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### PANDORA PAPERS - PART ONE

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

## After Panama, Pandora: elite Indians find ways to ringfence wealth in secret havens

Businessmen to corporate defaulters, CBI-, ED-accused to celebrities: offshore trusts used to park assets, evade detection

BY RITU SARIN, SHYAMLAL YADAV, SANDEEP SINGH, KHUSHBOO NARAYAN, JAY MAZOOMDAAR **& P VAIDYANATHAN IYER** 

NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

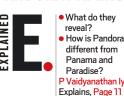
SEVEN LEAKS later, after regulators worldwide have begun cracking down on global money flows, the elite are finding ingenious new ways to ring-fence their assets from scrutiny at home, reshaping the secrecy industry in international finance.

This has been revealed in the Pandora Papers, the latest leak of offshore financial records, the most voluminous ever: as many as 12 million documents from 14 companies in offshore tax havens with details of ownership of 29,000 offshore companies and Trusts.

Obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICII) two years ago, a one-year investigation of data linked to India by The Indian Express reveals how individuals and businesses, many already under the scanner, are pushing the envelope to evade detection,



## WHAT ARE THE



home and the lax jurisdiction of

So, Anil Ambani, who de-

tax havens.

clares bankruptcy in one UK court, has 18 asset holding offshore companies; fugitive Nirav Modi's sister sets up a trust just one month before he fled India; the husband of Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, promoter of Biocon, sets up a trust with keys to a person who was banned by Sebi for insider trading, reveals an investigation by The Indian

Of the 300-plus Indian names, the offshore holdings of as many as 60 prominent individuals and companies were corroborated and investigated. These will be revealed in the coming days.

in the investigation of Pandora

■ Several offshore entity owners, even in India, have found means to adapt to the post-Panama Papers scenario, when the offshore world was shaken, when several countries tightened regulations and, in India, the taxman has detected Rs 20,000 crore-plus of undeclared foreign and domestic assets until early 2021.

Sports icon Sachin Tendulkar, for instance, asked for the liquidation of his entity in the British Virgin Islands just three months after the Panama Papers expose. There are other prominent Indians and NRIs too, who have, following the 2016 data leak, opted for a rejig or reorganisation of their offshore assets. Evidently, Indian businessmen have been setting up a plethora of offshore trusts to project a degree of separation from their wealth and insulate their assets from creditors.

■Individuals accused in economic offences and under investigation, have created an offshore network in tax havens like Samoa, Belize, or the Cook Islands, besides larger tax havens like the British Virgin Islands or Panama. Indeed, many of the individuals and entities named in the Pandora Papers are no strangers to investigating agencies in India. Some are in jail and several subjects of this investigation are presently on bail. There is a fairly long list of Indian der the scanner of agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Enforcement Directorate, and the Serious Fraud Investigation Office.

■ Those in debt to the tune of thousands of crores of rupees to Indian banks have, as the Pandora Papers show, diverted a sizeable section of their assets into a maze of offshore companies. In one case, major Indian economic offenders, currently in jail, have bought a Bombardier Challenger aircraft through their offshore entity. Many promoters, as the investigation reveals, parked their assets in offshore trusts, effectively protecting themselves from personal guarantees to loans being defaulted by their businesses.

■ Then there are PEPs or Politically Exposed Persons. Among the Indian PEPs are former Members of Parliament; those who have held public office in India; others who either deal in sensitive trades or trade in sensitive countries, or even those who have been previously booked by Indian investigating agencies. All these PEPs were moved to the "high risk" watch list by the offshore service provider.

■ Leaked records reveal that many of the power players who could help bring an end to the offshore system instead benefit from it - stashing assets in covert companies and trusts. The confidential data of the 14 offshore service providers, for

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

## protesters

"there are questions about the

extent to which Mr Ambani has

any offshore interests, because if so they have not been declared".

ordered to pay \$716 million to

the banks. But he did not, and de-

nied having any asset or worth-

while beneficial interest in any

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Three months later, he was

Car linked

to minister

kills 4 farm

where a car allegedly linked to MoS, Home, Ajay Mishra,

ran over protesters. PTI

#### **MANISH SAHU** & ASAD REHMAN LUCKNOW, LAKHIMPUR KHERI

OCTOBER 3

FOUR FARMERS were among eight persons killed Sunday in UP's Lakhimpur Kheri after a convoy of three SUVs, including one owned by Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra, hit a group of farm protesters leading to a clash. Following the incident, farm

leaders called for the "arrest of the Minister and his son" who, they said, was driving one of the SUVs. They called for a probe by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court and said they would hold protests in all districts Monday to demand **CONTINUED ON PAGE 9** 

Khattar stirs row: At party meet, talks of 'tit for tat'

**VARINDER BHATIA** CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 3

ABOUT A month after Haryana IAS officer Ayush Sinha's "break heads" remark during a farmer protest resulted in a four-day sit-in by protesters, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar sparked a controversy Sunday telling a meeting of BJP workers to create their own volunteer force of **CONTINUED ON PAGE 9** 

Shah Rukh's son among 8 arrested in drugs bust on Goa cruise ship

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU, **SADAF MODAK** & MOHAMED THAVER

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

**BOLLYWOOD ACTOR Shah Rukh** Khan's son Aryan Khan (23) was among eight persons arrested in Mumbai Sunday by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in connection with an alleged drugs bust on a cruise ship the previous evening. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 9** 

## **Trust of Kiran Mazumdar** Shaw's husband is run by advisor blacklisted by Sebi

'Bankrupt' Anil Ambani didn't reveal

his \$1.3-bn web of offshore firms

**PVAIDYANATHANIYER** NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

**JAY MAZOOMDAAR** 

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

his net worth was zero.

IN FEBRUARY 2020, following a

dispute with three Chinese

state-controlled banks, Anil

Ambani told a London court that

The court observed that

ON JULY 8 this year, market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) barred

Bengaluru-headquartered Kunal Ashok Kashyap, from trading in the stock market for a year, ordered disgorgement of **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

shareholder,

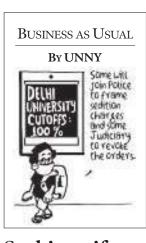
Allegro Capital Private Ltd and its







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## Sachin, wife, her father had BVI firm; shut after Panama Papers expose

**RITU SARIN** NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

INDIAN CRICKET superstar Sachin Tendulkar, who has been a Member of the Upper House of Parliament, along with members of his family, figures in the Pandora Papers as Beneficial Owners of an offshore entity in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) which was liquidated in 2016.

Sachin, with wife Anjali CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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EXPLAINED: WHY AMAZON'S ASTRO 'ROBOT ON WHEELS' HAS RANKLED PRIVACY

The robot is designed to move around the home and keep a check on pets, and detect something unusual in

### **ENTERTAINMENT**



THE GUILTY MOVIE **REVIEW** 

Jake Gyllenhaal is marvellous in this taut, claustrophobic thriller

### TECH



**SIX FANTASTIC APPLE DEALS** 

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## **EXPRESS** AUDIO

## What really caused the rift between Paes and **Bhupathi?**

**NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY** 

Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes had been India's greatest tennis duo. But their partnership and friendship famously soured more than two decades ago.

## **FROM PAGE ONE**

### OFFSHORE WEB LINKED TO ANIL AMBANI **NO COMPANIES** (MILLION) **JERSEY Batiste Unlimited** \$500 **Radium Unlimited** \$220 **Hui Investment Unlimited** Summerhill Ltd 5. Laurence Mutual (formerly Divertimento Ltd) Richard Equity Ltd (formerly Airtight Ltd) German Equity Limited (formerly Clef Ltd) **BVI** Reindeer Holdings Ltd Northern Atlantic Consultancy Services Group Unlimited Northern Atlantic Trading Unlimited 12. Northern Atlantic Investments Unlimited 13. Trans-Pacific Holdings Pvt Ltd Trans-Atlantic Holdings Pvt Ltd 14. \$500 Trans-Americas Holdings Pvt Ltd **CYPRUS** AAA Enterprises And Ventures Pvt Ltd AAA telecom Holdings Pvt Ltd AAA Infrastructure Investments Pvt Ltd

## What 'bankrupt' Anil **Ambani** didn't reveal: his \$1.3-billion web of offshore companies

entity worldwide.

Records in the Pandora Papers investigated by The Indian Express reveal that the chairman of Reliance ADA Group and his representatives own at least 18 offshore companies in Jersey, British Virgin Islands (BVI) and Cyprus.

Set up between 2007 and 2010, seven of these companies have borrowed and invested at least \$1.3 billion.

In Jersey, Anil Ambani owned three companies -Batiste Unlimited, Radium Unlimited and Hui Investment Unlimited — that were incorporated between December 2007 and January 2008.

Batiste Unlimited and Radium Unlimited are owned by Reliance Innoventures Pvt Ltd, the ultimate holding company of ADA Group. Hui Investment Unlimited is owned by AAA Enterprises Ltd (Reliance Inceptum Pvt Ltd since 2014), which is a promoter company of Reliance

Records also show that two other companies incorporated in Jersey in January 2008 -Summerhill Ltd and Dulwich Ltd — are owned by a "representative of Anil Ambani", identified as Anup Dalal.

Dalal also owned a BVI company — Reindeer Holdings Ltd – which was used for investment management. Three other Jersey compa-

nies linked to Anil Ambani and incorporated in January 2008 are: Laurence Mutual; Richard Equity Ltd and German Equity Limited, all beneficially owned by a lawyer in Geneva.

Records show that service providers which managed these companies put on record that seven of these received loans from banks which were "guaranteed by Reliance/Anil Ambani, in order to make investments...For those investments that have been realised, the monies were then in turn loaned out by the companies to other companies."

Some key transactions, as investigated by The Indian

■ Batiste Unlimited and Radium Unlimited, records show, borrowed \$500 million and \$220 million respectively from ICICI to acquire CCPS (compulsory convertible preference shares) in AAA Corporation Pvt Ltd, an Ambani-linked real estate company in Mumbai.

■ Dulwich borrowed \$33 million from Rockcliffe Group Limited, UK, and invested this through a subscription agreement with a private fund based in Mauritius. Significantly, this fund sold a three per cent stake in Pipavav Shipyard, now Anil Ambani-promoted Reliance

Naval, in 2009-10. ■ Summerhill Ltd bought 90% of a company identified as "GNPTL" — details not available so far — and transferred the shareholding to Reliance Globalcom BV, a company in

the Netherlands. ■ Laurence Mutual, Richard **Equity Ltd and German Equity** Limited together invested \$47.5 million, borrowed from Barclays, in an entity identified as Adventis Funds. The investments, show records, were realised in March 2009 and

In the British Virgin Islands, Anil Ambani owned Northern **Atlantic Consultancy Services** Group Unlimited and its two subsidiaries Northern Atlantic Trading Unlimited and

Northern Atlantic Investments

### After Panama, Pandora: facing heat, elite Indians find new ways to ringfence wealth instance, shows offshore enallow us to undertake ran-Russia, the United States, led by a former Panamanian

tities set up by a former Revenue Service officer, a former tax commissioner, a former senior Army officer, a former top law officer and so on.

While offshore trusts are recognised by law in India, what has led to a rush of Indian industrialists and business families to set up trusts is the fear of a return of the estate duty, which until its abolition in 1985, was as high as 85 per cent.

'Inequality has risen, and the gap between the rich and poor has risen. It was Arun Jaitley as Finance Minister who hiked the surcharge on the super-rich (those earning over Rs 1 crore a year) to 12% while doing away with the 1% wealth tax in the Budget for 2015-16," a senior Income-Tax Department official said. Although India has signed

information exchange agreements with various countries, they exist only on paper. "It is near impossible to

pierce the corporate veil...

and our rule of law does not

dom I-T surveys and searches," the official, who was involved in following up the Panama Papers investigations, told The Indian Express. "Also, most big business houses over the years have ensured they have an NRI

family member or an overseas citizen managing the offshore affairs. This ensures such entities do not have to disclose assets in the Foreign Assets Schedule while filing returns," the

Overseas, the Pandora Papers expose dealings of the King of Jordan, the Presidents of Ukraine, Kenya and Ecuador, the Prime

official said.

Minister of the Czech Republic, and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The files detail financial ac-

tivities of Russian President Vladimir Putin's "unofficial minister of propaganda" and more than 130 billionaires from India.

Mexico, and other nations. In popular imagination,

the offshore system is often seen as a far-flung scattering of palm-shaded islands. The Pandora Papers show that the offshore money machine operates in every corner of the world, including financial capitals of the richest and most powerful economies, including the United States of America.

The system is also sustained by elite institutions that serve the rich and powerful - global banks, law firms, and accounting practices headquartered in the US and Europe.

A document in the

Pandora Papers shows, for example, that banks around the world set up at least 3,926 offshore companies for their customers with the help of Alemán, Cordero, Galindo & Lee, a Panamanian law firm

ambassador to the U.S. The law firm - also known as Alcogal — has affiliated offices in a dozen countries, including New Zealand, Uruguay, and the United Arab Emirates. It shows Alcogal set up at least 312 companies in the British Virgin Islands at the request of American financial services giant Morgan Stanley.

Besides Alcogal, the largest number of secret records in the Pandora Papers are from the Trident Trust Company of BVI and the Asiaciti Trust of Singapore. Other major offshore providers include Aabol (All About Offshore Seychelles Limited); OMC (Overseas Management Company Inc) and the Fidelity Corporate Services Limited.

The leaked records of the 14 offshore providers span an over two-decade-long period from 1996-2020, while the period of incorporation of the companies and trusts is even longer, ranging from 1971 to 2018.

would therefore at the outset In the case of Deanstone wish to strongly reiterate the Trust, Kashyap, as Protector, was sought to be given powers legitimacy of the referenced investment by Mr. Tendulkar, the to appoint and remove the payment of taxes on such trustee. He has been overseeing the trust's assets since its infunds, and the declaration of such investment in Mr. ception in July 2015, according Tendulkar's tax returns. As is to Asiaciti. He, in fact, was evident from the payment of Asiaciti's contact for this taxes by Mr. Tendulkar and the transaction. As per latest reports, declaration of such investment in Mr. Tendulkar's tax returns. Glentec held 19.76 per cent in there can be no question of Mr. Biocon Ltd as on June 30, 2021, Tendulkar having engaged in valued at Rs 9,583 crore based on the market price of Rs 404 any of the practices quoted in

your email.' per share on that day. He added: "We reiterate As Settlor, Glentec is the that the investment by Mr. principal economic contributor Tendulkar has been legitito Deanstone Trust. In effect, mately made through banking Kashyap is a financial advisor channels from India and has and protector of the Trust been declared to the income whose corpus comes from tax authorities. Further, the Glentec. amount of Rs 60 crore as He is also a Director in Mazumdar Shaw Medical quoted by you is grossly incorrect, but regardless, all amounts Foundation along with Kiran received by Mr. Tendulkar on Mazumdar Shaw and her husband John Shaw. liquidation of the investment have also been declared in his What raises questions of tax returns." "We would once

corporate governance is: again request you to ensure Should Biocon Ltd and Glentec that neither The Indian Express International be using the servnor the ICIJ attributes or alleges ices of Kashyap and Allegro Capital when there is an adverse order by the market reg-Asked about this arrange-

ment with Kashyap, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw told The Indian Express: "Mr Kunal Kashyap runs a financial advisory service and has been used by Biocon as well as Glentec. Mr Kashyap advises several companies apart from Biocon. I understand that Mr Kashyap's SEBI case is currently pending with SAT (Securities Appellate Tribunal) and hence it would not be appropriate for me to

comment on this any further." Glentec International holds cash and investments of about \$55 million, and real estate including four properties in London, one in Barcelona and one in a New York upscale residential building, cumulatively valued at approximately \$30 million. "The properties have not been settled into the Deanstone Trust,"

Mazumdar Shaw said. Explaining the antecedents of Glentec, she said her husband set it up in 1999 as an investment company from his foreign currency earnings to acquire the shares that Unilever held in Biocon long before it became a publicly listed company and for various other investments in real estate and public markets. "Glentec is a registered entity disclosed to both RBI and SEBI," she said.

"Neither my husband, nor I nor Mr Kashyap are either shareholders, trustees, directors, settlors or beneficiaries of the Trust," she added.

The "beneficiaries" of the Deanstone Trust are relatives of KMS (Kiran Mazumdar Shaw), who holds an Indian passport, and JS (John McCallum Marshall Shaw) - Asiaciti Trust uses these initials to refer to the

## Unlimited. All three were set up

The first two companies

were liquidated by March 2018. In BVI, Anil Ambani owned another company, Trans-Pacific Holdings Pvt Ltd, which was formed in March 2009. Its two subsidiaries, Trans-Atlantic Holdings Pvt Ltd, and Trans-Americas Holdings Pvt Ltd, were incorporated in 2009.

Trans-Americas Holdings, records show, was active at least until 2017.

In June 2009, records show, an agreement was signed between Trans-Americas Holding (BVI) and three Cyprus companies for a loan of \$500 million. Standard Chartered Bank. London, was the security trustee for this arrangement.

In this connection, another agreement was signed between Trans-Atlantic Holding and Trans-Americas Holding and the Anil Ambani Group's ultimate holding company Reliance Innoventures Pvt Ltd.

Under this, Trans-Americas Holding had the right to call upon Reliance Innoventures "to subscribe for ordinary shares."

The three Cyprus companies went into voluntary liquidation this year.

Asked about these offshore companies and transactions, a lawyer, on behalf of Anil Ambani, said: "Our client is a tax resident of India and has made disclosures to Indian authorities as required to be made in compliance with law. All required considerations were taken into account when making disclosures before the London court. The Reliance Group conducts business globally and for legitimate business and regulatory requirements, companies are incorporated in

different jurisdictions." In May 2020, Anil Ambani was ordered to pay \$716 million to the Chinese banks who are yet to initiate enforcement action due to a moratorium ordered by the Delhi High Court in State Bank of India's insolvency proceedings against Anil

## Sachin, wife, her father had BVI firm; shut after Panama **Papers** expose

Tendulkar and father-in-law Anand Mehta, as per an investigation of records of Panama law firm Alcogal which are part of Pandora Papers, are named as BOs and Directors of a BVI-based company: Saas International Limited. The data is part of documents from Panamian law firm, Alcogal, with their company being incorporated by LJ Management

Saas's first reference in the Pandora records dates back to 2007 and the most detailed set of documents, along with financial benefits for the company's owners, are available from the time of liquidation of

the company in July 2016. At the time of liquidation of the company, its shares were bought back by shareholders as per the value listed:

■ Sachin Tendulkar (9 shares): \$856,702

Anjali Tendulkar (14 shares ): \$1,375,714 Anand Mehta (5 shares)

Thus, the average buyback price of shares of Saas International Limited is around \$96,000. And as a resolution of the company dated August 10, 2007 (the day the company

was formed) shows, 90 shares

of the company were issued at

Anjali Tendulkar got the first share certificate with 60 shares; her father got the second share certificate with 30 shares. While there are no details of buyback of the remaining shares, the value of 90 shares can be pegged at \$8.6 million (roughly Rs 60 crore).

The date of liquidation of Saas International Limited is significant as it came three months after the Panama Papers expose

In Alcogal spreadsheets, Sachin Tendulkar and Anjali Tendulkar also figure in logs where they are categorized as Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs). In one registry of PEPs, Sachin Tendulkar is listed on account of him being an MP and is put in the "high risk" category.

Another review of Sachin and Anjali's PEP status was done in May 2016 two months prior to the winding up of Saas International Limited. Sachin Tendulkar's tenure

as nominated Member of the Rajya Sabha was from 2012 to 2018 and for four of these years, his BVI entity was registered and running with Alcogal. As per regulations, nominated Members of the Rajya Sabha are not required to submit their annual list of assets and liabilities as other elected MPs need to. In the sets of data on Saas International Limited, its MoA states that it was a company limited by shares and was au $thorized \,to\,issue\,50,\!000\,shares$ with par value of \$1 each. Another company, by the name of Cellar Limited, was appointed its Secretary.

Also, that subject to legislation of the BVI, the company could "carry on or undertake any business or activity, including trading of any commodities or goods...

At the time of its liquidation, Panamanian national John B Foster was appointed as the

company's "voluntary liquidator." There is also a certificate of solvency stating that the value of the company's assets equals or exceeds its liabilities. The final date of dissolution of the company is given as August 31,

The shareholders' resolution for dissolution is signed by all three of its shareholders: Sachin Tendulkar, Aniali Tendulkar and Anand Mehta. As per regulations of Mutual

Legal Assistance (MLA) Act, 2003, there are also details about where the "location of records and underlying documentation" International Limited will be after its liquidation. The certificate, dated July

15, 2016 (the day the liquidation was initiated), shows that the records would be maintained by LJ Management in Neuchatel, Switzerland. When contacted, Mrinmoy

Mukherjee, CEO and Director of Sachin Tendulkar Foundation, said: "The referenced investment by Mr. Tendulkar has been made by him from his tax paid funds under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) and has been duly accounted for and declared in his tax returns. (Under the LRS scheme, as

of March 2007, an individual could remit \$100,000 per year for specified purposes. This was raised to \$200,000 in September 2007, cut sharply to \$75,000 in August 2013, revised upward to \$125,000 in June 2014 and then doubled to the existing \$250,000 in May "You have, in your email, not

only recognised the legal uses of offshore companies, but also indicated that the ICIJ's intention is to look into the use of certain jurisdictions by persons to engage in money laundering, tax evasion and other illicit ac-

"This being the case, we

## any improper or illegal motives to Mr. Tendulkar's legitimate Kiran Mazumdar Shaw's husband's offshore trust has \$85 mn in

wrongful gains of Rs 24.68 lakh with 12 per cent interest for threeand-a-half years, and penalised them Rs 10 lakh each for insider trading in Biocon Ltd shares. What SEBI or the regulatory

assets

authorities did not know then was that Kunal Kashyap is the 'Protector' of The Deanstone Trust, set up in New Zealand in July 2015 by Mauritius-based Glentec International, the 'Settlor'. Glentec, which holds shares of Biocon Ltd, is 99 per cent owned by John McCallum Marshall Shaw, a British citizen and husband of Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Executive Chairperson of Biocon Ltd, a Rs 7,360-crore biotechnology enter-The Deanstone Trust is part

of a complex structure, as per records investigated by The Indian Express.

At the top is Deanstone Purpose Trust, whose trustee is Asiaciti Trust, a global corporate services company headquartered in Singapore. The Deanstone Purpose Trust was set up to hold the shares of a company, Deanstone PTC Limited, through a nominee entity Cyreal Ltd. Deanstone PTC Ltd, in turn, is the trustee of Deanstone Trust of which the blacklisted Kashyap is the Protector.

The Protector in a trust is appointed by the Settlor — one who sets up the trust or authors it — to supervise the trustee who administers the trust's afcouple. "Members of both our families are foreign nationals and beneficiaries of this trust. Any contribution received by any member of the family are in compliance with the laws in that jurisdiction." Mazumdar Shaw said.

John Shaw is shown to be registered as a Director in Deanstone PTC Ltd in June

## Temple entry fines, segregation: In this north Karnataka district, untouchability an open secret

### **KIRAN PARASHAR** MIYAPUR (KARNATAKA),

OCTOBER 3

"I DO not want to know whether all are equal in the eves of God but I do want to know whether all are equal in the eyes of human be-

ings," says a hoarding of Dr B R Ambedkar that welcomes people to Miyapur village in north Karnataka's Koppal district. This is the same village where a Dalit res-Chandrashekar Shivappadasara, was recently fined Rs 25,000 after his threeyear-old son strayed into a local

Discrimination against Dalits is rampant across this region. The incident at the Miyapur village however, different-Shivappadasara, 27, seemingly stood his ground and the issue was taken up by the police. Five people including the tem-

ple priest—all of them from the OBC Ganiga community—were arrested. What Shivappadasara's family faced was the fifth instance of caste discrimination-linked conflict in the Koppal district in recent times. The other significant incidents include the killing of a Dalit boy over a relationship with an OBC girl and an imposition of a Rs-11,000 penalty on a 24- yearold Dalit man for entering a temple. Local residents say atrocities against Dalits tend to be highly under-reported.

Around the 630 villages in the district, including Miyapur, untouchability is an open secret and

exists with the tacit understanding of all and sundry, including government officials, according to several local residents The Indian Express spoke to. Miyapur has a population of

1.500—most of them from the Ganiga community. The 91 Dalits living in the village are not allowed

inside eateries, temples and barber shops. To visit any of these places, they have to travel to Hanumasagar, 8 km away. The water tanks in Miyapur are also segregated.

"I was not interested in going against the villagers as it would put me in a tough situation but I

realised they would target me in any case," said Shivappadasara when The Indian Express met him at the village this week. Shivappadasara said he lives in fear and that it was the state social welfare department that eventually lodged the police complaint on his behalf after he hesitated.

### Monsoon likely to withdraw between Oct 7-10

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 3

MONSOON IS likely to withdraw between October 7 and 10, said of-Chandigarh Meteorological Department. The region has not recorded rainfall for 4-5 days, while an anticyclonic movement has begun forming

The UT Meteorological (MeT) department said there are very less chances of rain on Monday, thereby, reducing the likelihood of monsoon extending further. "Once the monsoon withdrawal starts, the temperatures will go slightly above normal. This will only be till October 10, and thereafter, temperatures will start dropping," said the MeT Department

The maximum temperature recorded on Sunday was 33.8 degrees Celsius, one degree above normal, while the minimum temperature recorded was 23.7 degree Celsius, which is five degrees above normal.

The department said that the maximum temperature may go upto 34 degree Celsius and 33 degree Celsius on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively. The minimum temperature will go upto 24 degree Celsius and 23 degree Celsius on the two days.

Chandigarh received 172.5mm rain in September, 19 per cent more than the normal rainfall of 145.2 mm. The city also recorded the highest precipitation in September since 2018.

A total of 600.2 mm rain has been recorded during the rainy season this year, against an average of 846.5 mm, a shortfall of 29

## Their money gone, GBP investors left in the lurch

**JAGDEEP SINGH DEEP** 

THE OWNERS of the GBP Group had kept investors in the dark and cheques given to some of them had also bounced. The group had sold some of the properties without approval from the Real Estate Regulatory

Authority (RERA). The investors are confused as to where to lodge the complaints against the GBP's owners.

Many investors had to take loans after mortgaging gold and some of the investors are running from pillar to post for meeting both ends meet after losing their money.

Some of the investors have spoken to The Indian Express about the difficulties they were facing after the GBP group officials had fled.

2018, I had invested around 14 lakh in GBP's project Sector 66 in Mohali. The company had



promised to give possession in 2019 but then it was deferred to 2020. After failing to get possession, I started visiting the offices of GBP and got the cheques which later bounced. The company had duped the people by selling the properties in prelaunched projects, thereby leaving no room for the people to İsht Sethi, an IT professional

"I had booked two flats in GBP's project Kharar. I found that the company was

good, fol-



gold jew-

ellery of

my wife. I

from my

Provident

Fund to

buv a 2-

BHK flat in GBP's project at

Zirakpur but now all the hard-

earned is gone. I paid around Rs

35 lakh to the company but I nei-

ther have a house nor money.

HUNDREDS CHEATED,

Mohali: Officials of M/s Gupta

Brothers Promoters Pvt Ltd, in-

cluding its directors, who

claimed to have constructed

mega residential and com-

mercial projects in Zirakpur,

Derabassi, Kharar and other

parts of the city, have been ab-

sconding since the last fort-

night. Hundreds of people

from different states have in-

vested in these projects. Police

sources said three FIRs in con-

nection with property frauds

were filed against the GBP

Group in Chandigarh. In one of

the cases, the booked owners

managed to get interim pro-

tection from arrest from a lo-

cal court, but they are yet to

join the police investigations.

Two of the FIRs were filed with

the Economic Offence Wing

(EOW), UT police, and one

other in Sector 34 PS.

ACCUSED AT LARGE

Sarbjeet Singh

withdrew

money

lowing which I invested in GBP's projects at Peermuchalla and Zirakpur too. In total, I had paid more than Rs 40 lakh. The company had given offers like assured return, buyback offers but I got suspicious when I found that there was no construction on the project. When I enquired, I found that the company's financial condition was not good. Now I have lost more than Rs 40

Hitik, a resident of Jammu

vested in a 2-BHK flat and paid around Rs 44 lakh. I paid my entire savings to the builders.

based shop owner



know where to lodge the complaint now." Amit Aggarwal, Shimla-

"I had to take a loan after

## Push for e-autos: Chandigarh stops registration of CNG, LPG vehicles

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

THE UT Transport Authority on Sunday ceased the registrations of CNG and LPG autos as the Chandigarh Administration issued directives to only allow the registration of e-autos in Chandigarh.

The decision was taken in a meeting of the Standing Committees of Administrator's

Advisory Council (on transport), held in August this year, under the Chairmanship of UT Adviser Dharam Pal.

The Transport Authority officials reiterated the directive and said that e-auto registrations will be encouraged in the UT.

The authority had said earlier that in a bid to reduce pollution, the already existing 6,000 CNG and LPG autos will run in the city, alongside the emerging e-autos

### **SUKHNA CATCHMENT AREA CASE**

## HC directs authorities to carry out maintenance, repair work in Kansal area

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 3

On the plea moved by Kansal residents seeking repair, maintenance and improvement of basic amenities, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed that the authorities to carry out the necessary and basic repair, maintenance and improvement development works related to roads, sewerage, drainage, water

supply and electricity in the area. The division Bench of Justices Jaswant Singh and Harinder Singh Sidhu, allowing the plea of Kansal residents, said, "The residents in this regard can also approach Deputy Commissioner concerned with their grievance regarding these basic works, who shall get the necessary steps taken through the concerned local authorities and initiate necessary appropriate action within a week of such grievance(s)." The Bench said the report of such repair and maintenance works undertaken must be filed before the court on or before the next date of hearing.

The application had been moved by Kansal residents before the HC, while the court had been hearing the review application challenging the HC order passed on March 2, 2020, pertaining to the matter of Sukhna Lake Catchment Area.

The applicants, Kansal resi-

dents, through counsels senior advocate Gurminder Singh, assisted by advocate Gurnoor Sandhu, sought that maintenance work be carried out by Punjab government during pendency of the present review plea, to save the residents of the area from the inconvenience which is being caused on account of dilapidated conditions due to complete halt of maintenance activities for 10 years.

The Bench, after hearing the plea of Kansal residents and the reply of National Institute of Hydrology, held that while the determination of the issue regarding the correct demarcation of the catchment area of Sukhna Lake is pending, in the meantime, considering the short reply by National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, the affidavit of Executive Officer, Nava Gaon, thes Court cannot shut its eyes to the health, hygiene and safety of the residents of the Kansal area falling within the Master Plan and jurisdiction of Municipal Council, Naya Gaon.

"The indulgence sought by the applicants is regarding the very basic amenities which are necessary for a safe and healthy living for the residents of such constructions, raised within the Master Plan area that too after taking necessary approvals and sanctions from the local authorities regarding their constructions", said the Bench

### DIRECTORATE OF PUNJAB STATE LOTTERIES DRAW DATE:03/10/2021 RESULT OF PUNJAB STATE DEAR 20 SUNDAY WEEKLY

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th Prize (100)Rs.2,000/-(On last 4 digits) 4581

th Prize (100)Rs.1,000/-(On last 4 digits ) 0538 2548

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4416 9656

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0604 0902 0801 1008 1013 1032
1187 1182 1233 1214 1239 1381
1494 1507 1577 1506 1573 1612
1892 1916 2014 2007 2120 2103
2296 2478 2810 2866 3893 2004
2816 1831 2856 2897 2919 2943
3111 3141 3144 2203 3228 3344
2818 1831 3859 2407 2828 3721
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8018 8081 8088 9000 8114 8181
9252 8321 8228 9333 8331 9429
9564 3668 8221 9228 9238 9861



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Ir. Nitin Raibole, T & E; +91 869294372 Ms. Sreeia Balaii. T & E: +91 8691853911 Mr. A.S. Ravi, A.D. T & E; +91 9869620990 Mr. Bhushan Surpur, A.D. +91 9821022112 Dr.Babu Rao Guduri, J.D. & Head T & E ;

## 20-year-old dies due to dengue at Derabassi number of deaths due to

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** MOHALI, OCTOBER 3

A 20-YEAR-OLD man died due to dengue on Sunday. The Mohali health department is also probing the details of a woman who died of suspected dengue in the area.

Govt. of Haryana

So far, three persons have lost their lives due to dengue in Mohali.

Vikrant Kalia, a resident of Trivedi Camp, died on Sunday. He was admitted to a private hospital in Ambala. He lived with his uncle in Silver City.

He had been sick for the past few days, following which he was admitted to a private hospital. A woman who lived in Mubarikpur Focal Point too died but the health department was yet to confirm if she died due to dengue.

The Derabassi Senior Medical Officer (SMO), Dr Sangeeta Jain, said that with the death of Vikrant Kalia, the total

Trivedi camp and Saidpura villages are among the worst affected areas in Mohali district where dengue has spread rapidly in the last few days.

dengue had gone up to three.

The district has recorded more than 200 cases of dengue in the last few days.

## This Navratras Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran Offers Mega e-auctions of



On 10th October, 2021

e-Auction Portal https://hsvphry.org.in e-Auction will start at 10:00 AM

Registration will close **two days** before the scheduled date of e-Auction.

For details of other e-Auctions to be held in near future, kindly visit our website. https://hsvphry.org.in.

# Loan facility from leading

Clinic Ste (1 No.), Nursing Home (1 No.)

	Hospital, Nursing Home, I in all Zones for e-auc	Dispensary and Clinic Sition dated 10.10.2021	tes
Sector/Urban Estate	No. of Sites	Sector/Urban Estate	No. of Sites
23, Garupram-I	Dispensary/Health facility (1 No.)	8, Ambala	Dispersary/Visabh facility (1 No.)
27, Gurugram-II	Dinic Sites (2 No.)	10, Ambala	Clinic Site (1 No.)
47, Gurugram-II	Clinic Sites (2 No.)	4, NarainGarh	Dispensory/Health facility (1 No.)
51, Gurugram-II	Clinic Site (1 No.), Nursing Home (1 No.)	3, Kurukshetra	Dispensary/Health facility (1 No.)
52. Gurugram-II	Clinic Site (1 No.)	S, Kurukshetra	Nursing Home (I. No.)
4. Rewari	Dispensary/Health facility (1 No.)	30, Kurukshetra	Clinic Site (1 No.)
18, Researi	flursing Home (1 No.)	1, Shahabad	Clivic Site (1 No.)
1, Part-1, Narnaul	Clinic Site (1 No.)	1, Pehawa	Ginc Site (1 No.)
Sector-9, 10A & 11,		9, Bahadurgarh	Dispensery/Health facility (1 No.)
Mahendergarh	Dispensary/Health facility (1 No.)	13, Bahadurgarh	Clinic 5 te (I No.)
4A, Dharuhera	Clinic Site (1 No.), Nursing Home (1 No.)	1, Rohtak	Clinic Side (3 No.)
1 NMT, Kosli	Clinic Site (I No.)	2P , Rohtak	Clinic Site (\$ no.)
1& 4, Hisar		4-Ext., Robtak	Clinic Site (1 No.)
S. Hisar	Mursing Home (1 No.)	6 , Robtak	Clinic Site (1 No.)
2.04.0000000000000000000000000000000000	Health Centre/PHC (2 No.)	21 P2, Rohtak	Dispensery/Health facility (1 No.)
13, Hisar	Clinic Site (1 No.)	7 , Sonipat	Clinic Site (1 No.)
33, Hisar	Nursing Home (1 No.)	62, Faridabad	Hospital Site (1 No.)
S, Hansi	Nursing Home (1 No.)	3, Faridabad	Clinic Site (1 No.)
13, Shiwani	Nursing Home (1 No.)	16, Faridabad	Clinic Site (1 No.)
9 Part, Dadri	Clinic Site (1 No.)	46, Faridabad	Clinic Site (1 No.)
9, Jind	Hospital Site (1 No.)	2, Palwal	Clinic Site (1 No.)
11, Panchkula	Clinic Site (1 No.)	17 Part-I, Japadhri	Dispensary/Health facility (1 No.)
15, Panchkula	Clinic Site (1 No.), Nursing Home (1 No.)	15, Jagadhri	Nursing Home (1 No.)
20, Panchkula	Nursing Home (1 No.), Hospital Site (1 No.)	18 Part-A, Kaithal	Nursing Homes (2.No.)

	e-auction dated 10.10.2021				
Sector, Urban Estate	No. of Plots	Sector, Ur			
CUE, Rohtak	14	6, Pa			
Sector-2 (Pocket A), Rohtak	29	11, Pa			
3, Rohtak	3	12, P			
2-3-4, Rohtak	4	13, Pa			
2-3-4, Rohtak	5	18, Pa			
4-Extn, Rohtak	29	29-I, F			
5, Rohtak	52	7, So			
6, Rohtak	17	12-IV,			
6, Rohtak	4	13, Se			
Old ITI - 16, Rohtak	36	14, 50			
2, Bahadurgarh	11	15-1, 5			
6, Bahadurgarh	4	23, Sc			

Commercial properties in Rohtak Zone for

Sector, Urban Estate	No. of Plots
6, Panipat	24
11, Panipat	10
12, Panipat	14
13, Panipat	43
18, Panipat	34
29-I, Panipat	7
7, Sonipat	63
12-IV, Sonipat	22
13, Sonipat	5
14, Sonipat	8
15-I, Sonipat	17
23, Sonipat	5

Helpline Number: 8360516607 (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM)

In continuation of advertisements published on 26th and 28th September, 2021



28, Panchkula

31, Funchkuta

Harvana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran C-3, HSVP Complex, Sector 6, Panchkula 134 109, Haryana

m hsvphry.org.in. (§ 1800-180-3030)

Please scan QR code for detailed information of the sites and Terms & conditions of e-Aution



## No new Covid case reported in Mohali after one-and-a-half year hiatus

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** CHANDIGARH, PANCHKULA, MOHALI, OCTOBER 3

AFTER A gap of around one-anda-half years, Mohali district did not report a single case of Covid-19 on Sunday. Till now, the district has reported 68,746 cases, while 34 cases are active at present.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Isha Kalia said that it was 'very good' news for the district that no positive cases were reported for the first time in a span of one-anda-half years. She, however, said that the people must follow all the

The DC added that one patient was cured and discharged on Sunday. So far, a total of 67,645 patients have been discharged here.

The first case of Covid-19 was reported in Mohali district in March last year. From February end to April this year, the district saw a steep hike in the number of cases and virus-related deaths.

### **CHANDIGARH: 2 NEW CASES**

The UT reported 2 new Covid-19 cases on Sunday, taking the tally of cases to 65,237. There are 34 active cases here now, with an average of four new cases reported everyday in the last seven days. At least 1.790 samples were tested for the virus in the last 24

PANCHKULA: NO NEW CASE No new Covid positive case and no new Covid-related death was reported in Panchkula on Sunday. The active cases tally was recorded at six on Sunday. The re-

covery rate stood at 98.75 per cent. Atotal of 40,430 cases have so far been reported from the district. of which 30,738 hail from Panchkula itself while the rest have come from neighbouring districts. As many as 377 people in total have succumbed to the virus here. The district has conducted 4,36,426 tests so far, with 222 samples being collected on Saturday. The positivity rate was recorded at 0.0 per cent on

# Chandigarh faces challenge of garbage segregation: Purohit

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 3

ADMITTING THAT "garbage segregation and management is still one of the challenges faced by Chandigarh", UT Administrator Banwarilal Purohit Sunday said that he is sure "with concerted and collective efforts, Chandigarh can regain its lost status of being no. 1 in cleanliness".

Purohit said this on the concluding ceremony of "Safai Mitra Amrut Samman Samaroh" organised by the Municipal Corporation.

Purohit felicitated Safai Mitras and frontline workers at Tagore Theatre, Sector 18, Chandigarh, on the occasion.

Purohit added, "Garbage segregation and management is still one of the challenges faced by Chandigarh and I would like to solicit support and cooperation of each and every citizen so that we can achieve the task of 100 per cent garbage segregation at

"When we think of cleanliness, we think of large garbage dumps and heaps of scattered garbage, and not the small amount of garbage generated in our households. Cleanliness should start in our minds from the very beginning of waste generation at source level besides effectively tackling other cleanliness issues," he stated.

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

PUNJAB CHIEF Minister Charanjit

Singh Channi awarded teachers at

National Awards for Outstanding

Teachers held by Federation of

Private Schools and Associations

of Punjab (FAP) in Gharuan on

Sunday. The event was held at

Chandigarh University. The CM

urged the teachers to become role

models in transforming the des-

MOHALI. OCTOBER 3



UT Administrator Banwarilal Purohit flags off the cycle rally held at Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh on Sunday. Express

The Administrator appealed to all the citizens to handhold for the success of Swachh Bharat Mission 2 and support our Safai Mitra by saluting them for their exceptional role in society.

Addressing the Safai Mitras, Purohit said that Safai Mitras and frontline workers have been working tirelessly to keep our neighbourhoods clean, especially during the COVID times, and the success of SBM owes itself to a large extent to them. He expressed happiness over the "Safai Mitra Samman Samaroh" organised by the MC to felicitate nearly 5,000 Safai Mitras in two days. He said that felicitating the Safai Mitras on this platform is a way of acknowledging their major role and contribution in making the

Punjab CM awards teachers at event held by FAP

While addressing the audi-

ence, Channi said that teaching is

a noble profession and the nation

is indebted to the teaching com-

munity for their sterling services

equivalent to that of mothers, the

CM urged the teachers to help stu-

dents learn by imparting knowl-

edge to them. The CM also assured

the teachers of a congenial atmos-

phere to perform their duties. He

Terming the role of teachers

towards nation-building.

city clean.

"When we discuss cleanliness, the role and responsibility of Swachhata Sainiks comes first. The modern parameters of Swachhata imply the need for an improved understanding of our resources, and the ability to manage that demand in an equitable

and sustainable way," he stated. Mayor Ravi Kant Sharma thanked the Safai Mitras for their contribution. He said that without their cooperation during COVID, the situation could have been bad if the cleanliness activities had not been undertaken at full speed. Cleanliness has led to lesser diseases, better health and better life. He called upon the people not only to maintain cleanliness in

their surroundings but also help

underlined the need to streamline

the system to equally benefit

part in Bhangra, NSS, sports, and

other cultural and allied activities,

the CM said that extra co-curric-

ular activities hold equal impor-

tance as studies, and must be pur-

sued in equal measure.

Chandigarh University Chancellor

Satnam Singh Sandhu and FAP

President Dr Jagjit Singh Dhuri

also shared their vision.

Motivating students to take

teachers and students.

the Safai Mitras to get their work done easily.

The Governor and Mayor also honoured all the teams for performing during the week-long mega event of 75th Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.

### CYCLE RALLY

Purohit also flagged off a cycle rally organised by Chandigarh Smart City Ltd as part of the 75th Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav celebrations of 75 years of Independence at Sukhna Lake here on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that cycling is the best way to get in shape, enjoy the outdoors, and have fun while doing it. He said that by riding cycle for 30 minutes every day, the person would build lean muscle, boost metabolism and dramatically decrease chances of acquiring heart disease.

The rally started off at Sukhna Lake and the total route was 7.5 km. The highlight of the event was participation of almost 50% of women bicyclist and enthusiastic participation by kids. City officials promised to scale up such events to make more people participate in celebrating 75 years of freedom.

Another objective of the event was to make the participants aware of the benefits of bicycling and to empower citizens from all walks of life to adopt bicycling in their daily routine.

### Smart City projects displayed to public

Chandigarh: Commemorating the 75the Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav, a video message of the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) project, including smart field solutions such as intelligent traffic management system, adaptive traffic control system, CCTC surveillance equipped with artificial intelligence-based video analytics were shown at Sector 17 Plaza, through a display van. **ENS** 



## FRUITS OF LABOUR

A labourer cleans paddy, ahead of government procurement, at the grain market at Kharar in Mohali on Sunday. Jasbir Malhi

## **Expedite registration of unorganised** workers under 'e-shram' portal: Yadav

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 3

UNION MINISTER of Labour and Employment Bhupendra Yadav on Sunday directed all the states and UTs to complete the work of registration of unorganised workers under the 'e-shram' portal expeditiously.

This is the first such national database of unorganised workers, including workers, construction workers and platform workers. It will provide facility to them to avail the benefits of the schemes. Apart from this, he has instructed the officials that all the issues related to the workers should be settled immediately.

The office of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), Ministry of Labour and Employment, organised a special camp for registration of unorganised workers under 'eshram' portal in Chandigarh. Union Minister Yadav also visited this camp. He held discus-



Bhupendra Yadav

sions with Labour Secretaries and Commissioners of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Union Territories of Chandigarh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh regarding the progress made for registration of unorganised workers. He distributed e-shram cards to the unorganised workers and thereafter conducted interaction sessions with trade union leaders, employers and unorganised workers.

The e-shram portal was launched on August 26 this year. The portal is the first such national database of unorganised workers, including migrant workers, construction workers and platform workers. It facilitates the workers of the unorganised sector to get the benefits of social sector schemes. The portal has been linked with Aadhaar and will also contain the details of the registered workers like name, occupation, address, educational qualification, skill type and family. It was said that in this (5th) week overall more than 2.51 crore workers are registered on this portal (as per live record).

#### **CAMPS** BEING HELD **AT NIGHT**

Night camps are also being organised in Chandigarh to register workers with the e-shram portal.

So far, more than 9,600 workers have been registered here.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE 21.10.2021

Nagar, Dugri Road, Ludhiana

## **O** STATE BANK OF INDIA **O**

STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH. 3rd FLOOR ADMIN OFFICE BUILDING

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE 21.10.2021

ecurity Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guaranter (s) that the below described movable immovable propertyries hypothecated ledged/ charged/ mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India Secured. Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", AS IS WHAT IS" AND "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" on 21.10.2021 for recovery of amounts and interest mentioned below against the Property) due to the State Bank of India (Secured Creditor) from below mentioned Borrowers/Guarantors each Account. The reserve price, earnest money deposit and incremental deposit will be as mentioned each Property as mentioned against each account. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, are mentioned below/reffer to websites: (a) https://sbi.co.in (b) https://www.mstcecommerce.com (c) https://bapi.in

### LAST DATE AND TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS ON OR BEFORE

19.10.2021 UPTO 14:00 Hrs. BY BIDDERS OWN WALLET REGISTERED WITH M/S MSTC LTD. ON ITS E-AUCTION SITE: https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp BY MEAMS OF RTGS/NEFT

Borrower(s)/ Details of Propertyles	The state of the s	- EMD	of inspection	
Guarantors	Possession Date	Bid Increment Amount	of property	
M/s Kissan Cotton Factory Partners Property ID SBIN0527100159: Commercial shop measuring 391 square ft. (GF+FF+SF)		Rs. 24.54 Lakh	14,10,2021	21.10.2021 11:00 Hrs. to 13:00 Hrs
<ul> <li>Sh Kulbhushan Kumar s/o Bant Ram   Shop No 32-A-1 situated at New Grain Market Bathinda in the name of Sh Amandeep Gupt and Sh Amandeep Singh son of Sh   Sh Kulbhushan Gupta vide sale deed no 6132 dated 17.09.2003.</li> </ul>		Rs. 2.45 Lakhs	12:00 Hrs to	
Kulbhushan Gupta Guarantor - Smt Manu Gupta s/d/o Sh Kulbhushan Kumar, Smt Kailashwati wife of Sh Kulbhushan Kumar	Possession date 06,10,2015	Rs. 20,000/=	15:00 Hrs	
Mis Arun BKO, Shop No., 32, New Property ID SBIN0527100166: All that part and parcels of the plot and Brick Kiln Measuring 15		Rs.71.00 Lakh	11.10.2021 Time: 12:00 Hrs to 15:00 Hrs	21.10.2021 11:00 Hrs. to 13:00 Hrs
Grain Market, Jalatabad(W), District. Maria i.e. 307/580 share of 29 Kanal. comprised in Muraba No. 31 Killa No. 8(6.0), 12(8.0), 12 Fazilika, Punjab-152024, Partners: Sh. 19(7-7), Khowat No. 97 in the name of M/s Arun BKO registred vide sale deed no. 311		Rs. 7.10 Lakhs		
Sukhwinder Singh Sto sh. Resham 14/09/2012 situated at Village-Kahnewala, Tehsil-Jalalabad(w), District-Fazika-152024, Punjal	16.06.2017	Rs. 25,000/=		
Singh, R/o Vilige-Kathgarh, PO-Chak Varo Ke, Tehsil-Jalalabad(W), District-Fazilka, Punjab-152024, Ilind Adress: Shop No., 32, Ne Resham Singh, R/o Vilige-Kathgarh, PO-Chak Varo Ke, Tehsil-Jalalabad(W), District-Fazilka, Punjab-152024, <b>2nd Adress</b> : Shop No				ngh S/o Sh
Ws Bhupinder Alloys Pvt Ltd. Property ID - SBIN0527100105: E/M of Industrial Plot measuring 12674.75 sq. yds as p			19.10.2021	21,10,2021
hrough its Directors: Sh. Tejinder Deed. (as per actual area based on measurement is 12268.03 sq.yds) situated at Villi- From Sto Sh. Surinder Arora/Director: Lakhowal Road, VPO Kohara, Ludhiana regd vide Vasika No. 964 dt 30.10.2009, Vasika N			11:00 Hrs 10 13:00 Hrs	11:00 Hrs. to 13:00 Hrs
B. Guarantor/R/o # 28/7. Deepak dated 22.02.2010 and Vasika No. 1470 dated 22.02.2010 in the name of Sh. Tejinder Aros				
Nagar, Dugri Road Ludhiana, Smt. Mahesh Arora both sons of Sh. Surinder Kumar Arora: North: Prashar Forging, South: Roa Santosh Rani Wio Sh. Surinder Kumar. Mehlon Road, West: Open Prot. LANDMARK: Mehlon Link Road.		orther interest from (05.		etc, thereor
Arora (Director/ Guarantor Bhupinder Alloys Pvt. Ltd.) R/o #28/7, Deepak Nagar, Dugri Road, Ludhlana. 1. Sh. Mukesh Arora S/o Sh	. Surinder Kumar Arera (Director/ Guaran	for Bhupinder Alloys P.	vt.Ltd.) R/o#2	8/7, Deepa

Ms. Meridian. Milk. Products Property iD SBIN0527100176: Equitable mortgage of Factory land and building measuring 11. (Company) Behind Sheesh kanals 2/7 share of 38K 10Marla in the name of Smt Karanjit Kaur wife of Sh Hakam Singh Jatana Mahal Dabwall Road, Bathinda shushed at Village Jassi Pau Wall Bathinda registered vide sale deed no 1813 dated 13.05.2004 Guarantor(s) Sh Hakam Singh bearing khatano 196/670 khasra no 288(17-12).299(20-18) as per jamabandi 2000-2001 Jatana and Smt Karamjit Kaur, and Sh Jaspal Singh

Rs. 2,85,26,954.71 Rs. 94.05 Lakh Two Crores Eighty Five Lacs Twenty Six Thousand Nine 11:00 Hrs. Rs. 9.405 Lakhs 12:00 Hrs to 14:00 Hrs to 13:00 Hrs Rs. 25,000/4 Hundred Fifty Four and Paisa eventy One Only) + future interest and other charges accrued thereupon (w.e.

21.04.2016). THIS PUBLICATION IS ALSO 15 DAYS NOTICE UNDER RULE 6(2) & 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002 TO THE ABOVE BORROWERS & GUARANTORS ferms and Conditions of the E-auction are as under :- (1) E-auction is being held on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and will be conducted "On Line". The auction will be conducted through the Bank's

approved service provider M/S MSTC at the Web Portal (https://www.mstoecommerce.com/auctionhome/libapi/index.jsp) E-auction Tender document containing online e-auction bid form, declaration, General Terms Conditions of Online auction sale are available in websites: (a) https://sbi.co.in (b) https://www.mstcecommerce.com © https://ibapi.in (2) To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no incumbrance on the properties. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, site of properties put on auction and claims / rights / dues / affecting the properties prior to submitting their bid. The e-auction advertisement does not constitute and will be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The proporties are being sold with all the existing and future incumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer / Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims / rights idues. (3) The intending purchasers / bidders are required to deposit EMD amount on or before 19.10.2021 upto 02.00 pm by own wallet Registered with M/s MSTC Ltd. on its e-auction site https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auction/home/bapi/index.jsp by means of RTGS/NEFT. (4) In case of sole bidder, he / she has to increase minimum 1 Bid from Reserve Price. (5) The intending bidders should submit the evidence for EMD deposit like UTR number along with Request Letter for participation in the Eauction, self attested copies of (a) Proof of Identification (KYC) viz. Voter ID Card / Driving Licence / Passport etc. (b) Current Address Proof for communication, (c) PAN card of the bidder (d) Valid e-mail ID (e) contact number (Mobile / Landline) of the bidders etc. to the Authorized Officer of above mentioned Branch of State Bank of India. (6) Names of the Eligible Bidders, will be identified by the State Bank of India above mentioned Branches to participate in online e-auction on the portal https://www.mstoecommerce.com M/S MSTC will provide User ID and Password after due verification of PAN of the Eligible Bidders. (7) It shall be the responsibility of the interested bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the properties before submission of the bid. (8) The e-Auction / bidding of above properties would be conducted exactly on the scheduled Date and Time as mentioned above by way of inter-se bidding amongst the bidders. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of the amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increment Amount" against each property. In case bid is placed in the last 10 minute of the closing time of the e-auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 10 minutes. The bidders who submits the highest bid amount (not below the Reserve Price) on closure of e-auction process shall be fectared as Successful Bidder and a Communication to that effect will be issued through electronic mode which shall be subject to approval by the Authorised Officer / Secured Creditor (9) The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) or the successful bidder shall be retained towards part sale consideration and the EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded. The Earnest Money Deposit shall not bear any interest. The successful bidders shall have to deposit 25% of the sale price including EMD already paid, immediately on acceptance of bid price by the Authorised Officer & the balance of the sale price on or before 15th day of sale. The auction sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank. Default in deposit of amount by the successful bidders would entail forfeiture of the whole money, already deposited and property shall be put to re-auction and the defaulting bidders shall have no claim / right in respect of property / amount. (10) The prospective qualified bidders may avail online training on e-Auction from M/S MSTC prior to the date of e-auction. Neither the Authorised Officer / Bank nor M/S MSTC, will be held esponsible for any Internet Network Problem / Power failure / any other technical lapses / failure etc. In order to ward-off such contingent situation the interested bidders are requested to ensure that they are technically well equipped with adequate power backup etc. for successfully participating in the e-Auction event. (11) The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamps duties / registration fee / other charges, etc. and also all the statutory / non statutory dues, taxes, assessment charges, etc. owing to anybody. (12) The Authorised Officers / Bank is not bound to accept the highest offer and has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn / postpone ance) the e-auction or withdraw any property or portion thereof from the auction proceedings at any stage without assigning any reason there for, (13) The Sale Certificate will be issued in the name of the purchasers/applicants only and will not be issued in any other names. (14) The sale shall be subject to rules / conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security InterestAct, 2002. For further details/ enquires if any on the terms and conditions of sale can be obtained from Authorised Officer/ State Bank of India of above mentioned Branches or Bank's website (a) https://sbi.co.in (b) https://www.mstcecommerce.com (c) https://bapi.in (15) For further details regarding the above properties I inspection of properties, the intending buyers may contact above mentioned Branches of State Bank of India Authorised Officer Contact Person: Sh. Surinder Pal (Chief Manager) Mob.: 9779585533, Sh. Naresh Kumar (Chief Manager) Mob.: 9779284402, Sh. Manoj Kumar Singh (Chief Manager) Mob.: 9463927109, Tel: 0161-5204320, 0161-5204331, 0161-5204332E-mail: sbi.05271@sbi.co.in . All the intending purchasers are also advised to visit https://www.mstoecommerce.com/auctionhome/bapi/index.jsp. For any information or procedure of e-auction (16) The Authorised Officer or Bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of immovable properties e-auctioned (17) The Bidders should get themselves registered on https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/lbapi/index.jsp by providing requisite KYC documents and registration fee as per the practice followed by M/s. MSTC. Utd. well before the auction date. The registration process takes minimum of two working days. (Registration process is detailed on the above website), (18) The Intending bidder should transfer his EMD amount by means of challer generated on his bidder account maintained with MSTC Ltd, at https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/bapt/index.jsp. by means of N EFT/ RTGS transfer from his bank account. (19) The letending bidder should take care that the EMD is transferred at least one day before the date of auction and confirm that his wallet maintained with Mis.MSTC Ltd is reflecting the EMD amount without which the system will not allow the bidder to participat in the e-auction. (20) The EMO of the unsuccessful bidder will be refunded to their respective wallet maintained with M's MSTC Ltd. The Bidder has to place a request with MSTC Ltd. for refund of the same back to his bank count. The bidders will not been titled to claim any interest, costs, expenses and any other charges (if any),

#### Date: 04.10.2021 Place: Ludhiana **Authorised Officer**

## Mohali: Four involved in robberies, thefts arrested

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** MOHALI, OCTOBER 3

THE KHARAR police arrested four persons who were said to be involved in various criminal Ashok Kumar said. activities, including snatching, on Sunday. The accused were arrested near Jamuna Apartments. The police were, however, yet to recover the stolen items from the accused.

According to the police, those arrested were identified as Shiv Chopra, Vijay Kumar, Mustkeem Ali and Salman Khan. Police officials said that the accused were

also carrying weapons. The Kharar (city) Station House Officer (SHO), Inspector Ashok Kumar, said that the police received information regard-

ing a gang that was assembled near Jamuna Apartments to carry out robbery or other crimes. "Acting on a tip-off, our team conducted a raid and arrested the four accused," SHO

The accused were also said to be involved in the robberies in the nearby areas. The police officials said that further investigation was going on in the case and some more revelation could be made. The police registered a case

under sections 382 (theft after preparation made for causing death, hurt or restraint), 392 (robbery), 379-B (snatching), 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and relevant sections of the Arms Act.



Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited Read, Office: "Office Complex" Block-5<sup>th</sup> Floor, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi – 110 023

CIN: U74999DL2002PLC118123

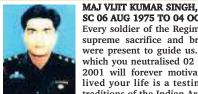
### **TENDER NOTICE**

Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AIC), providing Crop Insurance to the farming community in India, invites online Bids for SELECTION OF SERVICE PROVIDER FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, CONFIGURATION AND INTEGRATION OF SAN STORAGE AT DC, BENGALURU (Tender No. AIC/ InfoTech Dept./2021/Archival Storage)

The RFP document may be downloaded from AIC website https://www.aicofindia.com/ and E-tender portal https://aicofindia.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/ The last date for submission of Bid is 25.10.2021 till 01:00 PM.

Chief Manager (InfoTech Dept.)

## SALUTE THE SOLDIER



SC 06 AUG 1975 TO 04 OCT 2001 Every soldier of the Regiment is proud of your supreme sacrifice and bravery. We wish you were present to guide us. Your heroic deed in which you neutralised 02 insurgents on 04 Oct 2001 will forever motivate us. The way you lived your life is a testimony to the highest traditions of the Indian Army.

CO and Alt Ranks 17 Para Fd Regt (8 RAJPUT) SEP SURINDER SINGH



27 SEP 1989 TO 04 OCT 2015 In the remembrance of Late Sep Surinder Singh who left us for his heavenly abode on 04 Oct 2015. May Wahe Guru Ji give strength to CHHE SIKH fraternity and his family to bear this loss

with courage and fortitude. He will continue to be a source of inspiration and strength for us. Let us pray for him in our hearts and remember a life lived so wonderfully in the service of the nation.

CO & All Ranks 6 SIKH

## 5 REGION

## In tweet, Sidhu again demands removal of AG, DGP; Channi says 'if there are differences, let's settle it at party forum'

Congress central observer Harish Chaudhary in UT to make report

**KANCHAN VASDEV** CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 3

CONGRESS LEADER Navjot Singh Sidhu on Sunday reiterated his demand for removal of Advocate General APS Deol and DGP Jobal Preet Singh Sahota, tweeting: "Demand for justice in sacrilege cases and for arrest of main culprits behind the drug trade brought our Govt in 2017 & due to his failure, people removed the last CM. Now, AG/DG appointments rub salt on wounds of victims, they must be replaced or we

Later in the day, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjt Singh Channi said: "He (Naviot Sidhu) has sat down with me and talked about it. He asked me to send the panel. I have sent the panel...as per the law. As far as the government is concerned, it will do its work with honesty and good intent and it has to take everybody together. Sidhu sahib should do the party's work. We both should work in coordination and we want to work with coordination. If there are any differences, if something is not being liked, then let us talk about it at party forum. We have made a coordination committee for that."

Meanwhile, three days after Channi and Sidhu had a meeting to sort out differences over appointments of Deol and Sahota, Congress central observer Harish Chaudhary camped in Chandigarh to prepare a report for the high command on how the issue was affecting party prospects.

Sidhu has neither withdrawn his resignation as PPCC chief, nor has the high command lent any

**DIVYAGOYALGOPAL** LUDHIANA, OCTOBER 3

NEWLY-APPOINTED PUNJAB CM

Charanjit Singh Channi's Cabinet

colleague, Amarinder Singh 'Raja'

Warring on Sunday took a leaf out

of his boss' book and reached Ludhiana bus terminal and started

the hat of an 'aam aadmi politi-

cian'ever since his coronation last

month, so far has done bhangra

with students on the stage,

stopped at a roadside to bless and

give 'shagun' to a newlywed cou-

ple, and ordered officials to prune

his security. Channi's new 'aam

aadmi politican' avatar had gained

him accolades from both political

pundits and citizens alike and

seems to have caught the atten-

tion of the Aam Aadmi Party

(AAP) supremo, Arvind Kejriwal,

who last week had taken a dig at

show himself as an aam aadmi

(common man). But Kejriwal ki

nakal karna aasan hai, amal karna

mushkil (It is very easy to copy

Kejriwal, but very difficult to tread

his path)," Delhi Chief Minister

Keiriwal had said during the press

conference. He had further told

Channi that if he really wanted to

copy him and the AAP's working

style, then he should cleanse his

Cabinet and take action against

'tainted ministers'.

"Channi saab is now trying to

Channi, who has tried to don

picking garbage on his own.

clarity on the status. He had resigned in protest against the appointments of the AG and DGP last week. Chaudhary had got a meeting organised between Channi and Sidhu and the issue

was to be resolved. After the meeting, it was agreed upon mutually that the government would send a panel to UPSC the same day and the decision on AG was left to the party high command. It was also stated that the high command would soon issue a statement about Sidhu's resignation. However, the statement has not been issued even after three days of the meeting. The government prepared a panel of 10 police officers in a jiffy till late night that day and sent it to the UPSC.

Channi, who was at Morinda on Sunday, told the media that the government had sent a panel for the next DGP to the UPSC. The CM said now the state government was awaiting a panel from the Centre regarding three names finalised for the post of DGP.

Thereafter, the name of DGP would be finalised after consultation with PPCC president Navjot Singh Sidhu, all ministers and

Channi said that the state government is functioning with dedication, sincerity and honesty and ensuring transparency in its administration would be the top most priority. He, however, said that organisational work is being looked after by the PPCC president and a committee had been constituted for better coordination between the government and the

Sources said that senior leaders of the party had not taken the tweet by Sidhu very kindly. "In an organisation, discipline is

quip at Channi, fresh controversy

Days after AAP's 'aam aadmi'

as Warring picks up garbage



 $Pun\underline{\mathsf{j}} ab\,\mathsf{CM}\,\mathsf{Charanjit}\,\mathsf{Singh}\,\mathsf{Channi}\,\mathsf{starts}\,\mathsf{the}\,\mathsf{paddy}\,\mathsf{procurement}\,\mathsf{operations}\,\mathsf{at}\,\mathsf{a}\,\mathsf{grain}\,\mathsf{d}$ market in Morinda, Rupnagar district, on Sunday. PTI

### **AMARINDER MAY FORM PARTY AND ENTER** PRE-POLL ALLIANCE WITH BJP: PARGAT SINGH

Jalandhar: A day after alleging that former chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh has conspired with the BJP-led government at the Centre to delay paddy procurment in the state, Punjab Sports and **Education Minister Pargat** Singh on Sunday alleged that Captain might form a party

supreme. You cannot be a solo player every time and have to be a team player. Heroism should bother but at what cost?" asked a senior party leader privy to the report being prepared.

"After all, the CM should be allowed to have his AG. Opponents will find faults with

with the BJP.

Paragt was talking to mediapersons during his visit to Jalandhar Grain Market where the procurment started on Sunday. "I have been saying earlier also that Captain has been hobnobbing with BJP," Pargat said. **ENS** 

and enter a pre-poll alliance

CM." the leader said.

### **ENTIRE CABINET TO** MEET DERA BEAS HEAD

The Punjab government has postponed its Cabinet meeting by a few hours on Monday as all the ministers would be going to Dera Radha Soami Satsang in Beas in the morning. They will be meet-

ing the dera head ahead of 2022 Assembly elections.

### **AMARINDER HITS** BACK AT PARGAT

A day after Cabinet minister Pargat Singh alleged that the procurement was delayed after former CM Amarinder Singh's meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Amarinder hit back at Pargat. He tweeted: "What nonsense? Do you really think the people of Punjab will believe I'd ever collude with @BJP4India to delay procurement? And have you forgotten it affected BJP-led Haryana too? Or are you too naïve to understand these things?"

"And do you have any proof for these lies? Or are you so irresponsible you believe you can get away with such trash? People of Punjab know me & know I always have & will stand with the farmers. I expect honesty from a former Indian hockey Capt."

### **ELLENABAD BYPOLL: ABHAY CHAUTALA** TO RE-CONTEST FROM INLD

## 'Bypoll will be a people's decision, whether they support black farm laws or oppose them'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 3

SENIOR INLD leader Abhay Chautala, whose resignation in support of the farmers' agitation necessitated the Ellenabad bypoll, will be re-contesting as the party nominee on October 30.

Abhay. INLD's lone MLA in the 90-member Haryana Vidhan Sabha, has been a three-time legislator from Ellenabad, which is considered a Chautala-clan

"When I resigned, I had asked people of Haryana who agreed with me and told me that they would stand with me in whatever decision I take. Thus, I decided to resign in support of the farmers who are protesting against these three black farm legislations. Today again, people gathered in huge numbers in Chopta mandi and called a mahapanchayat. It was not a party's programme. It was a people's programme which invited us gave me their verdict to re-contest from Ellenabad, People announced their mandate in my favour and told me that they would like to give me this responsibility of representing them

He added, "The bypoll shall be a contest between the people's decision if they go in favour or against these three black farm leg-

their nominee. Although leaders of both parties have been saying that they would contest Ellenabad bypoll as allies, it was yet not clear if the candidate will be from BJP or JJP. Congress, on the other hand, had invited applications from

Haryana Lokhit Party's Gopal Kanda's brother Govind Kanda, a businessman and philanthropist, joined BJP Sunday. Govind is



Senior INLD leader Abhay Chautala

among its 17 shortlisted for Ellenabad.

BJP's state chief Om Prakash Dhankar said the final decision on the party's nominee shall be taken after discussions with the party high command. "There are 17 party workers who are eager to contest. The party's election committee has taken a stand and left the decision on me and chief minister. We have held discussions between us and now shall be taking it up with the party high command. The nominee will be de-

Ellenabad seat had fallen va-

cant eight months ago after Abhay Chautala resigned. It was a reserved seat from 1977 to 2005. Lokdal's Bhagiram won from this constituency five times during this period. In 1977, he defeated an independent candidate, and a Congress nominee twice from 1982-87. However, Bhagiram lost in 1991 and got re-elected twice in 1996 and 2006.

In 2009, Ellenabad was declared a general constituency. From then onwards, it has remained a Chautala clan stronghold. In 2009, Om Prakash Chautala won from Ellenabad, but in the 2010 bypoll was held in which Abhay Chautala contested and won from the same constituency. Since 2010, Abhay Chautala had been consecutively winning from Ellenabad.

## 'Everyone is fighting just for the chair. For the next three months, they are going to loot you all'

AT BATHINDA RALLY, AKALIS FLAY CONG OVER INFIGHTING

**RAAKHIJAGGA** LUDHIANA, OCTOBER 3

The SHIROMANI Akali Dal (SAD) on Sunday trained its guns at the ruling Congress party and said that Punjab had ceased to have a government, with the chief minister himself not knowing that he was the head of the state, and his party not even considering him as

"The one who wanted to be the CM, became the deputy CM (Sukhjinder Randhawa). The other who wanted to be the deputy CM, is not even a minister. Everyone is fighting just for the chair. For the next three months, they are going to loot you all," SAD president, Sukhbir Badal, said while addressing the masses during his first rally in Bathinda seeking compensation for cotton crops that are under Pink Bollworm at-

Sunday's event was the first major rally by the SAD in Punjab after the party had earlier discontinued its 'Gall Punjab Di' poll outreach programme following vociferous protests by farmers.

Sukhbir's father and SAD supremo, Parkash Singh Badal, also made a public appearance by the side of his son on Sunday, addressing the massive crowd in Bathinda's Thermal Colony.

"My lifespan has increased by another 2-3 years, it seems that will hit a century now," Badal senior, who barely makes a public appearance, joked...'

Parkash Badal, a nonagenarian, said one more betrayal was done by BJP by bringing in farm laws. "I salute the grit and resilience of our farmers. When the ordinances were first brought in the Cabinet, Harsimrat Kaur Badal was the Union minister. She had stated to the Cabinet then that this ordinance shouldn't be made bills without the consent of farmers



SAD leaders Sukhbir Badal, Harsimrat Badal and Parkash Singh Badal at a rally in Bathinda Sunday. Gurmeet Singh

agreed to her and later betrayed her by passing it first in Lok Sabha and later in Raiva Sabha.'

Talking about the protest by farmer unions against SAD leaders in many rallies due to which the 'Gal Punjab Di' programme had to be cancelled, Badal senior said. "We are with the farmers. No matter what they say about us, we will be with them. They stopped us from organising our previous programme, and we discontinued it in between. Today, we are here to demand compensation for the damaged cotton crop on their behalf again. We are the only party that has worked for the farmers and will continue doing so."

He added, "I felt utterly betrayed and deeply pained when the new agricultural bills were introduced in the Parliament to convert ordinances into Black Laws...."

He went on to say that Harsimrat resigned as a Union minister in response to the three farm laws and the SAD broke their 27-year-old alliance with the BJP. "I returned my Padma Vibushan and we are still standing tall with

Sukhbir chimed in by saying,"You all need to realise the difference between people who are your own and people who are indifferent."Apne taan apne hi hunde ne and we are your own party," he said. Badal senior said,"...They (Congress) are not serious about the interests of Punjabis. When we buy a buffalo, we do a lot of research in the market. So this time, don't make a mistake when you choose your next government."

### IF CM DOESN'T ANNOUNCE COMPENSATION SOON, WILL PROTEST DHARNA OUTSIDE **HIS HOME'**

Sukhbir said, "If Punjab CM doesn't announce compensation for cotton farmers soon, we will stage a dharna outside CM's residence." The SAD-BJP government in 2015 had compensated the farmers at the rate of Rs 8000 per acre when whitefly had hit their cotton crops. On Sunday, Sukhbir Badal said that farmers must get compensation in the range of Rs 70,000 to Rs 80,000 per acre for their crop loss due to Pink Bollworm. "We had spent Rs 650 crore on compensating the farmers, while the government is busy in buying sprays," Sukhbir said.

Harsimrat said seven farmers had died by suicide in Bathinda parliamentary constituency post the Pink Bollworm attack. "Farmers were forced to take this extreme step because of the Congress government's failure to announce quick compensation to

## After months of staying out of public eye, SAD patriarch back in action

**NAVJEEVANGOPAL** CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 3

WITH MERE months to go for the 2022 Punjab Assembly elections, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) patriarch Parkash Singh Badal, 93, who had stayed out of the public eye for a long time, has started making public and political appear-

On Sunday, he addressed a party rally in Bathinda to protest against the Congress government in Punjab for cotton crop damage due to pink bollworm attack. This is the third time in last twelve days that he addressed a rally and was out in the field.

In the more than 30-minute speech, senior Badal told the gathering: "All your problems would be solved if they formed SAD-BSP government in Punjab". He accused Congress and BJP of committing a betrayal of the people.

On September 25, he had addressed an Indian National Lok Dal programme in Jind to mark the 108th birth anniversary of late deputy prime minister

**DECISION** 

2022

Devi Lal, and sent out a strong political message as he gave a call to strengthen regional parties. Badal also took a jibe at the Congress government in Punjab saying that the party high command had 'changed four CM candidates" in the past few days.

Though Parkash Badal cited close family ties as the reason for attending the programme, he ensured that a political statement seeking to get together regional parties was made

On September 23, he visited Central University of Punjab in Ghudda village of Bathinda district and interacted with the faculty members, and expressed satisfaction with the development works of the campus, the foundation stone of which was laid in the year 2015 when he was CM.

After SAD was ousted from power in 2017, Parkash Badal had



SAD patriarch Parkash Badal speaks at the rally in Bathinda. Gurmeet Singh

largely restricted his political activities. In 2019 parliamentary polls, however, he had joined the party campaign and was covering candidate of Harsimrat Kaur Badal, from Bathinda parliamentary seat.

Despite not making many public appearances, including not attending Vidhan Sabha sessions, Badal used to be active in his area and would maintain a

connect with electors by attending functions and other rituals.

During the Covid pandemic, the nonagenarian was advised by the doctors to restrict his movement in public. "Now, doctors think that he (Badal) should get back to his nor-

mal routine," said a person close to the Badal family, adding that ailments senior Badal had been suffering from keep flaring up. He added, "Badal sahib has chronic asthma and was hence strongly advised by doctors to avoid public meetings during the pandemic."

A party leader said Badal's health would be a key factor in determining how much he can campaign in run-up to 2022 elections.

Former minister and Akali nominee from Rampura Phul Sikander Singh Maluka told The Indian Express: "We have requested him to address a big political rally each in Majha and Doaba

agreed to that, saying that if his health allowed he would address those rallies." The rallies are likely to happen towards the end of the SAD MP in Rajya Sabha and

and two rallies in Malwa. He

senior leader Balwinder Singh Bhunder said, "Why he has become active and why he was earlier restricted to his area only, I cannot say. But he always lived a disciplined life, meeting people, exercising, taking medicine - all without a miss.

While asserting that Badal went to the Jind function as he and Devi Lal had close family ties, Bhunder added that the statement made by Badal to strengthen regional parties was "in the interest of the nation".

Harcharan Bains, principal advisor to SAD president Sukhbir Badal, said, "Ĥe (senior Badal) had been attending functions earlier also, was only staying away from political events. His participation in the Jind event is an exception, but it was basically due to personal reasons that he went there." Bains added, "The party has left it to Badal sahib to take decisions on his future course of action."

Five-time CM and sitting legislator from Lambi, Parkash Badal is known to keep his cards close to his chest. On Sunday, however, he dropped enough hints that he would ensure to make his presence felt in the party' poll campaign in an election where SAD would contest under the command of his son and party chief Sukhbir Badal. Said Akali patriarch towards the end of his speech, "Today I want to tell Sukhbir, though I have gone old and my health is also not that well, that I am ready to sacrifice my life also for Punjab, dignity of Punjab, farmers and farm labourers.'

Addressing the gathering, he summed up, "I have seen you after a long time and this I think has increased my life by two to three years. If that happens, I will score a century and continue.'

 ${\tt Chandigarh}$ 

## AAP and others. premises – picking garbage and panied by transport department

On Sunday, it was Amarinder Raja Warring's turn to don the aam aadmi politician's hat, and in turn, invite a swift retort from the Warring on Sunday reached the Ludhiana bus terminal in the morning and started cleaning the

filth from various spots — accomofficials. Earlier, after being appointed as the transport minister of the state in the new Punjab Cabinet, Warring had uploaded his videos of traveling on Punjab



Transport Minister Amarinder Singh Raja Warring picks up garbage from a bus stand in Ludhiana. Gurmeet Sing

Roadways/PRTC buses, to 'know problems of the common man'.

Warring said that he has ordered a vigorous cleanliness drive at all bus terminals of Punjab' to make them free of dirt and filth.

He added that the transport department would also be a WhatsApp launching helpline/complaint number in a few days, where commuters can register any type of complaint against staff members by sharing photos/videos. Terming Warring's 'action' of

clearing garbage at Ludhiana bus terminal as 'pure drama', the Opposition, however, took a swipe at Channi and his ministers, saying that it was unclear that whose 'wrongdoing' they were trying to correct after 4.5 years, when the Congress government in Punjab is at the fag end of its term.

"Was this garbage not visible to the Congress leaders for 4.5 years? Has it suddenly become visible now after Channi has become the CM? Such actions by the Congress ministers are proving that their government actually did nothing for 4.5 years," said Sarvjit Kaur Manuke, AAP MLA from lagraon and deputy leader of Opposition in Vidhan Sabha.

"The work of a minister is to clean the system, not the bus stand. Had this government regularized class-IV employees and filled their vacant posts, they would have happily cleaned public places which is their job. Also, will Warring come daily to clean the bus stand? No, so why this one-day drama? He should instead focus on taking action against the transport mafia, fixing the time table of buses which could not happen in 4.5 years and ending the monopoly of private buses so that poor people do not suffer. Four buses run on one permit, who is going to clean this system first? Not a single bus enters Jagraon bus stand in order to evade tax" said Manuke.

"They can try to show themselves as aam aadmi, but can't become one," she added. Akali Dal spokesperson, Dr

Daljit Singh Cheema, said that the Congress ministers should clarify whose wrongdoing they were trying to correct now. "It was the Congress government only which was in power for 4.5 years. So by doing all this, is Channi and his colleagues now accepting that they actually did nothing under Capt Amarinder Singh's rule? Why did this garbage accumulate at all? What was the Congress government doing for 4.5 years? They are simply admitting what we have been saying — the Congress government has been a failure in

**FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

stronghold.

again," Abhay Chautala said.

BJP and JJP are yet to announce party workers till October 4.

## 6 REGION

### DAY 1 OF PADDY PROCUREMENT

## 37,000 tonnes arrive in Punjab grain markets, govt procures 11,000 tonnes

A total of 76,000 tonnes have reached mandis of 19 districts in past few days

**ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA** 

ON THE first day of procurement, a total of 37,000 tonnes of paddy (parmal non-Basmati) arrived in Punjab's grain markets Sunday, of which government agencies procured 11,000

While procurement began on Sunday, paddy has already been coming in over the past few days. A total of 76,000 tonnes has already reached the grain markets.

The Centre had earlier postponed procurement of paddy from October 1 to October 11, but after massive protests by farmers over the past two days, yielded and allowed it to begin

The official date of paddy procurement has always been October 1 in previous years, but in the last two years, it was changed. In 2020-21, the date was advanced to September 25 and this year it began October

The Punjab government has already notified 1,873 mandis and 646 temporary yards including rice mills for this paddy procurement season.

On Sunday, the arrival of paddy started in 268 mandis of 19 districts of the state. Mandis in Pathankot, Barnala and Mansa districts had not received any paddy till the time of filing this report.

The MSP of the paddy is Rs 1,960 per quintal.

Ludhiana district witnessed maximum arrival at 27,044



A farm labourer separates wheat from the husk at a wholesale grain market in Amritsar Sunday. Rana Simranjit Singh

tonnes, followed by 10,814 tonnes in Patiala and 6,008 tonnes in Mohali, respectively. Fatehgarh Sahib and

Jalandhar received 5,560 tonnes and 5,137 tonnes respectively. Punjab Food and Civil

Supplies Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu, while kickstarting procurement at Khanna, which has the largest mandi of the state, said: "Elaborate arrangements have been made by the state government and directions have been issued to make sure that every grain of paddy is procured and lifted without any sort of delay. Officers of all procurement agencies, Mandi Board and district administrations in the state

Farmers in some mandis said that their crop is fully matured as against claims made by the Centre, which had delayed procurement

timely payment of the produce

He said that arrangements for saving produce from rain are already in place. Besides, the facilities of power, sheds for farmers, portable water supply and equipment to monitor the quality of paddy have also been provided in each procurement cen-

Ashu also said that the state government has evolved a viable mechanism for lifting grains within 48 hours of procurement and started a campaign against malpractice of bogus billing. Several teams have been formed to nab the culprits.

Meanwhile, farmers in some mandis said that their crop is fully matured as against claims made by the Centre, which had delayed procurement earlier.

"I have brought around 100 quintals paddy of my three-acre land and the moisture level is as per the specification in my crop," said farmer Hardeep Singh in Jalandhar's grain market, adding that he has to harvest the crop on remaining four acres in the coming few days



Farmers at a grain market in Karnal with Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav Sunday. Manoj Dhaka

## Hooda alleges mismanagement

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 3

WITH THE government claiming that paddy procurement has started in Haryana, former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who visited several grain markets Sunday, alleged mismanagement, saying "it has turned out to be a jumla as the procurement is not taking place actually".

Following the protests by angry farmers, the Central government was forced to announce procurement of paddy from Sunday itself. A Haryana government spokesperson said, "As per the instructions of the Haryana government, the procurement of paddy has been started in the to bring their crop to the grain to even set foot in the market and markets only after drying, cleaning and reducing the moisture content so that they can get a good price for the crop. The farmers will not have to face any problem during paddy procure-

However, several farmers in the mandis of Karnal complained that they were not allowed to enter the mandis on the pretext of scheduling and gate passes. The officials have been asking the farmers to come to the mandis as per their turn only.

On Sunday, Hooda visited several grain markets, including Ladwa, Pipli and Thanesar, to know the ground reality of procurement. "The mandis are littered with paddy and the situa-

farmers are facing constant fear of rain. The farmers are forced to sell crops to private agencies below MSP due to the threat of rain and delay in government procurement," he said. Asserting that the farmers

need clarity, Hooda said during the Congress government, when he was the Chief Minister, farmers knew a week before the purchase of paddy which agency would buy and which sheller their paddy would go to. "Not only this, farmers were not harassed in the name of portal and registration during Congress government. Crops were purchased when they landed in the mandis and simultaneous payments were made. Today, farmers are being harassed by asking them to register on portals and on the pretext of high moisture content. As soon as our government is formed, every farmer's grain purchase will be ensured by eliminating the hassle of portal and registration," he said.

The Leader of Opposition said that "we have had a long rainy season this time and it is still raining intermittently and hence the government should give concession to the farmers in the standard moisture content this time". "Far from giving relief, the standard moisture content is being continuously reduced and it is clear from the policies of the government that they do not want to give a proper rate of crops to the

### **UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER BHUPENDER YADAV IN CHANDIGARH**

## 'Central govt has got constructive cooperation from Punjab, Haryana over stubble burning'



Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav in Chandigarh on Sunday, Kamleshwar Singh

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 3

**ENVIRONMENT** Minister, Bhupender Yadav, on Sunday said that the Centre has got positive support from the governments of Punjab, Haryana, UP and Delhi on the issue of stubble burning, while expressing satisfaction on the role of neighbouring states to the National Capital in handling the

Yadav, who also handles the ministries of labour and employment, forest and climate change, was in the town in connection to a few official engagements.

Talking to journalists in Chandigarh, Yadav said apart from various reasons - like industries and construction activities — stubble burning was also a major contributor responsible for spiking pollution levels in Delhi and surrounding areas. While referring to the steps taken by the government to

check the problem, Yadav said the government has issued seven advisories and more than 52 directions in this regard since

While talking about the economic viability of stubble burning, the minister said that the state-run NTPC had even floated a tender to buy crop residue for use as fuel for its power plants.

Touching upon the issue of machines needed to deal with stubble, Yadav said the Union Agriculture Ministry has given nearly Rs 7,000 crore to these northern states

Notably, farmers in Punjab, Haryana and some other states set their fields on fire to quickly clear off the crop residue left after harvesting and before cultivating wheat and potato.

Experts have claimed it is one of the main reasons for the spike in pollution in Delhi-NCR at the onset of winters.

The paddy harvesting season is between October 15 and

### 3 women from Haryana suspected drowned in Dehradun

Dehradun: Three women from Haryana's Sonepat district are suspected to have drowned while bathing in the Ganga river in Raiwala area here on Sunday,

The women identified as Kusum (36), Seema (34), and Neha (24) were washed away in the current around 5 am at the Geeta Kutir bank in Haripur

A search was launched by the State Disaster Response Force after it got the information about

None of the women have been found yet, they said. PTI

## How central govt can get around MSP demand and end stalemate with farmers

FARMERS CAMPING at Delhi's borders for the past 10 months have clear cut demands — the cancellation of three farm laws, legal assurance on Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops, and continuation of the ongoing MSP scheme for wheat and paddy. Experts said the governwithdrawal or cancellation of the three farm laws and a recent tweet of the former chairman of the Punjab farmers commission and farmworkers commission was an indication of the same. The question of a legal guarantee of MSP for all crops, however, continues to be the bone of contention, with the government not willing to take direct responsibility of the same and farmers not ready to pull back from protest sites without getting an assurance. ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA explains if there is a solution in sight for the predicament.

### Is there a possibility of the three farm laws being cancelled in the near future?

Former chairman of Punjab farmers' commission and farmworkers commission, Ajay Vir Jakhar, who had submitted his resignation with the change of guard in Punjab, had recently tweeted, "In my judgement, the government has in principle already decided to withdraw/compromise on 3- farm laws to the satisfaction of the farm unions, but the issue on legal MSP remains. After so much distress and loss of trust hope better sense prevails on

both sides of the fence.' Though no formal talks have taken place between the farm unions and government for the past eight months, sources in the government said that informally, they had been engaging continuously with representatives of farmers' unions to discuss the matter and to reach a consensus. Sources said that the government and farmers unions were likely to reach a mutually acceptable solution on the three contentious farm laws soon, because Assembly elections in several states, including Punjab, were to be held soon. Punjab being a primarily agrarian state has defined the direction of the farmers' agitation, with its farmers leading from the front. Another state where elections are due next year was Uttar Pradesh (UP) — the most populous state and one that sent the maximum number of parliamentarians to



Paddy arrives at a grain market in Ludhiana Gurmeet Singh

the Parliament. Both the states were crucial for the BIP for obvi-

What is other major demand of farmers for a legal guarantee of MSP for all crops?

The major point of contention between farmer leaders and the government's emissaries seems to be the issue of assurance of MSF for all 23 crops — including seven kinds of cereal, seven oilseeds, five

pulses, and four other commercial crops. Sources said that the farmers have told the government that the Commission Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) releases MSP for all Kharif and Rabi crops every year.

EXPLAINE

The government should hence assure the implementation of the same legally in practical form also. Most of these 23 crops are purchased by private players and there is high fluctuation in the prices. Sometimes these crops are sold much below the MSP and sometimes they fetch a little more than the MSP. The farmers, therefore, want a legal guarantee that crops can be sold only at MSP or above it. But the government is not ready to give legal guarantees at the moment, except reiterated verbally several times that it will continue its current MSP regime, which mostly covers wheat and Paddy in Punjab, Haryana, MP and parts of UP. The farmers, however, have refused to budge.

Some states, in the meanwhile, have already stepped in and have started compensating farmers for crops that they sell below the MSP rates under their

own state-level policies.

Can state-level policies assure that the farmers get MSP for their crops? In the past years, some states

like Madhya Pradesh (MP), Haryana, Kerala have launched schemes like Bhavantar Bhugtan Yoina (price difference payment scheme), floor prices, and Bhavantar Bharpayi Yojna, respectively, under which the state gov-

> ernments pay the difference to the farmers when the sell their crop below MSP in the market. While the MP government has covered some cereals, pulses, oilseed and horti-

culture crops under its scheme, Haryana and Kerala have covered only horticulture crops. Haryana has recently added millet to its

Under these schemes, the state price or floor price are fixed by the state governments and if the covered crops are sold below that price then the state government pays the difference to the registered farmers on their respective portals.

But experts said that state governments cannot sustain such schemes for long and also they cannot cover all the crops. Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Kerala have not been able to cover most of the agriculture crops under it. Experts also said that there are mixed results of these schemes every-

"These schemes are good but the state governments do not have resources to sustain such

policies and to cover all the crops, as in the case of Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Kerala," said Jagmohan Singh, general secretary of Bharti Kisan Union (Dakaunda). He added that such state-level policies cannot work where a bulk amount of cereals are sold by the farmers.

Is there a solution then?

Experts have suggested some

Along with the current MSP regime, corporations, like Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), should be formed by the centre government for cereals, some of which are not covered under centres' current MSP regime, said Agriculture experts at Puniab Agriculture University (PAU),

CCI enters the market when the price of 'Kapas' (unginned raw cotton) goes below the MSP fixed by CACP. The CCI then purchases Kapas at MSP, as witnessed several times in the past in Punjab. This in turn forces the private players also to offer prices at par with the MSP or little more than the MSP so as to stop the CCI from purchasing all the cotton from the

In the case of Basmati last year, for example, rates were at an alltime high in the international market but farmers got much less because of their dependence on the private players. That is where a corporation like CCI could step in and play the role of a deterrent to stop farmers from being ex-

When such corporations cover all the crops, private players will not be able to exploit farmers, experts said. Just like wheat and paddy MSP, which the government purchases through Food Corporation of India (FCI) by taking cash credit limit (CCL) from RBI, such corporations too can follow the same policy because there is a huge market of oilseeds and pulses in our country and this way both the government and farmers will not be at loss, explained experts. This, they said, will lead farmers to opt for diversification of crops also in states like Punjab.

Some farmer leaders suggested that even a state-Centre joint "Bhavantar scheme" can be launched to compensate farmers in case their crop price goes below the fixed rate or government can regulate purchase by private players through some policy to stop farmers' loot.

## Haryana govt allows all varsities to reopen for in-person classes, later recants order

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 3

Sunday extended the partial Covid-19 lockdown (Mahamari Alert-Surakshit Haryana) for another fortnight (till October 18), while allowing various relaxations and allowing the reopening of universities initially, before recant-

The order for extension of the partial-lockdown was issued by the chief secretary. Viiai Vardhan. who is also the chairman of Haryana's State Executive Committee of State Disaster Management Authority.

initially allowed residential universities to conduct offline classes, but only after adopting SOPs for Covid-appropriate behaviour, it later withdrew its order. "Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are allowed to open for students with 100 per cent attendance with strict adherence of requisite social distancing norms, regular sanitisation of the premises, Covid appropriate behavioural norms and guidelines as indicated in the SOPs released by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The Department of Skill Development and Industrial Training, Haryana, will release guidelines for implementation of these orders immediately," the initial order released

hostel students will also be given priority for getting fully vacci-

Though the administration

by the administration read. All

Later, on Sunday evening, the

"corrigendum" to his earlier order, which read, "Fully residential universities in the state are directed to continue conducting classes online till further orders. The matter will be reviewed after some time to decide whether classes in the physical mode will be allowed. In the meanwhile, the administration of the fully residential universities may endeayour to get all students, faculty members and staff (including the outsourced ones) fully vaccinated and share the progress with the Departments of Higher Education, Technical Education and Medical Education and Research as the case may be".

Regarding the upcoming festival season, the order reads, 'Various festivities will follow one after the other till December 31 – such as Navratri, Dussehra, Miladun-Nabi/Eid-e-Milad, Karwa Chauth, Diwali, Govardhan Puja, Bhaiya Dooj, Chhath Puja, Guru Nanak Jayanti, Christmas and New Year's eve. This is a critical period as there may be a tendency to violate Covid-appropriate behaviour during festivals, resulting in large gatherings, events, fairs. Therefore, adherence to guidelines to allow festivities in a safe and Covid-appropriate manner, especially in religious places, maybe strictly enforced by the district administration".

## Punjab police scraps examinations to fill 560 vacant sub-inspector posts

Chandigarh: Punjab Police on Sunday said it has scrapped the examinations that had been conducted for filling up 560 vacant posts of sub-inspectors (SIs). The common computer-based tests to recruit SIs in four cadres/wings (investigation, district, Armed Police, and intelligence) of Punjab Police were held from August 17 to August 24 in different centres of the state.

The official spokesperson of Punjab Police on Sunday informed that the examinations were scrapped "on the directions of the Punjab Chief Minister

Deputy Chief Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa to maintain the integrity and fairness of the examination process for recruitment".

Charanjit Singh Channi and

The spokesperson said dates to conduct fresh examinations for the recruitment of SIs will be notified soon. "The Recruitment Board constituted for the recruitment of SIs had recommended scrapping of examinations after cheating and use of malpractices was reported in the tests...," said the spokesperson,  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{ENS}}$ 

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**FULL REPORT ON** 

### SATISH SHARMA WAS PROTECTOR OF THE JAN ZEGERS TRUST

## Gandhi family friend Sharma set up offshore entities

Trust was declared in Income Tax returns, my family and I have no role in companies: wife Sterre

SHYAMLAL YADAV

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

CAPTAIN SATISH Sharma, Congress leader, friend of the Gandhi family, and a former Union Minister who passed away in February this year, had offshore entities and properties abroad, the Pandora Papers show.

At least 10 members of Sharma's family including his wife Sterre, children and grandchildren are among the beneficiaries of a trust, the Jan Zegers Trust — a declaration Sharma never made to the

ASIACITI

**Election Commission** while filing poll nomination papers.

According to docu-

ments of the AsiaCiti Trust, the Jan Zegers Trust was incorporated in the Cayman Islands in 1995 – Sharma was then Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas - and later under the governing law of New Zealand.

Another trust, named the JZ II Trust, was incorporated in New Zealand in October 2015 when Sharma was a Rajya Sabha member.

He was protector of the two trusts and his wife Sterre a beneficiary. The documents suggest he was managing his properties in France and Singapore and transferring several payments to Sterre through bank accounts of third parties.

Most of the remittance orders had been categorised as high risk with a note: "reason for classification as a high risk remittance: Sterre Sharma is married to an Indian politician, Satish Sharma."

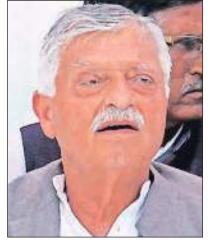
A document from August 2014 lists the beneficiaries of the Jan Zegers Trust. These include Satish Sharma (protector), Henriette Jeanette Zegers Ten Horn, Sterre Candida Maria Sharma Zegers, Mei Celesta Regina Zegers, Engelien Felicia Gabrielle

Zegers, Samir Sharma, Sarika Sharma, Patrick Brenny, Paul McGowan and The Kalakar Trust. The Kalakar Trust's Delhi address in the

Pandora Papers is of a property owned by Sterre as per Sharma's affidavit filed with his Rajya Sabha nomination in 2010.

In his declaration while filing the nomination for the Rajya Sabha elections in 2004 and 2010, the only immovable property outside India that he declared was Sterre's "inherited house" in Amsterdam.

A document of the AsiaCiti Trust details the Sharma offshore network and lists the



Structure Chart JZ II Trust Beneficiary Sterre Candida Maria Sharma Zegers Univest Capital Limited 100% Fortune Skyline Limited (BVI) Singapore apartment (sold on 7/9/2016)

Congress leader Satish Sharma passed away in February this year. PTI Archive

entities: The Jan Zegers Trust and its underlying companies, Dansor SARL (Luxembourg), Anenice Limited (UK), and Lomond Investments Limited (Cayman Islands) -Lomond was later dissolved and replaced by Univest Capital Limited (Samoa): IZ II Trust and its underlying companies, Univest Capital Limited (Samoa) and Fortune Skyline Limited (British Virgin Islands).

Documents show that between July 2013

and September 2015, Satish Sharma gave "consent" to pay EUR 0.9799 million, USD 0.1885 million, and 2 lakh Singapore dollars to various entities through some third party accounts.

Approximately Rs 4.28 crore (EUR 4 lakh and USD 1 lakh) of that was to be sent in several tranches to Sterre Sharma through Kul Rattan Chadha in his account at the Jammu & Kashmir Bank in Vasant Vihar, Delhi branch.

Chadha, also named in the Panama

Papers, lives in Amsterdam, Documents show that when the Jan Zegers Trust was formed in 1995, he signed as "witness" on requisite documents. Chadha did not respond to an email seeking his comments.

Responding to queries from The Indian Express, Sterre Sharma, in a written reply (full response online), said: "Jan Zegers Trust was incorporated in 1995 by my late father as Settlor, as a mechanism to manage his assets

Name of Shareholder/Corporation

ies which included his wife, the issue and remoter issue of the Settlor (my father) and his wife, the husbands, wives, widows and widowers of the issue of the settlor and his wife and the Kalakar Trust of New Delhi India which has done commendable charitable and philanthropic work in India."

"Jan Zegers II trust was incorporated to help liquidate the trust assets to pay French taxes on trust property, which tax demand far exceeded the value of the trust property. Late Mr Satish Sharma was made a Protector of the Trust, who could act in place of Settlor(my late father)... For all purposes, heirs of my late father were beneficiaries and all powers and control vested in my late father," she said.

"I declared the Trust in my IT return since FY 2016-2017. Family Settlement was underway. Assets were liquidated to pay French Taxes which exceeded the value of property. Final Tax claims have been settled only this year in recent past months. Once family settlement is arrived at whatever the taxes fall due in each jurisdiction shall be duly paid. Trustees were mandated to strictly carry out all regulatory compliances," Sharma said.

"Companies are formed solely to manage assets under the trust which holds inheritance of my late father and are to be duly wound up with the Trust. None of my family members or myself to my understanding have any role in these companies," she said.

## Niira Radia set up a dozen firms, asked Trident Trust to not contact her directly

I have no shareholding in any of the companies, do not recognise them or the transactions referred to, says Radia

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

THE PANDORA Papers show that corporate lobbyist Niira (Nira) Radia is a "do not contact client" of corporate service provider firm Trident Trust Company BVI, who has been conducting her offshore transactions through London-based Sanjay Newatia, a former Credit Suisse banker.

Radia, whose name earlier figured in both The Panama Papers and The Paradise Papers, once again figures in the Pandora Papers with about a dozen offshore firms and a more detailed account of transactions executed by these firms including the purchase of a \$251,500 watch in Dubai through one of her BVI companies.

Radia, according to the documents, is linked to companies such as Irthema Associates Limited; Roxbury Estates Limited; Elmashe Holdings Limited; Thyere Investments Limited; Malaga Overseas Limited; Collets Trading Limited; Kingston International Limited; Himlen Trading SA; Zilla Limited; Koios Holding Limited; Mehone Consultants Limited; and Nyine

The Trident Trust documents pertaining to Elmashe Holdings, Thyere, Zilla, Kojos, Mehone and Nyine have listed Radia as the master client of these offshore companies with her Chattarpur farm address in Delhi.

Newatia hasn't responded to a query from The Indian Express but in an email reply, Radia said, "I am alarmed and deeply anguished by yet another attempt by *The Indian Express* to malign my image. It is evident that your questions are an example of adventurous journalism. I have no shareholding in any of the companies mentioned in your mail: I do not recognize any of these companies and neither do I recognize the transactions which you have referred to... For the sake of completeness, I also must state that I have always made true and accurate disclosures to all relevant author-



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ities. My sister Karuna has never even heard of these firms mentioned by you. Mr Jehangir Pocha passed away in 2014 and we have no knowledge of his personal affairs.'

Radia was at the centre of a controversy in 2010 over intercepted phone conversations that came to be known as the Radia

Tapes and suggested that she used her proximity with some journalists and politicians to try and influence ministerial appointments in UPA II.

Subsequently, Radia came under the scanner of several investigative agencies. In 2011, she closed down her public relations firm Vaishnavi Corporate Communications.

However, this was not the only company that was shut down by Radia following the controversy.

The Pandora Papers show that in January 2011, Radia gave instructions to Trident Trust to close a Credit Suisse bank account of Roxbury Estates and transfer \$97,860 from its account to another account, controlled by Radia through Irthema Associates, in the Zurich branch of the same bank.

This transfer request came with an instruction to "not contact the beneficial owner (Radia Nira)" as she is a "do not contact client" of Trident Trust.

Estates. Roxbury according to the company formation documents, was set up in January 2008 with Radia as its sole beneficial owner and Guardian Nominees Ltd, a company in Nevis, West Indies, as a nominee of the firm. In August 2009, Roxbury became the shareholder of a Cyprus firm and helped it

open a bank account. Apart from this, Pandora Papers records reveal that Radia's sister and business partner, Karuna

Menon, and Radia's associate Jehangir Pocha, former journalist named in the Radia Tapes controversy, also set up offshore companies with Trident Trust.

### TRIDENT TRUST



Documents list Radia as client of offshore firms. She had figured in the Panama and Paradise Papers as well.

Menon is the owner of Tineos Ventures Limited and Pocha of Magnitude Enterprises Limited. The Trident Trust has tagged the accounts of Menon and Pocha with Radia.

The Trident Trust documents also show that in April 2009. Radia used Collets Trading execute two transactions. One, a \$500,000 payment to Hongkong-based Fortune Exports for marketing and consultancy services and the second, \$251,500 to purchase a diamond watch from Diamond Infinity DMCC. The purchase of the diamond watch even sparked a conversation between the employees of Trident Trust on Radia's jewellery collection.

..she(Radia) really does have amazing jewellery, I meet with her when she comes to London...," said a Trident Trust employee while executing the transaction.

According to records, in July 2009, Radia bought 100,000 pounds worth shares of Unitech Corporate Parks Plc, a UK subsidiary of Unitech Ltd at an upper limit of 20 pence per share through Kingston International.

In 2012, the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) began investigating the role of Radia and her firms in a Rs 1700-crore deal between Tata Group and Unitech in 2007.

This probe was a fallout of a larger investigation into the Radia Tapes. In March 2014, the SFIO informed the Supreme Court that it is planning to prosecute Radia's firm for alleged violation of Companies Act. The agency is yet to prosecute the firms.

### Principal Residential Address of Individual or Registered Office Address of Corporation 394-Al Thursoh Fourth Villa R-41 Coursey United Arab Cer Dubai Nationally Cyprus Number of Shares 500000 Corporate Registration Number III analyzables Trident Trust document shows ownership detail and Adani's Cyprus nationality.

## Adani brother set up a company in BVI; says it has been closed now

**SANDEEP SINGH** 

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE BROTHER of billionaire Gautam Adani set up a company in the British Virgin Islands three years ago, records in the Pandora Papers investigated by The Indian Express reveal. He now claims that the company has been "closed". The records show that Vinod Shantilal

Shah Adani, elder brother of Gautam Adani, set up FFF TRIDENT RUST Hibiscus RE Holdings Limited in the British Virgin

Islands in 2018. Vinod Adani, who is a Cyprus national residing in Dubai, is the sole shareholder of this offshore firm with 50,000 shares, and a director since May 2018.

While setting up Hibiscus RE Holdings, Vinod Adani stated in records that its purpose was trading and services in the global market, and that the current assets of the company were then estimated to be worth

\$10-15 million. While Vinod Adani is a Cyprus national now, his son Pranav Adani is on the board of several Adani Group companies in India, including the flagship Adani Enterprises and Adani Total Gas among others.

Records show that the agent for registering Hibiscus RE Holdings in BVI is Trident Trust Company, which provided its office address as the registered address for the firm.

Trident Trust's information form for setting up Hibiscus RE Holdings have been filled and signed by Vinod Adani and it lists the

Dubai address of Adani Global Investment DMCC (AGI) — 3606-A, Oaks Liwa Heights, Jumeirah Lake Towers, Cluster W, Dubai, UAE for physical record-keeping for the BVI firm.

Records for Hibiscus RE Holdings also list an employee of AGI, identified as Subir Mittra, as the person to be responsible for physically maintaining its records in Dubai. The records also show that Vinod Adani

resides at 394. Al Thanvah Fourth Villa R-41. 394 Emirates Hill Third, which is an upscale location in Dubai.

This is not for the first time that Vinod Adani's name has figured in a com-

pany registered in a "tax haven". His name appeared in Panama Papers, which was reported by The Indian Express in 2016, in connection with a company set up in the Bahamas on January 4, 1994 – just months after the formation of Adani Group's flagship

company Adani Exports. When contacted, Vinod Adani said: "Hibiscus Real Estate is a BVI company, wholly owned by myself. Purpose was to hold my Real Estate assets in UAE, in a corporate vehicle. Current status of Hibiscus RE is CLOSED and Assets are NIL... I have been overseas now for more than 25 years and all of the above are as per applicable

regulations and guidelines.' "Adani Global Investment DMCC is also wholly owned by me and Subir Mittra is an employee of this company. As both these companies are owned by me, the record keeping is maintained in a common office," he said.

## Before Niray fled, sister founded offshore firm to act as trust protector

We deny all allegations, cannot comment since matter is sub judice, says Purvi Modi's lawyer

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

A MONTH before fugitive diamond jeweller Nirav Modi fled India in January 2018, his

sister Purvi Modi set up a firm in the British Virgin Islands to act as a corporate protector of a trust formed through the

Trident Trust Company, Singapore. Records investigated by The Indian Express show that the firm, Brookton Management Ltd, was set up in December 2017 to act as the corporate protector of The

Deposit Trust. Purvi, in the incorporation form for BVI companies, declared that the source of funds to be infused into Brookton were salary and

her personal earnings as the creative director of Firestar, the firm that is accused of defrauding Punjab National Bank (PNB) through fraudulent letters of undertaking (LOUs).

These documents of the new firm and the trust set up by Purvi are part of the Pandora **Papers** 

Significantly, Purvi, TRIDENT TRUST earlier named as an accused in the \$2 billion (Rs 13,600 crore) money

laundering case registered by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against Nirav Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi, has now turned approver and is likely to escape prosecution as the court has pardoned her on the condition of full and true disclosure.

Purvi, a Belgian national, also has an

Interpol red notice against her. Manavendra Mishra, lawyer of Purvi

Fit A 7/F Bik 1 Estoril Court, 55 Garden Road Mid Levels Colorida Regulation Number to applicable Trident Trust document mentions Purvi Modi, a Belgian national.

Modi, in an email response to The Indian Express, said, "We are the lawyers acting for Ms Purvi Modi in India. We deny all the below allegations raised in your email. We are not in a position to respond or comment at this stage since the matter is sub-judice

before the special PMLA court." Records also show that Purvi and her

brother Neeshal Modi are beneficial owners of three BVI firms: Integrated Investing Ltd; Xclusive Consultant Ltd; and Panera Assets Inc which, according to the ED, were used to

launder money by Nirav Modi. According to the Trident Trust company

records, Integrated Investing in October 2012 set up a branch in Dubai called Diagems FZC. Similarly, Xclusive Consultants Ltd set up Universal Fine Jewellery FZE in January 2012. The ED has alleged both Diagems and Universal Fine are "dummy companies" used by Niray Modi to divert \$265 million (Rs 1.811 cr) to his sister Purvi Modi.

Records show that Purvi Modi was also the settlor and beneficial owner of Monte Cristo Trust, managed by Trident Trust Singapore.

The trust, documents show, set up a BVI firm, Belvedere Holdings Group Ltd, in 2013. The ED has alleged that in 2017, a property in London was purchased in the name of Belvedere Holdings Group Limited for EUR 6.25 million. This property, which belongs to Purvi, has been attached by ED as a part of the proceeds of crime allegedly generated by irav Modi while perpetrating the bank fraud. Nirav Modi left India in the first week of in public. In March 2019, Modi was arrested in the United Kingdom and is currently lodged at Wandsworth prison in London.

January 2018 before the PNB scam came out

Last month, Nirav Modi moved the UK high court for an oral hearing with a renewed 'leave to appeal" application for a judge to determine if it can proceed to a full appeal hearing against extradition ordered by a lower court.

In April, the UK government approved the extradition of Modi to India. Earlier, on February 25, a UK court had ordered Modi's extradition. It held that the evidence against him was prima facie sufficient to order his extradition to India to face the charges.

On July 1, the ED said it has recovered Rs 17.25 crore from an account of Purvi in the UK, which was opened by Nirav Modi. This, the agency said, was done after Purvi disclosed the information to the probe agency.

So far, the ED has seized assets worth Rs 2,400 crore belonging to Modi in India and abroad.

## Iqbal Mirchi family expands offshore empire, with links to ex-Pak General

After Panama Papers leak, Mirchi clan companies moved to Trident Trust from Mossack Fonseca

**RITU SARIN** 

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

DESPITE A sweeping enforcement crackdown including attachment of properties worth hundreds of crores in India and Dubai, members of the Iqbal Mirchi family have been one step ahead of authorities with fresh offshore deals that link a retired Pakistan Army general as well, an investigation of data contained in the Pandora Papers shows.

Iqbal Mirchi was a trusted aide of underworld gangster Dawood Ibrahim and was wanted by the Mumbai Police and the Enforcement Directorate. He was arrested by Scotland Yard in 1994 and died of a heart attack in London in 2013.

Since then, members of his family have set up a slew of offshore assets to manage their global property empire and in 2016, The Indian Express investigation of the Panama Papers revealed 17 such companies.

Five years later, the Pandora Papers add another crucial layer to the family's offshore money trails: investments and transfers done by Iqbal Mirchi's first wife Hajra Iqbal Memon and their two sons Junaid Memon and Asif Igbal Memon.

Significantly, after the Panama Papers expose, the Mirchi family transferred several offshore companies from Mossack Fonseca to the Trident Trust of British Virgin Islands, iust in time before the Panamanian law firm shut shop in March 2018. This was done as part of what is referred to in Trident Trust emails as the "MossFon" project.

The latest revelations deals with Akbar Asif, the brother of Iqbal Mirchi's second wife, Heena Kauser, whose offshore dealings were also covered by The Indian Express in the 2016

Akbar Asif is the son of renown film director Kasif (of Mughal-e-Azam fame). It is known that in 2004, he met then President Pervez Musharaff to request for the ban on Indian films to be lifted. Asked about this meeting, Gen Shah, in his response to ICIJ, has stated that the meeting lasted only 2-4 minutes and that brief encounter was the only time he himself met Akbar Asif.

Secret records of Trident Trust BVI reveal that in 2007, Akbar Asif, the wife and son of Lt Gen Shafaat Ullah Shah, now a retired three-star General of the Pakistani Army, became shareholders in one of Asif's companies, Talah Limited.

Shah served as Military Secretary to former Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf and was Pakistan's Ambassador to Jordan as well.

Shah was a two-star serving General when Talah Ltd was transferred in the name of his wife, Fariah Shah. Their son, Raza Ullah Shah, also became a Talah shareholder when he turned 18 in 2010.

In the company incorporation form of Trident Trust, Raza Ulla Shah's "occupation" is shown as Director of Talah Ltd and source of funds is listed as shareholder funds from past earnings for an 18-year-old.

The ownership of another company,



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Share register of Talah Limited showing ex-Pak general's family members as shareholders; (top) Midwest Hotel Apartment attached by ED last year.

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Mustique Investments Limited, was also transferred to Talah Ltd around the same time. Records reveal that Mustique Investments took over shareholdings of several of Akbar Asif's offshore companies detailed in the Trident

Trust data shortly after they were incorporated.

The Register of Directors of Talah Limited

shows that Mirchi's brother-in-law Akbar Asif and his wife, Kavita Charles Singh, became its Directors in 2002; with Fariah Shah joining in 2007 and her

son, Raza Ullah Shah, in 2010. Records show that in January 2008, the entire shareholding of Mustique Investments Limited in Talah Limited was sold to Fariah Shah and she was appointed as Director" of the company.

Significantly, Talah Ltd owns an apartment in London confirmed in current UK registry records accessed as part of this investigation, Records show

Talah bought the flat for pounds 676, 250 (\$1.3 million at 2006 rates when it was bought by the BVI entity).

So just a year later, the ownership of Talah Limited comes to the wife and son of the re-

tired Pakistani General, and with it, the ownership of the London apart-

While the Panama Papers had linked Akbar Asif to the ownership of Dates Foundation, set up in 2005, the Pandora Papers uncover the existence of at least eight other, mostly,

> BVI entities. There is a clear pattern of these entities being set up by Akbar Asif and his wife around 2002-2003 and a year or two later. their shares are transferred

In all, there are 21 companies owned by Akbar Asif for which documents are available in the secret data. One of them is Karram Limited for which Trident Trust incorporation

form states that the "source of funds" of Akbar Asif comes from investments in properties and money from running restaurants in Dubai and London while that of his wife from her jewellery business in

Correspondence and emails of Trident Trust employees show that while processing the request for transfer of the companies of the Mirchi clan — in the wake of the Panama expose — they get negative "hits" while doing the customary background checks. An email dated June 15, 2017, with reference to the transfer of three Memon companies, reads, "Kindly note our world check findings reflect a hit on the beneficial owners of the companies...'

Mentioned in records is that in 2015, Hajra Memon was sent notices by Enforcement Directorate for allegedly selling properties in Mumbai and using front companies in tax havens to purchase real estate abroad through hawala.

An identical negative input was inserted in the case of her son, Asif Memon. It is also alleged that he was the "manager" of Dawood Ibrahim's business interests in Dubai, India and the UK. The ICIJ-Indian Express reports on the Mirchi clan are also listed as part of the negative profiles and are part of the data.

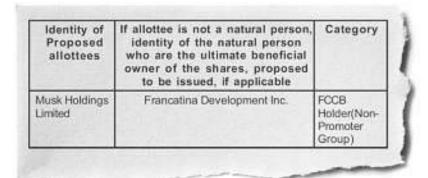
Records show that Asif Memon wrote to the Trident Trust denying all allegations: "I would like to state that all of the above was only a media propaganda in order to defame us/ conspire against us...we have obtained police clearance certificates from UAE where we are presently resident and also UK."

Subsequently, email trails show that the Trident Trust staff asked for certified copies of police clearance certificates before the transfer of companies from Mossack Fonseca was done. In the data, Hajra Memon and Junaid Memon are shown as Indian citizens while Asif Memon as a British citizen.

Marcus Rutherford, lawyer for Iqbal Mirchi's family, did not respond to questions sent by The Indian Express.

When contacted by ICIJ, Lt Gen (retd) Shafaat Ullah Shah said: "The purchase of Tallah Limited was immediately disclosed to the relevant authority in my Declaration of Assets. Since the purchase of Tallah, all income arising from the asset has been declared to the tax Authorities in my Annual Tax returns and all taxes have been paid to the relevant authorities. Tallah Limited was owned by an offshore holding company and not by Mr Akbar Asif.

He added: "Tallah Limited is an SPV, it was purchased in 2007 through a referral by my ex Army colleague working as a consultant with real estate firms in London. The only asset of the company was and is a flat at 155 Discovery Dock East, South Quay Square, London E14 9RZ. The possession of the apartment was provided in 2008. There was no transfer of shares but simply purchase of the Company. There were no shares to transfer to our son Razaullah Shah but only inclusion of his name in the Board of



JCT records identify Musk Holdings and its ultimate beneficial owner Francatina Development Inc as "non-promoter" entities.

## Samir Thapar owns **BVI firm holding** 'non-promoter' stake in JCT Ltd

TRIDENTTRUST

JAY MAZOOMDAAR NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

AN OFFSHORE stakeholder in JCT Ltd, which has been declared as a "non-promoter" by the Punjab-based textile giant, is linked to its own chairman and managing director Samir Thapar, records in the Pandora Papers investigated by The Indian Express reveal.

This offshore entity is registered in the British Virgin Islands, where Thapar is also the beneficial owner of another company, the records show.

A certificate of incumbency issued by Trident Trust (BVI) in September 2011 records Thapar as the holder of all 50,000 shares of Musk Holdings Ltd (BVI). In the same year, records show, he acquired Zanha International Ltd (BVI) as its beneficial owner.

Set up in 2009, Musk Holdings has stake in JCT Ltd and is listed as a "nonpromoter" in official

records of the company, including annual reports and RoC filings. According to JCT records, Musk Holdings

was allotted a 7.94 per cent stake in JCT Ltd in 2013-14. While records in Pandora Papers list Thapar as the sole shareholder of Musk Holdings, JCT's official documents identify 'non-promoter" Francatina Development Inc as the ultimate beneficial owner. Company records and The Indian Express

investigation of records in the Panama Papers, leaked in 2016, show that Francatina Development was linked to another BVI company, Alport Ltd, which also held a "nonpromoter" stake in JCT Ltd. Alport Ltd was allotted a 4.79 per cent

stake in JCT Ltd in 2015-16. In 2012, the shares of Alport were held by Francatina Development.

Records in Panama Papers of the now-defunct Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca list a Singapore address for the administrative office of Alport. The same address is listed in ICT records for Thapar's

Musk Holdings.

According to Mossack Fonseca records, the address belongs to Orbis Advisory. Operating from offices in Switzerland, Singapore and Liechtenstein, the Orbis Group "specialises in structured transactions" to find "tailor-made solutions for protecting, maintaining and increasing"

The Orbis Group figured prominently in the Income-Tax case against meat exporter Moin Oureshi, where investigators identified Orbis Consulting Trust (Liechtenstein) as the ultimate beneficial owner of Francatina Development Inc.

In the case of Zanha International Ltd, the BVI company acquired through wealth management services provider Mirabaud (Dubai), Thapar is listed as the beneficial owner. "BO has a liability on his company

which for liquidation purposes needs to be segregated to a BVI company and subsequently the debt will be written off

and the company/structure will be put into voluntary liquidation," records state. For funds, Thapar listed three sources: inherited property and cash from grandfa-

ther; recently sold a property for USD 8 million in Zone 1 of Lutyens Delhi; salary as well as dividends from JCT. In 2015. Zanha International was struck

off the Registry for non-payment of licence fees. Records show that discussions were held in 2017 to restore the company for a fee of \$5,725. The outcome remained unclear.

Reached for comment, Thapar sought time until September 30 but, subsequently, did not respond to queries from The Indian

One of India's leading manufacturers of textiles and filament yarn, JCT reported a total income of Rs 207.44 crore during the quarter ending March 31, 2021 as compared to Rs 191.28 crore in the previous quarter ending December 31, 2020, while its net profit fell from Rs 10.49 crore to Rs 5.71 crore between the two quarters.

## Jackie Shroff linked to New Zealand Held for fraud, Ajit Kerkar of Cox trust, BVI firm, Swiss bank account and Kings linked to offshore firms

**SANDEEP SINGH** 

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

POPULAR BOLLYWOOD actor Jackie Shroff was the prime beneficiary of a trust set up in New Zealand by his mother-in-law, records in the Pandora Papers investigated by The Indian Express reveal. He also made "substantial contributions" to this trust, which had a Swiss bank account and owned an offshore company registered in the British Virgin Islands, records show. On November 29, 2005, Claudia Dutt, the

mother of Shroff's wife Ayesha, formed Media Trust, which is registered with London Fiduciary Trust Company Limited (LFTC) in New Zealand, a trustee company that provides trust and corporate services. Media Trust was terminated in September 2013.

According to the memorandum concerning the trust, Shroff's son Jai Shroff (Tiger Shroff) and daughter Krishna Shroff were the other beneficiaries.

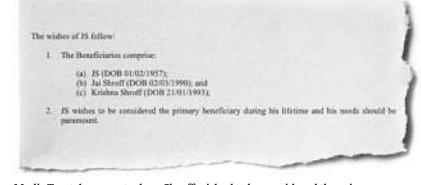
The memorandum states that Shroff made "substantial contributions to the Trust" and wished "to be considered the primary beneficiary during his lifetime and his needs should be paramount".

Records in the Pandora Papers do not mention the amount contributed by Shroff to the trust. But they show that the trust held a bank account at Clariden Leu Bank, a private Swiss bank. This account was also closed in ASIACITI TRUST

Shailesh V Patkar -

C/o S V Patkar & Co, 1208, Maker Chambers-V, Nariman Point, Mumbai

— was appointed the protector of the trust. The protector has the power to add/revoke beneficiaries, appoint beneficiaries and issue instructions regarding distributions. Records also show that Media Trust



Media Trust documents show Shroff wished to be considered the primary beneficiary during his lifetime



owned Millenstock Holdings Limited, an offshore firm incorporated in the British Virgin

Islands, which was struck

off the Register of Companies on May 1, 2013. The shares of Millenstock Holdings were allotted to LFTC as the trustee of Media

Accounts of LFTC for the year ended September 2008 list Media Trust/ Millenstock Holdings under the head

"Debtors Not Currently Collectable" along with an amount of US\$38,565.

The records list a transaction involving Media Trust. In November 2005, AsiaCiti Trust New Zealand Limited, which is a shareholder of LFTC, generated an invoice of \$3,750 on November 29, 2005, in the name of LFTC with regard to opening the Media Trust account. The receivables reconciliation showed total dues of \$27,740 till June 2008 in the name of the beneficiaries of Media

In August 2013, an LFTC resolution recorded that Millenstock Holdings had been struck off the Register and the Swiss bank account closed. "The Trust has no other assets and there will be no further settlements to the Trust Fund. Therefore due to lack of trust assets, the Trust has failed," it said.

Responding to queries from The Indian Express, Ayesha Shroff said: "My family and I have absolutely no knowledge of any such Trust. My mother, who passed away over ten years ago, was a Belgian citizen and not a resident of India."

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN MUMBAI. OCTOBER 3

THE NOW arrested promoter of bankrupt travel firm Cox and Kings Ltd, Ajay Ajit Peter Kerkar, owns two BVI trusts and is connected to at least half a dozen offshore firms, an investigation of records in the Pandora Papers Most of these firms were set up by Kerkar

and his business partner Shyam Maheshwari, non-resident Indian between 2010 and 2016. Maheshwari is a partner at Ares SSG Group, a global alternative investment management firm. Kerkar is accused of money laundering

and was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in November 2020, His firm, Cox and Kings, came under the scanner after the ED initiated an investigation into allegations of kickbacks taken by Rana Kapoor, former co-founder of Yes Bank Ltd. Cox and Kings owes Rs 5.500 crore to banks and financial institutions and was one of the top borrowers of Yes Bank.

alcoga.

Documents investigated by The Indian Express show the two BVI vista trusts —The Welcome Trust and The Castle Cove Trust — were

both set up in March 2010 with Kerkar, his wife Emma Patience Tully, and their two daughters as the ultimate beneficial owners and Aleman, Cordero, Galindo & Lee Trust (BVI) Ltd as their trustee

While the Welcome Trust controls a BVI firm Coad Investments Ltd, the Castle Cove Trust holds shares of Castleman Management Ltd. The initial settlement corpus of Castle Cove Trust was shares worth \$50,000 of Castleman Management, according to its trust deed.

Records show that between September

Date of Appointment: 2 March 2010 Beneficiary ful! name: Aj ay Ajit Peter KERKAR Residential address: 5 Priory Road, London NW6 4NN, UK Date of Appointment: 2 March 2010 Beneficiary full name: Emma Patience TULL Y

Residential address: 5 Priory Road, London NW6 4NN, UK

ALCOGAL records identify Kerkar with his London address

2015 and October 2016, Kerkar, through Castleman Management, became a guarantor to a \$45-million loan given by Cayman Islands-based SSG Secured Lending Opportunities to Kubber Investment (Mauritius) Pvt Ltd, a shareholder of Cox and Kings, Similarly, Coad Investments, too, became a guarantor for loans of \$34 million

taken by Kubber Investment from SSG Secured Lending between 2014 and 2016. Incidentally, Kubber

Investments is being probed by ED for allegedly siphoning around \$15 million from the sale proceeds

of Holiday Break Education Limited, a UK subsidiary of Cox and Kings. Holiday Break Education was sold for Rs 4387 crore in 2018. The ED has alleged that Kubber Investments is owned by Kerkar.

Emails and phone calls to Kerkar's lawyer Akhilesh Dubey did not elicit any response. Castleman Management is also under

investigation after the arrested chief financial officer of Cox and Kings, Anil Khandelwal, in a statement to the Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of the Mumbai Police, alleged that the

BVI firm has "siphoned" Rs 450 crore from Cox and Kings Asia Pacific Travel.

Records show that Kerkar and his associates have set up a number of offshore companies: Shirmont International Ltd; Coad Financial Management Ltd; Castleman Financial Management Ltd; Blue Kite Investments Ltd in the BVI; Courbet Holdings Ltd in Cyprus; and SSG Special Opportunity II Ltd in the BVI.

While Kerkar is the sole director at Coad Financial and Castleman Financial, Maheshwari is a director at Blue Kite, Courbet and SSG Special Opportunity II. Maheshwari's wife Sulata Maheshwari is the sole director at Shirmont International, a personal company of the Maheshwaris. Blue Kite, Courbet and SSG Special Opportunity II are a part of Ares SSG.

"Any entities Ares SSG establishes in connection with its fund investment activities are for specific and legitimate business purposes and are formed based on the advice of third party professional legal and tax advisors in full compliance with the law", said a spokesperson for Ares SSG in response to queries from The Indian Express.

## 9 EXPRESS NETWORK

**LAKHIMPUR KHERI VIOLENCE** 

## Opp leaders head for protest site in UP today

SP says 'cruel' Adityanath must resign; Priyanka, Baghel, RLD's Chaudhary and Channi among those en route

**MAULSHREE SETH** LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 3

CALLING THE Lakhimpur Kheri incident reflective of the "kroor (cruel)" ideology of the BJP, the Opposition Sunday demanded the resignation of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Bhupesh Baghel, and RLD leader Jayant Chaudhary are on their way to Lakhimpur Kheri. Baghel, the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister, has been made senior observer for the coming UP elections by the Congress. Vadra said what had happened would strengthen the voice of farmers and their "satya-

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi was also heading to Lakhimpur Kheri, the



A vehicle set ablaze in Lakhimpur Kheri, Sunday. PTI

Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav said UP had had enough of the BJP's "suppression", and that he had only one demand of the state government: that Adityanath should resign. "The farmers were peacefully protesting against the farm

laws. BJP sarkar ke griha rajya mantri ke putra duara gaadi se raundna, ghor amanveeya aur kroor kriti hai... Yahi haal raha to Uttar Pradesh mein Bhajpai na gaadi se chal payenge, na utar payenge (It's utterly inhuman and cruel on the part of the son of the BIP's Union Minister of State to mow them down... If this situation continues, then in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP will neither be able to get into a car nor get off one)," Akhilesh said, adding that a delegation led by the party state chief and other prominent leaders would visit Lakhimpur Kheri.

Chaudhary said the images coming from Lakhimpur Kheri were horrifying, adding in his tweet, "Virodh ko kuchalne ka kaala kritya jo kiya hai, saazish jab griha mantri rach rahe hain, phir kaun surakshit hai (The black deed of trampling opposition, if the conspiracy is being plotted by the Home Minister, then who is safe)?"

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted, "The one who is silent even after seeing this inhuman massacre, he is already dead. But we will not let this sacrifice go in vain -- Kisan Satyagraha Zindabad!"

Vadra asked if farmers had no right to live in a BJP-ruled country. "If they raise their voice, will you shoot them, trample under vour car?... Kisan Satyagraha will be strengthened and the voice of the farmer will be louder.'

BSP chief Mayawati said farmers had been "allegedly trampled by car of son of Union Minister and murdered ", and urged the Supreme Court to take suo motu cognizance.

Congress general secretary Saif Ali Naqvi, who is from Lakhimpur Kheri, said Union minister Ajay Mishra had recently shown the protesting farmers a "thumbs down", provoking them.

Another party leader, Gourav Vallabh, invoking a Jallianwala Bagh comparison, said Mishra had warned farmers to "sudhar jao (mend your ways)", or he

would "fix them in two minutes". He questioned the silence of the Union government and demanded that a probe be held by a sitting Supreme Court judge to determine who gave the orders to "trample" farmers.

The incident also drew reactions from West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and RJD leader Teiashwi Yadav. Saying she was "pained", Banerjee said a TMC delegation will visit the dead farmers' families. Yadav called the incident "genocide", and said this was the reality of "New India". "Rioters are in power and constitutional institutions are in fear."

Kejriwal did not attack the BJP directly, saying: "It is violent and unjust to crush protesting farmers in Lakhimpur with a vehicle... I am with the farmer brothers in this hour of grief."

WITH ENS. DELHI

## Only UP Brahmin face in Modi Cabinet shake-up

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 3



Cabinet reshuffle. Ahead of the UP polls where every party is fighting for the Brahmin vote—especially the BJP, that is fighting allegations of anti-Brahmin bias—Mishra was inducted into the crucial Home Ministry as Minister of State.

Party leaders say Mishra used to be an office-bearer in the BIP's Lakhimpur Kheri unit earlier, before winning as an MLA from Nighasan of Lakhimpur Kheri in 2012. The first time he became an MP was in 2014, winning by 1 lakh votes over his nearest rival, belonging to the BSP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elecMishra

MP Ajay

tion, he doubled his margin to over 2 lakh votes, against an SP candidate.

His son Ashish, alleged to have been travelling in one of the two SUVs involved in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, was reportedly eyeing a ticket from the Nighasan seat in the coming Assembly polls. A businessman, Ashish has been participating in political functions lately and also managing the work of his father.

Every year, Mishra organises a sports festival in his native village Banveerpur in Nighasan. On Sunday, UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya was to be chief guest at the function. It was to coincide with his visit that farmers had announced a protest.

### **DRUG BUST ON CRUISE SHIP**

## Aryan Khan did not possess or consume contraband: Lawyer

**SADAFMODAK** MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

ARYAN KHAN, the 23-year-old son of actor Shah Rukh Khan, was a special invitee on the cruise ship Cordelia and had been screened twice, with no contraband or evidence of consumption being found on him, his lawyers told the court where he was produced late

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), which has invoked bailable charges against Aryan and two others, said that there was material in the form of WhatsApp chats against the three, allegedly 'showing nexus with peddlers and suppliers on regular basis'.

After being detained from the ship in the early hours of Sunday, Arvan, Arbaaz Merchant (26) and Munmun Dhamecha (39) were produced before the additional metropolitan magistrate's court around 7 pm. The NCB was granted one-day custody until

Piecing together the events on the cruise ship before the court, lawyer Satish Maneshinde said Aryan was invited by the organisers of the party as a special invitee.

"He did not have a ticket or a boarding pass, no allotted seat number or cabin. He reached the dock to board and the authorities screened him. His luggage along with that of his friends was also screened and nothing was found," Maneshinde told the court.

He said that a further search by NCB officials was conducted and then also nothing was found. He added that Aryan's phone was then examined and he was detained for questioning based on chats, both deleted and present.

"Prima facie investigation indicates that there is material in form of WhatsApp chats showing the nexus of these respondents (Aryan, Merchant and Dhamecha) with peddlers and suppliers on regular basis," special public prosecutor Advait Sethna told the court. He added that the chats were recovered on Day 1. The NCB submitted a case diary, including chats to the court for its perusal.

"I am not venturing into the merits at all, not saying who is right, who is wrong. I am only requesting for a reasonable two days of custody looking at the circumstances and quantum of recovery," Sethna argued.

He said that the NCB was conducting raids in the city and was others, including one person in the "supply chain". The prosecutor also added that while the accused "may have a fine case" but sought custody stating that prima facie there were "suspicious transactions constituting offences under the NDPS Act".

The three are booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act on charges of possession, consumption and sale of illegal substances.

## Salve on Mamata Nandigram wounds, scores biggest win from her seat

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** KOLKATA, OCTOBER 3

BREAKING HER own record in the constituency, set in the 2011 Assembly polls, and winning all its wards, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Sunday swept the Bhabanipur bypoll by 58,835 votes. The BJP's Priyanka Tibrewal got 22.22 per cent votes compared to Baneriee's 71.9 per cent — the thumping victory healing some of the wounds of her bitter loss from Nandigram in the Assembly polls earlier this year.

ruling Trinamool The Congress also won the Jangipur and Samserganj constituencies in Murshidabad district, where elections had to be countermanded during the March-April Assembly polls due to the death of candidates. The TMC's tally in the Assembly is now 215 in a House of 294 MLAs. Elections in the three constituencies were held on September 30.

Speaking to reporters outside her Kalighat residence, flanked by party members including nephew and TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, the CM "huge mandate". "People of Bengal were hurt after I lost the election from Nandigram, when my party won across the state. There was a conspiracy to defeat me at Nandigram. A case (on Nandigram results) is pending in court. But the people of Bhabanipur voted against



CM Mamata Banerjee with nephew and TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee and other family members at her residence in Kalighat after the bypoll results. Express

this conspiracy," Banerjee said, noting that her victory margin this time was more than the 2011 bypoll (when she won by over 54,000 votes) and the 2016 Assembly polls (over 25,000 votes).

Banerjee also pointed out that the TMC led in all the eight wards of the constituency. "This is the single ward in Bhabanipur. In 2016, I did not lead in two wards... About 46% of the voters here are non-Bengalis. They have cast their votes in a peaceful atmosphere. They have given me inspiration and new energy to work more for the people," she said.

While Banerjee got 85,263

votes, Tibrewal bagged 26,428 and CPM candidate Shrijeeb Biswas 4,226 votes (3.56% of the total) and lost his deposit. Having lost from Nandigram by a narrow margin of 1,956 votes against former party leader Suvendu Adhikari, Banerjee needed to get elected to the Assembly by November.

polls, the TMC's Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay had won from Bhabanipur by 28,719 votes (57.71% of the votes). Later, he had vacated the seat to allow Baneriee to contest from there. The BIP had emerged second with 35.16% of the votes, while the Congress was third with 4.09% votes.

## MP shrine attacked, 3 hurt, claim of 'illegal conversions' couple from Udaipur in

**IRAM SIDDIQUE** BHOPAL, OCTOBER 3

A SHRINE in Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch district was vandalised and three people, including the caretaker, were beaten, tied up and looted, by 20 unidentified men in the wee hours of Saturday, reportedly alleging illegal conversions. The attack went on for four hours, from 11 pm till 3 am.

The caretaker of the Bhedabhan shrine, Noor Shah, 70, said the attackers had used explosives to damage it, though police were yet to confirm this. The shrine is located in a secluded area on the MP-Rajasthan border, about 70 km from the district headquarters. A visitor to the shrine, Abdul Raiak, who was injured in the attack, is hospitalised.

Police have registered a complaint against unidentified people under IPC Sections 295 (injuring or defiling a place of worship with intent to insult religion), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 147 (rioting),148 (rioting armed with deadly weapons) and 149 (unlawful assembly with criminal intent).

Verma said: "We called in a Bomb Disposal Squad, but so far it has not been ascertained if explosives were used. We have also sent a sample for forensics."

Shah said 20-25 men had attacked in the middle of the night, and tied his hands and legs up, along with those of a Rajasthan who were visiting the shrine. All three were then thrashed, he said.

Shah shared a note that he says was handed to him by the attackers. In the note, the attackers identify themselves as belonging to a 'PFI' of Malwa region, adding: "In the past couple of years, it has come to light that Muslim activities in Bhedabhan area have increased, although the majority population is Hindu. It has been observed that simple-minded Hindus visit the shrine, who are then made to convert their religion...."

The note warns, "If this shrine is restored, all the Muslims in the locality will be wiped out and the administration will not be able to come to their aid." It further says that while their organisation has no name or face, it is keeping a close watch on every shrine visited by Hindus, and that if a Hindu visits a Muslim shrine, Muslims will face consequences.

The Popular Front of India (PFI), which has been under the scanner of several government organisations, said there seemed to be a "well-thoughtout plan" to drag it into the row. said, "The PFI is a public organisation and it has nothing to do with the incident. The note is misleading and the language used in the note can never be put forth by the PFI. I urge all to maintain peace... police should take action and punish those responsible."

## months of those without a dose: TN

deaths in two

**90% Covid** 

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** CHENNAI, OCTOBER 3

NEARLY 90 per cent of people who died of Covid-19 in staterun hospitals in Tamil Nadu over the last two months had not received even a single vaccine dose, Principal Secretary of Health and Family Welfare department J Radhakrishnan said on Sunday

After inspecting the fourth mega vaccination camp in the city, he said some western districts in the state, where prevalence of the virus was high, have started witnessing a downward

trend in the new cases. Appealing to public to get vaccinated against Covid-19, he said, .. in government-run hospitals during the last two months. 90 per cent of deaths occurred because the patient did not get vaccinated

even partially.' "Vaccination has become the prime strategy to combat the virus. People who are in the ICU are also those who have not been vaccinated at all..," he said.

Radhakrishnan noted that 7.4 per cent Covid deaths reported in the last two months from government hospitals were those who received only single shot while 3.6 per cent had received both the doses.

### 'Drugs bust' Unease when we heard SRK son Three of those arrested, in-

was caught: a passenger's account

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** MUMBAI. OCTOBER 4

IT WAS meant to be a two-day cruise and we were expecting to be back in Mumbai on Monday. The idea was to enjoy the pool party and music concerts that the cruise ship had lined up.

As per the itinerary, the ship was to sail around 4 pm on Saturday. Most of the passengers had checked in by 2 pm.

We were told that the concert would begin as soon as the ship left the harbour at 4, but all of us were a bit perplexed when the ship did not leave the port on time or even hours after.

We were getting restless, and around 8 pm one of the ship crew came up and told some passengers that the NCB had conducted a raid and two people had been detained as drugs had been recovered from them.

By around 9 pm there was a buzz on the ship that the son of a well-known superstar had been caught with drugs. We did not know who it was. We tried to search online for news reports and came to know that some people

But during the entire time there was also a semblance of normalcy. The restaurants and food counters on the ship were open. People were dining, and there was music playing.

had been arrested from our ship.

Only when people got to know that Arvan Khan was arrested was there a bit of panic among guests. Many said they wanted to deboard as they did not want to get caught in an unnecessary controversy.

Ship officials assured people that there would be no problem and that it would sail soon. When people insisted that they wanted to leave, they were told they could do so but would not be entitled to a refund. Following this, many decided to stay back.

AS TOLD TO DEVENDRA

## Netflix blocks episode of Indian crime series on HC orders

Bengaluru: Netflix has blocked the first episode of its new crime documentary series *Crime Stories*. *India Detective* after the Karnataka High Court ordered the same following a petition by an accused featured on the show. The episode

titled A Murdered Mother was blocked after a court, in an interim order issued on October 1. directed Netflix "to block streaming, broadcasting, telecasting or otherwise making available the content of the Episode..." ENS

cluding Khan and two others identified as Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun Dhamecha, were produced before a local court and sent to NCB custody till Monday. The other five will be produced in Monday. The three in custody have

been charged under sections 8C, 20B, 27 and 35 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act related to charges of possession, consumption and sale of illegal substances identified under the law, an official said. Special Public Prosecutor and lawyers for the accused said the charges are bailable.

The central agency said it was investigating "suspicious transactions constituting offences" under the Act. It said the total recovery in this case was 13 grams of cocaine, 5 grams of mephedrone, 22 pills of MDMA (Ecstasy) -- all categorised as "intermediate quantities" -- and 21 grams of charas, which falls in the category of "small quantity".

The recovery also included Rs 1.33 lakh in cash, it said.

NCB sources told The Indian Express that "some of the accused had concealed narcotics in specially sewn pockets in their clothes to get it on board". They said more operations linked to the alleged bust were on in various parts of Mumbai, and that "one more suspect has been intercepted".

Aryan Khan is the eldest of Shah Rukh and Gauri Khan's three children and a graduate from the School of Cinematic Arts in the

**FROM PAGE ONE** 

University of Southern California. The alleged drugs bust took place during a raid conducted by 22 NCB officials on the cruise ship Cordelia that, the cruise company said, was chartered by a Delhibased event company "for a private event". The event company, identified as Namas'cray Experiences Pvt Ltd, did not respond to queries.

According to the ship's owner, there were around 1,000 persons on board, and the rate of an entry ticket for the event ranged from over Rs 60,000 to Rs 5.5 lakh per NCB officials said the raid by

officers posing as passengers in the ship, which was to depart from the International Cruise Terminal at Ballard Pier in South Mumbai at 4 pm, was based on a tip-off from an accused arrested in another case.

According to officials, the ship was about to leave when some of the accused were found using narcotics following which the eight were detained and taken to the NCB office for questioning. Their luggage was also seized, and the ship's captain asked to keep the vessel anchored, officials said.

A person onboard the ship told The Indian Express that the vessel finally left the terminal around 5 am Sunday. Jurgen Bailom, CEO of Cordelia

Cruises, said in a statement that the company "is in no way, directly or indirectly, connected to this incident". "Cordelia Cruises had chartered its ship for a private event to a Delhi based event management company," the statement said.

"We, at Cordelia Cruises, condemn all acts such as these and will strictly refrain from letting our ship out for similar events in the future. Nonetheless, Cordelia Cruises is extending our full support and cooperating with the au-

thorities," it said. The event titled "Cray'Ark" was to be held on October 2-3, and was advertised online and on hoardings put up in Mumbai as a cruise for the Arabian Sea. The "event details" on some of the advertisements called it "an exclusive cruise taking you on a musical voyage. Experience the crazy in style on Cordelia, India's largest and premium cruise liner".

Officials said that on Saturday several persons waiting to board the ship at the terminal were told that the event had been overbooked and turned away. (WITH ENSIN DELHI)

### Khattar

farmers and be ready for "tit for

As a video of the meeting went viral, and drew sharp reactions from Opposition parties and farmer unions, a senior Haryana government officer said just a portion of what Khattar said was "mischievously" being shared, and that the CM had gone on to for discipline. There was no clarification from

the meeting, that was telecast live on YouTube, was no longer avail-Addressing BJP workers, Khattar says in the video: "Kuch naye kisanon ke jo sangathan aur ubhar rahe hain, unko bhi protsa-

han dena padega... Aur har zile

the CM. By evening, the video of

mein, khaas kar ke uttar or paschim Haryana ke... har zile mein apne kisanon ke 500-700-1,000 log aap log apne khade karo, unko volunteer banao aur phiriagah-jagah 'Sathe Sathyam Smacharet'...yaani, jaise ko taisa... Kha lo dande, hain, theek hai (The new farmer organisations that are emerging, we must encourage them... And in every district, especially in north and west Harvana... raise our own volunteers of 500-700-1,000 farmers and then, in every other place, (let there be) tit for tat. Be ready to be beaten, Somebody from the audience

says something, which is not very clear. Khattar replies: "Nahi voh dekh lenge. Aur doosri baat ye hai, iab khavenge dande to iamaanat ki parvah mat karo. Maheena, do maheena, cheh maheena reh aaoge na, toh itni padhai is meetingon mein nahin hogi... bade leader apne-aap ban jaoge... Itihaas mein naam likha iaata hai (We will handle that, And another thing, if lathis are wielded, don't worry about getting bail. If you spend one, two, six months (inside)... what can these meetings teach you... you will emerge as big leaders. Your name will be written in history books)."

The CM goes on to add: "Ismein ek hi baat dhyaan rakhni hai. Josh ke saath anushasan ko bana ke rakhna hai, Jo soochna mil gayi ke yahan tak karna hai, iske aage nahin karna hai, toh phir nahin karna hai (You have to keep just one thing in mind. Along with enthusiasm, vou must maintain disciple. If you are told to do something, and to not do more, you must stick to that)."

Denying Khattar's remarks were meant to incite, the senior

state officer said, "As part of mischief, a select portion of the meeting is being circulated. The Chief Minister made the remarks in a lighter vein, he did not actually mean them. Rather, after talking about this, he immediately added that people should ensure total discipline."

In a series of tweets, Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala lashed out at Khattar, saying: "Your mantra of instigating BJP supporters to attack protesting farmers with sticks will never succeed. Spreading anarchy in an open programme after taking oath on the Constitution is sedition... If a chief minister... will talk about spreading violence, communal disharmony and lawlessness, governance as per law and the Constitution cannot func-

Gurnam Singh Chaduni of the BKU, who has been the face of the farm protests in Haryana, said: "Such remarks have exposed the CM and BJP... They are instigating riots as part of their conspiracy to crush the farmers' agitation. But we once again appeal to our farmers not to indulge in any violence... The government can beat us. shoot us or even kill us, but we shall carry on with our peaceful agitation.'

Sources said Khattar has been holding a series of meetings with party workers over the farmer issue. While the agitation against the farm laws started from Punjab, it has been most vociferous in Haryana recently, with BJP-JJP coalition leaders facing constant protests, forcing them to stay away from constituencies and meetings. The meeting on Sunday, held at Khattar's residence, was part of these discussions.

A close aide of the CM said, "His aim was basically to encourage party workers to be active so that rumours being spread regarding the farm laws can be negated, including on social me-

A Commission of Inquiry is currently probing the circumstances that led to the police lathicharge on farmers at Bastara toll plaza in Karnal on August 28, during which IAS officer Ayush Sinha, then SDM, Karnal, was caught instructing his men to "break heads"

### 8 killed

punishment for the guilty. Opposition parties slammed the BJP state government for the "inhuman" and "cruel" incident

and called for the resignation of

if farmers crossed a blockade.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Describing the incident as "unfortunate", Adityanath said "strict action will be taken against those found guilty" but also said that his government "would go deep into the matter and expose the people behind today's incident". He also appealed to residents in the area to

maintain peace. While UP Police remained tightlipped, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) identified the four farmers killed as Lovepreet Singh (20), Daljeet Singh (35), Nachattar Singh (60) and Gurvinder Singh (19). They said 12-15 others were injured. An official at the Lakhimpur Kheri district hospital said farm leader Tejinder Singh suffered serious injuries.

> FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com (WITH MAULSHREE SETH)

## 10 IDEA EXCHANGE NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

Labour Bureau is doing fresh surveys, of migrant labour, domestic help... Now, we only know available workforce data. Labour Bureau will look into the potential for jobs... indicate the road to take on employment"



WHY BHUPENDER YADAV

HAVING held charge of several crucial states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra and Bihar for the party, senior BJP leader Bhupender Yadav was inducted into the Modi Cabinet in the July 7 expansion, with important portfolios like Labour, and Environment, Forest & Climate Change. The importance in which the BJP

holds the 52-year-old leader is despite his ministerial entrust him with party matters. Yadav remains the general secretary in-charge of Gujarat and was recently made in-charge of elections in



"A party's graph can go up and down, but what matters is if you are consistently among people, act transparently, convince them of policies ... We're not in politics to be amar. We have to prove ourselves to people

### LIZ MATHEW: UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has called the current moment a turning point for humanity. How prepared is India for the climate change and environmental issues challenge?

India has always been proactive on environment, we were at the forefront of implementing the Paris Agreement, we have also met the NDC (nationally determined contribution) targets... In alternative energy, India has created 165 MW of resources and set a target of 450 MW for 2030. It is the world's most ambitious target. That's one. Second, Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated an international solar alliance of which 51 countries are a part. Third, we have increased our forest cover in the past five years. Also, the impact of air, water changes leading to desertification... India has set a target of 20 lakh hectares (to recover land)... The developed countries must fulfill their commitment to financial assistance and technological transfer (as per the Paris Agreement)...

The Modi government sees climate change also as a reflection of life and lifestyle. Our carbon emission per capita is among the lowest in the world. As PM Modi keeps saying, India's lifestyle is not one of consumption. This is why we have met our targets of alternative energy sources, preservation of forest cover....

#### LIZ MATHEW: The WHO has come out with revised air pollution standards, which are more stringent than before. What is India's stand, given its struggle to meet the current norms?

The WHO has itself clarified that these are suggestions, they are not binding... As far as standards are concerned, we have already commissioned a study by IIT-Kanpur... So we have always been cognisant of these issues.

#### ESHA ROY: You have just come back from a tour of Manipur... you are the in-charge of polls there for the BIP. The party has been seeing a lot of infighting there. Chief Minister Biren Singh has inducted several Congress leaders and your ally Conrad Sangma has declared he will fight all the seats.

The BJP government in Manipur has brought the state out of its environment of bandhs. We believe a lot can be done to develop Manipur's language, culture, sports and abilities, and this requires constancy and consistency, and for that the BJP should return to power. The PM keeps giving the slogan 'NARA' - National Ambition and Regional Aspiration. So in our alliances we bear in mind the aspirations of regional leaders... I can say that the people of Manipur are with the BJP.

As for your infighting question, there is no infighting in the BJP. The changes in the party have been taken by the core committee, and such decisions are party decisions, by consensus, not an individual's.

### SANDEEP SINGH: Where does the labour code stand now, one year after implementation? And are you looking into the falling numbers of

women in the work force post-Covid? Various states are in the process of putting in place the rules regarding the labour code, and most are on the verge of completing the task. At the Central level too, rules have been framed, we are holding talks with associations of both employees and employers... About women in the workforce, the latest PLFS (Periodic Labour Force Survey) shows that it's not such a drastic fall. What we observed during the Covid phase is that the unskilled, unorganised workers are mostly migrant labourers. The Social Security Code will have this data. The portal that we launched has seen registration by 1 crore workers in less than a month. The government has also cleared some fresh surveys to be done by the Labour Bureau, and the first we are doing is of migrant labour. We have also got permission for domestic help. The one on institution-based employment is ready with its report. Till now, under the PLFS, we had numbers for the available workforce. The Labour Bureau survey includes institutions that are seeing growth and have the potential of employment. So this will give us a very good idea on direction to take on employment.

Post-Covid, we are also looking at the 'work from home' aspect. The IT Department has brought out rules. We are looking at gig workers too, who have seen a huge growth in numbers but whose working conditions (remain ungoverned). We hope to bring them under the Social Security Code. Under the ESIC, more than 12.5 crore people take benefit of our health schemes. Now this has been linked to Ayushman Bharat to provide facilities at places which don't have ESIC hospitals. We expect more to benefit from this after

clear from the fact that responsibilities — Labour is being watched closely post-Covid — it continues to poll-bound Manipur

## 'A party around for long must set new norms... Change in Gujarat, with consensus... isn't it good for democracy?'

Bhupender Yadav talks about meeting climate goals, differentiates BJP changes from those 'enforced' by Cong in Punjab, expresses trust in Yogi's leadership, and says govt will answer on Pegasus in court. The session was moderated by Deputy Political Editor LIZ MATHEW



Union minister Bhupender Yadav with Liz Mathew in The Indian Express newsroom. Gajendra Yadav

coming under the Social Security Code. ... With such labour reforms, we will also move towards ease of doing business. So that's also a big message of these steps.

MANOJ CG: The BJP recently changed the entire ministry of Gujarat. Had Vijay Rupani and his ministers become so unpopular?... Three BJP states saw CM changes, and the Congress too did the same in Punjab... Is this a new system of political accountability for the CMs?

You must consider why the change is it for instability or consistency, for crisis management or consistency building?... In the Congress, the change implies something different. In Bihar under the Congress, from 1977 to 1990, the CM would change every eight months. Our circumstances are different. We have been in power in Gujarat for a long time, some of our leaders have been ministers for 15-20 years... The party has to grow further in the state, and the leadership together decided that we need to give chance to a new generation. The party's work is as important as the government's. So everyone decided that the seniors will work for the party and give new people a chance... Any political organisation that continues for so long, has to set some new standards whether setting an age limit of 75 (to hold posts), ensuring that leaders don't promote own families, take an ideological stand on issues... And I believe what was done in Gujarat, with everyone's consensus, will be seen as a new chapter in the country's politics. Taking a decision based on a political philosophy, propagating and implementing it... this is not an individual move, it is collective... Isn't it good in a democracy? Everyone should support it.

### MANOJ C G: Will the same model now be implemented in Madhya Pradesh, where Shivraj Singh Chouhan has been CM for long?

No such 'model' will be implemented anywhere. An example has been put forth. This change is based on self-consciousness... It hasn't been implemented by an 'enforcement agency', like seen in Punjab.

LIZ MATHEW: The BJP has come under pressure from state units earlier too, including since 2014, for a change of guard ahead of elections. Has the BJP changed its stance on the matter?... Then BIP president Amit Shah had said such a change would mean noconfidence in a CM... Could Covid be a reason, as all governments faced

severe criticism in the second wave? As far as Covid is concerned, all BJP CMs did commendable work, and even in vaccination, they have met the targets... But what can't be denied is that after 2014, the BIP has emerged as the focal point of politics in the country. As such, it is the BJP's responsibility to set the standards to strengthen the country's democratic processes... That is what the BJP is doing, and we believe there should be a discussion on this, including among other parties - giving a chance to the new generation, standing firm on one's ideological position, running a pro-poor government, making good governance an issue.

### LIZ MATHEW: What about Uttarakhand, where you changed a CM who had served four years, and

then changed him too? We gave importance to the new generation... The sitting CM himself said he couldn't run the government due to constitutional processes (Tirath Singh Rawat needed to get elected to the Assembly through a bypoll, which wasn't scheduled). The CM now, Pushkar Singh Dhami, is a young, energetic leader... The BJP is the only party whose constitution itself says that any new president will induct at least one-third new people, that it will reserve 33% posts for women, that SC/STs will be represented... And we are the only party that holds its polls every three years, we don't look at a family to make up its mind on who will be the party president.

HARIKISHAN SHARMA: You have argued that change should be seen from the perspective of its objective. But could one reason also be that since May 2019, you have been losing in states. In the 13 Assembly polls since, the BJP won 400-odd seats out of the 1,300 or so it contested.

I don't agree with your argument.

After winning in 2014, the BJP won Haryana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand. But in 2015, we lost Bihar. Then we went on to win Uttar Pradesh, but again before 2019, lost three big states - Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan. Still, we won in 2019, then emerged as the single biggest party in Maharashtra... We were duped in the state, not by the people, but our ally. In MP, we might have not formed the government initially, but we got more votes than the Congress though it won more seats. Even in Bengal we have surged in strength. Politics is live, it's about consistency, about being among people. The graph can go up and down, but what matters is about whether you are consistently among people, ready to act transparently, convince them about your policies... We don't believe that one is in politics to be amar (immortal). We have to prove ourselves in people's eyes.

### HARIKISHAN SHARMA: How do you think the farm protests will play out

in the polls in Punjab and west UP? As a party, we are concerned about doubling farm incomes. Not just agriculture, but our government has worked to improve horticulture, animal husbandry... I believe the farmer agitation is sponsored. The laws were passed by Parliament, the government has never said no to talks. But if something is sponsored with a political agenda, then it needs a political response. I carried out my Jan Ashirwad Yatra for three days in Haryana and on each of these days, 30,000-35,000 people turned up... I didn't see any issue on the ground.

MANOJ CG: The government is conceding no ground on Pegasus — a discussion was not allowed in Parliament and it is yet to file an affidavit in the Supreme Court. What

"You just need to tell a district commissioner a marriage is not through allurement, what's wrong in that? Every party gives an affidavit to EC saying it believes in secularism... you may ask, where's the need

### stops you from clarifying whether the government procured or used Pegasus, or not?

minister made a statement in the Lok Sabha. Who asked the Opposition to not ask questions? After that, a statement was made in the Rajya Sabha. Again, who asked the Opposition not to ask questions?... Instead, you create a ruckus... The scenes the Opposition created in the House bypassed all decorum and decency... The government has made its stand known in Parliament and court. We are ready to clarify all issues on this subjudice subject — in front of the court.

#### SHUBHAJIT ROY: During the second Covid wave, there were scenes of chaos due to severe shortage of oxygen and medicines. Has there been any introspection on whether the political capital and credibility of the government and PM were affected?

I admit there was a time when there was a shortage of oxygen. But it was this very government that did all it could whether special flights or trains, it fixed the problem in two-three weeks. How do you come up with a solution in the time of a crisis - that's what PM Modi demonstrated, and people recognised that.

### MANOJ C G: The Indian Express carried a series of reports on how your Deputy CM in Bihar and his family were beneficiaries of contracts for the state's Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal scheme.

The Bihar government has denied any wrongdoing in tenders and clarified that all rules were followed. It has also made it clear that it has received no complaints over tenders or deficiency of services.

### HARIKISHAN SHARMA: The BJP is going out of its way to woo OBCs. In UP, OBCs comprise a substantial chunk of the population. Will the party consider an OBC as CM?

Social justice is not a slogan but a commitment for the BJP. However, our social justice is not one of conflict, but cooperation. Our social justice is not based on varg sangharsh, but is an all-inclusive one. So the question itself is wrong. The BIP keeps sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas in mind. On CM pick... that's up to the Parliamentary Board... The BJP is doing good work under Yogi Adityanath.

AVISHEK DASTIDAR: In Bengal, a number of your leaders and workers have joined the TMC. Top leaders are accused of abandoning party workers in the state even as they face attacks.

Those who are leaving the party are doing so for their personal reasons. The party is with the people of Bengal and our workers are resisting the violence

### APURVA VISHWANATH: Only the principal bench of the National Green Tribunal has been working for long, with the judiciary and executive blaming each other over the delay in appointments. Is this deliberate, to

make these tribunals dysfunctional? Tribunals are constitutional courts to facilitate procedure. So the government has nothing to lose from having tribunals; in fact, it makes the procedure smoother. The government is committed to ensuring proper working of tribunals.

#### KRISHN KAUSHIK: In BJP-ruled states, anti-conversion laws have been brought in, with talk of 'love jihad'. Can't women choose for themselves?

Anyone who is an adult has the right to choose her partner; we have never said no. Article 25 that talks of freedom of religion has three aspects... fraud, force and allurement (as interpreted by courts)... that's true freedom of religion. This is Bharatiya culture. We are not against anyone choosing their partner, but if constitutional principles are not being followed...

#### APURVA VISHWANATH: But the new set of laws expressly prohibit conversion for the sake of marriage. Why should I need the State's permission to convert to another religion for the sake of marriage?

All you have to do is tell the district commissioner that the marriage is not through allurement, what's wrong in that? Every party in India has to give an affidavit to the Election Commission saying that I believe in secularism... you may ask, where's the need to do so if I believe in secularism, if the Constitution says India is a secular state... Whether these laws are unconstitutional or not will be examined by courts. We have never suspended Article 19 (freedom of speech and expression) or 21 (protection of life and personal liberty).

#### ESHA ROY: One of the criticisms levelled at the Environment Ministry is related to forest land diversion. Last year alone, around 1,000 hectares of eco-sensitive land were cleared to make way for projects.

Of 8,07,000 hectares, only 1,000 hectares (have been diverted) and that too, so that the poor living in these sanctuaries get electricity, roads. It's only for this. Other than that, there is no diversion.

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## Why do the Pandora Papers matter?

There are at least 380 Indians in the Pandora Papers. Of these, *The Indian Express* has so far verified and corroborated documents related to about 60 prominent individuals and companies. There are legitimate reasons to set up trusts — but they are also used by some as secret vehicles to park ill-gotten money, hide incomes to evade taxes, or use it for criminal activities. Overseas trusts provide remarkable secrecy because of the strict privacy laws in those jurisidctions

**PVAIDYANATHANIYER** NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

### What are the Pandora Papers?

These are 11.9 million leaked files from 14 global corporate services firms which set up about 29,000 off-the-shelf companies and private trusts in not just obscure tax jurisdictions but also countries such as Singapore, New Zealand, and the United States, for clients across the world.

These documents relate to the ultimate ownership of assets 'settled' (or placed) in private offshore trusts and the investments including cash, shareholding, and real estate properties, held by the offshore entities. There are at least 380 persons of Indian nationality in the Pandora Papers. Of these, *The* Indian Express has so far verified and corroborated documents related to about 60 prominent individuals and companies. This is an ongoing investigation

### What do Pandora Papers reveal? The Pandora Papers reveal how the rich.

the famous and the notorious, many of whom were already on the radar of investigative agencies, set up complex multi-layered trust structures for estate planning, in iurisdictions which are loosely regulated for tax purposes, but characterised by air-tight secrecy laws.

The purposes for which trusts are set up are many, and some genuine too. But a scrutiny of the papers also shows how the objective of many is two-fold: i) to hide their real identities and distance themselves from the offshore entities so that it becomes near impossible for the tax authorities to reach them and, ii) to safeguard investments — cash, shareholdings, real estate,  $art, aircraft, and \, yachts-from \, creditors \, and \,$ law enforcers.

### How is Pandora different from Panama and Paradise Papers?

The Panama and Paradise Papers dealt largely with offshore entities set up by individuals and corporates respectively. The Pandora Papers investigation shows how businesses have created a new normal after countries have been forced to tighten the screws on such offshore entities with rising concerns of money laundering, terrorism funding, and tax evasion.

The Pandora Papers pierce the corporate veil and reveal how trusts are prolifically used as a vehicle in conjunction with offshore companies set up for the sole purpose of holding investments and other assets by business families and ultra-rich individuals. The trusts can be set up in known tax havens such Samoa, Belize, Panama, and the British Virgin Islands (BVI), or in Singapore or New Zealand which offer relative tax advantages, or even South Dakota in the US, the world's biggest economy.

### What is a trust?

A trust can be described as a fiduciary arrangement where a third party, referred to as the trustee, holds assets on behalf of individuals or organisations that are to benefit from it. It is generally used for estate plan-

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ning purposes and succession planning. It helps large business families to consolidate their assets - financial investments, shareholding, and real estate property.

A trust comprises three key parties: 'Settlor' — one who sets up, creates, or authors a trust; 'trustee' — one who holds the assets for the benefit of a set of people named by the 'settlor'; and 'beneficiaries' - to whom the benefits of the assets are bequeathed.

A trust is not a separate legal entity, but its legal nature comes from the 'trustee'.

At times, the 'settlor' appoints a 'protector', who has the powers to supervise the trustee, and even remove the trustee and appoint a

Is setting up a trust in India, or one offshore/ outside the country, illegal?

No. The Indian Trusts Act, 1882, gives legal basis to the concept of trusts. While Indian laws do not see trusts as a legal person/ entity, they do recognise the trust as an obligation of the trustee to manage and use the assets settled in the trust for the benefit of 'beneficiaries'. India also recognises offshore trusts i.e., trusts set up in other tax jurisdictions.

If it's legal, what's the

### investigation about?

This is a very valid question, True, there are legitimate reasons for setting up trusts — and many set them up for genuine estate planning. A businessperson can set conditions for 'beneficiaries' to draw income being distributed by the trustee or inherit assets after her/his demise.

For instance, while allotting shares in the company to say, four siblings, the father promoter set conditions that a sibling can get the dividend from the shares and claim ownership of the shares, but not sell it without offering the first right of refusal to the other three siblings. This could be to ensure ownership of the enterprise within the family.

But trusts are also used by some as secret vehicles to park ill-gotten money, hide incomes to evade taxes, protect wealth from law enforcers, insulate it from creditors to whom huge moneys are due, and at times to use it for criminal activities. The Indian Express investigation reveals this.

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So, why are trusts set up? And why overseas? What else should you know?

Overseas trusts offer remarkable secrecy because of stringent privacy laws in the jurisdiction they operate in.

A lot depends on the intention behind setting up an offshore trust — and if the taxman can provide evidence that suggests mala fide intent by the trust, then the courts tend to back the tax department in their attempt

Illustration: Suvajit Dev

to recovering the taxes due.

reasons why people set up trusts are: i) Maintain a degree of separation: Businesspersons set up private offshore

From the investigation, some key tacit

trusts to project a degree of separation from their personal assets. A 'settlor' (one who sets up/ creates/ authors) of a trust no longer owns the assets he places or 'settles' in the trust. This way, he insulates these assets from creditors. This is best illustrated through an ex-

ample: A real estate promoter sets up an offshore trust, which sits on top of four offshore entities holding some assets. Now, private equity investors drag various entities of the real estate group to the National Company Law Tribunal under the bankruptcy law. So do homebuyers who have invested in residential properties by this company. But the Pandora Papers show the promoter moved tens of millions of dollars in assets to the trust

I-T Dept may

consider an offshore trust to be a resident of India for taxation purposes if the trustee is an Indian resident. Where the trustee is an offshore entity or NRI, if the Dept establishes the trustee is taking instructions from a resident Indian, the trust may be deemed a resident of India for taxation purposes

amid police complaints in Delhi by his foreign investors, alleging siphoning off funds to the tune of hundred-plus million dollars. His wealth moved to an offshore trust remains safe from creditors.

ii) Hunt for enhanced secrecy: Offshore trusts offer enhanced secrecy to businesspersons, given their complex structures. The Income-Tax Department in India can get to the ultimate beneficial owners only by requesting information with the financial investigation agency or international tax authority in offshore jurisdictions. The exchange of information can take months.

iii) Avoid tax in the guise of planning: Businesspersons avoid their NRI children being taxed on income from their assets by transferring all the assets to a trust. The ownership of the assets rests with the trust, and the son/daughter being only a 'beneficiary' is not liable to any tax on income from the trust.

In many business families, children have one foot abroad, hence family patriarchs have increasingly looked at trusts to ensure a hassle-free transfer of assets into their

iv) Prepare for estate duty eventuality: There is fear in a section of the wealthy that estate duty, which was abolished back in 1985 when Rajiv Gandhi was Prime Minister, will likely be re-introduced soon. Setting up trusts in advance, business families have been advised, will protect the next generation from paying the death/inheritance tax, which was as high as 85 per cent in the more than three decades after its enactment (The Estate Duty Act, 1953). Although India does not have a wealth tax now, most developed countries including the US, UK, France, Canada, and Japan have such an inheritance

v) Flexibility in a capital-controlled economy: India is a capital-controlled economy. Individuals can invest only \$250,000 a year under the Reserve Bank of India's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS). To get over this, businesspersons have turned NRIs, and under FEMA, NRIs can remit \$1 million a year in addition to their current annual income, outside India. Further, the tax rates in overseas jurisdictions are much lower than the 30% personal I-T rate in India plus surcharges, including those on the super-rich (those with annual income over Rs 1 crore).

vi) The NRI angle: Offshore trusts, as noted earlier, are recognised under Indian laws, but legally, it is the trustees - not the 'settlor' or the 'beneficiaries' - who are the owners of the properties and income of the trust. An NRI trustee or offshore trustee taking instructions from another overseas 'protector' ensures they are taxed in India only on their total income from India

Of late, NRIs are under greater scrutiny of the Income-Tax Department; they have been receiving notices to prove their non-resident status of past years, to check if they made the required disclosure of 'foreign assets' in years when they were ordinarily resident in India.

### Can offshore trusts be seen as resident Indian for tax purposes?

There are certain grey areas of taxation where the Income-Tax Department is in contestation with offshore trusts. After The Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, came into existence, resident Indians — if they are 'settlors', 'trustees', or 'beneficiaries' - have to report their foreign financial interests and assets. NRIs are not required to do so - even though, as mentioned above, the I-T Department has been sending notices to NRIs in certain cases.

The I-T Department may consider an offshore trust to be a resident of India for taxation purposes if the trustee is an Indian resident. In cases where the trustee is an offshore entity or an NRI, if the tax department establishes the trustee is taking instructions from a resident Indian, then too the trust may be considered a resident of India for taxation purposes.

For instance, in one case, an Indian wealth manager has been appointed a 'protector' (with powers to supervise the trustee) by an offshore trust, leaving a window open for the

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## The Greek legend of Pandora and the 'box'

THE EXPRESSION 'Pandora's box', which describes something best avoided as it leads to many complications, derives from a legend in Greek mythology. Pandora was the 'first woman', and 'Pandora's box' refers to a jar (rather than a box) she opened and unleashed all the evil in the world today.

The legend is described by the ancient Greek poet Hesiod in Theogony, and in Works and Days. The god Prometheus stole fire from Zeus, king of the gods, and gave it to humans. To punish him, Zeus created Pandora and presented her to Prometheus's brother, Epimetheus, who mar-

ried her. Zeus gifted Pandora a jar that contained all things evil. She was told never to open it, but she eventually did. From it escaped greed, envy, hatred, pain, disease, hunger, poverty, war, and death. Pandora slammed the jar shut, and one thing remained inside hope, which humans can still hold on to in the face of suffering. According to Encyclopaedia Britannica, Pandora's jar became a 'box' in the 16th century, when the Renaissance humanist Erasmus "either mistranslated the Greek or confused the vessel with the box in the story of Cupid and Psyche".



**Pandora** opens her box in a depiction by James Gillray, published by print seller Hannah **Humphrey** in 1809. Wikimedia Commons

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## The Indian EXPRESS

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BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## Staying the green course

Natural gas crisis highlights hurdles to green transition, which governments must address



## GAINING MOMENTUM

Tax collections have been robust so far. Meeting disinvestment and non-tax revenue targets could provide additional fiscal space

ATA RELEASED BY the Controller General of Accounts points towards a sustained improvement in central government finances. At the end of the first five months (April-August) of the current financial year, the Centre's gross tax collections touched almost 40 per cent of the budgeted target — this is far in excess of what has been the trend so far. However, government spending has been restrained so far. The situation is likely to change in the second half of the year with the lifting of restrictions imposed on spending by various ministries.

On the revenue side, while both direct and indirect tax collections have witnessed robust growth, indirect tax collections continue to account for a larger share of total tax collections, as revenue through GST, customs and excise continues to register healthy growth. However, there is cause for concern. For one, disinvestment proceeds continue to lag. As against a target of Rs 1.75 lakh crore, collections so far are a mere Rs 8,369 crore. The sale of Air India, and successful fructification of other big ticket items such as BPCL, the listing of LIC, could boost government coffers dramatically. Two, the government's recent moves to provide relief to the telecom sector are likely to have an adverse effect. Giving telecom operators a moratorium on their dues, while in the financial interest of the sector, will affect the government's non-tax revenues. Inflows are likely to be much lower than the Rs 54,000 crore the government had hoped to garner from other communication services. On the expenditure side, at the end of the first five months, central government spending remained relatively muted - spending was only two per cent higher than last year. In fact, non-interest revenue expenditure was only 0.8 per cent higher than in 2019-20. Encouragingly, however, in August, government spending was up around 40 per cent, driven by both revenue and capital expenditure.

High tax collections notwithstanding, the fiscal math is not that straightforward. First, the distribution of free foodgrain for eight months is likely to cost around Rs 1 lakh crore. Second, an additional Rs 15,000 crore is to be spent on the fertiliser subsidy. And third, arrears of Rs 56,000 crore of export incentives have to be cleared. However, the government's borrowing programme for the second half of the year suggests that it expects the fiscal deficit to be lower than the budgeted amount — an indication of its comfort with revenue collections in the second half of the year. Much will depend on disinvestment and non-tax revenues. Healthy collections will create the fiscal space for the government to ramp up spending, to provide support to the economy during the second half of the year.

## A LEG-UP FOR SPACE

Delhi needs a sensible regulatory framework for India to catch up with rapidly changing commercial dynamic in outer space

LTHOUGH INDIA STARTED early in launching a space programme and built impressive capabilities against great odds over the decades, it remains a laggard in realising its full potential. At the heart of the problem is the fact that the programme remains a governmental enterprise. Meanwhile, the rest of the world has moved on letting the private sector run ever larger parts of the space programme. India was not an exception to state monopolies in the space sector in the 20th century. The sophisticated nature of technologies involved, the military implications, and the international prestige associated with them meant that the state led the space sector around the world. In India, the developmental imperative added another justification for state control. But continuing with that framework in the 21st century is

As space technologies find a growing number of commercial uses, the size of the global space economy has grown rapidly. It is estimated to be around \$450 billion and is expected to grow to \$1.4 trillion by the end of this decade. India has barely 2 per cent share of the global space commerce today. The only way Delhi can boost India's weight in the global economy is by ending the monopoly of the Department of Space. Although the NDA government did announce some reforms in encouraging private sector activity in 2020, the Department of Space and its agencies continue to exercise paternalistic control. India needs space legislation that will provide a sustainable framework for space commerce, even though critics say a space bill under consideration by the government does not go far enough.

The longer Delhi takes to come up with a sensible regulatory framework, the harder it will be for India to catch up with the rapidly changing commercial dynamic in outer space. Consider, for example, telecommunication, an area that saw the early deployment of space technologies for commercial purposes. A number of western companies are planning to launch hundreds of low-earth satellites to provide broadband internet around the world. Beijing has plans for a Space Silk Road. New economic activities are emerging — from innovative uses of space-based earth observation to manufacturing specialised products in gravity-free environments, space tourism, and possible mining of Moon and other celestial bodies. The expanding commercial use of outer space has been marked by deeper involvement of private actors. The long-standing state monopoly on rocket launches has finally been broken by Elon Musk's SpaceX company. The time is now apt for Delhi to mandate government space agencies to focus on basic research, while allowing the private sector to take the lead in the full range of activities relating to the space business.

FREEZE FRAME

E P Unny



THE WORLD IS familiar with the cycles of boom and bust in the energy market. It would be understandable, therefore, if the current surge in the price of natural gas in Europe and its rippled impact on the price of coal and oil is seen as just one more twist in the sector's business trajectory. That would be a mistake. For, this time, there is the added dimension of its consequence on the pace, nature and course of the "green transition". Were this dimension ignored, the price hike would incentivise an increase in the production of fossil fuels and that would run counter to not just public sentiment but also the efforts to shift to a clean non-fossil fuel energy system.

The nub of the dilemma for governments created by this latest price shock is to find a way to navigate the long-term imperatives of decarbonisation and also manage the political and social backlash from consumers impacted by high electricity and fuel costs. COP 26 should add the resolution of this dilemma to its agenda. It will be a recurring issue.

The price of natural gas in Europe has shot up by approximately 600 per cent over the past 12 months. A year back, it was trading at just under \$4/mmbtu; today it is hovering around \$25/mmbtu. And, in a reversal of the conventional feedback loop wherein the price of oil would lead to a change in the price of gas, this time it is the price of gas that has pushed up the prices of oil and coal. This is because as the former became increasingly unaffordable, consumers turned to the latter. The average price of Brent crude in 2020 was \$42/bbl. Today, it is just under \$80/bbl. Thermal coal has also moved to historic highs of above \$200/tonne.

There are many reasons for this price surge, but they distil down to the perennial influencers of the energy market - the interplay of demand, supply and geopolitics.

On the demand side, the strongest driver has been the global economic recovery. Added to that are the micro factors of the drop in hydropower in Brazil and China be-

A few years back, the impact of changes in the natural gas market would have been geographically limited. This is because its market would have been defined by inflexible, long-term contracts that set out the supply source, destination and pricing. The contracts were structured to allow for only limited deviation from these terms. Today, the gas market is different. It is global, integrated and liquid. What happens in one region does, therefore, quickly spill over into other geographies. The CIF price of spot LNG landed in Hazira, Gujarat averaged around \$6/bbl a year back. Today, on account of the surge in Europe, Indian buyers would be fortunate to lay hands on a

cargo for less than \$25/bbl.

cause of drought, the reduction in wind power because of unfavourable wind conditions in the North Sea and the underperformance of nuclear reactors in Europe. The severe summer heat in the US, Europe and China has also been a factor.

On the supply side, there have been three economic blockers and one geopolitical bottleneck. The economic blockers were the cold wave in Texas in February this year, which froze gas wells and throttled the export of US LNG, the start-up of the maintenance work suspended since 2020 on account of Covid-19 and the declining production profile of the giant Groningen field in the Netherlands. This field is slated to close down in two years. Matters have been compounded by the diversion of US LNG cargoes destined for Europe to Asia and low inventories.

The geopolitical stumbling block is Russia. Historically, Russia has provided approximately 40 per cent of Europe's gas requirements but it always had the capacity to supply more and could have come to Europe's rescue this time. But it decided not to. Analysts have speculated on the reasons. Most believe it has to do with the 1,230 km long Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia to Germany. The US has been an opponent of this pipeline on the grounds it strengthens Russia's leverage over Europe. In consequence, the EU has not yet approved its operationalisation. Russia has hinted it may relax its stance over gas supplies if the pipeline were approved. Who knows how this saga will play out but for the present it does com-pound the demand-supply imbalance.

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The political (populist) response to this latest energy shock would be to give markets free rein. The price increase would incentivise companies to jack up the production of natural gas, and consumers would switch to the cheaper alternatives of coal (and even oil) and conserve demand. Such a marketled response would, however, render hollow the commitments to phase out coal and limit the production of fossil fuel and call into question the targets for achieving net-zero carbon emissions.

The sustainable response would be to leverage this price shock to improve energy efficiency, intensify demand conservation, intervene to prevent the switch to coal and increase investments in battery and storage technology and transmission infrastructure to scale up solar and wind energy supplies. This would, however, leave unaddressed the hardships faced by consumers from power cuts and higher fuel costs.

World leaders will assemble in Glasgow next month for COP 26. On paper, at least, they are aligned on the nature of the climate crisis and the steps that must be taken to address it. The hope is they will convert this alignment into tangible action. The natural gas crisis has highlighted the bumps on the road to the green transition. Leaders will have to work together to smoothen these bumps especially those created by our continued dependence on fossil fuels. Time may need to be set aside to discuss how best governments can help each other stay on the "green" course and also manage shorter-term political compulsions.

The writer is Chairman, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP)

## A Consensus Builder In Japan

Fumio Kishida as PM signals LDP's preference for stability over radical change

SWASTI RAO

FUMIO KISHIDA, 64, will be sworn in as the new prime minister of Japan today. After a close runoff with the popular vaccine minister Taro Kono, Kishida, a former foreign minister, won the race for the Liberal Democratic Party leadership – he secured 257 votes against Kono's 170. He is expected to form a new cabinet and reshuffle the LDP executive this month. The first test of his leadership will be in November when Japan is slated to have

The LDP has been in office continuously since 1955 (except for brief intervals). The Japanese PM, then, is virtually the leader of the LDP as the party hardly ever loses elections. However, factional support that decides the leadership frequently switches from one leader to another - leading to prime ministers with short stints. A few like Junichiro Koizumi or Shinzo Abe have broken this barrier with the latter becoming the longest serving PM of Japan. The latest to fall before LDP factionalism is the outgoing Yoshihide Suga. Although Kishida has moderate support, it is his reputation as a consensus builder that has won him support across the factions. With this he has checked the rising momentum of the charismatic Kono. By favouring Kishida, the LDP power-brokers have proved that they favour structural stability, calm and consistency rather than out-of-the-box reformatory politics that Kono championed. It is expected that Kishida and his cabinet will distribute positions among the factions to maintain a balance. In an attempt to strike a chord with the younger legislators, he has pledged to reduce the term length for LDP executives to three Kishida will continue with Abe-Suga era policies in international politics. He will take a hard position on China. He shares the broad consensus on the need to boost Japan's defences and strengthen security ties with allies, particularly the US. A free and open Indo-Pacific will remain a mainstay of Japan's diplomatic outreach in the region and to other partners, including the Quad members, i.e. the US, Australia and India. With India, a continuation of Suga-era policies will be seen in ongoing projects like the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project.

years. This will allow younger people into the a hard position on China. He shares the broad party leadership structure.

Kishida had previously served as LDP policy chief and was foreign minister between 2012-17, when he negotiated accords with Russia and South Korea, with whom Japan's relations are often rocky. Most recently, while Kono favoured Japan acquiring nuclear submarines, Kishida remains much more cautious and traditional when it comes to controversial topics. He has a steadfast anti-nuclear stance. If he stays, this reputation might help him get away more easily with security addons in a country where the pacifist Article 9 guides the direction of Japanese constitutional

China's assertiveness and a pandemic-hit economy remain the two most important challenges for Kishida. On the domestic front, he has proposed an income distribution plan by announcing a spending package of more than 30 trillion yen (\$270 billion). If he also addresses the interests of the middle class, his tenure could turn out to be more stable than Suga.

discourse on security.

In contrast to Abe's "Abenomics" that boosted corporate profits in the hope that the benefits would trickle down to the lower-level wage earners, Kishida has stressed the need to distribute more wealth to households and thus maintain a stable middle-class in Japan. The Suga administration laid emphasis on decarbonisation and digital transformation, which is likely to be carried forward by the new administration.

Kishida will continue with Abe-Suga era policies in international politics. He will take

consensus on the need to boost Japan's defences and strengthen security ties with allies, particularly the US. A free and open Indo-Pacific will remain a mainstay of Japan's diplomatic outreach in the region and to other partners, including the Quad members, i.e. the US, Australia and India, With India, a continuation of Suga-era policies will be seen in ongoing projects like the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project. There will also be deepening of bilateral security and defence cooperation with India, Advancements will also be seen in the recently-launched Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) between India, Japan and Australia. On the security front, Kishida wants to rev up Japan's coast guard and has reiterated Taiwan's security as crucial to Japan's own. He has sharply criticised China's treatment of the Uighur minority and favours passing a resolution condemning it. He also aims to appoint a prime ministerial aide, a first for Japan, to monitor the Uighur human rights situation.

Despite the above, he stands for preserving trade ties with China because of pandemic-linked supply chain disruptions in Southeast Asia. The good news is that the latest wave of coronavirus infections has decreased rapidly. Despite the global economic slowdown, Japan's GDP is likely to grow in the fourth quarter centred on consumption due to pent-up demand.

> The writer teaches at the Department of Strategic and Security Studies, Aligarh Muslim University

## OCTOBER 4, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

COLLECTIVE STAND

COMMONWEALTH LEADERS SUCCEEDED in hammering out a consensus on key economic issues particularly on aid to developing nations like India hit hard by oil imports. Indications were that the 43 Commonwealth countries were in sight of a collective stand on bridging the gap be $tween\,the\,rich\,and\,developing\,nations. The$ views of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on the immediate economic problems of oilimporting countries received wide support during the informal discussions between the leaders. She pleaded for urgent financial assistance by international agencies for development of energy resources in the country. She drew the attention of other leaders to the burden imposed because of

oil imports. A collective Commonwealth stand on North South issues is considered important in view of the Cancun summit which is less than three weeks away.

### CABINET RESHUFFLE

IN A MAJOR reshuffle of portfolios of ministers in UP, Chief Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh designated Swarup Kumari Bakshi, a relative of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, as home minister in place of Naunihal Singh. Singh was allocated the education portfolio held by Bakshi. Some other ministers were stripped of additional portfolios which were allocated to ministers of state. The changes are believed to have been made under pressure from Delhi.

### HIGHWAY BLOCKED

TRAFFICWAS BLOCKED on the Chandigarh-Ambala highway for more than five hours because a group was protesting the refusal of the police to register a case against some protagonists of Khalistan who tried to disrupt the Ramlila at Dera Bassi. It is believed that three persons asked the stage secretary to announce a donation of Rs 2 for Khalistan.

### Zail Singh's Threat

THE UNION HOME Minister Giani Zail Singh has said that the government might consider a ban on parties instigating communalism in the country. He, however, clarified that this would be done as a last resort after talks fail.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021

## THE IDEAS PAGE

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"By dint of sheer longevity, the 007 brand has also become a venerable cultural ambassador for the big-screen blockbuster experience, making this latest outing a symbolic moment in cinema's post-pandemic recovery."

—THE GUARDIAN

## Counting the kisan

India's farming population may be smaller than estimated. This has policy implications



HARISH DAMODARAN AND SAMRIDHI AGARWAL

THE LAST AGRICULTURE Census for 2015-16 placed the total "operational holdings" in India at 146.45 million. The Pradhan Mantri-Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme has 110.94 million beneficiaries who got their Rs 2,000 income support installment for April-July 2021. And now, we have the National Statistical Office's Situation Assessment of Agricultural Households (SAAH) report for 2018-19. It pegs the country's "agricultural households" at 93.09 million. In short, India officially has anywhere from 90 million-plus to almost 150 million farmers

This wide variation has largely to do with methodology. The Agriculture Census looks at any land used even partly for agricultural production and operated/managed by one person alone or with others. The land does not have to be owned by that person ("cultivator") who needn't also belong to an "agricultural household". The SAAH report, on the other hand, considers only the operational holdings of agricultural households. Members of a household may farm different lands. While the Census treats each of them as separate holdings, the SAAH takes all these lands as a single production unit. It does not count multiple holdings if operated by individuals living together and sharing a common kitchen.

Accounting for only "agricultural households", while not distinguishing multiple operating holdings within them, brings down India's official farmer numbers to just over 93 million. But even this figure is an exaggeration, given the SAAH's own rather expansive definition of "agricultural households". The latter covers households having at least one member self-employed in agriculture and whose annual value of produce exceeds Rs 4,000. Such self-employment needs to be for only 30 days or more during the survey reference period of six months (in this case, the two halves of the July 2018-June 2019 agricultural year).

What we have done is take the SAAH figure of 93.09 million — which is, at best, an upper limit — and estimate from it the agricultural households that are significantly farm incomedependent. They would, in our view, constitute "serious", "full-time" or "regular" farmers.

The SAAH report gives data on agricultural household income from farm and non-farm sources, both state-wise and across different land-possessed/operational holding size classes. Non-farm income includes that from wages/salary, business, leasing out of land and pension/remittances. For farm income, we have factored in net receipts from crop production as well as animal husbandry (dairying, poultry, goat/sheep rearing, piggery, beekeeping, aquaculture, sericulture, etc.).

We would categorise "full-time/regular" farmers as those households whose net receipts from farming are at least 50 per cent of their total income from all sources. The farm income dependence ratios have, accordingly, been worked out for all states and across holding sizes (from below 0.01 to 10 hectares and above). The SAAH report also has state-wise estimates of agricultural households for each land-possessed size class. By taking only those



### STATE-WISE ESTIMATES OF "FULL-TIME/REGULAR" FARMERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	Farming-	Total	per cent of
	dependent	agricultural	Regular
	households	households	farmers
Jharkhand	6.6	2808	0.24
Kerala	8.1	1466.9	0.55
West Bengal	75.7	6626.2	1.14
J&K	12.3	658.3	1.86
Tamil Nadu	60.3	2597.7	2.32
Odisha	283.7	4815.3	5.89
Tripura	25.3	289.3	8.75
Himachal Pradesh	140.5	1034.2	13.59
Sikkim	10.4	65.2	15.95
Uttarakhand	172.9	983.4	17.58
Assam	637.6	3099.7	20.57
Andhra Pradesh	745.5	3159.4	23.60
Haryana	710	1906.7	37.24
Chhattisgarh	1302.6	2985	43.64
Rajasthan	3267.4	7041.5	46.40

	Farming-	Total	per cent of
	dependent	agricultural	Regular
	households	households	farmers
Bihar	3351.6	7011.3	47.80
Madhya Pradesh	3489.9	7276.3	47.96
Uttar Pradesh	8746.5	17789.5	49.17
Maharashtra	3646.6	7289.3	50.03
Telangana	1528.2	2668.5	57.27
Punjab	884.3	1473.8	60.00
Gujarat	2499.9	4037.1	61.92
Manipur	166.4	241.2	68.99
Meghalaya	272.2	364.7	74.64
Karnataka	3664	4251.6	86.18
Mizoram	71.5	76.4	93.59
Nagaland	181.6	191.8	94.68
Arunachal Pradesh	152.40	152.4	100
ALL-INDIA	36114	92360.7	39.1

Note: All-India figures are sum total of all states. The total agricultural households are slightly less than the 93.09 million given in the SAAH report.

C R Sasikuma

size classes in which the dependence ratios are higher than (or close to) 50 per cent, and adding up the corresponding estimated number of agricultural households, we are able to arrive at the total "full-time/regular" farmers for each state.

Using the above methodology, the number of "full-time/regular" farmers has been calculated for all states (see table; a more detailed note with charts is available at the CPR website). Andhra Pradesh, for instance, has 31.59 lakh agricultural households. But the 50 per cent farm income threshold is crossed only for households possessing more than two hectares of land. They number just 7.46 lakh, or 23.6 per cent of the state's total agricultural households. India's "serious" farmer population, in turn, adds up to 36.1 million, which is hardly 39 per cent of the SAAH estimate. The 36 million-plus number — or, say, 40 million - is also close to a previous 47-50 million estimate of "serious full-time farmers" made by one of us (https://bit.ly/3CLmc7S).

If the actual number of farmers deriving a significant share of their income from agriculture per se is only 40 million — as against the official, also popular, consensus range of 100-150 million — a host of policy implications follow. To start with, one must recognise that farming is a specialised profession like any other. Not everyone can or needs to be a farmer. "Agriculture policy" should, then, target those who can and genuinely depend on farming as a means of livelihood.

Minimum support prices, government procurement, agricultural market reforms, fertiliser and other input subsidies, Kisan Credit Card loans, crop insurance or export-import What should be done for this 70 per cent, who are effectively labourers and not farmers? Their problems cannot be addressed through 'agriculture policy'. A more sustainable solution lies in reimagining agriculture beyond the farm. Crops may be produced in fields, but not everyone needs to engage in cultivation. The scope for value-addition and employment can be more

outside than on the farm —

be it in aggregation, grading,

processing, warehousing and

supply of inputs and services

packaging, transporting,

retailing of produce or

policy on farm commodities will matter mainly to "full-time/regular" farmers. Even PM-Kisan would be more effective if directed at these farmers, whose quantum of income support can be enhanced to encourage them to remain in or expand their agriculture business.

Secondly, land size matters. The SAAH report reveals that the 50 per cent farm income dependence threshold is crossed at an all-India level only when the holding size exceeds one hectare or 2.5 acres. This is clearly the minimum land required for farming to be viable, which about 70 per cent of agricultural households in the country do not possess.

It links up with the final point: What should be done for this 70 per cent, who are effectively labourers and not farmers? Their problems cannot be addressed through "agriculture policy". A more sustainable solution lies in reimagining agriculture beyond the farm. Crops may be produced in fields, but not everyone needs to engage in cultivation. The scope for value-addition and employment can be more outside than on the farm — be it in aggregation, grading, packaging, transporting, processing, warehousing and retailing of produce or supply of inputs and services to farmers. All these activities legitimately fall within the realm of agriculture, even if outside the farm. Agriculture policy should aim not only at increasing farm incomes, but also adding value to produce outside and closer to

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## Unmask the distress

Simply extrapolating the performance of the organised sector to that of the unorganised presents an inaccurate picture of the economy



Ishan Bakshi

ECONOMIC DATA RELEASED over the past few weeks suggests that the Indian economy has emerged from the second wave of the pandemic better than most expected. Two broad points emerge. First, although the second wave was far more virulent, the impact of the localised restrictions imposed during this period on economic activity was less damaging than observed last year. And second, in the weeks and months thereafter, large parts of the economy are almost back to pre-Covid levels. However, these data points mask the distress lingering in large parts of the informal economy.

The informal/unorganised sector in India accounts for roughly half of the total value added in the economy (52.4 per cent in 2017-18), and employs around 90 per cent of the labour force. The extent of distress that continues to persist in this part of the economy — at least in rural areas — can be gauged from the state of the informal labour force. This can be gleaned from the MGNREGA data.

In the first quarter (April-June) of the ongoing financial year, the number of households demanding work under MGN-REGA, while higher than pre-Covid levels, was lower than last year. There could be two possible explanations for this. One, that the extent of distress in the labour market last year was of a much higher magnitude. Or two, that the spread of the pandemic in rural areas this year curtailed the registration of households demanding work under MGNREGA.

In the second quarter (July-September), however, the number of households demanding work this year was not only around the same level as last year, but was also significantly higher than the pre-Covid level (2019-20). This signals two possibilities.

First, that sections of the informal labour force in rural areas and the migrant households who have not returned to urban areas, were unable to find non-farm employment, and had to rely on MGNREGA. This implies that large parts of the informal economy – sectors like manufacturing, construction, trade and transport, where those currently demanding work under MGNREGA would have normally found jobs – were operating well below their pre-Covid levels in the second quarter as well.

Second, it is also plausible that to the extent that employment opportunities were available, a section of the informal labour force simply opted for whatever work was available at depressed wage rates, supplementing its income by seeking work under MGNREGA. After all, in the absence of safety nets, at current per capita income levels, few can afford to stay unemployed for long and look for remunerative employment. (MGN-REGA also provides an avenue for these households to rebuild their buffers, which would have been depleted while dealing with the fallout of the second wave.)

The situation is unlikely to be materially different for the urban informal labour force considering that even formal employment in some of these sectors (trade, accommodation and restaurants) has been badly hit, as revealed by the latest Quarterly Employment Survey. This implies that even a downward trending unemployment rate will not be an accurate gauge of labour market distress.

This level of sustained distress in the informal labour market points towards a continuing divergence in the fortunes of the formal and informal parts of the economy. For, if both formal and informal segments were rebounding at an equal pace, then surely, the labour market distress in both these segments should also have been dissipating, even if with a lag, at similar momentum. After all, the value added per worker is unlikely to rise dramatically in the informal economy. It is more likely to rise in the case of the relatively larger firms in the formal sector. This is in line with the first quarter results of the listed companies which show that while the bigger companies flourished, the smaller ones (those in the range of Rs 0-25 crore) continued to be mired in distress.

This also suggests that in sectors with a large informal presence — construction (where three-fourths of the overall value-added was by the informal segment in 2017-18), trade, transport and communication (value added by the informal segment ranges from 47.7 per cent to 86.6 per cent), real estate and professional services (roughly half the value-added is by the unorganised segment) and manufacturing (where between 20-25 per cent of the value-added is by the unorganised segment) — the relatively larger firms in the formal sector would have gained at the expense of the unorganised.

Thus high-frequency indicators, which indicate that the economy is operating at more than 90 per cent of its pre-Covid level — even surpassing it in many sectors — do not reflect the distress in the informal economy or among the smaller firms in the formal economy. Simply extrapolating the performance of the organised sector to that of the unorganised, as may be the case with some estimates, would thus present an inaccurate picture of the Indian economy.

One outcome of this sustained divergence between the formal and the informal labour force is the worsening of the income distribution. To the extent that it endures even when the economy had recovered to pre-Covid levels during the second half of last year, the number of households demanding work under MGNREGA remained significantly higher than pre-Covid levels - this loss in purchasing power of the lower half of the distribution chain would translate to the aggregate household consumption basket shifting towards that of the relatively affluent households. This would raise demand for the less labour-intensive services and high-end/imported manufactured products and reinforce the current labour market trends.

How quickly, and to what extent, the informal economy can return to its pre-Covid level of value-added and employment is debatable. While during demonetisation, a badly bruised informal sector clawed its way back, the disruption this time is of a much higher magnitude. This labour market scarring has broader implications for aggregate consumption and investment, and indicates subdued medium-term growth prospects.

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## The prejudice within

How unwitting Islamophobia of elite Muslims hurts the community

to farmers.

## A Faizur Rahman

"NARCOTIC JIHAD" IS the latest social offensive Indian Muslims are supposedly plotting against non-Muslims. This accusation came out of the blue as a holy bill of indictment from a Catholic bishop in Kerala who warned, without an iota of evidence, that "hardcore jihadis" are using drugs "as a weapon to spoil non-Muslims". The Kerala Catholic Bishops Council endorsed the bishop.

The outlandish "holy wars" Muslims in India have been accused of waging include "love jihad", "corona jihad" and "land jihad", not to mention the propaganda that they may also be pursuing a "demographic jihad" by intentionally producing more children to outnumber the Hindus.

number the Hindus.
But what is more worrying is the growing tendency among the Muslim elite to sacrifice truth at the altar of unwarranted self-criticism and express righteous indignation at acts their community did not commit. Last month, a Mumbai-based Muslim outfit ended up fueling Islamophobic suspicions about the ideological moderateness of Indian Muslims when it claimed without evidence that "a section" of them (neither defined nor identified) was in a state of euphoria over the Taliban's capture of power in Afghanistan. Javed Akhtar and Naseeruddin Shah were among the signatories to the outfit's statement that contained this unsubstantiated allegation.

Shah, in fact, repeated the charge in a short video saying that "some sections" of Indian Muslims celebrating (jashn manaana) the

Taliban's return is as dangerous as the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan. Within days, he conceded in an interview that he should not have talked of *jashn*, for celebrations were not held anywhere in India. Akhtar too subsequently agreed that only a minuscule minority within the Muslim community supports the Taliban. But the damage had been done: a new wave

of Islamophobia hit the world's second-largest and most diverse Muslim population. The carelessly used phrases "a section" and "some sections" were exploited to equate the community's political quietism with a kind of dissimulated socio-theology that nurtures a yearning for the Talibani shariah. No attempt vas made to muse on the fact that present-day Muslims are the proud descendants of those who in 1947 not just chose a secular democratic India over an "Islamic" Pakistan, but for the sake of national unity gave up the system of separate electorates they had been enjoying for nearly four decades since the passage of the Indian Councils Act in 1909. In The Widening Divide: An Insight into Hindu-Muslim Relations. Rafig Zakaria writes that the loss of separate electorates "politically orphaned" Muslims by depriving them of adequate representation in legislatures and other elective bodies.

The situation has not changed since then. According to Christophe Jaffrelot, between 1980 and 2014, the representation of Muslim MPs in the Lok Sabha has diminished by nearly two-thirds even as the share of Muslims in the population rose during the same period. Yet,

this has not provoked Indian Muslims to harbour pan-Islamic sentiments or extra-territorial loyalties — a fact endorsed by no less than two Indian Prime Ministers.

In a July 2005 interview to CNN, PM Manmohan Singh took pride in the fact that not one Indian Muslim out of 150 million had "joined the ranks of al Qaeda or participated in the activities of Taliban". This, he explained, was due to the community's firm belief in India's secular democracy.

Nine years later, PM Narendra Modi told

Fareed Zakaria of CNN that terror outfits such as al Qaeda will have no effect on Indian Muslims. "If anyone thinks Indian Muslims will dance to their tune, they are delusional. Indian Muslims will live for India. They will die for India. They will not want anything bad for India." Home Minister Rajnath Singh expressed similar confidence in 2017.

A factual confirmation of India's top leadership's faith in the Muslim community came from The Soufan Center affiliated with The Soufan Group that provides strategic security intelligence services to governments and multinational organisations. Its January 2019 report revealed how Indian Muslims had managed to ignore the lure of jihadi narratives, despite being precariously close to the geographical centre of al Qaeda.

Yet, Shah wanted to know from "har Hindustani Musalmaan (every Indian Muslim)" if he/she wants reforms in Islam or "live with the wahshipan (barbarism) of the past few cen-

turies." Such inquisitorial cruelty can only be the result of a total lack of understanding of the Indian Muslims and their post-Independence history. If, as Shah concedes, Indian Islam had always been different from its international versions, then how can Indian Muslims who, like Shah, follow this Islam possess an inclination different from Shah's own mystical (Sufi) outlook on life?

Truth be told, notwithstanding politically instigated acts of violence, Indian Muslims have lived in harmony with all communities. For instance, the people of the Sadhan village near Agra have shown that it is possible to be a born a Hindu and practice Islam, and to be a Muslim but retain a Hindu name." Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan explained in a recent interview why his state is free of "community consciousness". Keralites don't wear religion on their sleeves, he said, and there is no distinction between Muslims and Hindus insofar as language, culture or food is concerned which is common to all.

Given this reality, members of the Indian Muslim elite who believe that occasional Muslim-bashing will enhance their non-partisan image should realise that facts are sacred; but comment is not free if it goes against facts. Unwitting Islamophobia cannot become a secular cant.

The writer is an independent researcher and the secretary-general of the Islamic Forum for the Promotion of Moderate Thought

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FOCUS ON JOBS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The case of missing jobs' (IE, October 3). For the Establishment, GDP growth is paramount and receives more attention than employment. It is time this changed, and job creation received more attention because of the growing inequality in the country and the consequences of a rising number of unemployed. Some economists have rightly suggested that employment targeting, like inflation targeting, should be a goal for the government. It is time it did so to keep the employment situation under focus.

on under focus. **Hemant Contractor,** Pune

### Songs of equality

THIS REFERS TO the article, The songs of Kamla Bhasin' (IE, October 2). I was fortunate enough to attend lectures by Kamla Bhasin when I was a fresher in college. Her ideas shook me and I began questioning things at my home and around myself. Her ideas of feminism were real, relatable and thought-provoking. Her writings on patriarchy and its impact on the lives of men and women both are based on the realities of life. Her songs motivates us. She will always be there in our hearts and memories.

**Sarachana,** Burari

## HOLLOW CLAIMS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Journey to recovery' (IE, October 2). After perusing

this article, most of us must have pinched ourselves to make sure whether, as claimed by its writer, the country is really making big strides in every field, This is because his assertion of India having a \$5-trillion economy seems to be hollow as his government had to monetise its assets to manage its immediate financial commitments. No wonder, then the writer's wholesome praise of his government's initiatives and policies only invite disbelief.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

## A BLOT

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Garbage mountains in cities to be removed: PM Narendra Modi' (IE, October 2). On the eve of Gandhi Jayanti, the PM invoked B R Ambedkar to eradicate inequality. He also called the cleanliness workers and garbage collectors "superheroes". The sad reality is that these superheroes are hired by unscrupulous contractors for manual scavenging, and they die during cleaning of septic tanks because of lack of essential safety gear. Their deaths are not even acknowledged as is evident from the statement of Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Ramdas Athawale in the Parliament that "No such deaths have been reported due to manual scavenging,". The very existence of the practice of manual scavenging represents an unparalleled inequality and the ultimate human exploitation

**LR Murmu,** Delhi

## 14 THE WORLD



## HISTORIC ROMAN BRIDGE DAMAGED IN BLAZE

A blaze destroyed part of a historic bridge spanning the Tiber River in Rome before firefighters extinguished the flames early Sunday. Firefighters said the fire erupted before midnight Saturday. Pope Pius IX attended the 1863 inauguration of the bridge, one of the last major construction works in Rome in the waning years of the papal state controlling the city.

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** 

AT LEAST five civilians were killed

in a bomb blast outside a Kabul

mosque Sunday, a Taliban official

said. It was the deadliest attack in

the Afghan capital since US forces

claim of responsibility, but suspi-

cion fell on Islamic State extrem-

ists who have stepped up attacks

on the Taliban in recent weeks,

particularly in an IS stronghold in

An apparent roadside bomb

went off at the gate of the

sprawling Eid Gah Mosque in

Kabul at a time when a memo-

rial service was being held for

the mother of chief Taliban

spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid.

Five people were killed, said Qari

gency, the Taliban themselves had frequently carried out

bombing and shooting attacks,

but are now faced with trying to contain rival militants using the

same methods. The growing se-

curity challenges come at a time

of an economic meltdown, as

the Taliban struggle to run the

**FUEL SHORTAGE** 

There was no immediate

left at the end of August.

eastern Afghanistan.

the Interior Ministry.

KABUL, OCTOBER 3

Bomb at Kabul

mosque kills 5

civilians: Taliban

## Secret wealth, dealings of world leaders exposed

**BBC PANDORA PAPERS REPORTING TEAM** 

SOME 35 current and former leaders and more than 300 public officials are featured in the files from offshore companies, dubbed the Pandora Papers.

They reveal the King of Jordan  $amassed\,\pounds70m\,of\,UK$ and US property.

They also show how ex-UK PM Tony Blair and his wife saved £312,000 in stamp duty when they bought a London

 $The \, couple \, bought \, an \, off shore \,$ firm that owned the building.

The leak also links Russian President Vladimir Putin to secret assets in Monaco, and shows the Czech Prime Minister Andrei Babis — facing an election later this week — failed to declare an offshore investment company used to purchase two villas for £12m in the south of France.

It is the latest in a string of leaks over the past seven years, following the FinCen Files, the Paradise Papers, the Panama Papers and

The examination of the files is the largest organised by the International Consortium of

Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), with more than 650 reporters tak-

BBC Panorama in a joint investigation with the Guardian and the other media partners have had access to 12 million documents from 14 financial services companies in countries including the British Virgin Islands, Panama, Belize, Cyprus, the United

> Emirates, Singapore Switzerland.

Some figures are facing allegations of corruption, money laundering and global tax avoidance. But one of the biggest

revelations is how prominent and wealthy people have been legally setting up companies to se-

cretly buy property in the UK. The documents reveal the owners of some of the 95,000 offshore firms behind the purchases.

It highlights the UK government's failure to introduce a register of offshore property owners despite repeated promises to do so, amid concerns some property buyers could be hiding moneylaundering activities.

The Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and his family, who have been accused of looting their own country, are one example.

The investigation found the Aliyevs and their close associates



The pandora papers reveal the King of Jordan secretly amassed £70m of UK and US property. Reuters file

have secretly been involved in property deals in the UK worth more than £400m.

The revelations could prove embarrassing for the UK government, as the Aliyevs appear to have made a £31m profit after selling one of their London properties to the Crown Estate — the Queen's property empire that is managed by The Treasury and raises cash for the nation.

Many of the transactions in the documents involve no legal wrongdoing

But Fergus Shiel, from the ICIJ, said: "There's never been anything on this scale and it shows the reality of what offshore companies can offer to help people hide dodgy cash or avoid tax.'

### King of Jordan's Malibu mansions

The leaked financial documents show how the King of Jordan secretly amassed a property empire in the UK and US worth more than £70m.

They identify a network of offshore companies in the British Virgin Islands and other tax havens used by Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein to buy 15 homes since he assumed power in 1999.

They include £50m on three adjacent ocean view properties in Malibu, California, and properties in London and Ascot in the UK.

His property interests have been built up as King Abdullah has been accused of presiding over an

authoritarian regime, with protests taking place in recent years amid austerity measures and tax rises.

Lawvers for King Abdullah said all the properties were bought with personal wealth, which he also uses to fund projects for Jordan's citizens.

Among the other revelations in the Pandora Papers:

■ Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta and six members of his family secretly owned a network of offshore companies. They have been linked to 11 firms - one of which was valued as holding assets of \$30m

■ Members of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's inner circle, including cabinet ministers and their families, secretly own companies and trusts holding millions of dollars

■ The law firm founded by President Nicos Anastasiades of Cyprus appears to have provided fake owners to disguise the real owner of a series of offshore companies - a former Russian politician who had been accused of embezzlement. However, the law firm denies this

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky transferred his stake in a secret offshore company just before he won the 2019 election

Ecuador President Guillermo Lasso, a former banker,

replaced a Panamanian foundation that made monthly payments to his close family members with a trust based in South Dakota in the US

### No stamp duty on Blair office buy

There is no suggestion in the Pandora Papers that Tony and Cherie Blair were hiding their

But documents show why stamp duty was not payable when the couple bought a £6.45m prop-The former Labour prime

minister and his barrister wife Cherie acquired the building in Marylebone, central London, in July 2017 by buying the offshore company that owned it. It is legal to acquire properties

in the UK in this way and stamp duty does not have to be paid - but Mr Blair has previously been critical of tax loopholes. townhouse The

Marylebone, central London, is now home to Mrs Blair's legal consultancy, which advises governments around the world, as well as her foundation for women.

Mrs Blair said the sellers had insisted they buy the house through the offshore company.

She said they had brought the property back under UK rules and will be liable to pay capital gains tax if they sell it in future.

Saeed Khosti, the spokesman of eign aid given to US-backed government they toppled. The explosion underscored Three suspects were arrested the growing challenges the in Sunday's explosion in Kabul,

At the entrance of the Eidgah

Mosque in Kabul Sunday. AP

immediate claim of

responsibility, but

suspicion fell on IS

extremists who have

stepped up attacks on

Taliban in recent weeks

country without the massive for-

There was no

Taliban face just weeks after they said Bilal Karimi, a Taliban took control of Afghanistan in a spokesman. He said Taliban fighters were not harmed. blitz campaign, culminating in Mohammad Israil, a Kabul restheir takeover of Kabul on Aug. 15. During their 20-year insur-

ident, said he heard "a loud sound" and saw people running away. An Italian-funded emer-

gency hospital in Kabul tweeted it had received four people wounded in the blast. The area around the mosque

was cordoned off by the Taliban, who maintained a heavy security presence.

## Alleged lover, others Imran promised 'new Pak' but members of his linked to Putin came inner circle secretly moved millions offshore into extreme wealth

**LUKE HARDING** OCTOBER 3

IN SEPTEMBER 2003, a secret transaction took place. The location was Monaco, a tax haven associated with the international rich. Specifically, an exclusive block just beneath its lavish casino. An apartment changed hands. A local notary signed the deal. Purchase price: €3.6m (£3.1m). For this, the buyer got a luxury fourth-floor flat, two parking spaces, a storeroom, and the use of a pool in the Monte Carlo Star complex.

The identity of the flat's buyer was a mystery. The official "purchaser" was an offshore company listed in the British Virgin Islands (BVI), Brockville Development Ltd. Brockville was in turn owned by two further Panama-registered entities — Sefton Securities and, later, Radnor Investments SA. To outsiders, the arrangements looked a little like a Russian doll, with the ultimate beneficiary nestled under layers

Thanks to documents in the Pandora papers, the Guardian can identify the flat's buyer — a woman, 28 years old in 2003. and at the time unknown. Name: Svetlana Krivonogikh. In the space of a few years, around the turn of the millennium, Krivonogikh became extremely wealthy. She acquired a flat in a prestigious compound in her home city of St Petersburg, properties in Moscow, a yacht, and other assets, worth an estimated

How to explain her fairytale rise? Krivonogikh was a business student and worked as a cleaner in a store. Then, in the late 1990s, she appears to have acquired a benefactor: Vladimir Putin.



Vladimir Putin

In 2020, the investigative website Proekt claimed Krivonogikh formed a friendship with Putin when he was St Petersburg's deputy mayor. She became Putin's lover, it alleged. Regardless of the exact na-

ture of their relationship, they seem to have been close. In March 2003, Krivon gave birth to a daughter,

Elizaveta, or Luiza, Proekt has claimed Putin is Luiza's father The Kremlin has not commented. Putin does not discuss his private life. He and his wife, Lyudmila - who have two daughters, Masha and Katerina

divorced in 2013. Political figures are entitled to a private life. But the Krivonogikh story is not merely about an alleged romance that fizzled out some time ago. Rather it is about money, and how, according to the Pandora papers, some of Putin's inner circle used Monaco as a discreet hub for their financial affairs. There is geopolitics, too, Prince Albert, Monaco's ruler, has good relations with Putin.

Over the past two decades, Russian influence in Monaco grew. "Nobody asks where your money comes from. There's no culture of checking. You don't make a tax declaration," said Dominique Anastasis, a lawyer.

**THE GUARDIAN** 

### MARGOT GIBBS & **MALIA POLITZER**

IN 2018, Imran Khan, the Pakistani cricketing legend turned anti-corruption campaigner finally broke through. After more than two decades

in the political wilderness, the charismatic Oxford-educated media star seized on the publication of the Panama Papers, the 2016 journalistic exposé that revealed the offshore secrets of the global elite. Among the findings: The children of Pakistan's sitting prime minister secretly owned a string of luxury London apart-Riding a wave of public out-

rage, Khan led protests around the country and a sit-in at the residence of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, demanding that he step down. With the support of the military establishment. Khan propelled his reformist party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), past its rivals in the 2018 national elections and propelled himself into the prime minister's

office in Islamabad. In a televised victory speech,

AS UHURU Kenyatta mounted a

political comeback by cam-

paigning against corruption, his

family's secret fortune was

growing offshore, a massive

Nation address last fall,

President Uhuru Kenyatta

mounted the podium at Kenya's

Parliament to acknowledge that

too many Kenyans live in

poverty and too many officials

At his annual State of the

**WILL FITZGIBBON** 

OCTOBER 3

new leak shows.

Khan promised a new era. Now leaked documents re-

veal that key members of Khan's inner circle, including cabinet ministers, their families and maior financial backers have secretly owned an array of companies and trusts holding millions of dollars of hidden wealth. Military leaders have been implicated as well. The documents contain no suggestion that Khan himself owns offshore compa-

Among those whose holdings have been exposed are Khan's finance minister, Shaukat Favaz Ahmed Tarin, and his family, and the son of Khan's former adviser for finance and revenue Waqar Masood Khan. The records also reveal the offshore dealings of a top PTI donor, Arif Nagvi, who is facing fraud charges in the United States.

The files show ho Chaudhry Moonis Elahi, a key political ally of Imran Khan's, planned to put the proceeds from an allegedly corrupt business deal into a secret trust, concealing them from Pakistan's tax authorities. Elahi did not respond to ICII's repeated requests for comment. On Sunday, a fam-



Pakistan PM Imran Khan

ily spokesman told ICIJ's media partners that, "due to political victimisation misleading interpretations and data have been circulated in files for nefarious reasons." He said the family's assets "are declared as per applicable law".

The Pandora Papers also reveal that in 2007, the wife of Gen. Shafaat Ullah Shah, then one of Pakistan's leading generals and a former aide to President Pervez Musharraf, acquired a \$1.2 million apartment in London through a discreet offshore transaction. The property was transferred

to Gen. Shah's wife by an offshore company owned by Akbar Asif, a wealthy businessman who has opened restaurants in London and Dubai. Asif is the son of the Indian film director K Asif.

ing a personal fortune behind

mother, sisters and brother,

have for decades shielded

wealth from public scrutiny

through foundations and com-

panies in tax havens, including

Panama, with assets worth

more than \$30 million, accord-

ing to records obtained by the

International Consortium of

The records — from the

Panamanian law firm Aleman,

Cordero, Galindo & Lee

(Alcogal) — show that the fam-

Investigative Journalists.

China tightens political control of internet giants

Kenyatta, along with his

offshore corporate veils.

Kenya leader's family's secret fortune expanded offshore

Musharraf at London's Dorchester Hotel to ask for an exception to Pakistan's 40-year ban on Indian films to allow the release there of one of his father's most acclaimed movies. Musharraf granted the exception and later lifted the ban.  $The \, leaked \, documents \, show \,$ that Asif has owned a multimil-

The younger Asif once met with

lion-dollar property portfolio through a web of offshore companies. One of those companies, called Talah Ltd. and registered in the British Virgin Islands (BVI), was used to transfer the London apartment to Shafaat Shah's wife. Talah bought an apartment near the Canary Wharf financial district in 2006. The next year, Asif transferred ownership of the company to Fariha Shah. Gen. Shah told ICII that the

purchase of the London apartformer army colleague then acting as a consultant to London real estate firms, not through any personal connection to Asif.

Asif's sister, Heena Kausar, is the widow of Iqbal Mirchi, who was a senior figure in a leading organised crime group, D-com-

ily owned at least seven such

entities, two registered anony-

mously in Panama and five in

the British Virgin Islands. One

BVI company owned a home in

central London, according to the

records, and two other compa-

nies held investment portfolios

worth tens of millions of dollars.

The Kenyattas' offshore wealth,

revealed here for the first time.

represents part of an estimated

half-billion-dollar family for-

tune amassed in a country

where the average annual

salary is less than \$8,000 a year.

## immigration': Boris says UK in adjustment period after Brexit

No 'uncontrolled

**ELIZABETH PIPER** & KYLIE MACLELLAN

MANCHESTER, OCTOBER 3 BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris

Johnson said on Sunday he would not return to "uncontrolled imment had been made through a migration" to solve fuel, gas and Christmas food crises, suggesting such strains were part of a period of post-Brexit adjustment. At the start of his

Conservative Party's conference, Johnson was again forced to defend his government against complaints from those unable to get petrol for their cars, retailers warning of Christmas shortages, and gas companies struggling with a spike in wholesale prices.

The British leader had wanted to use the conference to turn the page on more than 18 months of Covid-19 and to refocus on his 2019 election pledges to tackle regional inequality, crime and social care.

Instead, the prime minister finds himself on the back foot nine months after Britain completed its exit from the European Union — a departure he said would give the country the freedom to better shape its economy.

'The way forward for our country is not to just pull the big lever marked uncontrolled immigration, and allow in huge



So what I won't do is go back to the old failed model of low wages, low skills supported by uncontrolled immigration," he told BBC's Andrew Marr Show.

"When people voted for

change in 2016 and ... again in 2019 as they did, they voted for the end of a broken model of the UK economy that relied on low wages and low skill and chronic low productivity, and we are moving away from that." It was the closest the prime

minister has come to admitting that Britain's exit from the EU had contributed to strains in supply chains and the labour force, stretching everything from fuel deliveries to potential shortages of turkevs for Christmas.

There will be a period of adjustment, but that is I think what we need to see," he said.

But he was clear he would not open the taps of immigration to fill such gaps. **REUTERS** 

## N Korea threatens top UN body after emergency meet

**HYUNG-JIN KIM** SEOUL, OCTOBER 3

NORTH KOREA has warned the UN Security Council against criticising the isolated country's missile programme, in a statement Sunday that included unspecified threats against the international body.

During an emergency closed-door meeting of the top UN body Friday, France circulated a proposed statement that expresses concern over North Korea's missile launches and calls on it to fully implement council resolutions that ban its ballistic missile firings.

On Sunday, Jo Chol Su, a senior North Korean Foreign Ministry official, warned the UN council it "had better think what conse-



A North Korean missile is launched during a test last week. AP

auences it will bring in the future in case it tries to encroach upon the sovereignty" of North Korea. Jo also accused the UN body

of a "double-dealing standard" because it doesn't equally take



Anti-monopoly and data security crackdowns starting in late 2020 have shaken the industry, which flourished for two decades with little regulation, Investor jitters have knocked more than \$1.3 trillion off the total market value

tapping their wealth to pay for

its ambitions to reduce reliance

on US and European technology.

The party says anti-monopoly enforcement will be a priority through 2025. It says competition will help create jobs and

of e-commerce platform Alibaba,

games and social media operator

Tencent and other tech giants.

raise living standards.

Uhuru Kenyatta

loot the country's public re-

But a massive cache of

newly leaked documents show

that Kenyatta's family has for

years been secretly accumulat-

President Xi Jinping's government seems likely to stay the course even if economic growth suffers, say businesspeople and lawyers. "These companies are world leaders in their sectors in innovation, and yet the leadership is willing to squash them all," said Mark Williams, chief Asia econo-

The crackdown reflects Xi's public emphasis on reviving the party's "original mission" of leading economic and social development, said Steve Tsang, a Chinese politics specialist at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. He said it could also help Xi politically if, as expected, he pursues a third fiveyear term as party leader.

Chinese leaders don't want to



the People's Heroes in Beijing last week. AP

firm WilmerHale.

about is companies getting too big and too independent of the



economy but want private sector companies to align with ruling party plans, said Lester Ross, head of the Beijing office of law

party," said Ross.

Chinese internet companies and their billionaire founders, including Alibaba Group's Jack Ma and Tencent Holdings' Pony Ma, are among the biggest global success stories of the past two decades. Alibaba is the biggest ecommerce company, while Tencent operates the popular WeChat messaging service.

But party plans emphasize robots, chips and other hardware, so these companies are rushing to show their loyalty by shifting billions of dollars into those.

The ruling party's campaign is prompting warnings the world might decouple, or split into separate markets with incompatible technology, Products from China wouldn't function in the US or Europe, and vice versa. Innovation and efficiency would suffer.

US curbs on Chinese access

to telecom and other technology haven't helped. Alibaba said it will invest \$28

billion to develop operating system software, processor chips and network technology. The company has pledged \$1 billion to nurture 100,000 developers and tech startups over the next three years.

Last year, Tencent promised to invest \$70 billion in digital infrastructure. Meituan, an e-commerce, delivery and service platform, raised \$10 billion to develop self-driving vehicles and robots.

Investors, many burned by the drop in technology shares, are eeping their money on the sidelines. Tencent's market capitalisa tion of \$575 billion is down \$350 billion from its February peak, a decline equal to more than the total value of Nike Inc. or Pfizer Inc.

## 1st official EgyptAir flight lands in Israel

Jerusalem: Egypt's national carrier Sunday made its first official direct flight to Israel since the two countries signed an historic 1979 peace treaty as an EgyptAir jet landed at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport.

The airline's affiliate, AirSinai, has for decades operated flights to Israel without the company logo, out of fear of public backlash. The national carrier will now run three weekly flights between Cairo and Tel Aviv with the EgyptAir markings.

The Israeli Embassy in Cairo tweeted that direct flights are "an important and welcome sign of strengthening bilateral ties etween the two countries...

Last week, Bahrain's GulfAir made its first direct flight to Israel. further cementing commercial ties established with the signing of the "Abraham Accords" between Israel and Arab states last year. AP





mist for Capital Economics.

reimpose direct control of the



"What they are worried

### 8 OF TOP-10 VALUED COS LOSE M-CAP

New Delhi: Eight of the top 10 valued companies together suffered an erosion of Rs 1,80,534.34 crore in their market capitalisation (mcap) last week, with IT majors Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys emerging as the biggest laggards. PTI

## Stock recommendations: Sebi tightens screws on business channels

Action in cases if 'unfair practices' are established

SANDEEP SINGH NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

AMID SURGE of retail investors into stock markets, and the rise of benchmark indices to record highs over the last one year, the capital markets regulator is closely monitoring stock recom-

mendations aired across business TV channels for "unfair trade practices" by hosts.

Sources in the know of the matter told The Indian Express that the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has deployed sophisticated surveillance tools to help it establish any connection between recommendations made by hosts during a show and illicit profiteering on the side if any -- including image processing and machine learning models to capture stock recommendations on shows.

Action will be taken in cases where unfair practices are established. A source said that the regulator is closely monitoring all business channels, across languages, that air recommendations to buy/hold/sell stocks with price targets.

The videos of such shows are captured and converted to a readable format to grab details of recommendations. The recommendations are then checked with the price movement of the particular scrip, and trading activity in the scrip, to

### 'SURVEILLANCE TOOLS DEPLOYED'

### **MARKETS REGULATOR**

Sebi has deployed surveillance tools to help it establish any connection between recommendations made by hosts during a business show and illicit profiteering on the side if any, sources said

detect if anyone has made significant profits," a source said.



Sebi has been using software and tools to analyse call records data, social media messages which are publicly accessible, as well as bank statements etc, to establish connections amongst suspect entities.

Under current Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi and whole-time member Madhabi Puri Buch (who heads both Surveillance and Information Technology Departments of Sebi), the regulator in the past couple of years has strengthened its surveillance capabilities through various technological tools.

The focus has been to aug-

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** 

EVEN AS petrol and diesel prices

saw another price hike on Sunday

to reach all-time highs in several

parts of the nation, top govern-

ment officials stressed that oil

companies have not passed on

the entire increase brought about

by global oil and gas prices rising

to three-year highs and have

made sure that a UK-like situation

of fuel pumps running dry does

tion of state-owned fuel retailers

petrol saw the third straight hike

in prices, rising 25 paise a litre, while diesel rose 30 paise. In

Delhi, both fuels hit their highest

ever level, with petrol at Rs 102.39

and diesel at Rs 90.77 per litre. In

but they are ensuring extreme volatility is avoided. "We are

watching the situation and trying

to ensure the impact of global

volatility is moderated to a large

buys has jumped to a near three-

year high of \$76.71 per barrel.

International prices of petrol,

against which local rates are

benchmarked, have risen from

\$85.10 per barrel to \$87.11 in just

one day while diesel has gone up

big deal out of the 62 per cent hike

in natural gas prices. But if you

"Some people are making a

from \$85.95 a barrel to \$87.27.

The basket of crude oil India

extent," he said.

According to a price notifica-

not arise anywhere in India.

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

ment market surveillance systems in Sebi with advanced analytics (like pattern recognition, text mining, predictive analytics, artificial intelligence and machine learning etc).

The monitoring of stock recommendations aired on TV channels is one more area where Sebi has now deployed new technological tools. In January, the watchdog had passed an interim order against the host of a show on a prominent business channel for indulging in "unfair trade practices".

Oil cos wary of avoiding

UK-like situation as petrol,

According to the confirmatory order passed by the markets regulator last month, buy positions were created in the trading accounts of the wife and mother of the TV show's host in the respective scrips one day prior to the recommendations given on the show.

These buy positions were exited by selling the said shares on the recommendation day, at a price higher than at which the shares were bought just the day before, thereby generating significant profits.

**Retailers** 

careful of

volatility

THE SUDDEN spike in in-

which may have impacted

prices of petrol and diesel

global disruptions, includ-

Kingdom. However, oil re-

tailers here are taking de-

cisions to align retail rates,

and trying to avoid ex-

treme volatility in prices.

ternational oil prices,

domestically, follows

ing in the United

## END AT \$638.6 BILLION DURING WEEK TO SEPTEMBER 24

## Forex reserves slide for third straight week amid fall in currency assets

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE NATION'S forex reserves declined again, this time by \$997 million, to reach \$638.646 billion for the week ended September 24, according to RBI data.

In the previous reporting week ended September 17, the overall reserves had decreased by \$1.47 billion to \$639.642 billion.

The decline in the reporting week has primarily been on account of a fall in foreign currency assets (FCA), an essential component of the overall reserves. This is the third straight week of decline in the foreign exchange — or forex -reserves, which started in the week ended September 10

RESERVES DECLINE BY \$997 MILLION				
	Sept 17 2021	Sept 24 2021		
Foreign currency assets	577,986	576,731		
Gold	37,103	37,430		
SDRs	19,434	19,379		
Reserve tranche position	5,119	5,106		
Total	639,642	638,646		

in million US dollars; source: Reserve Bank of India/Reuters

when it fell to \$641.113 billion.

The reserves had last surged by \$8.895 billion to a lifetime high of \$642.453 billion in the week ended September 3.

As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data released Friday, for the week ended September 24, the

FCA component of the reserves fell by \$1,255 billion to \$576.731 billion. Expressed in dollar terms, the FCA includes the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and ven held in the forex reserves.

Meanwhile, the special draw-

ing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) decreased by \$55 million to \$19,379 billion in the week, according to the RBI. India's reserve position with the IMF too saw a decline, falling \$13 million to \$5.106 billion, the data showed.

However, gold reserves were the outlier, increasing by \$327 million to \$37.43 billion in the week.

Falling forex reserves may cause issues for the government and the RBI in managing the nation's external and internal financial issues. High forex reserves are a big cushion in the event of any crisis on the economic front and enough to cover the import bill of the country for a year. Higher reserves also help the rupee strengthen against the dollar.

A rise in reserves will provide a level of confidence to markets that a country can meet its external obligations, demonstrate the backing of domestic currency by external assets, assist the government in meeting its foreign exchange needs and external debt obligations, and maintain a reserve for national disasters or

emergencies. The Reserve Bank functions as the custodian and manager of forex reserves, and operates within the overall policy framework agreed upon with the government. It allocates the dollars for specific purposes. For example, under the Liberalised Remittances Scheme, individuals are allowed to remit up to \$250,000 every year.

> Mumbai, petrol was at Rs 108.43 and diesel Rs 98.48. Prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes. Petroleum Secretary Tarun Kapoor said oil companies are taking their own decision on aligning retail rates with the cost

Major drivers: Third-party logistics and e-commerce & retail players were major

# diesel prices hit new highs

On Sunday, petrol saw the third straight hike in prices, rising 25 paise a litre, while

diesel rose 30 paise. File look at the rates previously at \$1.79 per million British thermal unit were abnormally low and way below cost. They have now gone up to \$2.9. They still are less than the cost of production of \$3.5 per mmBtu and are certainly lower than the \$4.2 price that was

prevalent in India a decade back," a government official said. Naturally, the hike in natural gas price will warrant an increase in CNG price but the increase is again being moderated there too, he said adding internationally the price of LNG in the spot market last week soared to an unprecedented \$35.

"Compare to what is happening worldwide, we have managed the situation well," the offi-

"Some of the developed nations such as the UK have seen petrol pumps go dry but you won't have heard of such a situation anywhere in India. Our oil companies are not just moderating retail prices but also ensuring uninterrupted supplies.'

Officials said India believes the situation internationally is temporary and abnormal and things should stabilise over the next few days and weeks. The fifth hike in its rates in less than a week's time has sent petrol prices above Rs 100 in most major cities of the

Similarly, the eighth increase in prices in 10 days has shot up diesel rates above Rs 100 mark in several cities in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) resumed daily price revisions on September 24 after international oil prices neared a three-year high.

Global benchmark Brent crude is trading above \$78 per barrel. In eight price increases since September 24, diesel rates have gone up by 2.15 paise per litre. Petrol price has increased by Rs 1,25 per litre in five instalments this week. WITHPTI

Goval: Proposed

e-commerce

policy to be

## **SECTOR WATCH FOREIGN INVESTMENT**

## Sept: FPIs net buyers, invest over ₹13K cr in both equities, debt

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

FOREIGN PORTFOLIO investors (FPIs) remained net month in domestic markets with an investment of Rs 26,517 crore in September.

According to depositories' data, FPIs pumped in Rs 13,154 crore into the equities segment and Rs 13,363 crore into debt during September 1-30. This comes after an influx of Rs 16,459 crore by FPIs in August.

Most of the major emerging markets saw FPI inflows in September with India reporting the highest FPI inflow. noted Shrikant Chouhan, executive VP (equity technical research), Kotak Securities.

South Korea saw an FPI investment of \$884 million, Thailand \$338 million, and Indonesia \$305 million, he said.

Amid the economic recovery gaining momentum, and

## ₹26,517 CR TOTAL INVESTMENT

■ Depository data invested ₹13,363 crore in debt and ₹13.154 crore in equities last month, with the total inflow being ₹26,517 crore

Covid vaccination coverage expanding across the country, FPIs are slowly easing their stance and gaining higher conviction on Indian markets.

The domestic equity market offers an attractive investment proposition from the long-term perspective.

Another market analyst said that with an improving macro environment and positive outlook, FPIs are again focusing their attention on Indian equities. WITHPTI

## 'Industrial, logistics space leasing rise 13% in Jan-Jun'

Leasing of industrial and logistics spaces saw about 13% half-yearly growth to 14 million sqft in January-June in eight major cities on better demand, a CBRE report said



**Delhi-NCR and Bengaluru** dominated leasing activities and accounted for about 50% of the space absorption in H1

Medium-to large-sized deals (more than 50.000 sq ft) dominated leasing with a share of about 62% during H1 million square feet (sq ft) in January-June against second half of 2020

5% rise in new supply: New

supply rose 5% to 11

demand drivers in leasing Chennai leads new supply: On new supply, Chennai

accounted for about one-third of the total supply addition in NCR (19%) and Mumbai (16%)

Source: CBRE South Asia/PTI

## Field work for survey on jobs in informal sector launched

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE GOVERNMENT on Sunday flagged off the field work for the Area Frame Establishment Survey (AFES), a survey aimed at capturing employment in the informal sector and establishments having less than 10 workers.

It comes after the Labour Ministry had last week unveiled results of the revamped Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) for

April-June, which captured the employment situation for organised sector and establishments having more than 10 workers.

"...data on all aspects of labour is crucial and scientifically collected data is bedrock for any evidence-based policy making,' Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav was quoted as saying in a statement issued by the Labour Ministry after an event in Chandigarh marking the 101st Foundation Day of the Labour Bureau.

The survey will be carried out

**Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav** flagged off the field work for the Area Frame **Establishment Survey** 

by the Labour Bureau alongside the OES and the results are expected to be collated in an annual report. As per the QES, organised sector employment in nine key

sectors - construction, manufac-

turing, IT/BPO, trade, transport, education, health, accommodation & restaurant and financial services — increased to 3.08 crore this April-Iune from 2.37 crore in 2013-14, the base year chosen based on the sixth economic census; translating into a growth of 29 per cent from 2013-14 or roughly an annual growth of 4 per cent per annum.

Yadav also held discussions with state Labour Ministers, Labour Secretaries & Commissioners of States of Puniab. Harvana. Himachal Pradesh & UTs of Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh regarding progress in registration of unorganised workers under e-SHRAM portal and preparedness of states/UTs on implementation of various schemes

Over 2.5 crore unorganised workers have registered on the e-SHRAM portal, which is the national database on unorganised workers including migrant workers, construction workers, gig and platform workers.

robust, balanced **PRESSTRUST OF INDIA** and reforms, the statement said. DUBAI, OCTOBER 3

> on Sunday assured that every stakeholder's interest will be taken into consideration while framing the e-commerce policy which would be robust and in the interest of every Indian. Goyal, who heads commerce

> UNION MINISTER Piyush Goyal

and industry as well as consumer affairs ministries, also said that he welcomes all the feedback on the draft e-commerce rules but comments about interdepartmental issues on the draft rules are totally unwarranted.

His comments came following reports that the Department for Promotion of Internal Industry and Trade (DPIIT), the Corporate Affairs Ministry and the Niti Aayog have objected to some provisions of the draft e-

commerce rules The report citing an RTI reply has claimed that Niti Aayog has expressed apprehensions that the draft rules may harm ease of doing business. Goval said that the whole purpose of an interministerial consultation was to get views and comments from

different quarters. "I do believe that I welcome all the feedback and look for-

ward to a very robust and healthy consultations with all the stakeholders ... We are trying to balance everybody's interest and come up with a robust framework in which this (policy) can be implemented in the interest of all Indians," the minister told PTI. Chandigarh

## **BRIEFLY** —

## UK, India pact

London: The UK wants to strike agreements covering trade and security with India and other democratic nations in the strategic Indo-Pacific region to challenge the influence of authoritarian states, Britain's new Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said on Sunday.

## CoalMin plan

New Delhi: The Coal Ministry is planning to come up with a scheme to permit coal block allottees to surrender mines that they are not in a position to develop due to technical reasons.

## Google report

New Delhi: Google said in its monthly transparency report that it received 35,191 complaints from users and removed 93,550 pieces of content based on those complaints in August. PTI

## PRESSURED STAFF TO FAVOUR CHINA, ALLEGES REPORT

## 'Data-rigging: IMF board to grill investigators, Georgieva'

**DAVID LAWDER** WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 3

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund's executive board will intensify its probe of Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva this week by separately interviewing her and investigators who said she pressured World Bank staff to alter data to favour China, people with knowledge of the meetings said.

The board will question lawyers from WilmerHale firm on Monday about their World Bank investigation report, three people familiar with the plans said. The report alleged that Georgieva, as the bank's CEO in 2017, applied undue pressure on staff to alter data in the flagship "Doing Business" report to benefit China.

Georgieva, who has strongly



Kristalina Georgieva will appear in person before the board on Tuesday. Reuters file

denied the accusations, will appear in person before the board on Tuesday, the day she is to deliver a virtual speech about the IMF and World Bank annual meetings October 11-17, two of the sources

said. The interviews could prove pivotal in either building or eroding IMF shareholder support for

Thus far, the fund's most influential member governments, including top shareholder the US, have withheld public comment, preferring to let the review process play out. Britain last week said in a statement that it supports transparency in the matter.

The World Bank tasked WilmerHale with investigating the "Doing Business" data irregularities identified last year, issuing its findings implicating Georgieva just over two weeks ago. The investigation has been led by former US Attorney for the District of Columbia Ron Machen, who serves as co-chair of WilmerHale's white collar defense and investigations practice. REUTERS

## **China tightens** political control over internet giants

ASSOCIATED PRESS BEIJING, OCTOBER 3

THE RULING Communist Party is tightening political control over China's internet giants and tapping their wealth to pay for its ambitions to reduce reliance on US and European technology.

Anti-monopoly and data security crackdowns starting in late 2020 have shaken the industry, which flourished for two decades with little regulation. Investor iitters have knocked more than \$1.3 trillion off the total market value of e-commerce platform Alibaba, games and social media operator Tencent and other tech giants.

The party says anti-monopoly enforcement will be a priority through 2025. It says competition will help create jobs and raise living standards.

## ₹3,050-cr DoT penalty notice to Vi, Airtel may set off legal tussle

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE TELECOM sector is set to witness a fresh round of litigation between the operators and the department of telecommunications, thus upsetting the government's intent of putting in place a second set of reforms aiming to put an end to legal battles.

The industry — operators like Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea received a jolt when late evening on September 30, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) sent notices to them asking to pay a cumulative penalty of Rs 3,050 crore within three weeks.

This penalty was recommended by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) way back in 2016, ratified by the Digital Communications Commission, the highest inter-ministerial, pol-

On September 30, the DoT sent notices to the telcos asking to pay a cumulative penalty of ₹3,050 crore in 3 weeks

icy making body in the DoT in July 2019, but held back by the telecom minister since then.

Expressing its disappointment at the DoT's move and moving the legal forum for redressal as its next step, a Bharti Airtel spokesperson said, "We are deeply disappointed with the arbitrary and unfair demand based on Trai recommendations of 2016 relating to provisions of point of interconnect to a new operator," Cases relating to intra-circle roaming, one-time spectrum charges, etc between the operators and DoT are pending in various courts. FE

## Suarez leaves a message

Uruguayan's strike in Atletico's 2-0 win heaps more pain on Barca who let him go

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE** MADRID. OCTOBER 3

LUIS SUAREZ piled more misery on Barcelona by scoring in a 2-0 victory for Atletico Madrid on Saturday but Ronald Koeman insists he has the club's support to continue as coach.

Barcelona president Joan Laporta had said a few hours before kick-off that Koeman would continue as coach "regardless of the result" at the Wanda Metropolitano, but another limp display will put that commitment to the test over the two-week international

Koeman confirmed after the game he spoke to Laporta on Friday night and Saturday morning. He said that he welcomed the clarity over his future, which he believes will benefit the team. "Clarity is very important, for the confidence of the coach, for the players too, for them to know the coach is still here. He has made his decision, as he said this afternoon, so everything is perfect," said

Goal scorer Suarez put his hands together and looked up to the sky in what was initially a muted celebration, out of respect for his former club, where he spent six years and scored 198 goals. "(It was) out of respect, love, for the journey I had at Barca and for the period they're in at the moment, for the fans as well," said Suarez after the game.

But the Uruguayan also made a telephone gesture and appeared to aim it at Koeman, perhaps referencing the abrupt manner Barca's coach told him he was surplus to requirements at Camp Nou, just over a year ago. "That was for the people who think I'm still using the same number," said Suarez with a smile.

Thomas Lemar had already fired Atletico in front and, two down before half-time, Barcelona looked vulnerable to another hammering on the back of successive 3-0 defeats in the Champions League by Bayern Munich and Benfica.

They at least avoided more embarrassment in the second half and it remains to be seen now whether Laporta stays true to his word by giving Koeman more time to turn things around. Xavi Hernandez, Roberto Martinez and Andrea Pirlo have reportedly been the names under consideration as re-

However, it is possible Laporta has found none of them are keen, with Barcelona bottom of their Champions League group and restricted to a spending limit of 97 million euros by La Liga, only the seventh highest in the division.

Barca sit ninth, while Atletico's win takes them level on points with Real Madrid at the

They needed this result too, after a dis-



Suarez made a telephone gesture on scoring, but clarified it was not aimed at Koeman, who sacked him after a brief call. Reuters

**KEY RESULTS** 

**PREMIER LEAGUE** 

Man Utd 1 | 1 Everton

Liverpool 2 | 2 Man City

**LALIGA** 

**SERIE A** 

Bologna 3 | 0 Lazio

Torino 0 | 1 Juventus

Atletico coach Diego Simeone said:

It was the first time the Wanda

It was Felix's superb touch that created

"When the first half was over, I went over to

Joao and said: 'This is what I need from you.

Metropolitano had been full since March

2020 and the noise gave impetus to Atletico

the opening goal, a delightful shift away from

Ronald Araujo on the left wing opening the

whole pitch up in a moment. Felix played in-

side to Suarez, who fired first-time across to

Lemar and he finished into the top corner.

2 Inter Milan

Espanyol 2 1 Real Madrid

Atletico Madrid 2 | 0 Barcelona

Athletic Bilbao 1 0 Alaves

Sassuolo 1

This is what you have to do'."

Chelsea 3 | 1 Southampton

## City equalise twice to deny Liverpool

Liverpool: Manchester City came from behind twice to earn a 2-2 draw with Liverpool on Sunday in a pulsating Premier League encounter at Anfield. After struggling against a dominant City in the first half, Liverpool took the lead in the 59th minute when Sadio Mane confidently fired past goalkeeper Ederson. But City were on level terms 10 minutes later when Phil Foden drilled the ball into the far, bottom corner. Salah then restored Liverpool's lead with a stunning individual goal. Once again, though, City responded. Foden again finding space on the left and pulling the ball back to Kevin De Bruyne whose curling shot took a slight deflection off Joel Matip and beat keeper Alisson. REUTERS

appointing start to the season that had seen them win only two of their previous five games. Suarez might take the headlines but it was his partner Joao Felix who was arguably the star of the show, the youngster a menace in the first half and producing one of his best performances in

## FC Goa lay down marker with Durand Cup win

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** OCTOBER 3

IT WAS only a warm-up tournament but Sunday's Durand Cup final between this season's Indian Super League (ISL) favourites and I-League contenders has given plenty of talking points going into the beginning of the

FC Goa, the only undefeated team in the Durand Cup going into the final, maintained their 100 per cent record with a 1-0 win after extra-time over Mohammedan Sporting to be crowned champions of Asia's oldest Cup competition in front of a little more than 34,000 fans at Kolkata's Salt Lake Stadium.

There weren't many clear-cut chances -Sporting had a goal ruled out for an infringement in build-up play and Goa came everso-close in the final few seconds - in the regulation time of the scrappy, physical match But in the first half of the extra time, Goa skipper Edu Bedia curled in a beautiful freekick from roughly 25 yards out, which bounced awkwardly between the defence line and the goalkeeper and rolled into the Mohammedan Sporting net.

The goal handed Goa's Spanish coach Juan Ferrando his first title with the club after he took over last year. But Ferrando is shrewd enough not to get carried away with the result - even though it might be ideal preparation for the season - as much as the performance over the last couple of weeks.

Ferrando took over a strong team before the start of the previous season and after a slow start, has turned them into an even stronger unit. Their AFC Champions League campaign in June was a testament to that with Goa, the minnows of their group, conjuring up solid performances in the defence and midfield to steal points against more established teams from the continent.

Four months have passed since then, ar off-season longer than what Ferrando and his players would have been used to back home, so for Ferrando, the Durand Cup turned out to be an ideal tournament to prepare his side for what will once again be a tough ISL season inside a bio-secure bubble.

Goa were the pre-tournament favourites, fielding their strongest team with all players except those on national team duty for the SAFF Cup travelling to Kolkata. In the absence of Brandon Fernandes and Co., young forwards Devendra Murgaonkar and Muhammed Nemil made their presence felt, shining under the leadership of Bedia, the scorer of the goal that won them the title.

Bedia controlled the pace and possession in the midfield along with Alberto Noguera, as was expected from them, but performances by Murgaonkar, who scored five goals. and Nemil would be the biggest takeaways for Goa. Going by the early signs, Ferrando's Goa will remain one of the teams to beat in



FC Goa players celebrate after winning their first Durand Cup title. Durand Cup

In the first half of the extra time, Goa skipper Edu Bedia curled in a beautiful free-kick from roughly 25 yards out, which bounced awkwardly between the defence line and the goalkeeper and rolled into the Mohammedan Sporting net.

the new ISL season, which gets underway next month.

The same could be said of Mohammedan Sporting as well. The club has taken rapid strides in the last couple of years and their spectacular run in this competition is bound to raise the hopes of the team's fans, who filled the stands of the Salt Lake Stadium even though only 50 per cent of the actual capacity was allowed in due to Covid-19 protocols. Coach Andrey Chernyshov, who is on a multi-year contract, is relying heavily on Trinidad and Tobago attacker Marcus Joseph and midfielder Nicola Stojanovic for the I-League season but the performances of young players like Brandon Vanlalremdika and Azharuddin Mallick will have gotten their fan base excited.

On Sunday, Sporting ran out of steam after a long couple of weeks – and also the fact that the team is also participating in the Calcutta Football League simultaneously. They were second to most balls and had disciplinary issues, with three players -- Mallick, Stojanovic and Shaher Shaheen – getting booked in quick succession.

Sporting couldn't find their rhythm but the fact that they stretched an ISL team to extra time despite not being at their best will give Chernyshov, their Russian coach, a lot

## **BRIEFLY** -

## Indian women win Chess Worlds silver

Stiges: India clinched a silver medal after going down 0-2 to Russia in the final of the FIDE World Women's Team Chess Championship on Saturday. After losing the first match 1.5.-2-5 despite a brilliant win for Harika Dronavali on the board, the Indians were outclassed 3-1 in the second as a strong Russian team stormed to a title triumph. It was India's first ever medal in the world team chess championship. In the second match, Harika held Goryachkina to a draw as did R Vaishali (Elo 2149) against the higher rated Alexandra Kosteniuk (Elo 2517). However, Tania Sachdev and Mary Ann Gomes went down to higher rated Katernya Lagno and Polina Shuvalova to give Russia a comprehensive victory and the gold. Sachdev fought well before losing to Lagno in 53 moves and Gomes, who has been in good form throughout the tournament, succumbed to defeat in 48 moves against Shuvalova in a Sicilian Kann Variation game. Earlier, India lost the first match de-

spite Harika (Elo 2450) pulling off a superb win over Goryachkina (Elo 2520) on the first board despite the gulf in Elo ratings. Gomes drew against Alina Kashlinskaya on the fourth board.

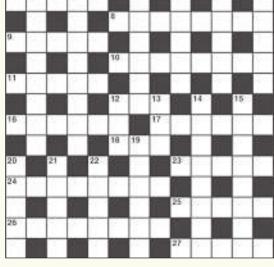
## Women's football team to play Tunisia

Dubai: After the 4-1 win over lowerranked United Arab Emirates to mark its first victory of the year, an upbeat Indian women's football team takes on Tunisia in another international friendly match on Monday. Manisha Kalyan, Pyari Xaxa, Sweety Devi and Anju Tamang scored for India on Saturday in the team's first overseas friendly since Thomas Dennerby took charge. The friendly match was a part of preparations for the AFC Asian Cup, which will be hosted by India in January-February.

## Silver for GM Erigaisi U21 Chess Open

Plovdiv: GM Arjun Erigaisi scored seven points from nine rounds to finish second in the U-21 Round Table Open Chess Championship which concluded here. The 18-year old Erigaisi finished equal on seven points with Russian GM Alexey Sarana but lost out on winning the top prize due to an inferior tie-break score.

### CROSSWORD 4551



### ACROSS

- True capital of Moroccan kingdom (5)
- 8 To each in turn it appears unfinished(8)
- 9 Attack! Throw a stone (5) 10 Light upon a record surplus (8)
- 11 A new taste put into words 12 Fondle a cat for example
- (3) 16 Measure that is of help to a sportsman(6) 17 Not well employed?
- 18 Born of woman (3) 23 Designed by Manet perhaps?
- 24 Shot by firing squad and
- carried out (8) 25 ABC is translated into computer language
- 26 Grows about ten different

JUMBLED WORDS

the answer for the given quip

From a small seed a

**NPIRT** 

**ERNTU** 

wines(8) 27 Man of affairs? (5)

- 2 Nobel prize winner of the naughty nineties? (8)
- 3 Speak falsely yet be quiet
- 4 Egg how nice it may be scrambled(6)
- Outrage the feelings with a mass of untidy hair (5)
- 6 Forgo a farewell gesture we hear(5)7 Listened to the sound of the
- cattle(5)
- 12 A bird cage (3) 13 Join in the festivities (3)
- 14 Lost despite great effort 15 Countries may share it
- between them (8) 19 Level with the Spanish team
- 20 Observes about ten genders
- 21 Type badly putting an extra 't'
- in 'trivial' (5)
- 22 Flinch though still game (5)

Solutions Crossword 4550: Across: 1 Adventures, 6 Epic, 10 Chair, 11 Eroticism, 12 Lifeless, 13 Pause, 15 Priests, 17 Siskins, 19 Reynard, 21 Gallant, 22 Paths, 24 Glissade, 27 Reasoning, 28 Urban, 29 Sane, 30 Changeless. **Down**: 1 Arch, 2 Viability, 3 Nurse, 4 Useless, 5 Egoists, 7 Poilu, 8 Compensate, 9 Disposal, 14 Spare parts, 16 Snapshot, 18 Inaudible, 20 Dogfish, 21 Going on, 23 Train, 25 Sauce, 26 Onus.

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

### **OVER THE HEDGE** by Michael Fry & T Lewis







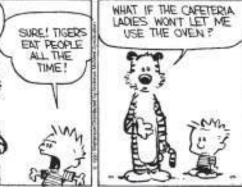
### **CALVIN & HOBBES** by Bill Watterson





OT UOY THAW I OR.





### MARVIN by Tom Armstrong







3 9 1 5 6 8 7 2 4

### Difficulty Level 4s Instructions

DOKU

To solve a Sudoku puzzle. every digit from 1 to 9  $must\,appear\,in\,each\,of\,the$ nine vertical columns, in each of rowsar nine bo

### Difficu 1s = Ve 3s = Me5s = Ve

Genius

f the nine horizontal nd in each of the oxes.	9 4	2		6	5	
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	8	1	5			6
ilty Level		5	9		14	П
ery easy; 2s = Easy; edium; 4s = Hard;			8	7	Т	П
ery Hard; 6s =		4				2

3 8

9

8

3 2

#### 4 9 1 6 7 3 5 8 **SOLUTION SUDOKU** 7 3 5 2 4 7 2 5 4 7 6 1 2 9 5 8 6 3 2 8 7 4 9 6 1 174956832 2 1 3 4 7 5 9 8 6

### **DAY TODAY**

number of planets

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) This is one of those rare weeks when a

particular alignments. It will be worth your while making plans and make important arrangements. But, then, that already.

### TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21) The wise person, it is

said rules their stars. The best way to do this now is to anticipate future developments and, for you, this means looking ahead and taking evasive action to head off an approaching

### and choose with great care in affairs of the heart. GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) $According \, to \,$

personal confrontation, Pick

tradition this is a strange time of year adverse circumstances you

have much to learn. Indeed, you may even gain from being forced to abandon or modify your normal routine. There is a your plans to yourself, just for now.

#### CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Overall, the planets will maintain a balance of friendly and stressful aspects to your sign this week. Just as

Mercury removes itself, making it harder for you to reach agreement, magnificent Venus will step in and implement improvements in your social life.

#### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) Domestic tensions look set to ease,

possibly because you have now made, or are about to make, an important choice. You will be happy just as long as friends and relatives concur with your decision. On the other hand, an employer or colleague now needs your trust and understanding.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23) Over the next few



days you may be faced with your last chance to settle a business arrangement or

finalise joint spending plans. Circumstances will change very soon, perhaps after a friend moves the goal posts. Just how you react will be very much a matter for you, and partners should keep quiet.

### BY PETER VIDAL

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

your business

Take a careful look at

arrangements and commitments. Friends or partners will soon be asking and it is essential that you have all the figures straight. Even your romantic desires will be

#### dominated by what you can and can't afford. SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22) You've been thinking long and

hard about what the next move should be. Until now, it has seemed likely that you would have to go it alone, but all that will change when a new and willing partner arrives on the scene. The chance of a cash bonus will excite your hopes.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22) Whatever you feel about life, your mood will have completely altered by the end of the week. In the meantime, pay detailed

attention to your financial affairs. You are not alone in feeling the squeeze, so never imagine that you have to face such questions CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

#### You pride yourself on your honesty, but over the next few days it will become increasingly clear that you had

better keep certain items of information to yourself. Discretion may be the best course, but then that always comes naturally to any true Capricorn.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 20) This may be an increasingly sociable time.



to acknowledge those wonderful achievements for which you are responsible PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) This could be an

### important time professionally, even though your life may be bedevilled by the need to

make decisions. The trouble is that each alternative has its own attractions, yet there is no way you can have your cake and eat it. You'll have to make a hard

Chandigarh



**ERUHMY** 

**IINSGK** 

or when he edges

## Maxwellness package

RCB breathe easy with play-off spot in bag courtesy Australian's mini batting masterclass; Chahal takes 3



Glenn Maxwell's 33-ball 57 was the Australian's third consecutive half-century. ipt20.com

SYNOPSIS: Chahal gives another reminder and Maxwell plays a gem as RCB beat Punjab to seal play-off spot

**NIHAL KOSHIE** 

CAPTAIN VIRAT Kohli kept his cool despite the moments where one would be forgiven for biting nails. His bowlers, led by leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, delivered smartly to win a close game against Punjab Kings at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

The six-run win sealed Royal Challengers Bangalore's play-off spot while the Kings' reputation for freezing when victory was within grasp was enhanced.

The one player whose dinner Kohli should pay for tonight is Australian maverick Glenn Maxwell, who played one of his better T20 innings on a slow wicket.

The strategy for the openers from both the Powerplay before trying to bat efficiently as the bowlers slowed down the game with variations of pace. KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal followed this plan to a tee, mixing aggression with caution during the chase of 165, the highest target at Shariah this season. Just when they looked on course for a 100-run partnership, Rahul was caught at short third-man when trying to hit left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed down the track in the 11th over.

The dismissal was the opening RCB and Kohli were looking for, and despite Agarwal keeping his team in the chase, the momen-

POINTS TABLE						
	M	W	L	NRR	Pts	
CSK	12	9	3	+0.829	18	
DC	12	9	3	+0.551	18	
RCB	12	8	4	-0.157	16	
KKR	13	6	7	+0.294	12	
PBKS	13	5	8	-0.241	10	
RR	12	5	7	-0.337	10	

-0.453

12 2 10 -0.475 4

### Chahal's reminder

RCB still needed someone to strike multiple blows and Chahal provided the breakthroughs. He dismissed Nicholas Pooran, the out of form No.3, who tried to hit himself out

12 5 7

In the 16th over, with the game still evenly poised, Agarwal tried force the pace sween but got an edge which landed in Mohammed Siraj's hands at short-third man. Sarfaraz Khan, the former Under-19 World Cup star, was foxed. The leg-break from Chahal was tossed up and turned, beat Khan's bat and knocked over his off-stump.

Chahal's 3 for 29, including two wickets in four balls, wrested the momentum back to the Bangalore-franchise.

Aiden Markram and Shahrukh Khan used the long handle but Siraj and Harshal Patel bowled two tight overs at the end to ensure RCB had sealed a play-off spot.

Like the Punjab openers, RCB's Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal got their side to a good start



Yuzvendra Chahal was the pick of the bowlers for Bangalore, snaring three

with 56 for no loss in the first six. Punjab Kings started with the off-break of Markram and the batsmen found it difficult to time the ball. Straightaway it was clear that batsmen would have to bide their time but the early exchanges were a mixed bag for both teams.

Punjab spinners Ravinder Bishnoi and Harpreet Brar slowed down the scoring rate before the crafty Australian medium pacer Moises Henriques used clever changes of pace to further stifle batsmen and pierced out three wickets, including those of Kohli and Padikkal.

Their most expensive overseas player, Maxwell, produced a power-hitting display worthy of his moniker - 'The Big Show' and took the pitch out of the equation.

Dan Christian, sent out at No.3 to breathe life into the innings, tried to do just that by slashing the first ball he faced and was caught at point. RCB were in a spot of bother and needed someone to break the shackles.

### Maxwell gem

Their most expensive overseas player. Maxwell, produced a power-hitting display worthy of his moniker - 'The Big Show' - and took the pitch out of the equation. Maxwell's has an on-side hitting arch. When the spinners were a touch short, he targeted the midwicket region Maxwell was at his best when RCB were under the pump. He picked the googly early and was prepared to wait for the ball. He also brought out the switch hit when Bishnoi tried to cramp him for room on the on-side. He didn't shy away from targeting the bowler straight down the ground. His 57 off 33 along with AB de Villiers, who played second fiddle with 23 off 18, gave RCB a match-winning total.

BRIEF SCORES: RCB 164/7 in 20 overs (Maxwell 57 off 33; Henriques 3/12, Shami 3/39) beat PBKS 158/6 in 20 overs (Agarwal 57 off 42; Chahal 3/29) by 6 runs

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

## Blame not the bat

The moment after Virat Kohli found his stumps disturbed—the rattle of leather on enough, he didn't turn back-he glared suspiciously, and fiercely, at his bat (face). So scything a stare that the bat would have crumbled and minced into the sand. As if the willow was the reason he could not launch the ball into

Sharjah's Sunday traffic, which he had already managed once in his rickety knock. Poor bats, it's often the object of ire, whenever a batter fails to connect or connects feebly,

the ball. A fall guy, for no fault of its. The Kohli shot itself was a classic instance-a hideous un-Kohli hack on a track that lacked pace. Moreover, the ball had kept a trifle low. He could have blamed himself, or the pitch, or even the chirping keeper. But to blame a chunky piece of wood, their best

> their soul or soulmate), seems an instinct. If only the bat could talk, or at least stare back at their angry handlers. Or if wood could turn into a

## Braced for impact

Clenched jaw, eyes shut, face turned the other way. **Devdutt** Padikkal was braced for impact. Sunil Gavaskar in commentary was unforgiv-

ing-criticising the youngster

for not being brave enough to face the ball. But then again, this was a more unconventional delivery from Mohammed Shami. The eighth ball of the RCB innings, Shami's release and pitch suggested he was going for a bouncer. And the southpaw with the bat read as much and started to duck out of the way. Only, the ball refused to rise. Padikkal, already halfway down, saw the low bounce and tried to get as close to the surface as possible to stay away from the ball's trajectory but wasn't sure if he had ducked enough. Perhaps instinctively, he turned the other way, expecting a blow anywhere between his shoulder to the top of his helmet. But the ball had enough juice in it to go over and nestle in KL Rahul's gloves.

### Handshake: Then, now

friend (to some

Eoin Morgan was around at the nonstrikers' to see Dinesh Karthik finish it off for KKR who won by 6 wickets. On the other

side of his commiserations for losing was Kane Williamson, who would smile his lowerjaw smile politely, shake his head in stoic

acceptance and gently ease off proceedings, like his usual nice self. Not that Kane isn't able to bubble in all the excitement that plays out on the field. His outfield catch running back earlier brought something resembling a shoulder Ketchup Song jig with Jason Roy. But a loss in the low-scoring game on a slow wicket, even as things went into the last over, put him in a familiar downer of a result, as SRH is all but out of contention. Later he would be seen post the game chatting away gleefully with DK and Morgan, doing another animated upper body jive, narrating some source of amusement. The world will stay hung up on that 50 over dramatic final that the national team of England whisked away from NZ. The two captains remain affable totems of normalcy, as if to say, it's just a game of

## No spike in joy for KL

Punjab Kings are clutching at straws in the business end of the the television umpire has not helped matters. RCB opener Devdutt Padikkal tried to run down a faster one from Ravinder spinner Bishnoi past point and Punjab Kings used the Snickometer showed a faint spike as

the ball passed the glove but the on-field umpire was told to stick to his decision. Punjab captain **KL Rahul**, clearly upset,



about the spike. But the his point, the more hopeless his pleas were getting. Rahul had a decent game with the bat, till he perished trying to up the pace. Later as his team floundered during the chase he wore a sheepish smile. Being the Orange Cap holder should bring the opener

walked up to the um-

pire and gestured

joy, but instead he has been left to stew in the collective batting failure.

## Match drawn, India take honours in day-night Test

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** OCTOBER 3

AUSTRALIA AND India settled for a draw in the women's pink-ball test at the Carrara Oval on Sunday in a game that fluctuated for four days but failed to produce a result due to rain. The match was set up nicely on the final day after Ellyse Perry (68 not out) and Ashleigh Gardner (51) helped Australia save the follow-on, with captain Meg Lanning declaring on 241-9 and handing India a 136run lead in the hope of forcing a result.

India openers Smriti Mandhana (31) and Shafali Verma (52) impressed again as they propelled the touring side to 135-3, setting Australia 271 to chase with 32 overs left in the match. The hosts, however, could reach only 36-2 in 15 overs before both captains shook hands for a draw.

"Without the weather we would have got a result in four days. We certainly came to win as did India. India played really well and put us on the back foot, we had to fight it out. They ran in hard and gave it their all," Lanning said.

An outright result was always in doubt after bad weather interrupted play on the opening two days. India skipper Mithali Raj was happy with her team's performance, calling it better than the away win against

'Against the best sides, definitely yes.

(Against) Australia this is the best game we've played. But in 2014, with eight debutants winning a Test in England against England, who had just won the Ashes. That was also very close. That was pretty great. The girls really put up a great show," she replied asked about her personal favourite.

She also hailed opener Smriti Mandhana, who hit a ton in the first innings and said "Her hundred was fabulous."

Mandhana was named player of the match for her excellent innings of 127. She had survived at the personal score of 80 when she sliced a full Ellyse Perry delivery straight to Beth Mooney at point but the bowler overstepped.

"Lucky with that no-ball on 80. That sort of cleared my mind after that I've got a chance I've to make it count," Mandhana said. "It's definitely in the top three (asked to rate this hundred). First time playing a day-night Test, really happy that I gave good pace (start) to the team. Most nervous night I have ever had - after the first day."

The sides meet in the first of three Twenty20s at the same venue on Thursday. BRIEF SCORES: India Women: 377 for 8 declared in 145 overs and 135/3 in 37 overs (Shafali Verma 52; Ashleigh Gardner 1/21, Sophie Molineux 1/23) drew with Australia Women: 241 for 9 declared in 96.4 overs (Ellyse Perry 68, Jhulan Goswami 2/33, Pooja Vastrakar 3/49) and 36/2 in 15 overs.

### **SYNOPSIS:** Gill shows will, spinners show skills. SRH roll down the hill

SANDIPG

WITH EVERY game, KKR is hurtling from strength to strength. After unearthing a new batting hero in Venkatesh Iyer, they stumoled on a missing block in their playoff pursuit, Shakib Al Hasan, who with Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarty restricted SRH to 115. Contrarily, with every outing, SRH's vulnerabilities are exposed one after the other.

### Gill's will

It would be an innings Shubman Gill would keep close to his heart not only for his eye-lighting stroke-play but also for the resolve he showed in negotiating a tricky middle phase of the innings. He set off smoothly, crunching Jason Holder down the ground before fleecing Umran Malik through point, but lost the impetus midway through the knock. After racing to 23 off 20 balls, he eked out only three runs in the next 10.

In the past, he would have panicked and done something silly. But here, he rode the storm without any fuss, seeing out Rashid Khan and an inspired Siddharth Kaul, before he latched onto Jason Holder and Malik, smacking them for a brace of boundaries each. The twitchy equation, 65 off 54 balls,



KKR opener Shubman Gill paced his innings perfectly

dropped to a manageable 44 from 42 balls. The strokes he unfurled were instructive of his cricketing acumen. He didn't look to manufacture a stroke or resort to non-percentage ones. But just waited for the bowlers to err on the shorter or fuller side, and when they did, he turned the heat on.

His exit —after 57 off 51 balls—did induce momentary panic, more so after Nitish Rana followed him after a laboured 25 off 33 balls. But the serene Dinesh Karthik soaked the pressure and wrapped up the match with a four through deep mid-wicket, with just three balls of the last over remaining.

Spinners' skill

With win over SRH, Knights at the end of the tunnel

In Sunil Narine, Varun Chakravarthy and Shakib Al Hasan, Kolkata Knight Riders have the most distinctive, as well as frightening, spin triumvirate in the league. The threesome wound up the dazed Sunrisers Hyderabad in a messy tangle of knots — their 12 overs combined cost just 58 runs, a bulk of those from the frenetic six-hitting of Abdul Samad, traded three wickets and piled on 45 dot balls (of 72 balls!).

Two of them come with the label mystery spinners, though in this day and age, no mystery seems mysterious enough. Everybody knows what they bowl and how they bowl, yet everybody seems confounded when countering them and therein lies perhaps their mystery. Chakravarty, perceptibly, is the most expansive of the lot, his repertoire boasting all the new-age weaponry of T20 cricket —from the carrom ball to googly, from off-break to leg-breaks. Just watch him on a loop and you understand how cricket has changed. Of course, he is no magician to bowl all these balls without a discernible change in his action, angle of delivery and release point.

Yet, this IPL he has been near decipherable, treated with wide-eyed curiosity and respect. Even Kane Williamson played him with respect - a nervy run of three balls. Later, he had Jason Holder caught in the deep, though Samad blasted three sixes to spoil his figures (yet, reads an impressive 4-

Once upon a time, Narine too indulged

in variations. These days, he keeps himself to off-spinners, some that slide into the right-handers and some over-spun so that it would bounce awkwardly and the one that slithers away.

Besides that, it's all about the change of pace and trajectory. The flatter path strips batsmen of time to step down and heave him over his head. The change of pace keeps them from premeditating, especially the sweep and the reverse-sweep. In the UAE leg, he has conceded just 6.04 runs an over while nabbing seven wickets in six games. SRH didn't give him a wicket, but in the bargain, had to settle for 12 runs in his four

The third member of the group, the rarely-used Shakib, is a more conventional bowler, a left-arm orthodox bowler, sharp and subtle to prosper in all three formats. In T20s, he hardly ever flights the ball or turns the ball away from the right-hander. He mostly peddles the low-flung, more roundarm arm-ball and the brisker, fuller-length balls. Like, Narine, it's difficult to get under him and hit over the top and didn't leak a single boundary. Not to forget his effervescent fielding - SRH's backbreaking wicket of Williamson with a direct-hit—and his understated batting.

**BRIEF SCORES:** SRH 115/8 in 20 overs (Williamson 26 off 21; Southee 2/26, Chakravarthy 2/26, Mavi 2/29) lost to KKR 119/4 in 19.4 overs (Gill 57 off 51, Rana 25 off 33; Holder 2/32) by six wickets

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Footprints

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countries

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Utkrisht Sansthan Vishwakarma Award-2020 by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)

KIIT-Technology Business Incubator (TBI) granted 'Centre of Excellence' by Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India

Quality Council of India - DL Shah **Quality Silver Award** 

Times B-School Survey 2020: KIIT School of Management Ranked 2nd in BBA

Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF) and Menon Institute of Legal

Advocacy and Training (MILAT)

enabled Green Campus

90

2020

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Ranked 52" among all Government and private Universities in India (NIRF India Rankings)

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Kalinga Institute of Dental Sciences (KIDS), Kalinga Institute of Nursing Sciences (KINS),

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Declared Deemed University by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India (Youngest Deemed University In the country - Limca Book of Records)

2004

Took shape as an Institution of Higher Learning Engg., MBA & MCA Programmes started

## **Global Recognition**

KIIT has entered into academic tie-ups with 195 international universities and institutions to enrich the student experience, facilitate faculty growth and contributions, and enhance the impact of research. It is also a member of prominent national and international university networks such as:

International Association of Universities (IAU) | Association of Indian Universities (AIU) | Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) | University Mobility of Asia and the Pacific (UMAP) | International Association of University Presidents (IAUP) | Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP) | International Institute of Education (IIE), New York | United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) | Eurasian Silk Road Universities Consortium (ESRUC)

> University of Compassion & Humanity

Student-friendly Campus

**Best Practices & Innovation** 

Best in **Digital Teaching-Learning**  Communitybased University

University

#### Ranked 801-1000 by Times Higher Ranked No. 1 Deemed University in **Education World University Rankings 2022** Odisha and Eastern India

Ranked 201-300 by Times Higher **Education Impact Rankings 2021** 

> Ranked 21st among all Government and private Universities & among Top 10 Law Schools in India (NIRF India Rankings)

Rated 5 Star institution by the QS Stars Rating System

Ranked 251-300 in the Emerging Economies University Rankings by Times Higher Education

KIIT-Technology Business Incubator (TBI) Ranked No. 1

Bioincubator in private sector by BioSpectrum

Institution of Eminence' tag by Govt. of India

Internationalization Strategies Advisory Service (ISAS)

Ranked 31" among all Government

and private Universities in India (NIRF India Rankings)

Ranked 301+ in Times Higher Education Young University Rankings

Academic Conferences

KIIT has been organizing

academic conferences of national

and international significance

since its inception. It has also organized a few prestigious international conferences.

-99th Indian Science Congress

(2012)

-All-India Seminar on Global Legal

Education (2015)

-69th All India Commerce

Conference (2019) -92nd Indian Economic

Association (IEA) Conference

(2010)

-World Congress of Poets (2019)

and many more

**Unmatched Exposure** 

Under Nobel Lecture Series, 22

Nobel Laureates have delivered lectures at KIIT.

KIIT has produced three

Olympians (Tokyo Olympics

2020) and hundreds of

international level sports talents.

Taking advantage of KIIT's

academic collaborations, a large number of students take

admission in top universities of

the world every year.

Besides top-notch campus

placement, KIIT students have

a very successful track record

in prestigious exams like IAS,

Indian Engineering Services

(IES), Odisha Judicial Services (OJS), GATE, etc.

Fully wi-fi,

fully air-conditioned & fully

residential campus

Ranked 2" in Innovation among Private Universities (ARIIA Rankings, Govt. of India)

Badge from the International Association of Universities (IAU)

Universities in India (NIRF India Rankings) National Award for KIIT-Technology Business Incubator (TBI) from Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India

Ranked 49" among all Government and private

IET, UK Accreditation

'Category A' Status by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India Tier 1 Accreditation (Washington Accord) by National Board of Accreditation (NBA), AICTE

> More Schools set up -School of Fashion Technology, School of Film & TV Production, School of Mass Communication

Reaccredited in 'A Grade' by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), UGC

Accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), UGC Accredited by National Board of Accreditation (NBA), AICTE

## Campus Placement

Placement is one of the key advantages that KIIT offers, KIIT has been maintaining a very successful track record in campus placement since inception. Despite the prevailing pandemic situation, placement of 2020 and 2021 batches has been excellent. In the ongoing campus placement drive for 2022 batch students, 1500 students have already bagged jobs on 'Day Zero'. The highest salary is Rs. 40 lakh p.a., while the average salary is Rs. 7

> Multi-cultural University

Multi-disciplinary

**Fulfilling Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** 



Chandigarh

25 years as an institution, 18 years as a university

KIIT (Deemed to be University) has only one permanent campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It has no other campus / off campus any where else in the country and globe. https://twitter.com/KIITUniversity https://www.facebook.com/KIITUniversity https://www.instagram.com/KIITUniversity