JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

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

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

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

FIRs registered against Minister's son, unidentified miscreants

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021, KOLKATA, LATE CITY, 14 PAGES

ASAD REHMAN & MANISH SAHU

LAKHIMPUR KHERI, LUCKNOW,

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

Near the site of the incident in Tikunia, farm protesters arrived in large numbers throughout Monday from different parts of the state and Punjab, Haryana and Uttarakhand. But the spotlight was on Bhartiya Kisan Union CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

VIOLENT HARVEST

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

ASAD REHMAN. MAULSHREE SÉTH & **MANISH SAHU**

LAKHIMPUR KHERI, LUCKNOW,

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

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



A video grab of one of the SUVs hitting the protesters

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

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

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

On the ground, The Indian Express spoke to several eyewitnesses who described scenes CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Priyanka to Akhilesh, Yogi govt barricades Opposition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 4

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



SP's Akhilesh Yadav was

Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra on Sunday. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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

RAVISHTIWARI, LIZ MATHEW & **HARIKISHAN SHARMA**

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

"Raita phail gaya hai," (the ness has spread) said one Cabinet Minister in the Yogi government. Another Minister expressed his anguish at the lead-CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PROFILES OF THE

DEAD PAGE 10

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 claimed owned his London resi-

RITU SARIN

Express reveals.

Loomba.

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

WITHOUT MENTIONING his mil-

itary credentials while doing so,

a top former Army officer incor-

porated a Seychelles International

Business Company (IBC) shortly

after the 2016 release of the

Panama Papers shone the spot-

light on secret global money

flows, an investigation of records

of Pandora Papers by The Indian

(retired) Rakesh Kumar Loomba

registered Rarint Partners Ltd in

Seychelles along with son Rahul

Gen Loomba held the sensitive

post of Director General of

Military Intelligence (DGMI).

Prior to that, he was the General

Officer Commanding of 3 Corps.

In December 2016, Lt General

When he retired in 2010, Lt

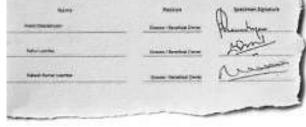
PANDORA PAPERS - PART 2

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

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

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





Signatures of the three linked to the Seychelles firm

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

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

JAY MAZOOMDAAR NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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



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

dence, belong to a Trust in which CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

MULTI-AGENCY INVESTIGATION BY ED, RBI AND FIU

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

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

Investigative Journalists (ICIJ).

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

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

The Ministry said the Government has taken note of these developments and relevant agencies would undertake investigation in these cases and appropriate action would be taken as per law. It said it will engage with foreign jurisdictions during the probe. "With a view to ensure effec-

tive investigation in these cases, the Government will also proactively engage with foreign jurisdictions for obtaining information in respect of relevant taxpayers/entities. Government of India is also part of an Inter-Governmental Group that ensures collaboration and experience sharing to effectively

address tax risks associated with such leaks.' While this is the eighth leak reported by this newspaper with ICIJ, the government said that

following earlier leaks such as HSBC, Panama Papers and ise Papers, the CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Global outage shuts down FB, Instagram, **WhatsApp**

PRANAV MUKUL NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

LATE MONDAY, Facebook and the social media apps it owns, WhatsApp and Instagram, suffered a major global outage, including in India, lasting several The outage, which was not re-

press, around 12,30 am IST, potentially prevented billions of users of these apps across the globe from accessing, sending or receiving messages, on these platforms. In a tweet, Facebook wrote, "We're aware that some people

stored till the time of going to

are having trouble accessing our apps and products. We're working to get things back to normal as quickly as possible, and we apologize for any inconvenience"

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

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

The Facebook family of apps suffered a major outage earlier

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

SUKRITA BARUAH NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

THE BA (Hons) programme in

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

The college has 20 first-year seats in this course, and Delhi University cannot under the rules turn away any student who CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

Hyderabad.

DEVENDRA PANDEY

talking about Sunday night.

etable seller, clocked 150 kmph

on his IPL debut for Sunrisers

touch that magical mark -

Javagal Srinath, Varun Aaron and

Jasprit Bumrah are among those

Umran isn't the first Indian to

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4



Cutoff capacity

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

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

KARUNJIT SINGH & **ANIL SASI** NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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



UNION POWER MINISTER

of the fuel gap is still likely to be a "touch and go" affair and that is bracing for a trying CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

21-year-old from Jammu clocks stunning 150-kmph on IPL debut

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

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

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

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

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

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 Kolkata

this year in March, when the services were down for almost who have been there before -45 minutes. Prior to this, in 2020 but cricket's obsession with CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 young tearaways and the 150

ing buzz around the 21-year-old. It's been quite a journey for India's latest pace sensation, and IT'S MONDAY morning, but one that had his father Abdul Jammu's Gujjar Nagar can't stop Mallik worried for a while. Occasionally, when Umran That's when Umran Mallik, would step out to play tennisthe son of a local fruit and vegball cricket at night, the father

milestone has triggered a grow-

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

Sometimes, I used to hide and

see whether he was actually playing or not," Abdul, now an elated father, tells The Indian From being a net bowler for

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

ney had begun quite a while back



Umran plays for Sunrisers Hyderabad. Express

♦TheIndian **EXPRESS**

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM



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

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

EXPRESS TECH



APPLE IPHONE 13 REVIEW

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

EXPLAINED



HOW CENTRE CAN GET AROUND MSP DEMAND

Legal guarantee of MSP continues to be bone of contention

EXPRESS AUDIO

Examining Lakhimpur Kheri violence

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

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

FROM PAGE ONE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Meanwhile, BJP MP from Pilibhit Varun Gandhi cautioned that using "pejorative and demeaning" language against the "struggling farmers" is "unfair and cruel" and that it could lead to "further reaction among the people who at the moment are very peace-

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

Speaking to The Indian Express, Gandhi said that violence erupted after an individual or a group acted in criminal negligence and the administra-

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

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

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

must be done once the situation calms down a bit so that because of politics, the situation isn't inflamed," he said. Earlier in the day, in his letter to the CM, the Pilibhit MP called the "cruel incident of mowing down" as "heart

wrenching" and that it had triggered anguish and anger among people across the country. He said there should be a compensation of Rs 1 crore to the next of each victim's fam-

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

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

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

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

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

mocking the protesters. "Yeh desh kisanon ka desh hai. Hum bhi kisan hai, aap bhi kisan hain...Agar hum utar bhi iaate to unko bhagne ka raasta nahin milta.. Peeth-piche kaam karne wale log...Aise 10-15 log (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait who

overnight at a college ground. Tikait and Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar were the only leaders allowed to enter the area amid a clampdown on the entry

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

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

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

shor machate hain... poorey desh

mein phail jana chahiye tha agar

krishi kanoon kharab hota (This

country is of farmers. I am also

a farmer, you are also a farmer...

If I got down to action then they

would not have even found a

way to run away. There are

about 10-15 people, who work

behind your back... if the farm

laws were bad, the protests

would have spread across the

country)," Mishra is heard say-

adds: "Aise logon ko kehna

chahta hun ki sudhar jao, nahin

to samna karwake hum aapko

sudhaar denge, do minute lagega

sirf(I want to say to such people

to mend their ways, otherwise

I will make them face me and

set them right in two min-

Minister during his visit to the

Pallia area on September 25

that angered us," said Dilbagh

Singh, who heads the Lucknow

division of the Bhartiya Kisan

police sources said, tensions

rose as an FIR was registered

against Harieet Singh, a 25-

vear-old Sikh vouth for al-

legedly posting objectionable

comments against Mishra in

response to the speech. "All of

this set the stage for the protest

on October 3 against a visit by

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav

Prasad Maurya to Banveerpur,"

cal intelligence unit had alerted

about the protest against

Maurya. "Force was deployed

at the spot where the farmers

were protesting," said ADGP

Maurya's helicopter to land on

a local ground and got ready

with black flags there. Around

2.30 pm, we were told that

Maurya would come in a car, so

we decided to end the pro-

gramme," said Gurmeet Singh,

SUVs sped out from

Banveerpur. One of the cars be-

longed to Minister Mishra's

representative Deepak Talwar,

another to Mishra's son Ashish,

and the third was new with no

number plate. After they ran

over our people, they realised

they had been surrounded by

farmers. The Minister's son ran

'That was when the three

"We were expecting

(Lucknow zone), S N Sabat.

Police sources said their lo-

the police officer said.

In the days that followed,

"It was this threat from the

Warning the protesters, he

ing in the video.

utes)."

Union (BKU).

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

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

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

After the meeting, the bodies of the four farmers killed were taken to the district head-On Monday, official sources

named the other four killed as Hari Om Mishra (35), the Minister's driver; Shyam Sunder (40) and Shubham Mishra (26), local BIP leaders; and Raman Kashyap (30), a journalist. Later, speaking to The Indian

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

farmers had alleged that one of the cars that hit the crowd was driven by Union MoS Mishra's son, Ashish Mishra. The Minister had denied this and said the car was being driven by the family's driver. He said that "assailants armed with swords and sticks" attacked the occupants of the vehicles and killed four persons, in-

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

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

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

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

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

Rs 1 crore to their families.

Vadra, the Congress general

secretary and UP in-charge,

was detained early Monday in

Sitapur district, along with for-

mer Haryana MP Deepender

Hooda, under Section 151 (to

prevent commission of cogniz-

able offences). Videos went vi-

ral of Vadra arguing with po-

licemen late on Sunday night,

asking them to show a warrant

for stopping her. She later re-

leased a statement, saying

"When force is used, it means

the government has lost the

moral right. I left home not to

commit some crime but to

meet the families of victims... If there was something wrong,

where was the order to stop me

stopped in Lucknow, and sat

outside his residence in protest,

before being detained for a

couple of hours. Agitated party

workers reportedly manhan-

dled a police official, while a

police vehicle was set ablaze by

not letting them move out of

their homes. Mayawati said

BSP MP Satish Chandra Mishra

was stopped, with officials say-

ing prohibitory orders in

Lakhimpur Kheri did not allow

anyone to visit till the situation

was normal. She said that given

the high-profile accused, jus-

tice to the victims "does not

seem possible", and demanded

PAC 22 Battalion guesthouse in

Vadra is being kept at the

a judicial inquiry.

BSP leaders said police were

unidentified persons.

Akhilesh, the SP chief, was

or a warrant?"

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

By evening, several protest-

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

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

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

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

upon... Is a visa required to go

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

Mallikarjun Kharge said Vadra was "harassed, pushed, roughed up". "The country is now in the grip of an intolerant, government."Congress general

whom Mishra directly reports, had "not uttered a word on this cold-blooded murder".

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

Commissioner D K Thakur said they would take action if the sub-inspector allegedly manhandled by SP workers came forward. Also detained

Akhilesh's uncle Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party chief Shivpal Singh Yadav. Bhim Army

Chandrashekhar Azad said he was detained in Sitapur, though he eventually made his way to Lakhimpur Kheri. On Monday night, AAP MP

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

ers for trying to go to Lakhimpur Kheri, state minister and spokesperson Sidhartha Nath Singh accused them of "political tourism" and said they "should have waited

WITH INPUTS FROM ENS,

Coal shortage beyond usual,

situation touch and go: Power Minister

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

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

stations account for nearly 70% of the electricity generation. India's coal crisis comes

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

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

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

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

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

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

21-year-old from Jammu clocks stunning 150kmph on IPL debut

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

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

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

Global outage alone, four major WhatsApp

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

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

DU college meets the cutoff criteria.

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

The BA (Hons) Political

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

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

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

tions and I have approved around 100 so far. I believe we have received around 20 applications with 100% from the Kerala Board," Principal Bijayalaxmi Nanda said. SGTB Khalsa College, which

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

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

The college has kept high cutoffs for several courses in the first list – 99% or higher in six arts, commerce, and science

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

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

FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com

munity that has laid their lives tion to protect our nation and they are a community that is completely selfless in the way

Day after: Tikait mediates

played a key role in facilitating the post-mortem of the four farmers who were killed after protesters kept the bodies

of Opposition leaders and Internet services.

to announce a "truce".

"A judicial committee

away through the fields," said Inderpal Singh, a farmer from

the Pallia area. Asked about the violence that followed in which four others were killed, including the Minister's driver, Inderpal said: "How do you deal with such goondas? There was so much anger among the people. I can't say whether it was right or wrong, but what do you do when someone runs over your brothers?" Officials confirmed that farm leader Virk was seri-

ously injured. "The protesters indulged in vandalism and beat up some people, resulting in four other deaths. According to preliminary reports, the violence lasted for about half-an-hour," the senior police officer said. Police have denied reports of

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

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

Priyanka to Akhilesh, Yogi govt barricades Opposition

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

demands -- removal of Union

minister Mishra, arrest of those

responsible for the farmer

deaths, and compensation of

Sitapur, allegedly under house arrest, with Congressmen sitting outside in protest. A video showed her sweeping the floor of the guesthouse. Rahul Gandhi tweeted: "Priyanka, I know you won't step back -- they are scared by

Other Congress leaders also claimed they had been put under "house arrest", including Salman Khurshid and Pramod Baghel shared the letter is-

sued by the administration instructing that his flight not be allowed to land at Lucknow. He asked how Section 144 in Lakhimpur Kheri could be used to restrain him in Lucknow. Adding that Vadra had been "manhandled", he said: "Fundamental rights in a democracy are being infringed

to UP?'

Senior Congress leader

autocratic, anti-farmer and anti-people secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal asked why Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, to

Akhilesh

Lucknow

Criticising Opposition leadfor at least 24 hours".

Another

standoff between

Dhankhar

and govt

ister oath to Mamata Banerjee

Banerjee has won the

Bhabanipur Assembly bypoll by

a huge margin of 58,835 votes

and broke her own record from

the constituency set in 2011. The

TMC bagged two other

Assembly seats of Jangipur and

The request from the state

government was made after it

was learnt that Dhankhar had

withdrawn Speaker Biman

Baneriee's power to administer

the bypoll result was published

in a notification and brought to

his notice, he would take a call.

The governor said that once

the oath of office to MLAs.

Samserganj on Sunday.

and two other MLAs.'

CM oath: Dhankhar

result notification

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

IN A fresh standoff between the

Raj Bhawan and West Bengal

government, Governor Jagdeep

Dhankhar, who was invited to

administer oath to Chief

Minister Mamata Banerjee as

an MLA on October 7, on

Monday said he would wait un-

til the official gazette notifica-

tion on the Bhabanipur bypoll

state Assembly, state minister

Partha Chatteriee said. "We have

requested the Honorable

Governor to administer oath to

Mamata Banerjee on October 7

before noon. We want him to

come to the state Assembly to

administer the oath. We hope

that by October 7, the gazette no-

tification will be issued and he

would keep our request by com-

ing to the Assembly and admin-

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Speaking to reporters at the

result was issued.

KOLKATA, OCTOBER 4

says will wait for poll

WESTBENGAL



TMC chief and CM Mamata Banerjee, with her nephew and MP Abhishek Banerjee, at a temple at Bhabanipur in Kolkata

EXPRESS NEWS

prevailing in the northern state.

ernment for not allowing Opposition leaders to enter

"What was done by the son of the deputy home minister (Ajay Mishra Teni) is very sad and unfortunate. Six farmers died and many others injured. We sent our five MPs to the into show small incidents as big in West Bengal. We have no language to condemn this incident," Banerjee said.

farmer leaders. They were tryiacked the bodies and fled. In Uttar Pradesh, there is no rule

ATRIMITRA

KOLKATA, OCTOBER 4

WEEKS AFTER the Mamata

Banerjee government started the

pilot project of the "Duare Ration

[ration doorstep delivery]" pro-

gramme, the state administration

has started a survey to find out the

number of inactive ration cards

and weed out the "ghost benefici-

the 2011 Census is 9.13 crore, while

Food and Supplies Department

data shows there are 9.8 crore ra-

tion card holders. Of them, more

than one crore may be ghost recip-

Minister blames

DVC for muddy

drinking water

The state's population as per

five-member party delegation on Monday reached Lakhimpur Kheri and met farmer leaders

Dastidar, who was part of the

Abhishek visited a gurdwara and a temple in Bhabanipur during her thanksgiving tour

the BJP on Sunday too. "I strongly condemn the barbaric incident in Lakhimpur Kheri. The apathy of @BJP4India towards our farmer brethren pains me deeply... Our farmers will always have our unconditional support," said Mamata.

ients, according to the state admin-

23. the state Food and Supplies

department instructed all district

administrations to take stock of

the status of ration cards in their

areas, and find out how many of

the cardholders were dead or

cardholder, the ration card needs

to be surrendered by the family

by submitting 'Forms for the sur-

render of ration card (Form 7)'. It

is seen that the surrender of ra-

tion cards in such cases is dispro-

portionately low compare to the

expected death rate," read the

"In case of death of the ration

In a circular dated September

istration.

non-existent.

Killing raj prevailing in UP: Mamata on Lakhimpur violence Speculation grows about 4 more BJP MLAs joining TMC

Hiran Chatterjee, Neeraj Zimba, Sukumar Roy, Dibakar Gharami may switch

The legislators have

been absent from

several party

sources said

vidual."

wish to be named claimed that

some MLAs were not attending

party programmes because of

personal reasons. "In some

places, the TMC is putting pres-

sure on our MLAs to defect.

Rumours are being spread

against them. They are being

forced to take such a decision,"

Sources said the BJP state

leadership had sent a report to

central leaders about the matter.

mentioning the possibility of

these four MLAs joining the

the leader added

programmes in

the last few days,

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, OCTOBER 4

A DAY after the Trinamool Congress's (TMC) emphatic victory in the Bhabanipur Assembly by-poll, and the Samsergani and Jangipur polls, speculation spread on Monday about four more BJP MLAs joining the TMC ahead of upcoming Assembly by-polls in four seats. The names that are doing the rounds are Chatterjee from Kharagpur, Neeraj Zimba from Darjeeling, Sukumar Roy from Cooch Behar North, and Sonamukhi MLA Dibakar Gharami.

Sources in the BJP said these four legislators had been absent from several party programmes in the last few days. They were reportedly maintaining a distance from the party before making the switch to the ruling party in Bengal. Last week, the MLAs had skipped the felicitation ceremony of new state BJP president Sukanta Majumdar in Kolkata despite the party's whip to its legislators about attending

Majumdar told The Indian Express on Monday, "I still believe that no leader will leave our

TMC. This speculation about defections from the BJP came days after Sukanta Majumdar appealed to party leaders to unite and work together. He made the comment last Friday after returning from Delhi, where the party's central leadership told him to stem the exodus of leaders and MLAs.

The same day, the BJP's Raiganj MLA Krishna Kalyani anparty. I will again appeal to all our lawmakers to stay with us. nounced that he had decided to But if they do so then we will face leave the party because of differno issues. Voters remain atences with Raiganj MP tached to the party and not to the Debashree Chaudhuri. Since the leaders. Those who believe in state election results were anour ideals will not desert us. nounced in May, four state leg-People have loyalty towards a islators, including Mukul Roy, party and not towards any indihave joined the TMC. Last month, former Union minister A party leader who did not and party MP Babul Supriyo also

> Banerjee-led party. Meanwhile, the BJP formed its election management team for the upcoming Assembly bypolls in Dinhata (Cooch Behar district), Santipur (Nadia), Khardaha (North 24 Parganas), and Gosaba (South 24 Parganas). a day after the TMC announced its candidates from these seats. The elections will be held on October 30.

switched over to the Mamata

The saffron party also appointed observers and co-ob-

ceive the allotted amount calcu-

lated based on the number of card-

holders in their area. Sources said

the government spends Rs 4,500

crore annually on rations, "If we are

able to identify the 'ghost ration

cards' then, we will be able to save

more than Rs 500 crore. Not only

that, during this time of financial

crisis we can use the money for

other schemes," said a govern-

Food and Supplies Minister

Rathin Ghosh told The Indian

Express on Monday that the iden-

tification process would be fin-

ished this month. He added, "We

will not cancel those ration cards

that will be identified as 'ghosts'.

ment official.

servers for each constituency. In Dinhata, Cooch Behar MP Nisith Pramanik will serve as the BIP's observer while Jalpaiguri MP Jayanta Kumar Roy will be the co-observer. Ranaghat MP Jagannath Sarkar has been appointer the observer in Santipur while Anupam Dutta will be the co-observer. In Khardaha, Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh will be the observer while Purulia MP Jyotirmoy Singh Mahato will be the observer in Gosaba.

"We have given the responsibility to our leaders for the bypolls and they have already started working. Meetings have been held to discuss party strategies. We will contest in every seat with our full strength. Names of our candidates will be announced in two to three days," said state BIP president Sukanta Majumdar.

The by-polls in Dinhata and Santipur are being held as their Assembly representatives Nisith Pramanik and Jaganath Sarkar did not take oath as MLAs after winning the polls earlier this year to retain their parliamentary seats. The byelections in Khardaha and Gosaba are being held following the death of the victorious TMC candidates.

in congested area, no casualty

time of press.

According to sources, resi-

Fire breaks out

ond floor around 11 am before spreading to other floors due to combustible materials stored in warehouses there. Twenty fire engines were rushed to the spot

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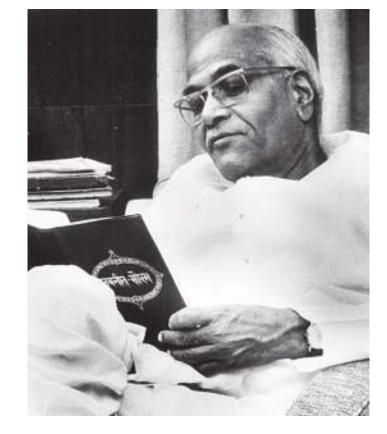
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April 18, 1904 - October 5, 1991

Be forthright, be frank, Be fearless, whatever the odds. Never hesitate to take a stand if you believe in it. And always, ensure that you illuminate the truth







The district administrations

started their surveys last week,

There are 9.8 crore ration card holders against the state

population of 9.13 crore in the 2011 census. Partha Paul

Never hesitate to speak out boldly against the wrongs. behind the events.





SERVICE KOLKATA, OCTOBER 4

HITTING OUT at the Uttar Pradesh government after four farmers were run over in Lakhimpur Kheri district, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday alleged that a "killing raj (rule)" and autocracy were

She also hit out the UP gov-Lakhimpur Kheri district.

cident area in the morning. On the other hand, the BJP is trying

Of the five TMC MPs, Dola Sen, Pratima Mondol and Abir Biswas managed to reach Lakhimpur Kheri and met ing to meet the families of the deceased farmers. "First, the police tried to stop us but we managed to enter. Then they stopped us from entering the incident spot. We went to the hospital where postmortem was going on. But police hi-

TMC delegation. Mamata and her nephew

Opposition leaders were pre-

Mamata expressed confidence that in the coming days, "people will impose Section 144" on the BIP.

of law," said Kakoli Ghosh

of the constituency after winning the bypoll. "No humanity prevails in

Section 144," she said.

killed. There is no democracy. Only autocracy is there. Earlier, we had seen the same thing in Hathras last year when vented to reach there after the state government imposed

Mamata has lashed out at

Three TMC MPs of a

that state. Farmers are brutally

Firefighters try to put out flames in a building in Kolkata's Coolotola on Monday. Express

said an official, adding that it was

causing the state to leak quintals

of ration supplies since dealers re-

Kolkata: A major fire broke out in a four-storey building in Kolkata's congested Coolotola area on Monday. Panic-stricken

locals were seen running helterskelter. However, no casualty was reported. A cooling operation was under process at the The fire started from the sec-

dents of 11 Kalutola Street saw smoke billowing from the building today morning and informed

the fire brigade. To winnow out 'ghost ration beneficiaries', govt begins survey

We will deactivate them as some ration cardholders may be alive and may claim their benefits in the future. First, we want to assess the number of inactive ration cards." A senior official of the Food and

Supplies Department said, "Special plans have been put in place to identify these 'ghost ration cards'. Field inspectors have been instructed to work to identify them in their areas. The government also plans to tally the ration list with the government's beneficiary project account. We will be able to identify easily from the beneficiary list who have died in a particular family and if their ration card is still active.'

Kolkata: Residents of north Kolkata, and its adjoining areas have complained about muddy water flowing from taps connected to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation's (KMC) water supply, civic officials said on Monday. State minister Firhad Hakim blamed the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) for discharging so much water that it caused excessive sediments to enter the Ganga. This affected the water supply, he claimed.

Civic body sources said the quality of water in these areas had been abysmal for the past few days, with reports of problems with drinking water coming in from even Uttarpara in Hooghly district. The officials said it would take three days for the water supply to normalise. The turbid water coming out

of taps has forced several people

to switch to mineral water cans

for drinking purposes. The KMC on Monday used loudspeakers

to warn people not to drink the

muddy water.

BJP adds BSY's son

in Karnataka bypolls

team after omitting

DARSHAN DEVAIAH

BENGALURU, OCTOBER 4

for the October 30 bypoll in

Hanagal assembly seat, the BJP

on Monday evening added the

name of B Y Vijayendra, son of

former Karnataka chief minister

B S Yediyurappa, to the list of 13

added, Yediyurappa appealed to

his followers to refrain from ex-

pressing anger against the non-in-

clusion of his son in the list of peo-

ple in charge of the bypolls. The list

was released by the party on

younger son was initially an aspi-

rant for the Hanagal ticket but

(workers) have expressed their

anger and anguish about my non-

inclusion in the list of in-charge for

Sindgi and Hanagal by-elections.

My appeal to them: please refrain

from making comments that em-

barrass our party, leaders, or me,"

Vijayendra, who is a state BIP vice-

cessitated by the death of veteran

BJP leader C M Udasi - Chief

Minister Basavarai Bommai's

mentor - while the Sindgi bypoll

was necessitated by the death of

veteran JD(S) leader M C

vet to announce their candidates

for the seats. While the BIP is ex-

pected to finalise the names on

Wednesday, the state Congress

has sent the names of Srinivas

Both the BJP and Congress are

Managuli.

The Hanagal bypoll was ne-

president, tweeted on Monday.

dropped out of contention.

Incidentally, Yediyurappa's

"Some of our karyakarthas

Before Viyayendra's name was

leaders.

October 1.

Tripura BJP MLA slams party, praises Mamata

DEBRAJDEB

BJP-ruled states, and showered praises on Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee.

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

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

Pradesh and Tripura have dicta-



Tripura BIP MLA Ashish

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

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

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

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

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

till six weeks after the ensuing

the opposite party may file affi-

davits-in-opposition within two

weeks after the Puja vacation.

another week after that.

Justice Chanda directed that

The court said the petitioners

The petition of Suvendu and

may file affidavits in reply within

Ex-bureaucrat and Vajpayee aide, Shakti Sinha dies at 64 ment led by Sheila Dixit. He ear-

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

APPROVING THE National

Authority's (NDMA) recommen-

dation on ex-gratia compensa-

tion of Rs 50,000 from the State

Disaster Response Fund for the

families of those who died of

Covid-19, the Supreme Court

said on Monday that no state

should deny the compensation

solely on the ground that the

death certificate does not men-

and A S Bopanna said the

amount will be in addition to

what is paid by the Centre and

states by way of benevolent

schemes, and will be applicable

for future cases too. The com-

pensation should be disbursed

within 30 days of submission of

A bench of Justices M R Shah

tion it as the cause of death.

Management

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

Disaster



for three years. Sources close to Sinha's family said he died of cardiac arrest while asleep. "He was talking to his family till 2 am. When he didn't get up till 11 am, family members tried to wake him up only to find he was no more," a family

> BJP leader Ram Madhav tweeted. "Shocked to hear about



Shakti Sinha died of cardiac arrest

SC clears NDMA's Covid aid

plan: Rs 50,000 in 30 days

the application "along with the

proof of death of the deceased

due to Covid-19 and the cause of

death being certified as 'died due

states shall deny the ex-gratia as-

sistance of Rs 50.000 to the next

of kin of the deceased... solely on

the ground that in the death cer-

tificate issued by the appropri-

ate authority, the cause of death

is not mentioned as 'died due to

"The ex-gratia assistance...

Management

shall be disbursed by the District

Authority/ district administra-

tion", it said, and added that the

details of the district authority

shall be published in the print

media and electronic media

within one week and given wide

occurring within 30 days from

The court said that "deaths

Covid-19'."

Disaster

publicity.

However, it added that "no

to Covid-19'," the court said.

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

the date of testing or from the

date of being clinically deter-

mined as a Covid-19 case shall

be treated as 'deaths due to

Covid-19'," even if the death

'Also, the Covid-19 case

takes place outside the hospital/

while admitted in the hospital/

in-patient facility and who con-

tinued to be admitted beyond 30

days and died subsequently shall

also be treated as a Covid-19

death," the court said, adding

that family members of those

who died by suicide within 30

days of being diagnosed as

Covid-19 positive shall also be

If any family member has

grievances regarding the death

certificate already issued, he/she

can move the district level griev-

ance redressal committee to be

constituted by states within one

week. These committees can ex-

entitled to the ex-gratia.

in-patient facility.

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

"How fragile the life is! Met Shakti Sinha ji only yesterday and had a long and enriching interaction..." tweeted Ajay Singh, Press Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind.

A 1979 batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, Sinha opted for voluntary retirement in 2013 while he was serving as Finance Secretary in the Delhi govern-

lier served as private secretary to Atal Bihari Vajpayee between 1996 and 1999 and later went on to become his OSD when Vajpayee became the Prime Minister. He recently wrote a book on the former PM – Vajpayee: The Years That Changed

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

Post the expiry of his term at NMML in 2019, Sinha had become a bit of a recluse, mostly focussing on academics and not meeting many visitors.

of providing ex-gratia compensation to the next of kin in the case of Covid deaths, and asked the government to frame simplified guidelines for issuing official documents to their family mem-

amine the medical records and

take a call within 30 days, it said.

by Advocates Gauray Kumai

Bansal and Reepak Kansal, the

Supreme Court had asked the

NDMA to look into the question

Hearing two petitions filed

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

Days after his arrest, Assam Cong suspends **MLA for 1983**

physician, will be recognised as

Covid deaths.

TORA AGARWALA GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 4

stir remarks

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

An order

signed by

Assam

Pradesh

Congress

General

Secretary

Bobbeeta

Sharma said

Ahmed was

Committee



SAAhmed

suspended "from Congress party with immediate effect for repeatedly violating the party's disci-

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

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

him from initial list DAYS AFTER omitting his name from a list of leaders who will be in charge of party electioneering

Vijayendra

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

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

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

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

While Hanagal is in Chief Minister Bommai's home district Haveri in north Karnataka, Sindgi is in Bijapur region. The bypolls are being seen as

the first major test for Bommai since he became the Chief Minister in July, replacing Yediyurappa.

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

The ID(S) has announced Naziya Shakeel Ahmed Angadi and Niyaz Shaikh as its candidates from Sindgi and Hanagal, respec-

CONG SAYS SHOCKING

RJD, Cong to fight both seats in Bihar bypolls

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

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

Congress Legislature Party leader Ajit Sharma said: "We were shocked. Our senior leader, Ashok Ram, lost from Kusheshwar Sthan by just over 7,000 votes to BJP's Shashi Bhushan Hazari." He said RJD had not consulted either Bihar Congress leaders or AICC's Bihar

in-charge Bhakt Charan Das. NODAL OFFICER CONTACT

KMRCL INVITES **TENDER** 'CONTRACT - SMALL **PORTABLE MACHINES'**

For details please visit KMRCL websites: www.kmrc.in or https://kmrcl.euniwizarde.com

Managing Director



OPEN E-TENDER TENDER NOTICE NO.: CLW/Dankuni

ISO/905(5S). E-tenders (open tender) are invited for and on behalf of the President o India for the following work: Sl. No.: 01 Tender No.: CLW/ Dankuni/ISO/ 905(5S). Name of the work: Recertification of 5S Workplace Management System a ELAAU/CLW/ Dankuni along with 1st & 2st annual surveillance audit and requisite raining to the staff of this unit. Tender value (Rupees): 2,06,500.00 (Rupees two lakh six thousand five hundred) only including GST. Cost of tender document (Rupees):1,000.00 (Rupees One thousand only).**Period of completion: 36 month** NOTE: (I) Complete details can be seen in the Railways website www.ireps.gov.in. (II) Contact Number: 03212-230003. (III) Date of closing of tender submission is 21.10.2021 at 12:00 hrs.

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AWM-II/Dankun

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Kolkata

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED

e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification) "SSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of (a) Stationary Items, (b) Various Printer Cartridge e) Various steel materials (d) 9.1 Mtrs/280 Kgs & 11.0Mtrs/365 Kgs PSCC Poles to various circles (e 11KV 10KA Lightning Arresters (Line Type) and (f) Various scrap materials on e-procurement platform. For further details of each item above, please visit www.tssouthernpower.com www.tender.telangana.gov.in and www.auction.telangana.gov.in

Phone: 040-23431319 1035 1033 1026 1360 DIPR RO NO: 2207-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22

Chief General Manager (P&MM)



MADHYA PRADESH PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

Tilhan Sangh Bhawan, 01, Arera Hills, Bhopal URL: www.mpphscl.mp.gov.in, PHONE: 0755-2578915

Dated: 04.10.2021

TENDER NOTICE

Tender for following items floated on GeM portal dated 04.10.2021

Online GeM Portal Tender Ref. No. GEM/2021/B/1571174 for Laptops uploaded on date 04.10.2021.

Online GeM Portal Tender Ref. No. GEM/2021/B/1572947 for All in One PC, Printer and Scanner uploaded on date

04.10.2021. Prospective bidders are requested to visit https://gem.gov.in for further details.

M.P. Madhyam/102176/2021 CGM (TECHNICAL)

NHPC Limited (CIN: L40101HR1975GOI032564)

NHPC Office Complex, Sector-33, Faridabad – 121 003 (Haryana) SCHEDULE

[To be published in pursuance of Clause (6) of Regulation 3] 1. The applicant above-named has made an application before the Centra Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for determination of tariff

for Teesta Low Dam-IV Power Station The beneficiary of the generating station is as under: WBSEDCL (West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd)-

West Bengal. 160 MW Capacity of the generating station 4. Approved capital cost of the project : Rs. 162240.93 lakh as on

5. Authority which has approved

the Capital Cost Scheduled date of commercial Already in Commercial Operation

operation Actual date of commercial operation Capital cost on the date of

19.08.2016 Rs. 171980.81 lakh Commercial operation

Details of tariff: (Rs in lakh) Hydro Power Tariff for the previous Year-wise tariff sought to year (2018-19) be determined 2019-20 1 Annual Fixed Charges 39496.72 39422.46 Primary Energy Not Applicable

Charges 10. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website: http://www.nhpcindia.com/tariff-petitions.htm

 The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd and 4th Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36 Janpath, New Delta 14004, with a control to the proplicate within 30 down. New Delhi-110001 with a copy to the applicant within 30 days of publication of this notice. (Ajay Shrivas)

General Manager (Comml.) Commercial Division

19.08.2016 allowed by CERC

vide order dtd 24.01.2021 in

petition no. 354/GT/2018

EASTERN RAILWAY

SDAH/356 dt. 30.09.2021 F-tender is nvited by Sr. DSTE/Sealdah, Eastern Railway for the following work : **e-Tender** No. DSTE/T/13/21-22/RRSK. Name of work with its location : Provision for upgradation of STM1 by IP MPLS standard over Sealdah Division. **Tender Value :** ₹ 6,32,88,695.50. **Tender submission** start date: 25.10.2021. Tender submission end date: 08.11.2021 upto 14.00 hrs. Tender bid opening date: 08.11.2021 at 14.30 hrs. Details with technical & financial eligibility criteria are available at www.ireps.gov.in SDAH-107/2021-22

Tender Notice No. : SG.Tender/DSTE

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.ir

NAME OF NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM OLD REFERENCE/ APPOINTMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION UHBVN AGENCY FOR ESTABLISHING AMR SYS-37/SE TEM FOR 11 KV FEEDERS AND THEIR O&M PROJECTS/ FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS IN R-APDRP & IPDS AREAS OF UHBVN & DHBVN. EXTEN-SION OF DATE UPTO 09.10.2021

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM WEBSITE OF vww.uhbvn.org.ir

9356063249 seprojects@ FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT B-448 E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.co

Rs. 10,000.00

Dt.29.10.2021 at 11.30 AM

From 10.00 A.M. of 07.10.2021 to 5.30 PM of 28.10.2021

Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha

Super Class.

Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-08/2021-22 1. The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cove system in ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned below::

3. No. of work

Class of Contractor 6. Available of bid document in the website

7. Date of opening of Bid

4. Tender paper Cost

3. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website:

https://tenderodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancelation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

OIPR- 34117/11/0048/2122 지료소(Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency, (UPNEDA)

(Deptt. of Additional Sources of Energy, Govt. of U.P.)

Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow UP. Tel.No.9415609086, 0522-2720779, 2720829

Vebsite: www.upsavesenergy.com, www.upneda.org.in, E-Mail: ashok.upsda@gmail.com, ho_ashok@ Bid NO.: 03/ EC /UPNEDA/SDA/2021 Tender Notice UPNEDA invites bids from experienced and interested consultancy firms /consortiums for "To organise

Workshops cum training program for farmers and other related stakeholders on energy conservation in Agricultural sector." The detailed scope of the work with eligibility conditions is described in the Bid Document. The tender document is available at the website www.etender.up.nic.in. The interested bidders may

view, download bid document and submit their bid upto the date	mentioned in the table below:
a Publication on NIT	05.10.21
b Availability of the bid document on web site (date and time)	05,10.21 to 26,10.21 upto 5:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference (Through Webinar / Video Conference)	13.10.21 at 11:30 AM Google meet link: https://meet.google.com/pdm-sjon-obw
d Bid submission end date and time	26:10:21 upto 06:00 PM
e Technical bid opening date and time	27.10.21 at 11:00 AM
Financial bid opening date	To be decided after evaluation of Technical Bid
9 Venue of opening Technical & Financial -bid is UPNEDA Head	Office

The hard copies of the required documents (as detailed in the bid document); should reach UPNEDA's ead office latest by 27.10.21 upto 10:00 AM. Tender received after the due date and time will not be onsidered. The Director, UPNEDA reserves the right to reject any/all offer without assigning any reasor rereof. The decision of the Director UPNEDA shall be final and binding. **Director, UPNEDA**

Those tenders will be rejected which have not been submitted Sd/- Managing Director Guwahati Smart City Limited

AGARTALA, OCTOBER 4 TRIPURA BJP MLA Ashish Das on Monday targeted his own party, saving there is "dictatorship" in

The MLA, however, did not specify who the evil forces were. Das, who is in West Bengal for

Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Uttar torship running there. In this situation, West Bengal Chief

vate owners," he said. "BJP-ruled states such as lence there.'

HC stays proceedings against Suvendu Adhikari, brother in tarpaulin scam

PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA KOLKATA, OCTOBER 4

THE CALCUTTA High Court on Monday ordered a stay on all further proceedings in a case of alleged tarpaulin theft against Leader of Opposition in West Bengal assembly Suvendu Adhikari and his brother

Passing the interim order, Justice Kausik Chanda observed that political overtones of this criminal case cannot be brushed aside. The court ordered that there will be a stay on all further proceedings pending before the additional chief judicial magistrate, Soumendu, a former chairman of Contai Municipality, praying for quashing of proceedings against

them in connection with the case in Contai police station will be

taken up for hearing again four weeks after Puja vacation, the

court directed. PS Patwalia, appearing for Suvendu, submitted that the petitioners had been im-Contai, Purba Medinipur district, plicated in this case.

PUNJAB STATE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD

Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033814 Sr. Executiv Engg/400 kV S/S, P&M Div. PSTCL, Makhu, Tel. No. 9646109205, Email: srxen-makhu@pstcl.org Notice Inviting E-Tender

Tender Enquiry No. 07/2021-22 ent of Hydraulics Crimping jointing Machine & D-Sackle for mainte of 400/220/132 kV transmission line. Last date & time for downloading of tender 01-11/2021 upto 03.00 PM. Last date & time for submission of tender 01.11.2021 at 03.00 PM. Date & Time for opening of tender 02.11.2021 at 03.00 PM.

Detailed NIT specification may be downloaded from Punjab Govt. e-tendering website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.nicgep/app Corrigendum, if any, will not be published in newspapers. As such, website may be visited regularly for Sr. Executive Engg/400kV S/s, P&M Div, PSTCL, Makhu

NMDC Limited

CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT

The tenderers are required to visit the above-mentioned websites for corrigendum,

For further clarification, GM (Contracts), NMDC Ltd., Hyderabad can be contacted or

8493/Pb

e-Tender Notification (DOMESTIC BIDDING) Tender Enquiry No.: HO (Contracts) / ISO / IMS / 2021 / 250 Dated: 05.10.2021 MSTC Ref. No.: NMDC / HO / 57 / 21-22 / ET / 270 E-tenders in two bid systems are invited for the work of "Appointment of Certifying Body for Re-Certification of Integrated Management System for NMDC Projects" from prospective domestic, experienced, qualified and eligible bidders who fulfil the Pre-Qualification Criteria.

Detailed SOT/NIT and tender document including pre-qualification requirements car be viewed/downloaded from NMDC's website http://www.nmdc.co.in/ nmdctender/default.aspx., CPP Portal: www.eprocure.gov.in on latest active tenders and MSTC Website: https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome nmdc/buyer_login.jsp from 05.10.2021 to 02.11.2021.

if any, at a future date.

Fax no. 040-2353 4746, email: contracts@nmdc.co.in.

Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam

(Formerly Guwahati Smart City Development Agency Ltd.)

(CIN U45309A52016SGC017403)

04" Floor, Adilya Tower, Opp. Down Town Hospital, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781006

E-mail: mdsmartguwahati@gmail.com Website: www.gscl.assam.gov.in. No.: SPV/GSCL/DEV/61/2017/Pt-II/80 e-Tender Notice National Competitive Bidding

MD, GSCL invites Request for Proposal for "Development of Brahmaputra Riverfront from New DC Bunglow to Kacharighat (approx. 1.2 km) on Design Build and Operate for 5 years basis in Guwahati" under Guwahati Smart City Limited.

https://gscl.assam.gov.in/ from dated 04-10-2021. Tenders are to be submitted online through the e-procurement portal www.assamtenders.gov.in only The last date of online bid submission date is 03-11-2021 up to 15:00 hrs. The hard copy of the bids will be received till

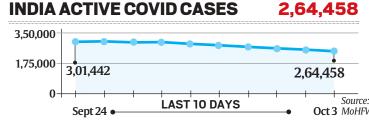
The detail tender documents will be available in the

e-Tendering portal: www.assamtenders.gov.in and

05-11-2021 up to 14:00 hrs.

General Manager (Contracts)

ISPATI IRADA



SIMPLY PUT

Nobel for deciphering the science of touch

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

AMITABH SINHA

PUNE, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

Sensors

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

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

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

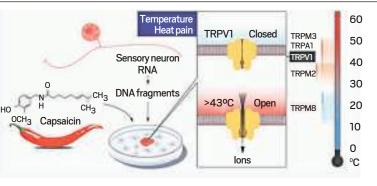
NOBEL FOR PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE



utilised capsaicin, the compound that give chilis their 'heat'. to identify a sensor that responds to



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



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

UP NEXT

- Tuesday, October 5: **Physics** ■ Wednesay, October 6:
- ■Thursday, Oct 7: Literature ■ Friday, October 8: Peace

■ Monday, October 11:

of several other receptors. Just like there are receptors sensitive to heat, there are others that can sense coldness. And yet others, that can sense pressure. We now know several of these," said Dipanjan Roy, a neuroscientist at National Brain Research Centre in Manesar.

The mechanism

The human ability to sense heat, or cold, and pressure is not very different from the working of the many detectors that we are familiar with. A smoke detector, for example, sends off an alarm when it senses smoke beyond a certain threshold. Similarly, when something hot, or cold, touches the body, the heat receptors enable the passage of some specific chemicals, like calcium ions, through the membrane of nerve cells. It's like a gate that opens up on a very specific request. The entry of the chemical inside the cell causes a small change in electrical voltage, which is picked up by the nervous system.

"There is a whole spectrum of receptors that are sensitive to different ranges of temperature. When there is more heat, more channels open up to allow the flow of ions, and the brain is able to perceive higher temperature. Similar things happen when we touch something extremely cold," said Aurnab Ghose, a neuroscientist at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research in Pune.

Ghose said that these receptors were sensitive not just to external touch, but could detect temperature or pressure changes inside the body as well.

"When our body temperature deviates from the optimum level, for example, there is a reaction. The body makes an effort to revert to the optimum, or core, temperature. That happens only because the heat receptors are able to sense a change in temperature, and the nervous system tries to restore that," he said.

"But that is not all. When our urinary bladder is full, for example, the pressure in the bladder increases. This change in pressure is sensed by the pressure receptors and relayed to the nervous system which creates this urge to relieve oneself. Changes in blood pressure is sensed in a similar fashion, and remedial actions initiated... That is why the discoveries of these receptors are so fundamental to our understanding of how our body functions," Ghose

Therapeutic implications

Breakthroughs in physiology have often resulted in an improvement in the ability to fight diseases and disorders. This one is no different. As Sneha Shashidhara, a PhD in cognitive neuroscience, pointed out, the identification of these receptors opens up the possibility of regulating their functioning. For examples, there are receptors that make us feel pain. If these receptors can suppressed, or made less effective, the person had feel less pain.

"Chronic pain is present is a number of illnesses and disorders. Earlier, the experience of pain was a mystery. But as we understand these receptors more and more, it is possible that we gain the ability to regulate them in such a way that the pain is minimised," she said.

Ghose said, in fact, research in this field was already underway. "It is possible that the next generation of pain-killers would work in this fashion," he said, adding that there were several other therapeutic implications as well, including interventions that might be useful in treatment of diseases like cancer or diabetes.

SHUBHRA RANJAN

SCHOLARSHIP TEST ON 3rd OCTOBER 2021

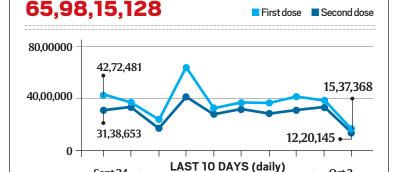
GS Foundation Offline Batch

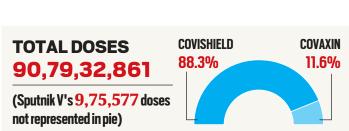
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CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

TOTAL VACCINATED IN INDIA (at least one dose)





DOSES ON OCTOBER 3 27,57,513 OCTOBER 2: 76,93,794

(1ST DOSE: 39,46,016; 2ND: 37,47,778)

14,45,474

Number of doses administered in Tamil Nadu on October 3, the highest for any state. Tamil Nadu was followed by Bihar (2,77,758), Jammu and Kashmir (1,35,081), Maharashtra (1,20,144) and Jharkhand (1,04,908)

Note: The October 3 figures in these graphs are based on the government updates on October $4\,$ Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on October 4

UP's 'Punjabi' farmers: history, contribution

KAMALDEEPSINGH BRAR

AMRITSAR, OCTOBER 4

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

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

Post-Partition migration

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

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

Sikhs in UP

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

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

Political representation

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

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



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



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

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

Proposed eviction

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

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

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

gave their sweet and tears to cultivate this

Lakhimpur Kheri

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

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

TELLING NUMBERS

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

HARIKISHAN SHARMA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, OCTOBER 4

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

It was conducted on subjects in the United States.

least six months.

tions for all variants, including Delta, for at

The findings

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

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

The analysis Researchers

analysed 3,436,957 electronic health records from the Kaiser Permanente Southern California (KPSC) health system between December 4, 2020 and August 8, 2021. During the study period, 5.4% (184,041 people) were infected with SARS-CoV-2. Among those infected, 6.6% (12,130) were hospitalised.

The average time since being fully vaccinated was between three to four months. A whole genome sequencing and viral



comprised 28% of the overall proportion of positive sequences. During the study period, the proportion of positive cases attributed to the Delta variant increased from 0.6% in NEW RESEARCH April 2021 to nearly 87% by July 2021, confirming the Delta variant had become the domi-

positive SARS-CoV-2 samples

from the study cohort deter-

mined that the Delta variant

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

nant strain in the United States.

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

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

The takeaway

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

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

WORDLY WISE

HISTORY IS MOVING PRETTY QUICKLY THESE DAYS, AND THE HEROES AND VILLAINS KEEP ON CHANGING PARTS.—IAN FLEMING

The Indian EXPRESS

Sounded By Sounded By

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

VIOLENT HARVEST

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

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

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

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

AN ETHICAL UPGRADE

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

O ONE AT Facebook is malevolent, but the incentives are misaligned." Frances Haugen — the Facebook whistleblower who provided documents to *The Wall Street Journal* as well as US government agencies about the degree to which the social media giant is aware of, and consciously exploits, the harm its applications cause — hasn't revealed anything that most people aren't already aware of. But her interview to *60 Minutes* underlines the challenge: There appears to be a fundamental contradiction between how social media is designed and the public good.

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

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

GRUMPY BOND

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

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

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

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

The unease of ranking



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

SONALDE DESAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEIR RIGHT TO PROTEST

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

REKHA SHARMA

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

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

The SC says that there is no question of protests when the farmers have come to the courts. Given the fact that the farmers have been agitating since November 2020, and the matter has received national and international attention, has the court shown any urgency to hear the petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the three farm laws?

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

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

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

rains, hail and storms for almost a year?

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

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

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

The writer is a former judge of the Delhi High Court



OCTOBER 5, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

PM BLAMES PAK

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

for the purchase of 150 Mirage-2000 planes.

NSA in Punjab

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

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

RESERVES DEPLETED

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

Kolkata

-GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021

THE IDEAS PAGE

The contest for the moon

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



By C Raja Mohan

A YEAR AGO, eight countries led by the United States signed the so-called Artemis Accords. The accords are an agreement to abide by a broad set of principles to guide the expanding human activity on the moon — ranging from mining resources to setting up lunar colonies. The eight signatories were from Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States. Since then, many others have joined -Brazil, South Korea, New Zealand, and Ukraine.

The US has invited India to join the accords and some preliminary official discussion on the issue took place between the two sides when Prime Minister Narendra Modi met US President Joe Biden at the White House for the bilateral summit last month. Separately, at the summit of the Quadrilateral Forum that followed the bilateral discussion, Modi and Biden, along with the Australian and Japanese premiers, agreed to set up a new Quad working group on outer space. The growing commercialisation and militarisation of outer space have triggered the interest of the Quad leaders.

As technological capabilities grow, nations are looking beyond the near-earth space (or the "brown waters" in the maritime jargon that continues to shape the outer space discourse) to inter-planetary probes and deep space research (the "blue waters" if you will).

These trends have brought the moon into sharp focus. As space-faring powers seek routine access to the moon — as opposed to the lunar landings of the 20th century driven by political prestige — their attention has turned to what is called the cis-lunar space, or the volume between the orbits around the earth and

No national activity in the cislunar space in recent years has been more ambitious than that of China. Beijing's lunar mission, named after the Chinese moon goddess Chang'e, was unveiled in 2007. Since then, China has put two spacecraft in lunar orbit (Chang'e 1 and 2) and landed two rovers on the moon (Chang'e 3 and 4). Chang'e 4 had the distinction of being the first to land on the far side of the moon that can't be seen from the earth. The Chang'e 5 launched last year brought lunar material back to the earth. The last time a mission returned with lunar rock was the Soviet Luna 24 in 1976.

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

China has also added an international dimension to its moon plans by inviting other countries to participate in the ILRS project. Russia, once a leading space actor, has now



China's ambitions are much

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Research Station in the south

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- could contribute to the

joined hands with China on the ILRS. Russia is reviving its Luna series of probes to the moon to complement the Chinese efforts.

The launch of Luna-25, set for last month, has now been postponed to May 2022. Luna 25, 26 and 27 will work in tandem with Chang'e 6,7 and 8 to undertake expansive reconnaissance and develop techniques for ultra-precise landings on the moon. Together, these missions will lay the basis for the second stage of ILRS a joint construction of the lunar base — starting from 2026.

As geopolitical considerations drive Russia towards China, space cooperation has become an extension of their strategic partnership against America. Russia is also threatening to cut off space cooperation with the US. It is a cooperation that emerged during the Cold War and has expanded since then.

The US, which raced to the moon in the 1960s, shut down the Apollo programme in the early 1970s. The broad advance of Beijing's space programme, across the civilian and military domains, and its deepening collaboration with Moscow has shaken America out of its prolonged neglect of the moon. The Trump administration announced plans to put astronauts back on the moon by 2024. The new project was named Artemis, after the Greek goddess and twin sister of Apollo.

The structure of the Artemis programme is similar to China's ILRS. It involves the construction of a permanent space station orbiting the moon, called Lunar Gateway, and a surface presence at the south pole of the moon that is supposed to have ice and could sustain future human activity. There is no doubt about the urgency in Washington about restoring America's leadership in lunar exploration in the face of the Chinese challenge. Like China, the US too decided that it cannot go alone and is looking for partners for its Artemis programme.

One of the consequences of the growing lunar activity is the pressure on the current international legal regime – centred around the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. The OST says outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, "is not subject to "national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means". It declares that outer space shall be the "province of all mankind" and its use "be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries".

The sweeping universalism of the OST remains very inspiring; but it was easy to celebrate it when there were no capabilities on the earth to exploit outer space for commercial and military gain. That situation is changing, thanks to the advances in space technologies and the expansive investment of resources by major

 $Many \, provisions \, of \, the \, OST \, are \, increasingly \,$ subject to competing interpretations and vulnerable to new facts on the moon created by the first movers. The breakdown of the post-Cold War harmony among the major powers has added fuel to the fire on the moon and set the stage for a prolonged geopolitical contestation for the moon.

That is the context in which the US is promoting the Artemis Accords to preserve the OST regime in relation to the moon and promote transparency, interoperability, emergency assistance, and peaceful international cooperation. But Russia and China don't look enthusiastic about working with the US. That leaves other space-faring nations like India to make choices.

The Artemis Accords would hopefully nudge Delhi to initiate a comprehensive review of India's interests on the moon and develop strategies to pursue them through a stronger national lunar mission and deeper partnerships with like-minded countries. Delhi must also legislate a strong regulatory framework to promote India's space activity and protect its international interests. India should take a hard look at the emerging challenges to the current space order, review some of its past political assumptions about the nature of outer space and contribute to the development of new global norms that will strengthen the essence of the Outer Space Treaty.

The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

The Aadhaar loophole

"The PLA has done an excellent job! This can be seen as a form of the National Day military parade in the Taiwan Straits, which used to be held at the Tiananmen Square in Beijing. It is a clear and unmistakable declaration of China's sovereignty

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

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



Jean Drèze and Vipul Paikra

over the island."

A SERIES OF recent scams have exposed the vulnerabilities of the Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS). The AePS enables a person to withdraw money from her bank account anywhere in the country using a local "business correspondent" (BC). A BC is an informal bank agent equipped with a biometric Point-of-Sale (PoS) machine — a kind of micro-ATM. If you want to withdraw, say, Rs 500 from your bank account using a BC, you just have to give him the name of your bank and submit yourself to Aadhaar-based biometric authentication (ABBA). The BC will give you Rs 500 in cash, and his own account will be credited with the same amount. For this to be possible, your bank account must be linked with Aadhaar.

So far so good. But what if the BC enters "one thousand rupees" in the PoS machine even as he gives you five hundred? In that case, one thousand will be debited from your account, and credited to the BC's account, but you will only get five hundred — fraud! This is unlikely to happen if you are educated and alert. You will ask for a receipt, and the BC will promptly give you the receipt generated by the PoS machine. BCs, however, routinely deny receipts to poor people, if they demand one at all. As a safeguard, some PoS machines have a voice-over, but the voice-over is easy to disable. There lies one major vulnerability of AePS.

A corrupt BC can even get away with asking a gullible customer to put her finger in the PoS machine under some pretext, without giving her any money. This is what happened to Nagina Bibi, an elderly woman who lives in Vishunbandh village of Latehar district in Jharkhand. A roaming BC came to her house one day, from a neighbouring district. Claiming that he was helping her to get a gas subsidy, he persuaded her to put her finger eight times in the PoS machine and withdrew Rs 24 000 from her bank account without her knowledge. Most of this money consisted of her meagre pension and hard-earned wages, saved for her daughter's marriage.

Later on, Nagina discovered that Rs 24.000 had been withdrawn from her account. She complained to the bank manager, but he pleaded helplessness. He had no record of the fraudulent BC (only "AePS" showed in his transaction records). From his point of view, this was a matter between Nagina and the "acquirer bank", that is, the bank that had deployed the concerned BC. He added that he could request more detailed transaction records online if Nagina filed an FIR. The police, however, refused to register an FIR.

Many similar cases of AePS-enabled fraud have emerged in Latehar. Most of them are unresolved. Even if the BC can be traced, it is easy for him to claim that he did disburse cash as per records — it is his word against

the victim's. In short, corrupt BCs operate with virtual impunity.

All this, however, is just a trailer. A friendly BC told us that similar ploys were being used across Jharkhand for mass embezzlement of scholarships intended for minority children. After preliminary enquiries, confirming his allegations, we alerted the media and a detailed investigation by The Indian Express exposed the scam.

Briefly, the scam worked as follows. Corrupt middlemen bribed school principals to obtain names of minority children and other information such as the school's Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) code and login. They submitted scholarship applications on behalf of the children after opening Aadhaar-linked bank accounts for them using a local BC. Children were given nominal sums of money and the rest was siphoned off without their knowledge. This was made possible by AePS. Had children been required to collect their scholarships from bank premises, they would have learnt the correct scholarship amounts from their passbooks, if not from a bank employee. The scholarship scam in Jharkhand shows that AePS-enabled fraud is not a sporadic problem but a systemic vulnerability.

The AePS is a valuable facility for those who are able to use it safely. Like other micro-ATM systems, it has helped to decongest banks. It can be particularly useful to migrant workers who have no ATM facility. But AePS comes with serious risks of being cheated for those who are not clear about how it works. These risks are magnified when banks refuse to disburse small amounts to their customers and send them to BCs instead, a routine practice in rural Jharkhand.

There are ways of reducing the vulnerabilities of AePS. For instance, BCs could be required to make manual if not digital entries into printed customer passbooks. That would act as a permanent, verifiable receipt that cannot be denied to the customer so easily (a blank entry would be incriminating). Ensuring that BCs are clearly identified in transaction records would also help. So would SMS alerts, when the customer has a mobile number. Roaming BCs should perhaps be banned, at least in states with low literacy levels. And most importantly, better grievance redressal facilities must be made available to the victims of AePS fraud.

And now, the happy end, Nagina belongs to a workers' organisation, so she decided to fight back. She and her comrades ultimately managed to prevail on the bank manager and the police to trace the culprit, who was arrested and charged. It emerged, however, that he had swindled many other people in the same fashion, and that other corrupt BCs were also prowling in the area. According to the cybercrime cell in Latehar, some recent acts of AePS-related fraud involve lakhs of

Nagina's victory is the exception, not the rule. The vulnerabilities of AePS are putting countless people in danger of being robbed of their hard-earned savings.

> Drèze is Visiting Professor at the Department of Economics, Ranchi University; Paikra is an independent researcher



Roots of democracy

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

Abhishek Banerjee and Sumedha Verma Ojha

ON SEPTEMBER 25, while addressing the UN General Assembly in New York, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an important historical point: India is not just the world's largest democracy, but also the "mother of democracy". This assertion would unsettle several long-held Western notions about our world, and it should. The existence of proto forms of democracy and republicanism in ancient India is part of humanity's common heritage and deserves an important place in our shared view of the past.

There are two pillars of the modern world. The first is science-based rational thinking, and the second is democracy. It is also telling that both are often believed to be Western inventions, reflecting Western ascendancy over our

In recent years, there has been a move to recognise advances in science made in the past by non-Western societies. The Pythagorean theorem, for instance, was well known in ancient India. It would be more historically accurate to refer to the Fibonacci numbers perhaps as Pingala's numbers or Hemachandra's numbers. But old beliefs and the assumptions that go with them are still strong. As Joe Biden noted last year, they don't tell you how a black man contributed to the making of the electric bulb. In a similar vein, it is time to fix the historical record on the origins of democracy.

The evidence for republics in ancient India has always been available in plain sight. In the Mahabharata's *Shanti Parva*, republics (ganas) are mentioned along with the essential features of administering them. The Vedas describe at least two forms of republican governance. The first would consist of elected kings. This has always been seen as an early form of democracy, later practised in Europe, especially in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 16th-18th centuries.

The second form described in the Vedas is that of rule without a monarch, with power vested in a council or sabha. The membership of such sabhas was not always determined by birth, but they often comprised people who had distinguished themselves by their actions. There is even a hint of the modern bicameral system of legislatures, with the sabha often sharing power with the samiti, which was made up of common people. The "vidhaata", or the assembly of people for debating policy, military matters and important issues impacting all, has been mentioned more than a hundred times in the Rig Veda. Both women and men took part in these deliberations, a far cry from the Greeks who did not admit women (or slaves) as full citizens of their "democracies".

Other sources appear in the Ashtadhyayi of Panini, the Arthashastra of Kautilya, as well as a variety of ancient Buddhist and Jain writings. Buddhist and Jain texts list 16 powerful states or mahajanapadas of the time. After Alexander's invasion in 327 BCE, Greek historians also record Indian states that did not have kings. The Lichchavi state of Vaishali, in particular, deserves special mention. Buddhist writ-

ings describe in detail Vaishali's rivalry with neighbouring Magadha, which was a monarchy. The long battle of attrition between Magadha and Vaishali, which the former won, was a fight also between two systems of governance, ganatantra and rajatantra. Had the Lichchavis won, the trajectory of governance may well have been non-monarchical in the Subcontinent.

Was the rajatantra an "off with his head" kind of system with concentration of powers in one person? No. Instead, any state is thought of as composed of seven elements. The first three, according to Kautilya, are swami or the king, amatya or the ministers (administration) and janapada or the people. The king must function on the advice of the amatyas for the good of the people. The ministers are appointed from amongst the people (the Arthashastra also mentions entrance tests). As per the Arthashastra, in the happiness and benefit of his people lies the happiness and benefit of the King. Isn't this the lodestone of democracy? It would be unreasonable to expect re-

publics in ancient India, as with the Greek city of Athens, to have developed full-fledged democratic institutions as we understand them today. As late as the 1780s, when America was founded, voting rights were restricted to (white) males who owned property or paid taxes, which amounted to a mere six percent of the population. The idiosyncrasies of that old system are still visible today. As with scientific advancement, democracy remains and will always be a work in progress.

Another criticism of the idea of India as the "mother of democracy" would be that there is no surviving direct line between the ancient ganas and the modern republic of India. However, the same applies to ancient Greek city-states. If the line survives, it is as a way of thinking. The stability of India's democratic institutions is more or less an exception among post-colonial states since 1945. This is best explained by an ancient system of thought that contains expressions of democracy.

Why is it so important in the 21st century for us to recognise the origins of democracy in ancient India? There are at least two reasons. First, as a growing power on the world stage, India has to offer its own narrative on world history, as well as provide the world with a vision. We as a nation are not aspiring upstarts. We are the nation that inspired great journeys, from those of Alexander to the voyage of

The other reason relates to the general loss of confidence in the US. The power struggles of the near future are becoming clear. It is also a struggle to define history and take it forward. At this time, an India that sees its own democracy as a pale imitation of an Anglo-American system is neither good for itself nor the world.

Banerjee is a scientist, columnist and author. Verma Ojha is a historian, author of historical fiction series, 'Urnabhih'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHINA'S RESPONSE

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

Spokesperson, Chinese Embassy in

Dubious ways

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

TAX HURTS

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

Suchak D Patel, Ahmedabad

Personality cult

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

Sukriti, Kurukshetra

Lockdown in 61 villages of Maharashtra district as cases rise

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS & MANOJ MORE PUNE, OCTOBER 4

THE AHMEDNAGAR district administration has imposed a 10day lockdown in 61 villages that have reported more than 10 new Covid-19 cases everyday for the past few days. Schools will be shut in these villages while everywhere else in the district. especially in urban areas, they reopened Monday, said officials.

In an order issued on Monday, Ahmednagar District Collector Rajendra Bhosale said, "The district is witnessing 500-800 cases daily and the positivity rate is over 5 per cent. Therefore, directions were issued to implement precautionary measures in villages with more than 10 active cases. Since protocols were not being followed fully, we have imposed strict restrictions in 61 villages in 11 tehsils." As per the order, all shops -- barring essential ones like medical stores, clinics and diagnostics labs -- will remain shut from October 4 to October 13.

Zydus shot ready, kids' jabs plan out next week

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

THE GOVERNMENT could announce guidelines for vaccinating children against the coronavirus by the end of next week, it is learned. About 70 per cent of the country's adult population has now received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Top government sources who are part of the scientific deliberations on this question told The Indian Express that a decision on vaccinating children - including the framing of guidelines on prioritising categories of recipients and timeline of the phased rollout – will be taken in the first half of this month.

The sources also said that results of clinical trials of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin in children are expected to be submitted to the regulator for emergency use approval "around October 20-21".

The National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVEC) is expected to receive scientific recommendations from the Covid-19 standing committee of the National

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक 💟 punjab national bank

Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the 28th day of September of the year 2021.

As schools reopen, jabs are critical

AS SCHOOLS and colleges reopen in phases, the vaccination of children, especially those with comorbidities, will be key. The government guidelines, out in the first half of this month, will present the template for the process, including prioritisation and vaccination timelines.

Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) in the next few days, it is learned.

NEGVEC"will study and make a decision" on which category of recipients Zydus Cadila's threedose ZyCoV-DDNA vaccine, which has been approved for children older than 12 years, will be used in the first phase, the sources said.

NEGVEC is chaired by Dr V K Paul, head of India's Covid-19 task force, and co-chaired by Union

Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan. NTAGI is the nation's top ad-

... the name you can BANK upon f

CIRCLE SASTRA (KHARAGPUR), BE-1, Bidhan Nagar, Station Road, Midnapore, WB- 721101, E mail: cs8262@pnb.co.in

Whereas Punjab National Bank/ the Authorized Officer/s of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security

Interest & Charges, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest & Charges(Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice/s on the

dates mentioned against eh count calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against eh count within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/ date of receipt of

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the

property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of t read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest & Charges

The borrower's /guarantor's /mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the t in respect of time available to redeem the secured

The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Punjab

visory body on immunization.

The sources said NTAGI has examined the scientific data on comorbidities among children and the size of this vulnerable group. "On the Zydus vaccine, we are looking at the recommendation of the NTAGI, on which category of children it has to be used in the first phase. They have looked at the comorbidities. That (recommendation) should come any day now. Once it comes, we will study and make a decision," they said.

The Covaxin phase 2-3 paediatric study results are expected to arrive a week after the guidelines on vaccination of children. The study to evaluate safety, reactogenicity, and immunogenicity is being conducted on healthy volunteers above the age of 2 at six sites across the country.

A third vaccine that will be tested in children in India is Covovax, the Indian version of the Covid-19 vaccine developed by the US-based Novavax, which will be manufactured by Serum Institute of India. Trials of this recombinant nanoparticle proteinbased vaccine, technically named NVX-CoV2373, will be conducted at 23 sites across the country.

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable Property)

FROM PAGE ONE

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

The Indian Express of secret records of Aabol, an offshore service provider based in Mahe. Sevchelles, part of the Pandora Papers, reveals that Loomba's company had a linked bank account with Mauritius ABC Banking Corporation, where father and son, as Directors of Rarint Partners Ltd, pegged the company's "expected" annual deposit/turnover as \$1 million.

The initial deposit in the account, also opened in December 2016, was \$100,000 and the "expected" annual expenses of the Seychelles company, which the bank account opening form states would be engaged in "consultancy," was estimated at \$500,000.

Besides the Loomba duo, the third Director of Rarint Partners Ltd is Anant Ghyanashyam, a res-

ident of Vasant Vihar, New Delhi. All three are named as first Directors and Beneficiary Owners (BOs) of the company.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"In 2016, we had conceived an

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

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

Loomba added that the bank had confoirmed to him that Rarint Partners "did not have an account with the bank. This despite the fact that

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

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

According to Registrar of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By 2012, Mittal was in trouble after local authorities foreclosed the assets of Global Steel Philippines Inc, a GSHL subsidiary. In this case, too, Mittal personally guaranteed the company's liability – approximately \$348 million plus interest — to Steel Trading Corporation of India.

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

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

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

source of funds. In response, Meadswell (BVI) switched to Vistra (UK) as its new

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

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

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

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

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

Supreme Court judges who head the Government's Special Investigating Team (SIT) on black money have said "action" will be taken on the fresh revelations. The SIT was set up by the Modi

Government in 2014 following its first Cabinet meeting and has so far submitted seven reports to the Supreme Court. Speaking to The Indian Express,

SIT Chairman, retired Supreme Court Judge, Justice MB Shah said: "This is a very important matter for us. The investigation shows what is happening in the country without the knowledge of the socalled experts.'

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

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

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

SADAF MODAK

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

On Monday, it arrested three more people, including another passenger from the ship, after it returned to Mumbai from its trip. While the NCB counsel had

Sunday sought Aryan's "reason-

"There are links in the form of able custody" for only two days, pictures, chats, etc pointing toon Monday, the senior-most law wards international drug traffickofficer of the Union government ing. There are several suspicious

characters whose identities are not known. There are conversations about procuring narcotic drugs in bulk, discussions on modes of pay-Bhangakuthi, Burdwan - 71310 ment other than cash or bank transfers. Several code names are used...It is necessary to confront the accused with various persons. There are international transaction linkages, we may need to take in-

the time Aryan was studying in

puts from other agencies," ASG

To the court's query on what the chats proved, the ASG said they were relevant to find out who the suppliers, financiers were. Granting extension of custody,

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

Singh said while no drugs had been seized from Aryan, investigating him was needed "to unearth other aspects like who was the supplier". The ASG went on to argue that drugs had become common among youngsters, and

a "high-profile" person is considered a role model. He said the NCB was also investigating the organisers of the cruise party.

Aryan's counsel Satish Maneshinde contested that he had not even boarded the ship when the authorities began conducting a check. He said Aryan's belongings and person were searched and nothing found, and that while "6 gram of charas" were found on Arbaz Merchant, Aryan had no links to it. "He was accompanied by one-two friends. While they were allowed to go, the NCB took Aryan's phone," Maneshinde said.

"The NCB may claim that drugs were seized from other accused. But I have no connection with them, they are not my friends, nor can the drug seizure from others be foisted on me," Maneshinde said on behalf of Aryan.

Kolkata



Date: 04.10.2021 Place: Midnapore

Sd/- Partha Sarathi Dash **Chief Manager cum Authorised Officer Punjab National Bank**

Aryan Khan at a Mumbai court on Monday. Ganesh Shirsekar in Maharashtra, Additional the US to as recently as July 2021. Solicitor General Anil Singh, appeared in court on behalf of the

NCB and argued that "shocking in-

criminating material" had been

seized from the accused's phone.

Regional Office: Burdwan: 2nd Floor, 54 G.T. Road Sork of Seroda

Corrigendum

Pursuant to the E Auction Sale Notice published n this newspaper on 01.10.2021, on account of vehicle of borrower Rajendra Kumar Gupta. Branch: City Centre Durgapur, the sale should be treated under sale of hypothecation / seizure of movable property and not under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Branch Manager

05.10.2021

Singh told the court. The NCB claimed chats from

FUNDS WERE ROUTED VIA BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

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

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

PVAIDYANATHANIYER NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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



with Rajasthan Royals fran-It was not

wife Minal,

just the investment by offshore entities in franchisees that raised eyebrows after the IPL was founded in 2008 with plans to conduct 20over format cricket tournaments. It was a larger tussle between the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and Lalit Modi who had suddenly emerged as a parallel power centre and was allegedly routing investments into these franchisees through people close to him.

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

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



BANTREE INTERNATIONAL LIMI rated under the International Business Companies Authorised Share Capital USD 50,000

in Place, London SWIX 85H, United Kingdom

USD 1.00

Rs 5.11 crore) in the franchisee. When contacted, Burman told The Indian Express: "Everything to do with KPH Kings XI was thoroughly investigated by the BCCI and the Enforcement Directorate. The BCCI had actually terminated our franchise. We went to

of Companies showed that Colway held

4,47,700 shares (acquired at a premium of

Rs 104.27 each for a total consideration of

court and won that case. Our franchise was

Alcogal records

generation Dabur

family scion, is sole

International, BVI,

linked to Kings XI

shows Gaurav

Burman, fifth

shareholder of

Bantree

Punjab

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

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

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

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

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

INTERNAL REPORT FORM FOR NOTIFICATION OF SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS Name of Client: Rohan Timblo Calheta Holdings Limited (struck off in Name of Client Bank Account: November 2015) Bank at which account held OCBC Singapore

Rohan Timblo is named in the Suspicious Transaction Report

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

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

preceded by two suspicious transaction reports (STRs) by Asiaciti. The first STR was filed after Timblo in

January 2015 sought to add two unrelated persons of Bulgarian origin Martin Vladimir Dobrev and Tchavdar Tchavdarov

Tzenov — as beneficiaries of his family trust. Colares, that was set up for family wealth succession.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Timblo, according to the STR, requested for documents pertaining to the trust structure set up with Asiaciti including the bank

> Trust and Calheta Holdings. "Rohan declined to make payment of fees by electronic transfer and

account records of Colares

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHYAMLAL YADAV NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

Trust. British Virgin Islands, a trust deed for

Timberlane Trust was settled between Timberlane Group Foundation, Panama (settlor), and Trident Trust, BVI (trustee), in 2012. The deed mentions Lalit Khaitan and Abhishek Khaitan as "beneficiaries" of the trust. Lalit is Chairman and Managing

Director of Radico Khaitan Limited and his son Abhishek is its Managing Director. The Timberlane Trust deed declares "50.000 shares of USD 1 in the company

Beecool Global Holdings Limited" as its "Trust The Timberlane Group Foundation was established in Panama on October 3, 2012,

and Beecool Global Holdings Limited was incorporated in BVI on April 26, 2012. The Register of Directors of Beecool Global

Holdings Limited states that ever since September 4, 2012, the Timberlane Trust held



The document that names Lalit and Abhishek Khaitan as beneficiaries

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

On September 3, 2012, Lalit Khaitan signed an "Affidavit of Good Standing" to Trident Trust, Later, these shares were transferred to Lalit and Abhishek, data shows. In fact, respective share transfer forms dated October 30, 2013, state that

Trident Trust (BVI), as trustee of The Timberlane Trust. transferred 25,000 shares of Beecool Global Holdings

Limited to Lalit Khaitan and 25,000 shares to Abhishek Khaitan "for valuable considerations received".

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

A letter of 2012 by Timberlane

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

Documents on Radico Khaitan show that Ashutosh FFF TRIDENTTRUST Patra, a senior partner in OP Khaitan & Co., was appointed as independent director of

the company from September 30, 2014, for a period of five years. Lalit and Abhishek, according to the

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

A "letter of wishes" related to Timberlane

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

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

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

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

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

SANDEEP SINGH

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

Abhishek Bhartia as director.

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

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

Julius Baer Trust Company (Cayman) Ltd was Trustee of The Bhartia Family Trust. Carmichael Inc's resolution on

OMC Group

January 16, 2008, states: "Carmichael Inc was incorporated as an Exempt company in the Cayman Islands on

August 27, 2003, and is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Bhartia Family Trust. The company was acquired by its current shareholder in May 2006. The company's principal activity is investing in marketable securities.'

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



Om Prakash Bhartia is named as beneficial owner

tions were "mainly outside the Cayman

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

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

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

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

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

Records show that in 2007, the shareholders gave unsecured interest-free loans $Inc.\,Subsequently, the\,company\,renewed\,the$ investment advisory agreement with Altis Investment through a resolution in November 2007 and revised the annual fee with effect from July 18, 2007. The company held its bank account with Julius Baer and UBS and made a set of payments: investment management fee of \$55,638 to Altis Investment, portfolio fee of \$73,062 in the year ended June 2007, and bank charges of \$67,191. A written resolution of Carmichael Inc shareholders, dated Jan 8, 2008, on financial

statements ended June 2007, shows that the

company was still controlled by "The Bhartia

Family". The resolution was signed by two directors "For and on behalf of Julius Baer Trust

Company (Cayman) Ltd as Trustee of The

amounting to \$24.69 million to Carmichael

Bhartia Family Trust". The OP Bhartia family did not respond to questions emailed by The Indian Express.

THE EIGHT WHO DIED

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

ASAD REHMAN

LAKHIMPUR KHERI, OCT 4

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

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

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

Gurvinder is survived by his

Violence was

carried out in

'leftist' manner,

says RSS affiliate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MEMBERS OF political parties,

and not farmers, perpetrated the

Lakhimpur Kheri violence in a

"leftist manner", RSS affiliate

Bharatiya Kisan Sangh said

eight people killed in Lakhimpur

Kheri after a convoy of three

SUVs, including one owned by

Union Minister of State for Home

Ajay Mishra, hit a group of farm

BKS termed Sunday's inci-

"Those involved in the inci-

dent were not farmers. They

were from various political par-

ties. The incident was perpe-

trated in leftist manner. People

were lynched by beating them

with sticks. Farmers cannot do

lence seems to have been perpe-

trated by professionals. "To take law into one's own hands, to kill publicly, it appears it has been

done by professionals, executioners. No amount of criticism of the incident is enough. Those

involved must be given the

severest punishment." BKS said.

lences to the family of the de-

ceased and demanded an inde-

pendent inquiry.

The union expressed condo-

The state government

Monday said an inquiry has been

instituted under a retired high

The RSS affiliate said the vio-

such a thing," BKS said

protesters, triggering a clash.

dent "unfortunate"

Four farmers were among

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

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



Police personnel posted at Tikunia on Monday. Vishal Srivastav

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

"Diljeet used to go for the farmer protests... He thought this movement is important for farm-

Shubham Mishra (26), one of

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

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

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

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

Sunil Singh, the BIP's district

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

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

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

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

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

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

the bench the outfit has filed an affidavit stating it is not involved in any blockage on any route.

The bench then sought the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DESTINATION LAKHIMPUR KHERI

the four who died in the clashes.

was a local BIP leader in Shivpuri.

the district headquarters of

Lakhimpur Kheri. On Monday, a

few relatives and neighbours

gathered outside his house to of-

fer their condolences. Among

them was his uncle, Anoop

tice... We expect the government

"A life is a life. We expect jus-





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



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

BJP watches warily, had swept Lakhimpur Kheri in 2017 elections

LALMANI VERMA DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

Roorkee church attack: DGP

assures action; no arrests yet

ing districts such as Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Sitapur and Bahraich, where too the

party had made impressive gains in 2017. Of the 42 Assembly seats in these six districts, the BJP had won 37.

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

This was in a sharp contrast to 2012, when the SP had won 25 seats in this belt, the BSP 10, the BJP five and the Congress two. The Nighasan Assembly seg-

ment in Lakhimpur Kheri, where the incihappened Sunday, has been won by the BJP thrice since 1993. Union Minister

of State Ajay Mishra, whose son was allegedly in one of the vehicles involved in the incident, lost from Nighasan in 2007 before winning in 2012. Apart from taking all the seats in the district, the BJP increased its vote share too by multiple times between 2012 and 2017. In Gola Gokarannath Assembly segment of Lakhimpur Kheri, its vote share rose from 3.88% to 49%; in Kasta (SC seat), it went up from 7.36% votes to 44%; in Dhaurahra, from 5.89% to 36%; and in Palia, from 11.34% to 51%.

As the SP and Congress lead the Opposition protests against the Yogi Adityanath government over the incident, Congress Lakhimpur city president Siddharth Trivedi said there would be a poll fallout. "The BJP is set to lose votes after this incident. Let's see who gets the most share from its loss," he said.

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

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

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The case has been registered at Roorkee Kotwali under IPC Sections 395 (dacoity), 295 (injuring or defiling place of worship with intent to insult religion of any class), 296 (disturbing religious assembly), 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation), and 427 (mischief causing damage).

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

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

SOURAV ROY BARMAN

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

the Congress leadership summoned the two leaders to Delhi.

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

priate," Sangma said. Pala sought to downplay reports on the rift.

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

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

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

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

WHAT THEY SAID

Is this Ram Raiva? No. this is Killing Rajya. Killing Raj is going on there, instead of what they said about establishing Ram Rajya....No humanism prevails in this (UP) state.

Farmers are brutally killed.

MAMATA BANERJEE WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

There is no democracy.

Only autocracy

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

CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

chopper at the site.



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

ASHOK GEHLOT RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

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

voices of opposition leaders who show solidarity with them?

SANJAY RAUT SHIV SENA MF



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

SITARAM YECHURY CPI(M) GENERAL SECRETARY

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

MANISH SISODIA DELHI DEPUTY CM

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

MEHBOOBA MUFTI, PDP CHIEF

Kolkata

ECONOMY

'Green hydrogen push for

refining, fertiliser sectors; PLI

for electrolysers in the works'

Working on plan to bundle bids for renewables: Singh

SENSEX: 59,299.32 ▲ 533.74 (0.91%) NIFTY: 17,691.25 ▲ 159.20 (0.91%) NIKKEI: 28,444.89 ▼ 326.18 HANG SENG: 24,036.37 ▼ 539.27 FTSE: 7,023.12 ▼ 3.95 DAX: 15,119.55 ▼ 36.89

INTERVIEW WITH POWER AND RENEWABLE ENERGY MINISTER PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION BILL: JOINT HOUSE PANEL TO MEET ON OCT 20

Looking at 'bigger umbrella', PDP Bill likely to include non-personal data

AASHISHARYAN

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

THE JOINT Parliamentary Committee on Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill of 2019 is likely to meet this month to formally adopt a resolution to widen the ambit of the Bill to include non-personal data as well, sources in know of the de-The next meeting, likely to

happen on October 20 under the Chairmanship of P P Chaudhary. will deliberate upon this proposal. sources said, adding that other changes to the proposed Bill such as amendments to Section 91 (2), which so far says that the provisions of the PDP Bill would not apply to anonymised data.

Following the changes, the new Bill is likely to be called just

the Data Protection Bill of 2021 instead of Personal Data Protection Bill, a source in the know of the development told The Indian Express.

'The idea to include non-personal data is to have a bigger umbrella, which will act as sort of an architecture if any amendments are to be made in the future. The inclusion of provisions for nonpersonal data will mostly be done on the basis of the recommendations of the Ministry committee," an official said. Mails to the Parliamentary panel seeking details of the proposed changes remained unanswered.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has in September 2019 constituted a panel, chaired by Infosys cofounder Kris Gopalakrishnan, to deliberate upon and discuss various aspects of non-personal data.

3 yrs in the waiting

THE PERSONAL Data Protection Bill, first proposed by the government in 2018, has been pending for nearly 3 years now. It has seen several changes to the original draft drawn by retired Supreme Court judge Justice B N Srikrishna.

In its report submitted in July 2020, the panel had suggested a datasharing regulation to shift data's "economic benefits for citizens and communities in India" as well as help the government in policy making and service delivery.

such as data related to national security or strategic interests such as locations of government laboratories or research facilities, even if provided in anonymised form can be dangerous. Similarly, even if the data is about the health of a community or a group of communities, though it may be in anonymised form, it can still be

dangerous, the panel had said. "Possibilities of such harm are obviously much higher if the original personal data is of a sensitive nature. Therefore, the non-personal data arising from such sensitive personal data may be considered as sensitive non-personal data," the panel had suggested.

The IPC may call industry experts on non-personal data for submissions and explain the aspects before taking a final call, one offithat there is no standard definition for non-personal data, or that who will be in charge of non-personal data and whether there will be a separate regulator. All these issues will be discussed in upcoming sittings," the official said.

The Personal Data Protection Bill, first proposed by the government in 2018, has been pending for close to three years now. It has seen several changes to the original draft drawn by retired Supreme Court judge Justice B N Srikrishna, who also said that the revised Bill was "a blank cheque to the state". The latest version of the bill, in complete contrast to earlier 2018 draft, says that a committee for selection of Data Protection Authority, will include the Cabinet Secretary, the Law Secretary and

the IT Secretary.

₹24.7 lakh cr

infrastructure credit by banks and

NBFC-IFCs as on March 31, 2021,

posting a sluggish growth of 10%

infrastructure credit continues to

increase and stood at 54% as on

infrastructure credit slid to 46%

from about 61% five years ago

IMPROVEMENTLIKELY:

With the government's focus on

infrastructure sector, the demand

for infrastructure credit is likely to

Source: Icra Ratings/PTI

is the estimated total

SHARE OF IFCs in total

SHARE OF banks in total

March 31, 202

leading to serious disruptions in power supplies. How serious is our own depleting coal stocks situation?

The coal shortage in China is

THE GOVERNMENT is working on

plans to boost the use of green hy-

drogen in the oil refining and fer-

tiliser production sectors, includ-

ing a likely announcement on a

Production Linked Incentive (PLI)

scheme for electrolyser manufac-

turing to give an impetus to the do-

mestic hydrogen value chain.

Speaking to KARUNJIT SINGH &

ANIL SASI, Union Power and

Renewable Energy Minister

R K SINGH said the coal shortage

situation this time is serious and is

being handled at an inter-minis-

terial level, and that the situation

presents both a challenge and an

opportunity at the same time. He

also talked of a bundling plan for

future renewable energy bids.

Edited excerpts:

China seems to be having a huge crisis. Thank God, we are managing. The demand has gone up tremendously. We touched 200 Gigawatts (one GW is a thousand mega watts) during the Covid period, and the demand has been hovering around 170-180 GW, continuously. I expect the demand to go up again to near about 200 GW and stay there. So, this is stretching our resources... We have had to manage coal (supplies). I had a meeting with the Minister for coal and the Minister for railways and we planned as to how we shall meet this, because the requirement of coal is going to go up substantially.

How much of this is something that is seen annually post-monsoons, when there is inevitably a coal shortage phase?

This is beyond the (normal) post monsoon (supply crunch). I have been here for some years now, I haven't seen something like this on a continuous basis... Demand is not going to go away, it's going to increase more and more. That's what I tell my officers, it is not something that is just a passing phase... because we've added so many new consumers... Most of sumers and poor so they are buying fans, lights, televisions sets so their demand is growing. The good thing also is that we also see that this is an indication of the increased economic activity in the country, so that is a good thing. I see it as a challenge but I see this also as an opportunity. Opportunity in the sense that I had some units which were not being utilised now they are all being utilised.

There is an anomaly in the case of renewables in terms of

RK Singh, Union Power and Renewable Energy Minister THE EXPRESS

from developers earlier end up paying more. So, there is a perverse incentive to

INTERVIEW

perhaps wait. This has struck us. We are working on a proposal which should be taken up in a few days that in the future, bids will be bundled. If there is one bid, suppose you get a rate of Rs 2.5 (per unit) and the PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) is signed (between the generation utility and the Discom) In the next bid, suppose SECI (Solar Energy Corporation of India) gets Rs 2.40 per unit then it will be averaged out. The person who signed it at Rs 2.50 (per unit) will get it at the average of Rs 2.50 and Rs 2.40 and the fresh PPAs will be at that average. Similarly, if a third bid comes at (Rs) 2.30, so now it will again be aggregated and the PPA will be at the new resultant rate and all the people who signed earlier will also pay only at that resultant rate. This will take care of it.

What about the government's green hydrogen push?

What we are going to do is that we are going to put a mandate. Now, grey hydrogen and grey ammonia (both generated from natural gas or methane, through a process called steam reforming) will be gradually replaced by the green hydrogen and green ammonia (generated using renewables). used? One is of course refining, it's a major sector. So we are going to put a mandate, let's say beginning with 15 per cent or 20 per cent, where 20 per cent of what they are consuming to begin with will have to be green hydrogen and then it will go up to maybe 30-40 per cent. And in four years we expect the price of green hydrogen to match that of grey hydrogen. In a maximum of four years, the prices will come down. After that no mandate will be necessary...

Similarly we are going to put up a mandate for blending of PNG

and LNG with green hydrogen. You can blend up to 15 per cent without any change in the chemistry of the pipes. For fertilisers, the total grey ammonia which is used is 15 million tonnes, which has to be replaced. What is imported is 2.6 million tonnes. So the total which has to be replaced is 17.6 million tonnes. As far as grey hydrogen is concerned, it comes to 5.2 million tonnes, which has to be gradually replaced.

Is there a scheme for pushing domestic manufacturing of electrolysers?

Earlier, we had started the talks of mandates at 10 per cent in refining and 5 per cent for fertiliser manufacture, but we will raise that to 15 or 20 per cent (for refining). But, in the earlier trajectory (10 per cent) alone our requirement for electrolysers is about 8,800 MW. There isn't that much capacity in the world. In the world, the total manufacturing capacity for electrolysers which is installed is just about 2,000 MW. So, naturally we have to make our own electrolysers. So, that is one of the proposals that we need a PLI (production linked incentive scheme) for electrolyser manufacturing because

How much production capacity for electrolysers are

there is no world supply.

we aiming to create in India? I am thinking of something in the range of about 15,000 MW over five years. In fact we want at least 10,000 MW in the next without that we will not be able to start. One green hydrogen plant has been set up (by a private player). That is just about 1 megawatt. That electrolyser had to be imported. For them the cost was Ithink \$350 or \$300 per

The cost of setting up a plant for manufacturing is not very much. The capital cost of setting up a 1,000 MW electrolyser plant is about Rs 125 crore. The PLI we are proposing is \$50 per kilowatt. There will be bidding, but the ceiling would be \$50 per kilowatt.

SECTOR WATCH

NON-BANKING FINANCIAL COMPANY

After DHFL, Srei 2nd NBFC referred for insolvency process

RBI supersedes boards of Srei Infra Fin, Srei Equipment Fin

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) on Monday said that it has superseded the boards of Kolkata-based non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) Srei Infrastructure Finance and Srei Equipment Finance. The two firms will now be referred for insolvency proceedings in the second such instance after Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL).

"In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 45-IE (1) of the Reserve Bank of India today superseded the Board of Directors of Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) and Srei **Equipment Finance Limited** (SEFL), owing to governance concerns and defaults by the aforesaid companies in meeting their various payment obligations," it said.

Rajneesh Sharma, former chief general manager at Bank of Baroda, has been appointed the administrator of the two companies under Section 45-IE(2) of the RBI Act. In addition,

BRIEFLY —

Pension revision

New Delhi: The RBI has al-

ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTED

■ Rajneesh Sharma, former chief general manager at Bank of Baroda, has been appointed the administrator of the two companies

the RBI appointed a threemember advisory committee to assist the administrator: R Subramaniakumar, former MD & CEO, Indian Overseas Bank, and former administraghavan, former MD, Sundaram Finance, and Farokh N Subedar, former chief operating officer and company secretary, Tata Sons, Hemant Kanoria, chairman, Srei Infrastructure Finance, said that the company was shocked by the RBI's move as banks have been regularly appropriating funds from the escrow account they have controlled since November 2020. "We will take all necessary steps as advised by our lawyers in this regard," Kanoria said.

NBFC-IFC sluggish in Q1FY22' Total infrastructure credit by banks and NBFC-Infrastructure

'Infra finance by banks,

Finance Companies (NBFC-IFCs) remained sluggish in the first quarter amid Covid disruptions, Icra Ratings said



under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) over FY20-FY25

improve over medium term Over Rs 111 lakh crore is the target of infrastructure investment set by the central government

Air India bid: Ministerial group holds meet, 'announcement soon'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI. OCTOBER 4

THE AIR India Specific Alternate Mechanism (AISAM), a group of Ministers led by Home Mi Amit Shah, met on Monday to discuss the national carrier's disinvestment, sources said.

While it is unclear whether the AISAM approved the proposal to ratify the winning bid, a senior government official said that "an announcement will be made soon". In addition to the Home Minister, the AISAM comprises Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

The Indian Express reported Saturday that the Tata Group has **FLAG CARRIER'S** DISINVESTMENT



■ The Air India Specific Alternate Mechanism, a group of ministers led by **Home Minister Amit** Shah, met Monday to discuss the flag carrier's disinvestment according to sources

emerged as the frontrunner to acquire Air India. The Mumbai-

based conglomerate has placed the highest bid — over Rs 5,000 crore more than SpiceJet promoter Ajay Singh, who participated in his individual capacity in the bidding process, accord-

Once the winner is announced, the share-purchase agreement will be signed with the winning entity within 15 days, and the transfer process will begin immediately

Representatives of both bidders were called for meetings on two occasions earlier this week, during which the share-purchase agreement was discussed to help them take a long-term view of Air India's various liabilities, and plan the funding accordingly.

those who've bought power

FROM SECURITIES MARKET FOR 'FRAUDULENT TRADING' Sebi bars biz show anchor, 5 others

New Delhi: Sebi on Monday barred Pradeep Pandya, who served as an anchor on stock market shows on a business news channel, three other individuals and two entities from the securities market for indulging in fraudulent trading.

In its interim order, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) also directed impounding Rs 8.4 crore-worth of proceeds from the fraudulent trades. CNBC Awaaz anchor Pradeep Pandya, Alpesh Furiya,

Manish Furiya, Alpa Furiya, Alpesh Vasanji Furiya HUF and Manish V Furiya HUF have been restrained from buying, selling or dealing in securities till further orders. Pandya and Alpesh Furiya

have also been ordered to "cease and desist" from undertaking, directly or indirectly, any activity related to giving investment advice, sell or buy recommendations, publishing of research reports related to securities via any media till further orders. ENS WITH PTI

IPO price band

New Delhi: Sebi proposed a minimum price band of 5 per cent for public issues via book built process and subcategorisation of non-institutional investors. In another decision, it also banned "intermediate pooling" of funds and units, to protect interests of mutual fund investors. PTI

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

Association for

e-comm formed

TO PROVIDE a dedicated platform to the e-commerce industry to achieve a common ground, an association, Confederation of Indian E-Commerce (CIE), has been formed, Established as a trust and a not-for-profit organisation based out of New Delhi, the organisation will work closely with the policy makers and plans to provide a platform to share best practices for the budding MSMEs and traditional retail.

With key e-commerce companies being invited to be a part of the confederation, CIE, which will be an apex body of the industry, "intends to be the neutral voice of the Industry by bringing the government, the industry, policy makers and the consumers on one platform," according to a statement. The confederation will leverage the national missions — Startup India, Digital India and the Aatmanirbhar Bharat programmes —for the e-commerce industry, it said. "It aims to provide a dedicated platform for the retail and e-commerce companies to take up economic or policy issues with the government and other relevant agencies. Support to MSMEs and traditional retail ...,

lowed banks to amortise additional liability on account of revision in family pension over 5 years starting FY22.

NARCL licence

New Delhi: The National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) got RBI licence.

New Delhi: Coal India suppl-

Coal India supply

ied 117.6 MT of coal to power utilities in July-September.

MSME scheme New Delhi: The deadline for

Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt for stressed MSMEs is March 31.

Aditya Birla fine

New Delhi: Sebi fined Aditya Birla Money Ltd over Rs 1 crore for violating rules. PTI

Oil past \$81

New York: Brent crude rose \$2.34, or 3%, to \$81.62 by 1632 GMT, after OPEC+ said it would stick to its current output policy. **REUTERS**

FM: Well-managed cos, good governance attracting investors

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman said the advice given by company secretaries to businesses will make a lot of difference as only "well-managed" companies following good governance practices are attracting investors.

At an event on Monday to mark the 53rd Foundation Day of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI). Sitharaman said Indian companies have done extraordinarily well in the last year in terms of attracting investments because of their transparency and better compliance.

"In the last few years, the rate at which compliance-related issues have become the main cause for companies to fail to live up to expectations of investors, wellmanaged companies, companies which are more transparent in its functioning, companies which have good governance principles, board driven principles, are attracting lot of investors, not only big ticket investors, but also small

retail investors," she said.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman File

DEA Secy: India on recovery path

New Delhi: Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said India has got on the path of economic recovery aided by various government reforms in last seven years. **PTI**

to flourish and expand in its area of operation, the role of company secretary to make it easy, to make it ready for the company to follow the guiding principles that you might advice them with, is going to make a lot of difference," the Finance Minister said. WITH PTI

Byju's raises \$300 mn, valuation hits \$18 bn

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

BYIU'S HAS raised a fresh \$300 million (Rs 2,200 crore) from investors. The latest round of fundraise valued the company at around \$18 billion, up from \$16.5 billion when it last raised funds.

According to a regulatory filings accessed through Tofler, Oxshott Capital Partners led the new tranche of investment while XN Exponent, Edelweiss, Verition Master Fund, IIFL and Time Capital Advisors participated. Byju's has issued 77,174 shares, with Oxshott alone buying over 40,000 shares, at a share price of Rs 2,85,062.

At \$18 billion, Byju's continues to be the country's most valued private internet firm. It had surpassed fintech firm Paytm in June which was valued at \$16 billion. The edtech start-up has already raised close to \$1.5 billion from a clutch of investors including Facebook co-founder Eduardo Saverin's B Capital Group, UBS Group and Blackston in tranches this year. **FE**

Evergrande to raise \$5 bn from sale of

Hong Kong: China Evergrande will sell a majority stake in its property management business for more than \$5 billion, Chinese media said on Monday, a deal which would be the largest asset sale yet at the debt-laden property developer if it goes ahead.

property unit

Property Evergrande Services Group, a spin-off listed last year, also requested a halt and said it referred to "a possible general offer for shares of the company." **REUTERS**

Invesco stresses on EGM demand before NCLT

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU

INVESCO DEVELOPING Markets Funds on Monday reiterated its demand before the Mumbai Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) that Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEEL) should convene an extraordinary general meeting (EGM), chaired

by a retired high court judge. "Our apprehension of ZEEL

board not calling an EGM has come true. We are not concerned with the outcome of the EGM, but only concerned that an EGM

sel Mukul Rohatgi told the bench. The Companies Act empowers shareholders holding at least

10 per cent of voting rights to convene an EGM, in case the company is not willing to do so. However, Invesco's counsel said that it cannot call an EGM, as there were more than 2.5 lakh retail shareholders in the company and ZEEL was not providing their details (contact and mailing details).

Meanwhile, as per a PTI report, the Ahmedabad bench of the NCLAT dismissed a Gail India petition challenging insolvency resolution plan of Alok Industries. **FE** the statement said Kolkata

"And therefore, for a company

12 THE WORLD



ACTOR WILLIAM SHATNER TO FLY TO SPACE

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

Whistleblower says FB 'chooses profits over safety' Pandora Papers: Rich and

RYAN MAC & CECILIA KANG OCTOBER 4

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

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

TOPOFTHE WORLD

SWEDEN

Lars Vilks, who

drew sketch of

Prophet, dies

SWEDISH ARTIST Lars

Vilks, who stirred world-

wide controversy in 2007

with drawings depicting

the Prophet Mohammad

with the body of a dog, was

killed in a car crash near the

southern town of Markaryd

on Sunday, police said. Vilks,

75, who had been living un-

der police protection since

the drawings were pub-

lished, was travelling in a

police vehicle which col-

lided with a truck. Two po-

lice officers were also killed.

"This is a very tragic inci-

dent. It is now important to

all of us that we do every-

thing we can to investigate

what happened and what

caused the collision,"

Swedish police said in a

statement on Monday.

"Initially, there is nothing

that points to anyone else

being involved." REUTERS

MYANMAR

Suu Kyi tired,

seeks less court

time over: lawyer

MYANMAR'S DETAINED

former leader Aung San

Suu Kyi on Monday asked

a judge to reduce the fre-

quency of her court hear-

ings due to strained health,

her lawyer said, but as-

sured the public there was

no concern about her con-

dition. Suu Kyi, who is on

trial and attending court

sessions in multiple cases

since her overthrow in a

Feb 1 coup, requested hear-

ings in each case be han-

dled every two weeks, not

every week, chief lawyer

Khin Maung Zaw told me-

dia. "She is tired. At her age,

it is not convenient to sit for

hearings every day of the

whole week," he said by

7 more killed

amid tropical

storm Shaheen

SEVEN MORE people

were killed in Oman as

heavy winds and rain

swept through the coun-

try after tropical storm

OMAN

REUTERS

in car crash



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

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

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

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

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

amassed to expose how much

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

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

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

Haugen gave many of the

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

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

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

powerful deny wrongdoing, **imran forms probe panel**

King of Jordan, Czech PM among those to issue denials

REUTERS&PTI

WASHINGTON, ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

International



Pakistan PM Imran Khan

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

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

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

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

trusts holding millions of dollars in offshore jurisdictions.

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

close US ally, was reported to have used offshore accounts to spend more than \$100 million on luxury homes in the United Kingdom and the United States. The royal palace said in a

Iordan's King Abdullah, a

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

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

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

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

Fumio Kishida (centre) is applauded after being elected as

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

ZEBA SIDDIQUI & PARNIYAN ZEMARYALAI

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

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

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

Koreas talk on

after North's

missile tests

HYUNG-JINKIM

SEOUL, OCTOBER 4

hotline restored

NORTH KOREA restored dormant

communication hotlines with

South Korea in a small, fragile rec-

onciliation step Monday in an ap-

parent hard push to win outside

concessions with a mix of concil-

iatory gestures and missile tests.

the move will improve ties be-

tween the Koreas, as Pyongyang

has a history of using the hotlines

as a bargaining chip in dealings

with Seoul. It often unilaterally

suspended then reactivated them

when it needed better relations

answered phone calls by their

South Korean counterparts over

a set of cross-border govern-

ment and military channels on

Monday morning for the first

pleased because the communica-

tion channels have been restored

like this. We hope that South-

North relations will develop into

a new level," a Seoul official said

during a phone conversation with

his North Korean counterpart over

one channel, according to video

released by South Korea's

fax channels that the Koreas use

to set up meetings, arrange bor-

der crossings and avoid acciden-

The hotlines are phone and

Unification Ministry

tal clashes.

"Long time no talk. We're very

time in nearly two months.

North Korean liaison officers

with its southern neighbour.

It's unclear how substantially



Kabul last month. Reuters

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

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

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMSTERDAM, OCTOBER 4

THE EUROPEAN Union's drug

regulator gave its backing

Monday to administering

booster shots of the Pfizer-

BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine for

Agency said the booster doses

"may be considered at least 6

months after the second dose for

people aged 18 years and older."

cines committee issued the rec-

ommendation after studying

The agency's human medi-

The European Medicines

people 18 and older.

ANDREW BOYERS

Reuters reporter said.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, OCT 4

BRITISH MILITARY personnel in

combat fatigues arrived on

Monday at a BP storage depot af-

ter the government ordered the

army to help deliver fuel to tackle

an acute shortage of truckers, a

everything from pork, petrol and

poultry to medicines and milk

have been strained to breaking

point by shortages of labour in the

wake of the Brexit and Covid crises.

Panic buying of fuel amid the

Britain's supply chains for

This time Taliban are promising greater freedom for women, including in education and employment, in accordance with their interpretation of Islamic law. Yet older girls are still not

back at school, there are no women in senior positions in the new government, the Women's Ministry in Kabul has been shut and the Taliban have said women will only be allowed to work in a small number of jobs. Women wanting to express

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

"We have a lot of plans to stage more protests, but unfortunately due to security concerns, we are not going out much right now,' said Nasima Bakhtiary, a former

EU drug regulator backs Pfizer

vaccine booster for 18 and older

The European Medicines

Agency said the booster

least 6 months after the

second dose". AP

doses "may be considered at

data for the Pfizer vaccine that

showed a rise in antibody levels

Britain sends military to solve fuel

crisis as driver shortage persists

Military personnel at

Buncefield Oil Depot. Reuters

shortage of truckers triggered

chaotic scenes across major

cities last week with queues of

drivers stacked up. Some have

had fist fights over the pumps

while others hoarded fuel in old

destroyed hours after Kabul blast

Taliban say IS cell

Kabul: Taliban government forces destroyed an Islamic State cell in the north of Kabul late on Sunday, a spokesperson for the movement said, after a blast outside a mosque in the Afghan capital killed a number of civilians.

There was no confirmation that the operation was directly connected with Sunday's blast, which appeared to be the most serious attack in the Afghan capital since the withdrawal of US forces at the end of August.

The local affiliate of IS has claimed to have carried out attacks on Taliban and remains unreconciled to the movement that swept to victory over the US-backed gov-

following boosters given around

6 months after the second dose

in people from 18 to 55 years old.

ports giving a third dose of either

the Pfizer-BioNTech or the

Moderna vaccine to people with

severely weakened immune sys-

tems at least 28 days after their

came after studies showed that

an extra dose of the vaccines in-

creased people's ability to pro-

duce antibodies against the virus

that causes Covid-19 in organ

transplant patients with weak-

"As an extra precaution,

we've put the extra drivers on,'

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's

finance minister, Rishi Sunak,

told LBC radio. "The situation has

been improving now for I think

over a week every day ... it is get-

ting better and as demand set-

tles back to more normal levels

the strong expectation is things

Reuters reporters said they

saw at least two dozen gas stations

still closed across London and

southern England. Drivers were

still queuing outside those stations

REUTERS

will resolve themselves.

which were open.

ened immune systems.

The agency said its decision

second shot.

The agency also said it sup-

Pope, other faith leaders sign joint climate appeal before summit

NICOLE WINFIELD VATICAN CITY, OCTOBER 4

POPE FRANCIS and dozens of religious leaders on Monday signed a joint appeal to governments to commit to ambitious targets at the upcoming U.N. climate conference, while promising to do their own part to lead their faithful into more sustainable behaviour.

we must not leave a desert to our children," said the appeal, which was signed at a formal ceremony in the Apostolic Palace before being handed over to the head of the COP26 conference, Alok Sharma.

For the religious leaders, care for the environment is a moral imperative to preserve God's creation for future generations and to support communities most vulnerable to climate change.

It's an argument Francis has made repeatedly and most comprehensively in a 2015 encyclical. "Praised Be" and was echoed Monday by other religious leaders who shared how their faith traditions interpreted the call, many of them insisting that faith and science must listen to each

other to save the planet. "Faith and Science: An Appeal for COP26" is the latest initiative to rally momentum and outrage ahead of the Oct. 31-Nov. 12 summit in Glasgow, Scotland that experts say is a make-or-break chance to curb greenhouse gas emissions. It follows a youth climate summit in Milan last week and an earlier appeal by three Christian leaders: Francis, the archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians, Ecumenical

Japan's PM, on Monday. AP le behaviour. "We have inherited a garden; "We have inherited a garden; takes office, calls

election on Oct 31

REUTERS TOKYO, OCTOBER 4

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

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

by lawmakers in the top job.

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

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

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

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

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

New coronavirus cases in

and to expand testing to help re-

Abe's influence still strong DESPITE HAVING stepped

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

lowest since Nov. 2 last year. Kishida's predecessor

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

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

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

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

"He won the election with

China mounts largest incursion yet near Taiwan the space of four days. China's Foreign Ministry, responding to the US statement,

BEN BLANCHARD & YIMOU LEE

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

urged China to stop its "provocative" military activities near Taiwan, while the island's government has also condemned Beijing.

termeasures," it added.

The United States on Sunday unwavering."

through the Taiwan Strait. 'China is resolutely opposed to this and takes necessary coun-"Engaging in Taiwan independence is a dead end. China

said it was the United States

which was being provocative

and harming regional peace,

with its arms sales to Taiwan and

warships sailing regularly

will take all steps needed and firmly smash any Taiwan independence plots," the ministry said. "China's determination and will to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity is

open the economy. Tokyo on Monday totalled 87, the

controlled Pratas Islands.

Shaheen made landfall, the national emergency committee said on Monday on its official Twitter account. Four people had been killed on Sunday including a child. Latest data showed that the storm had subsided, the civil aviation authority said on Monday, warning that scattered rainfall was still expected. REUTERS

TAIPEI, OCTOBER 4

CHINA BLAMED the US on

Pinki to fight for bronze after losing nail-biting semi-final



The pivotal moment when Pinki almost pinned Germany's Nina Hemmer before losing 6-8 in the World Championship semi-final. Twitter/Screenshot

Oslo: Indian wrestler Pinki nearly pinned her German rival Nina Hemmer before losing the heart-stopping 55kg semifinal 6-8 to miss out on a historic final at the World Championship even as the country's men's freestyle squad drew a blank after Rohit's defeat in the bronze medal play-off here on Monday.

In a fast-paced action-packed semifinal, Pinki trailed 0-4 after Hemmer effected a takedown move and followed that up with a quick gut wrench. Pinki kept looking for her moves and found one from a right leg-attack, pushing the back of the German on the mat for two points. She kept Hemmer in tight grip and held her in that position for more than a minute but the referees were not convinced to give away a 'fall' result. After the breather, Pinki levelled the score and then took a 6-4 lead with consecutive take-downs but Hemmer again refused to throw in the towel and pulled off two

14-year-old Naamya Kapoor wins gold in Jr shooting WC

Lima: India's 14-year-old shooter Naamya Kapoor fired her way to the gold medal ahead of her celebrated compatriot Manu Bhaker in the women's 25m pistol event of the ISSF Junior world Championship here on Monday. Kapoor shot 36 in the finals to claim the top prize ahead of France's Camille Jedrzejewski . (33) and 19-year-old Olympian Bhakar (31), who has already won three gold so far in the tournament. Bhaker settled for bronze after the French markswoman prevailed in a shoot-off. Another Indian, Rhythm Sangwan, finished fourth. Kapoor was sixth in the qualification with a total of 580 as Bhaker (587) and Sangwan (586) grabbed the top two spots. Delhi's Kapoor had shot the second best score of 583 in qualification to finish fifth in the national shooting selection trials at the Dr Karni Singh Range in August.India lead standings with seven gold, six silver and three

more two-pointers to emerge winner. No Indian woman wrestler has ever played a World Championship final.

Meanwhile, Ravinder played his heart out in the men's freestyle 65kg bronze play-off but lost by fall to Mongolia's Tulga Tumur Ochir. In the absence of big guns like Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya and Deepak Punia, only Rohit and Ravinder (61kg) could reach the medal rounds while others made early exits.

In the women's 62kg category, Sangeeta Phogat made a confident start by beating Germany's Luisa Niemesch 5-2, but lost her pre-quarterfinal 4-6 to Brazil's Lais Nunes De Oliveira, Sangeeta, who is making a comeback to competitive wrestling after three years following knee issues, effected some splendid double leg attacks in both her bouts but lost points on counter attacks and also ran out of steam against the Brazilian.

Eng out of Jr Hockey WC; notes India's rules for UK citizens

London: England pulled out of the FIH Men's Junior World Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar next month, citing a number of COVID-related concerns and taking "note" of the Indian government's mandatory 10-day quarantine protocol for all UK nationals. England Hockey said in a statement that it has informed world hockey governing body, FIH, of its decision to "unfortunately" withdraw from the November 24-December 5 tournament. "...with a number of COVID-related concerns in place, and with player and staff wellbeing in mind, it has become untenable for our team to participate. We note that on Friday the Indian government announced a mandatory ten-day quarantine for all UK nationals," the statement said. India imposed curbs on all British nationals arriving in the country after UK made it clear that even fully vaccinated Indians will have to undergo 10-day quarantine as it has issues with India's COVID-19 vaccine certification.

Golf surges ahead... in patents

Data shows 83,267 patents related to golf have been filed from 2000-2019

SHAHIDJUDGE OCTOBER 4

WHILE HOLDING on to their key values and traditions, most sports have made serious attempts to modernise over the years. There have been thousands of patents filed for inventions made to find new and improved ways to train and compete across various disciplines. Golfconsidered by many as one of the more traditional sports - has been the most innovative in terms of patents filed since the turn of the new

According to data by Sagacious IP, a global intellectual property research and consulting firm, there have been 83,267 patents filed relating to golf between 2000 and 2019. Football is a distant second in this regard with 22,397 and tennis third (20,195). Cricket, meanwhile, has seen 1,916 patents filed in that period.

Understanding 'patents'

A patent, once granted, secures the intellectual property of the inventor for a designated period of time in exchange for monetary compensation.

According to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), "A patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product of a process that provides, in general, a new way of doing something, or offers a new technical solution to a problem.'

There is a difference, however, between patents 'published' and 'granted.'

According to UpCounsel, a website providing legal services, "Just because a patent application is published, it won't always be granted. Patent applications are published in order to make the public sphere aware of what is seeking patent protection. This means that, if the patent isn't actually granted to the work, the public can learn from the work anyway."

Patents 'granted,' meanwhile means what the term suggests - that the patent has been approved and is protected by intellectual property rights.

Golf leading the way

The first patent filed related to golf was in 1891 when Frances Archibald Fairlie introduced improvements in metal-headed golf clubs. The sport has seen over 83,000 patents filed between 2000 and 2019. However, so far only 26,541 of those applications have been

Some of the patents granted relate to collection of data, it's storage and analysis - data such as golf swing or scoring chart of a player.

Interchangeable club heads

Quite simply, this patent published in July 2014 relates to a single golf club shaft being fitted with interchangeable heads. Generally, a golf bag will contain numerous clubs with varying heads on the top -



One of the patents involved a single golf stick being fitted with different heads, thus minimising the total number of clubs a golfer would need to carry.

a putter and driver, for example.

With this new invention, though, the size of the golf bag reduces as a different club head can be screwed on or off a single

Golf glove holder

Another published patent – dating back to 2002 – is the golf glove holder mounted on the

It was specifically designed to provide players with a quick way of drying their gloves that may have become damp due to sweat.

Making football modern

Between 2000 and 2019, 22,397 patents were filed in football, and 7,392 granted. The first patent filed in football dates back to 1907 when Maria Henriette Godey created an outer casing or envelope for soccer balls, according to Sagacious IP.

The online gaming industry has developed several football games, which have been patented as well.

Portable football goal

Probably one of the most important inventions to have aided the current trend of multipurpose sporting venues across the world is the 1986 invention of the portable football goal. Essentially, the frame of the football goal post can easily be dismantled and stored when not required, and can just as easily be erected when a football match has to be played.

Motion graphics on the ball

Visual designs on a football don't just serve as a cosmetic effect. In 2017, Nike was granted a patent for the motion graphics on a ball. It es-

sentially means there are designs in one or more contrasting colours on the casing of a football that allow data to be assessed - for example, the number of rotations per minute of a ball in flight after a free-kick is hit, etc.

Cricket chirping at patents

Cricket has only seen 332 patents granted from the 1.916 filed between 2000 and 2019. The sport's first patent came in 1894, when William David Cameron invented improvements in bats.

A large number of cricket's modern patents have been about apps that collect and disseminate data. But there have been a decent number that relate to on-field changes as well.

Rain cricket

In 2011, George William Beldam invented a cricket ball that doesn't lose its shape when damp, and can be used to conduct play during the rain. Various other factors, however, have marred the implementation of this patent, such as low visibility and bats getting damaged.

Mongoose cricket bats

As the 2021 IPL season nears its completion, it's worth remembering that in the second season of the T20 league in 2009, former Australian opener Matthew Hayden decided to play with a Mongoose bat. The bat had a longer handle and shorter wooden face at the bottom. The face, however, was much thicker – almost three times that of a conventional bat. It provided greater power when facing yorkers or low-full tosses.

Despite Hayden's success with that bat, it did not catch on.

Indians made to sweat by 10-man Bangladesh in SAFF opener

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MALE, OCTOBER 4

INDIA ALLOWED a 10-man Bangladesh to come back and score a shock goal after talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri's 76th international strike to play out a 1-1 draw in their SAFF Championships opener here on

The 37-year-old Chhetri, playing in his 121st match for India, struck in the 27th minute to place himself just a goal shy of legendary Brazillian Pele (77 goals from 92

He is now in the fourth spot in the list of highest scorers among active footballers, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (111), Lionel Messi (79) and UAE's Ali Mabkhout (77).

India were the better side in the first half and even though they lost possession quite often, they seemed to be cruising. They also had numerical advantage from 54th minute onwards after Bangladesh player Biswanath Ghosh was sent off for committing a foul on Liston Colaco.

But Igor Stimac's men failed to stop the swift counter-attacking Bangladeshis on their tracks and conceded a goal in the 74th minute. The Bangladeshis, playing under a new coach after the 2022 World Cup qualifiers, pulled one back in the 74th minute despite numerical inferiority.

Yasir Arafat sent a diving header from a swinging corner kick into the Indian goal. Bangladesh have always been a difficult opponent for India who had needed a late

equaliser to draw the first leg of the 2022 World Cup qualifiers in Kolkata before winning 2-0 in the second leg. India play Sri Lanka in their second

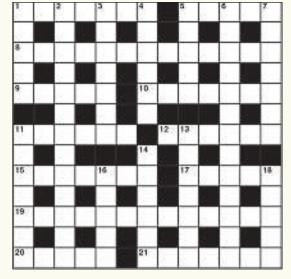
round-robin league match on Thursday.



Sunil Chhetri scored his 76th international goal in the 1-1 draw. AIFF

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

CROSSWORD 4552



DOWN

bright(6)

drama (5)

clay(7)

1 Work to rule? (5)

3 Seaborne territorial

intellectual? (4,1,4,4)

13 Please put in an old-

fashioned way (7)

clinched the deal (6)

18 Wild goose yarn?

horse?(7,2,1,3)

2 Rather old to be harnessing a

detachment from the Arctic(7)

4 One in the biology class is very

5 Showing love for a musical

 $6\,Be\,strongly\,inclined\,to\,be\,an$

7 They take no end of towels

11 Are designed then made of

14 Not open for business yet

16 A question of property

ACROSS

1 Tackle some vote manipulating(7) $5\,Different\,from\,the\,inside\,or$ outside(5) 8 When one may have a change of scene during a break (2,3,8)9 One is disturbed by the din(5)

aura about (7) 11 Get to grips with the staff problem?(6) 12 They usually lead to the

10 Not conscious there's a new

quarry(6) 15 Restoration novel in authentic setting (7) 17 Business lacks go in Pakistan

19 It gives one no real alternative (7,6) 20 In the garden it reinforces saltpetre (5) 21 Somehow ends Red China

Solutions Crossword 4551: Across: 1 Realm, 8 Inchoate, 9 Onset, 10 Discover, 11

State, 12 Pet, 16 Gillie, 17 Infirm, 18 Nee, 23 Meant, 24 Executed, 25 Basic, 26 Entwines, 27 Flirt. Down: 2 Einstein, 3 Lie still, 4 Incite, 5 Shock, 6 Waive, 7 Heard, 12 Pen, 13 Tie, 14 After all, 15 Frontier, 19 Eleven, 20 Sexes, 21 Petty, 22 Quail.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis

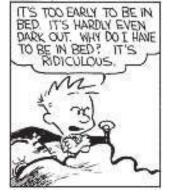




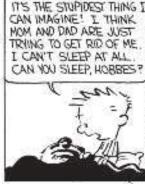




CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson









MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

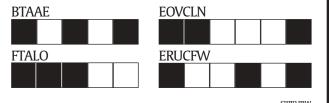




JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip

and the world will imagine the worst-Marcus Valerius Martialis (7,1,4)



Answer: Conceal a flaw, and the world will imagine the worst - Marcus Valerius SOLUTION: ABATE, ALOFT, CLOVEN, CURFEW Difficulty Level 4s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9

SUDOK

must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s =

3 9 3 2 3

6 4 2 5 8 3 7 5 4 7 6 3 8 2 1 9 **SOLUTION SUDOKU** 2 3 8 7 1 9 6 4 5 5 7 8 3 1 4 6 5 2 8 7 8 7 1 5 9 3 4 6 2 3 5 2 9 6 4 7 8 6 1 9 8 7 2 3 5 4 7 8 4 3 5 1 9 2 6

DAY TODAY

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Somewhere along the line you appear to have upset someone whose influence could help you in the future. There is no time like the present for putting shaky relationships back on a firm footing. At work you need to take a more creative course. Is

there a new skill you can learn?

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21) The financial picture remains rather uncertain, possibly because you have allowed an opportunity to slip through your hands. Optimism is all very well, but don't allow

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

unrealistic hopes to influence

in the clouds keep one foot on

your actions. While your head is

The current relationship between Jupiter and Saturn is undoubtedly positive, and you should use the opportunity to implement plans which you have been $considering \, for \, some \, time \, but$ frankly felt were not in your line of business. Oh - and within the

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

month you will have forgotten

that certain current problems

ever existed.

The emotional Moon is now impacting on a sociable area of your horoscope, revealing that you have

everything to gain from associations with other people especially those who are clearly in the know. Even at work you'll have to operate as part of a team. Go it alone and you may do

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) The period you've

just been through has not been entirely to your liking. However, every astrological cloud has a silver lining, and very soon the benefits derived from recent upsets will be made plain. In the end you'll decide that the wait

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23) Tensions are building up at home, although

there is no reason why this should be considered bad. Anything which forces you to get out of your rut

and make improvements is to be welcomed. There seems to be a great deal going in your favour at home, so any difficulties could be a result of your own impatience.

BY PETER VIDAL

You are fortunate to

be born under the

sign of Venus, a planet which has been affording you a great deal of protection lately. Now. however, you must learn to stand on your own two feet. It's fine to depend on partners sometimes, but not

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22) You may have been



friend. However, be prepared for everything to come into the open before the week is out. There is no way that partners will let you off the hook, so you'd better have your story ready.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22) Seeing as there is

shortly to be a

critical planetary alignment in your sign, you should tread carefully. It's necessary to retain your sense of optimism regarding the future, yet your downfall could be overconfidence. My advice would be to double-check every detail.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) Today's lunar



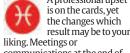
listen to close partners. You may be astonished at the quality of their ideas, and quite possibly pleasantly surprised by the outcome. Your other planets are pointing the way to monetary success.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 20) It will seem terribly



this is what may happen today and tomorrow, so don't rise to the bait. You'll get everything you need by watching and waiting until the time

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) A professional upset



communications at the end of the week may clarify the picture, so don't sign on the dotted line just yet. In fact, a commitment may not be necessary until next year.

Kolkata

PLAYING TODAY

Indian Premier League Rajasthan Royals vs Mumbai Indians, 7:30 pm,

Live on Star Sports Network

West Indian ensures Delhi Capitals cross the finish line after a minor hiccup while chasing CSK's 136

Super-Het finisher



Shimron Hetmeyer scored an unbeaten 28 from 18 balls under pressure in Delhi Capitals' win over Chennai Super Kings. iptt20.com

SYNOPSIS: Dhoni under bowls Bravo as Dhawan & Hetmeyer sparkle in Delhi's win.

SRIRAM VEERA

WHY WAS Dwayne Bravo given just two overs, the 18th and the 20th? That decision from MS Dhoni might well have proved the difference between a win and a loss.

It was a two-paced tacky pitch ideally suited for Bravo's slower ones that grip the surface. Dhoni wasn't asked the question at the post-match but in a general observation on the pitch, he said he thought taller bowlers who hit the deck posed more

That would fit a bowler like Delhi's Kagiso Rabada, who has the ability to pound the track with his slow cutters, and not someone like Josh Hazlewood or even between them. Bravo cannot only serve out the full dipping slower ones but also possesses the ability to deliver the cutters that grip the surface.

Bravo puzzle

Be as that may be, Bravo nearly won the game in his two overs, the 18th and 20th of the chase, when he was brought out of the cold storage. He could have sealed it in his first itself had K Gowtham held on to a regulation catch at long-on that would have taken out the danger man Shimron Hetmeyer. Instead, it ran away to the

POINTS TABLE								
	M	W	L	NRR	Pts			
DC	13	10	3	+0.526	20			
CSK	13	9	4	+0.739	18			
RCB	12	8	4	-0.157	16			
KKR	13	6	7	+0.294	12			
PBKS	13	5	8	-0.241	10			
RR	12	5	7	-0.337	10			
MI	12	5	7	-0.453	10			
SRH	12	2	10	-0.475	4			

boundary to leave Delhi Capitals needing 18 from 14.

But Bravo wasn't done yet. He nearly pulled it off in the final over when he had to defend just six runs. It came down to three from four after a dot ball, when he induced Axar Patel to squirt one of his typical well-outside-off slower one straight to covers This time though Bravo slipped a full ball on the pads and Kagiso Rabada helped it away to the fine-leg boundary.

Hetmeyer roars

The man who celebrated the most was Hetmeyer, hopping, pumping his fist, and roaring away. And why not, it was a lovely gem from him under pressure. When Hetmeyer walked out at No.7, below R Ashwin, Delhi Capitals required 39 from 35. Ashwin's promotion was quite understandable as Shikhar Dhawan was still there, and Ashwin had shown in the previous game that in a run-a-ball situation

UAE to allow fans for T20 World Cup

Dubai: Stadiums in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will operate at 70% of capacity for the Twenty20 World Cup, the organisers said, though conditions in Oman, where preliminary rounds are due to be played, have still to be fully assessed following a cyclone. Tropical Cyclone Shaheen struck coastal areas of Oman, including the capital of Muscat on Sunday, two weeks before preliminary round matches of the tournament commence on Oct. 17. **REUTERS**

on a slow pitch, he could do the job adequately. As it transpired, not only Ashwin but Dhawan too combusted, slamming a

Hetmeyer worked the singles until the 18th over when he thumped Bravo to the straight boundary. He nearly holed out the next ball but not only did Gowtham reprieve him, he also got a four. When 15 runs were needed off nine, he walloped Josh Hazlewood over the backward square-leg boundary to bring back parity.

There was some controversy in the final over when the umpires called a full toss wide outside off that didn't land on the pitch as a wide. Ricky Ponting, Delhi's coach, was livid as he rightly felt it should have been a no-ball with a free hit on offer.

But Delhi held their nerves to finish the

Dhawan does a Dhawan

There aren't many batsmen more suitable than Shikhar Dhawan in a sub 150 kind of a chase. Especially on slow tracks. And especially these days, when he is in red-hot form and can attack from the start when he decides.

It was a fine knock from Dhawan on how to go about the chase in these conditions. He took calculated risks with the new ball against Deepak Chahar. Scratch that; risk, it wasn't. He went down the track to hoist Chahar a couple of times beyond the boundary but he is one of the best exponents of that to the seamers in recent years.

When most others do that, you can sense the adrenalin rush and feel the risk. Dhawan advances steadily - doesn't charge, doesn't skip, doesn't rush. He maintains his shape admirably - doesn't open up, stays side-on, shoulder pressing forand executes his shot well. And car pull out of any intended big hit if the ball isn't quite there, as he would to Shardul Thakur in the 15th over.

In the end, he fell hitting a wide half volley from Thakur to cover to usher in some drama in the chase but his contribution was vital. Just as Ambati Rayudu's fine 55 was in giving Chennai something to bowl.

BRIEF SCORES: Chennai Super Kings 136 for 5 (Rayudu 55, Axar 2-18) lost to Delhi Capitals 139 for 7 (Dhawan 39, Hetmyer 28*, Thakur 2-13) by three

EMOTIONAL

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

Ruturaj & seasons in the sun



Anrich Nortje celebrates Ruturaj Gaikwad's wicket but the decision was reversed after the latter went upstairs. iplt20.com

It's a testament to Ruturaj Gaikwad that the Delhi Capitals exploded in joy and sunk in disappointment within a minute. Anrich Nortje thinking he had his man lbw in the first over, fist-pumped and roared. The most expansive celebration was Shimron Hetmeyer's running all the way from the boundary to hug the bowler. Once Gaikwad sent it upstairs and DRS reprieved him, he had a

quiet smile with Faf du Plessis. Nortje turned grim and Hetmeyer slumped his shoulders. 16 runs came from that over, filled with wides and leg byes that ran to the boundary. Rishabh Pant put in an acrobatic dive to get across the first slip to gather a wide swinging delivery; or it'd be 20 runs. Previously, his first movement invariably went left and late on the ball to his right. Not any more.

Pant's Patel-rap

Communicationswise, Axar Patel-Rishabh Pant has to be the most exciting bowling-keeping combo. The doggerels from the notso-distant past of India-England Tests,

the left-arm spinner teasing England batsmen earlier this year and Pant serenading him: "Thoda sa aage, Milkha Singh bhaage, pyara Axar jaage". Then there was: "Ollie Pope ko Lollipop do, ball ghoomega toh ye jhoomega." Against CSK, Patel was in the middle of an excellent spell and true to T20 cricket's matter-of-fact nature, Pant's instructions to his spinner was about not letting the pressure slip. After Moeen Ali got out to Patel, Ambati Rayudu played a firm push to the bowler's left. Readily, Pant's sharp-shooting came: "Oye Patel, ruk, ruk, ruk..." Patel acted on his captain's command and ran around to get a hand to ball. Rayudu rotated the strike though, much to Pant's expressive chagrin.

Gowtham's oopsie daisie

CSK's Krishnappa Gowtham could have probably ended the chase in the 18th over when Shimron Hetmeyer slugged Dwayne Bravo towards him at long-



on. Delhi Capitals had needed 22 runs from 15 balls at that stage and Hetmeyer was keen. Gowtham took a couple of steps forward and started to bend down his knees as the ball began to dip. He went for the Australian way, cupping his palms out but had to keep going down to cover for the dip. Yes, he could have taken it in the Indian way with palms up but not that the Australian way was wrong. Just one of those days, where it didn't come off. Perhaps the pressure, perhaps it dipped more than he thought and by the time his knees touched the ground, the ball popped out of his palms. So did the game.

c. Smile b. Roar

Shardul Thakur had just struck Ravi Ashwin's cup noodle-selling back pad while his flick lagged, before the scramble Next, Thakur opted for the shorter delivery to Shikhar Dhawan. The set batter would try to pull as the ball whooshed past his bat to the keeper. Dhoni would stir up an appeal with Thakur in unison and the umpire didn't harbour a doubt. A cheeky smile from Dhoni preceded the Ultraedge being ultra disinterested in jagging the flatline as Dhawan lived to tell a snippet. He was quiet the next two deliveries before Thakur hurried the final ball into the slot and Dhawan wanting to break free, would drive it to Moeen Ali who hopped, pouched the ball



and then broke into a surprise smile. Thakur, denied earlier, roared. Dhoni had had the first smile though.

England will only play Ashes series if best players in squad

ASSOCIATED PRESS OCTOBER 4

ENGLAND WILL only travel to Australia for the Ashes series across December and January if its leading players are in the squad. That was the message from the England

and Wales Cricket Board on Monday, with the governing body saying it will announce this week if the tour will go ahead amid concerns about restrictions in place in Australia due to the pandemic, An ECB statement said there has been "regular and positive dialogue" with Cricket Australia about arrangements for Ashes series, one of the biggest occasions in cricket. However, England's players are concerned about the conditions they will have to live in after arriving in Australia, such as the quarantine arrangements and whether family members can travel.

The ECB said the priority was to ensure the tour can take place "with conditions for players and management to perform at their best." "We will continue talking to our players this week to share the latest information and seek feedback," the ECB said.

Tellingly, the governing body added that the squad selected needed to be "befitting a series of this significance." With the World Twenty20 competition taking place in the United Arab Emirates and Oman from Oct. 17-Nov. 14 and the five-test Ashes series beginning on Dec. 8 until mid-January, plus England's players are concerned about the conditions they will have to live in after arriving in Australia, such as the quarantine arrangements and whether family members can travel

quarantine either side and before the Ashes, some players could be away from home for more than three months.

Ben Stokes, England's star allrounder, is currently missing for England because he is taking a break from cricket to protect his mental health. England captain Joe Root hasn't committed to taking part in the Ashes amid the ongoing talks, and Australia captain Tim Paine said last week "the Ashes are going ahead ... whether Joe is here or not."

The ECB statement suggests this is not the case and that England will not countenance taking a weakened squad to Australia.

England's international schedule has undergone repeated changes during the pandemic. The team returned home early from tours of Sri Lanka and South Africa in 2020 while the fifth test against India in the countries' recent series in England was abandoned on the morning of the match after the Indians decided not to play due to fears over a COVID outbreak in its touring group.

stop singing 'racist' dog meat song at games **DANIEL VICTOR**

LONDON OCTOBER 4

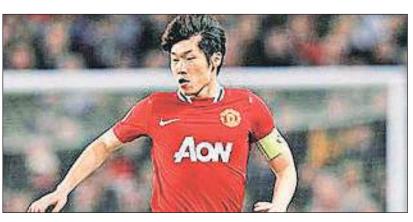
PARK JI-SUNG, a fan-favorite former player for Manchester United, asked the soccer club's fans on Sunday to stop singing a song in his honor that includes the racist stereotype that Koreans eat dog meat.

As a decorated midfielder for the team from 2005 to 2012. Park earned the adoration of the team's fans, who bestowed upon him a common honor in the soccer world: a song or chant, often performed in the stadium, with lyrics intended to praise him. But the reference to dog meat was "very

uncomfortable to me," even though he was proud that fans made a song for him and he understood they did not intend to offend or hurt him, he said on an official team podcast released on Sunday.

He thought he had to accept it, he said, having come to Britain from South Korea as a young player who was unfamiliar with the culture. But he heard fans sing the song again in August when Hwang Hee-chan, a South Korean, made his debut for the Wolverhampton Wanderers in a game against Manchester United

"I should probably speak out more loud this time," Park said on the podcast. Even if fans didn't mean any offense, he said, "I have



Park ji-Sung urges Manchester United fans to

Park Ji-Sung said he empathised with his compatriot Hwang Hee-chan, who made his debut for the Wolves in a game against Manchester United. File

to educate for the fans to stop that word, which is these days usually a racial insult to the Korean people.

Manchester United said in a statement that it "fully supports Ji-sung's comments and urges fans to respect his wishes.'

References to dog meat have long been used as an attack on Koreans overseas, a stereotype rooted in the country's longstanding battle over the ongoing, but diminishing, practice of raising dogs for human consumption. Most Koreans do not eat dog meat now; a September 2020 survey by Nielsen found that 84 percent of Koreans either have never eaten it or do not intend to do so in the future.

The culture has "changed enormously" over the decades and even more rapidly in recent years, said Lola Webber, a director of campaigns to end dog meat consumption for Humane Society International. Most younger Koreans are appalled by the thought, she said, though some older Koreans still seek

I have to educate the fans to stop that word, which is usually these days a racial insult to the Korean people. In Korea, things have changed a lot. It is true that historically we have eaten dog meat but these days, particularly the younger generation, they really dislike it.'

PARK JI-SUNG FORMER MANCHESTER UNITED STAR

out the meat at specialized restaurants.

"It is not part of mainstream culture by any means in South Korea," she said. "It hasn't been for a very long time, but especially in the last few years, there's been a very vocal opposition." Last week, President Moon Jaein of South Korea suggested banning the consumption of dog meat, recognizing it as an

international embarrassment. The world's top soccer clubs have consistently wrestled with racist behavior by some of their fans. In 2017, Romelu Lukaku, who is Black, asked Manchester United fans to stop singing a song for him that contained a racial stereotype. Some fans refused, following the song with a new one: "We're Man United, we'll sing what we want."

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