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After 2 months, India, China top generals meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

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

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

No details of the meeting were immediately available.

Since the standoff began in May 2020, the two sides have disengaged from PP14 in Galwan Valley, PP17A at Gogra Post, and the north and south banks of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

HAPPY NAVRATRI

A RED initiative appears in today's edition of *The Indian Express*. This page is an initiative of the marketing solutions team of The Indian Express Group and contains content paid for by advertisers. This page should be read as an advertisement.

PANDORA PAPERS - PART 7

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

Kamal Nath's son, Agusta deal key accused had offshore links



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

RITUSARIN
NEW DELHI, OCT 10

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

From Bakul Nath, the NRI son of Congress veteran and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, to case accused Rajiv Saxena, these records pro-

vide fresh evidence in the corruption scandal which has had the CBI and ED filing several chargesheets.

BAKUL NATH:

His name figured in the interrogation report of

Rajiv Saxena who is currently on bail. Case records show that Saxena, in alleged collusion with Delhi-based lawyer Gautam Khaitan, received Euro 12.40 million in the account of

Interstellar Technologies from AgustaWestland. This was allegedly laundered further to pay

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THERMAL PLANT WORRIES

Enough coal stock, fears of crisis misplaced: Govt

Delhi Deputy CM compares Govt reaction to medical oxygen crisis

KARUNJIT SINGH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

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

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

and a sharp increase in the price of imported coal.

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

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Post-lockdown demand up, dip in local stocks

ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

E
EXPLAINED

Accused in exam scam held from Uttarakhand

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, OCTOBER 10

Eligibility Examination for Teachers (REET).

"We took Meena into custody today from Kedarnath in Uttarakhand. He will now be interrogated and following that further action will be taken. After questioning him, we are expecting to proceed in the case,"

Rajasthan DGP ML Lather told *The Indian Express* on Sunday.

The BJP has been demanding a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the examination. "The SOG has arrested Batti Lal, but he is just a pawn in the REET paper leak case. Masterminds are those

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Lakhimpur: Police launch raids to trace Ashish's 'friend'

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 10

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

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

Ashish, who has denied that he was present at the spot during the incident and submitted a pendrive purportedly containing videos and photographs to support his version.

According to police, Ashish was arrested late Saturday as "he was not cooperating" with the probe. He was produced before a magistrate and sent to judicial custody.

The name of Ankit Das, a nephew of the former Rajya Sabha MP who died in 2017,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

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

"We must not put petty political gains above national unity," Varun posted on Twitter.

The Lok Sabha MP from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



Ashoka Textiles
The Bridal Gallery
Phase 3B2, Mohali

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41 cases of dengue reported in Chandigarh within a week

PARUL
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 10

IN THE past week, Chandigarh has recorded more than 41 cases of dengue, with cases of malaria and influenza also being reported daily now. The emergency ward of the Advanced Centre of Pediatrics, PGI, has seen a large number of admissions of children with dengue, malaria and influenza, and the cases, said Dr Arun Bansal of the Department, are from across the region and all age groups. "The load of patients is very high in the department and some are critical. There is no specific reason why the cases are severe. I can probably attribute it to the fact that for the last two years, children have been indoors and so the immunity against these viruses may have gone down", he said. "High fever, body rash, pain in abdomen, lethargy are the signs and symptoms that many are reporting. Fumigation, protection against mosquitoes, clean surroundings and ensuring that there is no stagnant water are some of the important measures to be taken, along with taking advice from a medical practitioner in case of any symptoms," he added.

Prof Surjit Singh, Head of the Advanced Pediatrics Centre PGI, said that from July to September, any hospital in the country will experience a large number of patients with these seasonal illnesses. "From the medical point of view, these ill-

nesses in children are the same and thankfully most are Covid negative. Yes, the patients load is increasing drastically and our OPDs are getting longer, with patients from across the region here. The medical emergency ward is witnessing a heavy rush and is completely full. Our peripheral services have to be upgraded and more facilities offered to tackle this load on the institute, which is currently overwhelmed. There are only so many beds, ventilators and specialised services that we can increase. We need to be careful and not overburden the system," he said.

To cope with the increasing number of patients of dengue and malaria, the GMSH 16 has increased its testing facilities for dengue and malaria. According to Dr. VK Nagpal, the Medical Superintendent, the hospital is ensuring that there is no shortage of platelets, with two doctors available 24x7 for these patients with additional staff trained to deal with dengue cases. "We have to be careful for a month more ; people with high-grade fever, body rash, abdomen pain must go for a blood test and seek treatment. We have deputed medical teams to high-density areas of the city to check for collection of stagnant water, breeding of mosquitoes and information dissemination. Fumigation will be increased to check spread," he added.

Prateek Kishi, representative for the city-based Robin Hood Army said that platelet

requirements, mostly for cases of dengue have increased over the last one week. Dr Vikas Bhutani, Director Internal Medicine, Fortis Hospital, said that they are seeing an increasing number of dengue cases this season, out of all other tropical diseases. The doctor added that people must go immediately to an emergency room or the closest hospital if any symptoms appear. The best way to prevent dengue fever is to take special precautions to avoid contact with mosquitoes, he suggested. He advised that people use a mosquito repellant on exposed parts of the skin especially in children, before going out. "Dress in protective clothing. Use mosquito coils and nets, when required."

Aedes mosquitoes usually bite during the day, so it is vital to use precautions especially during early morning hours and in the late afternoon. Aedes aegypti, the vector mosquito, breeds primarily in man-made containers used for domestic water storage, with ground depressions also potential sites for breeding. All these sites require proper inspection and maintenance to prevent its spread, Dr Bhutani said. He also said that there is a need to prevent breeding by adding kerosene oil to stagnant water. "During outbreaks, emergency control measures may also include the application of insecticides as space sprays to kill adult mosquitoes and using portable pump machines spraying Baygon or DDT", he added.

Mohali district reported 95% of its dengue cases in 45 days

Mohali: With more than 800 dengue cases reported in the district, Mohali has again become notorious. However, no case was reported on Sunday.

According to the doctors, around 95 percent of the total cases reported this year have been in last one and half months, which has worried the health department.

"Around 350 cases were reported last month, along with eight deaths. It is a huge number, as health department is still coping up with effects of Covid-19," an official said.

The officials also added that most of the cases were reported from Mohali (city) which has become an epicenter for the spread. An official said, "We have identified the vulnerable points, these include the posh areas like Phase VII and Phase IV, and the MC (Municipal Corporation) teams have started the fogging these areas."

When asked about the reason for the spread of the disease in these areas, a health official said that since many paying guest accommodations are located in these areas, the tenants use desert coolers. A number of larvae have been found in the coolers. **ENS**

Mohali: Gym trainer ‘shoots himself’ dead

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MOHALI, OCTOBER 10

A GYM trainer allegedly shot himself dead at his residence at Lakhnaur village in Mohali. The incident took place on the intervening night of October 8 and October 9.

The victim, identified as Aryan Kumar, had been working as a trainer at Kris Gethin Gym in Mohali district for the past five years.

He is suspected to have shot

himself dead with an unlicensed pistol which his unidentified friend had given him around three or four days ago.

Aryan's wife Shakkhy said in her complaint that on the night of October 8, her husband had come home late and had begun drinking after locking himself in a room.

"He locked himself in the room and started drinking. After some time, he came out of the room with a pistol in his hands, which one of his friends had given him a few days ago.

Aryan then shot himself before I could even stop him," she stated to the police.

The complainant told the police that she had taken Aryan to a private hospital at Sohana with the help of her neighbours where the doctors had declared him brought dead.

Acting on the complaint, the Sohana police registered a case against the accused and his unidentified friend who had given him the pistol under sections 25,54, and 59 of the Arms Act.

UT: Camp held for breast cancer awareness

Chandigarh: October is observed as Breast Cancer Awareness month. Elante Mall and World Cancer Care Association held a camp to create awareness and early detection, with four fully equipped buses and a team of 22 doctors, covering over 1000 employees, retail partners and customers, who participated here on October 10. Different tests, including free mammography, bone density etc, were conducted. **ENS**

MOHALI

Two incidents of rape with minors reported in 24 hrs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MOHALI, OCTOBER 10

TWO INCIDENTS of rape with minor girls were reported in Mohali district in the last 24 hours. The incidents were reported at police stations in Kharar and Sohana. Police is yet to arrest the accused.

A case registered against Mohammad Nishad at Kharar, who allegedly raped a minor

girl on the pretext of marrying her. The accused had also allegedly threatened the girl with dire consequences if she disclosed about his physical overtures to her family. In the case reported at Sohana, police have identified the accused as Ahsan Qureshi.

In both the matters, police registered a case under sections 376, 506 of the IPC, as well as Protection of Children from the Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Petrol price hits Rs 100 per litre in UT, Youth Congress leaders accuse BJP of loot

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 10

AS PETROL price climbed to Rs 100 per litre in the city, Congress Chandigarh unit spokesperson Harmail Kesri raised questions on the BJP over the difference between the price of crude oil in the international market and the retail price of petrol in the country.

"The union government has collected a total of Rs 24 lakh crore as excise duty on petrol and diesel in the last seven years. Today, when the price of crude oil in the international market is 75 dollars per barrel, petrol is being sold at Rs 100 per litre in the country. At present, compared to the crude oil prices, the price of petrol should be Rs 45 per litre. BJP's Modi government is looting people of the country by imposing tax on petrol and diesel," Kesri alleged.

Kesri raised questions on the BJP leaders who used to protest on bicycles and horse carts when the price of petrol had increased from Rs 70 to Rs 71 per litre during the tenure of the Congress government. Kesri also released an old



During the protest at Sector 19, Chandigarh, Sunday. Kamleshwar Singh

photo of former BJP President Sanjay Tandon, in which he and his colleagues are seen protesting against petrol price hike. Taking a dig at BJP leaders, he asked, "why are you not protesting against price hike now?" UT Youth Congress VP Sandeep Kumar also took a jibe at the BJP.

Haryana govt's scheme to promote e-vehicles showing results: Pvt firm

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 10

A HYDERABAD-BASED company engaged in sale of electric vehicles online and delivering through offline, 'E-Wheelers Mobility', has claimed the Haryana government's initiative to promote electric vehicles (EVs) in the state has been showing results. The company has also set up its first centre in the state in Ballabgarh of Faridabad district to offer various services including delivery

and charging of such vehicles.

In a statement, Vasu Deva Reddy Beeral, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Founder of eWheelers, said, "The Haryana government is giving a subsidy on the purchase of E-vehicles. This is a welcome step as EVs will play a pivotal role in saving the environment. We are happy to be the pioneers in bringing them into the state. We aim to provide a physical outlet for this which can help in quick delivery of electric vehicles booked by customers on our online platform."

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DRAW DATE: 10/10/2021

RESULT OF PUNJAB STATE DEAR 20 SUNDAY WEEKLY

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(Seller 02 Lakhs + Sub Agent 01 Lakhs Total Prize Amount 03 Lakhs)

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2nd Prize (100)Rs.5,000/-(On Last 4 digits)

0832

7296

3rd Prize (100)Rs.4,000/-(On last 4 digits)

6432

7815

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

6840

7095

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1990

4175

6th Prize (100)Rs.500/-(On last 4 digits)

4921

6388

7th Prize (12500)Rs.100/-(On last 4 digits)

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BUILD A CHILD'S FUTURE, BUILD THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE

SIGN UP FOR 'DESH KE MENTOR'

Delhi Government is empowering public school students to dare to dream. To give wings to these dreams though, our children need you. They need you to play the role of a mentor and guide them through their school life. They need you to help them figure out their career aspirations. If you hold their hand and walk a few steps, our children will build an India of tomorrow that we will all be proud of.

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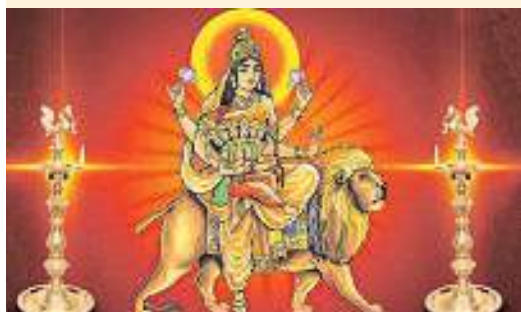
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The Goddess of Fire

Mother of Skanda, or Kartikeya, Skandamata is the fifth incarnation of Durga

TODAY is the fifth day of Navratri and devotees worship Goddess Skandamata, the fifth incarnation of Goddess Durga and an avatar of Goddess Parvati. Her name means the mother of Skand, which is another name of Kartikeya, the son of Goddess Parvati and Lord Shiva.

Skanda Mata



GODDESS Skandamata is well known as the Goddess of Fire. It is believed that worshipping her purifies the heart of the devotee. She is the motherly incarnation of Goddess Durga. It is believed that when devotees worship her, they are also blessed by Lord Kartikeya. She is a symbol of kindness.

Mantra

*Ya Devi Sarvabhuteshu Ma Skandamata
Rupena Samsthita |
Namastasyai Namastasyai Namastasyai
Namo Namah |*

According to Hindu mythology, Taraksur was a demon who was a devotee of Brahma and did a penance to appease him. Taraksur asked for immortality but Brahma denied it, explaining that it was against the laws of nature. Therefore, he

asked Brahma to bless him with a boon that no one except the son of Lord Shiva could kill him. Taraksur knew well that Shiva was a yogi who had gone into deep meditation and would not marry. Thereafter, Taraksur wreaked havoc upon Gods and sages. Soon, upon the insistence of Brahma and Vishnu, Shiva eventually married Parvati, who was the incarnation of his earlier wife Shakti. They had a son, Kartikeya, who eventually killed Taraksur. The story of Goddess Skandamata is a symbol of the mother-child relationship.

She is three-eyed, four armed and rides a lion, while her son Skand or Kartikeya is seated on her lap. It is said that by the blessings of Skandamata, one can attain knowledge, salvation, power and prosperity. Legend has it that Sanskrit scholar Kalidasa was able to create two masterpieces — *Raghuvansh Maha Kavya* and *Meghdoot* — with the grace of Goddess Skandamata.

One should worship her with all devotion and chant the following mantra 11 times in her reverence. By chanting this mantra, happiness, peace and prosperity will also prevail in your home.



One should wear royal blue colour on this day and appease the goddess by offering bananas. You should read the seventh chapter of the *Durga Saptashati Katha* on this day.

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‘Councillors didn’t meet expectations; RWAs may contest MC polls’

HINAROHTAKI
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 10

IN A meeting to discuss and strategise the role of RWAs in the upcoming municipal elections, the members of City Forum of Welfare Organizations (CFORWO) unanimously noted that the state of civic delivery in Chandigarh has drastically deteriorated in the past decade. The RWA meeting was held at the Community Centre in Sector 44 on Sunday.

Top office bearers of all known residents’ welfare apex bodies including FOSWAC, CHBRWF, GHRWF, CRAWFED, VOGHS, PU-RWA, Doctors-RWA, and Institutions-RWA attended the meeting, alongside independent RWAs of the city.

Vinod Vashisht, Convener of CFORWO, said, “Majority of councillors have failed to deliver as per the residents’ expectations and if need is felt, RWAs will contest the polls. Next week, we are going to start an online survey with a target of 2,500 respondents, representing every 100th household of the city, to find out and share with residents the top-10 performing councillors from the current MC house.” He added that the meeting went well and many views and suggestions were put forward.



During the meeting in Sector 44, Chandigarh, Saturday. Express

Pankaj Gupta, Chief Spokesman, FOSWAC stressed the need of choosing educated, honest people who are publicly appreciated. He said that people should shun away petty party politics and only vote candidate on their face values. Major DP Singh, Patron, CRAWFED said that the initiative of coming together would act as warning bells for local political parties. He added that the city is full of well aware and educated people who should come forward to contest elections.

Prof Nirmal Dutt, Chairman, CHBRWF said “Bureaucracy, MC, and RWA’s are the three power centres in the City; the RWA’s can become the most powerful tool of change, if people, rather than being petitioners only, also become campaigners and show the strength of numbers.”

MN Shukla, President of

Voice of Group Housing Societies (VOGHS) said that people of southern belt group housing societies are fed up of non-resident representatives failing to solve issues. “We are going to field our own candidates in upcoming MC elections in two wards represented by co-operative group housing”, Shukla said.

Mritunjay Kumar, from PU-RWA and President, PUTA said, “University residents from both sector 14 and 25 campuses suffered most during Covid lockdown as they were forgotten about by both councillors and bureaucrats. There is strong need to develop a strong city-wide apolitical group like CFORWO and we are happy to be associated.”

Dyal Krishan, President of Dadumajra Joint Action Committee said that all residents of dadumajra neighborhoods have decided to not vote non-residents and support residents.

Need-based changes in CHB units to be allowed only if feasible and structurally safe, says UT Adviser

An agenda item specified before the board that Chandigarh is highly vulnerable to earthquakes

HINAROHTAKI
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 10

NEED BASED changes will be allowed only if there is feasibility said UT Adviser Dharam Pal, speaking to The Indian Express, on Sunday. For long, the city residents have been urging the UT Administration to regularise need-based changes undertaken in the Chandigarh Housing Board (CHB) units.

“Only if the need-based changes are feasible and structurally safe, they will be allowed. A committee has been constituted to check if the need-based changes done by the people are feasible or not,” said UT Adviser Dharam Pal.

In a meeting held last week to discuss Chandigarh’s master plan, the UT officials had also informed UT Administrator Banwarilal Purohit about the issue of need-based changes raised by the residents.

Meanwhile, the Chandigarh Housing Board in its board meeting held last month had expressed reluctance and not granted a clear go-ahead to adopting the Delhi pattern of regularising violations done by the CHB allottees. Rather, a committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Chandigarh Housing Board, with members of Chandigarh Administration departments, was constituted.

OFFICERS HAD SAID UT VULNERABLE TO EARTHQUAKES
An agenda brought up before the board last month specified

that Chandigarh is already highly vulnerable to earthquakes, which cannot be compared to Delhi.

“Regarding the requests to allow one-time settlement for all the existing violations and to follow the Delhi Pattern, where some of the violations were regularised on payment of certain composition fee, it is submitted that Chandigarh is a planned city with a unique architecture character and may not be comparable with Delhi. Also, Chandigarh has high vulnerability to earthquakes as it lies in Seismic Zone-IV and unauthorized violations may pose a threat to the human life and public property,” specified the agenda.

It was also said that “it may lead to issues with regard to basic requirements like light, ventilation, zoning of the area, street picture and stability of the existing structure, among others... Some of the citizens have raised voice against allowing further need-based changes, saying that regularisation of violations gives undue incentives for further violations and adversely affects the quality of life in residential areas,” it said.

The issue of regularisation of building violations in CHB flats and one-time settlement on Delhi Pattern was also raised during the last meeting of the Administrator’s Advisory Council on February 10, and numerous requests and representations were also received.

Most of the violations in the CHB units are in the nature of additional floors, additional rooms, extra washrooms, extension of

kitchen, extended/extra balconies and other alterations. Further, a considerable number of allottees have projected cantilevers on the government land and constructed balcony, stairs and bathrooms on such projected cantilevers.

Earlier, a detailed exercise was undertaken by the Chandigarh Housing Board to cover maximum possible violations in consultation with the Engineering and Architect Divisions of the Administration. The recommendations of a special committee was examined by the Chandigarh Administration and certain need-based changes were allowed vide order No. 59 dated February 15, 2019.

Meanwhile, the submission of structural certificate and revised plans from the empanelled architects or structural engineers, along with payment of charges, have been prescribed for regularisation of some of the Need-Based Changes. These changes have been allowed in relaxation of Chandigarh Building Rules (Urban), 2017, with the approval of the Governor of Punjab and UT Administrator.

STUDY SAID ALTERATIONS NOT SAFE

The Chandigarh Housing Board had given its nod to need-based changes in its dwelling units despite a report—prepared by consultants roped in to assess structural stability—specifying that the alterations made do not satisfy the basic seismic requirements, which make these dwelling units highly vulnerable to earthquakes. The need-based

CHB sets up committee to resolve RWAs’ issues

Chandigarh: A meeting of the Chandigarh Housing Board Residents Welfare Federation (CHBRWF) was held under on Sunday at Community Centre, Sector 42, to discuss issues of GPA transfer, cancellation notices and other related issues faced by residents living in dwelling units built by the housing board. It was presided by CHBRWF Chairman Rajt Malhotra.

Representatives of almost all RWAs of the housing board belt attended the meeting. It was unanimously decided to form a committee which will discuss at length the issues and also suggest solutions to the problems, which the board members will take up. Many residents suggested to include names of three board members in the committee and it was decided to form a 20-member committee.

Names of some of the unanimously appointed committee members are Kirpal Singh, Rajat Malhotra, Vijay Chikersal, Ashok Kumar, Deepak Jagota, A C Dhawan, Ashok Prashar, Dr Anish Garg, Dharampal, Parivartan Kaul, and all three newly appointed board members - Hitesh Puri, Surinder Bagha, Poonam Sharma. **ENS**

What makes the classic buildings of UT stand out?

Making of CHANDIGARH

HARSAHIB KAUR SHERGILL
LE CORBUSIER (Charles-Édouard Jeanneret), one of the master architects of the 20th century, was a pioneer of the Modern Architecture Movement. His work intended to convey the efficiency and modernity of the emerging technological world. He was greatly influenced by the industrial structures and hence developed pure forms that are seen in his paintings as well. He wanted to build tall buildings as he believed it would resolve two main problems – overcrowding and urban sprawl. His vision for the future city included footpaths for people and massive roads dedicated to motorways with smooth curves to provide easy transition.

Corbusier formulated the Five Points of Architecture which dictated his career and were implemented by many architects to come. They were – the pilotis, free ground plan, free façade, ribbon windows and roof garden. His other important contribution to the modern architectural thought was the ‘Modulor’ – the study of the proportions of the human body that reoccurs in his buildings and art. Symbolised by a man with a slim waist and an upright arm, the modular man serves as



Gandhi Bhawan (above) and Tower of Shadows, designed by architect Le Corbusier, in Chandigarh. Express

a measure for universal proportioning and activities performed for different activities in various positions -- sitting, bending, working, standing etc. It places human needs at the centre of design and architecture and gave an “infinite number of combinations of plans”.

Thus one can find Corbusier’s signature design principles intending to create a play of light, space and nature in his work in Chandigarh. He designed the city akin to a living organism. The city’s ‘head’ is home to the sweeping concrete masterpieces of the Capitol Complex and a lake. The ‘heart’ is the commercial centre and



vast green spaces form its ‘lungs’, all connected by a circulation system of roads and pedestrian-friendly avenues. Signifying the functional city, the sectors were self-contained.

Chandigarh became a canvas for implementation of Corbusier’s five points of archi-

LE CORBUSIER'S FIVE POINTS

THE PILOTIS: Supports such as columns, pillars, or stilts that lift a building above ground or water

FREE GROUND PLAN: A floor plan with non-load-bearing walls and floors by creating a structural system that holds the weight of the building by way of an interior skeleton of load-bearing columns

FREE FAÇADE: A building's façade that is not attached to load-bearing columns

RIBBON WINDOWS: A series of windows set side by side to form a continuous band horizontally across a facade

ROOF GARDEN: Intended to include nature in his buildings.

layment.

The principles of a free façade allowed separation of the structural element from the facade walls. This made it easier to build walls of any material or shape. The absence of load-bearing walls also made it possible to add windows of any shape and size which provided light. This is well-observed in the ribbon windows of the Museum as well as the Punjab Legislative Assembly, which has an open-plan interior and exhibits the principle of a flexible plan. It is framed by a portico of reinforced concrete columns, that offers a view of the Shivaliks.

The free façade also allowed him to use brise-soleils or sun breakers like egg crate walls that would allow ventilation to be incorporated into the concrete buildings as seen in the front facades of the Government College of Arts and also adopted in Chandigarh College of Architecture.

The fifth principal was a terrace garden that was intended to include nature in his buildings. The Secretariat building supports a rooftop terrace garden meant to offer a view of the Shivaliks from the highest point of the city.

Corbusier’s five points are considered to be avant garde, truly ahead of the times, and have been continuously applied by architects. The Villa Savoye, Paris, displays the five points collectively.

(This is a series by faculty and students of Chandigarh College of Architecture. The writer is a student of Semester 7)



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(B) Equitable Mortgage of Commercial Property as per Sale deed no. 4212 dated 30-10-2013. Land measuring 7 Marla comprised of Kharsa no. 2291(2-17), 2298(0-3), 2296(0-6), 2301(0-7), 2299(0-10), 2300(0-10), 2297(0-10), 2289(219-14), 2289(10-6), Kitta 9. Total area measuring 15 Kanal 3 Marla its share to the extent 7303 which comes 5 Marla, situated in the Revenue Estate of Daulatpur, Hadbast no. 340, Tehsil and Distt. Pathankot and bounded as East - Vacant Plot and Street 6' wide, West - Property of Army, North - Property of Rakesh Kumar, South - Property of Rakesh Kumar.
(C) Equitable Mortgage of Commercial Property as per Sale deed no. 7970 dated 30-10-2013. Land measuring 5 Marla comprised of Kharsa no. 2291(2-17), 2298(0-3), 2296(0-6), 2301(0-7), 2299(0-10), 2300(0-10), 2297(0-10), 2289(219-14), 2289(10-6), Kitta 9. Total area measuring 15 Kanal 3 Marla its share to the extent 5303 which comes 5 Marla, situated in the Revenue Estate of Daulatpur, Hadbast no. 340, Tehsil and Distt. Pathankot and bounded as East - Vacant Plot and Street 6' wide, West - Property of Army, North - Tubewell of Municipal Corporation, South - Property of Rakesh Kumar.
Date: 11-10-2021 Place: Pathankot Sd/- Authorised Officer

Five new Covid cases in Tricity, 63 active now

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, PANCHKULA, MOHALI, OCTOBER 10

THE TRICITY reported five new coronavirus cases on Saturday. No virus-related death was reported. At present, there are 63 active cases here.

CHANDIGARH: 2 NEW CASES

The UT reported two new Covid-19 cases on Sunday, taking the tally of cases to 65,279. There are 38 active cases here at present, with five new cases being reported everyday on an average for the last seven.

In the last 24 hours, 1,729 samples were tested and the positivity rate is at 0.12 per cent.

MOHALI: 3 NEW CASES

Two new Covid-19 positive cases were reported in Mohali on Sunday, taking the total number of cases to 68,756, with 17 active cases. No virus-related deaths were reported.

A total of 1,068 people have succumbed to the coronavirus so far.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Isha Kalia said that one case each were reported from Gharuan, Mohali and Kharar. She also said that one patient recovered from the infection and was discharged from the hospital.

PANCHKULA: NO NEW CASE

No new Covid-19 positive case or death was reported in Panchkula on Sunday.

There are eight active cases here at present, with the recovery rate at 98.75 per cent.

A total of 40,436 people have tested positive here so far, of which 30,744 hail from Panchkula itself. 378 people have succumbed to the virus in Panchkula till now.

The district has conducted around 4,41,591 tests so far, including, as many as 957 samples tested for the virus on Sunday,

Chandigarh Literary Society launches book on poetry

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 10

THE CHANDIGARH Literary Society (CLS) launched Alka Kansra's book of poetry, 'Zindagi Kavita Ho Gai' here on Sunday.

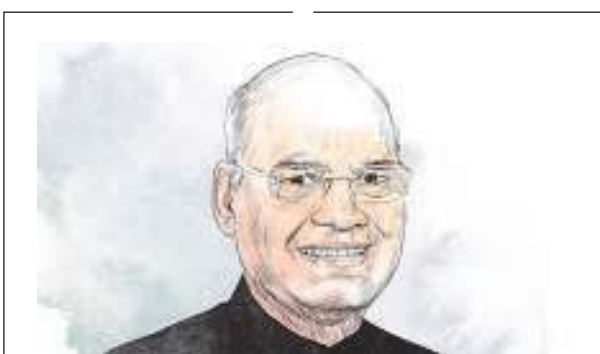
The book is a collection of 70 poems that touch the different aspects of life such as love, romance, relationship and also discusses concerns about gender as well

Sharing her journey of writing which started after her retirement as head of the chemistry department from MCM DAV College, Kansara said that the verses reflect her diverse experiences in life.

"I have just completed translating a Hindi poetry book into English language, and I am already working on two other poetry books as well," said Kansara.

Chandigarh

7 EXPRESS NETWORK



SEEKING AUDIENCE

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

SCALING PEAKS

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

SAFE DISTANCE

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

Modi a democratic leader, patient listener, says Shah

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

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

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

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



Amit Shah

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

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

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

WITH ENS, NEW DELHI

CONG KISAN NYAY RALLY IN VARANASI

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

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

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

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

LAKHIMPUR KHERI

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

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cultivation shift: Telangana to move encroaching farmers away from forests

REENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

A National Conference spokesperson tweeted, "(Party



Devender Singh Rana and (right) Surjit Singh Slathia

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

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

provincial president.

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

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

Second phase of Malabar exercise from Oct 12

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

EXPLAINED Encroachment by non-tribal farmers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dream11 suspends ops in Karnataka after FIR

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

FANTASY SPORTS platform Dream11 on Sunday decided to suspend its operations in Karnataka following the registration of an FIR against its directors Harsh Jain and Bhavit Sheth under the amended Karnataka Police Act. However, the company is soon likely to challenge in court the amended law, which seeks to ban online gaming.

In its announcement Sunday, Dream11 said, "In order to allay our users' concerns, we have decided to suspend operations in Karnataka," adding that "this decision is without prejudice to our rights and contentions under law".

Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Sanjeev M Patil told *The Indian Express* that a case has been registered under sections 79 and 80 of the Karnataka Police Act. "We cannot divulge any information as the investigations are underway," he said. The Karnataka Police

(Amendment) Act, 2021, which got the Governor's assent on October 4, says the words "gaming means and includes online games, involving all forms of wagering or betting, including in the form of tokens valued in terms of money paid before or after issue of it, or electronic means and virtual currency, electronic transfer of funds in connection with any game of chance..."

Supreme Court lawyer and Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS) adviser Gopal Jain said Sunday the amended law can be challenged with a writ petition in the Karnataka High Court as it is ultra vires, being contrary to Supreme Court judgments on Article 19(1)(g) related to the right to business and Article 14 because it's "manifestly arbitrary".

"First, it misclassifies a game of skill with other categories to which it does not belong. Second, if a complaint or an FIR has been registered one can approach the High Court to quash it because no offence is made out," Jain told *The Indian Express*.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

20th arrest in cruise ship drug bust: Nigerian held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 10

THE NARCOTICS Control Bureau (NCB) investigating the drug trail in the cruise ship drug bust case arrested a Nigerian national in Mumbai on Saturday and seized an intermediate quantity of cocaine from him. This is the 20th arrest in the case, including two Nigerian nationals.

On Saturday night an NCB team mounted surveillance and intercepted Nigerian national, Okaro Ouzama, and found the drugs on him. Ouzama's name had cropped up during the questioning of another accused arrested in the case. "We are making efforts to explore the foreign linkages of the case on the basis of interrogation of all the accused persons," said Sameer Wankhede, IRS, zonal director, NCB Mumbai.

Ouzama was allegedly the drug supplier of Abdul Shaikh, who was arrested earlier in this case. Ouzama has been in India for over a year on a business visa.

In a press statement released on Sunday, NCB Zonal Director Wankhede reiterated that its officers were not familiar with K P Gosavi or Manish Bhanushali, who have been made witnesses in the raid conducted on the cruise ship by the NCB. Maharashtra's ruling coalition partner NCP had last week questioned the presence of BJP worker Bhanushali with one of the accused, Arbaaz Merchant, and that of Gosavi, the purported detective, with Aryan Khan — and asked why the NCB had let the two perform the role of law enforcement officers. "Nine witnesses were involved in the operation and Manish Bhanushali and K P Gosavi were among them," Wankhede said.

Hindus converting for marriage are committing wrong, says RSS chief

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

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

Bhagwat spoke at length about Indian family values and



'Hindu families must teach values to children'

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

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

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

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

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

"The OTT platforms show all kinds of things. What comes in the media is not with the perspective of what will good for children and for our value system. We have to teach our children what to watch and what not to at home," Bhagwat said. Extolling virtues of Indian family system, Bhagwat said the West was studying Indian family system. But added that there were forces working to destroy these values. "To keep people enslaved, West sent opium to China. The youth got addicted to opium and then the West ruled China. In our country too this is happening. When you see drug cases and where these drugs are coming from you will know where it is coming from and why. And who is benefiting," he said.



BRIEFLY

KARNATAKA
Kannada actor Sathyajith dies at 72

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

ODISHA
Journalist's son found dead, probe launched

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

MADHYA PRADESH
50 fall sick after eating at feast; five serious

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

ALAKA SAHANI

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 10

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

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

8 arrested after woman raped on train to Mumbai

VALLABH OZARKAR

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When the train stopped at Kasara, the passengers raised an

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

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

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

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

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

Pilgrimage stop in first stretch of revamped rail link to Nepal

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

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

THE LINK

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

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

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

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

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

Sources said that considering



MASK & MESSAGE

Masks being distributed at Duttabad slum in Kolkata as part of a Covid awareness campaign ahead of Durga puja. *Partha Paul*

‘They had knives, knuckle dusters’

VALLABH OZARKAR

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ESHA ROY

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

EXPLAINED
E Links to rise in mortality

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

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

trends in heatwaves in the country.

The study has revealed a "spatio-temporal shift" in the occurrence of heatwave events, with a significantly increasing trend in three prominent heat wave prone regions — north-western, central, and south-central India, with the highest being in west Madhya Pradesh (0.80 events/year).

"For the study we have analysed the daily temperature on a 0.25 sq km grid over the past seven decades. Both heatwaves and severe heatwaves are increasing — and we are finding new locations where these events are taking place, especially in the last two decades. We have found heatwaves in southern Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, where they would traditionally not take place," BHU's Rajesh Mall, the lead author of the study along with scientists Saumya Singh and Nidhi Singh,

said.

Interestingly, the study has also found a significant decrease in heatwaves over the eastern region, that is Gangetic West Bengal (-0.13 events/year).

Over the past few decades, heatwaves have emerged in southern states which had previously not experienced such events. Especially severe heatwave events have shown a "southward expansion and a spatial surge during the decades of 2001–2010 and 2010–2016", the study said.

Two elements that have exacerbated the heatwave conditions in the country are the increase in night time temperatures, which disallows heat discharge at night, and increasing humidity levels.

The analysis has further found a jump in heat-related deaths, from 5,330 deaths reported during 1978–1999 to extreme cases of 3,054 and 2,248 deaths in 2003 and 2015, respectively.

TRACKING THE SECOND SURGE

588
DAYS SINCE
PANDEMIC
BEGAN

NEW CASES: 18,328

ACTIVE CASES: 2,28,768

TOTAL VACCINATION: 94,70,10,175

DAILY DEATHS

196

TOTAL DEATHS

4,50,785

WEEKLY CFR

0.89%

OVERALL CFR

1.34%



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

WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 1.40% | OVERALL POSITIVITY: 5.82%

STATES REPORTING MOST CASES

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

STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS

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

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

Mandaviya asks people to not let guard down against Covid

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

The minister appreciated the Karnataka government for its

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

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

9 REGION

Punjab CM's son gets married in low-key ceremony

Navjit Singh married an engineering graduate, Simrandheer Kaur, a resident of Amlala village; Sidhu, Capt, Jakhar give wedding a miss

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MOHALI, OCTOBER 10

THE MARRIAGE of Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's son Navjit Singh was solemnised at Sacha Dhan Sahib gurdwara on Sunday.

Navjit married an engineering graduate Simrandheer Kaur, a resident of Amlala village near Derabassi, who is pursuing an MBA degree.

The chief minister himself drove the vehicle carrying his son to the venue. The ceremony was a simple affair with tight security arrangements.

While many political leaders were in attendance, Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) chief Navjot Sidhu, former CM Capt Amarinder Singh, and former PPCC Chief Sunil Jakhar gave it a miss.

The 'Anand Karaj' (religious ceremony) was held at the gurdwara in the afternoon. Akal Takht acting Jathedar Harpreet Singh also attended the wedding and performed ardas for the couple. He later partook

langar with the couple.

Among the attendees were Punjab affairs in-charge Harish Rawat, Deputy Chief Ministers Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, and O P Soni, Cabinet ministers Manpreet Singh Badal, Raj Kumar Verka, Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Randeep Singh Nabha.

A number of stars from the Punjabi film and music industry also attended the wedding, including Gurpreet Singh Ghuggi, who had fought the 2017 Assembly election on AAP ticket, and popular singer Sidhu Moosewala.

Tight security arrangements were made in the city keeping in view the marriage function. Local residents had told The Indian Express that security was stepped up around the marriage palace before the reception.

The reception shall be held in a marriage palace near Kharar on Monday. Kharar Municipal Council (MC) had constructed a portion of the road leading to the marriage palace last week.



Clockwise from left: Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi with the newly-wed couple outside Gurdwara Sacha Dhan Sahib after the Anand Karaj ceremony, in Mohali on Sunday; Rajya Sabha MP Partap Singh Bajwa and state Transport Minister Amrinder Raja Warring at the venue. *Jasbir Malhi*



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

Lands in Jammu to visit Vaishno Devi temple

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 10

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

Sidhu gave a miss to the wedding of Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's son, which was attended by Congressmen from the state. Channi is hosting a reception on Monday. It remains to be seen whether Sidhu attends it. All eyes are on Sidhu amid reports of tension between him and the Chief Minister over appointment of Advocate General and DGP.

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

A few hours before tweeting pictures about his Vaishno Devi visit, Sidhu advised his own government through a tweet:



"Punjab must prevent & prepare, rather than repent & repair... Private Thermal Plants floating guidelines, punishing Domestic Consumers by not keeping Coal Stock for 30 Days should be penalised. It is time to aggressively work on Solar PPAs, & roof-top solar connected to the Grid!"

— PPCC CHIEF NAVJOT SIDHU
ON TWITTER

"Punjab must prevent & prepare, rather than repent & repair... Private Thermal Plants floating guidelines, punishing Domestic Consumers by not keeping Coal Stock for 30 Days should be penalised. It is time to aggressively work on Solar PPAs, & roof-top solar connected to the Grid!"

He was referring to the coal

shortage being faced by the state.

Earlier too, there has been a controversy over his tweets on the government as the party leaders have been advising him to take up issues internally at the party platform. But Sidhu chose to tweet again.

He is yet to withdraw his resignation and there has been no word on his resignation by the party high command.

Sources close to him said the tweet on private thermal plants was not indicative of any conflict between him and the CM. "Everything has been sorted. The next week of the new government is going to be full of action. This tweet was a precursor to the things to come. Those who are looking at it to be conflicting in nature are totally wrong," said a source.

Sidhu has been picking holes in the functioning of Congress government in Punjab when Amarinder Singh was the Chief Minister. It is, however, believed that the Twitter tirade at that time was in agreement with the high command. After Channi took over, the high command wants Sidhu to change his style.

The government is holding a Cabinet meeting on Monday. Along with Sidhu, Razia Sultana, who also resigned from the Cabinet in solidarity with Sidhu, is also being watched with curiosity.

PSPCL to impose power cuts of upto 3 hrs for next 3 days as coal crisis worsens

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 10

Power cuts ranging from two to three hours will be imposed every day in Punjab for the next three days for all categories of consumers till Wednesday.

A statement issued by the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) quoted Chairman-cum-Managing Director A Venu Prasad as saying that this was the need of hour due to the coal crisis. Venu Prasad also made an appeal to consumers to use power judiciously. He said that in spite of procurement of power at exorbitant rates, PSPCL is going for load shedding across the state on all categories of consumers in order to bridge the gap between demand and supply.

Venu Prasad added that PSPCL is facing acute coal shortage in all coal-based plants across the state. A similar situation is prevailing in the neighbouring states of Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan as well as in other parts of India, the statement said.

"All private coal-based plants in the state have 1.5 day coal stock while the state-owned plants have around four days of coal stock. Yesterday 11 coal rakes were received against total requirement of 22 rakes. Due to depleted coal stock, these plants are operating at less than 50 per cent of their generation capacity. The demand of agriculture sector is still persisting due to delayed transplantation of paddy and for the varieties of paddy needing supply," the statement said.

All private coal-based plants have 1.5 day coal stock while state-owned plants have around four days of coal stock. Yesterday 11 coal rakes were received against total requirement of 22 rakes. Due to depleted coal stock, these plants are operating at less than 50% of their generation capacity."

— VENU PRASAD
PSPCL CHAIRMAN CUM MD

Venu Prasad said that with the fall in demand and arrival of sufficient quantum of coal for building up the coal stock, the situation shall ease out from October 15 onwards.

PSPCL is procuring power from the market to cater to the demand of consumers of the state including the agriculture sector even at exorbitant rates. The CMD said PSPCL has met maximum demand of 8,788 MW of Punjab on October 9. He added that around 1800 MW of power was procured for Sunday at a rate of Rs 11.60 per unit from exchange.

Power plants are grappling with short supply in a year when the country produced record coal, but rains hit movement of the fuel from mines to power generation units, impacting power generation in many states, including Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi and Tamil Nadu.

Speaker seeks relief in power tariff for common man

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 10

PUNJAB VIDHAN Sabha Speaker Rana K P Singh Sunday sought relief in electricity tariff for the common man, particularly the trading community and those living in urban areas.

In a statement issued here, the Speaker said he had raised the matter with former chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh and with new Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi as well, who has been appreciative of the matter.

Welcoming the relief provided to different sections of the power consumers by Channi, the Speaker said the state government must extend this relief to everyone by reducing the tariff, which in Punjab is among the highest in the country. He said the middle classes living in urban areas and the trading community in particular had suffered during the last two years due to Covid. "We need to ameliorate their conditions," he said, adding that their business was yet to get on track after a devastating phase of Covid.

33% of Haryana population has been fully vaccinated, 83% with first dose

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 10

AT LEAST 33 per cent of the population in Haryana is fully inoculated with Covid-19 vaccines while 83 per cent has received at least the first dose. Over 2.39 crore doses of vaccines have been administered across the state so far.

The cumulative Covid-19 vaccination status in Haryana, according to CoWin app, at least 99 per cent of healthcare workers have received at least first dose of vaccine and 95 per cent have received the second dose. In the category of frontline workers, 100 per cent have received both the doses of vaccine.

In the category of people above 60 years of age, 86 per cent have so far received first dose and 53 per cent second dose. Similarly, in the category of people in the age group of 45-60 years, 81 per cent

have received the first dose while 41 per cent have received the second dose. In the category of 18-44 years old, 79 per cent have received the first dose while 23 per cent have received the second dose of Covid-19 vaccines so far.

In terms of ranking of districts (against coverage of second dose against eligible population), Gurgaon, Ambala and Charkhi Dadri districts are on top while Nuh, Jind and Palwal are the ones with lowest coverage so far.

In terms of ranking of districts (against coverage of first dose against eligible population), Gurgaon, Faridabad and Ambala figure on top with maximum coverage while the districts of Nuh, Jind and Palwal are lowest in this category as well.

As per the vaccine stock availability (as of October 9), Haryana had a stock of over 3.34 lakh Covaxin and over 1.66 lakh doses of Covishield available.

Malout engg college staff without pay for 4 months

Chandigarh: The Malout Institute of Management & Information Technology, an engineering college established by Punjab government in 1998, has allegedly not paid its staff for last four months.

The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of MIMIT alleged that though the faculty members are teaching the students, they are themselves unable to deposit their children's school fees.

Keeping in view the financial condition of three government-promoted institutes -- SBSSTC, Ferozepur; BCET, Gurdaspur; and MIMIT, Malout -- the Punjab government had decided to give grant to all these colleges in December 2020. The first two colleges were promoted to the status of universities and were given a grant of Rs 15 crore per annum. But the grant of Rs 5 crore promised to MIMIT is still pending at the level of the Finance Department. Therefore, over 200 employees of the college have been struggling financially for the last year and a half. Now the employees have been sitting on pen-down strike since September 22. **ENS**

The JAC alleged that though the faculty members are teaching the students, they are themselves unable to deposit their children's school fees



Mangled remains of the bus in Chamba Sunday. *Pradeep Kumar*

Bus crashes into house in HP's Chamba, 34 injured

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHIMLA, OCTOBER 10

THIRTY-FOUR people were injured when their bus ploughed into a house in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district on

Sunday, an official said. He said the driver of the bus lost control of the vehicle and fell onto a house.

The 34 passengers travelling in the bus suffered injuries and they were rushed to Chamba medical college hospital, the official said.

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 10

THE CRIME Branch of Haryana Police has initiated a process to digitise interrogation reports related to offenders involved in property-related crimes during the past five years with an aim to identify the profit-motivated and violent career criminals. This data will be shared with field units to help them draw a strategy to check habitual offenders.

Under this exercise, minute details like the age of the offenders involved in property crimes, their weapons and gangs will be collected. It will be examined whether the offenders concerned are habitual to such crimes and whether this is their source of livelihood.

A senior officer of the State Crime Branch told The Indian

Minute details like age of offenders involved in property crimes, their weapons and gangs will be collected

Express: "This exercise will prevent the property offenders from striking with impunity and evading police for long." This is part of the Crime Branch's strategy aimed at prevention of sensational crimes -- which are committed by habitual and repeat offenders -- by carrying out 'desperation mapping' of such offenders. The Crime Branch is also planning to set individualised targets for various field units of the state to ensure increased detection rate of untraced property crimes this year in comparison to

their average rate of detection over the past three years. Towards this end, the Crime Branch is analysing the district-wise data and will come out with customised detection targets for various field units soon.

The Crime Branch in collaboration with the State Crime Record Bureau is also working on a communication strategy to create an informed public opinion in matters of crime figures. The officer said: "The aim of this exercise is to bring a sense of security among the people. Two out of 10 reported crimes are found false. In five out of 10 cases, offenders go to jail. For three out of ten who evade police, the hunt goes on. The idea is to equip people with information and give them a platform and opportunity to be part of the police's relentless fight against habitual criminals."

According to officials, the

state police registers and investigates over one lakh cases under various sections of the IPC and local and special laws every year. "Nineteen per cent of the IPC offences are cancelled on accusations being found false. Forty seven per cent are worked out and put to court for trial. Thirty-three per cent go untraced. A good percentage of them are simple theft, burglary and vehicle theft," an official said. The Crime Branch is also working on a plan to harness social media and various message-sharing platforms to inform people about Haryana's 'most wanted' criminals carrying bounty on their heads.

The state police plans to revamp State Crime Record Bureau (SCRB) which examines and compares fingerprints it receives in civil and criminal cases from all over the state helping in solving

thousands of cases since its inception in 1987.

Now, its focus is on infusion of the latest information technology to expedite the process and enhance fidelity. Towards this end, the national automatic fingerprints recognition system is being operationalised in 64 locations across the state in collaboration with National Crime Records Bureau. Carved out as an independent entity from CID in 1987, the bureau's fingerprint branch maintains a database of fingerprints of arrestees and convicts in the state.

In a recent meeting, DGPPK Agrawal had asked the police officers concerned to expand the bureau's scope of work further to pattern recognition and trend analysis. The meeting was attended by director of the bureau O P Singh and other police officers.

10 REGION

HARYANA

Three FIRs against farm protesters who had claimed car from BJP MP's convoy hit farmer

No FIR yet on complaint of injured farmer, who is also named in the 3 FIRs; protest postponed after assurance of fair probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 10

HARYANA POLICE have registered three FIRs against farm protesters who had alleged that one of them was hit by an Innova car that was part of Kurukshetra MP Nayab Singh Saini's cavalcade during an agitation in Ambala district on October 7. No FIR has been lodged yet on the complaint filed by the injured farmer, who has also been named in the three FIRs.

Protesters had claimed that a farmer, Bawan Preet, sustained injuries after he was hit by the vehicle when the MP, along with state Transport Minister Mool Chand Sharma



Farmers during their protest against BJP leaders in Naraingarh of Ambala. File

had gone to Naraingarh to attend a function. The BJP MP had denied the allegations and

claimed that the protesters had attacked his vehicle. Angry farmers on Sunday

gathered in Naraingarh to lay siege to the local police station where the FIRs were lodged on Saturday, two days after the alleged incident. However, they postponed their plan after senior police officers assured them that a fair probe will be conducted in the matter.

One of the FIRs lodged against the farmers was on the complaint of one Rajiv Kumar "for wrongly blaming him for hitting the farmer". The second FIR has been lodged on the complaint of Saini's driver, who accused the protesters of assaulting him. The third FIR has been lodged on the complaint of Naraingarh police station SHO Dhoom Singh, who claimed that the protesters were "rushing towards the vehicle of Saini with

an intention to attack him". The protesters were also accused of moving towards the venue of Saini's function by removing the police barricades.

Ambala BKU president Malkit Singh, one of those named in the FIR, told The Indian Express: "In a single day (Saturday), three FIRs were lodged against the farmers on the basis of false charges. The farmers had gathered in the grain market of Naraingarh before moving to the police station. However, senior police officers have assured that the false cases will be withdrawn," said Malkit Singh.

On the other hand, Naraingarh DSP Anil Kumar said: "The protesting farmers claimed that the allegations

levelled against them in the FIRs are false. An SIT has been formed under the chairmanship of a DSP that will resolve these cases."

As part of their agitation against the Centre's three farm laws, farmers had announced a "social boycott" of BJP-JJP leaders in Haryana. However, BJP-JJP leaders have been blaming opposition parties for the protests against them.

For the Naraingarh incident of October 7, the BKU had alleged connivance of the BJP MP, claiming that it was "a conspiracy to kill the farmers". The union had sought registration of an FIR under charge of attempt to murder against Saini and the Innova driver. The police are yet to lodge an FIR.

PUNJAB

Mandi Board secretary takes stock of paddy procurement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 10

TO ENSURE smooth paddy procurement in the state grain markets, Punjab Mandi Board secretary Ravi Bhagat Sunday visited mandis in Amritsar and Tarn Taran districts. During his visit, he interacted with farmers and other stakeholders to enquire about their issues related to purchase.

After inspecting procurement arrangements in Jandiala Guru, Bhagatnawala, Khadoor Sahib and Tarn Taran Mandis, Bhagat said that the targeted procurement of paddy in the state is 170 LMT during ongoing kharif marketing season. In the current kharif season, 3.97 LMT of paddy has arrived in the state mandis so far, of which 3.52 LMT stands procured across the state, as against about 13.45 LMT arrived during the last year. He said that the procurement operations would continue till

the end of November.

Reiterating the commitment of Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi of procuring every single grain of the farmers' produce besides ensuring strict adherence to the prescribed norms of timely payment to the farmers, the Mandi Board secretary urged the farmers to bring their produce within specifications of moisture content laid by the Centre.

Bhagat also appealed to the farmers not to burn paddy residue and instead use subsidised agri-machinery for in-situ and ex-situ management of paddy straw. He pointed out that if any of the stakeholders was facing any hardship related to procurement operations, they could contact their respective market committees and State Control Room set up at the Mandi Board headquarters, Mohali, to get their issues and complaints addressed promptly.

Farmers getting hit on streets, their crops in markets: Hooda

Congress starts 'Vipaksh Aapke Samaksh' from Karnal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 10

FORMER CHIEF minister and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda Sunday alleged the BJP-JJP alliance government in Haryana has neither fulfilled the promises made in their manifesto nor in the common minimum programme till now even after two years of their tenure.

Addressing 'Vipaksh Aapke Samaksh' programme at Karnal, Hooda said the time has come to establish direct contact with the people and announced that his next mass contact programme would be held at Jind. Hitting out at the BJP-JJP government, Hooda said: "No more time can be given to the government formed for mere opportunism and selfishness. That is why the Congress has decided that now it will go to the public in every district and every Assembly constituency and establish direct communication with the people."

According to Hooda's associates, more than four dozen MLAs and former MLAs were present at Karnal programme on Sunday. The farmers, labourers, traders, workers, transporters and people from different sections who reached the programme put up their problems in front of the



Bhupinder Singh Hooda in Karnal on Sunday. Photo: Congress

Leader of Opposition. After listening to these, Hooda said that today no section of the state is happy with the coalition government.

While referring to the police lathicharge on farmers at Karnal and paddy procurement problems in mandis, Hooda said: "Today farmers are being beaten on the road with government sticks while their crops are taking a beating in the market. I have myself seen in the mandis of the state that smooth procurement of paddy has not started so far despite the government changing the dates repeatedly. Farmers are forced to keep their paddy on the

roads as their crop is neither being lifted from the market, nor are the farmers getting MSP or payment."

Hooda said the government is imposing unnecessary conditions on the farmers like portal, registration, scheduling and a limit of procurement of only 25 quintal per acre while there were no conditions to harass the farmers during the Congress government. "When our government is formed again, the farmers will be freed from all these hassles. The system of purchase and hand-to-hand payment of every farmer's grain will be adopted again," he said.

Pink bollworm attack on cotton crop: Meeting with Punjab govt postponed

Farmers break barricades again

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, OCTOBER 10

A MEETING between farmers and Punjab government officials regarding the demand of compensation for cotton crop damage due to pink bollworm, scheduled for Saturday, got postponed to October 13.

Non-completion of girdwari of cotton crop spread across 3.25 acres and CM's non-availability due to his son's wedding were the main reasons for the postponement at the last minute.

BKU Ugrahan had started their 'pakka dharna' outside the house of Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal in his native village Badal on October 5 and are still at the same spot.

Shingara Singh Mann, general secretary of BKU Ugrahan, said, "On Friday, we had a meeting with DC Muktsar Harpreet Singh Sudan where he told us that our meeting with Punjab government officials will happen on Saturday morning... however that meeting got cancelled on Friday night as it was stated that CM Charanjit Singh Channi is busy in his son's wedding due to which any decision on the issue couldn't be taken. We will decide as whether we want to have meeting with CM's secretary or CM himself. As of now, our dharna is going on outside the house of Manpreet Singh



The pakka dharna outside Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Badal's residence in Badal village

Badal as usual."

Following this decision, BKU Ugrahan broke all barricades and gheraoed the house of Manpreet Singh Badal while earlier they were sitting 100 metres away. Even on October 7, they had done the same but had gone back after half an hour when SDM Gidderbaha visited the spot and had assured that their talk with government will happen the next day.

Shingara Singh said, "Our meeting was scheduled with principal secretary to CM, financial commissioner revenue and agriculture secretary on Saturday afternoon. However, it didn't happen. Hence we have gheraoed Manpreet Badal's house yet again."

He added, "It is sad that the CM

has got no time to handle farmers' issues, or he should authorise someone for the same. Now we have an agriculture minister too."

However, Muktsar DC Harpreet Singh Sudan said, "As of now deputy commissioners are busy completing girdwari of cotton crop... we have not cancelled the meeting but have postponed it till October 13... by then, girdwari will be complete and government will be able to calculate as how much is the damage and what should be the budgetary allocation... hence before having the meeting with farmers, there will be some facts before the government to discuss and take decisions... In addition to this CM will also be free by then and hence decision-making will be fast. We are trying to convince the union members on the same issue."

AS SOLUTION TO STUBBLE BURNING PROBLEM

Punjab govt proposes use of paddy straw as cattle feed in gaushalas

Each district to have panel to ensure straw is first treated with urea and molasses, after GADVASU experts warn of silica, lignin content

DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL
LUDHIANA, OCTOBER 10

GRAPPLING WITH the issue of stubble burning and no permanent solution in sight till now, the Punjab government has now proposed to use paddy straw/stubble as fodder for cattle in gaushalas/cattle pounds (cow sheds). Punjab produces at least 20 million tonnes of paddy straw every year, most of which is burnt in the fields, mostly in October after paddy harvest.

However, experts say paddy straw has high silica and lignin content which reduces its digestive properties and thus should be given to cattle only after its urea and molasses treatment. "Apart from silica and lignin, higher selenium content in paddy straw also limits its use as fodder in animals as compared to wheat straw. However, if given in moderate quantities (upto 5 kg per animal per day), selenium poses no health hazard to the animal. Paddy straw also contains oxalates (2-2.5 per cent), which leads to calcium deficiency so mineral mixture should always be fed along with the straw," said Ravinder Singh Grewal, director, livestock farms, Guru Angad Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU).

A letter issued by the additional chief secretary (animal husbandry), Punjab, to all deputy commissioners, regarding the use of paddy straw in gaushalas, says that as per research conducted by GADVASU, Ludhiana, paddy straw can be used as feed for cattle after its "urea and molasses treatment".

The letter says that if paddy straw residue produced in Punjab is used as cattle fodder in gaushalas, the pollution problem caused by stubble burning can be solved to a great extent.

The letter further says that each district in Punjab has to constitute a six-member committee to ensure that paddy straw is treated with urea and molasses and then ferried to gaushalas in the area. The committee will include: additional deputy commissioner (development), additional deputy commissioner (urban), chief agriculture officer, deputy director animal husbandry and an expert scientist from GADVASU.

The orders further state that the district administration should start using treated paddy straw as cattle fodder in local government gaushalas/cattle pounds from the current harvesting season itself and the committees should be constituted immediately.

'ON EXPERIMENTAL BASIS'

The letter however, includes a word of caution. It says that "on an experimental basis", the caretak-

ers should first use very low quantity of treated paddy straw as cattle feed in government gaushalas and if cattle show any signs of sickness after consuming it, the experiment should be stopped with immediate effect.

The districts have also been ordered to make arrangements for collecting and storing paddy straw in government cattle pounds and further get it treated with urea and molasses only under the supervision of an expert from GADVASU.

The letter also clarifies that the entire cost for the process, including that of spray pumps and other logistics, has to be borne by district administration from its own funds.

Speaking to The Indian Express, V K Janjua, additional chief secretary (now transferred), animal husbandry, Punjab, who issued the letter to the districts proposing usage of paddy straw as cattle fodder in gaushalas, said the decision was taken following a research report submitted by the scientists of GADVASU as the part of the project 'Preparation for control of stubble burning during kharif season 2021'.

Janjua said paddy straw was already being used as cattle feed in China and South East Asian countries. "But since it contains silica and selenium, we first need to treat it as per GADVASU research,"

Janjua said the experiment was first being started in Punjab on pilot basis and it won't solve the stubble burning problem like a magic wand but the bigger plan was to transport paddy straw from Punjab to other states such as Gujarat and Maharashtra, to be used as cattle feed.

"Modalities are being worked out in coordination with the Government of India to transport paddy straw from Punjab to other states such as Gujarat and Maharashtra where it can be used as cattle feed. It will be a costly affair to transport it via trucks so train routes are being explored. A committee has been formed by the Centre to look into it," he said.

"Districts will bear the cost of this experiment in Punjab as gaushalas are already being run by animal welfare societies who get funds," he said.

Hailing the move, Punjab State

Gau Sewa Commission chairman Sachin Sharma said the step would be beneficial for the environment and would also ensure fodder for cattle in abundance at gaushalas.

"The tractor trolleys available in gaushalas can be used for ferrying paddy straw so that it could be stored and used during fodder shortage. We also request farmers and other social organisations to cooperate and help in delivery of straw to gaushalas," said Sharma.

There are nearly 460 private and 22 government gaushalas in Punjab.

PRODUCING OVER 20 million tonnes of paddy straw every year, most of which is burnt in fields by farmers, leading to widespread air pollution that even spreads to neighbouring states, Punjab has now proposed to use the paddy crop residue as fodder for animals, especially cattle. **DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL** explains what research the Punjab government is citing to back its proposal:

On what basis has Punjab government made such a proposal?

A research report prepared by the state's only vet varsity — Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana — was submitted to the government under the project 'Preparation for the control of stubble burning during Kharif season 2021', which has recommended usage of paddy straw as animal feed. The report says that "nearly 30.4 per cent of rice straw is used for animal feed in Southeast Asia, Mongolia and China".

It adds: "In Punjab, the total availability of paddy straw is about 20 million tones per annum. The total value of this straw is Rs 400 crore approx, calculated on an average rate of Rs 200/quintal. Almost all of it is burnt in fields. This accounts for economic loss apart from the loss of 77,000 tonnes of nitrogen and 5.6 million tonnes of Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN) which could be used for ruminant production."

As per the report, the nutritional value of 20 million tonnes of paddy straw is: 10 lakh tonnes of crude protein (CP), 3 lakh tonnes of digestible crude protein (DCP), 80 lakh tonnes of total digestible nutrients (TDN) and phosphorous. It also highlights that "the requirement of feed and fodder for ruminants at national level is in deficit. The situation will get worse in terms of availability of both green and dry fodder during coming years..."

So, can animals be fed paddy straw directly from fields?

No, according to GADVASU experts. "High silica and lignin content reduces its digestive properties. Higher selenium content in paddy straw also limits its use as fodder in animals as compared to wheat straw. However, if given in moderate quantities (up to 5 kg per animal per day), selenium poses no health hazard to the animal."

Paddy straw also contains oxalates (2-2.5%) which leads to calcium deficiency so mineral mixture should always be fed along with the straw," said Ravinder Singh Grewal, director, livestock farms, GADVASU.



What are the treatments that GADVASU has recommended before feeding paddy straw to animals?

There are two methods that have been recommended in the report submitted by GADVASU: Urea-only treatment and urea plus molasses treatment for paddy straw before using it as cattle fodder.

What is urea-only treatment?

"Urea treatment of paddy straw has a vast potential to improve animal productivity for rice straw," says the report.

The urea treatment procedure developed by the university says: "Dissolve 14 kg urea in 200 litres water and spray on chopped paddy straw, mix thoroughly and stack it for 9 days. After 9 days, stack can be opened from one side. The fermented straws have soft texture with 6.0-8.0 per cent crude protein, 3.0-4.0 per cent DCP and 55-60 per cent TDN. This involves a combination of physical, chemical and biological treatments. The paddy straw is chaffed and moistened (physical) with urea solution (chemical), the breakdown of urea release ammonia gas, a part of which is utilised by microbes (biological) for their proliferation (enriching the straw with microbial protein), resulting in rise of stack temperature, which facilitates the penetration of ammonia in the cell wall, resulting in breakage of lingo-cellulosic bonds making cellulose and hemicellulose assessable for utilization by microbes in the rumen. The digestibility of cellulose increases from 40-45% in untreated paddy straw to 70-75 per cent in fermented wheat straw."

The experts however clarify that for maintenance of body weight in animals, paddy straw alone is not sufficient. "Minerals and green fodder supplementation is required," the report adds.

How does nutritional value of paddy straw increase after urea treatment?

The figures given by the varsity in its report shows that CP, DCP and TDN values in urea treated paddy straw increased manifold as compared to untreated straw. Crude protein (CP) increased from 4.5% to 8%, digestible crude protein (DCP) from 1.5% to 4% and total digestible nutrients (TDN) from 40% to 55%.

The feeding of urea treated

bafoes giving about 10 kg milk/day can result in saving about 60 per cent of oilseed cake in the ration. Feeding of paddy straw should be mixed with berseem, cowpea or Lucerne as it forms a maintenance ration. The straw should be fed with concentrate mixture and additional DCP or limestone should be given to the animals to reduce the effect of oxalates. Oxalates also interfere in carbohydrate metabolism perhaps due to non availability of calcium as cofactor," says the report.

What is the urea plus molasses treatment?

Also called "Urea-Molasses impregnated straw", this method involves treating paddy straw with urea and molasses. "Urea 1 kg and molasses 3 kg was mixed thoroughly and mixed with water 10 kg. This is mixed with chaffed paddy straw and fed to animals on same day. This treated straw along with mineral mixture and salt makes up a maintenance ration for non-producing animals," says the report.

The experts however clarify that for maintenance of body weight in animals, paddy straw alone is not sufficient. "Minerals and green fodder supplementation is required," the report adds.

What are the potential harmful effects of silica, oxalates and selenium if straw is fed untreated?

The report mentions: "The intake of siliceous forages has been associated with urinary siliceous calculi... in drier regions where water may be limited. There have been no definitive studies in India, but urinary calculi are associated with rice straw consumption. Urinary calculi are commonly formed in sheep and cattle... Rice straw also differs from other straws in having a high (1-2 per cent) content of oxalates. These are broken down in the rumen to carbonates and bicarbonates, absorbed, and then excreted in the urine. The pH of water extracts of rice straw is about 8 and that of urine from stock-fed rice straw as high as 9. The high oxalate content has been implicated in the greater need for calcium supplementation. It has high selenium (0.5 to 4.5%) content which can cause a serious health problems in dairy animals."

11

IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

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

LEANDER PAES

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

MAHESH BHUPATHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NIHAL KOSHIE: You have mentioned that there were tournaments where you didn't talk to each other for whatever reason.

How difficult was it and what were you talking to each other have helped?

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

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

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

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



WHY
LEANDER PAES,
MAHESH BHUPATHI

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



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paes: And then who would you have played me?

Bhupathi: Someone shorter (*laughs*).

Paes: Aamir?

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

SHAHID JUDGE: There have been

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

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

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

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

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

SRIRAM VEERA: You mentioned the

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

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

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

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

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

Bhupathi: When we were growing up,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





LIFTING OFF

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

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

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

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

MUCH IN A NAME

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

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

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

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

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



COOMI KAPOOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AUTUMN OF ANXIETY

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



RISHABH BHANDARI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is a London-based lawyer and political commentator

OCTOBER 11, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

ANDHRA CRISIS

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

PUNJAB EXPLOSIONS

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

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

SADAT'S FUNERAL

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

13 THE IDEAS PAGE

A carbon policy for the farm

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



FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH
BY ASHOK GULATI AND
PURVI THANGARAJ

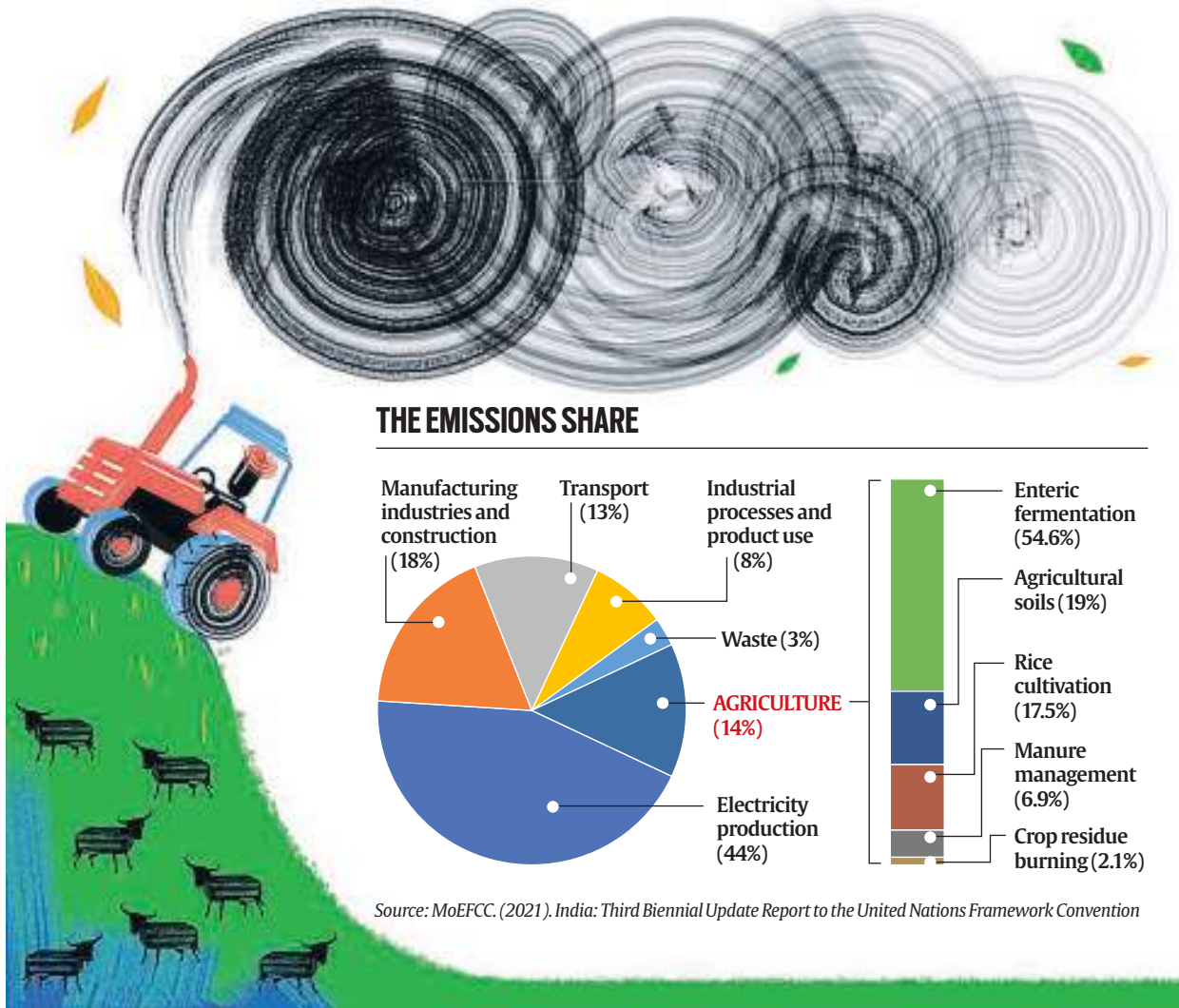
THE ASSESSMENT REPORT of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group- 1 has literally issued a “code red” to humanity as we rush towards a 1.5 degree Celsius hotter planet by 2040. The UK is set to host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow from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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

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

Fixing the tax leak

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



SURANJALI TANDON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is assistant professor, NIPFP



PRANAB BARDHAN

How to reimagine nationalism

Opposition needs to assert a civic nationalism enshrined in Constitution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OLD SCOURGE

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

Sunil Chopra, Ludhiana

COUNTING CASTE

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

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

RATING REVISION

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

IDEAS
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● THE RETURN
OF KASHMIRI
PANDITS:
FIROZ BAKHT AHMED
www.indianexpress.com

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

Bal Govind, Noida

DIGITAL INEQUALITY

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

Mridula Pant, Lucknow



SPAIN

BUILDING-SIZED LAVA BLOCKS FALL FROM VOLCANO

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

TOP OF THE WORLD



The Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. Reuters

RUSSIA

Bolshoi Theatre performer killed in stage accident

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

YEMEN

Aden car bomb targeting officials kills 6

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

CZECH REPUBLIC

President taken to hospital amid post-poll talks

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



Sebastian Kurz

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

FRANCOIS MURPHY & ALEXANDRA SCHWARZ-GOERLICH
VIENNA, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

Britain, Ireland argue on Twitter over clauses in Brexit agreement

WILLIAM JAMES & PHILIP BLENKINSOP
LONDON, BRUSSELS, OCT 10

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

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

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

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

HUIZHONG WU
TAIPEI, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

the center of the capital, Taipei.

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

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

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

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



PLANE CRASH IN RUSSIA KILLS 16

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

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

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

Canadian admits fabricating terror tale detailed in 'Caliphate' podcast

IAN AUSTEN
OTTAWA, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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



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

Low turnout reported as Iraqis vote in parliamentary polls

JOHN DAVISON & AHMED RASHEED
BAGHDAD, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

Two electoral commission officials said nationwide turnout of

EXPLAINED
Apathy, fear and a boycott

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

around," the statement said.

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

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

Under the name Abu Huzayfah, Chaudhry, who lives

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

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

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

THE ERA OF THE BIG TECH WHISTLEBLOWER HAS ARRIVED

How one Facebook employee unfriended the giant social network

ADAM GELLER & MATT O'BRIEN
OCTOBER 10

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

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

yond Facebook needed to know.

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

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

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

well be the most damning.

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

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



Frances Haugen

be able to process," she said.

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

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

including a Harvard business degree and multiple patents.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 ECONOMY

RELIANCE NEW ENERGY SOLAR ACQUIRES CO FROM CHINA NATIONAL BLUESTAR

Eye on global energy mkt, Reliance buys REC Solar Holdings in \$771-million deal

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 10

RELIANCE NEW Energy Solar Ltd (RNE SL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of RIL, on Sunday said it has acquired 100 per cent share-holding in REC Solar Holdings AS (REC Group) from China National Bluestar (Group) Co for an enterprise value of \$771 million (Rs 5,780 crore).

Headquartered in Norway, REC has its operational headquarters in Singapore and regional hubs in Europe, Australia, North America, and Asia-Pacific.

The 25-year-old company has three manufacturing facilities — two in Norway for making solar grade polysilicon and one in Singapore making photo voltaic (PV) cells and modules.

The heterojunction (HJT) technology used by REC helps its modules surpass the performance of other commonly used technologies in the industry.

REC Group is an international pioneering solar energy com-

pany leading the industry through its technological innovations and superior, high efficiency and long-life solar cells and panels for clean and affordable solar power, RNE SL said in a statement.

“REC’s Alpha and Alpha Pure range of solar modules are recognized as among industry leaders in efficiency, reliability and long guaranteed life,” Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) said.

REC has over 600 utility and design patents, of which 446 are granted and balance are under evaluation. “It always had a strong focus on research and development and now, coupled with Reliance’s world-class innovation, scale, and operational excellence, will further accelerate path breaking technological developments and introduction of new products,” RIL added.

The statement further said, “REC has more than 1,300 employees globally. They will become proud members of the Reliance Family after the successful completion of the trans-

EXPLAINED
May help cut solar panel costs

THE ACQUISITION of REC Solar Holdings may boost manufacturing of PV cells at RIL’s Dhirubhai Ambani Green Energy Giga Complex in Jamnagar. This could help the conglomerate lower the cost of solar panels and create a manufacturing hub.

RIL picks up 40% in Sterling & Wilson Solar

Mumbai: The Shapoorji Pallonji Group is divesting its second key asset within a month by selling 40 per cent stake in Sterling & Wilson Solar, the solar EPC joint venture it runs with the Khurshed Yazdi Daruvala family, to Reliance Industries’ Reliance New Energy Solar for Rs 2,845 crore. **PTI**

grated, metallic silicon to PV panel manufacturing giga factory at Dhirubhai Ambani Green Energy Giga Complex, Jamnagar, initially starting with 4 GW per annum capacity and eventually growing to 10 GW per annum.

“The acquisition of REC will help Reliance with a ready global platform and the opportunity to expand and grow in key green energy markets globally, including in the US, Europe, Australia and elsewhere in Asia,” it said.

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman, Reliance Industries, said, “Together with our other recent investments, Reliance is now ready to set up a global scale integrated photovoltaic giga factory and make India a manufacturing hub for lowest cost and highest efficiency solar panels. We will continue to invest, build and collaborate with global players to achieve the highest reliability, efficiency and economies to deliver high-quality, reliable power at affordable prices to our customers both in India and markets worldwide.”

STATE-RUN TELCO TESTING PROOF OF CONCEPT WITH TCS

Vaishnaw tests call on BSNL 4G: Aatmanirbhar vision taking shape

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

UNION TELECOM minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday made the first call over an Indian 4G network of state-run telco Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), the telecom ministry said in a release.

The call to the minister, officials said, was made by Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman from Chandigarh, where BSNL is testing a proof of concept (PoC) of 4G equipment with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

“Made first call over Indian 4G network of BSNL (Designed and Made in India). PM @narendramodi Ji’s vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat taking shape,” Vaishnaw said in a tweet.

The call tested by the minister was the first made on a network developed indigenously.

The development is an indication of the roll-out of the technology by BSNL.

The state-run telco, which has been ailing due to high debt, is in the process of deploying a pan India 4G network.

The telco has sought government support of Rs 40,000 crore,

DEVELOPING PAN-INDIA NETWORK

THE CALL tested by Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw was the first made on a network developed indigenously. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), which has been ailing due to high debt, is in the process of deploying a pan-India 4G network



of which it wants to use half for purchase of indigenously developed 4G technology.

For the current financial year, the government has allocated Rs 24,084 crore for spectrum for 4G services. BSNL expects to roll out its services for all users by the calendar year end.

Calls for indigenously developed 4G networks for BSNL gained momentum after the government curbed purchase of telecom equipment from China, following last year’s standoff between Indian and Chinese soldiers in Galwan valley, which left over 20 Indian soldiers dead.

Earlier, government think tank NITI Aayog too had sug-

gested that the state-run telco go for indigenously developed 4G network despite the costs.

In September this year, however, the government nominees on the board of BSNL had, for the second time, deferred the telecom service provider’s proposal to upgrade its existing 2G and 3G sites to 4G.

The upgrade of sites in south and west zones will cost Rs 567.35 crore and once the approval is given, it would take three-four months to launch 4G services in these regions.

BSNL is pushing for the upgrade because the pan-India roll-out of 4G network by Indian firms is facing issues.

SECTOR WATCH FOREIGN INVESTMENT

FPI influx in Oct at ₹1,997 cr so far; banking sector posts outflows

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

FOREIGN PORTFOLIO investors (FPIs) invested around Rs 1,997 crore so far in October, as the domestic market continued to remain a competitive investment destination from a long-term perspective.

According to depositories data, FPIs poured in Rs 1,530 crore in the equities segment and Rs 467 crore into debt between October 1-8. The total net investment stood at Rs 1,997 crore.

For the past two months, FPIs have been net buyers, having invested Rs 26,517 crore in September and Rs 16,459 crore in August.

“A stand out feature of FPI flows in recent weeks is the outflows from banking and inflows into IT,” said VK Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services. Even though IT is highly valued, this segment is attracting increasing flows since earnings visibility is high in the segment while banking is struggling with poor credit growth and rising asset quality concerns, he added.

“From the long-term perspective, India continues to be an important and competitive investment destination, and that is where Indian equities keep on attracting FPI flows at regular intervals, as is evident this week,” said Himanshu Srivastava, associate director—

NET BUYERS SO FAR IN OCTOBER

- According to depositories data, FPIs poured in Rs 1,530 crore in the equities segment and Rs 467 crore into debt between October 1-8
- FPIs have been net buyers, having invested Rs 26,517 crore in September and Rs 16,459 crore in August

manager research, Morningstar India.

He further said that volatility in flows may continue. With markets trading near all-time high levels, profit-bookings by FPIs from time to time cannot be ruled out.

India, Philippines and Thailand reported FPI inflows of \$624 million, \$29 million and \$121 million, respectively, said Shrikant Chouhan, head—equity research (retail), Kotak Securities.

On the other hand, Taiwan, South Korea and Indonesia reported FPI outflows of \$2,211 million, \$841 million and \$37 million, respectively, he added.

Going forward, volatility in global markets and global slowdown may hit foreign flows moving into Indian shores, Srivastava said. **WITHPTI**

‘Indian companies garner \$9.7 bn via IPOs in Jan-Sept’

Indian companies mopped up \$9.7 billion via initial share sales in the first nine months of 2021, the highest amount for the nine-month period in 20 years, an EY report said



As many as 72 initial public offerings (IPOs) hit the stock market in January–September in India and strong sentiments were visible in the global markets as well

Global IPO market continued to boom through Q3 2021, resulting in the most active third quarter by deal numbers and proceeds in the last 20 years

In the three months to September, India saw 31 IPOs that garnered a total of little over \$5 billion, including 8 IPOs from diversified industrial products and 5 in the technology segment

Outlook for next quarter remains positive with several new-economy and technology-driven IPOs expected. Equity indices are at an all-time high giving a boost to the primary market	Globally, the third quarter of 2021 saw 18% more deals than the previous third quarter record set in 2007 and 11% higher proceeds than the last record-setting third quarter in 2020	Source: EY/PTI
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Work to monetise AI arms soon: DIPAM

New Delhi: After the historic Air India privatisation, the government will now start work on monetising its four other subsidiaries, including Alliance Air, and over Rs 14,700 crore worth non-core assets like land and building, DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said.

The government on October 8 had announced that salt-to-software conglomerate Tatas have won the bid to acquire debt-laden national carrier Air India for Rs 18,000 crore.

This includes a cash payment of Rs 2,700 crore and taking over Rs 15,300 crore debt. The deal, which is expected to be completed by December-end, also includes sale of Air India Express and ground handling arm AISATS.

Talking to PTI, Pandey said that the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) will now get down to working out a plan for monetising the subsidiaries of Air India which are with the special purpose vehicle AIAHL. **PTI**

FB will try to ‘nudge’ teens away from harmful content

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 10

A FACEBOOK Inc executive said Sunday that the company would introduce new measures on its apps to prompt teens away from harmful content, as US lawmakers scrutinize how Facebook and subsidiaries like Instagram affect young people’s mental health.

Nick Clegg, Facebook’s vice president of global affairs, also expressed openness to the idea of letting regulators have access to Facebook algorithms that are used to amplify content.

But Clegg said he could not answer the question whether its algorithms amplified the voices of people who had attacked the US Capitol on January 6.

The algorithms “should be held to account, if necessary, by regulation so that people can match what our systems say they’re supposed to do from what actually happens,” Clegg told CNN’s ‘State of the Union.’ He spoke days after former Facebook employee and whistleblower Frances Haugen testified on Capitol Hill about how the com-

pany entices users to keep scrolling, harming teens’ well-being.

“We’re going to introduce something which I think will make a considerable difference, which is where our systems see

“... we’re introducing something called, ‘take a break,’ where we will be prompting teens to just simply just take a break from using Instagram.”

NICK CLEGG
VICE PRESIDENT OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS, FACEBOOK

that the teenager is looking at the same content over and over again and it’s content which may not be conducive to their well-being, we will nudge them to look at other content,” Clegg told CNN.

In addition, “we’re introducing something called, ‘take a break,’ where we will be prompting teens to just simply just take a break from using Instagram,” Clegg further said.

US senators last week grilled Facebook on its plans to better protect young users on its apps, drawing on leaked internal research that showed the social me-

dia giant was aware of how its Instagram app damaged the mental health of youth.

Senator Amy Klobuchar, a Democrat who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee’s antitrust subcommittee, has argued for more regulation against technology companies like Facebook.

“I’m just tired of hearing ‘trust us,’ and it’s time to protect those moms and dads that have been struggling with their kids getting addicted to the platform and been exposed to all kinds of bad stuff,” Klobuchar told CNN on Sunday after Clegg’s interview.

‘NFRA has no jurisdiction over small, medium cos’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

COMING OUT strongly against certain recommendations made by NFRA, chartered accountants’ apex body ICAI said Sunday the watchdog does not have jurisdiction over micro, small and medium companies, and asserted that audit helps in mitigating risk of corporate governance lapses.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) also stressed that “there is no direct nexus between the quality of the audit and the cost of conducting the audit as is mentioned in a consultation paper by NFRA as the auditors have to comply with the standards in auditing and other relevant standards while conducting an audit.”

The latest comments from ICAI President Nihar N Jambusaria come less than two weeks after the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) came out with a consultation paper on statutory audit and auditing standards for micro, small and medium companies (MSMCs).

In the consultation paper, for which public comments have been sought till November 10, NFRA said it was appropriate to revisit the requirement of compulsory statutory audit for all companies irrespective of their size and/or public interest.

CONFIDENT THAT WHAT WE NEED TO DO WILL BE INCLUDED IN A RECONCILIATION PACKAGE: US TREASURY CHIEF

Yellen confident US Congress will pass global minimum tax

DAVID LAWDER & DOINA CHIAUCU
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 10

TREASURY SECRETARY Janet Yellen said Sunday she was confident that the US Congress would approve legislation to implement the global corporate minimum tax agreed by 136 countries.

Speaking at “This Week” on ABC, Yellen said the actions to bring the United States into compliance with the global minimum tax would likely be included in the so-called reconciliation budget bill containing President Joe Biden’s proposed spending initiatives.

Asked if she was confident the

measure would get through, she said: “Yes. I am confident that what we need to do to come into compliance with the minimum tax will be included in a reconciliation package. I hope that we, that it will be passed and we will be able to reassure the world that the United States will do its part.”

The parliamentary maneuver known as budget reconciliation would allow Democrats to act without Republican votes.

A group of 136 countries on Friday set a minimum global tax rate of 15 per cent for big companies and sought to make it harder for them to avoid taxation in a landmark deal that Biden said levelled the playing field.



US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the actions to bring the United States into compliance with the global minimum tax would likely be included in the so-called reconciliation budget bill. Reuters file

Yellen did not address how to implement another part of the deal that aims to revamp taxation for large technology companies and other highly profitable multinational firms. The so-called “Pillar 1” part of the tax deal would reallocate taxing rights on companies with more than \$20 billion in annual revenue to countries where their products and services are sold for 25 per cent of the profit above a 10 per cent margin.

US Senate Republicans have argued that this would require a new international tax treaty that would require ratification with a two-thirds Senate majority.

Republican senators told Yellen in a letter they were con-

cerned the Biden administration was considering circumventing the need to obtain the Senate’s authority to implement treaties.

Under the US Constitution, the Senate must ratify any treaty with a two-thirds majority, or 67 votes. Biden’s fellow Democrats control only 50 seats in the 100-member chamber. Republicans have in recent years been overwhelmingly hostile to treaties and have backed cuts in corporate taxes.

Yellen told a Senate Banking Committee hearing in September the administration was instead considering alternative means to modify existing bilateral tax treaties that would avoid a two-thirds majority vote. **REUTERS**

BRIEFLY

‘CIL arm listing’
Kolkata: The board of Coal India Ltd is likely to give its nod to the Centre’s proposal to divest 10 per cent of paid-up capital in the miner’s subsidiary Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd (CMPDIL) and to list the consultancy arm on the bourses, sources said Sunday.

Haptik growth
New Delhi: Jio Platforms’ conversational AI maker Haptik is tripling business on year-on-year basis and is bullish about e-commerce facility getting developed on instant messaging app Whatsapp, a top official of the company said. **PTI**



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SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Taxing Big Tech where it earns profits

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

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

What are the decisions taken?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why the minimum rate?

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

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

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

the US could be a deterrent in negotiations.

Who are the targets?

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

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

What are the problems with the plan?

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

Where does India stand?

India, which has had reservations about the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ABDUL QADEER KHAN | 1936-2021

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

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

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

Stealer of nuclear secrets

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

Following this, Khan made a confession



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

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

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

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

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

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

From then on, it was downhill for Khan.

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

The 'secret' Pak bomb

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

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

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

Rehab after Musharraf

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

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

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

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

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

The final years

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

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

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

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

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 10

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

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

Why has Karnataka amended the law?

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

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

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

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

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

What forms of gambling are covered?

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

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

What is the punishment?

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

Will these stand the test of law?

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

played for a stake or for any prize."

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

How have gaming companies reacted?

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

Fury caps wild trilogy by stopping Wilder in 11th round to retain WBC heavyweight title

 Chandi garh

New Delhi: Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Sunday came hard on Hockey India for unilaterally deciding to pull out of next year's Commonwealth Games, saying the national federation is bound to consult with the government before taking any such step. Thakur said being the main financier of Olympic sports in the country, the government has every right to take call on matters of national representation. "I think any federation should refrain from giving such statements and discuss with the government first because its just not federation's team, its national team," he told reporters. "In a country of 130 crore population, there are not just 18 players to represent country. It (CWG) is a global event I feel that they (Hockey India) should engage with government and concerned department. The decision will be taken by the government." On Tuesday, Hockey India pulled out of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, citing Covid concerns and UK's discriminatory quarantine rules for Indian travellers. PT

AP

Chennai's Super King

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

SANDIP G
OCTOBER 10

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

Grandmaster of end-game

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

When he strode in, surprisingly ahead of the in-form Ravindra Jadeja, a few frowns and scowls accompanied him to the crease at the fall of Ruturaj Gaikwad for a purring 70. The requirement had blown to 24 off 12 balls. A near-cancer by peak Dhoni standards, but not quite as straightforward these days. How wrong we were in (mis)judging him, he was to prove.

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

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



Chennai Super Kings captain MS Dhoni hits the winning runs off Tom Curran Qualifier 1 on Sunday. [iplt20.com](#)

off three balls. A wide reduces it to four. And inevitably, Dhoni wraps the match with a pulled four.

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

Most batsmen become less risk-averse as they get older, cutting out some of their strokes, adding more sophistry and world-wisdom into their game. But not Uthappa. At

35, at the fag end of his career, he seems as buoyant a batsman as he was when he broke out with a whirlwind half-century against England in an ODI in 2006. Age and experience have not diminished his exuberance. No shot of his on Sunday exemplified that more than the six off Avesh Khan. He shuffled across and whipped it over long-on with a clean-swing of the bat.

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

Middle-over choke

The middle-over choke has been an age-

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

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

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

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

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

In last tournament as RCB skipper, Kohli hopes to silence captaincy doubters

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

The T20 World Cup is approaching, which is Kohli's final assignment as India's T20 captain as well. Obviously, he wouldn't like to carry any negative vibes into such an important tournament. As a batsman also, he hasn't played a match-winning knock even in white-ball cricket for quite a substantial period now.

Kohli has scored 366 runs in 14 games this IPL, including three half-centuries. By his lofty standards, though, this feels a little underwhelming. For close to two years now, he hasn't scored a limited-overs century. Add to that the latest issue of his head falling over and going outside the line of the ball, while playing across the line on the leg-side. Getting out leg-before to Bhuvneshwar Kumar in that manner only a few days back is still fresh in fans' memory.

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

Rohit Sharma not having a good IPL increases Kohli's responsibility going into the T20 World Cup. Both are top tournament players and the global competition would



Virat Kohli has scored 366 runs in 14 games this IPL, which feels underwhelming by his lofty standards. [PTI](#)

be played with a different intensity. Still, big runs, especially against an excellent KKR bowling attack, at the business end of the IPL would be a serious confidence-boost for Kohli.

The Pakistan factor

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

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

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

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

India lose 3rd T20I by 14 runs and series 0-2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GOLD COAST, OCTOBER 10

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

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

For Australia, right-arm pacer Nicola Carey (2/42) was the pick of the bowlers, while Ashleigh Gardner (1/22), Annabel Sutherland (1/13) and Georgia Wareham (1/15) scalped a wicket each. India thus ended their Australia tour heartbroken, having already lost the three-match ODI series 1-2 before drawing the rain-marred lone historic day/night Test. India's run chase started on a disappointing fashion as they lost hard-hitting opener Shafali Verma (1) early, caught by Vlaeminck at short fine-leg off Gardner in the second over.

But Mandhana looked in ominous touch as she displayed her wide range of shots — pulling, clipping off the pads and hitting through covers region — to pick up three boundaries in the fifth over. Mandhana and Rodrigues played with caution with the former finding the boundaries in between as India reached 54 runs in the 10th over.

Rodrigues then hit Wareham straight over mid-on in the next over but she departed two balls later in search of too many boundaries, caught at long-off by Vlaeminck. Mandhana soon reached her fifty off just 46 balls with a boundary off Carey but she perished four balls later, caught by Australia skipper Meg Lanning as India reached 93 for three by the end of the 15th over. Needing 57 off 30 balls, India's chase derailed thereafter as they lost two more quick wickets, including that off skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (13).

It was yet another failure from Kaur as she drove one straight to Lanning off Sutherland while trying to clear the inner circle. From there on, it was no looking back for Australia as they restricted India to 135 for six.

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

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

PLAYING TONIGHT

Indian Premier League

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EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER



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

Ruturaj & seasons in the sun

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

hand, especially towards the slip cordon. But this time, the old instincts seemed to kick in, fleetingly, before the reality nudged in. But how the illusion crashed down, as the ball just whooshed past his outstretched glove, with a mischievous wink, like an errand vehicle giving the trailing police car a naughty slip.



Dhoni plunged onto the grassy baize, his weary eyes agonisingly watching the ball slip away from his grasp. By then, the hairy halo had long vanished.

SmoulderMan, not spidey

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



Shreyas Iyer on fire

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





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