



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

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

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

FIRs registered against Minister's son, unidentified miscreants

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

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

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

VIOLENT HARVEST

PAGE 6

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

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

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



A video grab of one of the SUVs hitting the protesters

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

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

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

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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

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

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

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

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Priyanka to Akhilesh, Yogi govt barricades Opposition

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 4

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



SP's Akhilesh Yadav was detained on Monday. Express

Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra on Sunday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## PANDORA PAPERS - PART 2

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

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

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



THE SECOND LIST



PAGE 9

RITU SARIN

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

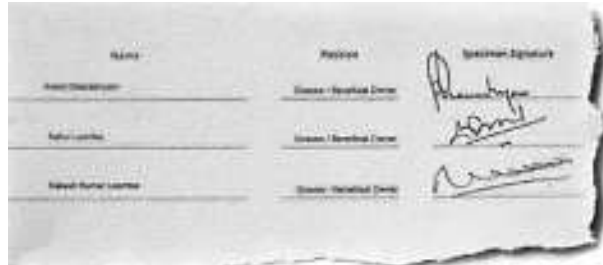
WITHOUT MENTIONING his military credentials while doing so, a top former Army officer incorporated a Seychelles International Business Company (IBC) shortly after the 2016 release of the Panama Papers shone the spotlight on secret global money flows, an investigation of records of Pandora Papers by *The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

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

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

An investigation by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Signatures of the three linked to the Seychelles firm

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

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

**JAY MAZOOMDAAR**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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



Faces bankruptcy case in UK



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

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## MULTI-AGENCY INVESTIGATION BY ED, RBI AND FIU

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

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

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

during the probe.

"With a view to ensure effective investigation in these cases, the Government will also proactively engage with foreign jurisdictions for obtaining information in respect of relevant taxpayers/entities. The Government of India is also part of an Inter-Governmental Group that ensures collaboration and experience sharing to effectively address tax risks associated with such leaks."

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## Global outage shuts down FB, Instagram, WhatsApp

**PRANAV MUKUL**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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

**SUKRITA BARUAH**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## EXPLAINED Cutoff over capacity

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

milestone has triggered a growing buzz around the 21-year-old.

It's been quite a journey for India's latest pace sensation, and one that had his father Abdul Mallik worried for a while. Occasionally, when Umran would step out to play tennis-ball cricket at night, the father would secretly follow.

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



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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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



Umran plays for Sunrisers Hyderabad. Express

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

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

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

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Kolkata











Tripura BJP MLA slams party, praises Mamata

DEBRAJ DEB  
AGARTALA, OCTOBER 4



Tripura BJP  
MLA Ashish  
Das

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HC stays proceedings against Suvendu Adhikari, brother in tarpaulin scam

PRESSTrust OF INDIA  
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 4

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

Passing the interim order, Justice Kausik Chanda observed that political overtones of this criminal case cannot be brushed aside. The court ordered that there will be a stay on all further proceedings pending before the additional chief judicial magistrate, Contai, Purba Medinipur district,

till six weeks after the ensuing Puja vacation.

Justice Chanda directed that the opposite party may file affidavits-in-opposition within two weeks after the Puja vacation.

The court said the petitioners may file affidavits in reply within another week after that.

The petition of Suvendu and Soumendu, a former chairman of Contai Municipality, praying for quashing of proceedings against them in connection with the case in Contai police station will be taken up for hearing again four weeks after Puja vacation, the court directed. P S Patwalia, appearing for Suvendu, submitted that the petitioners had been implicated in this case.

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

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

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

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

The court said that "deaths occurring within 30 days from

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

BJP leader Ram Madhav tweeted, "Shocked to hear about



Shakti Sinha  
died of  
cardiac  
arrest

Shakti Sinha's demise. He was a member of the Governing Board of India Foundation and was scheduled to address a conference going on at Leh this afternoon."

In a Facebook post, Madhav said, "Shakti returned from Russia last week and was having some health issues but not really serious to take his life." "How fragile the life is! Met Shakti Sinha ji only yesterday and had a long and enriching interaction..."

tweeted Ajay Singh, Press Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind.

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

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

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

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

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

TORA AGARWALA  
GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 4

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



SA Ahmed

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

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

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

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

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

DARSHAN DEVAIAH  
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONG SAYS SHOCKING

RJD, Cong to fight both seats in Bihar bypolls

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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



BY  
Vijayendra

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Notice Inviting E-Tender  
**Tender Enquiry No. 07/2021-22**  
For Procurement of Hydraulics Crimping jointing Machine & D-Sackle for maintenance of 400/220/132 kV transmission line. Last date & time for downloading of tender 01.11.2021 upto 03.00 PM. Last date & time for submission of tender 01.11.2021 at 03.00 PM. Date & Time for opening of tender 02.11.2021 at 03.00 PM.  
Detailed NIT specification may be downloaded from Punjab Govt. e-tendering website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/nicppg/app> Corrigendum, if any, will not be published in newspapers. As such, website may be visited regularly for updates.  
Sr. Executive Engg/400kV S/s,  
P&M Div, PSTCL, Makhu  
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**NMDC Limited**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)  
"Khanij Bhavan", 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad -500 028  
CIN-L13100TG1959G0001674  
**CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT**  
**e-Tender Notification (DOMESTIC BIDDING)**  
Tender Enquiry No.: HO (Contracts) / ISO / IMS / 2021 / 250 Dated: 05.10.2021  
MSTC Ref. No.: NMDC / HO / 57 / 21-22 / ET / 270  
E-tenders in two bid systems are invited for the work of "Appointment of Certifying Body for Re-Certification of Integrated Management System for NMDC Projects" from prospective domestic, experienced, qualified and eligible bidders who fulfil the Pre-Qualification Criteria.  
Detailed SOT/NIT and tender document including pre-qualification requirements can be viewed/downloaded from NMDC's website <http://www.nmdc.co.in/nmcdtender/default.aspx>, CPP Portal: [https://www.mstccommerce.com/eprochome/nmcd/buyer\\_login.jsp](https://www.mstccommerce.com/eprochome/nmcd/buyer_login.jsp) from 05.10.2021 to 02.11.2021.  
The tenderers are required to visit the above-mentioned websites for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.  
For further clarification, GM (Contracts), NMDC Ltd., Hyderabad can be contacted on Fax no. 040-23534746, email: [contracts@nmdc.co.in](mailto:contracts@nmdc.co.in).  
General Manager (Contracts)  
Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam / ISPATI IRADA

**GUWAHATI SMART CITY LIMITED**  
(Formerly Guwahati Smart City Development Agency Ltd.)  
(CIN U45306AS2016SGC017403)  
04<sup>th</sup> Floor, Aditya Tower, Opp. Down Town Hospital, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781006  
E-mail: [mdsmartguwahati@gmail.com](mailto:mdsmartguwahati@gmail.com) Website: [www.gscil.assam.gov.in](http://www.gscil.assam.gov.in)  
No.: SP/IGSCL/DE/VS/1/2017/P/1-J/10 Date: 04-10-2021  
**e-Tender Notice**  
**National Competitive Bidding**  
MD, GSCIL invites Request for Proposal for "Development of Brahmaputra Riverfront from New DC Bungalow to Kacharighat (approx. 1.2 km) on Design Build and Operate for 5 years basis in Guwahati" under Guwahati Smart City Limited.  
The detail tender documents will be available in the e-Tendering portal: [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in) and <https://gscil.assam.gov.in/> from dated 04-10-2021. Tenders are to be submitted online through the e-procurement portal [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in) only.  
The last date of online bid submission date is 03-11-2021 up to 15:00 hrs. The hard copy of the bids will be received till 05-11-2021 up to 14:00 hrs.  
Those tenders will be rejected which have not been submitted online.  
Sd/- Managing Director  
Guwahati Smart City Limited

**SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED**  
**e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)**  
TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of (a) Stationary Items, (b) Various Printer Cartridges, (c) Various steel materials (d) 9.1 Mtrs/280 Kgs & 11.0Mtrs/365 Kgs PSCC Poles to various circles (e) 11KV/10KA Lightning Arresters (Line Type) and (f) Various scrap materials on e-procurement platform.  
For further details of each item above, please visit [www.tssouthernpower.com](http://www.tssouthernpower.com), [tender.telangana.gov.in](http://tender.telangana.gov.in) and [www.auction.telangana.gov.in](http://www.auction.telangana.gov.in)  
Phone: 040-23431319, 1035, 1033, 1026, 1360  
DIPR No. 2207-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22  
Sd/- (U. Bala Swamy)  
Chief General Manager (P&M)

**MADHYA PRADESH PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.**  
Tilhan Sangh Bhawan, 01, Arera Hills, Bhopal  
URL : [www.mpphscil.mp.gov.in](http://www.mpphscil.mp.gov.in), PHONE : 0755-2578915  
Dated : 04.10.2021

**TENDER NOTICE**  
Tender for following items floated on GeM portal dated 04.10.2021  
1. Online GeM Portal Tender Ref. No. GEM/2021/B/1571174 for Laptops uploaded on date 04.10.2021.  
2. Online GeM Portal Tender Ref. No. GEM/2021/B/1572947 for All in One PC, Printer and Scanner uploaded on date 04.10.2021.  
Prospective bidders are requested to visit <https://gem.gov.in> for further details.  
M.P. Madhyam/102176/2021 CGM (TECHNICAL)

**NHPC Limited**  
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)  
(CIN: L40101HR1975GOI032564)  
**NHPC Office Complex, Sector-33, Faridabad – 121 003 (Haryana)**  
**SCHEDULE**  
[To be published in pursuance of Clause (6) of Regulation 3]  
1. The applicant above-named has made an application before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for determination of tariff for Teesta Low Dam-IV Power Station  
2. The beneficiary of the generating station is as under:  
WBSEDC (West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd.)- West Bengal.  
3. Capacity of the generating station : 160 MW  
4. Approved capital cost of the project : Rs. 162240.93 lakh as on 19.08.2016 allowed by CERC vide order dtd 24.01.2021 in petition no. 354/GT/2018 : CERC  
5. Authority which has approved the Capital Cost : CERC  
6. Scheduled date of commercial operation : Already in Commercial Operation  
7. Actual date of commercial operation : 19.08.2016  
8. Capital cost on the date of Commercial operation : Rs. 171980.81 lakh  
9. Details of tariff: (Rs in lakh)  
Sl. No. Hydro Power Generating Station Tariff for the previous year (2018-19) Year-wise tariff sought to be determined  
1 Annual Fixed Charges 32448.19 39496.72 39422.46  
2 Primary Energy Charges Not Applicable  
10. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website: <http://www.nhpcindia.com/tariff-petitions.htm>  
11. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd and 4th Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36 Janpath, New Delhi-110001 with a copy to the applicant within 30 days of publication of this notice.  
Place: Faridabad Date: 04.10.2021 (Ajay Shrivastava)  
General Manager (Comm.) Commercial Division

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

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM					
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH.	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH.	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	UHBVN	NIT NO. 37/SE PROJECTS/ AMR	APPOINTMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION AGENCY FOR ESTABLISHING AMR SYSTEM FOR 11 KV FEEDERS AND THEIR O&M FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS IN R-APDRP & IPDS AREAS OF UHBVN & DHBVN. EXTENSION OF DATE UPTO 09.10.2021	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>	9356063249 seprojects@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) 5072/HRY

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
E-mail: [ceroads.bbssr@gmail.com](mailto:ceroads.bbssr@gmail.com)  
B-448  
Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-08/2021-22  
1. The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned below:  
2. Nature of Work : Road Work  
3. No. of work : 1 No.  
4. Tender paper Cost : Rs. 10,000.00  
5. Class of Contractor : Super Class.  
6. Available of bid document in the website : From 10.00 A.M. of 07.10.2021 to 5.30 PM of 28.10.2021  
7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.29.10.2021 at 11.30 AM  
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.  
Sd/-  
Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha  
OIPR- 34117/11/0048/2122

**Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency, (UPNEDA)**  
(Deptt. of Additional Sources of Energy, Govt. of U.P.)  
Vishnui Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow UP, Tel.No.9415603038, 0522-2720779, 2728829  
Website: [www.upnsesenergy.com](http://www.upnsesenergy.com), [www.upneda.org.in](http://www.upneda.org.in), E-Mail: [ashok.upnsda@gmail.com](mailto:ashok.upnsda@gmail.com), [ho\\_ashok@rediffmail.com](mailto:ho_ashok@rediffmail.com)  
Bid NO.: 03/ EC /UPNEDA/SDA/2021  
**Tender Notice**  
UPNEDA invites bids from experienced and interested consultancy firms / consortiums for "To organise Workshops cum training program for farmers and other related stakeholders on energy conservation in Agricultural sector." The detailed scope of the work with eligibility conditions is described in the Bid Document.  
The tender document is available at the website [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in). The interested bidders may view, download bid document and submit their bid upto the date mentioned in the table below:  
a) Publication on NIT 05.10.21  
b) Availability of the bid document on web site (date and time) 05.10.21 to 26.10.21 upto 5:00 PM  
c) Pre-Bid Conference (Through Webinar / Video Conference) 13.10.21 at 11:30 AM Google meet link: <https://meet.google.com/pdm-sjon-obw>  
d) Bid submission end date and time 26.10.21 upto 06:00 PM  
e) Technical bid opening date and time 26.10.21 at 11:00 AM  
f) Financial bid opening date To be decided after evaluation of Technical Bid  
g) Venue of opening Technical & Financial –bid is UPNEDA Head Office  
The hard copies of the required documents (as detailed in the bid document), should reach UPNEDA's head office latest by 27.10.21 upto 10:00 AM. Tender received after the due date and time will not be considered. The Director, UPNEDA reserves the right to reject any/all offer without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of the Director UPNEDA shall be final and binding.  
**Director, UPNEDA**

**KMRCL INVITES TENDER**  
"CONTRACT – SMALL PORTABLE MACHINES"  
For details please visit KMRCL websites: [www.kmrc.in](http://www.kmrc.in) or <https://kmrcil.uniwizardde.com>  
Managing Director

**CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS**  
OPEN E-TENDER  
TENDER NOTICE No.: CLW/Dankuni/ISO/905(SS). E-tenders (open tender) are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: SL No.: 01. Tender No.: CLW/ Dankuni/ISO/ 905(SS). Name of the work: Recertification of SS, Workplace Management System at ELAAU/CLW/ Dankuni along with 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> annual surveillance audit and requisite training to the staff of this unit. Tender value (Rupees): 2,06,500.00 (Rupees two lakh six thousand five hundred) only including GST. Cost of tender document (Rupees):1,000.00 (Rupees one thousand only). Period of completion: 36 month. NOTE: (I) Complete details can be seen in the Railways website [www.rweps.gov.in](http://www.rweps.gov.in). (II) Contact Number: 03212-230003. (III) Date of closing of tender submission is 21.10.2021 at 12:00 hrs.  
PRS-233 AWM-H/Dankuni  
Like us on: [www.facebook.com/clwlrailways](http://www.facebook.com/clwlrailways)

**"IMPORTANT"**  
Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.











THE IDEAS PAGE

The contest for the moon

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



By C Raja Mohan

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

The US has invited India to join the accords and some preliminary official discussion on the issue took place between the two sides when Prime Minister Narendra Modi met US President Joe Biden at the White House for the bilateral summit last month. Separately, at the summit of the Quadrilateral Forum that followed the bilateral discussion, Modi and Biden, along with the Australian and Japanese premiers, agreed to set up a new Quad working group on outer space. The growing commercialisation and militarisation of outer space have triggered the interest of the Quad leaders. As technological capabilities grow, nations are looking beyond the near-earth space (or the “brown waters” in the maritime jargon that continues to shape the outer space discourse) to inter-planetary probes and deep space research (the “blue waters” if you will).

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

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

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

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



CR Sasikumar

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

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

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

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

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

One of the consequences of the growing lunar activity is the pressure on the current international legal regime — centred around the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. The OST says outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, “is not subject to “national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use

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or occupation, or by any other means”. It declares that outer space shall be the “province of all mankind” and its use “be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries”.

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

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

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

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

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

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

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

The Aadhaar loophole

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



Jean Drèze and Vipul Paikra

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

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

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

Later on, Nagina discovered that Rs 24,000 had been withdrawn from her account. She complained to the bank manager, but he pleaded helplessness. He had no record of the fraudulent BC (only “AePS” showed in his transaction records). From his point of view, this was a matter between Nagina and the “acquirer bank”, that is, the bank that had deployed the concerned BC. He added that he could request more detailed transaction records online if Nagina filed an FIR. The police, however, refused to register an FIR.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Abhishek Banerjee and Sumedha Verma

Roots of democracy

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

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

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

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

The evidence for republics in ancient India has always been available in plain sight. In the Mahabharata’s Shanti Parva, republics (ganas)

are mentioned along with the essential features of administering them. The Vedas describe at least two forms of republican governance. The first would consist of elected kings. This has always been seen as an early form of democracy, later practised in Europe, especially in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 16th-18th centuries.

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

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

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

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

It would be unreasonable to expect republics in ancient India, as with the Greek city of Athens, to have developed full-fledged democratic institutions as we understand them today. As late as the 1780s, when America was founded, voting rights were restricted to (white) males who owned property or paid taxes, which amounted to a mere six percent of the population. The idiosyncrasies of that old system are still visible today. As with sci-

entific advancement, democracy remains and will always be a work in progress.

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

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

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

Banerjee is a scientist, columnist and author. Verma Ojha is a historian, author of historical fiction series, ‘Urnabhini’

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHINA’S RESPONSE

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

Spokesperson, Chinese Embassy in India, Delhi

DUBIOUS WAYS

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

friendly ecosystem in India.

LR Murmu, Delhi

TAX HURTS

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

Suchak D Patel, Ahmedabad

PERSONALITY CULT

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

Sukriti, Kurukshetra



Lockdown in 61 villages of Maharashtra district as cases rise

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS & MANOJ MORE  
PUNE, OCTOBER 4

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

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

Zyklus shot ready, kids' jabs plan out next week

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

**EXPLAINED**

**E** As schools reopen, jabs are critical

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

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

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

NEGVEC is chaired by Dr V K Paul, head of India's Covid-19 task force, and co-chaired by Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan. NTAGI is the nation's top ad-

visory body on immunization.

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

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

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

FROM PAGE ONE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"In 2016, we had conceived an

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Meadswell (BVI) was set up in 2002 and was managed by Mossack Fonseca and Zedra Trust Co (Jersey) -- formerly Barclays

Private Bank and Trust Ltd -- until September 2016 when the corporate service providers finally flagged that the company never disclosed any beneficiary or source of funds.

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of t read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest & Charges Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the 28th day of September of the year 2021.

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

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

Sl. No.	a) Name of The Borrower / Guarantor b) Branch Name & Facility	Description of the Immovable Property Mortgaged	a) Date of Demand Notice b) Date of Possession c) Amount Outstanding
1.	a) M/s Maa Bijay Laxmi Sar Bhandar Prop. Debenshu Panda (Borrower), Mrs. Susmita Panda, W/o Debenshu Panda (Guarantor) Mr. Bijoy Krishna Panda, S/o Ramnath Panda (Guarantor & Mortgagor) b) Berampura (117920) & Cash Credit	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building Located at Mouza- Chak Ismailpur, under P.S. Dantan, having J.L. No. 199, LR Khatian No. 902, LR Plot No. 2732, Area- 08.00 Dec (Bastu), vide Deed No. 2790/1989 Dt. 22.10.1989 in the Name of Mr. Bijoy Krishna Panda, S/o Ramnath Panda, Butted and bounded by North: Road, South: Road, East: Road, West: Vacant Land.	a) 19.07.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.12,81,479.74 (Rupees Twelve Lakh Eighty One Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Nine and Seventy Four Paise only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
2.	a) Mr. Subhashish Paul, S/o Trilochan Paul (Borrower), Mr. Trilochan Paul, S/o Shridhar Paul (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor) b) Berampura (117920) & Cash Credit & Term Loan	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building Located at Mouza-Barampura under P.S. Dantan having J.L. No. 184, LR Khatian No. 51, Plot No. 276, Area- 05.00 Dec (Bastu), vide Deed No. 1832/1996, Dt. 17.05.1996 in the Name of Mr. Trilochan Paul, S/o Shridhar Paul. Butted and bounded by North: Road, South: Sudhir Pal, East: Nibaran Pal, West: Gabngadhar Pal.	a) 19.07.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.15,47,255.47 (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Five and Forty Seven Paise Only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
3.	a) Mr. Pradip Kumar Sahoo, S/o Mr. Pitambar Sahoo (Borrower & Mortgagor) Mr. Somnath Sahoo, S/o Mr. Pradip Kumar Sahoo (Co-Borrower) b) Dantan (018920) & Term Loan	Property Situated at Mouza-Angua, J.L. No. 101, Plot No. 1359, LR Khatian No. 557, Area- 12.00 Dec (Bastu) out of 94 Decimal (Southern Side), under P.S. Dantan, vide Sale Deed No. 992/1987 Dated 06.03.1987 in the Name of Mr. Pradip Kumar Sahoo, S/o Mr. Pitambar Sahoo.	a) 23.10.2019 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.2,13,969.62 (Rupees Two Lakh Thirteen Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Nine and Sixty Two Paise only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
4.	a) Mr. Uma Sankar Jana, S/o Narayan Chandra Jana (Borrower & Mortgagor) b) Dantan (018920) & Cash Credit	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building Located at Mouza-Gazipur Patna under P.S. Dantan having J.L. No. 157, LR Khatian No. 101, Plot No. 869/2128, Area- 04.75 Dec (Bastu) vide Deed No. 2097/1984 Dt. 25.04.1989 in the Name of Sri Uma Sankar Jana, S/o Narayan Chandra Jana. Butted and bounded by North: Own Land, South: Road, East: Own Land, West: Road.	a) 17.06.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.21,98,306.79 (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Three Hundred Six and Seventy Nine Paise only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
5.	a) Mr. Tapan Malakar, S/o Lt. Sudhir Kumar Malakar (Borrower & Mortgagor) b) Kharagpur Golebazar (050420) & House Building	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Mouza-Srikrishnapur, P.S. Kharagpur Town, J.L. No. 191, Khatian No. 64 (SABEK), 1261 (HAL), DAG NO. 1491 (HAL) & 305 (SABEK), Area- 0.0575 Dec held vide Deed No. 1297/2007 Dt. 27.03.2007 in the name of Mr. Tapan Malakar, S/o Lt. Sudhir Kumar Malakar. Butted and bounded by North: Municipal Road, South: House of Sri Gouranga Saha, East: Sri Sant Gopal Sarkar, West: Municipal Road.	a) 19.07.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.7,75,957.51 (Rupees Seven Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Seven and Fifty One Paise only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
6.	a) Mr. Satya Ranjan Maity, S/o Debendra Nath Maity (Borrower) Mr. Dendendra Nath Maity, S/o Krishna Prasad Maity (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor) b) Nekurseni (146300) & House Building Term Loan	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Mouza-Sarrong, under P.S. Dantan, J.L. No. 213, HAL Khatian No. 1403 & MLR Khatian No. 702, RS & LR Plot No. 561, Area- 02.00 Dec (Bastu) vide Deed No. 1400/2014, Dt. 27.05.2014 in the name of Mr. Dendendra Nath Maity, S/o Krishna Prasad Maity. Butted & bounded by North: PMGSY Road (Dantan Railway Station to Barangi/ Anikola), South: 12' Ft. Wide Panchayat Road, East: PMGSY Road (Dantan Railway Station to Barangi/ Anikola), West: Vacant Land of Shri Chandan Kamila.	a) 25.06.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.6,60,034.00 (Rupees Six Lakh Sixty Thousand Thirty Four only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
7.	a) Mr. Debrata Pradhan, S/o Mahim Ranjan Pradhan (Borrower & Mortgagor) Mrs. Pratima Pradhan, W/o Debrata Pradhan (Guarantor) b) Nekurseni (148300) & Term Loan	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Mouza-Sharsanka, under P.S. Dantan, J.L. No. 120, SABEK Khatian No. 23, Sabek LR Khatian No. 183 & Comp L.R.R.O.R Khatian No. 289, RS & LR Plot No. 221, Area- 10.00 Dec (Bastu) vide Deed No. 3980/2012 Dt. 09.11.2012 in the name of Mr. Debrata Pradhan, S/o Mahim Ranjan Pradhan. Butted & bounded by North: Nayanjuli after that Dantan to Sarasanka PWD Road, South: Agriculture Land of Shri Debrata Pradhan, East: Agriculture Land of Shri Gobinda Patra & Shri Murlil Jana, West: Agriculture Land of Shri Debrata Pradhan.	a) 29.06.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.15,22,645.28 (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Six Hundred Forty Five and Twenty Eight Paise only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
8.	a) Mr. Samir Kumar Dey, S/o Dinesh Chandra Dey (Borrower & Mortgagor) Mrs. Sanchita Dey, W/o Samir Kumar De (Co-Borrower) b) Kharagpur Puratan Bazar (017920) & House Building Term Loan	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building Located at Mouza-Kankasai under P.S. Kharagpur Local having J.L. No. 446, Khatian no. 112, Plot No. 42, Area- 26.50 Dec (Bastu) vide Deed No. 6768/2010, Dt. 01.10.2010 in the name of Mr. Samir Kumar De, S/o Dinesh Chandra Dey. The Plot of Land is butted & bounded by North: Own Property, South: Vacant Land of Madan Mohan Dey, East: Road, West: Vacant Land of Apurba Dey.	a) 25.06.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.16,57,186.81 (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand One Hundred Eighty Six and Eighty One Paise only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
9.	a) M/s Bonedee Enterprise, Prop. Sanchita Dey, W/o Samir Kumar De (Borrower) Mr. Samir Kumar Dey, S/o Dinesh Chandra Dey (Guarantor & Mortgagor) b) Kharagpur Puratan Bazar (017920) & Cash Credit	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building Located at Mouza-Kankasai under P.S. Kharagpur Local having J.L. No. 446, Khatian no. 112, Plot No. 42, Area- 26.50 Dec (Bastu) vide Deed No. 6768/2010, Dt. 01.10.2010 in the name of Mr. Samir Kumar De, S/o Dinesh Chandra Dey. The Plot of Land is butted & bounded by North: Own Property, South: Vacant Land of Madan Mohan Dey, East: Road, West: Vacant Land of Apurba Dey.	a) 25.06.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.40,77,867.45 (Rupees Forty Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Seven and Forty Five Paise only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any
10.	a) Mr. Debrata Mahapatra, S/o Pramod Mahapatra (Borrower & Mortgagor) Mrs. Sabita Mahapatra, W/o Debrata Mahapatra (Guarantor) b) Rampura Makrampur (069820) & House Building & Cash Credit	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building Located at Mouza-Mokrampur under P.S. Narayanganj having J.L. No. 234, LR Khatian No. 83/4, LR Plot No. 590, Area- 05.00 Dec (Bastu) vide Sale Deed No. 3604/2002, Dt. 23.04.2002 in the Name of Mr. Debrata Mahapatra, S/o Pramod Mahapatra. Property bounded & butted by North: Panchayat Moorum Road, South: Vacant Land, East: Owner's Land, West: NH-60 Road.	a) 16.06.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.24,42,350.00 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Forty Two Thousand Three Hundred Fifty only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
11.	a) Mr. Debarata Patra, S/o Kalipada Patra (Borrower & Mortgagor) Mrs. Sumana Patra, W/o Debarata Patra (Guarantor) b) Rupnarayanpur (259900) & House Building Term Loan	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Mouza-Rangmati, under P.S. Midnapur Ward No. 20, Holding No. 144/275/2, J.L. No. 150, Khatian No. 73, HAL Khatian No. 197 & LR Khatian No. 891, Plot No. 552, Area- 02.70 Dec (Bastu) vide Deed No. 1781/2012, Dt. 01.03.2012 in the name of Mr. Debarata Patra, S/o Kalipada Patra. Butted & bounded by North: House of Shri Pradip Kumar Patra, South: Municipal Pucca Road, East: House of Smt. Uma Jana, West: House of Shri Sachin Sengupta.	a) 29.06.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.11,80,948.00 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Eighty Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Eight only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
12.	a) Mr. Rafiq Khan, S/o Ramjan Khan (Borrower & Mortgagor) Mr. Anisuddin Khan, S/o Khursid Khan (Guarantor) b) Rupnarayanpur (259900) & House Building Term Loan & Overdraft Facility	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Mouza-Rajabagan, under P.S. Midnapur, J.L. No. 245, Khatian No. 68, HAL Khatian No. 105 & LR Khatian No. 671, LR Plot No. 48, Area- 05.00 Dec (Bastu) vide Deed No. 1598/1999, Dt. 21.04.1999 in the name of Mr. Rafiq Khan, S/o Ramjan Khan. Butted & bounded by North: Akhtar Ali Khan & Others, South: Land of Rafiz Khan, East: Najnur Khan, West: Road.	a) 29.06.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.16,44,485.66 (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Forty Four Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Five and Sixty Six Paise only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.

Date : 04.10.2021  
Place : Midnapore

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

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The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of t read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest & Charges Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the 28th day of September of the year 2021.

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

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Sl. No.	a) Name of The Borrower / Guarantor b) Branch Name & Facility	Description of the Immovable Property Mortgaged	a) Date of Demand Notice b) Date of Possession c) Amount Outstanding
1.	a) M/s Maa Bijay Laxmi Sar Bhandar Prop. Debenshu Panda (Borrower), Mrs. Susmita Panda, W/o Debenshu Panda (Guarantor) Mr. Bijoy Krishna Panda, S/o Ramnath Panda (Guarantor & Mortgagor) b) Berampura (117920) & Cash Credit	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building Located at Mouza- Chak Ismailpur, under P.S. Dantan, having J.L. No. 199, LR Khatian No. 902, LR Plot No. 2732, Area- 08.00 Dec (Bastu), vide Deed No. 2790/1989 Dt. 22.10.1989 in the Name of Mr. Bijoy Krishna Panda, S/o Ramnath Panda, Butted and bounded by North: Road, South: Road, East: Road, West: Vacant Land.	a) 19.07.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.12,81,479.74 (Rupees Twelve Lakh Eighty One Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Nine and Seventy Four Paise only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
2.	a) Mr. Subhashish Paul, S/o Trilochan Paul (Borrower), Mr. Trilochan Paul, S/o Shridhar Paul (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor) b) Berampura (117920) & Cash Credit & Term Loan	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building Located at Mouza-Barampura under P.S. Dantan having J.L. No. 184, LR Khatian No. 51, Plot No. 276, Area- 05.00 Dec (Bastu), vide Deed No. 1832/1996, Dt. 17.05.1996 in the Name of Mr. Trilochan Paul, S/o Shridhar Paul. Butted and bounded by North: Road, South: Sudhir Pal, East: Nibaran Pal, West: Gabngadhar Pal.	a) 19.07.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.15,47,255.47 (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Five and Forty Seven Paise Only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
3.	a) Mr. Pradip Kumar Sahoo, S/o Mr. Pitambar Sahoo (Borrower & Mortgagor) Mr. Somnath Sahoo, S/o Mr. Pradip Kumar Sahoo (Co-Borrower) b) Dantan (018920) & Term Loan	Property Situated at Mouza-Angua, J.L. No. 101, Plot No. 1359, LR Khatian No. 557, Area- 12.00 Dec (Bastu) out of 94 Decimal (Southern Side), under P.S. Dantan, vide Sale Deed No. 992/1987 Dated 06.03.1987 in the Name of Mr. Pradip Kumar Sahoo, S/o Mr. Pitambar Sahoo.	a) 23.10.2019 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.2,13,969.62 (Rupees Two Lakh Thirteen Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Nine and Sixty Two Paise only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
4.	a) Mr. Uma Sankar Jana, S/o Narayan Chandra Jana (Borrower & Mortgagor) b) Dantan (018920) & Cash Credit	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building Located at Mouza-Gazipur Patna under P.S. Dantan having J.L. No. 157, LR Khatian No. 101, Plot No. 869/2128, Area- 04.75 Dec (Bastu) vide Deed No. 2097/1984 Dt. 25.04.1989 in the Name of Sri Uma Sankar Jana, S/o Narayan Chandra Jana. Butted and bounded by North: Own Land, South: Road, East: Own Land, West: Road.	a) 17.06.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.21,98,306.79 (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Three Hundred Six and Seventy Nine Paise only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
5.	a) Mr. Tapan Malakar, S/o Lt. Sudhir Kumar Malakar (Borrower & Mortgagor) b) Kharagpur Golebazar (050420) & House Building	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Mouza-Srikrishnapur, P.S. Kharagpur Town, J.L. No. 191, Khatian No. 64 (SABEK), 1261 (HAL), DAG NO. 1491 (HAL) & 305 (SABEK), Area- 0.0575 Dec held vide Deed No. 1297/2007 Dt. 27.03.2007 in the name of Mr. Tapan Malakar, S/o Lt. Sudhir Kumar Malakar. Butted and bounded by North: Municipal Road, South: House of Sri Gouranga Saha, East: Sri Sant Gopal Sarkar, West: Municipal Road.	a) 19.07.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.7,75,957.51 (Rupees Seven Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Seven and Fifty One Paise only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
6.	a) Mr. Satya Ranjan Maity, S/o Debendra Nath Maity (Borrower) Mr. Dendendra Nath Maity, S/o Krishna Prasad Maity (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor) b) Nekurseni (146300) & House Building Term Loan	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Mouza-Sarrong, under P.S. Dantan, J.L. No. 213, HAL Khatian No. 1403 & MLR Khatian No. 702, RS & LR Plot No. 561, Area- 02.00 Dec (Bastu) vide Deed No. 1400/2014, Dt. 27.05.2014 in the name of Mr. Dendendra Nath Maity, S/o Krishna Prasad Maity. Butted & bounded by North: PMGSY Road (Dantan Railway Station to Barangi/ Anikola), South: 12' Ft. Wide Panchayat Road, East: PMGSY Road (Dantan Railway Station to Barangi/ Anikola), West: Vacant Land of Shri Chandan Kamila.	a) 25.06.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.6,60,034.00 (Rupees Six Lakh Sixty Thousand Thirty Four only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
7.	a) Mr. Debrata Pradhan, S/o Mahim Ranjan Pradhan (Borrower & Mortgagor) Mrs. Pratima Pradhan, W/o Debrata Pradhan (Guarantor) b) Nekurseni (148300) & Term Loan	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Mouza-Sharsanka, under P.S. Dantan, J.L. No. 120, SABEK Khatian No. 23, Sabek LR Khatian No. 183 & Comp L.R.R.O.R Khatian No. 289, RS & LR Plot No. 221, Area- 10.00 Dec (Bastu) vide Deed No. 3980/2012 Dt. 09.11.2012 in the name of Mr. Debrata Pradhan, S/o Mahim Ranjan Pradhan. Butted & bounded by North: Nayanjuli after that Dantan to Sarasanka PWD Road, South: Agriculture Land of Shri Debrata Pradhan, East: Agriculture Land of Shri Gobinda Patra & Shri Murlil Jana, West: Agriculture Land of Shri Debrata Pradhan.	a) 29.06.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.15,22,645.28 (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Six Hundred Forty Five and Twenty Eight Paise only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
8.	a) Mr. Samir Kumar Dey, S/o Dinesh Chandra Dey (Borrower & Mortgagor) Mrs. Sanchita Dey, W/o Samir Kumar De (Co-Borrower) b) Kharagpur Puratan Bazar (017920) & House Building Term Loan	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building Located at Mouza-Kankasai under P.S. Kharagpur Local having J.L. No. 446, Khatian no. 112, Plot No. 42, Area- 26.50 Dec (Bastu) vide Deed No. 6768/2010, Dt. 01.10.2010 in the name of Mr. Samir Kumar De, S/o Dinesh Chandra Dey. The Plot of Land is butted & bounded by North: Own Property, South: Vacant Land of Madan Mohan Dey, East: Road, West: Vacant Land of Apurba Dey.	a) 25.06.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.16,57,186.81 (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand One Hundred Eighty Six and Eighty One Paise only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any.
9.	a) M/s Bonedee Enterprise, Prop. Sanchita Dey, W/o Samir Kumar De (Borrower) Mr. Samir Kumar Dey, S/o Dinesh Chandra Dey (Guarantor & Mortgagor) b) Kharagpur Puratan Bazar (017920) & Cash Credit	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building Located at Mouza-Kankasai under P.S. Kharagpur Local having J.L. No. 446, Khatian no. 112, Plot No. 42, Area- 26.50 Dec (Bastu) vide Deed No. 6768/2010, Dt. 01.10.2010 in the name of Mr. Samir Kumar De, S/o Dinesh Chandra Dey. The Plot of Land is butted & bounded by North: Own Property, South: Vacant Land of Madan Mohan Dey, East: Road, West: Vacant Land of Apurba Dey.	a) 25.06.2021 b) 28.09.2021 c) Rs.40,77,867.45 (Rupees Forty Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Seven and Forty Five Paise only) with further Interest & Charges until payment in full minus recovery if any
10.	a) Mr. Debrata Mahapatra, S/o Pramod Mahapatra (Borrower & Mortgagor) Mrs. Sabita Mahapatra, W/o Debrata Mahapatra (Guarantor) b) Rampura Makrampur (069820) & House Building & Cash Credit	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building Located at Mouza-Mokrampur under P.S. Narayanganj having J.L. No. 234, LR Khatian No. 83/4, LR Plot No. 590, Area- 05.00 Dec (Bastu) vide Sale Deed No. 3604/2002, Dt. 23.04.2002 in the Name of Mr. Debrata Mahapatra, S/o Pramod Mahapatra. Property bounded & butted by North: Panchayat Moorum Road, South: Vacant Land, East: Owner's Land, West:	



# 9 PANDORA PAPERS 2021

**AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION**
**FUNDS WERE ROUTED VIA BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS**

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

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

**PVAIDYANATHAN IYER**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SHYAMLAL YADAV**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

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

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



**The document that names Lalit and Abhishek Khaitan as beneficiaries**

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

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

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

A letter of 2012 by Timberlane

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

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

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

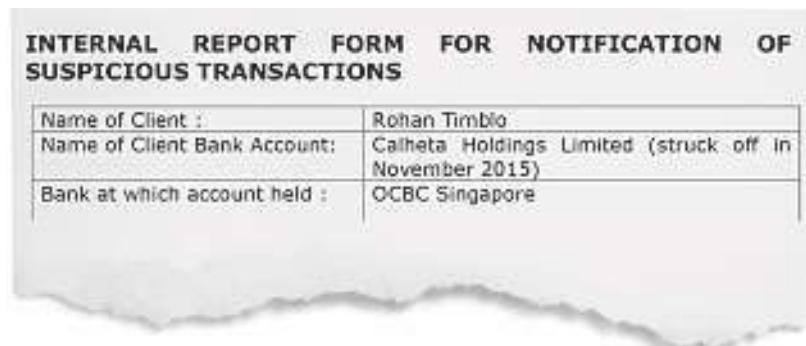
A "letter of wishes" related to Timberlane

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

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

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

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



Rohan Timblo is named in the Suspicious Transaction Report

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

**KHUSHBOO NARAYAN**  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Radha Timblo denied wrongdoing.

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

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

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

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

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

Timblo, according to the STR, requested for documents pertaining to the trust structure set up with Asiatic including the bank account records of Colares Trust and Calheta Holdings. "Rohan declined to make payment of fees by electronic transfer and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SANDEEP SINGH**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

Julius Baer Trust Company (Cayman) Ltd was Trustee of The Bhartia Family Trust.

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

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



**Om Prakash Bhartia is named as beneficial owner**

tions were "mainly outside the Cayman Islands".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



THE EIGHT WHO DIED

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

ASAD REHMAN  
LAKHIMPUR KHERI, OCT 4

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

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

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

Gurvinder is survived by his

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

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

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

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

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



Police personnel posted at Tikunia on Monday. Vishal Srivastav

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

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

Shubham Mishra (26), one of

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunil Singh, the BJP's district

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

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

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

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

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

BKS termed Sunday's incident "unfortunate".

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

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

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

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

## DESTINATION LAKHIMPUR KHERI



PTI



Vishal Srivastav

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



Vishal Srivastav



Express

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

# BJP watches warily, had swept Lakhimpur Kheri in 2017 elections

LALMANI VERMA  
DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 4

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

stantial Sikh population.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Nighasan Assembly segment in Lakhimpur Kheri, where the incident happened Sunday, has been won by the BJP thrice since 1993. Union Minister of State Ajay Mishra, whose son was allegedly in one of the vehicles involved in the incident, lost from Nighasan in 2007 before winning in 2012.

Apart from taking all the seats

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

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

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

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

## Roorkee church attack: DGP assures action; no arrests yet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

Haridwar SP (Rural)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOURAV ROY BARMAN  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

the Congress leadership summoned the two leaders to Delhi.

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

Pala sought to downplay reports on the rift.

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

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

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

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

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

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

The bench then sought the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## WHAT THEY SAID

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

MAMATA BANERJEE  
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

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

CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI  
PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER



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

ASHOK GEHLOT  
RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

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

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

SANJAY RAUT  
SHIV SENA MP



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

SITARAM YECHURY  
CPI(M) GENERAL SECRETARY

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

MANISH SISODIA  
DELHI DEPUTY CM

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

MEHBOOBA MUFTI,  
PDP CHIEF



# ECONOMY

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

International market data till 1900 IST

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>RUPEE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹45,539	₹74.31	\$76.42	₹59,203

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg. Crude oil (Indian basket) as of October 1

## PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION BILL: JOINT HOUSE PANEL TO MEET ON OCT 20

# Looking at ‘bigger umbrella’, PDP Bill likely to include non-personal data

**AASHISHARYAN**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** Almost 3 yrs in the waiting

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

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

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

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

The JPC may call industry experts on non-personal data for submissions and explain the aspects before taking a final call, one official said.

“There are some concerns that there is no standard definition for non-personal data, or that who will be in charge of non-personal data and whether there will be a separate regulator. All these issues will be discussed in upcoming sittings,” the official said.

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

## INTERVIEW WITH POWER AND RENEWABLE ENERGY MINISTER

# ‘Green hydrogen push for refining, fertiliser sectors; PLI for electrolyzers in the works’

Working on plan to bundle bids for renewables: Singh

THE GOVERNMENT is working on plans to boost the use of green hydrogen in the oil refining and fertiliser production sectors, including a likely announcement on a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for electrolyser manufacturing to give an impetus to the domestic hydrogen value chain. Speaking to KARUNJIT SINGH & ANIL SASI, Union Power and Renewable Energy Minister R K SINGH said the coal shortage situation this time is serious and is being handled at an inter-ministerial level, and that the situation presents both a challenge and an opportunity at the same time. He also talked of a bundling plan for future renewable energy bids. Edited excerpts:



R K Singh, Union Power and Renewable Energy Minister

## THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW

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

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

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

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

**There is an anomaly in the case of renewables in terms of those who’ve bought power**

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

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

**What about the government’s green hydrogen push?**

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

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

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

**Is there a scheme for pushing domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers?**

Earlier, we had started the talks of mandates at 10 per cent in refining and 5 per cent for fertiliser manufacture, but we will raise that to 15 or 20 per cent (for refining). But, in the earlier trajectory (10 per cent) alone our requirement for electrolyzers is about 8,800 MW. There isn’t that much capacity in the world. In the world, the total manufacturing capacity for electrolyzers which is installed is just about 2,000 MW. So, naturally we have to make our own electrolyzers. So, that is one of the proposals that we need a PLI (production linked incentive scheme) for electrolyser manufacturing because there is no world supply.

**How much production capacity for electrolyzers are we aiming to create in India?**

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

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

## Association for e-comm formed

**ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

## SECTOR WATCH

### NON-BANKING FINANCIAL COMPANY

## After DHFL, Srei 2nd NBFC referred for insolvency process

RBI supersedes boards of Srei Infra Fin, Srei Equipment Fin

**ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4

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

“In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 45-IE (1) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Reserve Bank has today superseded the Board of Directors of Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) and Srei Equipment Finance Limited (SEFL), owing to governance concerns and defaults by the aforesaid companies in meeting their various payment obligations,” it said.

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

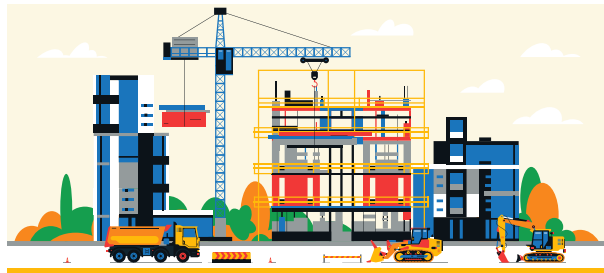
### ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTED

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

the RBI appointed a three-member advisory committee to assist the administrator: R Subramaniam, former MD & CEO, Indian Overseas Bank, and former administrator for DHFL, T T Srinivasaraghavan, former MD, Sundaram Finance, and Farokh N Subedar, former chief operating officer and company secretary, Tata Sons. Hemant Kanoria, chairman, Srei Infrastructure Finance, said that the company was shocked by the RBI’s move as banks have been regularly appropriating funds from the escrow account they have controlled since November 2020. “We will take all necessary steps as advised by our lawyers in this regard,” Kanoria said.

## ‘Infra finance by banks, NBFC-IFC sluggish in Q1FY22’

Total infrastructure credit by banks and NBFC-Infrastructure Finance Companies (NBFC-IFCs) remained sluggish in the first quarter amid Covid disruptions, Icra Ratings said



**Over Rs 111 lakh crore is the target of infrastructure investment set by the central government under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) over FY20-FY25**

Source: Icra Ratings/PTI

## Air India bid: Ministerial group holds meet, ‘announcement soon’

**ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

The *Indian Express* reported Saturday that the Tata Group has

### FLAG CARRIER’S DISINVESTMENT



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

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

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

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

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

## FROM SECURITIES MARKET FOR ‘FRAUDULENT TRADING’ Sebi bars biz show anchor, 5 others

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

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

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

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

## ‘Evergrande to raise \$5 bn from sale of property unit’

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

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

## BRIEFLY

### Pension revision

**New Delhi:** The RBI has allowed banks to amortise additional liability on account of revision in family pension over 5 years starting FY22.

### NARCL licence

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

### Coal India supply

**New Delhi:** Coal India supplied 1176 MT of coal to power utilities in July-September.

### MSME scheme

**New Delhi:** The deadline for Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt for stressed MSMEs is March 31.

### Aditya Birla fine

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

### Oil past \$81

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

## FM: Well-managed cos, good governance attracting investors

**ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

“And therefore, for a company



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman File

### DEA Secy: India on recovery path

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

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



Kolkata



# 12 THE WORLD

**RYAN MAC & CECILIA KANG**  
OCTOBER 4

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

In an interview with "60 Minutes" that aired Sunday, Haugen, 37, said she had grown alarmed by what she saw at Facebook. The company repeatedly put its own interests first rather than the public's interest, she said. So she copied pages of Facebook's internal research and decided to do something about it. "I've seen a bunch of social networks, and it was substantially worse at Facebook than what I had seen before," Haugen said. She added, "Facebook, over and over again, has shown it chooses profit over safety."

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

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

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

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



**MEANWHILE**

## ACTOR WILLIAM SHATNER To FLY To SPACE

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

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

King of Jordan, Czech PM among those to issue denials

**REUTERS & PTI**

WASHINGTON, ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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

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

The International



Pakistan PM Imran Khan

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

Pakistan's Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry tweeted that a high-level probe commission would bring facts before the people of the country. "The high-level cell under the Prime Minister's Inspection Commission will investigate all individuals mentioned in the Pandora Papers and will present facts before the nation," the minister said.

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

trusts holding millions of dollars in offshore jurisdictions.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

# New Japanese PM takes office, calls election on Oct 31

**REUTERS**

TOKYO, OCTOBER 4

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

Kishida, a 64-year-old former foreign minister with an image as a consensus builder, had unveiled his Cabinet earlier in the day. "I want to ensure we implement large-scale, bold coronavirus countermeasures and economic policies. To do that, we must ask the people whether they trust me, Kishida, to carry out these policies," he said at his inaugural news conference.

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

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

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

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

New coronavirus cases in Tokyo on Monday totalled 87, the

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** Abe's influence still strong

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

lowest since Nov. 2 last year.

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

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

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

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

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Lars Vilks

**SWEDEN**

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

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

**MYANMAR**

## Suu Kyi tired, seeks less court time over: lawyer

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

**OMAN**

## 7 more killed amid tropical storm Shaheen

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

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

**ZEBA SIDDIQUI & PARNIYAN ZEMARYALAI**  
OCTOBER 4

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

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

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



Afghan women protest in Kabul last month. Reuters

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

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

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

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

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

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

# EU drug regulator backs Pfizer vaccine booster for 18 and older

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
AMSTERDAM, OCTOBER 4

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

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

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



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

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

# Britain sends military to solve fuel crisis as driver shortage persists

**ANDREW BOYERS**

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, OCT 4

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

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



Military personnel at Buncefield Oil Depot. Reuters

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

water bottles.

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

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

# China mounts largest incursion yet near Taiwan

**BEN BLANCHARD & YIMOU LEE**  
TAIPEI, OCTOBER 4

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

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



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

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

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

the space of four days.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Pinki to fight for bronze after losing nail-biting semi-final



The pivotal moment when Pinki almost pinned Germany's Nina Hemmer before losing 6-8 in the World Championship semi-final. Twitter/ Screenshot

Oslo : Indian wrestler Pinki nearly pinned her German rival Nina Hemmer before losing the heart-stopping 55kg semifinal 6-8 to miss out on a historic final at the World Championship even as the country's men's freestyle squad drew a blank after Rohit's defeat in the bronze medal play-off here on Monday.

In a fast-paced action-packed semifinal, Pinki trailed 0-4 after Hemmer effected a take-down move and followed that up with a quick gut wrench. Pinki kept looking for her moves and found one from a right leg-attack, pushing the back of the German on the mat for two points. She kept Hemmer in tight grip and held her in that position for more than a minute but the referees were not convinced to give away a 'fall' result. After the breather, Pinki levelled the score and then took a 6-4 lead with consecutive take-downs but Hemmer again refused to throw in the towel and pulled off two

**14-year-old Naamya Kapoor wins gold in Jr shooting WC**

Lima: India's 14-year-old shooter Naamya Kapoor fired her way to the gold medal ahead of her celebrated compatriot Manu Bhaker in the women's 25m pistol event of the ISSF Junior world Championship here on Monday. Kapoor shot 36 in the finals to claim the top prize ahead of France's Camille Jedrejewski (33) and 19-year-old Olympian Bhakar (31), who has already won three gold so far in the tournament. Bhaker settled for bronze after the French markswoman prevailed in a shoot-off. Another Indian, Rhythm Sangwan, finished fourth. Kapoor was sixth in the qualification with a total of 580 as Bhaker (587) and Sangwan (586) grabbed the top two spots. Delhi's Kapoor had shot the second best score of 583 in qualification to finish fifth in the national shooting selection trials at the Dr Karni Singh Range in August. India lead standings with seven gold, six silver and three bronze.

more two-pointers to emerge winner. No Indian woman wrestler has ever played a World Championship final.

Meanwhile, Ravinder played his heart out in the men's freestyle 65kg bronze play-off but lost by fall to Mongolia's Tugla Tumor Ochir. In the absence of big guns like Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya and Deepak Punia, only Rohit and Ravinder (61kg) could reach the medal rounds while others made early exits.

In the women's 62kg category, Sangeeta Phogat made a confident start by beating Germany's Luisa Niemesch 5-2, but lost her pre-quarterfinal 4-6 to Brazil's Laís Nunes De Oliveira. Sangeeta, who is making a comeback to competitive wrestling after three years following knee issues, effected some splendid double leg attacks in both her bouts but lost points on counter attacks and also ran out of steam against the Brazilian.

**Eng out of Jr Hockey WC; notes India's rules for UK citizens**

London: England pulled out of the FIH Men's Junior World Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar next month, citing a number of COVID-related concerns and taking "note" of the Indian government's mandatory 10-day quarantine protocol for all UK nationals. England Hockey said in a statement that it has informed world hockey governing body, FIH, of its decision to "unfortunately" withdraw from the November 24-December 5 tournament. "...with a number of COVID-related concerns in place, and with player and staff wellbeing in mind, it has become untenable for our team to participate. We note that on Friday the Indian government announced a mandatory ten-day quarantine for all UK Nationals," the statement said. India imposed curbs on all British nationals arriving in the country after UK made it clear that even fully vaccinated Indians will have to undergo 10-day quarantine as it has issues with India's COVID-19 vaccine certification.

Golf surges ahead... in patents

Data shows 83,267 patents related to golf have been filed from 2000-2019

SHAHID JUDGE  
OCTOBER 4

WHILE HOLDING on to their key values and traditions, most sports have made serious attempts to modernise over the years. There have been thousands of patents filed for inventions made to find new and improved ways to train and compete across various disciplines. Golf - considered by many as one of the more traditional sports - has been the most innovative in terms of patents filed since the turn of the new millennium.

According to data by Sagacious IP, a global intellectual property research and consulting firm, there have been 83,267 patents filed relating to golf between 2000 and 2019. Football is a distant second in this regard with 22,397 and tennis third (20,195). Cricket, meanwhile, has seen 1,916 patents filed in that period.

Understanding 'patents'

A patent, once granted, secures the intellectual property of the inventor for a designated period of time in exchange for monetary compensation.

According to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), "A patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product of a process that provides, in general, a new way of doing something, or offers a new technical solution to a problem."

There is a difference, however, between patents 'published' and 'granted.'

According to UpCounsel, a website providing legal services, "Just because a patent application is published, it won't always be granted. Patent applications are published in order to make the public sphere aware of what is seeking patent protection. This means that, if the patent isn't actually granted to the work, the public can learn from the work anyway."

Patents 'granted,' meanwhile means what the term suggests - that the patent has been approved and is protected by intellectual property rights.

**Golf leading the way**

The first patent filed related to golf was in 1891 when Frances Archibald Fairlie introduced improvements in metal-headed golf clubs. The sport has seen over 83,000 patents filed between 2000 and 2019. However, so far only 26,541 of those applications have been 'granted.'

Some of the patents granted relate to collection of data, it's storage and analysis - data such as golf swing or scoring chart of a player.

Interchangeable club heads

Quite simply, this patent published in July 2014 relates to a single golf club shaft being fitted with interchangeable heads. Generally, a golf bag will contain numerous clubs with varying heads on the top -



One of the patents involved a single golf stick being fitted with different heads, thus minimising the total number of clubs a golfer would need to carry.

a putter and driver, for example.

With this new invention, though, the size of the golf bag reduces as a different club head can be screwed on or off a single shaft.

Golf glove holder

Another published patent - dating back to 2002 - is the golf glove holder mounted on the golf cart.

It was specifically designed to provide players with a quick way of drying their gloves that may have become damp due to sweat.

Making football modern

Between 2000 and 2019, 22,397 patents were filed in football, and 7,392 granted. The first patent filed in football dates back to 1907 when Maria Henriette Godey created an outer casing or envelope for soccer balls, according to Sagacious IP.

The online gaming industry has developed several football games, which have been patented as well.

Portable football goal

Probably one of the most important inventions to have aided the current trend of multi-purpose sporting venues across the world is the 1986 invention of the portable football goal. Essentially, the frame of the football goal post can easily be dismantled and stored when not required, and can just as easily be erected when a football match has to be played.

Motion graphics on the ball

Visual designs on a football don't just serve as a cosmetic effect. In 2017, Nike was granted a patent for the motion graphics on a ball. It es-

entially means there are designs in one or more contrasting colours on the casing of a football that allow data to be assessed - for example, the number of rotations per minute of a ball in flight after a free-kick is hit, etc.

Cricket chirping at patents

Cricket has only seen 332 patents granted from the 1,916 filed between 2000 and 2019. The sport's first patent came in 1894, when William David Cameron invented improvements in bats.

A large number of cricket's modern patents have been about apps that collect and disseminate data. But there have been a decent number that relate to on-field changes as well.

Rain cricket

In 2011, George William Beldam invented a cricket ball that doesn't lose its shape when damp, and can be used to conduct play during the rain. Various other factors, however, have marred the implementation of this patent, such as low visibility and bats getting damaged.

Mongoose cricket bats

As the 2021 IPL season nears its completion, it's worth remembering that in the second season of the T20 league in 2009, former Australian opener Matthew Hayden decided to play with a Mongoose bat. The bat had a longer handle and shorter wooden face at the bottom. The face, however, was much thicker - almost three times that of a conventional bat. It provided greater power when facing yorkers or low-full tosses.

Despite Hayden's success with that bat, it did not catch on.

Indians made to sweat by 10-man Bangladesh in SAFF opener

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MALE, OCTOBER 4

INDIA ALLOWED a 10-man Bangladesh to come back and score a shock goal after talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri's 76th international strike to play out a 1-1 draw in their SAFF Championships opener here on Monday.

The 37-year-old Chhetri, playing in his 121st match for India, struck in the 27th minute to place himself just a goal shy of legendary Brazilian Pele (77 goals from 92 matches).

He is now in the fourth spot in the list of highest scorers among active footballers, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (111), Lionel Messi (79) and UAE's Ali Mabkhout (77).

India were the better side in the first half and even though they lost possession quite often, they seemed to be cruising. They also had numerical advantage from 54th minute onwards after Bangladesh player Biswanath Ghosh was sent off for committing a foul on Liston Colaco.

But Igor Stimac's men failed to stop the swift counter-attacking Bangladeshis on their tracks and conceded a goal in the 74th minute. The Bangladeshis, playing under a new coach after the 2022 World Cup qualifiers, pulled one back in the 74th minute despite numerical inferiority.

Yasir Arafat sent a diving header from a swinging corner kick into the Indian goal.

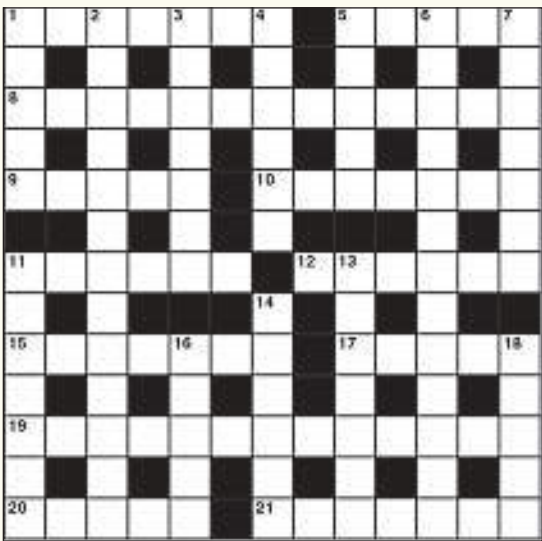
Bangladesh have always been a difficult opponent for India who had needed a late equaliser to draw the first leg of the 2022 World Cup qualifiers in Kolkata before winning 2-0 in the second leg.

India play Sri Lanka in their second round-robin league match on Thursday.



Sunil Chhetri scored his 76th international goal in the 1-1 draw.

CROSSWORD 4552



- ACROSS**
- 1 Tackle some vote manipulating (7)
  - 5 Different from the inside or outside (5)
  - 8 When one may have a change of scene during a break (2,3,8)
  - 9 One is disturbed by the din (5)
  - 10 Not conscious there's a new aura about (7)
  - 11 Get to grips with the staff problem? (6)
  - 12 They usually lead to the quarry (6)
  - 15 Restoration novel in authentic setting (7)
  - 17 Business lags go in Pakistan (5)
  - 19 It gives one no real alternative (7,6)
  - 20 In the garden it reinforces saltpetre (5)
  - 21 Somehow ends Red China (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Work to rule? (5)
  - 2 Rather old to be harnessing a horse? (7,2,1,3)
  - 3 Seaborne territorial detachment from the Arctic (7)
  - 4 One in the biology class is very bright (6)
  - 5 Showing love for a musical drama (5)
  - 6 Be strongly inclined to be an intellectual? (4,1,4,4)
  - 7 They take no end of towels (7)
  - 11 Are designed then made of clay (7)
  - 13 Please put in an old-fashioned way (7)
  - 14 Not open for business yet clinched the deal (6)
  - 16 A question of property (5)
  - 18 Wild goose yarn? (5)

Solutions Crossword 4551: Across: 1 Realm, 8 Inchoate, 9 Onset, 10 Discover, 11 State, 12 Pet, 16 Gille, 17 Inform, 18 Nee, 23 Meant, 24 Executed, 25 Basic, 26 Entwines, 27 Flirt. Down: 2 Einstein, 3 Lie still, 4 Incite, 5 Shock, 6 Waive, 7 Heard, 12 Pen, 13 Tie, 14 After all, 15 Frontier, 19 Eleven, 20 Sexes, 21 Petty, 22 Quail.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



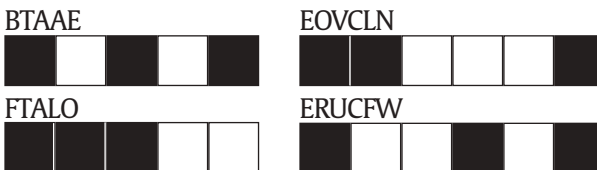
MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

\_\_\_\_\_ and the world will imagine the worst - Marcus Valerius Martialis (7,1,4)

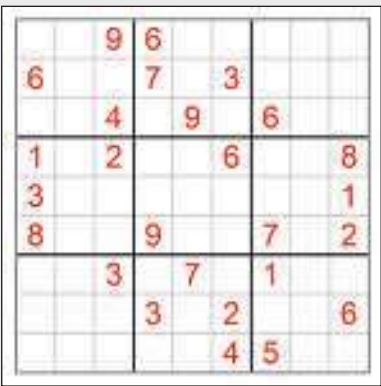


SOLUTION: ABATE, ALOFT, CLOVEN, CURFEW

SUDOKU 4615

Difficulty Level 4s  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4614



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
Somewhere along the line you appear to have upset someone whose influence could help you in the future. There is no time like the present for putting shaky relationships back on a firm footing. At work you need to take a more creative course. Is there a new skill you can learn?

**TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)**  
The financial picture remains rather uncertain, possibly because you have allowed an opportunity to slip through your hands. Optimism is all very well, but don't allow unrealistic hopes to influence your actions. While your head is in the clouds keep one foot on the ground.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
The current relationship between Jupiter and Saturn is undoubtedly positive, and you should use the opportunity to implement plans which you have been considering for some time but frankly felt were not in your line of business. Oh - and within the month you will have forgotten that certain current problems ever existed.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
The emotional Moon is now impacting on a sociable area of your horoscope, revealing that you have everything to gain from associations with other people, especially those who are clearly in the know. Even at work you'll have to operate as part of a team. Go it alone and you may do yourself long-term damage.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
The period you've just been through has not been entirely to your liking. However, every astrological cloud has a silver lining, and very soon the benefits derived from recent upsets will be made plain. In the end you'll decide that the wait was worth it.

**VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)**  
Tensions are building up at home, although there is no reason why this should be considered bad. Anything which forces you to get out of your rut and make improvements is to be welcomed. There seems to be a great deal going in your favour at home, so any difficulties could be a result of your own inattention.

**LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)**  
You are fortunate to be born under the sign of Venus, a planet which has been affording you a great deal of protection lately. Now, however, you must learn to stand on your own two feet. It's fine to depend on partners sometimes, but not all the time.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)**  
You may have been sitting on confidential information or keeping a secret on behalf of a friend. However, be prepared for everything to come into the open before the week is out. There is no way that partners will let you off the hook, so you'd better have your story ready.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)**  
Seeing as there is shortly to be a critical planetary alignment in your sign, you should tread carefully. It's necessary to retain your sense of optimism regarding the future, yet your downfall could be over-confidence. My advice would be to double-check every detail.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
Today's lunar positions offer you the strongest possible advice to listen to close partners. You may be astonished at the quality of their ideas, and quite possibly pleasantly surprised by the outcome. Your other planets are pointing the way to monetary success.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 20)**  
It will seem terribly unfair when people who hardly know you feel they have the right to comment critically on your behaviour. Yet this is what may happen today and tomorrow, so don't rise to the bait. You'll get everything you need by watching and waiting until the time is right.

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
A professional upset is on the cards, yet the changes which result may be to your liking. Meetings or communications at the end of the week may clarify the picture, so don't sign on the dotted line just yet. In fact, a commitment may not be necessary until next year.



# Super-Het finisher

West Indian ensures Delhi Capitals cross the finish line after a minor hiccup while chasing CSK's 136



Shimron Hetmeyer scored an unbeaten 28 from 18 balls under pressure in Delhi Capitals' win over Chennai Super Kings. [iplt20.com](#)

**SYNOPSIS:** Dhoni under bowls Bravo as Dhawan & Hetmeyers sparke in Delhi's win.

**SRIRAM VEERA**  
OCTOBER 4

WHY WAS Dwayne Bravo given just two overs, the 18th and the 20th? That decision from MS Dhoni might well have proved the difference between a win and a loss.

It was a two-paced tacky pitch ideally suited for Bravo's slower ones that grip the surface. Dhoni wasn't asked the question at the post-match but in a general observation on the pitch, he said he thought taller bowlers who hit the deck posed more problems.

That would fit a bowler like Delhi's Kagiso Rabada, who has the ability to pound the track with his slow cutters, and not someone like Josh Hazlewood or even Deepak Chahar, who bowled seven overs between them. Bravo cannot only serve out the full dipping slower ones but also possesses the ability to deliver the cutters that grip the surface.

## Bravo puzzle

Be as that may be, Bravo nearly won the game in his two overs, the 18th and 20th of the chase, when he was brought out of the cold storage. He could have sealed it in his first itself had K Gowtham held on to a regulation catch at long-on that would have taken out the danger man Shimron Hetmeyer. Instead, it ran away to the

POINTS TABLE					
	M	W	L	NRR	Pts
DC	13	10	3	+0.526	20
CSK	13	9	4	+0.739	18
RCB	12	8	4	-0.157	16
KKR	13	6	7	+0.294	12
PBKS	13	5	8	-0.241	10
RR	12	5	7	-0.337	10
MI	12	5	7	-0.453	10
SRH	12	2	10	-0.475	4

boundary to leave Delhi Capitals needing 18 from 14.

But Bravo wasn't done yet. He nearly pulled it off in the final over when he had to defend just six runs. It came down to three from four after a dot ball, when he induced Axar Patel to squirt one of his typical well-outside-off slower one straight to covers. This time, though, Bravo slipped a full ball on the pads and Kagiso Rabada helped it away to the fine-leg boundary.

## Hetmeyer roars

The man who celebrated the most was Hetmeyer, hopping, pumping his fist, and roaring away. And why not, it was a lovely gem from him under pressure. When Hetmeyer walked out at No. 7, below R Ashwin, Delhi Capitals required 39 from 35. Ashwin's promotion was quite understandable as Shikhar Dhawan was still there, and Ashwin had shown in the previous game that in a run-a-ball situation

## UAE to allow fans for T20 World Cup

**Dubai:** Stadiums in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will operate at 70% of capacity for the Twenty20 World Cup, the organisers said, though conditions in Oman, where preliminary rounds are due to be played, have still to be fully assessed following a cyclone. Tropical Cyclone Shaheen struck coastal areas of Oman, including the capital of Muscat on Sunday, two weeks before preliminary round matches of the tournament commence on Oct. 17.

**REUTERS**

on a slow pitch, he could do the job adequately. As it transpired, not only Ashwin but Dhawan too combusted, slamming a wide half-volley to cover fielder.

Hetmeyer worked the singles until the 18th over when he thumped Bravo to the straight boundary. He nearly holed out the next ball but not only did Gowtham reprimed him, he also got a four. When 15 runs were needed off nine, he walloped Josh Hazlewood over the backward square-leg boundary to bring back parity.

There was some controversy in the final over when the umpires called a full toss wide outside off that didn't land on the pitch as a wide. Ricky Ponting, Delhi's coach, was livid as he rightly felt it should have been a no-ball with a free hit on offer.

But Delhi held their nerves to finish the game.

## Dhawan does a Dhawan

There aren't many batsmen more suitable than Shikhar Dhawan in a sub 150 kind of a chase. Especially on slow tracks. And especially these days, when he is in red-hot form and can attack from the start when he decides.

It was a fine knock from Dhawan on how to go about the chase in these conditions. He took calculated risks with the new ball against Deepak Chahar. Scratch that; risk, it wasn't. He went down the track to hoist Chahar a couple of times beyond the boundary but he is one of the best exponents of that to the seamers in recent years.

When most others do that, you can sense the adrenalin rush and feel the risk. Dhawan advances steadily — doesn't charge, doesn't skip, doesn't rush. He maintains his shape admirably — doesn't open up, stays side-on, shoulder pressing forward and executes his shot well. And can pull out of any intended big hit if the ball isn't quite there, as he would to Shardul Thakur in the 15th over.

In the end, he fell hitting a wide half-volley from Thakur to cover to usher in some drama in the chase but his contribution was vital. Just as Ambati Rayudu's fine 55 was in giving Chennai something to bowl.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Chennai Super Kings 136 for 5 (Rayudu 55, Axar 2-18) lost to Delhi Capitals 139 for 7 (Dhawan 39, Hetmeyer 28\*, Thakur 2-13) by three wickets

## PLAYING TODAY

**Indian Premier League**

Rajasthan Royals vs Mumbai Indians, 7:30 pm,  
Live on Star Sports Network

## EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER



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

## Ruturaj & seasons in the sun



Anrich Nortje celebrates Ruturaj Gaikwad's wicket but the decision was reversed after the latter went upstairs. [iplt20.com](#)

It's a testament to Ruturaj Gaikwad that the Delhi Capitals exploded in joy and sunk in disappointment within a minute. Anrich Nortje thinking he had his man lbw in the first over, fist-pumped and roared. The most expansive celebration was Shimron Hetmeyer's running all the way from the boundary to hug the bowler. Once Gaikwad sent it upstairs and DRS reprieved him, he had a

quiet smile with Faf du Plessis. Nortje turned grim and Hetmeyer slumped his shoulders. 16 runs came from that over, filled with wides and leg byes that ran to the boundary. Rishabh Pant put in an acrobatic dive to get across the first slip to gather a wide swinging delivery; or it'd be 20 runs. Previously, his first movement invariably went left and late on the ball to his right. Not any more.

## Pant's Patel-rap

Communications-wise, Axar Patel-Rishabh Pant has to be the most exciting bowling-keeping combo. The doggerels from the not-so-distant past of India-England Tests, the left-arm spinner teasing England batsmen earlier this year and Pant serenading him: "*Thoda sa aage, Milkha Singh bhaage, pyara Axar jaage*". Then there was: "*Ollie Pope ko Lollipop do, ball ghoomega toh ye ghoomega*." Against CSK, Patel was in the middle of an excellent spell and true to T20 cricket's matter-of-fact nature, Pant's instructions to his spinner was about not letting the pressure slip. After Moeen Ali got out to Patel, Ambati Rayudu played a firm push to the bowler's left. Readily, Pant's sharp-shooting came: "*Oye Patel, ruk, ruk, ruk...*" Patel acted on his captain's command and ran around to get a hand to ball. Rayudu rotated the strike though, much to Pant's expressive chagrin.



## Gowtham's oopsie daisie

CSK's Krishnappa Gowtham could have probably ended the chase in the 18th over when Shimron Hetmeyer slugged Dwayne Bravo towards him at long-on. Delhi Capitals had needed 22 runs from 15 balls at that stage and Hetmeyer was keen. Gowtham took a couple of steps forward and started to bend down his knees as the ball began to dip. He went for the Australian way, cupping his palms out but had to keep going down to cover for the dip. Yes, he could have taken it in the Indian way with palms up but not that the Australian way was wrong. Just one of those days, where it didn't come off. Perhaps the pressure, perhaps it dipped more than he thought and by the time his knees touched the ground, the ball popped out of his palms. So did the game.



## c. Smile b. Roar

Shardul Thakur had just struck Ravi Ashwin's cup noodle-selling back pad while his flick lagged, before the scramble seam did its thing and struck the off-stump. Next, Thakur opted for the shorter delivery to Shikhar Dhawan. The set batter would try to pull as the ball whooshed past his bat to the keeper. Dhoni would stir up an appeal with Thakur in unison and the umpire didn't harbour a doubt. A cheeky smile from Dhoni preceded the Ultraedge being ultra disinterested in jaggling the flatline as Dhawan lived to tell a snippet. He was quiet the next two deliveries before Thakur hurried the final ball into the slot and Dhawan wanting to break free, would drive it to Moeen Ali who hopped, pounced the ball



and then broke into a surprise smile. Thakur, denied earlier, roared. Dhoni had had the first smile though.

# England will only play Ashes series if best players in squad

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
OCTOBER 4

ENGLAND WILL only travel to Australia for the Ashes series across December and January if its leading players are in the squad.

That was the message from the England and Wales Cricket Board on Monday, with the governing body saying it will announce this week if the tour will go ahead amid concerns about restrictions in place in Australia due to the pandemic. An ECB statement said there has been "regular and positive dialogue" with Cricket Australia about arrangements for Ashes series, one of the biggest occasions in cricket. However, England's players are concerned about the conditions they will have to live in after arriving in Australia, such as the quarantine arrangements and whether family members can travel.

The ECB said the priority was to ensure the tour can take place "with conditions for players and management to perform at their best." "We will continue talking to our players this week to share the latest information and seek feedback," the ECB said.

Tellingly, the governing body added that the squad selected needed to be "befitting a series of this significance." With the World Twenty20 competition taking place in the United Arab Emirates and Oman from Oct. 17-Nov. 14 and the five-test Ashes series beginning on Dec. 8 until mid-January, plus

**England's players are concerned about the conditions they will have to live in after arriving in Australia, such as the quarantine arrangements and whether family members can travel**

quarantine either side and before the Ashes, some players could be away from home for more than three months.

Ben Stokes, England's star allrounder, is currently missing from cricket because he is taking a break from cricket to protect his mental health. England captain Joe Root has n't committed to taking part in the Ashes amid the ongoing talks, and Australia captain Tim Paine said last week "the Ashes are going ahead... whether Joe is here or not."

The ECB statement suggests this is not the case and that England will not countenance taking a weakened squad to Australia.

England's international schedule has undergone repeated changes during the pandemic. The team returned home early from tours of Sri Lanka and South Africa in 2020 while the fifth test against India in the countries' recent series in England was abandoned on the morning of the match after the Indians decided not to play due to fears over a COVID outbreak in its touring group.

# Park ji-Sung urges Manchester United fans to stop singing 'racist' dog meat song at games

**DANIEL VICTOR**  
LONDON, OCTOBER 4

PARK JI-SUNG, a fan-favorite former player for Manchester United, asked the soccer club's fans on Sunday to stop singing a song in his honor that includes the racist stereotype that Koreans eat dog meat.

As a decorated midfielder for the team from 2005 to 2012, Park earned the adoration of the team's fans, who bestowed upon him a common honor in the soccer world: a song or chant, often performed in the stadium, with lyrics intended to praise him.

But the reference to dog meat was "very uncomfortable to me," even though he was proud that fans made a song for him and he understood they did not intend to offend or hurt him, he said on an official team podcast released on Sunday.

He thought he had to accept it, he said, having come to Britain from South Korea as a young player who was unfamiliar with the culture. But he heard fans singing the song again in August when Hwang Hee-chan, a South Korean, made his debut for the Wolverhampton Wanderers in a game against Manchester United.

"I should probably speak out more loud this time," Park said on the podcast. Even if fans didn't mean any offense, he said, "I have



Park Ji-Sung said he empathised with his compatriot Hwang Hee-chan, who made his debut for the Wolves in a game against Manchester United. *File*

to educate for the fans to stop that word, which is these days usually a racial insult to the Korean people."

Manchester United said in a statement that it "fully supports Ji-sung's comments and urges fans to respect his wishes."

References to dog meat have long been used as an attack on Koreans overseas, a stereotype rooted in the country's longstanding battle over the ongoing, but diminishing, practice of raising dogs for human consump-

tion. Most Koreans do not eat dog meat now; a September 2020 survey by Nielsen found that 84 percent of Koreans either have never eaten it or do not intend to do so in the future.

The culture has "changed enormously" over the decades and even more rapidly in recent years, said Lola Webber, a director of campaigns to end dog meat consumption for Humane Society International. Most younger Koreans are appalled by the thought, she said, though some older Koreans still seek

**I have to educate the fans to stop that word, which is usually these days a racial insult to the Korean people. In Korea, things have changed a lot. It is true that historically we have eaten dog meat but these days, particularly the younger generation, they really dislike it."**

**PARK JI-SUNG**  
FORMER MANCHESTER UNITED STAR

out the meat at specialized restaurants.

"It is not part of mainstream culture by any means in South Korea," she said. "It hasn't been for a very long time, but especially in the last few years, there's been a very vocal opposition." Last week, President Moon Jae-in of South Korea suggested banning the consumption of dog meat, recognizing it as an international embarrassment.

The world's top soccer clubs have consistently wrestled with racist behavior by some of their fans. In 2017, Romelu Lukaku, who is Black, asked Manchester United fans to stop singing a song for him that contained a racial stereotype. Some fans refused, following the song with a new one: "We're Man United, we'll sing what we want." **NYT**