suspicion of corruption offences, as part of what they suspect is the use of public funds to produce manipulated polling and newspaper coverage favourable to Kurz.

Kurz denies wrongdoing, but text-message exchanges that are part of the investigation and have been published in Austrian media have already tarnished the 35-year-old's image.

The junior coalition party, the Greens, had demanded Kurz's head over the investigation, and his resignation announcement on Saturday evening satisfied them. He will, however, remain leader of his conservative party and become its top lawmaker, positions in which he can keep calling the shots in government.

Kurz's designated successor is Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg, a career diplomat, relative political novice and close ally of Kurz's who has defended his hard line on immigration. Schallenberg is due to be sworn in on Monday.

"This tactical manoeuvre is reminiscent of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who gave way to Dmitry Medvedev only to take over again," influential tabloid daily Kronen Zeitung said in an analysis, adding that Kurz planned to leave the top job only for a limited time. **REUTERS**

Britain, Ireland argue on Twitter over clauses in Brexit agreement

WILLIAM JAMES & PHILIP BLENKINSOP
LONDON, BRUSSELS, OCT 10

BRITAIN AND Ireland traded barbs on Twitter on Sunday after British Brexit negotiator David Frost restated his view that the EU must agree "significant change" to the Northern Ireland protocol that governs trade and border rules in the province.

The protocol was part of the Brexit settlement Prime Minister Boris Johnson negotiated with the EU, but London has repeatedly said it must be rewritten less than a year after taking force due to the barriers businesses face when importing British goods into Northern Ireland.

Ireland's foreign minister Simon Coveney on Twitter asked: "Real Q: Does UKG (UK Government) actually want an

Taiwan says it rejects China's 'path' amid show of military force

HUIZHONG WU
TAIPEI, OCTOBER 10

TAIWAN'S PRESIDENT on Sunday vowed to defend the island from China's rising pressure for reunification, after a week of unprecedented tensions with Beijing.

Speaking at the island's National Day celebrations, a rare show of Taiwanese defense capabilities in the annual parade underlined Tsai Ing-wen's promise to resist Chinese military threats.

"We will do our utmost to prevent the status quo from being unilaterally altered," President Tsai said.

"We will continue to bolster our national defense and demonstrate our determination to defend ourselves in order to ensure that nobody can force Taiwan to take the path China has laid out for us," the Taiwanese leader added.



The Thunder Tiger Aerobatics Team on National Day celebrations in Taipei on Sunday. AP

China claims Taiwan as part of its national territory although the island has been self-ruled since it split from the communist-ruled mainland in 1949 after a civil war.

Tsai emphasised the island's vibrant democracy in contrast with Beijing's deeply authoritarian, single-party Communist state.

"The path that China has laid out offers neither a free and democratic way of life for Taiwan, nor sovereignty for our 23 million people," Tsai said.

A choir of singers from Taiwan's various indigenous tribes opened the ceremony in front of the Presidential Office Building in

the center of the capital, Taipei.

Surveys show Taiwanese overwhelmingly favor their current de-facto independent state and strongly rejects unification with China, which has vowed to bring the island under its control, by military force if necessary.

Tsai rarely singles out China in her public speeches, but in this speech acknowledged the increasing tensions that Taiwan faces as Chinese military harassment intensified in the past year. Since September of last year, China has flown fighter jets more than 800 times towards Taiwan.

Since last Friday, China has sent a record-breaking number of fighter jets towards international airspace close to Taiwan.

The island has strengthened its unofficial ties with countries like Japan, Australia and the US in the face of these perceived threats. **AP**



PLANE CRASH IN RUSSIA KILLS 16

A plane carrying a group of parachute jumpers crashed after takeoff in the Russian region of Tatarstan early on Sunday, killing 16 people and injuring six, the Emergencies Ministry said. At a height of 70 metres, the pilots reported that their left engine had failed and attempted an emergency landing near the city of Menzelinsk, trying to turn the plane leftward to avoid an inhabited area, the regional governor said. But the aircraft's wing hit a Gazelle vehicle as the plane landed and it overturned, Tatarstan's governor Rustam Minnikhanov said. The Let L-410 Turbolet twin-engine short-range transport aircraft had been carrying 20 parachutists and two crew members. Six people were in a serious condition, the Health Ministry said. **Reuters**

Nepal's industry minister quits just two days after being appointed

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, OCTOBER 10

IN A setback for Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, Gajendra Hamal, the Minister for Industries, Civil Supplies and Commerce, resigned just two days after taking the oath of office.

Hamal's resignation comes in the wake of controversy over Deuba's decision to include him in the Cabinet amid allegations that Hamal was made a minister on the request of Nepal Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher Rana. Hamal is Rana's brother-in-law.

Although Deuba and other ruling coalition leaders defended Hamal's inclusion, and Rana denied playing a role in Cabinet selection, Hamal resigned, saying he did not want to bring the judiciary into any controversy.

Canadian admits fabricating terror tale detailed in 'Caliphate' podcast

IAN AUSTEN
OTTAWA, OCTOBER 10

A CANADIAN man admitted in court on Friday that he made up tales about serving as an Islamic State fighter and executioner in Syria. In exchange, Canadian authorities dropped criminal charges against him of perpetrating a hoax involving the threat of terrorism.

The man, Shehroze Chaudhry, had spread fabricated stories of life as a terrorist in Syria on social media beginning in 2016, according to an agreed statement of facts between prosecutors and the defense. He then repeated them to several news outlets, including *The New York Times*, which then amplified his tales, the statement said.

Chaudhry, who is now 26, had come to regret giving interviews to the news media and "wanted to finish school and turn his life



Iraq's President Barham Salih casts his vote at a polling station in Baghdad on Sunday. Reuters

Low turnout reported as Iraqis vote in parliamentary polls

JOHN DAVISON & AHMED RASHEED
BAGHDAD, OCTOBER 10

IRAQ ON Sunday held a parliamentary election that drew one of the smallest turnouts on record, electoral officials indicated, a result that suggested dwindling trust in political leaders and the democratic system brought in by the 2003 US-led invasion.

The established, Shia Islamist-dominated ruling elite whose most powerful parties have armed wings is expected to sweep the vote, with the movement led by populist Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, who opposes all foreign interference and whose main rivals are Iran-allied Shia groups, seen emerging as parliament's biggest faction.

Such a result would not dramatically alter the balance of power in Iraq or the wider Middle East, say Iraqi officials, foreign diplomats and analysts, but for Iraqis it could mean that a former insurgency leader and conservative Islamist could increase his sway over the government.

In Baghdad's Sadr City, a polling station set up in a girls' school saw a slow but steady trickle of voters.

Election volunteer Hamid Majid, 24, said he had voted for his old school teacher, a candidate for the Sadrist.

"She educated many of us in the area so all the young people are voting for her. It's the time for the Sadrist Movement. The people are with them," Majid said.

Two electoral commission officials said nationwide turnout of

EXPLAINED
Apathy, fear and a boycott

MANY OF the young Iraqi activists who took to the streets in 2019 in massive protests against corruption and mismanagement by the political establishment had called for a boycott of the elections. Many heeded that call amid widespread apathy regarding the political system, and a lack of confidence that the independent candidates who promise change will succeed against major parties that are backed by armed militias. Fear caused by a recent spate of kidnappings and killings have also played a role in bringing down voter turnout.

eligible voters was 19 per cent by midday. Turnout was 44.5 per cent in the last election in 2018. Polling stations closed at 6 pm.

Initial results are expected on Monday but final turnout figures could be announced on Sunday night.

However, Iraqi elections are often followed by protracted talks over a president, a prime minister and a cabinet.

It appeared to be the lowest turnout in any election since 2003, according to electoral commission counts at polling stations that Reuters visited across the country.

In Baghdad's Sadr City, a polling station set up in a girls' school saw a slow but steady trickle of voters. **REUTERS**



Shehroze Chaudhry in an image from one of his deleted social media accounts

around," the statement said.

Prosecutors agreed to drop the charges because Chaudhry's tales "were mistakes borne out of immaturity — not sinister intent and certainly not criminal intent," his lawyer, Nader R Hasan, wrote in an email.

Chaudhry was, however, required to post a so-called peace bond for \$10,000, which would be forfeited if he violates terms of the deal. The prosecutor was not immediately available for comment.

Under the name Abu Huzayfah, Chaudhry, who lives

in the Toronto suburb of Burlington, Ontario, was the central figure in *The Times*' 10-part podcast series "Caliphate." The release of that series in 2018, and other reports based on Chaudhry's tales, created a political firestorm in Canada's Parliament among opposition parties that repeatedly attacked Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government for seeming to allow a terrorist killer to freely roam the streets of suburban Toronto.

But in truth, there was little if no risk to the public. The statement of facts presented in the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on Friday concluded: "Mr Chaudhry has never entered Syria nor participated in ISIS operations anywhere in the world."

Last year, Chaudhry was arrested in Canada on charges he perpetrated a hoax that terrified and threatened the public. **NYT**

THE ERA OF THE BIG TECH WHISTLEBLOWER HAS ARRIVED

How one Facebook employee unfriended the giant social network

ADAM GELLER & MATT O'BRIEN
OCTOBER 10

LESS THAN two years after Facebook hired Frances Haugen to help correct dangerous distortions spilling across its platform, she had seen enough.

The idealism she and countless others had invested in promises by the world's biggest social network to fix itself had been woefully misplaced. The harm Facebook and sibling Instagram were doing to users was rivaled only by the company's resistance to change, she concluded. And the world be-

yond Facebook needed to know. When the 37-year-old data scientist went before Congress and the cameras last week to accuse Facebook of pursuing profit over safety, it was likely the most consequential choice of her life.

And for a still-young industry that has mushroomed into one of society's most powerful forces, it spotlighted a rising threat: The era of the Big Tech whistleblower has most definitely arrived.

Haugen is by far the most visible of those whistleblowers. And her accusations that Facebook's platforms harm children and incite political violence — backed up by thousands of pages of the company's own research — may

well be the most damning.

But she is just the latest to join in a growing list of workers from across tech determined to speak out. Nearly all are women, and observers say that's no coincidence.

Even after making inroads, women and especially women of colour remain outsiders in the heavily male tech sector, said Ellen Pao, an executive who sued Silicon Valley investment firm Kleiner Perkins in 2012 for gender discrimination. That status positions them to be more critical and see "some of the systemic issues in a way that people who are part of the system and who are benefiting from it the most and who are entrenched in it, may not



Frances Haugen

be able to process," she said.

Since coming before Congress Tuesday, Haugen has receded from public view.

The Iowa-born daughter of a doctor and an academic turned pastor, Haugen arrives in the spotlight with sparkling credentials,

including a Harvard business degree and multiple patents.

Long before she became a whistleblower, Haugen was something of a local wunderkind.

Raised near the University of Iowa campus, where her father taught medicine, Haugen was a member of a high school engineering team ranked in the country's top 10. Years later, when the local newspaper wrote about Haugen's landing at Google, one of her elementary school teachers recalled her as "horribly bright," while not at all self-conscious.

At Google, Haugen worked on a project to make thousands of books accessible on mobile

phones, and another to help create a fledgling social network.

Google paid for Haugen to get a graduate business degree at Harvard, where a classmate said even then they were having deep discussions about the societal effects of new technology.

While at Harvard, Haugen worked with another student to create an online dating platform to put like-minded mates together, a template the partner later turned into dating app Hinge.

In late 2018, she was contacted by a recruiter from Facebook. In recent interviews on "60 Minutes" and with the *Wall Street Journal*, Haugen recalled telling the company that she might be interested

in a job if it involved helping the platform address democracy and misinformation.

In June 2019, she joined a Facebook team that focused on network activity surrounding international elections. But she said she grew frustrated as she became more aware of widespread misinformation that stoked violence and abuse and that Facebook would not adequately address.

She resigned in May, but only after working for weeks to sift through internal company research and copy thousands of documents. Still, she told congressional investigators, she is not out to destroy Facebook, just change it. **AP**

Chennai's Super King

Dhoni rolls back the years to take CSK into final after Gaikwad-Uthappa take Capitals to cleaners



Chennai Super Kings captain MS Dhoni hits the winning runs off Tom Curran in the final over of Qualifier 1 on Sunday. [ipl20.com](#)

SYNOPSIS: Grandmaster of end-game finishes match after middle-game masters set it up

SANDIP G
OCTOBER 10

A SCRIPT of (Arabian) dreams unfolded as MS Dhoni sealed the match with a throw-back 18 off six balls, to hunt down the target of 173 runs Delhi Capitals set Chennai Super Kings with two balls to spare and take his team into another Indian Premier League final. There was a spate of half-centuries — Ruturaj Gaikwad's 70, Robin Uthappa's 63, Prithvi Shaw's 60, and Rishabh Pant's 51 not out — but all that would be remembered from the match would be Dhoni's 18, as it often happens when he stays till the end.

Grandmaster of end-game

The rumours of Dhoni's waning finishing prowess seem grossly exaggerated, on Sunday's evidence. The validation came in a brief but vivid knock of 18 off six balls. Do not forget to suffix the not-out asterisk. For the zillionth time in his career, Dhoni finished off a match, a contest that Chennai Super Kings should have perhaps won before his interference. But never mind, everybody likes the Dhoni theatre.

When he strode in, surprisingly ahead of the in-form Ravindra Jadeja, a few frowns and scowls accompanied him to the crease at the fall of Ruturaj Gaikwad for a purring 70. The requirement had blown to 24 off 12 balls. A near-

canter by peak Dhoni standards, but not quite as straightforward these days. How wrong we were in (mis)judging him, he was to prove.

Avesh Khan beats him with a fullish slower ball first up. The second ball is pulled back a bit, and Dhoni hops back to his back-foot, shuffling in a trice, and bludgeons it over deep mid-wicket. The sparsely-populated stadium goes delirious.

A dot ball, then the wicket of Moeen Ali, and CSK were tasked to knock down 13 off five balls. No problem. The first ball he faced off Tom Curran is slapped over extra cover, Dhoni waiting for the ball and pummelling it. A fortuitous bottom edge that rolled to the fine-leg fence hacks the target down to five off three balls. A wide reduces it to four. And inevitably, Dhoni wraps the match with a pulled four.

The match though was set up by Gaikwad and Robin Uthappa. The latter rolled back the years to state that he is not a spent force. Though his big-stroking prowess had seemingly declined, a far cry from his heady Kolkata Knight Riders days, he illustrated that he still has the strokes and the drive to win games, that there's still some wind left in him to blow bowlers over.

Most batsmen become less risk-averse as they get older, cutting out some of their strokes, adding more sophistry and world-wisdom into their game. But not Uthappa. At 35, at the fag end of his career, he seems as buoyant a batsman as he was when he broke out with a whirlwind half-century against England in an ODI in 2006. Age and experience have not diminished his exuberance. No shot of his on Sunday exemplified that more than the six off Avesh Khan. He shuffled



TWITTERATI

@imVkohli

Anddddd the king is back... the greatest finisher ever in the game. Made me jump Outta my seat once again tonight. @msdhoni

..... across and whipped it over long-on with a clean-swing of the bat.

Gaikwad, on the other hand, is the rising star, or a star that has already risen. Their 110-run alliance laid the foundation, before Dhoni imparted the finishing touches.

Middle-over choke

The middle-over choke has been an age-old CSK theme, one of the strategic blocks that hold their robust high-riser. It could be a prosaic play - stifling batsmen with fast spinners and slow pacers, bowling to defensive fields. One can't fish out the name of a tearaway or a big-turning spinner they ever had, the kind that smashes headlines in auctions.

But what they possess is a group of bowlers who are arguably the best in the middle overs. Like Moeen Ali and Ravindra Jadeja managed against a rampaging Delhi Capitals. The latter came on with Prithvi Shaw in a belligerent mood, Jadeja did concede nine runs — Axar Patel sweeping him after being sent in as pinch-hitter — but there was a sense of foreboding that runs would dry up. And dry up they did — in the next five overs, they conceded only 30 runs and

The match though was set up by Gaikwad and Robin Uthappa. The latter rolled back the years to state that he is not a spent force

nabbed two wickets, including that of the thundering Shaw.

There is no rocket science about how they bowl. There is no mystery or mystique about them. They flourish on the old-fashioned virtues of precision, discipline and diligence, maximising the best of their variations. Not just the stitched-to-fit spinners, but their medium pacers too are cut off the same cloth. None of Deepak Chahar, Dwayne Bravo and Shardul Thakur are exuberant to test the durability of the speed gun. They get their kicks from experimenting with the seam of the ball and changing the pace. They don't bother to batter the batter's toes or rattle their helmets; all they want is to eke out a dot ball, prevent a boundary, in the process heckling a wicket or two. Their middle-overs control gave CSK the grip over the match.

Even their new-ball operator Josh Hazlewood is not the archetypal T20 bowler, with pace and tricks. CSK's is the classic case of not falling for cliches, but charting a path of their own.

BRIEF SCORES: Delhi Capitals 172/5 in 20 overs (P Shaw 60, 7x4, 3x6; R Pant 51*, 3x4, 2x6; J Hazlewood 2/29) lost to Chennai Super Kings 173/6 in 19.4 overs (R Gaikwad 70, 5x4, 2x6; R Uthappa 63, 7x4, 2x6; Tom Curran 3/29) by four wickets

PLAYING TONIGHT

Indian Premier League

Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Kolkata Knight Riders, 7:30 pm, Live on Star Sports Network

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER



Hot heads, calm minds and everything in between at the game

HRHairness left clutching at air



It was a leap into a forgotten past. MS Dhoni flinging to his right, full-stretch, defying gravity and age, in pursuit of an edge off Prithvi Shaw's bat. Like it was the retro-aughts again. Like he was that hipster again, an imaginary halo of flowing hair suddenly building around his yellow cap, the face turning fresh-faced and uncrumpled, his eyes glowing with enthusiasm. For a long time, even during the backend of his international career, Dhoni has restrained from diving full-pelt, with one hand, espe-

cially towards the slip cordon. But this time, the old instincts seemed to kick in, fleetingly, before the reality nudged in. But how the illusion crashed down, as the ball just whooshed past his outstretched glove, with a mischievous wink, like an errand vehicle giving the trailing police car a naughty slip. Dhoni plunged onto the grassy baize of the Dubai Stadium, his weary eyes agonisingly watching the ball slip away from his grasp. By then, the hairy halo had long vanished.

SmoulderMan, not spidey

Rishabh 'Spidey' Pant gritted his teeth and flared his nostrils when collecting a wild wandering throw that allowed Uthappa to saunter in for a third. The chirpy keeper, now and then pulling on the visage of a stern captain, was unhappy with the lounging-pace throw from third man that let Gaikwad add three after dissecting deep point and third man. Saving the boundary was hardly any solace. Pant backing up on the throw, would frown his irritation and use his keeper gloves to mock-slap at the stumps - the ever-grinning goof giving a rare grim grump. Three wickets quickly thereafter would bring a hint of a smile back to Rishabh, but Gaikwad and Uthappa seemed to have inflicted enough damage to paste a start of a frown on Pant's face as the spidey's web was used more like a mosquito swatter.



Shreyas Iyer on fire

Shreyas Iyer hadn't gotten going when Delhi Capitals batted but made up in the field. He tried, at least. First was a clever catch at long-on to send back Uthappa who was looking to finish this off by himself. But setting a kitten amongst pigeons, Iyer would keep his head in a cha-cha-cha catch at the boundary. The ball had sailed in between mid wicket and long on, and Iyer while holding onto the running catch, had failed to brake his run inside the ropes. He'd toss the ball back, watch Axar Patel hover uncertainly around him, but pop it slightly to step in and complete the catch. Later he would finish a pick-and-throw in quick step, sending back Ambati Rayudu with a rocket throw to Rabada inches away from the stumps, to lend some late drama to CSK's chase. Then Dhoni rained down on his redemption.



Batman & Robin

MS Dhoni and Robin Uthappa go back a long way. They made their India debuts around the same, mid 2000. Uthappa wasn't just Robin to the Batman Dhoni with buddy vacays in Coorg, as we now know he also played the cupid. Years later, Dhoni's wife Sakshi in an Insta revelation would post her 30th birthday picture with a caption: "Thanks to this man here, Mahi and I are together!! It was great meeting you Robbie and Sheethal." The notoriously discreet Dhoni too would be seen on the twitter timeline of Uthappas - flashing a broad smile in family pictures with their respective tiny tots hovering around. How time flies. At the start of this season when the Royals let

go Robin go, CSK would scoop him. Anticipating snide remarks, Robin would give out disclaimer: "Dhoni told me, 'I want you to know that I didn't make the decision about you coming in here.'" It was his way of saying, he was wearing CSK yellow because of his skills. Dhoni knew Robin can be trusted in the crunch. During the 2007 World T20 tied India-Pakistan league game, Robin had a half-century and hit the stumps in the 'bowl out'. And on the Dubai evening, when Dhoni, not among runs in this IPL leg, wanted someone to push CSK in the final and take the critical eye away from his personal form, it was his trusted friend who delivered.

India lose 3rd T20I by 14 runs, Australia clinch series 2-0

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GOLD COAST, OCTOBER 10

THE INDIAN women's team committed batting harakiri despite a fine half century from opener Smriti Mandhana to lose the third and final T20 International to Australia by 14 runs and the series 0-2 here on Sunday.

Chasing a challenging 150-run target, Mandhana smashed 52 off 49 balls and shared 57 runs with Jemimah Rodrigues (23 off 26) for the second wicket to set the platform for India before the visitors lost four wickets in a span of 10 runs to lose the plot.

For Australia, right-arm pacer Nicola Carey (2/42) was the pick of the bowlers, while Ashleigh Gardner (1/22), Annabel Sutherland (1/13) and Georgia Wareham (1/15) scalped a wicket each.

India thus ended their Australia tour heartbroken, having already lost the three-match ODI series 1-2 before drawing the rain-marred lone historic day/night Test

India's run chase started on a disappointing fashion as they lost hard-hitting opener Shafali Verma (1) early, caught by Vlaeminck at short fine-leg off Gardner in the second over.

But Mandhana looked in ominous touch as she displayed her wide range of shots — pulling, clipping off the pads and hitting through covers region — to pick up three boundaries in the fifth over. Mandhana and Rodrigues played with caution with the for-

India thus ended their Australia tour heartbroken, having already lost the three-match ODI series 1-2 before drawing the rain-marred lone historic day/night Test

mer finding the boundaries in between as India reached 54 runs in the 10th over.

In search of boundaries

Rodrigues then hit Wareham straight over mid-on in the next over but she departed two balls later in search of too many boundaries, caught at long-off by Vlaeminck. Mandhana soon reached her fifty off just 46 balls with a boundary off Carey but she perished four balls later, caught by Australia skipper Meg Lanning as India reached 93 for three by the end of the 15th over.

Needing 57 off 30 balls, India's chase derailed thereafter as they lost two more quick wickets, including that off skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (13). From there on, it was no looking back for Australia as they restricted India to 135 for six.

BRIEF SCORES: Australia 149/5 in 20 overs (B Mooney 61, T McGrath 44; R Gaikwad 2/37) bt India 135/6 in 20 overs (S Mandhana 52; Nicola Carey 2/42)

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
OCTOBER 10

ON THE face of it, this is an IPL Eliminator, between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Kolkata Knight Riders in Sharjah. But from RCB captain Virat Kohli's perspective, this game probably presents a bigger picture.

Kohli will step down from IPL captaincy at the end of this year's tournament, and Monday's game could well be his last as the Bangalore-based franchise's skipper, after nine years in charge. The decision announced during the middle of the tournament eases some of the pressure on captain Kohli, for it takes away the debaters' privilege to demand his removal, if he fails again to win the title. Still, another trophy-less season would see critics sharpen their knives, pointing towards an empty cabinet.

Last year, after RCB lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Eliminator, former India batsman and KKR's two-time title-winning captain Gautam Gambhir had raised the accountability issue. Another Eliminator exit and the RCB skipper might have to face more tough questions, notwithstanding his decision to quit captaincy.

The T20 World Cup is approaching, which is Kohli's final assignment as India's T20 captain as well. Obviously, he wouldn't like to



Virat Kohli has scored 366 runs in 14 games this IPL, which feels underwhelming by his lofty standards. P77

carry any negative vibes into such an important tournament. As a batsman also, he hasn't played a match-winning knock even in white-ball cricket for quite a substantial period now.

Kohli has scored 366 runs in 14 games this IPL, including three half-centuries. By his lofty standards, though, this feels a little un-

derwhelming. For close to two years now, he hasn't scored a limited-overs century. Add to that the latest issue of his head falling over and going outside the line of the ball, while playing across the line on the leg-side. Getting out leg-before to Bhuvneshwar Kumar in that manner only a few days back is still fresh in fans' memory.

Technical issues

Certain technical issues can creep in when a cricketer plays for a long period and Kohli, the master batsman, doesn't need any coach's help to sort it out. Such issues are addressed during the off-season, which nowadays is virtually non-existent. The second phase of the IPL in UAE came on the heels of a Test series in England and there's barely any gap between the T20 league and the T20 World Cup. India haven't won an ICC trophy since 2013 and to break the drought, Kohli needs to be in top form in the showpiece event.

Ro-hit Sharma not having a good IPL increases Kohli's responsibility going into the T20 World Cup. Both are big tournament players and the global competition would be played with a different intensity. Still, big runs, especially against an excellent KKR bowling attack, at the business end of the IPL would be a serious confidence-boost for Kohli.

The Pakistan factor

That India's first match in the T20 World Cup is against Pakistan makes things even more interesting. Forget the gulf between the two teams, hype-building has already started on the other side of the border. "One strong investor told me that a blank cheque is ready for the PCB if Pakistan beats India in the upcoming T20 World Cup," Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ramiz Raja recently told his country's Senate Standing Committee.

Kohli speaks a lot about 'head space' and getting it right would be important before India's T20 World Cup opener. As for the Eliminator, his immediate aim could be a more fruitful Powerplay, bowling-wise.

RCB's average Powerplay economy rate this term is 8.38, with 11 wickets during the first six overs compared to KKR's 17. Kohli, at times, has held back Yuzvendra Chahal against left-handers. It would be interesting to see if he uses the leg-spinner early in the Eliminator, against KKR's in-form left-handed opening batsman Venkatesh Iyer.

Despite not-so-good Powerplay stats, RCB's bowling performance in the middle overs and at the death has been excellent. But KKR's heavy artillery — Andre Russell is likely to be fit — might not allow their opponents a chance to rally.

A knockout classic

Fury caps trilogy by stopping Wilder to retain WBC heavyweight title

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LAS VEGAS, OCTOBER 10

AFTER THREE fights featuring nine combined knockdowns and a wealth of unforgettable moments, Tyson Fury finally ended his epic heavyweight rivalry with Deontay Wilder with one last valedictory punch.

Fury got up from the canvas twice in the fourth round and eventually stopped Wilder with a devastating right hand in the 11th round, retaining his WBC title Saturday night in the thrilling conclusion to a superlative boxing trilogy. Fury (31-0-1, 22 KOs) finished Wilder for the second straight time in their three bouts, but only after a back-and-forth event featuring five combined knockdowns and several apparent moments of imminent defeat for both men. Wilder ultimately ended up facedown on the canvas at 1:10 of the 11th round after a chopping right hook fired from high in the air by the 6-foot-9 Fury. "It was a great fight," said Fury, the sport's lineal heavyweight champion and a former unified world champ. "It was worthy of any trilogy in the history of the sport. He's a top fighter, and he gave me a real (test) tonight."

Wilder (42-2-1) was knocked down in the third round and appeared to be on his way out, but he improbably rallied to knock down Fury twice in the final minutes of the fourth. The British champion was profoundly shaken, but he also gathered himself and fought on.

"He caught me twice in the fourth round, but I was never thinking. 'Oh, this is over,'" Fury said. "He shook me, put me down, but that's boxing, and that's life as well. It's not how many times you get knocked down. You've got to keep fighting and keep moving forward."

Fury knocked down Wilder again with a concussive right hand midway through the 10th, but Wilder recovered and even stunned Fury in the final seconds of the round. Fury persevered — and after the referee jumped in to wave it off in the 11th, Fury climbed onto the ropes in weary celebration before a frenzied crowd of 15,820 at T-Mobile Arena on the south end of the Las Vegas Strip.

Fury then broke into a rendition of "Walking in Memphis," in keeping with his post-fight tradition of serenading his crowds.

"I haven't seen the actual knockout tonight, but I felt it," Fury said. "I hit him with a solid, crunching right hook to the temple, and shots like that, they end careers. He definitely took some punishment, so we'll see what he can do in the future."

Wilder absorbed enormous punishment and appeared to be physically drained for much of the bout, but the veteran American champ showed his toughness while still throwing power shots on weary legs.



Tyson Fury lands the knockout punch on Deontay Wilder in the 11th round. Reuters

The Kronk school of boxing

GAURAV BHATT
OCTOBER 10

DEONTAY WILDER felt the weight of the world champion on his shoulders, and crumbled. The American summed up his defeat to Tyson Fury best. "I did my best, but it wasn't good enough tonight. I'm not sure what happened," he said after the 11th-round knockout defeat. "I knew that he didn't come in at 277 lbs to be a ballet dancer. He came to lean on me, try to rough me up and he succeeded."

Back in 2018 for the first meeting between the two undefeated heavyweights, Wilder and Fury came in at 212 and 256 pounds respectively. After that exciting draw, Fury parted ways with Ben Davison — the coach who orchestrated his comeback from the wilderness — and joined the Kronk boxing gym.

Kronk, which ran out of the basement of the oldest recreation centre in Detroit, became a household name in the 1970s under the stewardship of Emanuel Steward. Their list of champion alumni includes heavyweight legend Lennox Lewis, who praised Fury's decision to join the gym: "Every time you see a Kronk fighter, you can expect to see something special, Kronk fighters do things that no other fighters do and I know that for a fact."

But what do Kronk fighters do? They punish opponents by leaning on them, making them carry the weight and sapping their energy. Steward passed away in 2012 but his nephew Javan 'Sugar Hill' Steward is carrying the Kronk legacy forward. Javan wanted Fury to come in heavier for the rematch. The Brit thus

weighed in at 273 lbs last February.

Wilder too moved up to 231 from 212 for the second fight. But while nobody could accuse the revamped Fury of being aesthetically-pleasing and impeccably-chiselled, a lot of Wilder's weight gain was increased muscle mass. Punchers are born and not made, as the boxing adage goes. The added mass didn't exponentially increase Wilder's already devastating power. Instead, he gassed out quicker, and Fury went to work with the leaning and clinching, earning a stoppage in the 7th round.

For the trilogy fight, both Fury and Wilder doubled down on their strategies, posting career-heaviest weights at 277 and 238 lbs respectively. It is to Wilder's credit that his heart and right hand kept him in the fight, nearly finishing Fury. But it was the Brit who finished what he had started in the second fight.

Like Lewis, he leaned and used the smaller Wilder as a body rest, wearing him down, getting a moment's rest and setting up combinations with a jab. And like another of Emanuel Steward's golden heavyweights Wladimir Klitschko, he snapped to the back foot, taking the sting out of Wilder's right hand.

The gameplan inherently employs dirty boxing. The clinches — keeping arms over the opponent's, putting forehead on their shoulder and holding tight — often devolved into headlocks. Like Lewis, Fury frequently pushed down on Wilder's neck and snapped him back with close uppercuts. During the last fight, he was penalised a point for the tactic and on Sunday too, he was cautioned. But Fury made Wilder feel all 277 lbs of him and took his legs away. And that's the Kronk way.



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