

AGUSTAWESTLAND DEAL

Kamal Nath's son, Khurshid, Patel and offshore firms in key accused statement

Anyone can name my son as beneficial owner: Kamal Nath

RITU SARIN New Delhi, November 16



Alleged middleman Christian Michel (left); Ratul Puri, nephew of Congress leader Kamal Nath



crats who were in a position of influencing the decision at that point of time. Some of these funds were once again, directly or indirectly, through structured transactions, and some of the structures set up by me, were routed into investments in India." In its latest supplementary chargesheet filed on September 17, the CBI has said that in 2000, Saxena acquired 99.9% shares of Interstellar Technologies.

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Saxena's interrogation focuses on financial transactions of two other key AgustaWestland case accused, defence dealer Sushen Mohan Gupta and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath's nephew Ratul Puri.

Both Gupta and Puri have been in custody and are now on bail. Saxena alleges that "name-dropping" by Gupta and Khaitan was "legendary." "They frequently dropped names of leading political figures in their conversation with a view to impress upon their influence in the corridors of power. They often mentioned the names of Salman Khurshid and Kamal Nath which I deduce was a reference to Mr Kamal Nath."

Answering a direct question on political beneficiaries, Saxena said: "I am aware that Interstellar Technologies Limited was one of the main companies to receive kickbacks from the AgustaWestland. Interstellar Technologies was beneficially owned by Sushen Mohan Gupta who controlled the company through Gautam Khaitan... During my meetings with Sushen Mohan Gupta and Gautam Khaitan they often mentioned political beneficiaries in India. The name AP was mentioned by them and was a reference to Ahmed Patel."

Revealing alleged political links of the payoffs via company structures set up by him

or through his Dubai-based company Matrix Group Limited, Saxena told the ED that "indirectly funds received by Ratul Puri through Interstellar Technologies Limited and Global Services have flowed into Moser Power Limited (Ratul Puri's company) through Optima Investments P Ltd, a company controlled by Ratul Puri and his family." In his statement, Saxena brings up a crucial connection with a company called Pristine River Investments. "We (Sushen Mohan Gupta and himself) received bridge funding through Pristine River Investments, a company managed by John Docherty for Bakul Nath, son of Kamal Nath. Thus, indirectly funds from Interstellar Technologies and Global Services were used to repay the loans from Pristine River Investments."

When contacted, Kamal Nath told The Indian Express: "I have stated earlier that I have nothing to do with the companies or transactions of my nephew, Ratul Puri. As far as my son, Bakul Nath, is concerned, he is an NRI based in Dubai. Any one can open an offshore account and put a name of someone as Beneficial Owner and not even inform him. He may not even know about it."

When contacted, Khurshid said: "I am surprised that my name has cropped up as part of the AgustaWestland investigations. Dev Mohan Gupta, the father of Sushen Mohan Gupta is a close family friend and I am his well-wisher. Besides knowing him well, I do not know or have any connection with other persons named in the case like

Nitish sworn in, BJP picks two deputy chief ministers in NDA social balancing

SANTOSH SINGH Patna, November 16

NITISH KUMAR TOOK oath as Bihar chief minister for the seventh time on Monday with two deputy chief ministers from the BJP — four-time Katihar MLA Tarkishore Prasad and four-time Betia MLA Renu Devi. A total of 15 ministers were administered the oath of office by Bihar governor Phagu Chauhan — seven from the BJP, including the two Deputy Chief Ministers; six from the JD(U), including Nitish; and one each from the Vikasshil Insaan Party (VIP) and Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular). Former deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi may be accommodated at the Centre, but there is no official word yet. He first became deputy chief minister in 2005, when Nitish came to power, and retained the post since then — except when Jitan Ram Manjhi was CM between 2014 and 2015 and when the JD(U) was with the RJD in 2015-2017.

Besides Nitish, the other JD(U) ministers are: veteran party leader Bijendra Prasad Yadav, former Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Choudhary, the party's state working president Ashok Kumar Choudhary, Tarapur MLA and former Vice Chancellor of Sabour Agriculture University Mewalal Choudhary, and first-time MLA from Phulparas Sheela Kumari.

The JD(U), which is down from 71 seats to 43, has kept social engineering in mind in its choice of ministers, giving representation to the upper caste (Vijay Kumar Choudhary), Extremely Backward



Nitish Kumar with his deputy CMs Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi, after swearing-in, in Patna on Monday. PTI

Class (Sheela Kumari), Scheduled Caste (Ashok Kumar Choudhary), and Other Backward Class (Mewalal Choudhary and Bijendra Prasad Yadav). Vijay Kumar Choudhary and Ashok Kumar Choudhary are known to be close to Nitish.

The BJP, which increased its tally from 53 seats to 74 in the 243-member Assembly, has followed the Uttar Pradesh formula with two deputy chief ministers.

While deputy chief ministers Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi belong to the OBC and EBC respectively, former Bihar health minister Mangal Pandey, Ara MLA Amrendra Pratap Singh and Jale MLA Jiwesh

Kumar represented the upper caste. Ramsurt Rai, OBC leader from Muzaffarpur, and Rampreet Paswan, Scheduled Caste MLA from Rajnagar in Mithilanchal belt, are the other two BJP ministers.

Former minister and seven-time Patna Sahab MLA Nand Kishore Yadav, who has been dropped this time, is tipped to become the Assem-bly Speaker — a post held by the JD(U) so far. Prem Kumar, another senior party leader

who was not included in today's list of ministers, may be accommodated later.

VIP chief Mukesh Sahani, who lost by a narrow margin from Simri Bakhtiyarpur, also took oath on Monday. As promised by the BJP earlier, he will be sent to the Upper House in the state. From the HAM former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi's son and MLC Santosh Kumar Suman took oath. Both the VIP and HAM won four seats each.

Meanwhile, the Opposition Mahagabandhan alliance boycotted the oath-taking ceremony, with state RJD president Jagdanand Singh calling it "loot of the mandate". The RJD emerged as the single largest party with 75 seats.

Union home minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadda were among those who attended the ceremony. Congratulating Nitish, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: "The NDA family will work together for the progress of Bihar. I assure all possible support from the Centre for the welfare of Bihar."

Tenders notice for Quantum Build-Tech Limited regarding software development. Includes details like date (13/11/2020), location (Hyderabad), and contact information.

Quantum Build-Tech Limited Notice. Includes details about the company, AGM, e-voting process, and contact information.

Indian Overseas Bank advertisement for RFP Reference Number: BSMD/17/IFCo FR/2020-2021 regarding procurement of IT services.

Public Notice - Sale of Land Extent Acres 2.39 Guntas at Athvelly Village, Medchal, Range Reddy Dist., Hyderabad. Includes details of the property and the auction process.

Heritage Foods Limited advertisement. Includes company logo, registration details, and information about shareholding and the IEPF account.

AMARNATH SECURITIES LIMITED advertisement. Includes details about the company, registration, and information regarding the offer of equity shares.