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THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE
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SECOND DRAFT SHARED WITH MPs

J&K: Delimitation panel redraws electoral map

Proposes new seats, redraws several others; NC rejects

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 5

CARVING OUT new constituencies while redrawing several of those existing, the Delimitation Commission has proposed significant changes to the electoral map of Jammu and Kashmir.

The draft delimitation working paper, the second set of proposals shared by the Commission with five associate members (the five J&K Lok Sabha MPs comprising three from the National Conference and two from the BJP), has been rejected by the NC which said it will send a detailed response to the Commission at the earliest — the Commission has sought the views of the associate members and will then place the report in the public domain.

In the draft paper, the Commission has proposed changes in Baramulla, Kupwara, Srinagar, Kulgam and Anantnag

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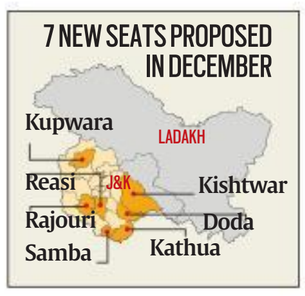

EXPLAINED

Objection to the formula

THE NC MPs, who are three of the five associate members of the panel, have objected to the Commission's formula on the ground that it ignores the concept of population. They say this has resulted in only one new seat for the Kashmir division despite the fact that it has a greater number of people compared to Jammu.

India at forefront as firm believer in equality, govt programmes for all: PM

KCR skips event, his office says unwell

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, FEBRUARY 5

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated a 216-feet statue — the Statue of Equality — commemorating 10th century Vedic philosopher and social reformer Ramanujacharya, on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The statue, he said, "puts our nation at the forefront as a firm believer in equality, having one of the most diverse populations globally..."

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao skipped the event; he did not receive Modi at the airport either earlier in the

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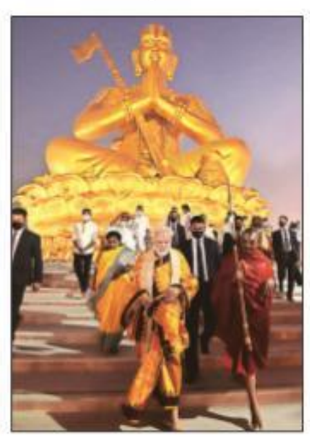

PM Modi inaugurated the 216-ft 'Statue Of Equality' in Hyderabad on Saturday. *ANI*

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Karnataka Govt invokes state law to back hijab ban: 'Don't wear clothes that disturb law & order'

KIRAN PARASHAR & APURVA VISHWANATH
BENGALURU, NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

IN A directive validating decisions of state education institutions prohibiting Muslim girl students from wearing the hijab (headscarf), the Karnataka government said Saturday that "clothes which disturb equality, integrity and public law and order should not be worn".

The ban on wearing the hijab to classrooms, according to the state government, is not a violation of the fundamental right to religious freedom guaranteed by the Constitution.

Invoking Section 133 (2) of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983, the order by Padmini SN of the education department (pre-university) stated that students will have to wear the dress chosen by the college development committee or the appellate committee of the administrative board of pre-university colleges which come under the pre-university education department.

"Invoking 133 (2) of the Karnataka Education Act-1983 which says a uniform style of clothes has to be worn compulsorily. The private school

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Students protest in Udupi on Saturday. *PTI*

Protect girls' rights, access to study: Opp

MANOJ C G
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE RIGHT to wear religious attire, the right to education and the right to equality — Opposition parties Saturday invoked these principles to criticise Karnataka colleges that have refused entry to students wearing the hijab.

While the Congress, Trinamool Congress, Left parties, RJD, NCP and the BSP argued that the Constitution guarantees citizens the fundamental right to practise their religion, Shiv Sena

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NETWORK

ODISHA JOURNALIST KILLED IN IED BLAST; MAOISTS SUSPECTED

OWAISI ATTACK FIR: 'HE SAW ME SHOOT SO HE DUCKED, I FIRED AT LOWER PART OF CAR' P 6, 7

10-YEAR DATA FROM TATA MEMORIAL

Girls losing out to boys in getting treatment for cancer

65% of kids treated at biggest cancer hospital were boys

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 5

GIRLS ARE losing out to boys in the fight against cancer — for two boys, only one girl got treatment at Mumbai's Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), the largest cancer hospital in India.

This gender gap is hampering paediatric cancer treatment among girls, say oncologists, and calls for measures addressing a range of issues from prejudice and awareness to even financial aid.

Records from TMH accessed by *The Indian Express* show that in the 10-year period between 2011-2021, a total of 18,394 children from across India were provided treatment at TMH Hospital. Of these, as many as 11,962 or 65% were boys, the remaining 6,432 were girls, making up for 35% of the total children.

These numbers tell a larger national story given that of the total paediatric patients, only 30% are from Maharashtra, the rest from other states.

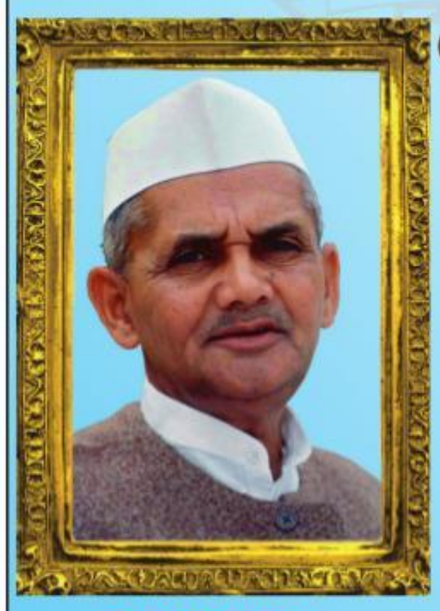
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

25 YEARS LBSIM SILVER JUBILEE
NURTURING SOCIALLY SENSITIVE BUSINESS LEADERS

LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI
NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE: 2022

NOMINATIONS INVITED

Nominations are invited for the 23rd Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence : 2022 which honours each year a distinguished Indian, residing either in India or abroad, for his/her sustained individual contributions and outstanding achievements of high professional order and excellence in the field of management, public administration, public affairs, education, institution building, art & culture and sports. The Awardee will be selected by a jury comprising of eminent persons.
The Award is given every year on October 1, the eve of the birth anniversary of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. The honour carries an award of Rs. Five Lakh plus a citation and a plaque and the awardee is designated as Lal Bahadur Shastri fellow.



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Smt. Tessy Thomas	2012
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Chairman, LBSIM, Delhi

FROM PAGE ONE

Delimitation commission redraws J&K electoral map

districts of the Kashmir division.

While Kupwara is the only district in the Valley where a constituency is being added, changes have been proposed to other existing constituencies as well. The new seat of Trehgam has been created to include Keran, parts of Kralpora tehsil among others.

In Baramulla, while the Assembly segments remain at five, Kunzer and Tangmarg constituencies have been carved out by splitting Gulmarg and merging the Sangrama constituency.

Sangrama and Gulmarg constituencies, which went to the PDP in the 2014 Assembly elections, now cease to exist, according to the delimitation draft.

In south Kashmir, the Shangus tehsil has been split between Anantnag East and Larnoo constituencies. Kokernag, a constituency previously held by the PDP, has also been split between Dooru and Larnoo. Dooru is considered a Congress stronghold.

Kulgam will have three as against four seats earlier with areas within the current Hom Shali Bugh constituency being included under Devsar, according to the draft.

Srinagar district will now have a separate constituency in Chhanpora area. Several constituencies of the district are being redrawn to create this constituency.

(A PTI report quoted unnamed officials saying the report has proposed redrawing of the Anantnag Parliamentary seat by including Rajouri and Poonch from the Jammu region, besides carrying out massive changes in the Kashmir division.)

In December last year, the Commission, comprising retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Desai, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and J&K Election Commissioner K K Sharma, proposed seven additional Assembly seats — six in Jammu division and one in Kashmir Valley.

For the first time, the Commission proposed reserving nine seats for Scheduled Tribes (STs) on the basis of population. Seven seats were proposed for the Scheduled Castes (SCs).

Once these proposed additions are effected, the total number of Assembly constituencies in J&K will rise to 90 — in Jammu, the number of seats will go up to 43 from 37, and in Kashmir, by one seat to 47.

An additional 24 seats are proposed to be reserved for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Of the seven additional Assembly constituencies in the Union Territory, one each was proposed in the districts of Kathua, Samba, Rajouri, Reasi, Doda and Kishtwar in Jammu division, and Kupwara in the Kashmir Valley.

The Commission said it proposed carving out an additional constituency in some districts to balance the representation for geographical areas with inadequate communication and lack of public conveniences given their excessive remoteness or inhospitable conditions on the international border.

The December meeting saw the participation of all five MPs – Farooq Abdullah, Hasnain Masoodi and Mohammad Akbar Lone (NC) and Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore Sharma (BJP).

The NC MPs, who stayed away from the first meeting of the Commission on February 18, 2021, had rejected the draft proposal of the Commission, saying it was "biased" against Kashmir and, therefore, unacceptable.

India at forefront as firm believer in equality, govt programmes for all: PM Modi

day, with the state BJP slamming him. The CM's office said he was unwell and resting. The PM was received by Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, Union Minister for Tourism G Kishan Reddy and Telangana Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav among others.

Speaking at the function in the evening, Modi likened his government's schemes such as providing free gas cylinders, free electricity connections, Jan Dhan accounts, and other schemes to the marginalised communities with Ramanujacharya's philosophy. He said the Centre's schemes cover all people, irrespective of their caste and religion.

Modi said, "I am proud to witness the moment of the inauguration of the Statue of Equality. It is indeed a very proud moment for every Indian. India holds many great minds, and one of them was Sri Ramanujacharya, who taught us the lesson of equality between all cast, creed, and gender."

The Statue of Equality, he said, "puts our nation at the forefront as a firm believer in equality, having one of the most diverse populations globally..."

Earlier in the day, Modi toured the complex housing Ramanujacharya's statue. Born in 1017 in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu, Ramanujacharya advocated social equality among all sections. The inauguration of the Statue of Equality is part of the ongoing 12-day Ramanuja Sahasrabdi 'Samaroham' to mark the 1,000th birth anniversary of Ramanujacharya, which began February 2.

Slamming Rao over his absence, Telangana BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar said the CM who "talks about the Constitution does not respect it". "Mr KCR, Is this your culture? You claim to have read 80,000 books. Is it what you have learnt from them," PTI said quoting him.

The development comes amid an escalating war of words between Rao's party, TRS, and BJP. Justifying KCR's staying away from the PM's programmes, the TRS tweeted, "There is no necessity for the CM to receive PM in a private visit! It's totally as per the Protocol issued by Govt of India validated by Ministry of Home Affairs." The party also posted that the state BJP should "stop these cheap & misleading tactics".

The statue was proposed and designed by Seer Chinna Jeeyar, who heads JIVA. It is made of 'panchaloha', a combination of five metals: gold, silver, copper, brass, and zync. The 54-foot base building, named 'Bhadra Vedi', has dedicated floors for a Vedic digital library and research centre, ancient Indian texts, a theatre, an educational gallery which has details about many works of Ramanujacharya.

Seer Chinna Jeeyar Swami said, "Bhagavad Ramanujacharya remained a true icon of equality for 1,000 years and this project would ensure that his teachings are practiced for at least another 1,000 years. Our mission is to make the Statue of Equality a culturally paramount destination for people across the globe and inspire everyone to make the world a more equal place to live."

Girls losing out to boys in getting treatment for paediatric cancer

Even at the Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital, Varanasi, the second largest paediatric oncology centre among the TMCs – it runs a total of eight – the gender gap is wide. In 2019, of the 325 paediatric cancer patients, 197 or 60 per cent were boys and in 2020, of the 392 patients, 250 or 63 per cent were boys.

At TMH, Mumbai, over the last 10 years, the aggregate number of boys is nearly double that of girls who came for treatment at the hospital – the gap over 75% in each year except for 2018 where the number of boys was only 24 per cent more than that of girls. *(See chart)*

In comparison, the gender gap narrows in the adult population. According to data available, in 2017, of the total 34,906 cancer cases among the adult population who came to TMH, Mumbai, 57 per cent were male and in 2018, of the 36,095 adult cancer cases, 58 per cent were male.

This gap is a matter of concern given that the most common cancers in children don't discriminate based on gender.

Said Dr Girish Chinnaswamy, paediatric oncologist at TMH: "Oral, breast or prostate cancers are minimal among children. Mostly, we witness blood cancers or cancer in bones, lungs, brain, among others which equally affect both genders."

He attributed the gap to the possibility that "compared to boys, girls are less likely to be referred for diagnosis."

Also, since early detection and timely treatment result in recovery in almost 80 per cent of the paediatric cases, oncologists said that girls who are not getting treated with cancer are losing their chance of survival and having a normal life like other children.

THE GENDER GAP IN PAEDIATRIC CANCER

Year	Total paediatric patients	Boys	Girls	Boys over Girls (%)
2011	1,222	826	396	108.6
2012	1,291	881	410	114.9
2013	1,616	1,100	516	113.2
2014	1,585	1,126	459	145.3
2015	1,832	1,216	616	97.4
2016	1,795	1,160	635	82.7
2017	1,972	1,273	699	82.1
2018	2,035	1,130	905	24.9
2019	2,081	1,336	745	79.3
2020	1,189	779	410	90.0
2021	1,776	1,135	641	77.1
Total	18,394	11,962	6,432	86.0

An illustrative example is that of a one-year-old girl from Latur who was detected with leukaemia — blood cancer -- in 2021 and was undergoing treatment at the hospital. On March 7, 2021, however, her father got her discharged and took her to their native village. When social volunteers contacted him, he refused to continue with the treatment and the girl died in a few weeks.

"The family already had another daughter so citing the example of her future, they refused to travel back to Mumbai for treatment of the patient," said Shalini Jatia, Secretary, ImPaCCT Foundation, Paediatric Oncology, TMC.

"No one says it directly. They beat around the bush then subtly pass on the message — a girl's life holds lesser value," she added.

The gender wise detection and treatment gap in India is in sharp contrast to that in developed economies where it is 1:1.

Said Dr S D Banavali, director of all the eight Tata Memorial Centres (TMCs) in India and professor at medicine and paediatrics at TMH: "The skewed sex ratio in cancer detection can be attributed to the social attitude where cancer-ridden girls aren't prioritised for treatment. They don't even reach the hospitals for treatment so cancer cases in girls go unreported."

Banavali added: "Although the situation has improved, in cases of cancer in eyes and kidneys, where we need to remove the organs, parents refuse to do so citing that their girls won't get married. Similar attribute is observed when we suggest amputations to save lives."

"The sex-ratio in cancer detection is more skewed in northern parts of India. A study of AIIMS showed the ratio of boys to girls was 5:1," said Dr Banavali.

The gender gap is also reflected in the rate of "treatment refusal and abandonment" (TRA) when it comes to girls. The TRA rate among boys in 2019 at TMH, Mumbai, was 2.3% compared to 2.7% among girls.

Of the 20 girls who dropped out of treatment, eight of the cases were due to gender-based disparity.

In 2020, the TRA rate was 3.2% among boys compared to 4.6% among girls. Of the 19 girl drop-outs, in eight cases, the reason was gender-discrimination. However, last year was an exception when TRA was higher in boys (1.9%) than girls (1.7%).

Often, even after arranging money for treatment of the girls, parents opt out. Anita Peter, executive director, Cancer Patients Aid Association, said that often parents refuse to upload the photos of girls affected with cancer on crowd-funding portals to collect money for treatment.

"They fear that if their relatives or neighbours get to know about cancer, their daughters won't get married. So they deny financial help even if that costs the lives of their daughters," she said.

Karnataka govt endorses hijab ban: 'Don't wear clothes that disturb equality, law & order'

administration can choose a uniform of their choice," the order stated.

"In the event of the administrative committee not selecting a uniform, clothes which disturb equality, integrity and public law and order should not be worn," it stated.

Section 133 (2) of the Act gives the state the power to "give such directions to the officers or authorities under its control as in its opinion are necessary or expedient for carrying out the purposes of this Act, and it shall be the duty of such officer or authority to comply with such directions".

The purpose of the Act is "to provide for the planned development of educational institutions, inculcation of healthy educational practice, maintenance and improvement in the standards of education and better organisation discipline and control over educational institutions in the State with a view to fostering the harmonious development of the mental and physical faculties of students and cultivating a scientific and secular outlook through education".

The order comes days before a scheduled hearing in the Karnataka High Court over the issue.

The directive cited an order of the Supreme Court in Asha Ranjan and Others vs State of Bihar and Others in 2017 which summarised that the larger public interest prevails upon individual interest not by negating the individual rights but by upholding larger interests and to ensure relationship between institutions and students.

The row over the ban on wearing hijab to the classroom was initially restricted to Udupi and Chikmagalur but has now spread to other parts of the state.

Describing the row as a "systematic conspiracy", V Sunil Kumar, minister for Kannada and culture, said a hijab or a burqa can be worn from home to college, but on entering the classroom, everyone should be in uniform.

Last week, B C Nagesh, minister for school education, announced plans for a uniform policy: "What if tomorrow someone comes to the college in shorts saying it is hot? We cannot allow it. Colleges had set their own rules and it was being followed. There are Christian missionary-run colleges and a few of them do not allow Hindu students to wear bangles or bindis. Nobody has questioned it because it was the college's decision."

Protect girls' rights, access to study: Opp

MP Priyanka Chaturvedi struck a different note.

She said that school is a place for education and students should be students, not "religious brand ambassadors."

Speaking on the issue for the first time, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted: "By letting students' hijab come in the way of their education, we are robbing the future of the daughters of India. Ma Saraswati gives knowledge to all. She doesn't differentiate. #SaraswatiPuja."

His tweet Saturday – when Saraswati Puja was observed -- appeared carefully crafted reflecting the anxiety in the Congress about a possible backlash.

Said his colleague Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge: "They have been going to schools wearing headscarves for decades. Nobody had any objection earlier. Now why are they objecting? They are doing this to divert attention. There are no jobs, they are not able to control inflation, they are using areas like Udupi and Mangalore as experiment grounds. If it's a success, they can replicate it elsewhere in the state."

"The courts are dealing with it. The constitutional rights of the people must be protected. That is our position," CPM's general secretary Sitaram Yechury told The Indian Express.

Senior RJD leader and Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Kumar Jha invoked the Constitution. "The hijab is not a barrier, the barrier is in the minds of those who are objecting to it," Jha said. "I teach in a university, I have had several students over the years who wore the hijab. It never occurred to me that I should be concerned about it. We must look at how the Constitution, particularly Article 25 (right to freedom of religion) speaks about it. Have we now decided to jettison every idea which is dear to this nation simply because you want to create a new barrier between people and communities every day to deflect attention?"

Said Trinamool Congress's Sushmita Dev: "As long as there are personal laws, customs and traditions in this country, no one can tell people what to do and what to wear. It is a part of their culture and their custom. You have to respect it."

Shiv Sena's Rajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi disagreed.

"When we were in school, uniform was above all religious affiliations. If a school is setting a norm, why are our politicians and religious leaders getting into it and making it about religion? Let's say even for a club entry if you are not allowed to wear a sandal…then you follow those rules. School is a place for education and every school follows a norm of a uniform. In Maharashtra, we had the same uniform: canvas school bag, same canvas shoes, pleated hair...we went as students…we didn't go as religious ambassadors," she told The Indian Express.

"Of course, democracy gives you the freedom to choose; after school hours you can choose whatever you want to wear…If you are talking about a secular nation, a secular nation has to abide by the rules and norms," she added.

For BSP's Lok Sabha MP Kunwar Danish Ali, the move to block girls because of their hijab undermines the Modi government's plank of beti bachao, beti padhao. "As a country, we have been trying hard to change the mindset of a large section of people who believe that a girl child's education is a second priority. It is a fact that education of girl children is still not a top priority in many communities, including Dalits, tribals and minorities, especially Muslims," he said.

NCP's Majeed Memon said the controversy is hardening fault-lines with non-Muslim girls wearing saffron shawls to protest. "This seeks to divide the students into two different communities which is very unfortunate," he said.

More so, when students' education was hit hard by the pandemic. "Now on resumption, the girls should not be made to suffer further on the issue of hijab. Until the government committee comes out with a decision one way or the other, it would be desirable that the authorities let them attend classes. However, Muslim girls and parents must adhere to the rules of uniform," he said.

EXPRESS AUDIO
What are truly wireless audio devices
NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY
Here we discuss what truly wireless audio devices are. They talk about how the pandemic and work from home have transformed the audio space, how noise cancellation is growing in India

CLARIFICATIONS & CORRECTIONS

05.02.22, PAGE 10

THE FEBRUARY 5 editorial 'Saying no' incorrectly stated that the Galwan Valley clash between India and China took place in August 2020. The clash actually took place on June 15, 2020.

The error is regretted.

Dalit tractor driver lynched in UP, one detained: cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 5

A 35-YEAR-OLD Dalit man - a tractor driver - was beaten to death allegedly by a group of villagers after he allegedly knocked down a man riding a bicycle while "driving rashly in a drunken state" in Koirauna area of Bhadohi on Thursday, police said on Saturday. The cyclist was not injured in the accident, they said. The main accused, Jai Shankar Pandey (50), who allegedly led the group of assailants, was detained on Saturday, police added.

They identified the deceased as Munshi Gautam, a resident of Purva village. He is survived by his wife and six children. His family members and local residents staged a protest outside the Koirauna police station demanding action against the assailants. They called off the protest after the police assured them that stringent action would be taken against the culprits.

Charanjeet, father of the deceased, registered an FIR against Jai Shankar Pandey and five unidentified persons at the Koirauna police station on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder. The police also invoked the SC/ST Act against the accused. Jai Shankar was arrested on Saturday. A probe was on, said Circle Officer, Gyanpur, Ashok Kumar Singh.

According to the police, on Thursday evening, Munshi along with his neighbour, Shiv Chandra Yadav, were returning home from a market in tractor, which is owned by Munshi's neighbour, Suresh Singh.

When Munshi reached Beruva Pahar village, nearly six km from his residence, he lost control over the vehicle while going over a speed bump and hit a man who was riding a bicycle, police sources said.

A group of eyewitnesses, including Jai Shankar, gheroed the tractor. They nabbed and thrashed Munshi, the sources said. When Shiv Chandra tried to intervene, they assaulted him, too. The accused fled soon after Munshi lost consciousness. An ambulance soon reached the spot and took Munshi to a hospital.

In the meantime, the tractor owner Suresh Singh came to know about the incident and reached Beruva Pahar village. He informed Munshi's family members, who reached the hospital. Later, on Thursday night, Munshi died during treatment at the hospital.

Station House Officer, Koirauna police station, Chitrakut Puri, said that during preliminary investigation it came to light that Munshi was drunk at the time of Thursday's incident.

India at UN: Political ideologies in democracy not same as ideologies that subscribe to terror

YOSHITA SINGH
UNITED NATIONS, FEBRUARY 5

INDIA HAS underlined the need to distinguish between political ideologies that are part of a pluralistic democratic polity and the radical ideologies that subscribe to terrorism, emphasisng that any attempt to paint both of them with the same brush is "inaccurate" and "counterproductive".

Speaking at the ambassador-level annual briefing to member states organised by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), India's permanent representative to the UN, Ambassador T S Tirumurti, said India has always maintained that nations should not go back to the pre-9/11 era when terrorists were being divided into "your terrorist" and "my terrorist".

He said categorising them weakens the collective resolve to combat terrorism."We see a renewal of this attempt by trying to divide terror again into categories and label them. For example, under the label of xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance or in the name of religion or belief, efforts have been made to bring into this discussion categories such as right-wing extremism, far-right and far-left extremism, violent nationalism, racially, ethnically motivated violent nationalism," he said.

Tirumurti said there is a need to understand that in democracies, right-wing and left-wing are part of the polity and come to power through elections reflecting the majority will of the people.

"Democracy by definition contains a broad spectrum of ideologies and beliefs. We need to distinguish between the political ideologies which are part of a pluralistic democratic polity, as against radical ideologies which subscribe to terrorism. Our fight is against such radical ideologies and not against democracy. To paint them with the same brush is inaccurate and counterproductive," he said.

Tirumurti, currently the chair of the 1988 Sanctions Committee as well as of the Counter-terrorism Committee of the Security Council, said the overall threat of terrorism has only increased.

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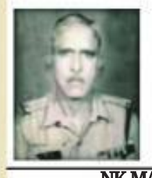
SALUTE THE SOLDIER
Martyr of CISF on 06th February
ASI/Exe BIDHI CHAND, DHEP DULHASTI 06-02-1993

The CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of the brave-heart. On this day,he laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with militants. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for this noblest deed.
NK MAGHAR SINGH, 16 JAN 1961 TO 05 FEB 1991

In the remembrance of Late Nk Maghar Singh who left us for his heavenly abode on 05 Feb 1991. May Wahe Guru Ji give strength to CHHE SIKH fraternity and his family to bear this loss with courage and fortitude. He will continue to be a source of inspiration and strength for us. Let us pray for him in our hearts and remember a life lived so wonderfully in the service of the nation.
CO & All Ranks 6 SIKH

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS!
CANCELLATION & REGULATION OF TRAINS
It is notified for the information of Rail Passengers that Northern Railway will take 4.00 hrs. Power & Traffic Block for OHE & Engineering related works over Shakurbasti-Bathinda section between Shakurbasti-Rohtak Jn. Stations. As a result following trains will be affected as under:-
CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Date (from the Originating Station)
04453 New Delhi-Rohtak Jn. EMU	06.02.2022
04456 Rohtak Jn.-Delhi Jn. EMU	06.02.2022

REGULATION OF TRAIN
Train No. 12481 Delhi Jn.-Shri Ganganagar Intercity Express schedule dep. Ex. Delhi at 13:15 hrs. be regulated for 20 minutes and will be departed at 13:35 hrs.
For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.
All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing etc. should be followed in the trains and Station Premises. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.
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264/22

Pollution panel asks industries in NCR to switch to PNG

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE COMMISSION for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has reiterated its push for industries in the National Capital Region (NCR) to switch to Piped Natural Gas (PNG) or biomass fuel.

In an order issued recently, the CAQM said industries in the NCR that have not shifted to PNG or biomass fuel, despite the availability of natural gas infrastructure and supply, are to switch over completely by September 30, "failing which such industries shall be closed down and not permitted to schedule operations thereafter."

Early in December, the commission had restricted operations of such industries not running on PNG or cleaner fuel to eight hours per day for five days a week, on account of deteriorating air quality in the NCR. These restrictions were in place till Friday, when the CAQM lifted them.

In its order, the commission noted that apart from those in Delhi, a majority of industries in the industrial areas across the NCR, where gas infrastructure and supply are available, are still not fully operating on PNG or cleaner fuels and continue to run on coal or high-speed diesel.

It also noted that in industrial areas where PNG infrastructure and supply is not available, industries shall plan and switch over to running on biomass fuel at the earliest.

A senior official of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board said some industries that have access to gas supply were still reluctant to make the shift considering the initial cost to change their equipment to that compatible with gas, and the operating cost that some units are saying is higher. "There are a lot of places where infrastructure and gas connectivity are not available," he said.

Cop suspended for 'taking bribe from kin of murder accused'

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, FEBRUARY 5

A GURGAON Police inspector has been suspended and faces a departmental enquiry for allegedly taking a bribe from relatives of an accused in a murder case last year.

The case pertains to the probe into the murder of a 21-year-old student, who was shot dead near the parking area of SGT University, allegedly by another student on October 8, 2021. The case was transferred to the crime branch, which arrested the alleged shooter on October 14.

Police said inspector Bijender Hooda, in-charge of the crime branch Sector 10, until earlier this week, was suspended after a preliminary enquiry by the Haryana Police Special Task Force (STF). The case was transferred for a preliminary enquiry after the IGP, STF, received a confidential report regarding the bribery allegations.

Satheesh Balan, DIG, STF, said, "Some accused, who had harboured the main offender in the case, were arrested by the STF. The prime accused's father is absconding. It emerged during investigation that crime branch inspector Bijender had allegedly taken several lakhs from different people, who had given shelter to the shooter after the murder. The money was not paid directly and was possibly done through a middleman. We have submitted all evidence in a preliminary report to the IGP and, accordingly, action has been taken."

K K Rao, Gurgaon police commissioner, said, "The officer has been suspended and a departmental enquiry initiated. There were allegations that he took Rs 4-5 lakh from the family of an accused in a murder case. It is possible they are raising these allegations to take benefit in the case. But we have initiated a probe to look into these allegations and the bribery charge will be investigated by an ACP-level officer."

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

Zonal office, Budh marg, Patna, Bihar-800001, E mail: zopatna@indianbank.co.in, PH:0612-2508237

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on **09.03.2022**, due to the Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, from the undernoted borrowers/Guarantors. The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below.

Sl No. Branch	Name of the Account & Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantors	Details of Immovable Properties	Reserve Price (in Rs) / Earnest Money Deposit / Bid Incremental amt	Secured creditor's Out-standing Dues / Property ID / Encumbrance on Property
01 ASHOK NAGAR	**M/S R.K.Marbles and Suppliers** (Prop- Shri Akhilesh Kumar) at A-25 Housing Colony, Kankarbagh, Patna-800020 Shri Akhilesh Kumar) at A-25 Housing Colony, Kankarbagh, Patna-800020 Surya Kumari @Suraj Kumari Devi W/o Shri Umesh Dhari Sharma resident of A-25 Housing Colony, Kankarbagh, Patna-800020, Shri Yashwant Kumar S/O Shri Sudama Sharma resident of Walmi Road, Road No-03, Near Devi Mandir, Mourya Vihar, Khagaul, Patna-801105	Landed property with present and future construction thereon situated at Thana No-23, tauzi No-4354,Khata No-497,S.Plot No-2270 (24 Decimals) and 2272 (04 Decimals) situated at Mauza-Barah,P.S- Bikram,Survey District- Patna within District Registry Office,Patna& sub Registry office- Bikram vide Registered sale Deed No- 3063 dated 09.07.1956 in Book No-01, volume No-25 pages 65 to 67 standing in the name of Smt. Suraj Kumari Devi. Boundary of 24 decimal land (as per deed): North: Nij, South: Shiv Nandan Singh, East-Jamuna Prasad Singh, West: Anirudh Singh. Boundary of 4 decimal land (as per deed): North: Anirudh Singh, South: Self, East-Self, West: Chandradeep Singh.	₹26,10,000.00 (Rs. Twenty Six Lakhs Ten thousand Only) ₹2,61,000.00 (Rs. Two Lakhs Sixty One thousand Only) 10,000.00	Rs.29,06,527.00 (Rupees twenty nine lakh six thousand five hundred twenty seven only) as on 15.06.2021 with interest, cost & charges till the date of realization IDIB20202191 Not Known
02 ITARHI	**Maa Durga Rice Mill Prop.-** Sri Markandey Chaubey, Sri Markandey Chaubey S/o Late Kashinath Chaubey, Smt. Indu Devi W/o Markandey Chaubey, Raj Raushan Kunwar W/o Late Kashinath Chaubey, All resident of Vill-Itarhi, PO-Itarhi, Distt.-Buxar	Registere Mortgage: All part & parcel of Land & Building in the Name of Markandey Chaubey S/o Late Kashi Nath Chaubey, measuring 0.07 3/4 acres or 7.75 decimals vide Registered Deed No.3587 dtd: 26.03.2013 bearing book no.1, Jild no.47, page no.519 to 529, comprising in a. khata No.71(Old)/455(New), Area- 03 Decimals sale deed No-3708 dated 05.05.1998. b. Khata No-71(Old)/201 (New), Plot No-362(Old)/455(New), Area-02 ¼ decimals, Sale Deed No-2254 dated 09.03.1999. c. Khata No-675/06, Plot No-456, Area-02 ½ decimals, Sale deed No-10457 dated 03.10.2001 situated at- Buxar, Dhansoi Main Road, Near Durga Mandir, Itarhi, District- Buxar, Bihar. Boundary (as per deed): North: Road, South: Brijnandan Choubey, East-Bhikhari Koiri, West: Vidya Pathak & Others.	₹26,79,300.00 (Rs. Twenty Six Lakhs seventy seven thousand three hundred only) ₹2,67,930.00 (Rs. Two Lakhs sixty seven thousand nine hundred thirty Only) 10,000.00	Rs. 22,69,246.00 (Rupees twenty two lakh sixty nine thousand two hundred forty six only) as on 22.10.2018 with interest, cost & charges till the date of realization IDIB20202192 Not Known
03 SONWAN	**Kumar Rajiv Ranjan & Ranjeet Kumar** Shri Kumar Rajiv Ranjahn S/O Ram Praveen Singh R/O Village- raibagh, P.O- Kuchhi Dargah, P.S- Didarganj, Distt- Patna Shri Ranjit Singh S/O ram Praveen Singh, R/O Village- Raibagh, P.O- Kuchhi Dargah, P.S- Didarganj, Distt- Patna	Equitable Mortgage: All that part and parcel of Land & Bulding admeasuring 01 katha 01 dhur situated at Mauza-Mahamadpur,Baratpur,pargana- Azimabad, thana- Didarganj, Distt- patna sub registry office- Patna city and Distt registration office- Bankipore, Patna, Thana No-35, tauzi no-17, Khata no-146, Khasra No-689 (P) vide Sale Deed No-2914 dated 27.06.2007 in the name of Kumar Rajeev Ranjan and sri Ranjeet Singh bothS/O Sri Ram Praveen Singh. Boundary(as per deed): North: shiv nathsingh, South:SureshPrasad,East-rakshaBandh, West: ram Sevak Singh & ors	₹48,13,000.00 (Rs. Forty Eight Lakhs thirteen thousand Only) ₹4,81,300.00 (Rs. four Lakhs eighty One thousand three hundred Only) 10,000.00	Rs.4,99,26,636.00 (Rupees four crore ninety nine lakh twenty six thousand six hundred thirty six only) with interest, cost & charges till the date of realization IDIB20202193 Not Known
04 SHEIKH-PURA, PATNA	**Shri Bijendra Sharma** Son of Shri Viphan Sharma at C/o Sacchidanand Sinha, Flat No-203, Kaushalaya Kunj Apartment, Shivpuri, Shastrinagar, Patna-23	Equitable Mortgage: - All that part and parcel of property situated at Mauza- Mainpura, Mohalla- Patel Nagar, Pargana & survey thana – Phulwarisharif, Hal Thana- Patliputra Sub registry Office& Distrct registry office- Patna, Tauzi no-5174, Thana No-02, Computer code-063, Khata No-417, Kheshra survey plot No-1313 area 1 katha (3.125 Decimals) vide registered Sale Deed No-7758 dated 03.08.2017 in Book No-1, Volume No-175 pages from 428 to 438 in CD No-27/year 2017 in the name of Shri Vijendra Sharma.Boundary (As per Deed):North: Sh. Alok Kumar South: Sh. Mahendra PrasadEast: Sh. Fauzdari mahato West: 20 feet wide Road.	₹76,42,000.00 (Rs. Seventy Six lakhs Forty Two thousand Only) ₹7,64,200.00 (Rs. Seven lakhs Sixty four thousand two hundred only) 10,000.00	Rs.26,94,095.00 (Rupees twenty six lakh ninety four thousand and ninety five only) as on 15.07.2021 with interest, cost & charges till the date of realization IDIB20202194 Not Known
05 ITARHI	**Shri Shankar Prasad Keshri** S/O Sidh Nath Prasad Keshri, Vill+ P.O- Itarhi, Distt- Buxar Shri Daya Shankar Prasad KeshriS/O Sidh Nath Prasad KeshriVill+P.O- Itarhi, Distt- Buxar	Equitable Mortgage:- All that Part and parcel of Land & Building situated at Mauza- Itarhi, Thana- Itarhi, Thana No-428, Survey Khata No-10, Survey Plot No-101, Area admeasuring 02 11/20 Decimals & 01 7/10 Decimals (Total-4.25 Decimals) vide Registered Sale Deed No-8849 dated 04/08/1998 & Sale Deed No-8850 dated 04/08/1998 registered with sub & Sadar Registry Office, Buxar. Boundary (as per Deed) North: Vindhyachal Keshri, South: Road, East: Vindhyachal Keshri, West: Bihar State	₹64,06,000.00 (Rs. Sixty four Lakhs six thousand Only) ₹6,40,600.00 (Rs. Six lakhs forty thousand six hundred Only) 10,000.00	Rs.13,38,083.00 (Rupees thirteen lakh thirty eight thousand and eighty three only) with interest, cost & charges till the date of realization IDIB20202198 Not Known
06 PP COLONY	**Shri Dhananjay Kumar & Smt. Sandhya Kumari**, Flat No. 201, 2nd Floor, Manjha Enclave, Shivpuri Road, Boring Road, Patna.	Mortgage of Flat No 201, 2nd floor in the building known as Manjha Enclave having super built up area 822 sq ft and a car parking space no -201 at ground floor towards east side situated at Mauza- Razapur hasan, Shivpuri, Pargana and survey thana Phulwari, present P.S-Shashtrinagar, Distt- Patna, P.S No-03, Tauzi No-5453/18232, Khata No-81, Survey Plot No-730, Ward No-34, present ward no-13, purchased vide Sale Deed No-24674 dt.27.09.2013. Boundary of Flat No-201 as per Deed: North: Flat No-202, South: Open Space, East: Open Space, West: Open Space. Boundary of the Building named as Manjha Enclave: North: Sri Amrendra Kishor & Sri Dharmendra Kishor, South: Smt Veena Singh & Smt Kumud Devi Plot No-730, East: 12 feet wide Rasta, West: Ranjeet Kumar & Ors.	₹29,00,061.00 (Rs. Twenty Nine lakhs sixty one only) ₹2,90,061.00 (Rs. Two Lakhs Ninety thousand and sixty one Only) 10,000.00	Rs.21,32,630.00 (Rupees twenty one lakh thirty two thousand six hundred thirty only) with interest, cost & charges till the date of realization IDIB20202195 Not Known
07 IHM Hajipur	**M/S Mangalam Food Products,** Sri Ashok Kumar jaiswal, Sri santosh Kumar jaiswal, Srim Amod Kumar Jaiswal and Sri Pramod Kumar Jaiswal, All s/o Vishundeo Chaudhary, Vill- Vishunpur, P.O- Bakarpur, Distt- Vaishali	**Property No-01:** Lease Deed No-9594 dt 09.12.2013, Khata No-166(P),167(P), 168(P),169(P), thana No-156 Industrial Area Hajipur Area-4000 sqft in the name of Sri Amod Kumar Jaiswal at Digha Khurd. Bounded: North: Industrial Boundary, South: Industrial Nala & Industrial Road, east: Industrial Plot NS 1(P),West: Industrial Boundary.	₹80,28,900.00 (Rs. eighty lakhs twenty eight thousand nine hundred only) ₹8,02,890.00 (Rs. eight lakhs two thousand eight hundred ninety only) 10,000.00	Rs.69,07,084.64 (Rupees sixty nine lakh seven thousand eighty four and paise sixty four only) as on 27.12.2018 with interest, cost & charges till the date of realization IDIB20202197 Not Known
		Property No-02: All that part & parcel of property consisting of 1. Sale Deed No-8823 dated 16.07.1993, Khata No-258 & 281, RSP 824, Thana 263, Mauza- Bishunpur said urf Bakarpur, P.S- rajapakar, Area-02 Decimals land in the name of Sri Ashok Kumar jaiswal, Sri santosh Kumar jaiswal, Srim Amod Kumar Jaiswal and Sri Pramod Kumar Jaiswal. Bounded: On the north: Personal Land of the Executants, On the South: Rai Uday Pratap narayan Sinha, On the East: Personal land of the Purchaser, On the West: Murli Devi W/O Lt. Pyare mahato & Ors. 2. Sale Deed No-6035 dated 26.10.1992, Khata No-281, RSP 823 & 824 THANA 263, MAUZA- Bishnupur urf Bakarpur, P.S- Rajapakar, Area-7 Decimals land in the name of Sri Ashok Kumar jaiswal, Sri santosh Jaiswal, Sri Amod Kumar Jaiswal and Sri Pramod Kumar Jaiswal. Bounded: On the north: Personal Land of the Executants, On the South: Rai Uday Pratap narayan Sinha, On the East: Road, On the West: Personal land of the Executants.	₹6,10,000.00 (Rs. Six Lakhs ten thousand Only) ₹61,000.00 (Rs. Sixty one thousand only) 10,000.00	IDIB20202196 Not Known

Bidders are advised to visit the website (www.mstcecommerce.com) of our e-auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance please call MSTC HELPDESK No.033-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact ibapiop@mstcecommerce.com and for EMD status please contact ibapifin@mstcecommerce.com. For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://ibapi.in and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number '18001025026' and '011-41106131'.
Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with https://ibapi.in and www.mstcecommerce.com.

Date : 05.02.2022
Place : Patna

Authorised Officer
Indian Bank

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

Stressed Asset Management Branch, Patna, Khajpura, Jagdeopath, Bailey Road, Patna-800014

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank) Stressed Asset Management (SAM) Branch, Patna, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on **23.02.2022,** for recovery of bank's dues from the following borrower and guarantors.

Sl. No. & Branch	Name of the Account	Description of the Charged/Mortgage Property	Name of the Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Amount of Secured Debt	Reserve Price (in Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit
1. SAMB Patna	**M/s Quality Industries Partner:** Sri Raju Kumar & Smt. Pummy Singh Regd. Office-L203, Dumraon Place, Fraser Road, Patna, Pin-800001	All that part and parcel of the Land and Building: In the name of Smt. Pummy Singh, W/o Sri Raju Kumar D/o Sri Subhas Singh, Sale Deed No.-27153 dated-15/11/2010, Unit No.-(shop no.) LB-02, Basement Floor, ad-measuring Area-705 Sqft. (super built up area), At-Dumaraon Place, Fraser Road, Patna-800001, P.S.-Kotwali, PO-GPO, Patna, Distt-Patna, Dumraon Place, Bounded by North-Shiv Narayan Lal (now Hem Plaza), South-Smt. Savitri Devi W/o Late B. Brahmdeo Narayan & others, East-Fraser Road, West-Plot of Smt. Indumati R V Singh and Land of Sri D N Sen (now Shanti Vihar). Boundary of Unit no.-LB-02 is North-Unit No. LB-01, South-Unit No. LB-03, East-Corridor & Parking, West-Unit LB-21.	1. Smt. Pummy Singh W/o Mr. Raju Kumar 2. Sri Raju Kumar S/o Sri Shyam Babu Singh R/o-Pethia Bazar, PO & PS-Phulwarisharif, District-Patna, Bihar-801505	₹2,06,27,120/- (Rupees Two crores six lacs twenty seven thousand one hudred twenty only) as on 18.04.2018 less recovery if any, with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon.	₹1,04,32,000/- (Rupees One crore four lac thirty two thousand only)	₹10,43,200/- (Rupees Ten lac forty three thousand two hundred only)
2. SAMB Patna	**M/s Sarita Concrete Prop:** Sri Raju Kumar, Reg. Office- L-203, Dumrao Palace, Fraser Road, Patna, Bihar, 800001	**(A)** All that part and parcel of the land and building: In the name of Smt. Pummy Singh, W/o-Sri Raju Kumar & D/o-Sri Subhas Singh, Sale Deed No.12144 dated 29.06.2009, Unit No.-(shop no.) L-205, Second Floor, Area-354 Sq.ft (Super built up area), At-Dumarao Place, Fraser Road, P.S.-Kotwali, PO-GPO-Patna, District-Patna-800001, bounded by North-Shiv Narayan Lal (now Hem Plaza), South-Savitri Devi & others, East-Fraser Road, West-Plot of Smt. Indumati RV Singh and land of Sri D N Sen (now Shanti Vihar). Boundary of Unit no. L-205 is North-Corridor, South-Parking & Open Space, East-Corridor & Shop no. L-203 & L-204, West-Shop no L-206.	1. Smt. Pummy Singh W/o Mr. Raju Kumar 2. Sri Raju Kumar S/o Sri Shyam Singh R/o-Pethia Bazar, PO & PS-Phulwarisharif, District-Patna, Bihar-801505	₹3,03,93,444/- (Rupees Three crore three lacs ninety three thousand four hundred forty four only) as on 09.02.2018 less recovery if any, with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon.	₹28,47,000/- (Rupees Twenty eight lac forty seven thousand only)	₹2,84,700/- (Rupees Two lac eighty four thousand seven hundred only)
		(B) All that part and parcel of the land and building: In the name of Smt. Pummy Singh, W/o-Sri Raju Kumar & D/o-Sri Subhas Singh, Sale Deed No.12140 dated 29.06.2009, Unit No.-(shop no.) L-221, Second Floor, Area-481 Sq.ft (Super built up area), At-Dumarao Place, Fraser Road, P.S.-Kotwali, PO-GPO-Patna, District-Patna-800001, bounded by North-Shiv Narayan Lal (now Hem Plaza), South-Savitri Devi & others, East-Fraser Road, West-Plot of Smt. Indumati RV Singh and land of Sri D N Sen (now Shanti Vihar). Boundary of Unit no. L-221 is North-shop no. D-221, South-Corridor, East-Corridor & Shop no.L-201 & L-222, West-Shop no. L-220.			₹38,67,000/- (Rupees Thirty eight lac sixty seven thousand only)	₹3,86,700/- (Rupees Three lac eighty six thousand seven hundred only)

Detail of encumbrance, Outstanding Dues of Local Govt, Electricity, Property tax, Municipal Tax, etc. if any known to the Bank: Not Known

Last Date & time for Registration and Submission of EMD amount: 21.02.2022 through https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auction home/ibap Till 5.00 PM.

Date & Time of e-auction: 23.02.2022 from 11.00 AM to 3.00 PM at the platform of http://www.mstcecommerce.com with unlimited extension. Bid incremental amount is Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only). **Property ID: for Sl. No.1: IDIB1873, for Sl. No.2: IDIB1870A, IDIB1870B**

For further details and Terms & Conditions, Contact: Shri M.P. Singh (Chief Manager) Mob.: 8017007632

For downloading further details and Terms & Conditions, Please Visit: (i) https://www.mstcecommerce.com (ii) https://www.ibapi.in

*Applicable tax to be borne by the bidder.
Bidders are advised to visit the website (www.mstcecommerce.com) of our e-auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance please call MSTC HELPDESK No.033-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact ibapiop@mstcecommerce.com and for EMD status please contact ibapifin@mstcecommerce.com. For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://ibapi.in and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number '18001025026' and '011-41106131'.
Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with https://ibapi.in and www.mstcecommerce.com.

Date : 05.02.2022
Place : Patna

Authorised Officer
Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

"I urge you to make Ayush Ministry protocol a part of your lives and share it with others. Let's keep the focus on being healthy. After all, good health is the harbinger of happiness"
Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Adopt Ayush for Good Health

People everywhere are discussing India's Ayurveda and Yoga to boost immunity

Ayush Medicines are evidence based, helpful in both preventing and managing COVID-19 for home isolated patients
(Available at Jan Aushadhi Kendra, Ayush pharmacies and e-commerce sites)

Use recommended Ayush medicines like **Ayush Kwath** for protection against COVID-19

Practice Yoga, Pranayama and Meditation daily for 30 minutes for its health benefits against COVID-19
(Live Yoga classes by MDNIY on Yoga Advisory for Home Isolated COVID-19 Patients at DD free dish at 8 AM)

Recently launched Ayush Guidelines for Caregivers, Children and **Ayush Helpline 14443** are useful, easy to access

For detailed guidelines and advisories, scan the QR code
www.ayush.gov.in

DAVP 17201/13/0033/2122

CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL

VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS	OMICRON CASES
56,295	549

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL:	976
OXYGEN SUPPORT	256
VENTILATOR SUPPORT	102

DELHI: TOTAL CASES 18,42,523

	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	15,416	14,419
ICU BEDS	4,462	4,052

	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Feb 4	2,272	4,166	20	59,036
Feb 5	1,604	3,324	17	55,824
Total	9,979*	18,06,575	25,969	3,51,96,130

*Total active cases in Delhi

NOIDA	Feb 4	Feb 5
Cases	217	232
Deaths	0	1
GURGAON		
Cases	814	682
Deaths	3	1

Go slow, accidents ahead

Meant to make commute to airport, Gurgaon smoother, RTR corridor marred by problems

The 2.7-km-long flyover was inaugurated in 2019. A divider on the stretch lies broken. *Tashi Tobgyal*

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

TWO YEARS since it opened to the public, the new Rao Tula Ram (RTR) flyover is marred with potholes, a narrow U-turn, and a broken divider that leads to traffic snarls at the mouth of the stretch as well as occasional accidents.

The 2.7-km-long flyover, branching off the Munirka flyover and ending before the Army Hospital Research and Referral near Subroto Park on the Outer Ring Road, was inaugurated in 2019 to make the commute from South Delhi to Indira Gandhi International Airport easier.

According to the traffic police, one-two road accidents on the stretch are reported in a month and 12-15 in a year. Police said around 18 accidents took place on this stretch in 2021, of which four proved to be fatal.

A spot check by *The Indian Express* found that while the initial commute was smooth, at least five potholes on the descent lead to slow vehicular movement and traffic snarls. A part of the divider on the stretch also lies broken, with small stones and bricks lying on the road.

Moreover, a U-turn around 100 metres after the flyover to head to Shankar Vihar and nearby residential colonies like Vasant Vihar and Subroto Park has turned into a choke point — it is too small for heavy vehicles to pass through without hitting the concrete barriers and many get stuck, causing snarls.

Residents and commuters too have raised complaints: "Vehicles come speeding from the flyover and there is always a fear of a collision at the U-turn. What is the need for this poorly constructed U-turn, when a proper one under the Airport Road flyover is just 300 metres away?" said Vishwesh Rai, a commuter.

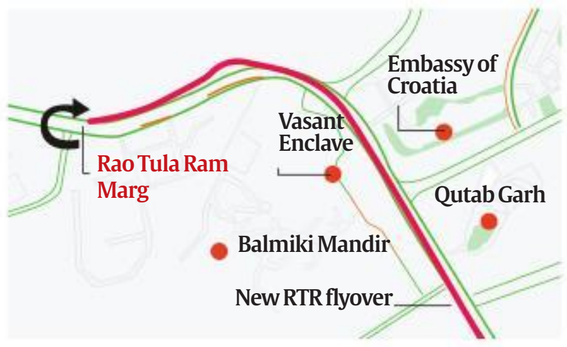
Experts said certain improvements are required on the stretch. Dr S Velmurugan, Chief Scientist at Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), said: "The issue was raised two years ago when the flyover was constructed and before it was opened for public use. The PWD has not removed slabs and barriers and the stretch is still in an unfinished state. When the road ends, there is a broken divider, likely caused by an accident. Any vehicle coming fast from the flyover could go and hit others. Action is taken only after fatal accidents."

Dr Sewa Ram, Professor of Transport Planning at the School of Planning and Architecture, said, "The U-turn was not planned when the project was conceptualised and designed later. When you come from the Gurgaon side and go to Vasant Vihar, there are fewer roads, resulting in traffic jams even towards Gurgaon. The U-turn indirectly reduces the carriageway of the road and creates a bottleneck on both sides. There is also a concrete partition, and it is not visible sometimes, due to which vehicles collide."

Many vehicles do not use these U-turns and they should ideally be closed or shifted below the NH-8 flyover, he added.

Traffic police, meanwhile, said it has intimated road-owning agencies concerned from time to time. DCP Traffic (South) Guguloth Amrutha said, "Traffic has been smooth since the flyover opened, but congestion is seen due to potholes and at the U-turn."

A senior official from the Public Works Department working on this stretch said work is on to remove the U-turns and concretise partitions: "It was supposed to have started earlier, but was delayed due to various reasons — laxity by the contractor, onset of the pandemic, and the construction ban. The U-turns and concrete slabs will be removed soon."



WHAT'S THE RTR FLYOVER

- Construction of the elevated corridor began in 2014. It had an initial deadline of two years, but a series of hurdles, derailed it, leading to cost escalation and delays
- The 2.7-km-long three-lane flyover stretches between Munirka and Subroto Park. Built at a cost of Rs 205 crore, it is aimed at making the commute to the airport easier while also bringing down travel time between South Delhi and Gurgaon

THE PROBLEM

- Sizeable potholes leading to slower vehicular movement, traffic jams
- A part of the divider is broken, with small stones and bricks on the road
- U-turn just after the flyover to head to Shankar Vihar and nearby residential colonies like Vasant Vihar and Subroto Park a choke point

THE FIX

- Experts say first step is to remove broken slabs, barriers on the stretch
- U-turn at heart of issues needs to be shifted to below NH-8 flyover

How Sir Ganga Ram Hospital stood the test of Partition in Lahore as well as Delhi

ADRIJA ROYCHOWDHURY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

SUJATA SHARMA (76) faintly remembers fearful days of the Partition, when she was still a toddler and large parts of her family were settled in Lahore. Sharma is the great granddaughter of Sir Ganga Ram, whose immense contributions in Lahore range from colleges, hospitals, museums, agricultural interventions and much more. Given the deep-rooted attachment to the city that later became part of West Pakistan, Sharma said her family was reluctant to leave during the Partition.

"The last one to leave was my mother's younger brother, whose friends had to force him to go for the sake of his own safety," she said. Slowly and through the meagre means they had at hand, the family settled down in Delhi and felt the need to keep alive the legacy of the extensive work Sir Ganga Ram had carried out in Lahore.

Her uncle, Dharma Vira, who was private secretary to the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, played a crucial role. He was also in charge of rehabilitating refugees from Pakistan, and was able to convince the government to allocate 11 acres of land in Karol Bagh, where a large number of refugees had settled down. He wanted to use this land to build a hospital named after Sir Ganga Ram, thereby bringing to the new capital the tradition of a hospital by the same name in Lahore.

"So much philanthropy had been done by Sir Ganga Ram in Lahore. When the family moved here, they wanted to continue in the same way," said Sharma. "Also, there were hardly any hospitals in Delhi at the time."

In April 1951, the Ganga Ram Hospital was inaugurated by Nehru. It was a small hospital with 50 beds and minimal infrastructure.

The story of the hospital, however, stretches back another 30 years. In 1921, it was opened in Lahore, where it still stands by the same name and is currently run by the government of Pakistan. During the same period and in the same vicinity, Sir Ganga Ram had also built a medical college by the name of his son: Balak Ram Medical College. After the Partition, it was renamed as Fatima Jinnah Medical College.

The name and efforts of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, however, could not be removed by the tides of the Partition. Even when efforts were made to rename it, locals objected. Dr D S Rana, the chairman of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi, recalled a recent visit to Lahore where, on asking for directions to Fatima Jinnah Medical College, he was quickly corrected by a resident who said: "We only know of it as Sir Ganga Ram Hospital."

The popularity of Sir Ganga Ram among residents of Lahore is unsurprising, given the many ways in which he built the city. An engineer by profession, he is best known for his initiative of converting a 50,000-acre stretch of desert in Montgomery district into fertile fields through innovative irrigation method. He earned millions, most of which he gave to charity. In the words of Sir Malcolm Hailey, the Governor of Punjab, "he won like a hero and gave like a saint".

He designed and built many of Lahore's major buildings, including the General Post Office, Lahore Museum, Aitchison College, Mayo School of Arts (now the National College of Arts), Lady Mclagan Girls High School, Ravi Road House for the Disabled, and the Lahore Cathedral. His is also remembered for his efforts at eradication of child marriage and the upliftment of Hindu and Sikh widows.

What Sir Ganga Ram meant to the people of Lahore was best captured by the writer Sadat Hasan Manto in his short story, *The Garland*, based on a true incident that took place during the religious riots of 1947. An inflamed mob, desperate to obliterate the Hindu name of Sir Ganga Ram, attacked his statue in front of the hospital with stones and shoes. One person was injured in the incident and as he fell, the mob shouted, 'Let us rush him to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital', easily forgetting that the hospital was named after the same person whose memory they wanted to erase.

"Even in Delhi, Sir Ganga Ram had his contributions. In 1903, he was selected by Lord Curzon to act as a superintendent of works in the Imperial Durbar to be held in connection with the accession of King Edward VII. For his work in the Durbar, he received the title Rai Bahadur," said Ashutosh Kumar, Professor of Modern South Asian History in Banaras Hindu University. "He was invited to the Durbar in 1911 as well."

Sir Ganga Ram was knighted in 1922 and was invested with this honour at Buckingham Palace by King Emperor George V. He died in 1927 in London where he was representing India at a meeting. A portion of his ashes were consigned to the Ganges, and rest remains buried in Lahore on the banks of the river Ravi.

"Sir Ganga Ram, during his time, did so much work and made so much money that he could contribute a lot to charity. But after the Partition, things were not the same for our family. When we came to Delhi, it was a new start and the means were limited," said Sharma. She explained that when the hospital in Karol Bagh was established in 1951, all members of the family came together to contribute whatever they could to set it up.

By the early 1970s, the hospital trust came to the realisation that while the healthcare provided by it was serving the local community, it was unfortunately not making a wider impact. Further, the hospital budget was having a sizable yearly deficit. Consequently, in 1976 some of the consultant doctors in the hospital, namely K C Mahajan and B K Vohra, suggested to the trust that the management of the hospital be handed over to the doctors through a legal agreement.

Dharam Vira was instrumental in pushing through this proposal, thereby creating a one-of-a-kind medical institution in Delhi that is run by doctors themselves. "The hospital was handed over to the doctors on the promise that the vision and ideals of Sir Ganga Ram must be maintained," said Rana.

"The trust had decided that at least 20 per cent of the beds were to be reserved for poor people and free treatment and medicines must be made available to them. Another 20 per cent must pay 50 per cent more than the breakeven price and the remaining can pay 100 per cent more," explained Rana, adding that the same principle continues to be applied in the hospital till date. The doctors and the trust continue to have no stake in the profits in the hospital, nor do they claim a monthly salary.

Over the years, the hospital has grown from its humble beginnings of 50 beds to a multi-speciality facility. "I have also been insisting to the management to expand the hospital to other parts of Delhi," said Sharma, who is also a member of the hospital's trust, about the institution's future plans.

Also in the making is a new wing for radiology and cancer treatment.

In April 1951, the Ganga Ram Hospital was inaugurated by Nehru. It was a small hospital with 50 beds and minimal infrastructure. *Adrija Roychowdhury*

DELHI REWIND
Tracing the capital's post-Independence history

BRIEFLY

Two killed as SUV rams into two scooters

Gurgaon: Two motorists were killed after an SUV rammed into two scooters near Atul Kataria Chowk in Gurgaon on Friday night. Police suspect the SUV driver was under the influence of alcohol at the time and he suffered minor injuries. He was arrested and later released on bail. Police said both victims suffered multiple injuries and died on the spot. They have been identified as Sanjeev Kumar (45), who worked at a private company at Sector 18, and Keval (46), a labourer.

Physical visits to be resumed at Tihar jail

New Delhi: In view of the improved Covid situation and easing of restrictions, the Delhi prisons department has decided to resume physical visits of inmates with their families at Tihar from Thursday, officials said. **ENS**

For first time this year, fresh Covid cases dip below 2,000 in capital

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

DELHI HAS been recording a consistent decline in the number of Covid cases, with fewer than 2,000 fresh infections reported for the first time this year. As per Saturday's health bulletin, the city saw 1,604 new cases while the positivity rate stood at 2.87%.

A Covid-19 outbreak is thought to be under control when a positivity rate below 5% is maintained for over two weeks, according to the World Health Organisation. With the lower positivity rate, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority said schools, colleges, and gyms can reopen from Monday.

The current surge — the fifth for Delhi and third for the country — waxed and waned quickly in the national capital. The number of fresh cases reported each day remained over 2,000 for 35 days during the current surge of infections. In comparison, it remained over the 2,000-mark for 52 days during the previous surge in April-May last year.

The surge was largely driven by the highly mutated omicron variant and resulted either in no symptoms or mild symptoms such as fever, chills, body ache, and sore throat in most of the people it infected. And, although the number of cases was similar at the peak of the current and previous wave, there were fewer hospitalisations and deaths.

There were 28,395 cases reported in a single day on April 20 last year at the peak of the previous surge and a comparable 28,867 cases on January 13 at the peak of the current surge in cases. However, hospitalisations peaked at 2,734 on January 19 for the current wave as compared to 20,142 on May 3 during the previous wave.

The highest number of deaths recorded in a day during the current wave was 45 as reported on January 22. The highest single day toll during the previous surge was 448 reported on May 3, as per data shared by the Delhi government.

Fewer hospitalisations and deaths have been attributed to not only the likelihood of milder disease with the omicron variant, but also high levels of previous exposure to the virus and high vaccination rates.

"We previously reported a sero-prevalence of 97%, which means that almost the entire population of Delhi was exposed to the virus either during the first or second wave. This, coupled with everyone having received at least one dose of the vaccine and 80% receiving even the second dose in Delhi, we had thought that the course of the infection wouldn't be too bad. With the omicron variant having silently infected most of Delhi residents, this immune response must have been boosted without many deaths or severe disease. This will offer protection from further infection," said Dr Pragya Sharma, professor of community medicine at Maulana Azad Medical College. Her team conducts the sero-surveillance studies in Delhi.

Dr Jayaprakash Muliyil, chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the National Institute of Epidemiology, said, "A natural infection always offers better protection than a vaccine. Because of the previous exposure to the Wuhan variant and then the delta variant among the Indian population — and also vaccine coverage — omicron resulted in mild disease but offered protection against future infection."

Data from the National Clinical Registry shows that only 10.2% people who were completely vaccinated but needed hospitalisation died during the current wave as compared to 21.8% of unvaccinated individuals.

WHAT DATA SHOWS

	OMICRON WAVE	DELTA WAVE
Highest no. of cases recorded in a day	28,867	28,395
Highest positivity rate	30.64%	36.23%
No. of consecutive days when over 2,000 new cases reported	35	52
No of consecutive days when positivity rate remained over 5%	30	44
Highest hospitalisations	2,734	20,142
Highest no. of deaths in a day	45	448

(Source: Delhi government's daily health bulletin)

COMING UP THIS YEAR

GTB hospital to get infra boost with new ward, diagnostic & OPD blocks

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE DELHI government's biggest tertiary care health facility in the trans-Yamuna region, Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital, is ready for a major overhaul, with a new ward block, diagnostic block, and OPD block coming up this year. The hospital's main building, which was established in 1979, is likely to be demolished.

The new infrastructure will not only spruce up the hospital, but it will add more than 200 beds, make it fire safe, and introduce digitalisation of processes to shorten queues. With Covid cases subsiding again, work on the new blocks has picked up.

The 1,920-bed ward block, and the adjacent diagnostic block, will be handed over to the hospital by contractors by June. The new blocks are located next to the oxygen storage tank for East Delhi that was set up in the hospital compound after the second wave of the pandemic.

"As you know, this building is very old but we have an upcoming block. By June, we plan to move all our patients to the new 1,920-bed ward block. After that, the government may plan to demolish this building. Earlier, this block was to be remodelled. However, the cost of remodelling was very high. With the same cost, a new building can be made," said Dr Subhash Giri, medical superintendent, GTB Hospital. The block was to be completed in April but got delayed by around a month because of pollution norms and Covid.

Discussions are on to create a new super-speciality block in place of the main building of the hospital. The hospital currently has around 1,700 beds.

The diagnostic block will have facilities for MRI, CT Scan, ultrasound, and all laboratory tests, according to hospital officials. Not only has the tertiary care hospital that offers speciality surgeries been running without a much-needed MRI machine for over five years, but it has also been running an MD Radiology course without it.

The construction of a new OPD block will begin in a park, near the entrance of the hospital, where the clinic will be shifted by the end of the year before the main building is demolished. At present, all OPD clinics, wards, and diagnostics are housed in the main building. There is a mother and child block and a diabetes block in addition to the main building.

Dr Giri said all the upcoming buildings will be made in adherence to fire safety norms. "The fire safety of the building in the hospital was pending for five to seven years. Now, we have made one building fire safe and the work is ongoing for two others as well," he said.

In addition to the enhancement of the infrastructure, the medical superintendent also plans to install some 'May I Help You' counters across the hospital in order to help patients. The aim is to also digitise all processes — the Delhi government is in the process of creating digital health records for city residents — to decongest registration counters and pharmacies.

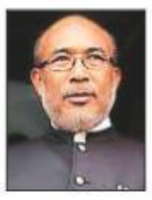
"We are also looking at workshops and discussions with all healthcare workers to improve communication and reduce conflicts with patients. My aim is that we should be able to give quality care for the patients," said Dr Giri.

The hospital's main building is likely to be demolished

DECISION 2022

UTTAR PRADESH • UTTARAKHAND • PUNJAB • GOA • MANIPUR

I HEREBY DECLARE



N BIREN SINGH
BJP CM, Heingang, Imphal East

TOTAL ASSETS: 1 crore
Cash: ₹1.95 lakh
MOVABLE ASSETS: ₹ 69 lakh (includes a .32 Walter pistol)
Cars: Mahindra Bolero (Rs 6 lakh)
IMMOVABLE ASSETS: TOTAL: ₹39 lakh
Self-acquired land: ₹9 lakh
Inherited assets: ₹39 lakh
BANK LOANS AND LIABILITIES: ₹1.44 lakh

Y KHEMCHAND SINGH
BJP, Singjamei

TOTAL ASSETS: ₹2.23 crore
Cash: ₹1.5 lakh
MOVABLE ASSETS: ₹1.7 crore
Cars: Tata Zest, (₹ 4 lakh), Mahindra Scorpio (Rs 11 lakh), Range Rover (Rs 70 lakh)
IMMOVABLE ASSETS: **Self:** ₹52.6 lakh(inherited 5220 square feet non-agricultural land owned jointly with members of family).
BANK LOANS: ₹59 lakh
CRIMINAL CASES: Nil
TOTAL INCOME (last 5 years, till March 2021): ₹30 lakh – according to Income Tax returns.

KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA
BJP Dy CM, Sirathu Kaushambi

TOTAL ASSETS: ₹8 crore
MOVABLE ASSETS: **Self:** ₹1.29 crore (includes 2 revolvers)
Wife: ₹23 lakh
IMMOVABLE ASSETS: **Self:** ₹5.16 crore
Wife: ₹1.37 crore
LOANS FROM FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS OR INDIVIDUALS: ₹95 lakh (self) ₹1.98 lakh (wife)
CRIMINAL CASES: 7
SOURCES OF EARNING: Business
EDUCATION: Graduate (1997)

BALLOTIN

18 PhDs, 15 'illiterate' in first phase of UP polls: ADR

Noida: Among the candidates in fray for the first phase of Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, 125 are educated up till Class 8, while 15 have declared themselves to be "illiterate", according to polls reform advocacy group ADR. The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) also noted that there are more than 70 candidates in the fray who are aged above 60 years. The ADR said it has analysed self-sworn affidavits of 615 candidates across political parties and independent nominees from the 58 assembly seats in 11 districts of UP where elections are scheduled on February 10. According to their data, 15 candidates are 'illiterate', 38 'literate'; 10 have passed Class 5; 62 have passed Class 8; 65 have cleared Class 10; and 102 have cleared Class 12. There are 100 'graduate' candidates, 78 'graduate professionals', 108 'post graduate', 18 'doctorate', and seven 'diploma' holders, the ADR noted. **PTI**

Manipur: Cong, Left issue CMP

Imphal: Terming it as "a historic beginning in the state", the Manipur Progressive Secular Alliance (MPSA), a pre-poll formation between the Congress and six left-wing parties, released its Common Minimum Programme on Saturday. The 18-point CMP, which came a day after the Congress released its manifesto, offers free transport to working women, girls and school students. Senior Congress MP Jairam Ramesh said the CMP reflected the "similar ideologies" of the parties in the MPSA. "We are pro-farmers, youths, democracy... and it has been reflected in the common agenda," he said, also using the occasion to attack the ruling BJP. "Congress doesn't believe in having a B-team, but an alliance of the like-minded parties, unlike the BJP. Calling the BJP government "pro-corporate and anti-people, CPI national executive member Dr M Nara said the alliance is "the only way to bring down the dictatorial rule of BJP". **JIMMY LEIVON**

A HOLY SIP

Rahul Gandhi at Har Ki Pauri in Haridwar on Saturday. The Congress leader targeted PM Narendra Modi, calling him "a 21st-century king" who had chosen not to talk to farmers during the farm laws agitation. *Courtesy: Twitter/@INCIndia*

CAMPAIGN TRAIL: 94 AND FIGHTING

Badal Sr back in battle: 'Powers with Centre, states must unite'

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA
KANGAR KHERA (LAMBI), FEB 5

"PRIME MINISTER Atal Behari Vajpayee was an exemplary leader… The Modi government's tendency to centralise powers will weaken the country. Regional parties must form a front to take up this challenge."

Though still weak after a recent bout with Covid-19, Shiromani Akali Dal patron and five-time Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal, 94, is as strong as ever in the defence of his party and the country's federal structure.

In a whistle-stop interaction after three public meetings on February 3 that he gently cut short with "*Beta*, I am tired now", Badal said the biggest achievement of his life has been his fight for Punjab's rights. "As a party, whenever there was any 'sankat' (trouble) in Punjab, be it Emergency or the struggle for its rights, we were always at the forefront. I myself spent 15 years in jail. And when I formed the government, I did *rajj ke* (unlimited) development."

Parkash Singh Badal at a meeting in Lambi. *Express*

"Be it farmers, labourers or traders, I did my best for peace and communal harmony," he added. As people flagged down his car to take a selfie, his hands came together automatically, in a thanks.

This, his government's public outreach, is something Badal takes special pride in. "As a party, as a government, I did my duty. In India, I was the only CM who used to do sangat darshan," he said, recounting how he would take officers to the people. "We would go to wards and villages. That is how you get to learn about the real problems of people."

On the federal structure for which his party had once waged a Dharam Yudh Morcha to get more powers for Punjab under the Anandpur Sahib resolution in 1982, he said just like all "ang (limbs)" have to be strong for a healthy body, states must be empowered for a powerful India. "All the powers have now gone into the hands of the Centre." Hence, he said, "Regional parties must come together."

Asked about any leader that he has idealised, Badal paused for a moment and then answered, "Vajpayee, he was an ideal leader. He did not discriminate among people... He took everyone along."

The former CM, who once enjoyed very warm relations with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, also criticised the bid to polarise the country. "Polarisation is very damaging. It doesn't allow people to make any progress."

Looking back at his political career spanning over seven decades, Badal remembered how his village had made him a sarpanch when he came home after graduation from Lahore. "I went to Giani Kartar Singh, a minister, and asked him to nominate me as a PCS officer (a tehsildar), but he refused, saying 'I want you to become someone who would give jobs'." This is a household story in Killianwali village dominated by the Jakhar clan. Kartar Singh was their patriarch, and MP at the time of Jawaharlal Nehru.

Badal started the day from Dabwali Rahurianwali village. It was a cold, foggy, rainy day, the perfect excuse for a delay, but the oldest politician known to contest an Assembly election was five minutes early for his meeting at Kangan Khera village in Lambi.

A group of villagers waiting for him under a shed stood up as he walked in, helped by his securitymen. As the dhaadi jatha, which had been entertaining the listeners, piped down, Badal greeted the audience saying "I can't express in words the happiness I feel on seeing you." He then appealed for votes, reminding the village that he adopted a few years ago of their long association with him. "I have come here many times and whenever I have made any request to you, be it a small fight or a struggle against the government, you have always supported me... You are my family."

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

TRACKING COVID IN ELECTION-BOUND STATES

	UTTAR PRADESH	PUNJAB	UTTARAKHAND	GOA	MANIPUR
Deaths	23,303	17,408	7,609	3,733	2,059
Deaths Today	17	16	13	6	2
Cases (Jan 27)	8,851	4,093	2,439	955	365
Cases (Feb 5)	3,521	974	844	472	217

2% of numbers, 1 in 117 MLAs, Punjab Muslims seek a voice

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, FEBRUARY 5

RECENTLY, THE Ludhiana Jama Masjid held a 'Muslim panchayat', where different organisations came together to thrash out a memorandum for political parties ahead of their manifesto announcements.

With seats likely to be decided in Punjab on very thin margins this time, given the number of parties in the fray, the Muslim community that makes up nearly 2% of the population in the state as per the 2011 Census (numbering around 6 lakh) is also hoping to be counted.

At the panchayat meeting, the participants asked why speeches about the Muslim community were limited to promises of land for *kabristan* (graveyards), and spoke about how all parties neglected them. For years now, there has been only one Muslim MLA in the Assembly.

Shahi Imam Maulana Usman Ludhianvi, the national president of the Majlis-e-Ahrar Islam Hind Party, who organised the meeting, said: "In more than two dozen constituencies, the Muslim vote is 10,000-plus. With a five-cornered contest this time, we should not be ignored as a vote bank."

Hans Raj Mofar, the president of the Muslim Front Punjab, said they had been raising issues related to the community since 1999. "But talk is only of graveyards, and it remains only talk. Most graveyards don't even have a boundary wall and hence encroachment is increasing. The Waqf Board is just an administrative board while very little representation is given to Muslim leaders in Punjab, especially those who are Punjabi by origin. The few Muslim families which are active in Punjab have migrated from UP or other states."

One of the most prominent Muslim politicians in Punjab is Razia Sultan, the Congress candidate from Punjab's only Muslim-dominated constituency Malerkotla, with around 95,000 members from the community. The real power in the family rests with her husband, retired DGP Mohd Mustafa, who is originally from UP. Malerkotla is the only constituency with a Muslim representative in the Assembly.

Maulana Ludhianvi listed other seats where Muslims are in large numbers, besides Malerkotla, such as Amargarh, Sujanpur, Ludhiana North, East, South, Lehragaga, Amloh and Mohali. "We deserve tickets from at least five-six Assembly seats. Only then will we be able to raise issues of our community in the Vidhan Sabha," he said.

Mohd Mustkeem, the media secretary of the Shahi Imam, added: "Muslims are spread out across the state but political parties project as if only Malerkotla (matters)... Only one Muslim MLA is not enough to represent our community."

Mohd Saleem, a Mohali-based advocate who attended the Ludhiana panchayat, said they expect the Muslims to be more widespread in the state than suggested by the 2011 Census, as many had not registered at the time.

Akali Dal spokesperson Daljeet Singh Cheema said, "We always take care of minorities, as we too represent a minority community (Sikhs). It is true that our party has been giving tickets to Muslims in only Malerkotla, and that there are several other seats where Muslim voters are in a significant number, but we do believe in giving representation to all communities at various levels. Our government had formed a grievances committee as well in which every minority community in Punjab was represented."

Punjab Congress spokesperson Rimple Midham also asserted that the party was committed towards all communities. "Let the latest Census figures come out, and we will know the exact population of Muslims in the state... There are many senior Muslim leaders in our party and the Muslim community can always send their representations through them."

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

SEATS WITH MUSLIM VOTERS ABOVE 10K

1. Sujanpur
2. Ludhiana North
3. Ludhiana East
4. Ludhiana South
5. Mohali
6. Malerkotla
7. Amargarh
8. Amloh
9. Lehragaga

**Approximate constituency size: 1.5 to 2 lakh voters*

Jayant 'fake' tweet: RLD files complaint

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MEERUT, FEBRUARY 5

THE RASHTRIYA Lok Dal (RLD) lodged an FIR on Saturday, a day after party chief Jayant Chaudhary flagged a "fake" tweet that asked people not to vote for the party's Baghpat candidate Ahmed Hameed.

Chaudhary, whose party is contesting the coming UP polls in alliance with the Samajwadi Party, indirectly accused the ruling BJP of spreading misinformation against him.

"Fake posts and accounts are being created to spread misleading information before the elections. When they have failed to answer questions related to the development, they are doing such condemnable jobs. I have lodged an FIR so that people should know names of those behind such acts," the RLD chief tweeted.

Eleven persons have been named in the FIR lodged by RLD Baghpat chief Jagpal Teotia. "I hope police will take a swift action in this connection," Teotia said.

Baghpat SP Neeraj Kumar Jadaun said a probe is on. "We will take action when the inquiry is completed," he added.

BSP fields long-time party worker in Yogi stronghold

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 5

AFTER THREE decades, the BJP is going to face a Muslim candidate from any prominent party in Gorakhpur Urban as the BSP announced party worker Khwaza Shamsuddin Saturday as its candidate for the seat, against Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Shamsuddin (42) is a government contractor who has been a BSP functionary for 20 years. He is currently the party's chief sector in-charge for Gorakhpur division. This will be his first Assembly election.

"Only the BSP is in contest against the BJP. This is going to be a bipolar election because locals are against the SP, which is planning to field a Brahmin candidate from BJP background. I am a local person," Shamsuddin told *The Sunday Express*.

While the task before him seems impossible, Shamsuddin said he is counting on the substantial Muslim and Dalit vote in the constituency to back him, apart from some Brahmin voters. The BSP has been wooing the Brahmin community through prabudhha varg sammelans led by its national general secretary S C Misra.

Gorakhpur Urban seat has been a stronghold of the BJP for over three decades. In 1989, 1991, 1993 and 1996, the winner was the BJP's Shiv Pratap Shukla. In 2002, he was defeated by Radha Mohan Das Agrawal, a candidate of the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, who was backed by Adityanath. Agrawal has held the seat since. Adityanath, who has replaced him as the BJP candidate, will be fighting his first Assembly election.

While in 2017, the seat saw 24 contestants, and in 2012, 16, none was Muslim. In earlier elections, when unknown parties fielded Muslim candidates, no one got more than 3,000 votes. In fact, the last time a Muslim candidate did well here was on a BSP ticket when, in 1993, its Jafar Ali Jippu finished third, getting 14% of the votes.

PTI

Yogi in Gorakhpur, Saturday.

PATEL VS PATEL

The many Dals in Apna: Another election, another chapter in the bitter family feud

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 5

A DAY after the Samajwadi Party (SP) pitted its ally Apna Dal (Kamerawadi) leader Pallavi Patel against UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya from Kaushambi's Sirathu, Pallavi's younger sister Anupriya Patel, Apna Dal (Sonelal) president and Union Minister, appeared on 3 February on a stage with the BJP heavyweight in Sirathu and joined him in his road show, appealing to local voters to ensure the victory of her "brother" Maurya.

While the Apna Dal (K) has joined hands with the Akhilesh Yadav-led SP for the coming UP Assembly polls, the Apna Dal (S) has been an ally of the ruling BJP for several years. The two rival smaller parties are splinter groups of the Apna Dal founded in 1995 by OBC leader Dr Sonelal Patel who passed away in a road accident in 2009, survived by his wife Krishna Patel and four daughters including Pallavi and Anupriya.

After Sonelal's demise, Krishna was made the Apna Dal president while Anupriya became the party general secretary. "In the party meeting after Dr Sonelal ji's death, it was decided that Anupriya will look after political works while Pallavi will take care of party assets. But later she also decided to enter politics," said Apna Dal (S) spokesperson Rajesh Patel.

Anupriya with 'brother' Maurya at his nomination filing. *PTI*

In the 2012 polls, Anupriya contested from Rohaniya and emerged as the lone winner from her party. Eyeing her party's support base among Kurmis and other non-Yadav OBC voters in eastern and central UP, the BJP tied up with Apna Dal for the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, with the latter contesting and winning two seats. Anupriya won from Mirzapur.

Then surfaced the rift after Krishna appointed Pallavi as the party vice-president. Anupriya called her mother's decision "illegal and arbitrary".

Krishna removed Anupriya as the party general secretary too. She contested the Assembly by-poll from Rohaniya vacated by Anupriya, but lost following which she alleged that Anupriya and her husband Ashish Patel had "conspired" to ensure her defeat. She also charged their "personal ambitions" had brought the party and the family to a crossroads.

In May 2015, Krishna "expelled" Anupriya from the Apna Dal, even as both continued to stake their respective claims on the party presidentship. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi inducted Anupriya into his ministry in July 2016, Krishna charged that the BJP did not consult her.

"Following feuds, Anupriya had moved a petition in the Election Commission to claim she was party president but the EC refused to intervene. She further moved a petition in Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court. We also presented the documents. Now the matter is pending at a lower court in Lucknow. In 2020, Krishna Patel floated Apna Dal (K) and got it registered last year. It will be first election for the new party," said Vinod Kasera, Apna Dal (K) spokesperson. Pallavi is looking after its organisation while her husband Pankaj Niranjan is its general secretary.

An Apna Dal (S) leader however said it was Krishna who had moved the HC to stake her claim over the party presidentship.

Anupriya floated the Apna Dal (S) outfit in 2016. She allied with the BJP again in the 2017 UP polls, in which her party won 9 out of 11 seats it contested. In 2018, her husband was elected member of the UP Legislative Council with the BJP help. Continuing this partnership with the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Anupriya retained her Mirzapur seat and was last year inducted into the Modi ministry again.

In the current polls, the Apna Dal (S)'s influence with the BJP-led NDA alliance has increased after Om Prakash Rajbhar's Suheldo Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) left it.

On the formation of the two breakaway outfits, Rajesh said, "Krishna ji and Pallavi deviated from Dr Sonelal's ideology. Their leaders even agreed to contest on the symbols of other parties. Like Krishna ji contested in Gonda and Pankaj Niranjan from Phulpur in 2019 on Congress tickets and lost. Anupriya ji never made such compromises."

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

'(At JNU), students wear what they wish to wear... we never looked at this issue at all'

DEEKSHA TERI & RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE CLOTHING practices of students have never bothered M Jagadesh Kumar, the newly appointed chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) who was a professor at IIT-Delhi and until recently the vice-chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

In an interview with *The Sunday Express*, Kumar refused to specifically remark on the escalating controversy over hijab ban at pre-university colleges in Karnataka but said that there were never any restrictions on students' clothes while he was heading JNU.

The UGC chairman also said he welcomes criticism from the students and that any protests should be peaceful to ensure they remain "meaningful". His priority, he said, was to implement the National Education Policy" and that he would see the higher education regulator talk more frequently to the stakeholders and vice-chancellors, listen to their concerns and challenges and provide solutions to them. Excerpts:

Take us through your top priority as the UGC Chairman

My first priority is going to be the speedy implementation of the new NEP (National Education Policy). I am going to sit together with the officers of UGC and also the officials of Ministry of Education (MoE) and work out a plan that can be implemented. This has to be done by taking feedback from the stakeholders by sitting across the table and understanding the challenges that our educational institutions are facing and try to figure out solutions collectively.

This is the second year of NEP implementation, but there has not been been any significant increase in the education budget. How will a body like UGC achieve the NEP goals?

We definitely need good funding in the education sector. One good thing that has come from the Budget is an increase of 11.8 per cent in allocation for higher education. We will soon have the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) in place, which will work closely with the industry and various ministries to fund research. The proposed National Research Foundation will also address research funding. In the future, there will be a more integrated approach (to funding) instead of different agencies funding separate projects. We will also priorities our needs better and utilise funds more efficiently.

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But what about investing significantly more in education as advocated by the NEP?

In the last two years, due to

THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW

WITH M JAGADESH KUMAR
CHAIRMAN OF THE UGC

the Covid-19 situation, even though funds were given to the universities, not everything was utilised adequately because of various reasons. For instance, universities were closed and staff was working from home. But now that we are coming out of it, there will be increased funding for higher education.

The government is working on setting up an overarching body for higher education. How does this affect your planning for UGC, which may soon be merged with a larger body?

All bodies such as AICTE, UGC will be part of the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), but we cannot wait till HECI happens. We need to start our groundwork right now and implement reforms within our organization, so that whenever UGC is merged with HECI it will help improve the functioning of that body.

Your term at JNU witnessed unprecedented student protests. You are now heading an even larger body that will oversee university education across the country. Is there anything you would like to change in your handling of protests and resolving conflicts with the student community?

I believe that we must encourage the students to stand up and ask questions. I motivate students to not just be happy with status quo, but question it and bring a change. I am happy that JNU students are active in making sure that changes are brought. That is why in the past five years, we were able to introduce lots of changes in the university.

I welcome criticism and all I ask is that all demonstrations and protests should be done in a meaningful way, and should not become violent or unlawful...

But during the peak of the 2020 student protests over hostel fee hike, you were criticised for shutting students out

In 2020, I was physically attacked by some students, but thanks to the presence of mind of my driver, I could get away. The situation at that time was like that, and unfortunately we all were not familiar with technologies such as Zoom. Once people became familiar with these tools, we held several face-to-face meetings in an online mode… these had nearly 4,000 participants and a meaningful conversations happened. For any dialogue to take place, both sides have to come forward and create that kind of an ecosystem.

The EdTech sector has witnessed a boom during the pandemic even as there have been complaints of malpractice. Do you think this sector needs to be regulated?

The ministry has already issued a note to all EdTech companies and they have voluntarily adopted a code of conduct. EdTech companies also have great potential to grow and provide the backend technology for universities and institutes… If low-cost educational resources can be provided, then it will be a boon for the education sector.

What do you think of hijab ban controversy in Karnataka? Should students be denied access to education based on their attire?

I do not know the background of the incident that took place. However, if we look at my university (JNU), we do not have any such restrictions on what clothes they wear. I can only talk about my institution (JNU) and the practices here.

What was the thinking behind JNU not imposing a dress code on its students?

Well, today I am wearing a coat because it is cold, but tomorrow I may choose to wear a kurta if it is hot. So, I think clothes have more to do with weather conditions and comfort level. We have adapted clothing to what is more suitable to Delhi's weather. We have not done anything new to clothing; it is a societal practice that is going on and we have nothing to say about our students' clothing practices.

Religious practices can also influence clothing. What was JNU's stand on that?

I think in our university, we never looked at this issue at all. Students wear what they wish to wear, which are civil in nature... For me, I was very flexible towards the clothing that my students had in my classrooms at IIT.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

'Owaisi saw me shoot, so he ducked... I fired at lower portion of car'

Men arrested for shooting at MP's car said they abandoned plan thrice due to large crowds: police

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE TWO men accused of firing at Lok Sabha MP and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi's car aborted the attack thrice earlier because of large crowds, according to Uttar Pradesh police which recorded their statements.

The MP's car was shot at when he was returning from Meerut to Delhi on Thursday, following which police arrested Sachin Sharma and Shubham.

According to the FIR, the accused did not give satisfactory answers to the police initially, but when investigators told them that the incident had been captured on CCTV, Sachin apologised and described what had transpired.

"I wanted to become a big politician. I consider myself a true patriot. I found Owaisi's speeches harmful to the nation. In my head, I had developed an enmity with him," the FIR quoted Sachin as having told police.

He told police he got in touch with AIMIM's Dasna chairman to keep track of Owaisi's visits. According to the FIR, he decided he would attack Owaisi during a campaign visit. Following the decision, he contacted Shubham, a resident of Saharanpur, whom he has known for several years.

"After I called him, Shubham came to Ghaziabad and we met on January 28 near Wave City. Shubham was staying with his friend. Both of us decided to kill Owaisi and began waiting for the right time," the FIR quoted Sachin as having told police.

Asaduddin Owaisi was on the campaign trail again on Saturday with a stop in Baghpat's Asara village. *Express*

The two men attended a public gathering by Owaisi in Ghaziabad's Shahid Nagar on January 30. They wanted to execute their plan the same day but called it off owing to the crowd, Sachin told police. The two then went to Meerut's Gola Kuan on Thursday with the intention of shooting him. They did not do it due to the large crowd again.

They tailed him to Kithore but a similar situation played out there as well. The two then learnt that Owaisi was leaving for Delhi in his white SUV and decided to attack since they did not know when they would get another opportunity, the FIR stated.

"Jaise hi Asaduddin ki gaadi Chhajarsi toll par shaam ke samay pe aayi tatha toll par slow hokar guzar rahi thi, maine aur Shubham ne ek rai hokar Owaisi ko jaan se maarne ke liye iski car ko target kar goliyan chalana shuru kar di… maine jaise hi pehli goli chalai to Owaisi ne mujhe goli chalate huye dekh liya aur yeh apni jaan bachane ke liye car ke neeche ki or baith gaye. Tab maine unki gaadi par neeche ki or goli chalayi. Mujhe ye umeed thi ki Owaisi mar gaye honge (The moment his car slowed down near Chhajarsi toll plaza, Shubham and I decided to kill Owaisi and started shooting at his car. Owaisi saw me shooting and to save himself, he ducked. It is then that I fired at the lower portion of the car. I was under the impression that Owaisi must have died)," Sachin told police, according to the FIR. He said he did not know how many rounds Shubham fired because both of them ran in different directions.

Shubham also told police that his gun jammed and that he could not fire more than one round. According to the FIR, the two men told police they did not know how Owaisi managed to survive.

Security lapse during PM visit: SC probe panel in Punjab today

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 5

THE INQUIRY committee headed by Justice (retd) Indu Malhotra, constituted by the Supreme Court to look into the alleged lapses in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security during his visit to Punjab on January 5, will be in state on Sunday.

Sources said that Justice Malhotra will land at 9.30 am in Amritsar from Delhi, and would proceed to Ferozepur by road. She will spend the day in Ferozepur and reach Chandigarh in the evening to talk to the officers.

"We have been told that she will only go to Ferozepur. She is likely to go to the place where the alleged security lapse took place. She might want to go to the site were the PM was to address a rally but returned after his convoy was stopped on his way to Hussainiwala," an official said.

The apex court had set up a 5-member committee on January 13 to inquire into security lapses during PM's visit to find out causes, fix accountability on erring officers and suggest remedial steps to prevent future slip-ups. The apex court had also stayed the inquiry committees set up by Punjab and the Union government.

Prime Minister's convoy was stopped allegedly by the farmers protesting on the road. The PM was stranded on the road for 20 minutes before returning to Bathinda airport, where he had asked Finance Minister Manpreet Badal to thank his chief minister that he had returned alive.

RAHUL LIKELY TO ANNOUNCE PUNJAB CM FACE TODAY

Chandigarh: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will ho,d a virtual rally in Ludhiana on Sunday, where party leaders expect him to announce the party's CM candidate for Punjab. AICC in-charge Harish Chaudhary had stated on Friday that Rahul will make the announcement of Congress' CM face at 2 pm Sunday in Ludhiana. The party has asked all its candidates to put up huge screens in their respective constituencies. **ENS**

2nd Opp candidate faces sedition case in UP, Cong's Rai booked

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 5

IN A SECOND case of sedition against an Opposition candidate in Uttar Pradesh, the Varanasi police Saturday booked the Congress's Ajay Rai for allegedly making objectionable statements against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, at a public meeting on January 31.

Police said it registered a case after an inquiry. A former MLA, who has been elected to the Assembly five times, Rai has been fielded by the Congress from Pindra seat in Varanasi. The complainant in the case is a sub-inspector.

In the Bijnor case too, in which police registered an FIR against SP-RLD candidate Dr Neeraj Chaudhary, the complainant was a police personnel. Police said there were allegations that 'Pakistan Zindabad' slogans had been raised by supporters during a rally by Chaudhary. A well-respected doctor of the area, he has denied the allegation.

No one has been arrested so far in either case.

Police action against Rai followed a complaint by the BJP to the Election Commission, seeking his arrest.

Rai, who contested the 2017 election also from Pindra and

Ajay Rai has been fielded by the Congress from Pindra seat in Varanasi

lost to the BJP's Avadhesh Singh, had earlier contested unsuccessfully against Modi from Varanasi in the 2014 and 2019 parliamentary elections.

According to police, Sub-Inspector Ram Krishna Yadav had filed a complaint that on January 31, Rai held a public meeting in Pindra without obtaining permission. And that during his address, he told people: *"Aap log namak rakhey rakhna, March 7, 2022, ko Modi vah Yogi ko khanke gaad diya jayega* (Be ready with salt, on March 7 we will bury Modi and Yogi)."

Yadav said the remarks were meant to create enmity between people and disturb law and order, and that a four-member team had conducted an inquiry and concluded that an FIR should be lodged. Police also found violation of the model code of conduct and Covid-19 protocols at Rai's meeting, states the FIR.

Circle Officer, Pindra, Abhishek Kumar Pandey said they had a video of Rai's speech with the objectionable statement. He said they had acted on the basis of an inquiry by a team formed by the returning officer. "The video will be sent to a (forensic) laboratory for examination," he added.

The FIR has been lodged under IPC Sections 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 269 (negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life), 124-A (sedition), 153-A (promoting enmity between groups and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot).

Denying the allegations, Rai said: "People have complained that salt distributed from the fair price shops was not of good quality. People were falling ill after having it. I told people to collect it, and bury them (the BJP) on March 7, which is voting day... A deliberate misinterpretation was done that I said something about the PM and CM."

Belonging to the Bhumihar community, Rai has considerable following in the area among Brahmins and Bhumihars. He began his political career with the BJP, and was elected thrice from Varanasi as BJP MLA. In 2012, he joined the Congress, Rai won the 2012 elections from Pindra constituency on a Congress ticket.

In first poll meet after attack, Owaisi asks SP leaders to come with him

AMIT SHARMA
MEERUT, FEBRUARY 5

AIMIM CHIEF Asaduddin Owaisi on Saturday asked Samajwadi Party leaders to join hands with him to oust the BJP from power.

"I appeal to my brothers to vote not only with the sole aim of defeating BJP candidates but vote for ensuring the victory of our people in the fray," Owaisi said, campaigning for his party candidate Anees in Baghpat's Asara village in Chaprauli. It was his first meeting after Thursday's attack on him in western UP.

Owaisi said joining hands with him would only be to the benefit of SP leaders, and that staying with Akhilesh Yadav would be their undoing. *"Aisa karne mein hi bhalai hai. Ab agar baith gaye to hamesha ke liye ghar baith jayenge* (This is the right thing to do. If you delay now, you will be out of the race forever)," the AIMIM leader said.

In his poll speeches, Owaisi has been attacking the BJP and SP in equal measure, inviting charges of having a deal with the BJP and cutting into the Opposition's minority votes. Owaisi has also accused the SP of not wanting an "independent leadership of Muslims in UP".

On Saturday, he also advised leaders who had been denied tickets by the SP to come to his party for tickets from constituencies of their choice. "Do not beg for tickets from the SP," he said.

The AIMIM has so far announced candidates for 66 seats, most of them with a sizeable population of Muslims.

AIMIM state chief Shauqat Ali Saturday said that while they initially planned to field around 100 candidates, they might now go up to around 175. "We have got very good response from able candidates in 240 of the total 403 seats," Ali said.

Owaisi said attacks such as the firing at his car on Thursday did not scare him. "Those who killed Gandhi, they are the same people who shot at me. If you have the guts, kill me. *Ek Owaisi marega toh lakho paida honge* (If one Owaisi gets killed, lakhs will be born)," said the Hyderabad MP.

His car had been hit by bullets at Ghaziabad's Chijarsi village. Two people, including one with right-wing links, have been arrested.

Owaisi said the attack was the result of the poor law and order situation under the Yogi Adityanath government. Having rejected the Centre's decision Friday to give him Z-plus security, the AIMIM leader said: "I do not need Z-category security cover. If you can, provide security to the people of UP. If you cannot protect me, then there is no need for categorised security cover for me."

Kerala gold smuggling case: IAS officer shrugs off role in memoirs; he knew everything, insists accused

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEBRUARY 5

THE CASE of smuggling of gold through diplomatic baggage to the UAE Consulate here, which had rocked the previous LDF government, is back on the political debate table after key accused Swapna Suresh's disclosures against senior IAS officer M Sivasankar, who was suspended as principal secretary to the CM when the scandal emerged in 2020.

While Sivasankar, in a book — extracts from it were published two days ago, in the Malayalam magazine *Pachakkuthira* — has stated that he was shocked at hearing about Swapna's links with the smuggling racket, and that the accused had purportedly sought his help, which he had turned down, Swapna has claimed that Sivasankar was privy to the content of the diplomatic baggage, from which 30 kg smuggled gold was seized by the Customs

Sivasankar was last month reinstated as Principal Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs, after being in suspension for a year-and-a-half.

In the excerpts published from his book, *Aswathamavu Verum Oru Aana*, (Ashwathamavu is just an elephant), which was released on Saturday, Sivasankar has stated that Swapna had allegedly sought his help twice to get the diplomatic baggage (which contained smuggled gold) cleared from the Customs, but he had refused to interfere. He claimed that he had informed her about his inability to interfere with the Customs.

Sivasankar also alleged that Swapna had bribed him by offering an iPhone as a gift on his birthday, and that he had not recommended Swapna's name for appointment as a manager with Space Park, which is under the IT Department, an assertion the accused denied.

Hitting back at the IAS officer, Swapna said, "While the Customs probe into the smuggling was on, Sivasankar had advised me to go into hiding and asked me to seek anticipatory bail. When Customs detained the diplomatic baggage, he offered help and told me, 'don't worry'."

About an audio clip, in which she was heard purportedly saying that Central agencies were exerting pressure on her to name Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in the smuggling scandal, Swapna alleged that Sivasankar was behind the audio clip. While in judicial custody, a woman police officer had offered her a cellphone to record the audio, she claimed.

On Sivasankar's allegation that she had tried to bribe him with an iPhone as a gift, Swapna said, "…His writing (the memoirs) has pained me. I had been very sincere to him. I…respected him so much. I have limitations to expose more…."

She also alleged that Sivasankar "exploited me, used me, manipulated me…"

NMC: Fee of 50% seats in pvt medical colleges should be on par with govt ones

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE NATIONAL Medical Commission (NMC) has issued guidelines saying that the fee for 50 per cent of the seats in private medical colleges and deemed universities should be on a par with the fee in government medical colleges in the respective states.

"The benefit of this fee structure would be first available to those candidates who have availed government quota seats, but limited to the extent of 50 per cent of the total sanctioned strength of the respective medical college," the office memorandum issued by NMC said.

It noted that if the government quota seats are less than 50 per cent of the total sanctioned seats, the remaining candidates would avail benefits of the fee equivalent to the government medical college fees, based purely on merit.

At present, fees in private medical colleges are fixed by the state regulatory authority for the merit seats. However, after the implementation of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, the NMC has mandated framing guidelines for determination fees and other charges in respect of 50 per cent seats in private medical institutions and deemed universities.

Significantly, NMC, said no institution should charge a capitation fee in any form or manner. "For determination of fees for MBBS/PG courses, it needs to be ensured that the principle of education being 'not to profit', is strictly adhered to," it said.

The government, however, has not yet issued an official gazette notification in relation to the office memorandum.

"Therefore, it is necessary that whereas all the operating costs and other expenses for running and maintenance of the institution for imparting medical education on a sustainable basis are covered in the fees, no excessive expense and exorbitant profit component should be allowed to be added to the fees," it said.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Digital learning, promotion for teachers in state school reforms

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, FEBRUARY 5

THE ANDHRA Pradesh government will promote over 22,000 teachers from Secondary Grade Teachers (SGT) to School Assistants, and introduce digital learning in classes 8, 9 and 10 as part of reforms it is bringing in the education sector.

These teachers will be deployed for subject-wise teaching in many of the new schools that would come up due to the changes in the education system.

The state education department also accepted the AP State Council of Educational Research and Training's (SCERT's) recommendation on not employing teachers and headmasters for non-academic work.

The teachers set for promotion will receive training to improve their skills and other capabilities before they are promoted in June.

HIJAB CONTROVERSY IN KARNATAKA

'Absent' Cong seeks to be heard, backs girls' protests

JOHNSON T A
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 5

Students at the college in Udupi's Kundapura town. *Express*

THE MOVE to stop hijab-wearing students from entering classes was tantamount to "robbing" their future, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said Saturday. "By letting students' hijab come in the way of their education, we are robbing the future of the daughters of India... Ma Saraswati gives knowledge to all. She doesn't differentiate. #SaraswatiPuja," Rahul tweeted in a reference to Saraswati Puja which was observed Saturday.

This statement by Rahul came nearly three weeks after the row over hijab started, and a day after some of his party colleagues, including Mallikarjun Kharge and former CM Siddaramaiah, spoke out against the move. On the ground, however, his party leaders from the region have preferred silence.

As what began as a protest by a few Muslim girls in a government pre-university college in Udupi spreads into a faceoff between groups — boys and girls wearing saffron scarves marched, too — the near absence of the Congress, once the main opposition to the BJP in this polarised region, is stark.

BJP leaders like Udupi MLA Raghupathy Bhat; Education Minister B C Nagesh; Home Minister Araga Jnanendra and Culture Minister V Sunil Kumar have weighed in, saying students cannot demand the right to wear hijab to class, even calling it part of efforts to "Talibanize Udupi".

The Campus Front of India, the student wing of the SDPI and the Popular Front of India, has accused the BJP government of failing "to meet the legitimate demands of the students for their rights".

But the first reaction from the Congress came only on Friday when Siddaramaiah slammed "the discrimination" and said: "A principal in a college has locked the gates and prevented Muslim girl students from entering with head scarves. It is a violation of their fundamental rights."

Former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy, whose Janata Dal (Secular) had been in alliance with the Congress in the state, also criticised the move to stop hijab-wearing students from entering classes in the Udupi college.

"On one hand, the Central government is talking about a policy of educating girls called 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao', on the other hand, it seems like they have set out to make it 'Beti Hatao' instead of 'Beti Padhao' through this hijab controversy," he said.

Since 2013, when the Congress had won a majority of the five Assembly seats in Udupi and the BJP only one, the party has ceded political ground, leaving a void that the BJP and SDPI have filled.

In the 2018 Assembly polls, the BJP had swept all the five Udupi seats on the back of a highly polarised campaign, which blamed the Congress and SDPI for murders of multiple right-wing Hindutva group members while Siddaramaiah was CM. Then, in December 2021, the SDPI had won the Kaup town council in Udupi, and the Vitla and Kotekar town panchayats, which were earlier Congress strongholds.

Muslims form nearly 25% of Udupi's population, while the backward class Billavas constitute around 30%. There is also a sizeable Christian population. Support of a combination of these communities earlier help the Congress win polls in the region. However, in recent years, the Billavas have been won over by the BJP.

The Congress has tried to counter by going soft on Hindutva issues, a reason being assigned for its silence on the hijab issue. Recently, it had tried to re-build a Muslim-Billava alliance, through joint conventions. But the hijab row might have put paid to that.

The controversy has also helped the BJP by putting on the backburner resentment brewing against its government at the Centre among the Billavas over the rejection of a Republic Day tableau featuring Narayana Guru (a spiritual leader held in reverence by backward communities).

Abdul Azeez Udyavar, the organising secretary of the Udupi District Muslim Okkutta and the district president of the Welfare Party of India that has contested state and local polls in Karnataka without much success, said: "It all (the hijab issue) started after the results of the urban local bodies, and is being used to polarise votes. If hijab had been an issue, I am sure the parents would have brought it to our notice, and it could have been solved without much hype. The Campus Front of India has used these students for their benefit."

Muneer Kattipalla, the state president of the Democratic Youth Federation of India, hoped calmer heads would prevail on both sides. "With education the priority, the government should allow the protesting students to attend class but also make the campus religion-free (to counter Muslim girls wearing hijabs, some boys have been turning up wearing saffron stoles). If the government refuses to allow the students to attend (with hijab), then the students should also not hold it against the college but follow the rules, as education is what is at stake."

Some of the protesting students had approached the Karnataka High Court, and it is expected to take up the matter on February 8.

ODISHA

Journalist killed in IED blast; Maoists suspected

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, FEBRUARY 5

Rohit Biswal was working with Odia daily *Dharitri*

A JOURNALIST was killed when an improvised explosive device (IED), allegedly planted by Maoists, went off in Madanpur Rampur block of Odisha's Kalahandi district, police said on Saturday. The journalist was identified as Rohit Biswal, 43, who was working with Odia daily Dharitri.

This is the first reported instance of a journalist in Odisha getting killed in alleged Maoist violence. Kalahandi's superintendent of police said police were the likely target of the IEDs.

As per preliminary information, Biswal had visited the spot to take visuals of posters put up by Maoists asking residents of the area to boycott the coming Odisha rural elections.

The posters were put up near Karlakunta bridge in Mohangiri area, which passes through a forest region. The posters were allegedly put up by the Kalahandi-Kandhamal-Boudh-Nayagarh (KKBN) division of CPI(Maoist) that is active in Kalahandi and Kandhamal border.

"Whenever such posters come up, there is a possibility that IEDs have been planted targeting police. But that does not happen every time. Our team was alerted, but before we reached the spot, the unfortunate incident happened. The area is still being sanitised by our bomb squad. We can recover the body from the spot only after ascertaining that there are no more IEDs," Kalahandi SP Vivek M Saravana told *The Indian Express*.

Kalahandi's Madanpur Rampur block shares its border with Kandhamal district and comprises dense jungles, and has heavy presence of Maoists.

The slain journalist is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced Rs 13 lakh as ex-gratia for his family. "There is no place for violence in democracy. I strongly condemn the incident and the state government will take stern action against the persons involved in the killing of the journalist," the chief minister tweeted.

BJP national vice-president Baijyant Panda also condoled the killing. "Very sad at the murder of journalist Rohit Biswal by Maoists in Odisha. All you idealist young students & Liberals, know that leftists have killed nearly 100m people, by far the most in history. Remember this when you hear anyone praise the Left or say Lal Salaam. Om Shanti," he said in a Twitter post without elaborating.

(WITH PTI INPUTS)

Day after arrest, J&K journalist sent to 10-day police custody

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 5

DAY AFTER his arrest, journalist Fahad Shah has been remanded to 10-day police custody by the judicial magistrate in Pulwama district.

Police said on Saturday that Shah was wanted in three cases for "glorifying terrorism, spreading fake news and inciting general public for creating law and order situations". He was arrested after being called in for questioning on Tuesday and again on Friday.

Shah's counsel Umair Rhonga said he has moved the court of the Pulwama chief judicial magistrate for bail. "We have also sought clarity on the charges against him in the same court, and police have been directed to file a report about this by Monday," he said.

The journalist was arrested on Friday for social media posts "tantamount to glorifying terrorist activities and causing dent to the image of law enforcing agencies, besides causing ill-will and disaffection against the country", according to police. Shah is the editor-in-chief of the online news magazine, 'thekashmirwalla'.

According to a statement issued by district police in Pulwama, "Some Facebook users and portals have been uploading anti-national content including photographs, videos and posts with criminal intention to create fear among the public, and the content so uploaded can provoke the public to disturb law and order."

In May last year, Shah was called in twice for questioning by police, reportedly regarding the reporting in his digital news magazine of an encounter in the Nawakadal area of Srinagar. Several residential buildings were damaged during the course of the encounter, and police had accused Shah of "defaming" them.

In a separate case, an FIR was filed by the Army in Shopian against two news portals, including 'thekashmirwalla' in January last year, after a report alleged that a local Army unit was "forcing an Islamic seminary school to hold Republic Day celebrations on January 26". Another FIR was filed this week after Shah's news portal published a report quoting family members of an alleged militant who was killed.

Amruta Fadnavis links traffic jams to divorces, Sena MP ridicules claim

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 5

A WAR of words broke out between Amruta Fadnavis, wife of former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, and Shiv Sena leader Priyanka Chaturvedi on Saturday after Amruta said that three per cent of divorces in Mumbai take place due to traffic jams.

"I'm saying this as a common citizen. Once I go out, I see several issues including potholes, traffic. Due to traffic, people are unable to give time to their families and 3 per cent of divorces in Mumbai are happening due to it," she told reporters.

Following this, Shiv Sena leader Priyanka Chaturvedi, without naming Amruta, tweeted, "Best (il)logic of the day award goes to the lady who claims 3% Mumbaikars are divorcing due to traffic on roads. Please take a holiday break rather than having a mind on brake.. Bengaluru families please avoid reading this, can prove fatal for your marriages."

Responding to Chaturvedi's tweet, Amruta referred to a report by Survey Monkey — a market research firm and a leader in survey software— and tweeted, "Hey Lady, do not deviate from truth. Report by - Survey Monkey states— Mumbaikar suffers from psychological illness due to huge traffic jams & delay in movement of traffic. There is also fall in employee productivity & increase in divorce rates. All thanks to you and urs."

Kerala govt employee suspended for mocking CM on social media

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEBRUARY 5

An office attendant at the state government secretariat has been suspended for allegedly making defamatory comments against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on a social media group. The suspended staff member, A Manikuttan, has been an attender with the public administration department at the Secretariat. The action came following a complaint against Manikuttan.

Manikuttan had posted a photo of Vijayan at Dubai, with his shirt tucked inside the trousers; he had juxtaposed a photo of senior CPI(M) leader M V Jayarajan and wrote a defamatory comment with the images. The post was shared on a WhatsApp group of office staff at the Secretariat.

The suspension came after some other staff members at the Secretariat moved a complaint with the Chief Minister's office.

VACANCIES PRIOR TO OCTOBER 2019

J&K govt withdraws posts referred to PSC, SSB

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 5

THE JAMMU and Kashmir government has withdrawn all the vacancies it had referred to the J&K Public Service Commission and J&K Service Selection Board for recruitment before October 31, 2019, the day present Union Territory came into existence.

A government circular in this regard was issued by Under-Secretary Shakeeb Arsallan on January 29.

"All posts referred to JKPCSC/JKSSB prior to October 31, 2019, for which selections have not been finalized till date, as also the posts in which there are litigations and the cases are pending in Hon'ble Courts, shall be deemed to have been withdrawn with immediate effect," the circular read.

UT, Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KATHUA
Displaced Persons / WPRs, Cell acrkathua-jk@gov.in
No.DCK/WPRs/OTS/2021-22/ Dated 04-02-2022

NOTICE

This is for information of the General Public / WPRs (West Pakistani Refugees) of 1947 that the files/ cases received by this office for "One Time Settlement" (OTS) from Tehsils viz. Kathua, Hiranagar, Nagri Parole and Marheen, have been scrutinized by the District Level Screening and Approval Committee, for WPRs of 1947, from serial no 71 to 92 (Total 22 cases) (also uploaded on https://kathua.nic.in/) for inviting objections by the non-applicants and other left out beneficiaries (WPRs), if any. Objections /queries, if any, regarding the said cases can be addressed to this office or concerned Tehsildars within 15 days of the publication of this notice. If in case, no objection(s) are received at the end of the prescribed time period, the above mentioned relief cases shall be considered for disbursement of relief amount in favour of the applicants, listed in annexure "A".

Sd/-
Sandeep Seointra (JKAS)
Assistant Commissioner (Rev.),
Nodal Officer, DPs/WPRs Cell,
Kathua.

DIP/J-12603/21

Woman missing found murdered, boyfriend, his aide arrested

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 5

CAROL MISQUITTA (28), a resident of Vile Parle (west), who had gone missing from her residence on the night of January 24 was found murdered on February 3 in the Waghoba Ghat, Palghar district after which Palghar police arrested her boyfriend and his aide.

Her family had lodged a missing complaint on January 25 with the local Santacruz police, who allegedly took the complaint lightly.

Carol worked in a BPO and lived with her 56-year-old mother Catherine, a single parent. She was in a relationship with the arrested accused Zico Misquitta (27) since 2011. On January 24, Carol left on her scooty to meet Zico. Zico, too, left on his scooter and his aide Kumar Devendra (30) accompanied him. Carol and Zico got into an argument on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Highway in Palghar after which he strangled her and then stabbed her with a knife.

On February 3 around 5.30 pm, a person who went to answer nature's call near the bushes got a pungent smell coming from the decomposed body and alerted the Palghar police. "We have arrested them and produced them before a magistrate court that has remanded the duo to police custody till February 10," said Nita Padvi, SDPO, Palghar police.

J&K man shot dead in home

Jammu: One person was shot dead in Budhal area of J&K's Rajouri district, police said on Saturday. Karamat Shah, 26, was asleep at his home in Targain village when, around 4.30 am, bullets were fired at him through the window, police sources said.

A labourer, Shah was hit in the head and arm, and died on spot. Sources said a small arm, most likely a pistol, was used in the firing.

In another incident in the same village, shots were fired at the house of Nabi Shah, although no casualties were reported. Nabi is a relative of Karamat.

Sources said the bullet was most likely from a rifle. **ENS**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
A Govt. of India Undertaking
सिंडिकेट Syndicate

[Rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas : The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice below mentioned date calling upon the following borrower to repay the below mentioned amount in the notice to repay within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers/ guarantors 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 / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on following date.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
The borrower /guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Canara Bank, ARM Branch, Patna for below mentioned amount.

Name & Address of Borrower / Branch	Date of Demand Notice/Amount Dues & Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
Speclalised SME Branch,Patna M/s Patliputra Venture, Partners (1) Sri. Om Prakash, S/o Sriniwas Sharma (2) Ravish Kumar, S/o Nagendra Singh **Guarantors** (1) Sri Niwas sharma S/o Late Kamta Sharma (2) Hari Om Kumar S/o Sri Niwas Sharma	29.05.2021 Rs. 79,17,202.56 and Interest thereon 31.01.2022	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Thana No 51, Khata No. 42, Khesra no 204, Tauzi no 5479, Mauza-Kharagchak, Thana & Sub Registry Office-Phulwari Sharif, District-Patna, SMT Deed No. 1024 Dated 18.02.2017 Area of land 34 Decimal. **Boundary : North :** Rasta and Dinesh Sharma, **South:** Karaha, **East :** Raviranjan Sharma, **West :** Dinesh Sharma
Speclalised SME Branch, Patna M/s Tara Polymer a **Partnership** firm and the **Guarantors 1.** Sri Vivek Anand S/o Late Prem Chandra Verma, **2.** Sri Shashi Bhushan Kumar S/o Mathura Prasad Verma	28.05.2021 Rs. 48,36,372.46 and Interest thereon 04.02.2022	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land and building in the name of Sri Shashi Bhushan Kumar S/o Late Mathura Prasad @ Mathura Pd. Verma, situated at Mohalla Nakhas Pind, Mauza-Dhawalpura, Thana No. 21, Tauzi 39/02. Khata No 587, Plot No 1355, P.S- New By-Pass, Sub Registry Office-Patna City, District-Patna Area 1 Kattha 15 Dhur **Boundary : North :** Jogi Mallah, **South :** Indu Bhushan, **East :** Rasta, **West :** Road and Gate
Kadamkuan,Patna M/s Vishwa Fashion And General Store, Prop.-Sri Ashish Kumar, **Mortgagor-** Sri Ashish Kumar S/o Ram Janam Prasad of New Patna Colony, Hasanpura Road, PO+PS-Beur, Patna, Pin-800002	31.05.2021 Rs. 42,39,697.88 and Interest thereon 03.02.2022	All part & parcel of Land and building in the name of **Mortgagor :-** Sri Ashish Kumar S/o Late Ram Janam Prasad, SMT Deed No-700 dated 17/01/2020, Thana-Beur, Thana No-33, Mauza-Beur, Tauzi No-5606, Khata No-191, Circle No-265, M.S Plot No-2050, Holding No-1176/1A , Ward No-11, District-Patna, Total area-1352 sq ft. situated at New Patna Colony, Hasanpura Road, Patna, Bihar **Boundary : North :** Part of S.P No. 2050 allotted to Arun Kr, **South :** Part of S.P No. 2050 allotted to Kumar Binay Kishore, **East :** 20' wide Road, **West :** Part of S.P No. 2050

Place : Patna
Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

Public Auction Notice
Debts Recovery Tribunal
A, B & F Wings, Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna – 800 025
State Bank of India, SARB, 2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800001
Vs
Charter Awadh Educational Trust & Others
(In R.P. Case No. **162/2019** arising out of Certificate No. OA. **295/2018**)

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

As per order dated **05/01/2022**, under mentioned property will be sold by ***public online e-Auction*** on the date and time mentioned herein for recovery of **Rs.5,02,23,997/- [Outstanding Dues as Rs.6,87,56,508.59/- as on 31.12.2021 reported by CHB]** from **Charter Awadh Educational Trust & Others**, the sum is recoverable together with interest, cost, charges, as per the certificate. The auction sale will be by way of ***online e-Auction.***
Description of Property:

Lot No.	Description of Property	Reserve Price	EMD	Date and time of Auction
1.	All that piece and parcel of land in the name of Certificate Debtor No.2 namely Sri Satyendra Kumar vide Sale Deed No.6407 dated 08.08.2013 situated at Mauza-Belwaiya, Thana No.94, Khata No.88, Plot No.622 area measuring 1.25 Acres District-Rohtas. Bounded and butted as follows-North: Niz; South: Sri Ram Singh & Radhan Kishun Singh; East: Pokhra; and West: Niz.	**Rs. 3,56,00,000/- (Rupees Three Crores and Fifty Six Lacs Only)**	**Rs. 35,60,000/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lacs and Sixty Thousand Only)** on or before **22/03/2022** upto 4.00 P.M.	**24/03/2022** between 12:30 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. with auto extension clause in case of bid in last 5 minutes before closing, if required
2.	All that piece and parcel of land in the name of Certificate Debtor No.10 namely Smt. Bebi Devi vide Sale Deed No.1042 dated 18.02.2002 situated at Mauza-Dinanra, Thana No.109, Khata No.501, Khesra No.2335, area measuring 0.038 Acre, District-Rohtas. Bounded and butted as follows-North: Passage; South: Ram Suresh Pandey; East: Durgamati Devi; and West: Chawr.	**Rs. 12,50,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lacs and Fifty Thousand Only)**	**Rs. 1,25,000/- (Rupees One Lac and Twenty Five Thousand Only)** on or before **22/03/2022** upto 4.00 P.M.	**24/03/2022** between 12:30 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. with auto extension clause in case of bid in last 5 minutes before closing, if required
3.	All that piece and parcel of land in the name of Certificate Debtor No.7 namely Sri Jai Prakash Gupta, Certificate Debtor No.8 namely Sri Mintu Kumar Gupta, and Certificate Debtor No.9 namely Sri Pintu Kumar Gupta vide Sale Deed No.5210 dated 27.07.1995 situated at Mauza-Dinara, Thana No.109, Khata No.7, Plot No.2301, area measuring 0.03 Acre, District-Rohtas. Bounded and butted as follows-North: Dhanpati Sah etc.; South: Moti Lal Sah & Others; East: Niz; and West: Ram Narain Sah.	**Rs. 31,50,000/- (Rupees Thirty One Lacs and Fifty Thousand Only)**	**Rs. 3,15,000/- (Rupees Three Lacs and Fifteen Thousand Only)** on or before **22/03/2022** upto 4.00 P.M.	**24/03/2022** between 12:30 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. with auto extension clause in case of bid in last 5 minutes before closing, if required
4.	All that piece and parcel of land in the name of Certificate Debtor No.14 namely Sri Anil Kumar Pasi vide Sale Deed No.4515 dated 27.07.2009 situated at Mauza-Dinara, Thana No.109, Khata No.469, Plot No.1722, area measuring 0.07 Acre, District-Rohtas. Bounded and butted as follows-North: Ramji Pandey & Others; South: Sri Ram Sah etc.; East: Ram Dev Rai; and West: Chandan Devi.	**Rs. 1,12,000/- (Rupees One Lac Twelve Thousand Only)**	**Rs. 11,200/- (Rupees Eleven Thousand and Two Hundred Only)** on or before **22/03/2022** upto 4.00 P.M.	**24/03/2022** between 12:30 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. with auto extension clause in case of bid in last 5 minutes before closing, if required
5.	All that piece and parcel of land in the name of Certificate Debtor No.13 namely Sri Ram Awadh Singh, Certificate Debtor No.12 namely Sri Raj Nath Singh, Certificate Debtor No.11 namely Sri Chandra Shekhar Singh and Certificate Debtor No.15 namely Masomat Fulwariya Kunwar situated at a) Mauza-Karhausi, P.S.-Dinara (535), Khata No.184, Plot No.2884 area measuring 0.05 Acre, District-Rohtas. Bounded and butted as follows-North: Chandra Shekhar Singh; South: Sukh Raj Singh; East: Rasta then Chandra Shekhar Singh; and West: Mangal Singh. b) Mauza-Karhausi, P.S.-Dinara (535), Khata No.184, Plot No.3011 area measuring 0.16 Acre, District-Rohtas. Bounded and butted as follows-North: Surya Nath Singh; South: Ram Awadh Singh; East: Ram Awadh Singh; and West: Bansh Narain Singh. **Total Area-0.21 Acre i.e. 21 Decimals**	**Rs. 37,50,000/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lacs and Fifty Thousand Only)**	**Rs. 3,75,000/- (Rupees Three Lacs and Seventy Five Thousand Only)** on or before **22/03/2022** upto 4.00 P.M.	**24/03/2022** between 12:30 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. with auto extension clause in case of bid in last 5 minutes before closing, if required

Details of e-auction agency:
Company Name/address:- M/s E-procurement Technologies Limited, A-801, Wall Street–II, Opp.-Orient Club, Nr. Gujarat College, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad-380006, Gujrat, India.
Contact No. 079-668136880/68136837. Mobile No. +91 9265562821/18 & 9374519754.
Website add: https://drt.auctiontiger.net
e-mail Address:- chintan.bhatt@auctiontiger.net, support@auctiontiger.net
Contact Person: Mr. Chintan Bhatt, Mobile No.9978591888.
Details of the facilitation center:
Address:- State Bank of India, SARB, 2nd Floor, Patna SBI Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800 001, Bihar, India, **E-mail ID: sbi.05176@sbi.co.in**
Name of Contact Person:- Mr. Vishwa Vijay Shriwastava, Chief Manager, SARB, Patna,
Mob No. 7717749177, e-mail ID: Vishwa.srivastava@sbi.co.in
ACCOUNT DETAIL FOR ONLINE MONEY TRANSFER

ACCOUNT NO. & NAME	NAME	IFSC CODE
31472262527 SARB COLLECTION A/C	STATE BANK OF INDIA	SBIN0000152

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF SALE:-
1. The property shall be sold "as is where is basis".
2. The intending bidders should register the participation with the service provider well in advance and get user ID and password for participating in E-auction. It can be procured only when the requisite Earnest Money Deposit be paid by prescribed mode.
3. To take part in Auction, each bidder shall deposit Earnest Money (EMD) @ of 10% of the Reserve Price which shall be paid by electronic transfer to the concerned Bank's EMD Account or through DD/pay order drawn in favour of Recovery Officer, DRT., Patna alongwith copy of PAN card, Address proof and Identity proof with E-mail ID, Mobile No. of bidder. The Envelop containing EMD along with details of documents should be superscribed **R.P. No.162/2019** and in case of the company copy of resolution by the Board members of the company or any other decument confirming representation/attorney of the company should reach on or before 4.00 P.M. of **22/03/2022** in the office of Recovery Officer, DRT., Patna or should credit the amount in respective Bank's/Financial Instution's account. EMD received thereafter shall not be considered.
4. The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the sale proceeds (including EMD) on the next working day of sale through the mode as stated above.
5. The purchaser shall deposit the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the undersinged on or before 15th day from the date of sale of the Property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @ 2% upto Rs.1,000/- and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs.1,000/- by prescribed mode as stated above.
6. In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be resold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.
7. The Recovery Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or bids or to postpone or cancel the e-auction without assigning any reasons.
8. EMD of unsuccessful bidder shall be returned the same day of auction by DRT/Bank by credit to the account of bidder mention in bid form.
9. Prospective bidder may avail online training from service provider.
10. Prospective bidders are advised to go through the website for details terms & conditions of sale before submitting their bids or contact Branch Manager of the concerned Branch.

Dated : 28/01/2022
(Kumar Rajiv Ranjan)
Recovery Officer

Classifieds

PERSONAL

Vishal Mani Tripathi, father of Rudrakash Mani residing at H1806, Arihant Arden, Sector 1, Greater Noida W., G.B.Nagar, UP, 201306, have changed my son's name to Shiv Mani Tripathi vide affidavit dated 21/10/2021 at Ghaziabad, UP 0050191588-1

My name is sahil s/o-vinod kumar r/o D-701,himhit CGHS plot.no.8,dwarka sector-22, New Delhi-110077,have changed my name to sahil gumber,for all,future purposes. 0040601696-2

I,hitherto known as S. Joginder Singh Alias S. Joginder Matharoo,S/o Late Sh.Sewa Singh Matharoo,R/o.H.No.C-7/15,Mianwali-Nagar, Paschim-Vihar, New-Delhi-110087,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Joginder Singh Matharoo. 0040601690-5

I,VIRENDRA BAHADUR Alias Virendra Bahadur Yadav S/O Late Radha Krishna YadavR/O H No.138A/1 New Baiharana, Allahabad Uttar Pradesh 211003 have changed my name to Virendra BahadurSingh for all future purposes 0060087934-1

I,Usha Arora@Mamta Arora,W/o Late.Amrik Lal,R/o H-3/12, Krishna Nagar,Gandhi-Nagar, Delhi-110051,inform that Usha Arora and Mamta Arora both are the name of same person. 0040601678-9

I,Upkar S/o Sh.Narender,R/o 59-A, Mahesh Garden,Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043,Declare that My Father Names Narender, Narender Singh,and Narender Kumar all are Same and One Person. 0040601696-1

I,SULOCHANA AGRAWAL W/O-RAM NIWAS AGGARWAL R/O-1539 GALI.NO-109, GANESHPURA TRI-NAGAR DELHI-110035,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SULOCHANA AGGARWAL. 0040601706-3

I,SRIDEVI KODA,D/o KOLAGOTLA VENKATA RAMANAJI RAO,W/o NARAYANA RAO KODA,R/o-GROUND FLOOR, C5/23,GRAND-VASANAT, VASANT-KUNJ,NEW DELHI-110070,have changed my name,from SRIDEVI KODA to SRIDEVI KADA,for all purposes. 0040601690-10

I,SHOBIT SETH,S/O MADAN MOHAN SETH H.NO.62, ROAD. NO-42,WEST PUNJABI BAGH NEW DELHI-110026,HAVE CHANGED MY Minor DOUGHTER NAME DIYA SETH TO DIA SETH. 0040601690-2

I,Rupinder jit Kaur allies Rupinder jeet kaur W/O, Jatinder Singh R/O, C-127, Ashok vihar phase-1,Delhi-110052,have changed my name to Rupinder Jeet Trehan. 0040601678-4

I,Resham Pal Singh,S/o late Ravi Karan Singh,R/o B-110, A.B. Harijan-Basti Kondli,New Delhi-110096,have changed my name Resham Pal to Resham Pal Singh,for all, future purpose. 0040601703-7

I,RAM NIWAS AGRAWAL S/O-DIN DAYAL R/O-1539 GALI.NO-109 GANESHPURA TRI-NAGAR, DELHI-110035, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAM NIWAS AGGARWAL. 0040601706-2

I,Praveen Choudhary,S/O,Veer Pal Singh R/O,B-8/57 Ground-floor Type-2,Police Line Pitampura,Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Praveen Chaudhary. 0040601678-3

I,Neetu D/O-RAM DEV CHAUHAN R/o-D-29/13 Near-Santosh Bharti-Office Shahbad Dairy, Delhi-110042,Have Changed My Name to NEETU CHAUHAN. 0040601706-4

I,Navya D/O Sanjeev Kumar R/O House No-19,Pocket-3,Sector-22,Rohini,Delhi-110086,Have Changed my Name to Navya Verma. 0040601678-1

I,Narander Marijan S/O.Babu Lal VPO:-Hatundi,Teshil-Mundawar dist:Alwar Rajasthan.,have changed my name Narander Singh for Narander Marijan for,all purpose. 0040601703-5

I,Narander Marijan S/O.Babu Lal VPO:-Hatundi,Teshil Mundawar dist:Alwar Rajasthan.I have changed my name Narander Singh for Narander Marijan for,all purpose. 0040601706-1

I,NEETI SHREE TYAGI,W/o VIVEK TYAGI R/o.855,SECTOR.NO.4, R.K.PURAM, DELHI-110022, INFORM THAT IN MY PASSPORT. NUMBER.S6403596 MY NAME HAS BEEN WRONGLY-MENTIONED AS NEETI SHRI TYAGI INSTEAD OF NEETI SHREE TYAGI. 0040601690-6

I, Nitin Pandey S/o Mr. Harish Chandra Pandey R/o B-101, Saya Zenith, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014 have changed name of my minor daughter NAVYA PANDEY aged 2 Years and she shall hereafter be known as DITYAA PANDEY for all future purposes. 0040601658-1

I Ashu Rani alias Ashu Rani Mittal alias Ashu Mittal D/o Sh. Chhabil Dass W/o Sh. Pardeep Mittal R/o I-6/64, Second Floor, Sector-16, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi-110089 have changed my name to Ashu Pardeep Mittal for all purposes. 0040601624-4

I,MOHD NADIM,S/O AKHLAQ MOHD,H.No.4794,BARA-HINDU RAO,JAAL WALA-SCHOOL, DELHI-110006,have changed my name to MOHAMMAD NADEEM,S/O AKHLAQ MOHAMMAD,for all,future Purposes. 0040601690-3

I,Kritika Singh,W/o Ashish Kumar,R/o Plot.No.3126, 2nd-Floor Ansal Veralia Sector-67A,Gurgaon(Haryana),have changed my name to Kritika Sharma. 0040601690-8

I,KIRAN VASHWANI W/O OM PARKASH VASHWANI R/o-A-236, Derawal Nagar, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009,have changed my name to KIRAN VASWANI for-all-purposes. 0040601696-4

I,Jay Babubhai Patel S/o Babulal Patel R/o-C-137, Ground-Floor, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-110015 have changed my name to Jay Patel. 0040601696-5

I,Jatender Singh Bawa S/O, Sharanjit Singh Bawa,R/O, H.No484,2nd Floor Kohat-Enclave pitampura,Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Jatinder Singh Bawa. 0040601678-2

I,Deepika Tekwani W/o Hitesh Wadhwani R/o-2111/4, 1st-Floor, Gali No.4, Chuna Mandi, Pahar-Ganj,Delhi-110055,have changed my name to Ridhi Wadhwani after-marriage. 0040601678-8

I,DEBASHISH GANGULY,resident of,105, Salaria-Officers Enclave, Sector-21, Dwarka, Delhi-110077,have changed my daughter's Name,from CHARULATA to CHARULATA GANGULY,vide-Affidavit dated 04-02-2022,At New-Delhi. 0040601703-9

I,Ashia Begum W/o Saikh Abdulla R/o D-484,Avantika, Sector-1 Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Ayesha Begum. 0040601678-6

I,Amit Hazra,S/o Sh.Adhir Ray, R/o.D-232 (F.F.)Tagore-Garden Extn.New Delhi-110027,have changed my name to Rana Ray and that the name of my father has been wrongly-written as Jagodish Chandra Hazra which is my uncle name in my all documents.The actual-name of my father is Adhir Ray which may be amended accordingly. 0040601678-10

I,NAYAN PARVEZ AKHTAR,S/O PARVEZ AKHTAR,R/O.M.63, ABULFAZAL ENCLAVE-PART-1,JAMIA-NAGAR,NEW DELHI-110025, IN MY PASSPORT MY AND MY FATHER NAME WRONGLY-MENTION NAYAN PARWEZ AND PARWEZ AKHTAR BUT-CORRECT-NAME IS NAYAN PARVEZ AKHTAR AND PARVEZ AKHTAR. 0040601706-12

I,NARAYANA RAO KODA,S/o SAMBAMURTHY KODA, R/o,GROUND FLOOR,C5/23, GRAND-VASANAT, VASANTKUNJ, NEW DELHI-110070,have changed my name,from NARAYANA RAO KODA to NARAYANA RAO KADA,for all purposes. 0040601690-9

I,Alpana Rastogi,D/o Sh.Ram Avtar Rastogi,W/o Mr.Ashish Rastogi,R/o Flat.No.104/74, Silver-Oaks Apartment, DLF Phase-1,Gurgaon, Haryana, have changed my name to Alpna Rastogi,for all purposes. 0040601690-1

I,Aklu paswan,S/o Dukha Paswan Address,H.no-1520, Type-2 DA Flats, Gulabi-Bagh, Delh-110007,inform that name of my has been wrongly-mentioned as Aklu in my service Book and service-Record.The correct-name my is Aklu paswan.which may be amended accordingly. 0040601703-6

I,Abhilash S/o Ramesh Kumar R/o-Flat-No.4, Plot-No.40-41,3rd-Floor, Karnal-Farm Village-Tigri, South-Delhi-110062 have changed my name to Abhilash Jaiswal for all-purposes. 0040601696-6

I,ASHOK KUMAR SHARMA S/o SHRI HANUMAN PARSAD R/o-RZ-D-133,Nihal Vihar, Nangloi,New Delhi-110041, have changed my name to ASHOK BHARDWAJ. 0040601706-6

I, Usha Kumari, D/o Ram Prasad Sharma@ Mistry, R/o 22A, Third Floor, Sanjay Nagar, Gulabi Bagh, had after marriage changed my name to Harshita Kumar W/o Harish Kumar R/o as above. 0070771598-1

I, Pawan Kumar, S/o Bal Kishan Bansal, R/o 82B, Pocket-B, HIG Flats, Sector-105, NOIDA, UP-201304, has changed my name to Pawan Kumar Bansal for all future purposes. 0070771571-2

I, Parvesh Kumar, S/o Roshan Lal Kakkar, R/o Flat No.- A1, Upper Ground Floor, Plot No-1040, Near Mehta Chowk, Ward No-8, Mehrauli, New Delhi-110030, have changed my minor daughter's name from Sanvi Kakar aged 03 years to Samayra Kakar forever. 0070771597-1

I,Hitherto known MD JUGNU, S/o,QARI YAR MOHAMMAD, R/o.86-A,Sarai Kale-Khan East-Nizamuddin,New Delhi-110013,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MD ASJAD. 0040601690-4

I Kawar Jeet Singh alias Kawarjeet Singh S/o Late Sh. Attar Singh R/o 111, Sahridaya Apartment, A4 Paschim Vihar,Delhi-110063 have changed my name to Kawarjeet Singh for all purposes. 0040601624-6

I, Namit Gupta and Ritu Gupta, R/o 1389, 3rd Floor, Sector-37, Faridabad, Haryana-121003, have changed our minor daughter's name from Geetika Gupta to Nihanya Gupta, for all purposes. 0040601623-1

I,Gita Rani W/o Sunil Kumar,R/o C-154, Avantika, Sector-1 Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Geeta Rani. 0040601678-7

I, Jaismeet Arora, S/o- Rajesh Arora, R/o: WZ-10B, Plot No-78, Shyam Nagar Extn., Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-18, have changed my name to Jaismeet Singh Arora. 0070771547-1

I, Gourav Jainm S/o Sanjay Jain R/o H. No-2878 Plot No-3, Kh No-290/2, Shakur Basti Sant Nagar, Rani Bagh, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Gaurav Jain. 0070771596-1

I, Bhawani, S/o Yograj Nagar, R/o H.No.7, Gali No.5, Chauhan Colony, Tilpat Palla, Faridabad-121003, have changed my name to Bhawani Nagar. 0070771567-1

I, Babubhai S/o Premji Bhai Patel R/o C-137, Ground-Floor, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-110015 have changed my name to Babulal Patel. 0040601706-5

I, Ashok Kumar Dhyani, S/o Khushal Mani Dhyani, R/o: A-3, Airport Apartment, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-18, have changed my name to Ashok Dhyani. 0070771595-1

I Sonu alias Jai Ram S/o Sh. Hari Singh R/o Plot No.135 F/F, Chand Vihar, Vikas Nagar, D.K.Mohan Garden, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Sonu for all purposes. 0040601624-5

I IQBAL SINGH S/O MR. RAM SINGH R/O-16/11 2ND FLOOR,WEST PATEL NAGAR,NEW DELHI-110008 LIKE TO SPECIFY THAT MY FATHER NAME IS RAM SINGH BUT BY MISTAKE IN MY TC HIS NAME IS WRITTEN AS RAM SINGH MALUJA.THAT RAM SINGH MALUKA & RAM SINGH BOTH THE NAMES BELONGS TO THE ONE & THE SAME PERSON I.E-MY FATHER. 0040601650-1

That it is general information that I Salim Ahmed, S/o Abdul Waheed, R/o Type-II/75, Schedule-B, President Estate, New Delhi-110004,has been wrongly written as Saleem in my service book, due to my fault. That actual name of mine Salim Ahmad, respectively which may be amended accordingly. That is my true statement. 0040601654-2

I,GR ANURADHA,spouse of,DEBASHISH GANGULY, resident of,105,Salaria-Officers Enclave,Sector-21,Dwarka, Delhi-110077,have changed my Name,from GR ANURADHA to ANURADHA GANGULY RAMASWAMAIAH,vide-Affidavit dated-04-02-2022,At New-Delhi. 0040601703-8

I,Manjit Singh S/o Lochan Singh,R/o 14/7-A,Moti Nagar Delhi-15, have changed my name to Manjeet Singh. 0040601690-7

I,Amarjeet Singh S/o Mohan Singh R/o-C-8/8753 Vasant Kunj Delhi-110070,have changed my name to Amarjit Singh Permanently. 0040601696-3

I Brijesh S/o Sh. Sohan Lal Saxena R/o D-10, Street No.12, East Arjun Nagar, Near Hedgewar Hospital,Shahdara, East Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Brijesh Saxena for all purposes. 0040601624-7

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Roopa Ramesh Kekkar (Old Name), W/o Hariprasad G**, residing at C2, Tower-9, Type-5, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi - 110023, India, changed my name from Roopa Ramesh Kekkar to **Roopa Hariprasad** vide affidavit dated 29.01.2022, sworn before Notary, at Delhi. Henceforth, I shall be known as **Roopa Hariprasad** for all purposes.

SERVICES

OLD AGE HOME

@500/- per day with meal at Kamshet Pune in scenicenvironment, for Peace of mind, also blind, Paralysis, Bedridden Elderly, first admission. Oldage home Wanwadi. Patiltai, 9545540076/9545540078 0090298596-1

CASTE NO BAR

SM4 26/5'2" B Tech/ beautiful girl Jaipur based GurudaBrahaman (SC) wkg in German MNC seeks MNC wkg boy born in 90's. WhatsApp 9414055008 0050191365-1

LOST & FOUND

I PREETI SINGH W/O MR. SWASHPREET SINGH have lost the Original Conveyance Deed dated 17 th April, 2008 of my PROPERTY BEARING NO.10, STREET NO.F-3, VASANT VIHAR, NEW DELHI, in case found, please contact at above address. 0040601624-8

I,Raja Sirohi,S/o Jagat Singh Sirohi,R/o E 53,GF,Greater kailash-3, Masjid moth, New Delhi.48,inform that I,have lost my original-Booking Letter, Allotment-letter & Payment-receipts of flat.no.1505,ORB Tower-B,Supertech,Sector-74,Noida,UP. Founder# 9899897658. 0040601703-10

Lost my Original Allotment Cum Possession Letter of my Flat No.C-6,Ground Floor,Vijeta Vihar Apartment,Sector-13, Rohini,Delhi-110085. Finder may Contact-Ravi Vijhani at above noted address. 0040601652-1

Lost my original DDA File, Registration Documents, GPA, Agreement to Sell of my Property No.A-3/126, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063.Finder may Contact-Ashok Kumar R/o-H.No.324, Gali No.10, Samaypur, Delhi-110042 0040601653-1

Lost-Original Sub Lease-Deed of Flat.No.3A-802,8th.FLoor,Area-199.81 Sq.M.,Gurjinder-Vihar,A WHO,Plot No.01,Pocket.P-5, Sector.CHI-01,Greater Noida, GautamBudh-Nagar,UP,After Registration, Dated-28-04-2011,Founder May Inform, Ramesh Chandra Joshi,S/O Ram Prasad Joshi#9899122557. 0040601696-9

ORIGINAL LEASE DEED OF SHOP NO.24,GAFFAR MARKET,KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005,HAS BEEN LOST.FINDER MAY CONTACT MRS. VEENA TUTEJA AT ABOVE ADDRESS. 0040601706-7

Original Lease Deed of Property No-Z/7-8,West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008,Has Been Lost.Finder May Pls contact Mr Geeta Kumar at Above Address. 0040601696-8

BUSINESS

1,30,000 sq. ft. warehouse with min. 25 ft. height is req. in Rewari or Gurgaon distt., if less area please don't contact. Last date 10/02/22, contact 9887066031. 0050191482-1

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Sh. Shirish Aggarwal
Administrative Civil Judge-cum-Additional Rent Controller (Central), Delhi
Court Room No. 28, Ground Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
Petition No. SC-313/2022
Namita Gautam
Versus
The State
Smt. Namita Gautam (Sister of Deceased) W/o Sudhendu P Gautam
R/o 2629, Nai Sarak, Near Roshan Pura, North Delhi-110006
FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925.
To All Concerned
Whereas in the above noted petition the applicant/ petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, in respect of the debt and securities **of Rs. ... As per record** to be standing in the name of **Late Smt. Vandana Gupta**, deceased.
Whereas the **26-03-2022** at 10' o clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing or the application notice is hereby given to all concerned.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 03-02-2022. Sd/
SHIRISH AGGARWAL
Administrative Civil Judge-cum-Additional Rent Controller (Central), Delhi
Seal

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice to hereby inform to general public that my client Shri Shyam Babu @ Ravi S/o Heera lal, R/o H. No 206, Gali No 9, Harinagar, Part 2, Jaitpur extension, Badarpur, New Delhi 110044 have informed that his daughter namely Priyanka have no right from his all movable and immovable properties with immediate effects. If any person deals with Priyanka in any manner whatsoever, then they will be doing that at their own risk, responsibility.
Sd/-
AKHIL REXWAL
Advocate
D/5021/2017
CH. 332 Saket Court
New Delhi-110017

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general Public that following share certificate of Poddar Pigments Ltd. Having its Registered Office at E-10, 11 & F-14 to 16, RIICO Industrial registered in the name of the following Shareholder/s have been lost by them. Area, Sitapura, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302022. **Name of the Shareholder/s:** VINAYAK SHARMA, **Folio No.:** 0031959, **Certificate No.:** 30445, **Distinctive No./S:** 7986801- 7986900, **No. of Shares:** 100. The Public are hereby cautioned against purchasing or dealing in any way with the above referred share certificates. Any person who has any claim in respect of the said share certificate/s should lodge such claim with the Company or its Registrar and Transfer Agents **Link Intime India Private Limited 247 Park, C-101, 1st Floor, L.B.S. Marg, Vikroli (W) Mumbai-400083, TEL: 022 49186270** within 15 days of publication of this notice after which no claim will be entertained and the Company shall proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificate/s. **Name of Legal Claimant.** Vinayak Sharma D-702, Saraswati Vihar Delhi-110034 **Place :** Delhi **Date:** 03/02/2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is hereby given to general public that Mrs. Jaya Kapil who claimed to be owners and in possession of Built Up Society Free Hold Flat Bearing No. 16, on Ground Floor, area measuring 91.00 Sq. Mtrs. in the layout plan of Lucky Home Co-Operative G.H.S. Limited, Situated at Plot No. 19/1, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085. by virtue of Sale Deed dated 01.11.2021, now Mrs. Jaya Kapil is selling said property to Miss Shruti Kuchhal and Mrs. Pushpa Kuchhal and now Miss Shruti Kuchhal and Mrs. Pushpa Kuchhal has approached IDFC First Bank Limited for financial assistance and therefore shall be mortgaged with the said Bank. We give this public notice that if any person having any claim/objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property or any part of the said property in favour of IDFC First Bank Ltd is/are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mention below within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any claim, if any, of such persons will be consider to have been waived and/or, abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of Mortgage in respect thereof.
For Juris NextGen Law Offices
E-56,LGF, Greater Kailash Enclave Part-1
New Delhi-110048

PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT MY CLIENT **SMT. SHEELA DEVI W/O LATE SH. VED PRAKASH, RESIDENT OF C-8/127, III FLOOR, SECTOR-5, ROHINI, DELHI-110085** HAVE PUT AN END TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HER SON **SANDEEP**, HER DAUGHTER IN- LAW **REENA KUMARI** AND HER GRANDSON **KUNAL**; DEBARRING THEM FROM ALL MOVABLE-IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES. ANY PERSON DEALING WITH THEM IN ANY RESPECT SHALL DO AT HIS/HER OWN RISK.
Sd/-
VANDANA RATHORE
Advocate
Chamber No. 1525, Lawyers Chamber
Rohini Courts, Delhi-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my client(s) is/are interested to buy Freehold Property bearing no. I-329, LIG DDA Flat, Nerainа Vihar, Delhi-110028, presently owned & possessed by Smt. Geeta Joshi W/o Sh. U.K. Joshi by virtue of Sale Deed duly registered vide Regd.No. 2249, dated 02.06.2017, and as per owner version the said property/ Flat is/are free from all sorts of encumbrances. Link documents are missing and duly informed vide LR No. 101009/2022, date-05.02.2022 with SHO Crime Branch, Delhi.
It is hereby notified that any person or entity, firm/ company, Bank, HUF/ member of HUF, Financial Institution having any claim, any charge, interest or lien or claim on the basis of documents &/or objection to thereof, he/she/they may lodge/ notify the same to the undersigned with documentary proof/ court judgement within 15 days from the day of publication of this Public notice, failing which any further/ future claim/ objection(s) shall be rejected & my client/ prospective buyer(s) as a bona-fide purchaser conclude the title/ Sale Deed proposed to be executed in favor of my client(s) or in the name of his/her/their nominees shall be deemed to be clear & marketable without any defect, encumbrances, flaw and impediment.
Mithilesh Kumar (Advocate) Ch. No. 717, District Courts Rohini, Delhi- 85 # 9810593109

PUBLIC NOTICE

"It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Jagmohan Sharma acquired Property Bearing No. C-43, Old Plot No. 151, measuring 50 Sq. Yards, Khasra No. 137 and 117, village Sikdar pur, North Chhajju Pur, Gali No. 3, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi vide GPA, ATS & Will dated 31.03.1994 executed by Mr. Ashok Kumar Sharma and now Mr. Jagmohan Sharma is the undisputed owner of the above said property. OR Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client.
Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate)
H.No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi 110024

PUBLIC NOTICE

"It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Sangeeta Sharma & Mr. Jugal Kishore Sharma acquired Second Floor portion with roof rights of Property No. 27/109/3B, measuring 100 Sq. Yards, Khasra No. 752, Pandav Nagar, Jwala Nagar, Chandrawal, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi vide Sale Deed dt. 24.05.2013 executed by Mrs. Rani Sharma, Mrs. Savita Sharma, Mrs. Neetu Joshi & Mrs. Kashish Sharma and now Mrs. Sangeeta Sharma & Mr. Jugal Kishore Sharma is the undisputed owner of the above said property. OR Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client.
Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate)
H.No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi 110024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my client Rajesh Jain s/o late Vidya Sagar Jain, r/o Block B, H.No. 1002/1, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-52 have severed all his family relation with his said son Nikhil Jain & his wife Smt. Kanika Jain and also disown them from inheriting any of the movable or immovable properties owned and possessed by my client which are self acquired properties of my client, forthwith as his said son and daughter in law are disloyal unfaithful and do not follow customs of the family. Any body dealing with them shall be doing so at his/ her/ their own risk and costs.
Sd/- **(RAJESH KUMAR SHARMA)**
ADVOCATE
Ch. No. 435, Civil Wing,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the public at large that my client, Mr. Kukoo Walia s/o Late Sh.Gian Singh, resident of DDA Flat no.A-2/98/VII, First Floor Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi have lost his Original Allotment letter and Possession letter of the above mentioned property which was issued by DDA in favour of Sh.Gian Singh. The N.C.R to this effect has been lodged dated 05.02.2022 with LR no.101717/ 2022. Any Person claiming any right, interest having any objection or found in possession of the original document may write/contact to the above name and address/ Ph. No.: 9611175233 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Gitanjali Sharma-ADVOCATE
CH. NO.L-10, NEAR TEHSIL BUILDING, TIS HAZARI COURTS,DELHI-110054.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my Clients Mr. Anupam, Sharma S/o Late Sh.YD. Sharma and Ms. Asha Sharma W/o Sh. Anupam Sharma R/o 14-B/UA, Jawahar Nagar, Delhi-110007, have severed all relations with our son namely, Sh. Abhishek Sharma and daughter-in-Law namely Priyanka Sharma and grand-daughter Arshiya Sharma and further disinherited them from all our moveable and immoveable properties henceforth more specifically from 14-B/UA. Jawahar Nagar, Delhi110007. My clients shall have no concern with them. Anybody dealing with them in connection of any property and otherwise may do so at his/her own risk and peril and my clients shall in no way be responsible for the same in any manner whatsoever.
MONTY SINGH Advocate Chamber No-735A Western Wing Tis Hazari Court Delhi-110054

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Open E-Tender Notice No.
NER-BSB0SnT-OT-1-2022

"Open Tenders" through Online **(E-tendering)** are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecomm)/ Varanasi/N.E. Railway for and behalf of the President of India for the following works: **S.No. 1, Tender Notice No. and Description of work: NER-BSB0SnT-OT-1-2022**, Telecom work in connection of Improvement of Kailash rest house Telecom wiring in new building & Provision of Two unit Type-V awas at BSB. **Details: Approx. Value:** ₹ 12,12,837.81/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 24,300.00/-, **Cost of Tender Form:** ₹ 00.00, **Completion period:** 120 Days, **Tender Closing date & Time:** 01.03.2022 upto 15.00 Hrs. **Note: 1.** Tender online will be submitted upto 15 Hrs. on date 01.03.2022. **2.** For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the official website of Indian railways i.e. **www. ireps.gov.in.**
Divisional Rly. Manager
CPRO/Sig-75 (S&T) Varanasi
About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No.
"DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड कोण्डागाव जिला-कोण्डागांव (छ.ग.)

(Phone No. 07786-296071, Email id-eekon-phe-cg@gov.in

ऑन लाईन निविदा संशोधन सूचना क्रमांक-01
जी क्रमाँक-66785

इस कार्यालय द्वारा नीचे दर्शित ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित सूचना में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निविदा के तिथियों में संशोधन किया जाता है। विवरण निम्नानुसार है:-

स. क्र.	निविदा क्रमांक एवं दिनॉक	सिस्टम क्रमांक	ग्राम का नाम	डाऊनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि
1	2	3	4	5
01	154/04.01.2022	90224	बनियागांव	15.02.2022
02	155/04.01.2022	90226	मालगांव	
03	156/04.01.2022	90228	घोडागांव	
04	157/04.01.2022	90229	बडेंडोंगर	
05	164/04.01.2022	90234	नगरी	

उक्त निविदा की शेष नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

हस्ता/-
कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थय यांत्रिकी खण्ड
कोण्डागांव (छ.ग.)
67525

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, कबीरधाम (छ.ग.)

द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ऑनलाईन निविदाएं ''प्रपत्र-ए'' में प्रतिशत दर पर नीचे उल्लेखित कार्य के लिये DWSM, KABIRDHAM की ओर से कार्यपालन अभियंता एवं सदस्य सचिव DWSM द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था ई-रजिस्ट्रेशन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कार्य का विवरण:- कबीरधाम जिले के बोडला एवं स. लोहारा विकासखण्ड में स्वीकृत रेट्रोफिटिंग नल जल प्रदाय योजनांतर्गत पेयजल प्रदाय एवं इत्यादि कार्य।

निविदा सूचना क्रमांक/दिनांक	निविदा सिस्टम क्रमांक	योजना का नाम एवं विकासखण्ड	अनुमानित लागत (रुपए लाख में)
210/Dt. 31.01.2022	91331	विकासखंड बोडला के ग्राम कामाडबरी में रेट्रोफिटिंग नल जल प्रदाय योजना।	93.12
211/Dt. 31.01.2022	91332	विकासखंड बोडला के ग्राम राजनवागांव में रेट्रोफिटिंग नल जल प्रदाय योजना।	154.19
212/Dt. 31.01.2022	91676	विकासखंड स. लोहारा के ग्राम दारगाव में रेट्रोफिटिंग नल जल प्रदाय योजना।	77.15

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यो की निविदा की सामान्य शर्ते, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल **http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in** में दिनांक 31-01-2022 से देखी जा सकती है।

निविदा डाऊनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि:-11.02.2022

हस्ता/-
कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड
कबीरधाम (छ.ग.)
67469

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my client Rajesh Jain s/o late Vidya Sagar Jain, r/o Block B, H.No. 1002/1, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-52 have severed all his family relation with his said son Nikhil Jain & his wife Smt. Kanika Jain and also disown them from inheriting any of the movable or immovable properties owned and possessed by my client which are self acquired properties of my client, forthwith as his said son and daughter in law are disloyal unfaithful and do not follow customs of the family. Any body dealing with them shall be doing so at his/ her/ their own risk and costs.
Sd/- **(RAJESH KUMAR SHARMA)**
ADVOCATE
Ch. No. 435, Civil Wing,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the public at large that my client, Mr. Kukoo Walia s/o Late Sh.Gian Singh, resident of DDA Flat no.A-2/98/VII, First Floor Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi have lost his Original Allotment letter and Possession letter of the above mentioned property which was issued by DDA in favour of Sh.Gian Singh. The N.C.R to this effect has been lodged dated 05.02.2022 with LR no.101717/ 2022. Any Person claiming any right, interest having any objection or found in possession of the original document may write/contact to the above name and address/ Ph. No.: 9611175233 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Gitanjali Sharma-ADVOCATE
CH. NO.L-10, NEAR TEHSIL BUILDING, TIS HAZARI COURTS,DELHI-110054.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my Clients Mr. Anupam, Sharma S/o Late Sh.YD. Sharma and Ms. Asha Sharma W/o Sh. Anupam Sharma R/o 14-B/UA, Jawahar Nagar, Delhi-110007, have severed all relations with our son namely, Sh. Abhishek Sharma and daughter-in-Law namely Priyanka Sharma and grand-daughter Arshiya Sharma and further disinherited them from all our moveable and immoveable properties henceforth more specifically from 14-B/UA. Jawahar Nagar, Delhi110007. My clients shall have no concern with them. Anybody dealing with them in connection of any property and otherwise may do so at his/her own risk and peril and my clients shall in no way be responsible for the same in any manner whatsoever.
MONTY SINGH Advocate Chamber No-735A Western Wing Tis Hazari Court Delhi-110054

UJVN LTD.

H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones : 0135-2763808 & Fax : 0135- 2763507
CIN No.:U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website.: www.ujvnl.com

Letter No. 50 Dated 05.02.2022

Corrigendum (Time Extension Notice & Addendum-I)
e-Tender Notice

Due to unavoidable circumstances, due dates of bidding invited by the Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M-II), Vyasi Project, Dakpathar, UJVN Ltd. are hereby extended as follows:.

NIT No : 05/EE(E&M-II)/VP/2021-22

Name of work :- Supply, Installation, Commissioning and testing of Submersible pump sets with pipes, common headers and its accessories at Vyasi Project Hathiyari

Last Date of submission of bids : 15:02:2022 up to 16:00 Hrs on website

Last Date for submission of Physical/ Original Copy of Bid Document :16:02:2022 up to 17:00 Hrs

Time & Date for opening of bid :17:02:2022 at 11:00 Hrs on website

Addendum-I has been uploaded on e-procurement portal **https://uktenders.gov.in** All other terms and conditions of the bid remain unchanged.

Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the e-procurement portal - **https://uktenders.gov.in**

Executive Engineer (E&M-II),Vyasi Project

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

कार्यालय-कार्यपालन अभियन्ता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी, खण्ड-जशपुर (छत्तीसगढ)

ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अन्तर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारो से निम्नलिखित कार्यो हेतु ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

कार्य का नाम:- जशपुर जिले के निम्नलिखित विक

MUBABAK MANDI JAMMU HERITAGE SOCIETY
NOTICE INVITING 'REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL' (REP)

Executive Engineer MMJHS (MUBARAK MANDI JAMMU HERITAGE SOCIETY) invites on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K (Chairman Governing Body MMJHS, Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society) online in two bids system (i.e Financial Bid and Technical Bid) from eligible Heritage Consultancy Firms for Project Management Consultancy (PMC) for conservation of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex, Jammu.

The prospective bidders may download the RFP document from **www.jktenders.gov.in** on 31.01.2022 onwards for further details regarding the eligibility criteria, scope of work, submission of bids, conditions of contract etc. The last date of submission is 14.02.2022 upto 1800 hrs. The bid security is 5.00 Lacs. Prospective bidders are also advised tyo regularly scan through the website **www.jktenders.gov.in** as corrigendum, amendments etc., if any will be notified in this website only and no separate advertisement shall be made for this.

Sd/-
(Er. Sushil Kumar)
Executive Engineer, MMJHS

NIT No. EE/MMJHS/2021-22/11
Dated: 31.01.2022 DIP/J-5994-P/21

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Rani

General Public is hereby informed that one female **Namely: Rani, W/o: Vikas Kumar, R/o:** H.No. 37, Street No. 2, Near Lal Mandir Kirari, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped since **12.01.2022** at 02:00 pm. from the area of P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 96A dated 18.01.2022** has been registered at P. S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing female are as under: **Age:** 21 years, **Sex:** Female, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Fair, **Hair:** Normal & black, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing**: Brown colour jacket and blue colour slipper in her feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform to the following.

Website: http//cbi.nic.in
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **SHO**
Fax No. 011-24368639 **P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi**
DP/1278/RD/2022 **Ph.: 011-27581812, 8750870321**

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
JOINT DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE (EXTENSION) & F.W.: JAMMU

(Tele/Fax: 0191-2554609 Mobile No.: 9419107033, Email: jdaext@gmail.com

Sub: Expression of Interest.

Expression of Interest is Solicited from reputed/registered milch animal breeders/livestock former/dairy owners for supply of high yielding cows (HF/Jersey/Sohiwal)/ Buffaloes (Murrah/Neeli-Ravi) under NAFCC Project Bhalwal during 2021-22.

The livestock is interested to be provided to formers with government assistance under the project. The interested suppliers may communicatee their interest by indicating their registration post trade activities, breeds available along with terms and conditions for sale of milch animals to the formers in the project area under Govt. mediation.

The interested supplier must facilitis the buyers as per the following terms and conditions:-

1. Support for assessment of good quality livestock-through livestock purchase expert.
2. Guarantee of the milk assured at the time of purchase of livestock upto the lactation period etc.
3. Door delivery of animals at the farmer's doorstep.
4. Post-purchase support services

* Veterinary service as the livestock gets transported to the farmer's farm location.
* Ensure that animal reach customer's place safely.
* Telephonic veterinary service for 3 months.

The Expression of Interest (EOI) may be furnished in hard copy on the official address and/or sent via Email latest by 7th of February 2022.

No: JDAE/NAFCC/2021-22/4953-55
Dated: 24.01.2022
DIP/J-12515/21

H.P. BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION, DHARAMSHALA-176213

Hi.Shi.Bo/STORE(7)/2022-3635 DATED:- 05. February 2022

"LIMITED TENDER NOTICE"

Sealed tenders are invited by the undersigned for **printing manufacturing and supply of carton boxes** from reputed and experienced firms having experience of handling such jobs.

Tender document can be had from the Office of the Secretary, H.P. Board of School Education, Dharamshala on cash payment of Rs. 500/- or by post by remitting Rs. 550/- through Bank Draft in favour of the Secretary payable at Dharamshala on any working day on or before **28 Feb 2022 upto 11.00 AM.** The Tender Document can also be downloaded from the Board website: www.hpbose.org. For downloaded form, the tenderer shall have to submit a Bank Draft/Board Receipt of Rs. 500/- in favour of the undersigned along with the Tender Form. Offers complete in all respect along with Earnest money Rs. 5000/- (Five thousand rupees) in the form of F.D.R/T.D.R valid for at least 6 monehts in favour of the Secretary, H.P. Board of School Education, dharamshala should reach in the office of the Secretary, H.P. Board of School Education, Dharamshala-176213 on or before **28 Feb 2022 by 1.00 PM.** The tenders will be opened on the same day at 2.00 PM. The tenders received without tender document cost (in case of downloaded forms), Earnest money and tenders received after due date shall be summarily rejected.

Sd/-
Secretary
HP Board of School Education
Dharamshala-176213

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Tender Notice No.: NCR-PRYJ0COMM (NFR)/16/2021/45307 **Assistant Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj**
Date : 01.02.2022 **TENDER NOTICE**

Following open e-tenders on prescribed tender forms are invited by the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, North Central Railway, Prayagraj on behalf of President of India.

1.	**Tender No.**	62-A to E/2022(WAP-7)and 63-A to E/2022 (WAG-9)
2.	**Details of work including place**	Commercial Advertisement Rights through PU (Polyurethane) Painting on 25 no. WAP-7 and 25 no. WAG-9 electric locomotives in group of 05 (WAP-7) and 05 (WAP-9) Electric locomotives of the exterior surface at Electric Loco Shed - Kanpur Yard, of Prayagraj Division for a period of five (05) years.
3.	**Approximate Cost in Rs.**	(A) 1st year Reserve Price of Rs. 11,92,642/- for each WAP-7 groups (05 Locomotive) separately. (B) 1st year Reserve Price of Rs. 12,47,386/- for each WAG-9 groups (05 Locomotive) separately.
4.	**Cost of Tender Form in Rs.**	Rs. 5900/- for each groups separately
5.	**Office address from where the tender information can be obtained.**	Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Managers Office, North Central Railway, Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Prayagraj
6.	**Earnest Money to be deposited in Rs.**	(A) Rs. 1,26,700/- for each WAP-7 groups separately. (B) Rs. 1,32,500/- for each WAG-9 groups separately
7.	**Period of Contract**	Five Years
8.	**Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Tiime**	At 16:00 hrs. on 18.02.2022
9.	**i. Date & Time for dropping the tender form ii. Date & Time for the opening of tender**	i. From date of publishing of tender notice in newspaper to 02.03.2022 upto 13:00 hrs. ii. At 15:00 hrs. on 02.03.2022
10.	**Website & Notice board where the full details of tender can be seen**	Tender shall be available on **www.ireps.gov.in** upto **13:00** hrs. on **02.03.2022** i.e. date of opening of the tender. The tender notice can also be viewed on Railway's website **www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in** **131/22 (P)**

North central railway **www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in** **@ CPRONCR**

हथकरघा एवं वस्त्रोद्योग निदेशालय, उ.प्र. कानपुर
द्वारा प्रसारित
उ.प्र. राज्य हथकरघा निगम लि.

विज्ञप्ति

दिनांक 01.01.2022 को दैनिक समाचार पत्र **''इण्डियन एक्सप्रेस''** एवं दिनांक 02.01.2022 को दैनिक समाचार पत्र **''आज''** में आगरा मण्डल, के अंक पत्र में अभिरूचि की अभिव्यक्ति सम्बंधी विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशित करायी गयी, जिसमें अंकित 06 सम्पत्तियों में से केवल एक सम्पत्ति यू.पी. हैण्डलूम बिक्री केन्द्र, संजय प्लेस, आगरा का 70 प्रतिशत भाग सहभागिता पर लेने हेतु अधिकतम धनराशि रु. 1,44,000.00 एवं 18 प्रतिशत जी.एस.टी. सहित कुल धनराशि रु. 1,69,920.00 प्रति माह पर प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है।

उक्त सन्दर्भित अभिरूचि की अभिव्यक्ति सम्बंधी विज्ञप्ति के क्रम में कोई व्यक्ति/ संस्था विज्ञप्ति में प्रकाशित नियमों एवं शर्तों के अधीन प्रतिमाह जी.एस.टी. सहित रु. 1,69,920.00 से अधिक धनराशि का प्रस्ताव देने का इच्छुक हो तो अपना प्रस्ताव श्री रोशन सिंह, प्रभारी विपणन, परिक्षेत्र–आगरा, मो. नं.– 9759129471 के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रारूप पर निर्धारित शुल्क के साथ दिनांक 14.02.2022 की सायं 04:00 बजे तक प्रेषित कर सकते हैं। इसके साथ उपरोक्त तिथियों में प्रकाशित विवरण के क्रम में सम्मिलित अन्य सम्पत्तियों के बेस प्राइस या अधिक धनराशि का प्रस्ताव हो तो इच्छुक इकाई अपना प्रस्ताव प्रेषित कर सकती है।

प्रबन्ध निदेशक

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता,
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड, राजेन्द्र पार्क चौक दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

दूरभाष क्र. 0778-2323633 **E-mail:eedurg-phe-cg@nic.in**

// शुद्धपत्र क्र. 01//

इस कार्यालय की निम्नलिखित ऑनलाईन निविदाओं के समय सारणी में संशोधन किया जाता है, जो कि निम्नानुसार है:-

क्र.	निविदा सूचना क्रमांक/दिनांक	सिस्टम क्रमांक	बिड सबमिशन की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय
1	170, 171, 172,173,174, 175, 180, 181,184, 189, 193, 196, 197, 198, 202, 206/ दिनांक 03.12.2021, 17.12.2021, 27.12.2021, 30.12.2021	88129, 88130, 88131, 88132, 88133, 88134, 89042, 89046, 89564, 89569, 89574, 89851, 89852, 89856, 89860	11.02.2022 को 17.30 बजे तक

टीपः- निविदा की अन्य शर्ते पूर्ववत यथावत रहेंगी।

हस्ता/-
कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

67523

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

ROHAN

General Public is hereby informed that one boy **Namely:** Rohan, **S/o** Anil, **R/o:** H.No 1287, Mangol Puri, Delhi, **Age:** 17 Years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Blue Colour flowers Shirt, Black Jeans and light blue colour shoes in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 19.12.2021 from the area of PS Raj Park, Delhi. In this regard **FIR No. 0758, Dated 20.12.2021,** has been registered at **P.S. Raj Park, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/ kidnapped boy but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped boy please inform to the following:-

Web-site : http://cbi.nic.in **SHO**
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334 **P.S. Raj Park, Delhi**
DP/1461/OD/2022 **Ph.: 011-27910070, 27910071**

SEARCH FOR MISSING

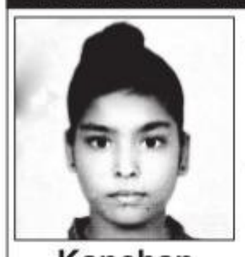
Aakash Gupta

General Public is hereby informed that this man namely **Aakash Gupta**, S/o Lt. Sh. Arun Gupta, R/o H.No. 2474, 1st Floor, Chhipiwara Mandir wali Gali, Delhi-06. **Age :** 34 years, **Height :** 5'7" **Complexion**-Sallow, **Face**-Long, **Built**-Normal, **ID Mark**-Old cut mark on neck, **Wearing**-Grey and black colour jacket and blue jean, cream and black coour shoes in feet has been reported missing from his house since **03.01.2022 at about 07.30AM**. In this regard a **DD No. 42A dated 01.02.2022.** has been lodged at **P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this person please inform to the undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641 **SHO**
Fax : 011-23011334 **P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi**
DP/1230/CD/2022 **Ph. : 011-23261625, 23269777**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



Kanchan

General Public is hereby informed that this girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Kanchan **D/o** Amar Singh **R/o** H.No. 2126/3, AB, Gali No. 06, Prem Nagar, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped since 26.01.2022 from the area of P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 171/22 U/s 363 IPC dated 27.01.2022 has been registered at Police Station Patel Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age: 16 Years, **Height**: 5'2", **Complexion**: Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing**: Red & White & Black Colour Linning T-Shirt, Blue Colour Jacket and Blue Colour Jeans and Hawai Chappal in feet.

Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform to the following :-

E-mail Id-**cic@cbi.gov.in** or website: **http://cbi.nic.in**

Phone: **SHO**
011-24368638, 24368641 **P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi**
Fax No. 011-24368639 **Central Distt., Delhi**
DP/1232/CD/2022 **Ph. No. 011-25872637, 23242020**

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN RAIPUR (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in
(1st CALL)

System Tender No.: 91913/NIT No.:21/SAC/2021-22, Bemetara,Dated: 04.02.2022

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 25.02.2022 at 17.30 Hour.

Name of Work: Construction of Hatgaon-Kechwai Anicut Cum Rapta on Dotu Nalla in Block Berla, District Bemetara

Probable Amount of Contract:- **Rs. 227.87 Lakhs**

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal **(https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) from Date 11.02.2022 at 17.31 Hours. (IST) onwards.**

NOTE:- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal **(https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in)** and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Executive Engineer
Water Resources Division,
Bemetara (C.G.)
For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin
Raipur (C.G.)

67519

रायपुर विकास प्राधिकरण
भक्त माता कर्मा व्यावसायिक परिसर, न्यू राजेन्द्र नगर, रायपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

क्रमांक 1706/सी-2020/02 रायपुर, दिनांक 02.02.2022

निविदा निरस्त करने की सूचना

रायपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, रायपुर (छत्तीसगढ़) द्वारा जारी किये ऑनलाईन निविदा क्रमांक 02 दिनांक 14.01.2022 निविदा के सिस्टम टेण्डर क्रमांक 90804 के कार्य को अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त किया जाता है।

अधीक्षण अभियंता

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता
महानदी गोदावरी कछार, रायपुर, (छ.ग.)

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा सूचना

eProcurement Portal : https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in

(प्रथम आमंत्रण)

सिस्टम निविदा क्र 91853/निविदा सूचना क्र. 18/वलेलि/2021-22, बेमेतरा, दिनांक 03.02.2022

निम्नलिखित कार्यो के लिए दिनांक **24.02.2022** 17.30 तक ऑन लाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कार्य का नाम : बेमेतरा जिले के विकासखण्ड साजा की सुरही नदी पर देऊरगाव तटबंध सुरक्षा योजना के बांयी ओर आर.डी. 0 मी. से 450 मी. तक तटबंध कार्य। अनुमानित लागतः रु. 232.44 लाख

अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छत्तीसगढ शासन की ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट-वेबसाईट **https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in.** पर दिनांक **10.02.2022** समय 17.31 बजे से देखे तथा डाऊनलोड किये जा सकते है।

नोटः निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु ठेकेदारों को ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट-वेबसाईट **https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in** पर नामांकित/पंजीयन तथा लोक निर्माण विभाग की एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत ठेकेदार को उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीयन कराना अनिवार्य है।

हस्ता/-
कार्यपालन अभियंता
जल संसाधन संभाग, बेमेतरा
कृते मुख्य अभियंता महानदी गोदावरी कछार,
जल संसाधन विभाग, रायपुर, छ.ग.

67487

कार्यालय नगर निगम, भोपाल
विद्युत शाखा
प्रथम तल,आई.एस.बी.टी. भवन होशंगाबाद रोड, हबीबगंज, भोपाल-462011

क्र.872/ वि.शा./2021 भोपाल, दिनांक 03.02.2022

निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-पत्र

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धति के अनुसार मोहरबंद निविदायें निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

क्र.	ऑनलाईन टेण्डर नं.	कार्य स्थल का नाम	अनुमानित राशि	धरोहर राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र की कीमत	ठेकेदार की श्रेणी	कार्य हेतु निर्धारित एस.ओ.आर.	कार्य की अवधि
1	2022_UAD_182969_1	Consultancy Services for support in Setting up of Wind power projects to supply power for captive electrical connections of Bhopal Municipal Corporation, Bhopal.	2,00,00,000/-	2,00,000/-	12,500/-	As per as Tender Document	NON SOR ITEM	18 Months

नियम व शर्ते :-

1. निविदा प्रपत्र की निर्धारित राशि एवं धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य आवश्यक दस्तावेज ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करने होंगे एवं अन्य समस्त विस्तृत जानकारी www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।
2. किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकार अथवा अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित होगा।

Sd/-
कार्यपालन यंत्री (विद्युत)
नगर निगम भोपाल

नि.क्र. 1145/021/022

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER: PWD: BUILDING: ASSAM: CHANDMARI: GUWAHATI-3.

No. CE/TB-III/25/2022/2

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Buildings) Health & Education, Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids for the following works under P.W.D. (Bldg.), Assam from registered contractors having requisite experience in similar nature of work. Details may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. **www.assamtenders.gov.in**

Sl. No	State/ Package	Name of Work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in Lakh)	Time of comple-tion	Bid Security (2% for General, and 1% for Reserved category) to be drawn in favour of	Cost of Bid (Rs.)
1.	FH/Jagiroad-Nagaon Paper Mill	Establishment of Field Hospital at HPCL (Nagaon Paper Mill) Jagiroad in Morigaon District, Assam."	483.03	30 (thirty) days	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Morigaon District Territorial Bldg. Division,	12,500.00

Note :-

1. NIT value may be changed during uploading of tender in the website, which may be seen in Detailed NIT of the bid document.
2. The bidders must be enrolled in **www.assamtenders.gov.in**

Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building),
Health & Education
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati.3.

JANASANYOG / C / 11609/21

नगर पालिक निगम, इन्दौर
संधारण खंड क्रमांक-2, मूसाखेड़ी, इन्दौर
E-mail: ee2_narmada@rediffmail.com, Phone: 0731-2712846

निविदा सूचना क्रमांक: 27/2021-22/नर्मदा.परि/न.पा.नि. **ऑनलाइन निविदा चतुर्थ आमंत्रण सूचना** इन्दौर, दिनांक: 31.01.2022

निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ऑनलाइन निविदा पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से, जो कि आवश्यक अर्हता रखते हों, से आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (रुपये में)	अमानत राशि (रुपये में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	ऑनलाइन निविदा क्र.	समय सीमा
01	Procurement, laying, jointing, testing & commissioning of D.I K-9 Feeder mains of 3.6 km for existing & proposed overhead tanks & design, construction, testing & commissioning of RCC overhead Tank (2.5 ML capacity of 21 mtr stg height) and distribution network of various diameter at Snehalataganj Area.	10,37,12,879/-	5,18,564/-	30,000/-	2022_UAD_183104	16 माह

1.	निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाइन क्रय कर जमा करने की अंतिम दिनांक	:	21.02.2022 सायं 17:30 बजे तक
2.	निविदा ऑनलाइन खोलने की दिनांक (ENVELOPE A/B)	:	23.02.2022 प्रातः 11:30 बजे पश्चात्

टिपः विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति एवं अन्य दस्तावेज देखने एवं डाउनलोड करने के लिये https://mptenders.gov.in पर सुविधा उपलब्ध है।

नोटः (1) उपरोक्त निविदा में भविष्य में होने वाले समस्त संशोधनों को केवल विभागीय वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किया जायेगा एवं इनका प्रकाशन समाचार पत्रों में नहीं किया जाएगा।

(2) निविदा तीन लिफाफा पद्धति पर आमंत्रित होकर, तदनुसार ही प्रस्तुत की जाना होगी।

कार्यपालन यंत्री,
संधारण खण्ड क्रमांक-02,
मूसाखेड़ी, इन्दौर

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE SRINAGAR KASHMIR
Tel-0194-2474234 Fax -2482032 – email: - kashflori@rediffmail.com

GIST OF e- Tender Notice No. 53 of 2022
Dated: - 03/02/2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, e-tender is invited from interested parties/persons for **Outsourcing of entry Ticketing system of Rani Bagh Park, Anantnag** of Floriculture Department Kashmir as per details given below: -

The participants have to quote their bid amount in the concerned BOQ: -

S. No.	Period of contract	Reserve Bid (Rs. in Lakhs)	Value of security deposit	Cost of tender document
1.	01 year from the date of award of contract	**3,79,000.00**	**37,900.00**	500/- in the shape of e-challan

The bidding document (s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website www.dirflorikmr.in / www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	04.02.2022 from 02:00 PM to 25.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	04.02.2022 from 03:00 PM
3.	Bid submission End date	25.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	28.02.2022 at 02:00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidders. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
Member Secretary

DIPK-17621/21

संचालनालय स्वास्थ्य सेवाएँ छत्तीसगढ, रायपुर
शार्ट टर्म निविदा (15 दिवस)

छत्तीसगढ स्वास्थ्य समिति, उप समिति (क्षय) संचालक, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग संचालनालय स्वास्थ्य सेवायें Block A Room No. I/1/03 इन्द्रावती भवन अटल नगर रायपुर छत्तीसगढ पिन-492002 (छत्तीसगढ) के द्वारा राज्य में संचालित कल्चर एवं ड्रग सेंसिटिविटि लॅब में उपयोग हेतु विविध लैब सामग्रियों को क्रय करने हेतु प्रतिष्ठित एवं व्यावसायिक पंजीकृत फर्मो से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। इच्छुक फर्म कार्यालयीन समय में दिनांक 05/02/2022 से दिनांक 20/02/2022 (अवकाश दिवस को छोडकर) तक 500 रु. का डी.डी (Director Health & Family Welfare Atal Nagar Raipur) के नाम से जमा कर निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्त करे। दिनांक 21/02/2022 को पूर्वाहन 3.00 बजे तक पूर्ण निविदा जमा करे। निविदा से संबंधित समस्त जानकारी www.cghealthnic.in पर भी उपलब्ध है।

संचालक, स्वास्थ्य सेवायें छ.ग. द्वारा अनुमोदित।

हस्ता/-
राज्य क्षय अधिकारी
संचालनालय स्वास्थ्य सेवायें
छत्तीसगढ

31349

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Kiran with her child (girl) Sandhya

General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Kiran with her child (girl) Name Sandhya (01 years)**, D/o Gorkha Yadav, R/o-H. No. 196, Gali No. 02, Bheem Nagar, Delhi. **Age :** 20 years, **Height :** 5'3", **Complexion**-Fair, **Face**-Round, **Wearing**-Pink colour suit and Salwar (Lady), Blue colour frock (Child) has been reported missing/ kidnapped from the area of PS-Paschim Vihar West, Delhi, since **13.12.2021** in this regard **DD No. 85-A dated 20.12.2021** has been registered at **PS. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped lady with her child (girl) but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this lady with her child (girl) please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641 **SHO**
Fax : 011-23011334 **P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi**
DP/1450/OD/2021 **Ph. : 011-25268394, 25280980**

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
STORES DEPARTMENT

Open Tender, Batch No. 105/21, Dated : 04.02.2022

E-Tender Notice for supply of materials "participation in through" web portal of IREPS- **www.ireps.gov.in** offers are invited for supply of the following materials. The closing time for all tenders is at 14.00 Hrs.

Sl. No. : 1, **Tender No. :** 04210334A, **Brief Description :** Element fuel filter, **Quantity :** 118 Nos., **Published on/time :** 28.01.22/12:58:47, **Closing on :** 28.02.22
Sl. No. : 2, **Tender No. :** 04210668, **Brief Description :** MV board, make-FTIL, **Quantity :** 38 Nos., **Published on/time :** 28.01.22/13:22:08, **Closing on :** 07.03.22
Sl. No. : 3, **Tender No. :** 11211064, **Brief Description :** Industrial vinegar grade-1, **Quantity :** 100000 LTR, **Published on/time :** 01.02.22/13:23:29, **Closing on :** 28.02.22
Sl. No. : 4, **Tender No. :** 14211072, **Brief Description :** Battery for TRD-Lead acid 40 AH, **Quantity :** 33 sets, **Published on/time :** 01.02.22/12:47:22, **Closing on :** 07.03.22
Sl. No. : 5, **Tender No. :** 14212402, **Brief Description :** Brushless alternator of 4.5 KW capacity, **Quantity :** 45 Nos., **Published on/time :** 01.02.22/12:51:51, **Closing on :** 07.03.22
Sl. No. : 6, **Tender No. :** 03224200, **Brief Description :** Earth return brush with holder assly, **Quantity :** 354 sets, **Published on/time :** 03.02.22/17:01:57, **Closing on :** 07.03.22
Sl. No. : 7, **Tender No. :** 04214859B, **Brief Description :** Secondary vertical damper for LHB AC coaches, **Quantity :** 860 Nos., **Published on/time :** 04.02.22/12:01:13, **Closing on :** 28.02.22

Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web portal of IREPS- **www.ireps.gov.in** before the closing date and time. Other details regarding Consignee and detailed description of stores are available in tender document in tender notice on the above portal.

SMM-cum Secy. To PCMM

PR/01631/HQ/STORE/T/21-22/60

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of president of India, DRM (Commercial), E.C Railway, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya division invites e-tender for Multi Purpose stalls No. 1, PF No. 1/2 at KTQ station, Stall No. 2, PF No. 3/4 at KTQ station, Stall No. 1 PF No. 1/2 at SEB station, Stall No. 1, PF No. 3/4 at RFJ station, Stall No. 1, PF No. 01 at NBG station, Stall No. 1, PF No. 01 at JPL station, Stall No. 1, PF No. 01 at HDN station and Stall No. 1, PF No. 01 at MDJ station for allotment of Multi Purpose Stalls :- Details are as under:-

Sl. No. : 1, **Name of work with its location and completion period. :** MPS No. 1, PF No. 1/2 at Kudra station for a period of 05 (Five) years. **Reserved price for 1st year (excluding GST) (in Rs) :** 92,000/- **Earnest Money (in Rs.) :** 48,900/-
Sl. No. : 2, **Name of work with its location and completion period. :** MPS No. 2, PF No. 3/4 at Kudra station for a period of 05 (Five) years. **Reserved price for 1st year (excluding GST) (in Rs) :** 98,000/- **Earnest Money (in Rs.) :** 52,100/-
Sl. No. : 3, **Name of work with its location and completion period. :** MPS No. 1, PF No. 1/2 at Sone Nagar station for a period of 05 (Five) years. **Reserved price for 1st year (excluding GST) (in Rs) :** 63,000/- **Earnest Money (in Rs.) :** 33,500/-
Sl. No. : 4, **Name of work with its location and completion period. :** MPS No. 1, PF No. 3/4 at Rafiganj station for a period of 05 (Five) years. **Reserved price for 1st year (excluding GST) (in Rs) :** 86,000/- **Earnest Money (in Rs.) :** 45,700/-
Sl. No. : 5, **Name of work with its location and completion period. :** MPS No. 1, PF No. 1 at Nabinagar station for a period of 05 (Five) years. **Reserved price for 1st year (excluding GST) (in Rs) :** 83,000/- **Earnest Money (in Rs.) :** 44,100/-
Sl. No. : 6, **Name of work with its location and completion period. :** MPS No. 1, PF No. 1 at Japla station for a period of 05 (Five) years. **Reserved price for 1st year (excluding GST) (in Rs) :** 1,16,000/- **Earnest Money (in Rs.) :** 61,600/-
Sl. No. : 7, **Name of work with its location and completion period. :** MPS No. 1, PF No. 1 at Haidar Nagar station for a period of 05 (Five) years. **Reserved price for 1st year (excluding GST) (in Rs) :** 1,25,000/- **Earnest Money (in Rs.) :** 66,400/-
Sl. No. : 8, **Name of work with its location and completion period. :** MPS No. 1, PF No. 2/3 at Muhammadganj station for a period of 05 (Five) years. **Reserved price for 1st year (excluding GST) (in Rs) :** 1,28,000/- **Earnest Money (in Rs.) :** 68,000/-

• **Date & Time for uploading of tender. :** 03.02.2022 • **Website particular where complete details available & Date Opening of Tender : www.ireps.gov.in Tender Opening Date : 24.02.2022**

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager,
East Central Railway, DDU

PR/01626/DDU/COML/T/21-22/76

THE SUNDAY PROFILE

A new beat

As the top ED officer at the helm of some of the most high-profile cases, from the Aircel-Maxis deal to 2G, Rajeshwar Singh was known to be a good officer, a natural leader, and someone with friends across divides. Will these traits see him through his new role, as the BJP's poll candidate in UP? DEEPTIMAN TIWARY profiles the 48-yr-old

MINUTES AFTER former Enforcement Directorate (ED) Joint Director Rajeshwar Singh announced on January 31 that he was taking the political plunge after his voluntary retirement from the agency, a montage video of Singh went online. In the video, Singh is seen praying to Lord Shiva, walking in a park in slow motion, reading a newspaper and engaged in an intense discussion — all this while the score of S S Rajamauli's brawny epic *Bahubali* plays in the background. The video was retweeted by his sister Abha Singh with the comment: "Here comes #Rajeshwar Singh ex ED".

This unmistakable strongman image has often been associated with Singh's career — be it during his stint with the Uttar Pradesh Police or the country's premier anti-money-laundering agency.

In his decade-long career as a police officer in UP — from 1997 to 2007 — Singh, now 48, cracked down on mafia gangs in Lucknow and Allahabad, with the high point of his career being the arrest of strongman Atiq Ahmed. A recipient of the police medal for gallantry, Singh has close to two dozen encounters to his name — this, many would argue, sits at odds with his law degree and doctorate in human rights from Delhi University.

An alumnus of IIT, Dhanbad, Singh operated in the ED — which he joined in 2007 as an assistant director — with no less swagger. From the Madhu Koda case to the Sahara case, from 2G scam to the 2010 Commonwealth Games case, from the Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy case to the coal scam cases, Singh probed almost all the high-profile cases of the UPA era, involving politicians of the then ruling dispensation.

Singh's nomination as the BJP candidate from the key Sarojini Nagar constituency in Lucknow comes at a time when the ED is accused of going after Opposition politicians. While there have been instances of CBI directors becoming governors after retirement or entering politics, Singh's decision to join the BJP raises questions of propriety, given that he was a serving officer of a central agency and quit to join electoral politics.

Questions have also been raised over the allegedly political nature of the ED's investigations, with their tardy progress and poor conviction record. While its first conviction came in the Madhu Koda case, more than 10 years after the ED began probing money laundering cases, its marquee 2G scam probe resulted in acquittal of all the accused.

The most important case of Rajeshwar's career was the 2012 Aircel-Maxis deal, in which the accused include then finance minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram. As the regime changed in 2014, he probed a series of cases — from the INX Media deal to irregularities in the Rajasthan ambulance scheme and investments in Vasan Healthcare — where either Chidambaram or his son Karti was named. Chidambaram sent time in detention over it.

Sources said this would not have gone unnoticed by the top BJP leadership, which holds Chidambaram responsible, as Home Minister, for probe into the encounter killings in Gujarat that saw the arrest of Amit Shah.

More recently, as head of the Lucknow Zone in the ED, Singh led the investigation against Gayatri Prajapati, a Samajwadi Party leader and mining minister in the previous Akhilesh Yadav government, in a case of alleged money laundering and illegal mining.

Singh's former colleagues in the agency talk of him as a sharp and meticulous officer.

"He is intelligent and very hardworking, with a deep understanding of cases and, above all, takes bold decisions," says former ED Director Karnal Singh, who supervised Singh's probe into the Aircel-Maxis and INX Media cases, among others.

"We were always a step ahead in every case. Before an accused could make a move, we were prepared for the court. During interrogations, Singh could surprise even the most well-prepared suspect with evidence," said former ED deputy director Kamal Singh, who had worked with Singh since the days of the 2G scam case.

Another close colleague, retired deputy director Satyendra Singh, remembers him as a "true leader" to his subordinates. "Despite his commanding presence in the agency, he was always warm, even in adverse situations. Once, some sensitive details of the 2G case got leaked to the media and the superiors were very angry. He shielded all of us by taking full responsibility and asked for action to be taken against him," Satyendra Singh said.

Illustration: Suvajit Dey

> "He has friends everywhere, be it in ministries, legal fraternity and every political party. I wouldn't have been surprised if, had there been a Congress government, he got a ticket from the Congress," said a senior IPS officer

However, beyond his qualities as an officer, Singh's rise was also shaped by his ability to work the power circles. His critics say he found a "guardian angel" in every political dispensation. There was a time when he top Congress politicians attended his parties.

"He has friends everywhere, be it in the ministries, the central agencies or the legal fraternity. He could also move with ease across the political spectrum. I wouldn't have been surprised if, had there been a Congress government at the Centre, he got a ticket from the Congress," said a senior IPS officer who didn't want to be identified.

Born in Lucknow, Singh belongs to a family of civil servants. His father Ran Bahadur Singh, who rose from being a UP Police service officer to an IPS within a span of 12 years, eventually retired as DIG of the state capital.

Singh's wife Laxmi Singh is an IPS officer currently posted as IG, Lucknow. Meenakshi Singh, one of his two sisters, is an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer married to UP-cadre IPS officer Rajiv Krishna, who is currently posted as ADG, Agra. His other sister, Abha Singh, an Indian Postal Service officer-turned-lawyer, is married to Maharashtra cadre IPS-turned-lawyer Y P Singh. His brother Rameshwar Singh, also an IRS officer, is currently an Income Tax commissioner.

Throughout his 14-year ED career, Singh had top lawyers such as Prashant Bhushan, Harish Salve and BJP MP Subramanian Swamy arguing in court to procure protection for him against allegations of malpractice or disproportionate assets.

In 2011, at the peak of the 2G probe, when allegations were made against Singh by the Sahara Group, a Supreme Court Bench of Justices G S Singhvi and A K Ganguly not only issued contempt notice against the group but also provided Singh protection from slander.

According to sources, during the 2014 general elections, Singh had been considered by the BJP as a potential candidate for Amroha, but things had not worked out.

In 2017, too, when allegations were made against Singh to then Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia, a Bench headed by Justice J Chelameswar gave blanket protection to Singh against any investigation.

Another testimony of this goodwill is an episode from 2014 when government counsel K K Venugopal went against the Centre's move to repatriate Singh back to UP, arguing that it could not be done as the officer was probing the 2G and Aircel-Maxis cases.

Singh had won an order for permanent absorption in the ED from the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) in December 2013 but the government was unwilling to absorb him, even after the regime changed in May 2014. After the matter went to the SC and following Venugopal's argument, a Bench of Justices H L Dattu and S A Bobde gave the government three days to absorb Singh into the ED.

By his own account, Singh had been accused by Adhia of "manipulating the judiciary, especially the Supreme Court", which Singh said was "strange" and "unbelievable", wondering if "so many judges could be manipulated over such a long period of time".

This was part of a letter that Singh wrote to Adhia at the peak of the 2018 battle within the CBI, accusing him of "siding with scamsters and their affiliates".

The 2018 tug of war between then CBI director Alok Verma and then special director Rakesh Asthana was the first major controversy that had Singh in its crosshairs. In this battle that forced the Prime Minister's Office to intervene and push both officers out of the agency, Singh was rumoured to have been siding with Alok Verma.

It saw a fresh complaint being filed before the Supreme Court against Singh with the Finance Ministry submitting a report that Singh received a call from Dubai. Though the allegation was rubbished by then ED Director Karnal Singh, the SC, for the first time, removed the protection granted to him and the government instituted a probe.

According to an investigation by *The Wire*, this was also the time when Singh and his family were listed as potential targets of the Pegasus spyware.

"Yet, the government accepted his VRS request and the ruling party has given him a ticket. And for that, Rajeshwar hasn't had to work out outrageous cases in anticipatory obedience. That itself tells you that he was always bigger than his job," said the IPS officer who spoke on condition of anonymity.

TAKE 5
PORTERS

KRANTHIVEERA SANGOLLI
RAYANNA RAILWAY STATION, BENGALURU

"280 of us, after queuing for a day, often we earn nothing"

'Not just us, destitutes rest here... We don't ask their religion'

Last week, right-wing Hindu activists barged into a room for porters at the railway station alleging Muslims were using it as a prayer room. The porters denied this, but South Western Railways later "cleared" the portion being used for namaz. Afraid of identifying themselves for losing their jobs, the porters talk about the row:

KIRAN PARASHAR

1 How did the row start?
Religious practices are not our problem but livelihood. We wanted the media to highlight our plight before the Budget, instead there was an entirely unnecessary controversy...

2 Who complained?
None of us complained. We live in harmony. All we care about is earning our bread and butter. Some miscreants created this nuisance. We celebrate Annamma festival, Ayyappa festival, observe Gyarvi Sharif together. Muslim porters joined Hindus to protest a Railway plan to demolish a temple for an escalator. We together saved it.

3 Did you try opposing changes to the room?
We were scared for our jobs. We had no choice but to listen to the officials... It's not just a room for porters, often people who are abandoned take shelter there. Nobody asks their religion.

4 What issues should the government address?
There was a time when we earned good money. But then came luggage bags with wheels and escalators, we took a massive hit. As long as there was a separate Railway Budget, we hoped things would change. But now, there is not even hope.

5 Do you have a union?
There are about 280 of us at this railway station and we have two unions. We come in two shifts, divide spots at the front and back gates, to prevent crowding... There are days we go back home with no money. On best days, like in April and May, we earn up to Rs 500 a day.

india 75
NUMBER PLATE
16,829

The number of foreign tourist arrivals in India in 1951, according to the India Tourism Statistics, a publication of the Union Ministry of Tourism

27,44,766

The number of foreign tourists arriving in India in 2020. This number was 10.93 million in 2019 before the Covid-19 outbreak

$6,958 million

Estimated Foreign Exchange Earnings from tourism in India during 2020. This figure was $30,058 million in 2019 during pre-Covid times. It recorded a decline of 74% during 2020, when the pandemic hit the world

5,49,273

The number of foreign tourists from Bangladesh, the highest, followed by the United States (3,94,092) and the United Kingdom (2,91,874)

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

Neither hair nor there

Bengal accounts for almost half of India's hair exports, sustained by workshops run out of homes. Centre's recent export curbs have come as a further blow to this cottage industry, struggling since lockdown

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & ATRI MITRA

A LETTER FROM
ULUBERIA, HOWARH
WEST BENGAL

SAHABUDDIN MULLICK, 46, sits near the door of a 12 foot by 10 ft room, comb in hand, brushing the strands of hair atop a wooden bust. Others in the room are weaving hair into a patch of cloth to make a wig.

"Lockdown was a nightmare. Business is yet to pick up, and then there are the touts and middlemen. Our entire village thrives on processing human hair, but there is no government support," says Mullick, who has been in the business for 25 years and employs about 20 youths in the workshop he runs out of his home in Mullickpole village in Howarh, about 60 km from Kolkata.

Now has come another blow. On January 25, the Centre imposed restrictions on exports, on the demand of the hair industry, to check smuggling. Now an exporter needs a permission or licence from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

Welcoming the Centre's move, Human Hair and Hair Products Manufacturers and Exporters Association of India's Sunil Eamani told PTI that unchecked smuggling was hurting local industries and exports.

During April-November this fiscal, hair exports stood at USD 144.26 million, a huge jump from USD 15.28 million in 2020-21. West Bengal is among the highest contributors to this, with some estimates putting its share at more than 50% of the exports.

And the hub of the trade are the districts of Howrah, Murshidabad, Malda and Purba Medinipur, where processing of human hair is a cottage industry. The Centre's new rules, these traders fear, may mean monopoly for a handful of exporters with licences, further cutting their dwindling profits.

Sabir Ali at his workshop. The family has been in the business for 50 yrs. *Partha Paul*

Mullick procures raw hair and, after processing, sells it to middlemen, who in turn sell it to exporters. "I used to sell 200 packets of processed human hair per month (each packet is around 1 kg). My unit shut down for a year following the 2020 lockdown and I had to take loans to retain my workers. Now my sales are down to 20 packets a month."

The routine involves agents collecting or buying hair from households and temples, and bringing them to the workshops. Many women in these parts save hair they shed while combing, and every four-five months, an agent buys it off them. Hair donated in temples in the south also makes its way here.

Depending on quality, hair can sell from Rs 500 to up to Rs 5,000 per kg. The price varies as per length. A kilogram of 50-inch good human hair can sell for about Rs 90,000 to Rs 1.10 lakh. It's the processing that makes the difference, with processed hair selling for nearly double the rate for regular hair.

Processing involves untangling the hair, shampooing it and sometimes dying it. Then it is stored (in wooden boxes with iron nails), pulled constantly for hours for further untangling and smoothness. Village households also do the untangling, for a price.

Shuvendu Dolui, 19, has been working with Mullick for five years. With an expert's ease, he points out the "50 types of wooden busts, for different head shapes" for wigs.

Depending on their skills, workers get paid between Rs 2,000 and Rs 18,000 a month, for 10 hours of work a day.

Sheikh Saifuddin Ali, 52, says the middlemen from big cities like Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai are a necessary evil. "How can exporters come to villages? And we don't have the infrastructure to export on our own."

One unit here though has had its brush with big time, having supplied wigs and hair pieces for Bollywood and Tollywood as well as the TV industry. Sheikh Ali Hossain, 70, started his business 50 years ago with his father. "We then collected hair from middlemen, processed it and made wigs... I have personally travelled with Bengali film stars like Biswajit Chatterjee and Soumitra Chatterjee.

Hossain's sons Sabir Ali and Sekender Ali have now taken up the business. Sabir says they built a workshop in Mumbai but it had to be shut due to labour problems. Sekender has ventured into exports. "Small exporters like us follow all the rules. Banks and Customs are involved. But this new policy of the Centre will only help the big exporters with huge working capital," he says.

At Kulai Sheikh Para, about 15 km from Mullickpole, Sheikh Akhtar Hossain, 46, whose workshop deals in synthetic hair, says, "We supply to states like Delhi, Gujarat, Mumbai and Odisha, where the hair pieces are used in plays performed in villages."

The lockdown hit them too, says Hossain. First, he couldn't travel. Then, "at many places night curfew is on and therefore rural plays and theatres have closed down".

He hopes the government builds a hub near a city such as Kolkata exclusively for hair. "It will enable us to directly sell to exporters."

Kolkata-based exporter Sumanta Chakraborty agrees smuggling of hair to Bangladesh and China is an issue. "So, a proper policy was needed. 'Raw hair' is in more demand and leaves the country fast."

MSME Minister Chandranath Sinha says small exporters had approached them. "They are in crisis after the Centre decided to include raw hair in the export list. We are monitoring the situation."

Across THE AISLE

P CHIDAMBARAM
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No work, no welfare, only wealth

The Budget's messages are no cash transfers or free rations to the very poor; no increase in social security pensions; no interventions to combat malnutrition, stunting and wasting; no intervention to overcome the huge 'learning loss' among school children in the last two years; no tax relief to the middle class; and no GST relief to consumers. My conclusion: welfare has been thrown to the wind

SINCE I came out of the Utopian dream of socialism, I have believed in three driving forces to build a progressive, prosperous and plural nation: **Work, Welfare and Wealth**. None of the three is less or more important than the other two.

The context will, of course, vary. In the last 30 years, we have seen dramatically different economic contexts in 1991 (near default), 1997 (globalization), 2002-03 (drought), 2005-08 (global upswing), 2008 (international financial crisis), 2012-13 (taper tantrum), 2016-17 (demonetization, drought) and 2020-22 (pandemic, recession). Each context will require a different and nuanced response, especially while presenting the Budget, but the basic philosophy of promoting work, welfare and wealth ought not to change.

WHY WORK?

The *Homo sapiens* are no longer only hunters and gatherers of food. As his/her desires and needs increased, he/she embraced the culture of work. In the modern era, work is an integral part of life. In a developing economy, an important indicator is the number of persons aged 15 years and above who constitute the workforce. In the workforce, the LFPR (Labour Force Participation Rate) is the proportion of the population that is presently employed or seeking employment. In India the current numbers are workforce: 94 crore, LFPR: 37.5 per cent, equal to 52 crore (*source: Economic Survey, Appendix*).

The gravest economic challenge facing India — a young nation where the median age is 28.43 years — is unemployment. Mr Narendra Modi understood this when he bid for power but, over the years, his philosophy seems to have changed. His promise to create 2 crore jobs a year had electrified the youth. Later, he said that selling *pakoras* was also a job! In the last seven years, unemployment has increased. The pandemic and the lockdown brought in their wake more unemployment. 60 lakh MSMEs were closed down. Millions lost their jobs, that included salaried jobs and non-regular jobs. The self-employed (e.g. tailor, electrician, plumber) lost work. Many of those jobs have not come back. The current unemployment rates are Urban: 8 per cent, Rural: 6 per cent.

Besides, those who returned to work faced wage cuts. In the last two years, 84 per cent of households have suffered a loss of income. In this background, the Budget has promised that 60 lakh jobs will be created in the next five years. As against the 12 lakh new jobs a year, the number of persons who enter the workforce every year is 47.5 lakh (*source: Labour Bureau*). My conclusion: unemployment will rise, especially among the less educated.

WHY WELFARE?

Welfare is a wide concept that includes many aspects such as livelihood, job, food, healthcare, education, social security, rest & recreation, etc. Welfare measures are intended to address these challenges. For example, MGNREGA is intended to address the challenge of livelihood, National Food Security Act to address the challenge of food, free public health facilities and health insurance to address the challenge of healthcare, Right to Education Act to address the challenge of education and so on. What has the Budget done? Look at the allocations:

Subsidy/ Allocation for	2021-22	2022-23 (in Rs crore)
Petroleum	6,517	5,813
Fertiliser	1,40,000	1,05,000
Food	2,86,219	2,06,481
Mid-day Meal scheme	11,500	10,233
Crop Insurance	15,989	15,500
MGNREGA	98,000	73,300
Health	85,915	86,606

The total subsidy bill has been cut by a humongous 27 per cent!

The Budget's messages are no cash transfers or free rations to the very poor; no increase in social security pensions; no interventions to combat malnutrition, stunting and wasting; no intervention to overcome the huge 'learning loss' among school children in the last two years; no tax relief to the middle class; and no GST relief to consumers. My conclusion: welfare has been thrown to the wind.

WHY WEALTH?

I support the creation of wealth. Wealth is the source of new capital and, consequently, new investment. Rising incomes, after taxes, will result in accumulation of wealth. Both income and wealth are triggers for investment, risk-taking, innovation, R&D, charity and other uses. My opposition is not to the creation of wealth but to the accumulation of wealth that widens inequalities in society. India, according to some studies, is one of the most unequal countries in the world. A Budget that is constructed on capital-intensive investment, advanced science and technology, digitization and sophisticated ecosystems to the *exclusion* of capital, technology and labour that are required to sustain the lives and livelihoods of millions of poor people is a mockery of the poor. If more resources are needed to help the poor, the correct approach will be to tap the wealth of the rich — *the very, very, rich in India are 142 persons whose wealth is Rs 53,00,000 crore* — and use the resources for programmes and interventions to help the poor. My conclusion: this Budget is a capitalist budget that has ignored the poor.

The on-going debate in the media and in Parliament has exposed the deep divide between the privileged sections and the deprived sections. The capital market may salute this Budget but the poor and middle classes will not forgive the makers of this Budget.

Fifth COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH
Twitter @tavleen_singh

Rahul Gandhi's delusions

AS I listened to Rahul Gandhi's speech in Parliament last week, I found myself understanding anew why Narendra Modi has won two terms in office. And understanding anew why I was once such a supporter of Modi that I continue to be charged daily by someone or other on Twitter of being a 'fascist enabler'. Before going any further, let me make clear that I believe Modi has done some things that are truly admirable. Swachh Bharat and his government's programme that aims to provide drinking water to every Indian home are on top of my list.

In my view it was the efficiency that he brought to rural welfare programmes in general that won him a second term. Since then though there has been too much Hindutva, too many hate speeches, too much religiosity and too much disdain for dissident opinions, for me to continue being a '*bhakt*'. At heart I am a liberal and a proud member of the Khan Market gang and cannot abide people whose politics is based on spreading hatred between communities or castes. So, I am not only no longer a '*bhakt*' but a critic and a dissident.

There is a great deal that is dangerous and dishonest about Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party. But, to listen to Rahul Gandhi's long and rambling speech in the Lok Sabha was to realise that if he remains the only challenger that the Congress party produces, Modi will continue to look much, much better. A recent *India Today* poll found that when it came to choosing a Prime Minister, the people polled put Modi at the top and Rahul at a really low number two.

The Dynasty's crown prince has learned nothing from two humiliating defeats in general elections and seven years of being in the Opposition. The most important thing that he has not learned is that it is not his birthright to rule India, and the sooner he sheds his air of entitlement, the better it will be for him. He charged Modi with behaving like an Emperor, instead of like a democratically elected leader, but seems to have forgotten that his grandma once allowed the President of the Congress party to announce that 'India is Indira and Indira is India'. More recently I happened to be present in the audience when his mother declared grandly, just months before the last general election, that Modi would not be coming back. 'We will not allow him to.'

He seems to have forgotten that when his mother was India's de facto prime minister, she was so powerful that she could order the man who was technically India's Prime Minister to send top secret government files to her residence for inspection. So powerful that her kitchen cabinet made policies that the Government of India was ordered to implement. So powerful that she could include her son-in-law in a list of VVIP officials who did not need to be frisked or metal-detected at airports. It was power without accountability on a sickening scale, and it became one of the reasons for the rise and rise of Modi. And, even when it was clear to most Indians that Modi would become Prime Minister, it was still possible for one of Sonia Gandhi's courtiers to publicly proclaim that the only job Modi was fit for was to make tea in the Congress party's office.

Rahul Gandhi made serious mistakes when analysing foreign policy in his speech, but that bothered me less than his saying that under Modi, India has been divided into two countries. One India is inhabited by the rich and the other India that is inhabited by the poor. His political homework is so deficient that he seems not to know that this division has existed for the 75 years that India has been an independent nation. The divisions in Nehruvian socialist times were so pronounced that those who inhabited the India in which the ruling class lives could not have cared less that in the other India there were people who did not have access to such basic things as clean water. In that exalted India inhabited by high officials and mighty political leaders was where policies were made. The disdain for the other half was so obvious that they could not have cared less about the abysmal quality of the public goods these policies created. They did not need to because their own children went to private schools, and nobody needed to use the medical services provided in filthy government hospitals.

If Modi has not been able to make much difference to the dreadful socialist legacy that he inherited, he cannot be blamed for not trying. The Budget that was presented in Parliament the day before Rahul Gandhi made his speech was defined by the emphasis it placed on building infrastructure and creating an India in which every Indian home will have clean, running water, a toilet built with government assistance and subsidised cooking gas. Modi may not succeed in achieving all these things but there is no question that he is trying to give ordinary Indians a chance to have something resembling a standard of living.

So, before Rahul makes his next speech in the Lok Sabha, he would do well to do some homework and take some elementary history lessons. If he does, he may discover why Modi remains popular despite his many failings.

The symbolism of inter-caste marriages

Dalitality

SURAJ YENGDE
Twitter @Surajyengde

SURROUNDING THE anti-caste movement, a topic remains hotly contested. It is about inter-caste marriages as a way towards the annihilation of caste. Activists, thinkers and leaders are divided over this. Dr Ambedkar's famous quote from *Annihilation of Caste*, wherein he stated that inter-caste marriages were "the real remedy for breaking caste", is often cited. Ambedkar thought "fusion of blood" would create the feeling of kith and kin.

Ambedkar's advice remains unheard. The Indian Human Development Survey reported that 95% of Indians still find partners within their subcastes. What is the situation of the rest 5%, who have braved the odds against tradition and caste? There isn't data or satisfying coverage of them.

Many a time second- or third-generation educated Dalits who have managed to access quality education, and landed respectable (elite) jobs, find the prospects of marriage outside caste available to them. What then happens to their inter-caste marriages? Their union is unlike any other marriage. It is a political act — an achievement of love over caste. The Dalit person marrying outside caste, say to an upper caste, finds himself or herself duelling between the struggle of their community, and the culture of their spouses and in-laws. It's akin to getting a good job in a company surrounded by oppressor castes. Rarely does one get a chance to balance both, and what is the outcome if they do?

The children of mixed-caste parents also grow up amidst profound misunderstanding of their complicated backgrounds. They are brought up in a caste-neutral or a-caste environment, which essentially means being subjected to the dominant caste parent's identity. The closest they come to caste is while availing caste reservations or visiting their Dalit family. If they align themselves with the identity of the oppressed caste parent, which is need-based, they risk a backlash.

The Government of India launched a scheme in 2013 to encourage inter-caste marriages. It offers Rs 2.5 lakh if one of the partners is a Dalit. One of the requirements is a recommendation from a sitting MLA / MP and government officer concerned. The scheme wants to appreciate and promote the "socially bold step" of the couple. When countries worldwide are now integrating rapidly across color, racial, ethnic boundaries, the Indian government has to offer incentives for couples to marry outside rigid boundaries.

Does inter-caste marriage then result in the anticipated social change and abolish untouchability?

I can share my experiences. Of a *savarna* woman in the US who married a Dalit man and joined the Dalit community's network. Often, during interactions, the *savarna* woman wouldn't parse her background. The Dalit community's culture, religion and festivals were different from hers. Unknowingly, the *savarna* woman would privilege her experiences. At some point, she forgot about her caste identity and started to claim Dalit identity passively. Since she was a student and an activist, she profited from the networks offered by her Dalit compatriots.

As she became more comfortable with the Dalit community, she began to take over leadership roles. She started to call out the Dalit leadership for their overrepresentation of males. Within a matter of a few months, she was representing Dalits at conferences and seminars.

What we see from the above anecdote is that the notion of inter-caste marriage has become a passport for those who have lived the life of oppressing Dalits directly or by virtue of their participation in anti-Dalit prejudices, to now suddenly assume the position of misrepresenting Dalits.

The second case is of a Dalit minister married to a Brahmin woman, who was asked about it on a Marathi talk show. He replied that it was because "Brahmin women are very good", and appealed to all Dalit men to marry Brahmin women.

Coming back to Ambedkar's speech quoted above, he further suggested that to break the caste system, it was pertinent to destroy religious notions, the sanctity of the Shastras on which caste was founded and not occasionally bring about "inter-caste dinner and inter-caste marriages, which were futile methods of achieving their ends".

What Ambedkar is arguing is not against inter-caste marriage, but he is inviting us to go deeper, beyond social sanctions. He wants us to be participants in movements that would upend and eventually change mindsets.

Suraj Yengde, author of Caste Matters, *curates the fortnightly 'Dalitality' column*

life & WORK

NASEERUDDIN SHAH

Playing Nathuram Godse: Censor as sensibility

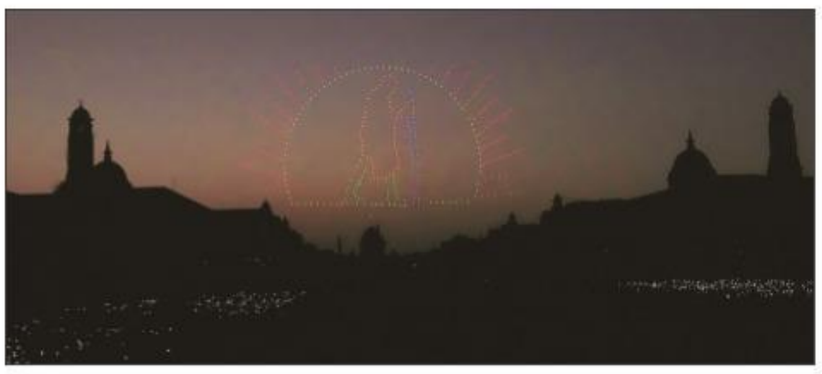
IN COLLEGE I read a book, *The Man who killed Lincoln*, and I can still sharply recall how electrified I was by the description of the travails of John Wilkes Booth, who after shooting Abraham Lincoln escaped from the Ford theatre, breaking his leg, and for a while managing to evade a man-hunt until he was surrounded and killed in a burning barn, though evidently it was never confirmed that the charred body was his.

The seed of wanting to become an actor had germinated fully in me by then and I remember dreaming of someday playing Booth — I'd study pictures of the man and wonder if I could pass off as him; the role seemed to be one which I, or any actor, would devour with great relish. Everyone had heard about the humanity of Lincoln, and in no way did I identify with Booth and his beliefs, but I felt a strong empathy for the man. I thought it was greatly dramatic and would give me a chance to display all my acting wares.

But those were the dreams of a 17-year-old, would-be actor. Had I been American, I might have thought differently. Gary Oldman, who is actually British, certainly didn't get dragged over the coals for playing Lee Harvey Oswald. I have no idea what his actual feelings about the killing of John F Kennedy were, but he obviously felt no pangs of guilt about playing Oswald, or playing it sympathetically.

Amol Kolhe of the NCP, however, is a politician and should really have thought several times before agreeing to play Nathuram Godse, because I guess a politician's first duty ought to be to the impression his party wants to project. I don't know if deep down he, or the filmmaker/writer, consider Godse's act heroic or not, but they should have known that Kolhe's party doesn't, or at least wants to give that impression. I suppose he decided to play the part either because it would be a challenge or because he genuinely felt that Godse's point of view ought to be heard, and I see nothing wrong with either motivation.

I am truly at a loss to understand what this outrage, over a film no one seems to have yet seen, is all about. It needs to be viewed before it is judged, and those who find its arguments unacceptable should know only too well the futility of trying to engage with unreasonable convictions. But since the '70s this cancel culture has become a malaise; its main symptom is a tendency to condemn a thing without knowing fully about it and is illustrated in examples aplenty: the attempted embargo on the brilliant play *Ghashiram Kotwal*, the *Kissa Kursi Ka* episode, or the banning of *Satanic Verses* suggested by Salman Khurshid, who at that time hadn't read the book. You can't beat that for irony!



No Indian can condone Gandhi's killing, but don't judge a film without watching

But if the majority of people who see *Why I Killed Gandhi* are offended, Kolhe will have to own up to the responsibility of having helped glorify someone who committed one of the most heinous acts in the history of modern India. He should not forget the fate of Leni Reifenstahl, who after making two cinematically brilliant documentaries extolling Hitler's greatness, had to seek refuge in Switzerland.

Or the case of the great conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic (and Hitler's favourite conductor) Wilhelm Furtwangler who, perhaps under the illusion that Hitler would win, did not leave Germany. After Hitler's humiliation, Furtwangler of course maintained that he didn't agree with the Nazis, but about whom a writer said, "...he chose the wrong side, living at arm's length with the Nazis and holding his nose".

I refuse to believe that any true-blue Indian, leaning however far to the right, with the slightest awareness of a man called M K Gandhi, would celebrate his murder. This insistence by certain respected undertrials that Godse was a patriot has to ring hollow, and of course we will never forgive such politicians "in our hearts", though we may do so in our actions!

I have not seen Kolhe perform or speak, but in a scenario where the Prime Minister's own venomous rabble-rousing passes as great oratory and a deeply patriotic foreign national wins a revered Indian acting award for playing a Naval officer with a moustache, I wouldn't be surprised if Kolhe is considered good at both.

I am pretty sure I would not accept a part that went against my beliefs and I don't mean religious beliefs. Incidentally I don't remember the excrement hitting the air-conditioner to such an extent among Indian Muslims when Nawazuddin Siddiqui played Bal Thackeray, or among the countless reasonable Hindus in our country when he was denied the chance to act in the Ram-Leela in his hometown. I don't know how much flak he had to face from Muslims!

I do know however that I have to live almost daily with hate messages calling me a Pakistani agent because I played one in a film, as if by playing him I approve of his activities. I know for a fact that Pran, after 50 years of personifying evil, never received letters telling him how despicable he was and that he better pack his bags and leave.

I am reminded of a cartoon by the master R K Laxman, in which two *dhoti*-clad Gandhi *topi*-wearing guys are exiting a theatre showing the film *Gandhi*. One says to the other, "Truly remarkable man... this Ben Kingsley". The need to identify with all the characters, and not just with the hero in a movie, is the opium that draws hordes into movie theatre. They identify with everyone and when they see a character do something they themselves would be ashamed to admit doing, they squirm, but applaud doings that make them bask in reflected glory — though it's a little disturbing to witness the content they have begun to applaud of late.

I really think we should hold our judgment on *Why I Killed Gandhi* till the film comes out, though I have to confess I am not greatly optimistic that it will talk sense.

The writer is an actor, director and 'occasional writer'

On the LOOSE

LEHER KALA
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Keep calm and Wordle on

EVERYONE I know is obsessing about Wordle these days. For the uninitiated, in this Internet game, players have to guess a predetermined five-letter word on a grid of green, yellow, black and white boxes. It's the letter equivalent of Sudoku, easy enough to beguile a preteen and tough enough to fox a middle-ager. As any economist knows, sought-after luxury items are a function of scarcity — the shrewd Wordle developer releases just one game a day, ensuring a hooked audience is anxiously waiting for it to drop.

Would Wordle be such a hit if the world wasn't in the grips of serious existential boredom? Probably not. Lately, life had reverted back to the lonely cycle of lockdowns and curfews, forcing us to rely on blinking gadgets and aimless scrolling. Play is essential for child development but what's not acknowledged enough is that games are crucial for adults as well who need something to distract themselves from the harsh realities of their lives. Look no further than the enduring popularity of Crossword and Word Search. Putting in the effort to solve a puzzle, watching the letters flip to green provides a jolt of welcome satisfaction, at any age. On days when tedium feels overwhelming, these little victories see us through. A game like Wordle provides exactly that.

Enthusiasm is a hallmark of youth and one of the biggest challenges of ageing is finding something to be excited about. Unfortunately, the messaging we internalize in our careers is that when faced with high-pressure situations, the only acceptable outcome is to succeed brilliantly or not participate at all. There is a ridiculous premium on perfectionism than experience. It explains why the other bane of middle age, diets, is destined to fail. No normal human being, however determined to undertake a dogged slog, can stick to long spells of denial. If we used the Wordle approach — tough, not too tough — to other areas of our lives, we would be far more at peace. Instead, people are subconsciously divided into two categories, geniuses and workaholics; there is no space for people content with moving the ball just slightly ahead every day.

It is perhaps the lot of humanity that we dreamily imagine success as something transformative and beautiful. Like watching Rafael Nadal script history in an epic five-set match, to win the Australian Open. We are awestruck at his performance, not the process behind the creation of Nadal. The finished product is impressive indeed, but to get there involved unending practice and many painful hours of strengthening exercises. Such big wins are rare and only a chosen few experience them. Yet, in all our lives, there are many minor milestones worth striving for, which can recreate (albeit, smaller) Nadal-like thrills; like cooking a nice meal or exercising. We underestimate the value of incremental improvements, our preferred target being major breakthroughs, the kinds we watch in the Olympics and the Oscars.

Home-bound and bored, a lot of us rediscovered boardgames and old-fashioned entertainment in general, thanks to the pandemic. Monopoly reported a 21% jump in sales in 2020 and 21, clearly because people were looking for ways to spend their hours. A lot of my friends started learning bridge, enjoying the happy state of full absorption in a leisure activity, usually denied to adults too caught up with work. Personally, I rediscovered Scrabble. There is a presumption that someone who reads and writes for a living will be good at it, but actually the opposite is true. I am routinely thrashed by a far less articulate friend who uses 'Q' and 'X' exasperatingly well.

Losing, however, doesn't diminish the joy I derive from Scrabble; I am optimistic the small tweaks I am making can turn the tide of the game.

The writer is director, Hutkay Films

CRUDE WATCH

OIL TOUCHES 7-YEAR HIGH

New York: Oil rose to seven-year highs Friday, stretching its rally to seven weeks, amid supply disruption worries ongoing global political turmoil. Brent crude rose 3.6% for the week to $93.27 a barrel. US WTI crude ended 6.3% higher at $92.31 a barrel. **REUTERS**

NO SPECIFIC TIMELINE FOR PRIVATISATION OF TWO PSBs, ONE GENERAL INSURER

Budget a continuity of 2021 policies ... capex push to lead lasting revival: FM

SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

A "TIMELINE" for privatisation of two state-owned banks and one general insurance companies cannot be specified, but the government policy on privatisation will continue, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Saturday. Addressing the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) National Council in a post-Budget interaction, she said the Budget has been very "simple and straightforward" with a clear path chosen for investing in creation of assets, which have a higher multiplier effect on economic activity and job creation.

"The policies which were announced in 2021 are continuing and I'm reiterating them in this Budget. I'm also ensuring that there is stability, there's continuity and transparency. And privatisation was part of a policy announcement. In fact, it was very specifically an announcement that we want minimum government maximum governance and therefore government will get out of many of these areas and equally open up all the sectors, all the areas for private sector. However, the strategic sectors will be those in which at least a bare minimum presence of the government will be there," Sitharaman said.

"... when I say bare minimum, there are others, some of whom have already been cleared by the Cabinet which will have to go for privatisation and the issue of insurance and banks are all part and parcel of that. I'm not going to be able to give a timeline now as we are moving forward with each of them. Near the time and when it is (ready), because all this is related also to the markets, we will announce closer to when we think it's appropriate to announce, but my not speaking about it in this Budget as much as I spoke about it last year does not indicate that I changed my mind," she added.

Sitharaman was responding to a specific query from Bajaj Finserv CMD Sanjiv Bajaj regarding the timeline for privatisation of two-state owned banks and one general insurance company. The government's ambitious privatisation agenda has been scaled down, as it revised down the disinvestment receipts target to Rs 78,000 crore in the current fiscal's RE from Rs 1.75 lakh crore in BE. For FY23, it has been set at a modest Rs 65,000 crore. Incidentally, Sitharaman did not use the word 'privatisation' in her speech this year, the hallmark of her FY22 Budget presentation.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at a post-Budget CII National Council interaction in New Delhi, Saturday. *Praveen Khanna*

The Finance Minister stressed that the capex push by the government should lead to a "lasting" revival and recovery in the economy, having a bearing on the "core industries" soon, thereby crowding in private investment. Globally investors are now looking for law abiding, rule-based and possibly English-speaking jurisdictions to expand manufacturing and "India fits into that very well", she said, while telling industry captains not to lose this opportunity for having higher level of industrialisation.

Responding to a suggestion by Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO Uday Kotak on the need to set up a "proactive group" to deal with uncertainties emerging from likely rate hikes by developed country central banks and higher commodity prices due to geopolitical developments, the Finance Minister said the government has a "contingency plan" that keeps evolving to deal with such factors.

CII president TV Narendran said private sector investments will be catalysed through push on public capital expenditure (capex) but inflation remains a key concern. "Inflation is a key concern, if it can be addressed without raising interest rates. One suggestion is including Indian bonds in global bond indices," Narendran said.

In her suggestion, Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd (TAFE) CMD Mallika Srinivasan said despite intensive government support, the rural stress continues and therefore allocation for MNREGA schemes should kept at last year's (revised estimates, or RE) levels.

Sitharaman said MNREGA is a demand driven scheme, and "we will be anytime ready to add on to that money." Allocation for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, at Rs 73,000 crore for next year, is the same as in budget estimates (BE) for this year, but sharply lower than the RE of Rs 98,000 crore for the current fiscal, and the actual expenditure of Rs 1,11,170 crore during 2020-21.

INTERVIEW WITH CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECT TAXES

'FY22 tax collections historic high ... next year a window to cash in on the good times'

REVENUE TARGETS for next year are not conservative and the tax department has a good window to cash in on good times, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman JB MOHAPATRA said. In an interview with AANCHAL MAGAZINE AND SUNNY VERMA, he also clarified that the retrospective amendments of cess and surcharge being a part of tax are clarifying the intent of the Department. Edited excerpts:

JB Mohapatra *Credit: CBDT*

There are many legal changes that have happened. One was about retrospectively clarifying about cess and surcharge being part of tax and the other is also on allowing the tax department to question the flows of funding for companies. This has led to some concerns.

There are some cases which are coming through with regard to the claim of cess as an expenditure. Cess was introduced in assessment year 2005-06. The department and the government believes that cess and tax, they are part and parcel of the same species, right? They are the same nature, so cess cannot be treated any differently than tax.

That's the reason as to why you have made it effective from 2005-06.

Effective from the date, the cess was implanted into the Act. The interpretations should be going back to that year. That's the only reason. It's basically because of historical reasons. Because it was introduced in a year, it should be interpreted to be effective from that year onwards. On the other part, with regard to trying to see if funding is right or not, the operating section is Section 68.

This is unexplained credit, if the amount in your books of accounts is coming from tainted sources. Then the department can ask, get satisfied, whether the funding in your books, whether it's apparently from the right sources or illegitimate sources. Then we can make the investigation and tax it in the hands of the man who has received it.

In the case of the private companies, the provision was that in case of share capital, share premium and share application money, we can go behind the one behind that credit and we can ask the source of the source. Now, we have expanded it to say when it comes to loans, borrowings or whatever, we can have that source of source variation.

This is required in the context that there are situations aplenty in the field where there is huge lot of layering when it comes to funding and laundering of illicit money, the nature and the source and the legitimacy of a typical lump of money cannot be answered by looking at the first source, we have to go to second to third to fourth and fifth. Because through layering, cash will be generated and will be introduced at one point and the banking channels will be routed and the cheques will be out from another source. So it's a very difficult situation for the investigators. And there are these entry providers, those who exchange cheques for cash, those kinds of people are there. So, just to prevent the whole economy, the tax economy, also getting contaminated because of these kinds of layering tactics.

That is why the source of source verification was also needed. We thought it would be required for loans and borrowings, not just the capital and share application money.

On the retrospective thing because the government has over the years been saying that we will not follow a retrospective policy and we have seen the pullback in the other key areas which were under criticism, so will this amendment not generate fresh perception that again there is a retrospective policy from 2005?

Let me correct this is not retrospective. I agree there is a language, which is clear from the Bill. It is worded from 2005-06. But one also has to read the context in which the retrospectivity provision has been kicked in over here.

The Department strongly feels at the time of presentation of the Bill that cess can never be part of an allowable expenditure. That's the reason conviction in this case is unanimous. That cess can never be and could never have been allowed as an expenditure. But this is at the Bill stage. There will be a lot of discussions among people who are proficient in this area and we'll get a considered view after the discussions are over. But this retrospectivity is very different contextually from the retrospectivity in Section 9.

How are the revenue trends? The revised estimates have been kept at a higher level than the budget estimates for the first time in the last three years. Is the buoyancy good enough?

The department is in a very good space right now. Unlike last year, and before that one, when we were struggling for collections. This year collections have been good thankfully and hopefully another three months will go in this manner. So the buoyancy has been outstanding and the numbers are very strong.

On this day, Rs 10,43,000 crore has already been collected, which is more by a distance from 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21. This is a historic high for the Department. We will be reaching the revised estimate of Rs 12.5 lakh crore. We are confident that this will be the Department's highest number in its history. It will be breaching Rs 12-lakh-crore easily and enter the plus-Rs-12-lakh-crore category.

So, for next year you think the targets are not conservative and modest.

They absolutely are not. Next year's target is Rs 14.20 lakh crore, which is quite a large number. But with a base of Rs 12 lakh crore plus, next year also will be as good as this year and better than this year ... this is a once in a century kind of thing. So there is a good window for the Department to cash in on the good times hoping this will go on. Next year is Rs 14.2 lakh crore and next to next year is Rs 15.83 lakh crore. So the trajectory has been drawn and we are probably on track to achieving those.

SECTOR WATCH
PHARMACEUTICALS

Nimbus Health deal: Why DRL is eyeing medical cannabis mkt

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

IN A bid to strengthen its offerings in the fast-growing medical cannabis industry globally, Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) has said it will acquire German medical cannabis firm Nimbus Health.

What are DRL's plans?

The Indian pharma major said the acquisition will allow it to build on Nimbus Health's offerings and introduce medical cannabis-based medicines as a promising treatment option for patients. The company will be operating under the brand Nimbus Health and as a wholly-owned subsidiary of DRL. The two companies did not disclose financial details of the deal, but Dr Reddy's said it will acquire Nimbus Health for an upfront payment plus performance and milestone-based earnouts over the next four years. "Medical cannabis is increasingly used to address and treat high unmet medical needs, especially in pain management and CNS. Further, with numerous studies being conducted to leverage and introduce medical cannabis, we believe this is a must-be field for future healthcare delivery," said Patrick Aghanian, head of European Generics at DRL.

What is the size of medical cannabis globally?

DRL said the demand for medical cannabis in Germany has risen over the past years with the legalisation of medical cannabis by the German Parliament in 2017. It said the medical cannabis market in Germany saw a growth of about 25 per cent in 2021 over 2020 and a CAGR of close to 55 per cent since 2017, making it one of the largest markets in Europe. Globally, the legal cannabis market is expected to reach an estimated valuation of $146.4 billion by the end of 2025. A recent report by researchandmarkets.com pegged the market size of medical cannabis at $176 billion by 2030, amid growing legalisation in various nations.

What challenges and opportunities does this segment present?

While countries and jurisdictions are increasingly legalising use of medical cannabis, varying rules and regulations present hurdles for companies in building a global market. Further, some regulators have given a cold shoulder to such treatment protocols because many players rely on experimental approaches for administration of cannabis products.

However, the involvement of major pharmaceutical and biotechnology players in this segment is likely to bring in the muscle necessary to deal with regulatory hindrances.

What is the status of medical cannabis in India?

While cannabis trade and consumption is banned in India under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act of 1985, calls for legalising its use for medicinal purposes have grown stronger over the years. In January, the Centre told the Delhi High Court that the use of cannabis is not completely prohibited in the country as its medical and scientific use is allowed after obtaining necessary permissions from state governments.

In 2018, Uttarakhand became India's first state to allow commercial cultivation of hemp crops. A year later, the Madhya Pradesh government decided to allow the farming of hemp in the state.

EXPLAINED

'Omicron disruption for hotel sector may be less in Q1FY23'

The third Covid wave is likely to hit the hotel industry in Q4FY22, but the effect will be less in Q1FY23, Ind-Ra said

EBBING OF INFECTION WAVE starts from metro cities, therefore, the minimal restrictions by both the Centre and states and self-restrictions by the people will start blurring away in a couple of months

OVERALL REVENUE OF ALL HOTEL CATEGORIES WILL FALL YEAR-ON-YEAR BY:

5-10% for the first quarter of 2022-23

25-30% for fourth quarter of FY22

OCCUPANCY RATES across the hotel categories are likely to fall, but will bounce back in a similar fashion as seen in the first two waves

Source: Ind-Ra/PTI

***Recovery of the hotel sector** will be more protracted and patchier due to the mass cancellation of planned events due to the limit on the number of people attending an event*

BharatPe's Nakrani: Not sought CEO ouster, he has my support

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 5

BHARATPE CO-FOUNDER Shashvat Nakrani said Saturday he has not given any consent or demand for the removal of CEO Suhail Sameer from the Board and that the CEO continues to enjoy his support. Nakrani's statement came a day after Ashneer Grover, a co-founder of BharatPe, sought Sameer's removal from the Board.

"I have neither given my consent, nor sought the removal of Suhail Sameer from the Board of BharatPe and fully support his continuance on the board. News reports suggesting this are incorrect. I can confirm that I was one of the two joint nominees in the appointment resolution of Suhail Sameer as the CEO and Board member of BharatPe, and he continues to enjoy my support," Nakrani said in a statement.

Sameer, whose term is for five years, was jointly nominated by both Grover and Nakrani.

The board of BharatPe currently comprises nine members — the two founders, one joint founder nominee (CEO), four investor nominees and two professional independent directors including former SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar and Kewal Handa. Rajnish Kumar is also the Chairman of the BharatPe board.

After an audio clip of him abusing a Kotak Mahindra Bank employee surfaced, Grover had "informed" the company's board of his decision to go on a "voluntary leave of absence" till the end of March, the company had said in a statement on January 20.

INSOLVENCY

IndusInd moves NCLT against ZEEL

New Delhi: IndusInd Bank has filed a plea before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to initiate insolvency proceedings against Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL). In its plea before the Mumbai bench of NCLT, IndusInd Bank claimed a default of Rs 83.08 crore against the media and entertainment firm, ZEEL said in a regulatory filing late on Friday.

The application has been filed under Section 7 of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC), it said.

As per ZEEL, "the issue of the company's alleged default under the DSRA Guarantee Agreement, is sub-judice before the Delhi High Court in a suit filed by the company against IndusInd Bank. "Filing of the said CIRP Application is in breach of the order dated 25th February 2021 as modified by the order of December 3, 2021 passed in the said suit." **ENS, WITH PTI**

Penalising export-import data publication: Govt says to punish 'illegal sharing'; experts flag lack of clarity

KARUNJIT SINGH & AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE GOVERNMENT has, in the Budget 2022-23, proposed making publishing of export-import data from the country — unless required by law — by a person as a punishable offence, with imprisonment of up to six months.

As some Opposition leaders and industry players raised concerns about the penal provision, government officials and agencies on Saturday tried to address the concerns by stating that it's meant to only punish the unethical and illegal sharing of such data.

"The aggregate data on exports and imports will actually be published by the Department of Commerce and by all the agencies, there is no issue on that. The problem that we are facing was that some of the exporters and importers came to us and told us that our data is being stolen and is being shared on the Dark Net and is also being shared otherwise, and this is illegal. We don't want somebody to know at what price did I buy my product and from whom did I buy my product, it's a competition advantage that I have or it's a privacy issue that I have. So what we are saying is that people who are going to violate the law, who are going to use this information to sell it to others, we want to punish or we want to make a deterrent for it," Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said while addressing the CII National Council post-Budget meeting on Saturday.

The Finance Bill has proposed inserting a new Section 135AA in the Customs Act which proposes: "if a person publishes any information relating to the value or classification or quantity of goods entered for export from India, or import into India, or the details of the exporter or importer of such goods under this Act, unless required so to do under any law for the time being in force, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees, or with both".

BUDGET PROPOSAL

■ **The government, in the Budget, proposed inserting a new Section 135AA in the Customs Act for this purpose**

Some industry experts raised concerns about making publishing of export data a punishable offence as the amendment does not define the exact category of data which if published will become an offence or not. Some experts also said it was not clear if this includes publishing of aggregate trade data by other agencies. For instance, some agencies such as Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA) under the US Department of Commerce and China General Administration of Customs regularly update countrywide export-import data, including trade data of other countries with India.

Sources at the Commerce Ministry clarified that the amendment is aimed at addressing concerns of individual exporters and importers, and would not affect individuals or organisations publishing aggregate data. "This has been done to stop publication or use of individual importer/exporter data or information," said an official who did not wish to be quoted, noting that the new section would not impact the publishing of aggregate level data.

"The proposed clause will only criminalise the illicit publication of personalised, transaction level information by private entities, which affects the competitive position of Indian businesses in international trade and compromises their data privacy," the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) tweeted.

Experts noted that exporters have been facing the issue of private players selling commercially sensitive data about individual exporters. Ajay Sahai, director general & CEO, Federation of Indian Export Organisations, said the new section addresses "concerns raised by exporters as few private people are publishing commercially sensitive information about exporters and their foreign buyers." He added that such players were selling data, including prices at which goods are exported, and that this was resulting in unethical competition and cost-cutting by other exporters to take orders and "thereby depriving the country of better export value".

BRIEFLY

GNFC profit

New Delhi: Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd's Apr-Dec profit after tax rose to ₹1,060 crore. **ENS**

Apple trial win

Washington: A US court threw out a verdict telling Apple and Broadcom to pay $1.1 billion to Caltech. **REUTERS**

₹8,432 cr net in Q3: SBI posts record quarterly profit

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 5

STATE BANK of India (SBI) on Saturday posted a 62.27 per cent year-on-year rise in its net profit at Rs 8,432 crore for the quarter ended December 2021, against a Rs 5,196 crore in the year-ago period. This is the highest quarterly net profit reported by the bank.

The state-run lender's net interest income for Q3FY22 rose 6.48 per cent to Rs 30,687 crore, against Rs 28819.9 crore in the corresponding quarter of last year.

SBI's gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio in the quarter stood at 4.50 per cent (Rs 1,20,029 crore) against 4.77 per cent (Rs 1,33,705 crore) in the year-ago period. Net NPA ratio was recorded at 1.34 per cent versus 1.23 per cent last year.

The bank reported net interest margin at 3.15 per cent for Q3 as against 3.12 per cent a year ago, it said. Total income also rose to Rs 78,352 crore during the quarter under review as against Rs 75,981 crore in the same period of 2020-21, it said. The company's total deposits grew 8.83 per cent year-on-year to Rs 38,47,794 in the quarter.

Chairperson Dinesh Kumar Khara said SBI posted a credit growth of ₹1.3 lakh crore. *File*

SBI Chairperson Dinesh Kumar Khara said the lender recorded a credit growth of Rs 1.3 lakh crore with good performance across segments.

BoB profit doubles in Q3

Mumbai: Bank of Baroda's (BoB) net profit in Q3FY22 rose to Rs 2,197 crore, against Rs 1,061 crore in the year-ago quarter, a 107 per cent growth. Gross NPAs fell to Rs 55,997 crore from Rs 63,182 crore in Q3FY21. **ENS**

Revival of lapsed policies from Feb 7 to Mar 25: LIC

Mumbai: Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has decided to come out with a special revival campaign for lapsed policies from February 7 to March 25, 2022. The concession in late fee ranges between 20-30 per cent with maximum concession ranging from Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,000, LIC said.

In view of the prevailing circumstances, concessions are being offered in late fee for other than term assurance and high-risk plans, depending on the total premiums paid, it said. There are no concessions on medical requirements. Eligible health and micro insurance plans also qualify for the concession in late fee, LIC said. Policies of specific eligible plans can be revived in 5 years from the date of first unpaid premium. **ENS**

MEANWHILE

QUEEN TO MARK 70 YEARS ON THRONE TODAY

Queen Elizabeth kicked off celebrations for the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne by inviting local community groups on Saturday to her Sandringham residence in the east of England. Sunday will mark the queen's platinum jubilee, a first for a British monarch. Elizabeth, 95, became the queen of Britain and more than a dozen other realms including Canada, Australia and New Zealand on the death of her father King George VI on Feb. 6, 1952.

TOP OF THE WORLD

Iran and US flags. *Reuters*

UNITED STATES

Iran welcomes US sanctions relief but says it's too little

Tehran: Iran's foreign minister on Saturday welcomed US sanctions relief intended to entice Iran back to the 2015 nuclear deal, but called it insufficient. On Friday, the Biden administration restored some sanctions relief to Iran's atomic programme as world powers and the Islamic Republic continue talks aimed at salvaging the languishing agreement. "Lifting some sanctions in a real and objective manner could be interpreted as the good will," Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said. However, he said the move "is not sufficient." Another official said Tehran expects the lifting of sanctions outlined under nuclear deal. **AP**

PERU

Light plane crash kills five tourists, two crew

Lima: At least seven people have died after a light aircraft crashed during a flight above the Nazca Lines archaeological site in Peru, local police and the national government said on Friday. Local police said the deceased included three Dutch tourists, two Chilean tourists, and two Peruvian members of crew. The Ministry of Transport and Communications said in a statement that the Cessna 207 aircraft crashed in the vicinity of the Maria Reiche airport in the city of Nazca. It added that the cause of the accident is being investigated. **REUTERS**

Russian bombers fly over Belarus amid spiralling Ukraine tensions

Though Kremlin's intentions are unclear, Russia moves troops from Serbia to Belarus for joint drills

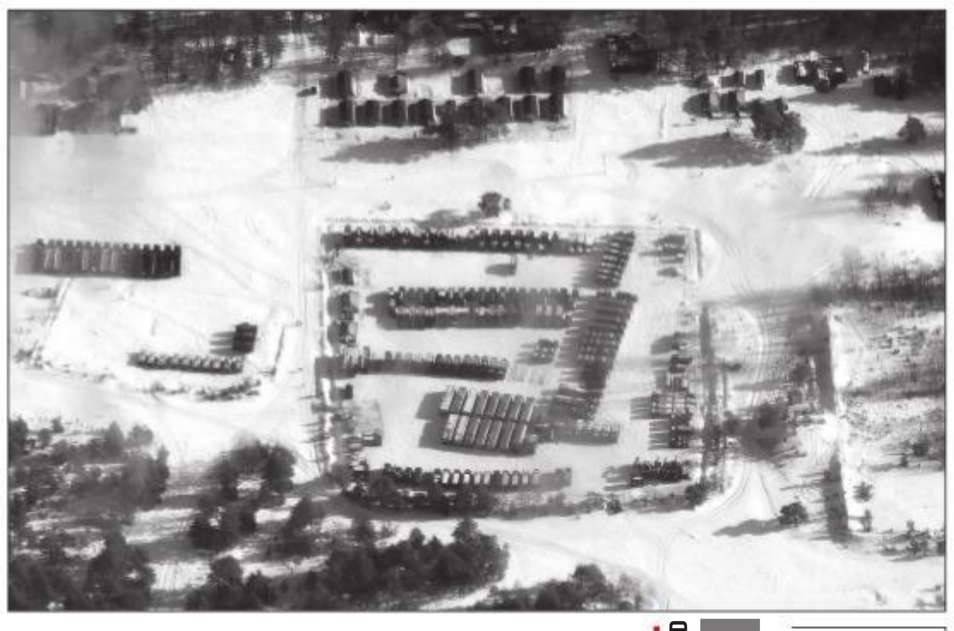
VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
MOSCOW FEBRUARY 5

RUSSIA ON Saturday sent a pair of long-range nuclear-capable bombers on patrol over its ally Belarus amid spiralling tensions over Ukraine. The Russian Defence Ministry said the two Tu-22M3 bombers practiced interaction with the Belarusian air force and air defence assets during a four-hour mission. The flight followed several similar patrols over Belarus, which borders Ukraine to the north.

The mission came as the Kremlin has moved troops from Siberia and the Far East to Belarus for sweeping joint drills. The deployment added to the Russian military buildup near Ukraine, fueling Western fears of a possible invasion.

Russia has denied plans of attacking its neighbour Ukraine, but urged the US and its allies to provide a binding pledge that they don't accept Ukraine into NATO or deploy offensive weapons and roll back the alliance deployments to Eastern Europe. Washington and NATO have rejected the demands

The West has called on Russia to pull back an estimated 100,000 troops from areas near Ukraine, but the Kremlin has responded by saying it will station troops wherever it needs to on the Russian territory.



A satellite image released by Maxar showing Russian Iskander missile batteries deployed to Belarus. *NYT*

The Russian troop deployment to Belarus raised concerns in the West that Moscow could stage an attack on Ukraine from the north. The Ukrainian capital is just 75 km from the border with Belarus.

In recent months, Russia has conducted a series of joint drills with Belarus and repeatedly sent its nuclear-capable long-range bombers to patrol the skies over its neighbour, which borders NATO members Poland, Lithuania and Latvia.

Belarus' authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko has called for closer defence ties with Moscow and recently offered to host Russian nuclear weapons.

Amid the standoff over Ukraine, US President Joe Biden has ordered 2,000 US-based troops to Poland and Germany and shifted 1,000 more from Germany to Romania in a show of the US commitment to NATO's eastern flank. **AP**

EXPLAINED

Russia adds troops in Crimea too

IN TWO weeks, Russia has deployed an additional 10,000 troops to Crimean Peninsula, including infantry and airborne forces. The deployments mean that Russia could soon be fully prepared to begin military actions along about 800 miles of Ukraine's eastern and southern borders.

Taiwan condemns timing of 'no limits' China-Russia partnership

REUTERS
TAIPEI, FEBRUARY 5

TAIWAN ON Saturday condemned as "contemptible" the timing of China and Russia's "no limits" partnership at the start of the Winter Olympics, saying the Chinese government was bringing shame to the spirit of the Games.

China and Russia, at a meeting of their leaders hours before the Winter Olympics officially opened, backed each other over standoffs on Ukraine and Taiwan with a promise to collaborate more against the West. Russia voiced its support for China's stance that democratically-governed Taiwan is an inalienable part of China.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said China's continued false claims the island is part of the People's Republic of China were exactly the same as the country's habit of spreading fake news. "It not only increases the Taiwanese people's loathing for the Chinese government's arrogance and bullying, it also clearly shows all the world's countries the sinister face of the Chinese regime's aggression, expansionism and damaging of peace."

In diplomatic push during games, Xi meets more leaders

REUTERS
BEIJING, FEBRUARY 5

CHINESE PRESIDENT Xi Jinping met the leaders of several more countries on Saturday as Beijing used the start of the Winter Olympics to score diplomatic points amid simmering tensions with the United States.

Following a groundbreaking agreement with Russia on Friday over Taiwan and against NATO expansion, Xi held meetings with the leaders of Serbia, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan and hosted a banquet at Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

The *Global Times*, run by the ruling Communist Party's People's Daily, hit back at foreign media reports that the event had attracted only "authoritarian" leaders, accusing them in an editorial of using "outdated anti-China cliches".

The People's Daily described strengthened China-Russian relations — announced by Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin after they met on Friday — as "an important guarantee for maintaining an international strategic balance, world peace and stability". *The Global Times* called it the start of a new era "not defined by the United States".

"China has made every effort to overcome the impact of the Covid pandemic, earnestly fulfilled its solemn commitments to the international community and ensured the Beijing Winter Olympics is being held as scheduled," Xi said.

Xi held meetings with leaders of Serbia, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan. *Reuters File*

China: US should do more to reduce N Korea tensions

United Nations: China's UN ambassador said on Friday the US should come up with "more attractive and more practical" policies and actions to reduce tensions with North Korea and avoid a return to a "vicious circle" of confrontation, condemnation and sanctions over its nuclear and ballistic missile programme.

Zhang Jun said the solution lies in direct dialogue and that if the Biden administration wants to see a breakthrough with Pyongyang "they should show more sincerity and flexibility."

In rare remarks to reporters on Beijing's views on dispute, the Chinese ambassador said, "What I see is the key in solving this issue is already in the hands of the US." Zhang said the Biden administration should be asked "in what way they can accommodate the concerns of DPRK ... to really bring tension down." **AP**

ACT 'DESPICABLE' SAYS INDIAN CONSULATE

Mahatma Gandhi's statue vandalised in New York

YOSHITA SINGH
NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 5

A LIFE-SIZED bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi was vandalised in a New York City neighbourhood on Saturday, an act strongly condemned as "despicable" by the Consulate General of India.

The 8-foot-high statue, located in Manhattan's Union Square, was defaced by some unknown people, the Consulate General of India said.

"The Consulate condemns this act of vandalism in the strongest terms," it said. "The matter has also been taken up with the US State Department for immediate investigation and urged appropriate action against those responsible for this despicable act," it said.

The statue was donated by the Gandhi Memorial International Foundation, and was dedicated on October 2, 1986 to mark the 117th birth anniversary of Gandhi.

American civil rights leader Bayard Rustin had delivered a keynote speech at the ceremony.

This is not the first time a statue of Gandhi has been desecrated in the US. In January last year, unknown miscreants had vandalised, broken and ripped from the base a statue of Gandhi in a park in the US state of California, evoking a strong response from India **PTI**

Pak a priority in China's regional diplomacy, says Premier Li

K J M VARMA
BEIJING, FEBRUARY 5

CHINESE PREMIER Li Keqiang on Saturday said that Pakistan is a "priority" in China's neighbourhood diplomacy as he met his Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan who ensured him that his government will do its utmost to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals and projects in his country.

Li, the second-ranking leader of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) after Chinese President Xi Jinping, has expressed China's willingness to strengthen all-dimensional practical cooperation with Pakistan, state-run *Xinhua* news agency reported.

Imran Khan is in Beijing on a visit

China always takes Pakistan as a "priority" in its neighbourhood diplomacy and supports Pakistan's pursuit of prosperity, Li said, highlighting the importance China attaches to its close strategic ties with Pakistan.

Li said China supports its enterprises to invest in Pakistan and appreciates the Pakistani government's efforts to safeguard the safety of Chinese firms and personnel in the country.

Li, in his meeting with Khan, said that China will actively consider expanding the import of agricultural products from Pakistan.

Khan said the 'all-weather' strategic cooperative partnership with China is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Khan is also expected to meet President Xi during which he may discuss the state of "all-weather ties", the problems faced by the President's pet initiative, the $60 billion CPEC and Chinese loans and investments to shore up Pakistan's sagging economy. **PTI**

Appointment of Masood Khan as Pak's US envoy approved: Official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 5

PAKISTAN ON Saturday said the US government has approved the nomination of Sardar Masood Khan as its Ambassador to Washington, days after a prominent US Congressman urged President Joe Biden to reject his diplomatic credentials and termed him a "ona fide terrorist sympathiser."

Khan, who has previously served as the "president" of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) until August last year, was nominated as Pakistan's ambassador to the US in November.

"The US government has conveyed its agreement to the appointment of Sardar Masood Khan as the Ambassador of Pakistan to the US. He would assume his responsibilities in Washington DC in due course of time," Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said in a statement.

Masood Khan

The agreement is the approval of a designated diplomat by the receiving state. Khan had previously served as Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN in Geneva and New York and as ambassador to China.

He will be replacing the outgoing ambassador of Pakistan in Washington Asad Majeed Khan.

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APPENDIX-IV RULE - 8(1) POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has issued a demand notice on below mentioned date calling upon the borrowers & Guarantors to repay the below mentioned amount together with future interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and also the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on the following date.
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Kurthaul (ECB) Near Brahamsthan Parsa-804453 1. Shri Vibhuti Sharma Road No-03 AG Colony Shree Nagar North of AG Colony Park Patna-800014 And Guarantors 1. Smt Arunti Devi Vill Fatehpur PO Paliganj Patna-801110	LAW/AKK/66/ 2021-22 21.06.2021 Rs.36,87,675/- as on 25.5.2021 + Interest thereon 31.01.2022	EMG of Residential House (measuring 1326 sqft) situated at Road No-03, Sri Nagar Colony, AG Colony, Mauza-Shekhpura, PS-09, Khata No-23, Survey Plot No-106, Sub Plot No-23, Tauzi No-5316, Ward No-04, Thana-09, Shastri Nagar, Patna, **Boundary-** North-Rasta, South-Sri Bindeswar Singh, East-Part Plot no 106 Kahridar, West-Sri Bindeswar Singh
Nawada Branch, Near Old Rajauli Bus Stand, Sharfa Colony, Nonia Tola, Nawada-805110 Tel.-06342-290095 M/s Sai Metal (Prop: Smt Savitri Devi) Guarantors	CRLD/LAW/AKK: 126/2021-22 17.07.2021 Rs.39,31,381.48 as on 30.06.2021 + Interest thereon. 04.02.2022	Land area admeasuring 7.5 decimal at Mauza-Bhadauni, Khata-85, Khesra No-316,Thana No.-378, Sub Division-Nawada, Block & Circle-Nawada, District-Nawada, Bihar in the name of Smt Savitri Devi, W/o Shri Akhilesh Kumar **Boundary-** North-Md Ibrar, South-Moti Ale, East-Rasta, West-Sidho Pandey
Delha Branch, At-Delhi, Post-Railway Station, Dist.-Gaya-823002, Bihar M/s Shivay Enterprises, Prop : Mrs. Guddi Kumari W/o Mr. Ajay Yadav	NROP: LAW: 861/2019:AP 24.09.2019 Rs.12,85,572.42 as on 31.08-2019 + Interest thereon. 02.02.2022	All that Piece and Parcel of Land and structure thereon in the name of Mrs. Guddi Kumari admeasuring about 2239 sq.ft. vide title deed no. 12295 dated 04.08.2015 bearing Plot No. 1241, Khata No. 699, T.S.No.-186/Kujapi, Chandauti, in the District-Gaya **Boundary-** North-Rasta and Property of Bhupesh Kumar, South-Rasta and Property of Nagwanti Devi, East-Property of Kishori Prajapat and Chaliter Prajapat, West-Property of Kaushalya Devi
Delha Branch, At-Delhi, Post-Railway Station, Dist.-Gaya-823002, Bihar Mr. Sintu Kumar urf Mr. Briendra Keshri S/o Mr. Rajendra Prasad and Guarantor-Mrs. Maya Devi W/o Mr. Sintu Kumar urf Mr. Birendra	NROP: LAW: 862/2019:AP 24.09.2019 Rs.9,50,373.02 as on 31.08.2019 + Interest thereon. 02.02.2022	All that Piece and Parcel of 2720.00 Sq. Ft. of Land with shed structure thereon Regd. Sale Deed No. 4046 of 2013 bearing Khata no.-231, Plot No. 3083, Mouza-Belaganj, Thana- Belaganj, Thana No.-433 at Rauna Belaganj, Gaya in the name of **Maya Devi** W/o Sintu Kumar **Boundary-** North- Nij Bikreta & then Property of Shiv Paswan, South-Property of Satyendar Kumar, East-Property of Naresh Yadav, West-10 feet Road

Place : Patna

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Authorised Officer

Pentagon: Deadly Afghan airport attack was not preventable

LOLITA C BALDOR
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 5

THE MILITARY investigation into the deadly attack during the Afghanistan evacuation has concluded that a suicide bomber, carrying 20 pounds of explosives packed with ball bearings, acted alone, and that the deaths of more than 170 Afghans and 13 US service members were not preventable.

The blast at Abbey Gate outside the Kabul airport on August 26 killed 11 US Marines, a sailor and a soldier, who were screening the thousands of Afghans frantically trying to get onto one of the crowded flights leaving the country after the Taliban takeover. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack.

At the Pentagon on Friday, military officials laid out a detailed and graphic minute-by-minute account of the bombing. The bottom line, they said, was that those who died had wounds that were "so catastrophic" that they couldn't be overcome.

"A single, explosive device killed at least 170 Afghan civilians and 13 U.S. servicemembers by explosively directing ball bearings through a packed crowd and into our men and women at Abbey gate," said Gen. Frank McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command. "The disturbing lethality of this device was confirmed by the 58 U.S. servicemembers who were killed and wounded despite the universal wear of body armor and helmets that did stop ball bearings that impacted them, but could not prevent catastrophic injuries to areas not covered." **AP**

US Covid toll passes 9 lakh

THE NEW YORK TIMES
FEBRUARY 5

MORE THAN 2,600 Americans are dying from Covid-19 each day, an alarming number that has climbed by 30 per cent in the past two weeks. Across the US, the pandemic has now claimed more than 900,000 lives.

Yet another, simultaneous reality of the pandemic offers reason for hope. Reports of new Covid infections are plummeting, falling by over half since mid-January. Hospitalisations are also declining.

The country's per capita death rate still exceeds those of other wealthy nations, a reflection of widespread resistance to vaccines and boosters in the US. During the Omicron surge, hospital admissions in the US have been higher than in Western Europe.

That the 900,000-death milestone comes overa year after vaccines were first authorised adds to the pain, said Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, the Baltimore health commissioner. Federal data shows that a vast majority of deaths have been unvaccinated people. Multiple studies have shown that vaccination offers strong protection against severe illness and death from Covid.

Deaths over the past seven weeks were reported in large numbers across the US, with especially high rates in the Southwest and around the Great Lakes. Much of the Midwest, Northeast and Southwest already were suffering large outbreaks fueled by the Delta variant in December before Omicron became dominant. It is possible that many of the most recent deaths in those regions were caused by Delta.

Canadian cities braced for disruptions on Saturday as protests against vaccine mandates spread from the capital of Ottawa, raising fears of clashes with counter protesters. Protesters have shut down downtown Ottawa for the past eight days, with some waving Confederate or Nazi flags and some saying they wanted to dissolve Canada's government. *Reuters*

Those with weak immune systems must get additional shots sooner, says CDC

New York: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday encouraged people with weakened immune systems to come forward sooner for additional coronavirus shots, part of what the agency's scientists described as a bid to shore up those people's levels of protection in the face of the highly contagious Omicron variant.

Members of an advisory committee to the CDC also signaled their support for another change to vaccination guidelines, indicating that they would endorse extending the gap between first and second doses of Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines from roughly four to eight weeks.

That change, expected to reduce the risk of heart-related side effects and heighten the effectiveness of the vaccines, has not yet been voted on by the committee or implemented by the CDC.

Those and other updates to vaccination guidelines were the focus of a daylong meeting on Friday of CDC. scientists and expert advisers.

During the meeting, the advisers also updated their endorsement of Moderna's coronavirus vaccine after the Food and Drug Administration on Monday granted full approval to the shot, making it the second to receive full regulatory approval. Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky, the CDC director, gave her own backing to Moderna's vaccine later on Friday. **NYT**

Tayyip Erdogan

ERDOGAN TESTS COVID POSITIVE

Istanbul: Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday that he had tested positive for the Omicron variant of Covid-19. "The result of Covid tests done with my wife after showing mild symptoms came back positive," Erdogan said in a tweet, adding that both had the Omicron variant of the virus. "We will continue our work at home. We look forward to your prayers," he added. On Thursday, he visited Kyiv, holding talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy. **REUTERS**

LANKA: VACCINE MUST TO ENTER PUBLIC PLACES

Colombo: Sri Lanka has made Covid-19 vaccination mandatory to enter public places and use public transport, according to a gazette notification. The notification dated January 25 under the Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Ordinance says "a person shall not enter any public place without having the proof of being fully vaccinated unless exempted by the proper authority in respect of the whole of Sri Lanka". The new rule will be effective from April 30. **PTI**

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

eye

POINT OF VIEW

Poetic Engineering

Preserving a structure like the Rashtrapati Bhavan requires innovative finesse and a capacity to hold heritage with sensitive gloves

BOOKS

- Review of Ritu Menon's *Zohra!*
- Review of Meeta and Rajivlochan's *Making India Great Again*
- Review of Shrayana Bhattacharya's *Desperately Seeking Shah Rukh*

A RAGA FOR EVERY THOUGHT

EXPRESS ARCHIVES

Hindustani classical vocalist Prabha Atre, 90, who was awarded the Padma Vibhushan last month, continues to challenge ideologies of a rigid system and make classical music approachable to all

Suanshu Khurana

PHOTO COURTESY PRABHA ATRE

NOTES TO HERSELF

(Top) Prabha Atre has never failed to question tradition even as she nurtures it; with her guru Hirabai Barodekar

OVER THE last 15 years, Hindustani classical vocalist Prabha Atre has headlined the Sawai Gandharva Bhimsen Mahotsav — a significant event in the country's cultural calendar. Initiated by Pt Bhimsen Joshi in memory of his *guru*, the annual Pune festival draws large crowds, who travel from far and wide, some even sleeping outside the ticket counter for festival passes in the morning. Until he retired in 2006 , Joshi would close the festival. He then chose Atre, who has carried it forward even after his passing in 2011.

This year, the festival — Joshi's birth centenary year — stands cancelled due to the pandemic. In its place, there will be Abhivadan — a three-day festival that honours the Kirana *gharana* doyen. Atre will be its main act.

At home in Shivajinagar, Pune, Atre, one of the seniormost performing artistes in the country, continues to do what she has for the last 70 years — wake up at dawn to discover the secrets of the *swaras* (notes). "There is no other way to hone your art, to discover something more," says Atre, who was awarded the Padma Vibhushan last month. She has earlier received the Padma Shri in 1990 and the Padma Bhushan in 2002.

Atre, at 90, may come across as an orthodox musician but a look at her oeuvre tells otherwise. She has nurtured this knowledge and at the same time questioned it. She challenged existing ideologies of classical music, in the way it's taught to young adults, in the allegiance to a *gharana*, the adherence to singing a raga at a particular time and has been fascinated with the idea of using *sargam* (solfège) to present her *khayals* (thoughts). *Sargam* is declasse in classical music since it is used to understand the form at the beginner level, but it became the topic of her PhD in 1974. Her radical thoughts have riled many. But Atre is unfazed. "One needs to analyse and present a thought with logical reasoning even when it's something as technical and abstract as the classical arts," she says. According to Mumbai-based musicologist Deepak Raja, "Prabha Atre is a thinker, and one of the most respectable vocalists in the country."

Her ability to question the art form probably comes from the fact that she was not born into a family of musicians. "Forget about performing classical music, no one had even heard it in my family," says Atre. Sometimes, the radio played at home, in Pune, and Atre found herself being pulled in by the voices of Noor Jehan, Begum Akhtar and Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan.

But real learning happened when she met her *gurus*. Her father, a headmaster, employed a harmonium *guru* for her ailing mother. Though her mother quit after three-four lessons, Atre continued. She was in her mid-teens when her father's friend took her to Mumbai-based vocalist Sureshbabu Mane, son of Ustad Abdul Karim Khan of the Kirana *gharana*. Atre sang *Ka karoon sajni*, Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali's famed *thumri* in *raag* Sindhu Bhairavi. Mane was impressed and agreed to teach her.

Four years later, when Mane died in 1953, his sister Hirabai Barodekar took her on as a student for the next couple of years. "My *gurus* were very open-minded and would always say 'don't be a photocopy'. They gave me a strong foundation," says Atre. She also graduated in science followed by a law degree.

Atre joined All India Radio, Ranchi, as an assistant producer in 1960, where she was introduced to a variety of musicians and genres, including Carnatic classical and Western pop. She was fascinated by the music of Ustad Amir Khan, the founder of Indore gharana, Patiala *gharana* legend Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, and Roshan Ara Begum of Kirana *gharana*. This is when she was deepening her quest to critically analyse her own music. "There is art and then there is the *shastra* (science) behind it. Art will change with time, so the *shastra* can't stay behind. My background allowed me to have a scientific approach to an abstract form," says Atre. By then, she had begun to perform and was a rising star in the concert circuit in the '60s. Like everything conventional, she grappled with the idea of marriage and decided it was not for her.

> Atre's scientific approach to Indian classical music has deepened her quest to critically analyse her own music

In those days, alongside her was Kishori Amonkar — Indian classical vocalist Mogubai Kurdikar's temperamental and talented daughter — whose popularity was on the rise. "Kishori took the vocal music world by storm. But Prabha retained her individuality and stature even at a time when the Indian music world was swept by the Kishori wave," says Raja.

By the middle of 1971 came an HMV record that overwhelmed the *rasikas* (aesthetes). It was Atre's presentation of two much-loved *ragas* — Maru Bihag and Kalavati. Atre was 43 then, presenting one of her own compositions, not common at such an early stage. "The way we think of Kishori *tai*'s Bhoop, we associate Maru Bihag and Kalavati with Prabha *tai*," says Hubli-based Jayateerth Mevundi, a leading vocalist from the Kirana *gharana*. "I see children singing her *bandish* (composition) *Tana mana dhana* in music competitions all the time. They may not know who's composed it but that's how popular it is," he says.

After her last stint at AIR in 1970, Atre headed the music department at SNDT University, Mumbai, from 1980-92. There she turned around the curriculum, making it broader in approach, allowing students to explore various genres of music. According to Raja, there is hardly anyone who's been a full-time teacher and retained a top-class status in the performing field. "Full-time teachers tend to be academic. But in her case, it did not stifle her," he says.

Mumbai-based classical singer Chetna Banawat-Pathak, who has learnt from her for 24 years, remembers travelling with Atre for concerts. By the time they would reach a destination, a new *bandish* was ready. "Her *raag* Bahar *bandish, Ritu basant aayi*, was created on the train. One has to not just know the art form well, but go deep into the ocean for this," says Banawat-Pathak. Atre's inward reflections have led to many new ragas.

When Atre is not composing and performing, she is writing books. Her book *Enlightening the Listener — Contemporary North Indian Classical Vocal Music Performance* (Coronet Books Inc, 2000) is a guide to understanding finer details of classical music. "I wanted to explain the idea behind this system, teach it to students, and explain it to the masses," says Atre, for whom the audience, often inconsequential to the concept of classical music, plays a significant role, "If we want people to appreciate classical music, then we have to make it approachable," she adds.

To the world she is a scholar and a musician, but to her students, she is a friend and a mother, who sometimes cooks a typical Maharashtrian meal for them. Even after all these years, Atre's discipline and commitment is impeccable. It's probably why Atre sounds euphonious even at this age.

A couple of years ago, there was a theft in Atre's Pune home; some cell phones, pen drives and hard disks were stolen. It was 4.30 am and Atre was immersed in her *riyaaz*. She heard some rustling in the next room, she told the police later, but she continued to sing.

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DOWN IN JUNGLELAND

Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

Wish You a Good Flight

Human disdain for nature's feats — the art of flying, of birds and bees

LITTLE CHILDREN, especially in the "developed" world, are spun yarns every Christmas about Santa's massive toy workshop in the North Pole where toy orders are taken from children around the world, elves get busy making them and Santa personally distributes them to delighted children (only if they've been good). Children soon cotton on to the impossibility of this endeavour, so when the scales fall, why not replace that story with another — equally miraculous, but true?

Mother Nature runs the most fantastic and advanced Research and Development facility, to make every living species on the planet "bespoke". Her research labs have been functioning non-stop for around the last four billion years or so. Some of her products take millions of years to perfect, few reach the stage of no further development; she goes on refining her designs, generation after generation, lest she gets trolled by disgruntled users.

This process is called evolution, and we humans think we are the most "evolved" of all but never pause to appreciate her achievements, even though we copy her ideas wholesale, without paying a penny in royalties. Let's look at some of her miraculous achievements:

Take flight, for example. Aeons ago, some creatures on earth decided there had to be a better way of getting around rather than running or swimming to escape from other creatures who could run and swim faster than they could. In desperation, they began jumping off trees and cliffs. Mother Nature noticed and tweaked the genes in some of these creatures, gradually turning their scales into feathers and feathers into wings. Keratin, already present in their hair, nails and scales, was the perfect raw material for this. Strong, flexible, and light. She also decided that feathers ought to serve multipurpose. Some were designed to keep the creatures warm (as anyone with a goose-feather down jacket knows), some would turn to powder, to keep the other feathers in top condition, and the most important ones would develop into wings, so the creature could fly. Obviously, she had studied the basics of aerodynamics and knew the flight feathers had to serve dual purpose: provide both lift and thrust.

Another great idea was to add pigments to feathers, or

RANJIT LAL

FLIGHTS OF FANCY

Big broad wings for soaring

make them prismatic so that they weren't only glamorous (and attractive to the opposite sex), but also camouflaged the user. The whole creature (*aka* bird) had to be redesigned so that it faced the least resistance from the air — it had to be streamlined in order to be energy-efficient.

Powering flight posed another problem. Some birds wanted to fly enormous distances, and needed explosive bursts of power to escape predators. The marathoners needed a constant replenishment of oxygen to their muscles, that meant a constant supply of blood (thus, waterfowl has dark meat) and the "exploders" (like partridges and chickens) were given glycogen (a form of sugar), which provided the needed bursts of power, but which depleted rapidly (hence they have white meat).

Of course, not all customers were happy! Some wanted to streak through the sky like meteors, others to spend the whole day at 10,000 ft without having to flap their wings, still others wanted to be able to do aerobatics, and some (like anti-vaxxers) didn't want to fly at all — some still preferred swimming and diving or simply running. Ever-accommodating, Mother Nature obliged. So, vultures, condors and pelicans developed enormous broad wings on which they caught the thermals: falcons, swallows, and swifts narrow "fastback" wings provide speed and agility, and a vast majority (like mass-market cars) were general-purpose and could do both the jobs, adequately if not spectacularly. The "runners" (like ostriches) were given massively long, powerful legs (and wings to flounce around with), and the "swimmers" (like penguins) had their wings turned into flippers.

But there were myriads of smaller creatures (that far outnumbered birds) who wanted to fly, too: they wore their skeletons outside their bodies, usually had the aerodynamics of a brick, were cold-blooded and had no backbone. Insects! Mother Nature went back to the drawing board. These little guys were too leaden to get off the ground using conventional aerodynamics — there had to be an out-of-the-box solution. How about unsteady aerodynamics? They had another wonder material, *chitin*, which was strong and so flexible you could twist it over completely — perfect for wings and twice as efficient as birds' wings. By twisting, they could generate both lift and thrust with both the down- and up-stroke (in the avian world, only the hummingbird has filched this idea). Also, Mother Nature knew about tornadoes and used the same principle to enable insects to fly by making them generate little tornadoes at the tips of their wings (called vortices).

We'll check out other wonders in future columns.

How the Lotus Blooms

Technical finesse allows heritage and innovation to co-exist in preserving a grand monument

Living History

AN INDIAN EXPRESS COLLABORATION WITH THE RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

Anurag Khare and Vaibhav Jain

PHOTOS COURTESY THE RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

ROOF OVER

(Clockwise from top) Woven into Edwin Lutyens' Edwardian Baroque opus are numerous Indian motifs and designs — lotuses and elephants, *chhatris* and *chhajjas*; with structural lightweight concrete and innovative technology, the cracks in the *chhajja* have been fixed; the *chhajja*, which runs 1.2 km along the periphery of the main building, was earlier fractured in layers at multiple places

AS THE Republic Day celebrations culminated with the Beating Retreat ceremony on January 29, the Rashtrapati Bhavan was illuminated again. Along with North Block and South Block, on either side, a magical screen of myriad hues created a fantastic panorama. Adjectives like "majestic" and "monumental" can do no justice to the grandeur of the building that is at the heart of the Indian Republic.

Its history and its role as the seat of power lend majesty to the structure, but even in purely architectural terms, Edwin Lutyens' marvel stands on its own. Woven into his Edwardian Baroque opus are numerous Indian motifs and designs — lotuses and elephants, *chhatris* (cenotaphs) and *chhajjas* (roof eaves).

The monument has been a witness to the dramatic transformation of India since 1911, when plans for the building as a grand palace for the viceroy was drawn out. The construction was completed in 1929. The tumultuous century left its imprint on the building, too. Like any building nearly a century old, the Rashtrapati Bhavan has endured the ravages of time and weather.

The building and the surrounding estate, spread over 320 hectares, has been central to our national life. It is part of our cultural heritage and efforts have been made repeatedly to preserve it for future generations.

Maintaining the building is challenging in terms of civil engineering. With the passage of time, its amenities have to be upgraded, replacing old equipment with modern elements and adding more. Everything has to be done without altering the character of the building which is classified as "Heritage Grade 1". For such buildings, rules prohibit "any intervention on exterior or interior or natural features unless it is necessary in the interest of strengthening and prolonging the life of the building or any part or features". Therefore, it's absolutely essential that minimum changes are allowed, and when they do, that they conform to the original.

Preserving this monumental part of our heritage is, thus, a delicate task — more so, since it is not a monument that closes in the evening. The Head of the State lives here and hundreds of people work here. Yet, the building has largely been in good health.

However, the *chhajja* have been a preservation challenge. In the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the *chhajja* runs a total of 1.2 km along the periphery of the main building. It was built with lime concrete with reinforcement, and located nearly 20m above ground. The bottom of the inclined *chhajja* has architectural embellishments such as the iconic lotus petal, in a repetitive protruding pattern. Due to weathering, the *chhajja* faces "delamination" — the material fractures into layers — and bending, along its length, at several points. This often necessitates repairs, which used to be done piecemeal.

In 2019, however, parts of the *chhajja* collapsed at a few locations. Such erosions not only affect the aesthetic appeal of the building, but sizeable chunks of lime concrete falling from a height of 20m can be fatal for those below. It was time to tackle the issue in a holistic manner and repair not just parts but all of it.

A structural assessment of the *chhajja* was done. Its condition was worse than it seemed. There were continuous horizontal cracks and significant deflection at several locations. The material quality had deteriorated so much that the lime concrete would detach and fall off even with a slight tap of the hammer. Even as loose concrete was being removed, a span of around 20m length of the *chhajja* collapsed, exposing the corroded reinforcements.

Repairs began in 2020. The biggest challenge was to stop further corrosion of the reinforcement. The solution was "cathodic protection", an electrochemical process, which is a "dual-phase hybrid fusion anode system". This is a simple method that connects the protected metal (reinforcement in this case) to the more easily corroded "sacrificial metal" to act as the anode. The sacrificial metal then corrodes instead of the protected metal, and results in an increased life span of the structure. Also, casting of the *chhajja* with commonly available materials such as normal concrete was ruled out as excessive deflection was observed. Finally, structural lightweight concrete (SLWC) was identified as the most suitable material.

The restoration plan was in place by now. The entire *chhajja* portion, extending beyond the fixed end, was to be removed and recasted with SLWC. The lime-concrete *chhajja* would be supported at the height of 0.5 m, 1m and 1.5m from the fixed end before removing the existing concrete to prevent corroded reinforcement from collapsing. Existing reinforcements would be retained and additional reinforcements needed to be provided via lapping or chemical anchoring wherever bars were corroded more than 20 per cent. Then, cathodic protection was implemented verifying the electrical continuity across the entire reinforcement network of the *chhajja*.

Given the Grade 1 norms, the exact form and design of the *chhajja* had to be recreated. The *chhajja* follows the steps and curves of the building along its perimeter, retaining a steady declination for rainwater runoff. This decline made manual plotting of the existing form quite complicated. Advanced computer technology was used. With light detection and ranging (LiDAR) scanning, a three-dimensional model of the whole *chhajja* was created. Based on the model, the formwork with the same feature and design was prepared using fibre-reinforced polymer (FRP) moulding technology.

Meanwhile, every lotus petal beneath the *chhajja*, which forms an integral part, has a unique shape. That pattern had to be recreated, using the FRP-moulded formwork.

The use of SLWC also tested the ingenuity of the team. Premixed off-site, it is brought in bags — negotiating busy vehicular traffic and VVIP movements. Then, it has to be placed at a height of 20m — all within three hours, as the material is highly sensitive to temperature. Also, the work has to go on behind green curtains of camouflaging, not affecting functions inside and outside the building.

Currently, the progress is satisfactory. About a quarter of the North Court is complete and the rest will be done by the end of this year. It has been a demanding task, calling for technical skills, innovative thinking and utmost respect for heritage. Paradoxically, the best compliment would be no compliment at all, because nobody, other than experts, can tell the difference.

Anurag Khare is superintending engineer and Vaibhav Jain is executive engineer of CPWD, posted at the President Estate

'The novel truly represents the farmer class'

Filmmaker Gurvinder Singh, 47, on his new film, Punjab farmers, and giving up literary adaptations

Alaka Sahani

Your latest Punjabi film *Adh Chanani Raat* (*Crescent Night*), which premiered at the International Film Festival Rotterdam, is based on Gurdial Singh's novel of the same name. Why did you revisit his writing?

After *Chauthi Koot* (2015), based on two short stories by Punjabi writer Waryam Singh Sandhu, I thought of working with another story from Punjabi literature. I considered some other literary works before going back to Gurdial Singh, whose novel I'd adapted for my first feature *Anhey Ghorhey Da Daan* (2011). *Adh Chanani Raat* is different from both *Anhey...* and *Chauthi Koot*. Unlike them, where the story unfolds in a sociopolitical backdrop, this film is more about one person Modan (Jatinder Mauhar) and his family. It's about how the landowning class has not changed.

The novel is much darker in comparison.

Yes, the novel takes a completely different turn. But I was clear about not wanting to make a dark movie. My film is more about hope even though it shows how violence can become a vicious circle. However much one may try to move away from it, the acts of violence continue to haunt. The film doesn't end on a definite note. The crux of the movie is the longing for home and family. The original story and the novel's characters needed some reworking. Gurdial *ji* passed away in 2016. We sought permission from his family for the changes.

In the film, have you, in a way, captured the insecurities and vulnerabilities of the farmers who were, until December, on a prolonged protest against the Farm Bills?

There is not one kind of farmer in India. I'm now familiar with that section of farmers who protested against the Farm Bills (passed in September 2020). The novel truly represented this class. We had already finished shooting the film when we saw the whole community come out in protest against the farm laws. They were insecure about whether the land would continue to remain with them. It is not overtly defined in the movie, which has touched upon the conflicts over ownership of land. The protagonist's family comes apart over this issue.

You work with non- or lesser-known actors. How did you cast for this film?

It's intuitive, more to do with their presence on screen as I don't do any kind of audition. Selecting actors is like choosing colours for a painting. I see actors like palettes. Once you've cast your lead actor, it becomes easier to choose actors for the other characters. While reading the novel I'd thought of casting Samuel John (the lead in *Anhey...*) as Modan. Later, I decided to cast him as Modan's friend and chose Jatinder, a Punjabi filmmaker, as the lead, even though he hadn't acted before because he has that kind of presence which I believed could work for Modan. For the role of his wife Sukhi, I asked Mauli Singh, a former journalist, and publicist. I had no idea then that she had studied theatre and acted in Punjabi movies and TV shows before moving to Mumbai.

NIGHT WATCH

(From top) A still from the film *Adh Chanani Raat*; director Gurvinder Singh

Your movies are visually rich. Does it come naturally since you are a painter too?

This time, I didn't want to make a visually-rich movie, thus there are really long takes. I let the actors carry a scene rather than the camera having a major presence in the *mise-en-scène*. It is my third film with cinematographer Satya Rai Nagpaul and, I feel, it's his most refined work. In *Anhey...*, the camera is always after something. In *Adh...*, the camera is a silent observer.

***Adh Chanani Raat* is the last movie in your 'Punjab trilogy'. What next?**

These three movies give a sense of completion. I don't wish to adapt any more literary work after this. These are stylistically different from each other while being rooted in the same culture. They do have some similar concerns. What I make after this would be a new way of looking at cinema.

What stories will you be telling after this?

I've been living in Punjab for over two years. In this period, I've seen, observed, and met so many people. There are many stories I've heard from people. Till now, I took the help of the writings by Gurdial *ji* and Waryam *ji* to understand the recent past of Punjab. As for present-day Punjab, I've experienced that to be able to tell stories about it. I've written scripts around this.

You had posted on social media about a streaming platform not picking your film.

They should invest in films that cater to a niche audience. There can be a special segment for independent cinema. Sometimes, the audience doesn't know a certain film is available. These films have to compete with Hollywood and Bollywood titles and get lost there.

What are your views on the merger of the government film media units with the National Film Development Corporation?

The government has promoted certain kinds of films which espouse 'nationalism' and 'Indianness'. We've a great cinematic heritage that should be preserved. These bodies are interlinked and interdependent. A merger can be a good thing provided it leads to efficiency and the mandate of these bodies is not diluted.

epaper.indianexpress.com

A Life Lived Queen Size

In a new biography, Ritu Menon captures the indomitable spirit and perseverance of Zohra Segal, the theatre doyenne who held the nation in thrall for over seven decades

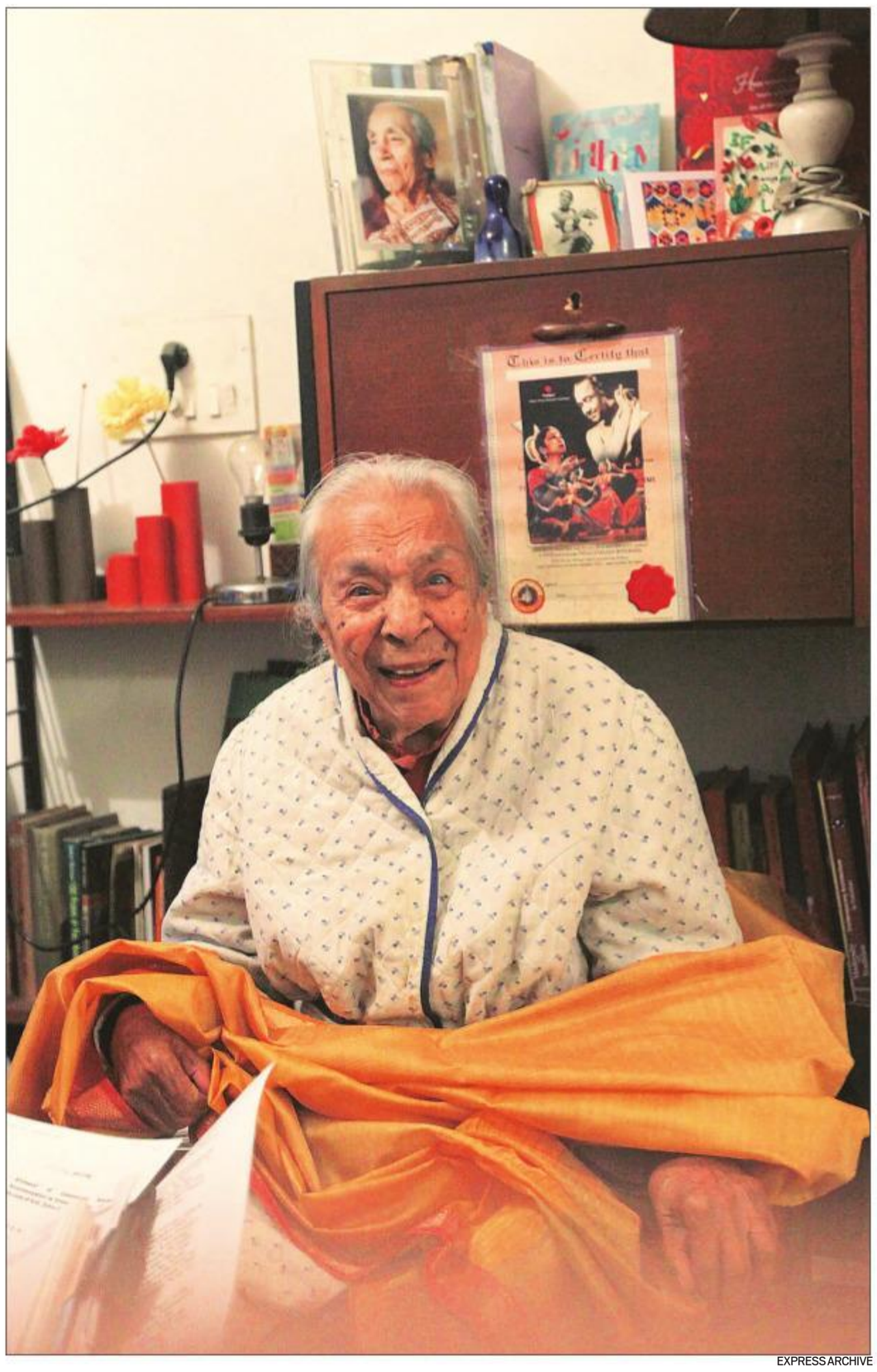
Kirti Jain

AUTOBIOGRAPHIES OR memoirs, particularly of artistes, I have always found more fascinating than biographies. For one, they record a kind of oral history that is valuable because it gives a more vivid picture of their life and brings alive the multilayered context of their times. Second, the way memories are mediated reflects another aspect of the personality of each writer in terms of what they want projected and what they choose to hide. Third, being in first person, it captures the nuances of expressions, language, cultural symbols, and, therefore, the whole personality in a way that would be difficult for a biography to evoke. However, I found an unusual exception in Ritu Menon's biography of Zohra Segal — *Zohra! A Biography in Four Acts*.

Segal's autobiography, *Stages* (1997), written by Joan L Erdman with Segal has more details and, yet, is more staid and tedious. Menon's biography is an absolutely delightful read. It captures the mischief, impulsiveness, courage, perseverance and the indomitable spirit of Segal in a way that her autobiography did not. In any case, Segal's life is like a roller-coaster ride with breathtaking ups and downs from pre-independent India to the 21st century, a period that coincides with a time in Indian and world history where new cultural movements were in the making and Segal played an active part in them. How many of us can boast of a life lived as fully as hers till the ripe old age of 102? To capture this life in words is a stupendous task — and Menon carries it out with elan and grace.

The book is aptly titled for it unfolds with all the theatricality of a play, scene after scene. I was hooked to it from the first line: "Uday Shankar was her first love — as was dance. Zohra Mumtaz, all of 23 in 1935, couldn't believe her eyes when she received the following cable from Shankar: 'LEAVING FOR JAPAN TOUR ELEVENTH AUGUST STOP CAN YOU JOIN IMMEDIATELY'." One immediately wanted to know how this came about and what happened subsequently. Then, Menon mentions that if there was one trait that Segal happily admitted to, it was her impulsiveness. Just as she impulsively decided to join her uncle on a road tour from Dehradun to Lebanon, "It was impulse again that made Zohra declare in Beirut that she wanted to be an actress. Very well, responded her cousin Mahmud, let's see how you improvise: imagine your lover has sent you a letter saying he will not be able to meet you tonight. Before Zohra could arrange her expression to indicate dismay or disappointment — or even relief — she had changed her mind and decided that she wanted to be a dancer instead." And so, off she went for training in dance to Germany, her impulsiveness beautifully captured in these few sentences. That is how the whole biography reads — colourful and evocative. It has a light touch but is packed with a mine of information that would be a delight to anyone interested in the cultural history of the country.

Then follows a treasure trove of information about Shankar's journey as a dancer, his starting as a magician performing for King George V in London, going on to touring the world and finally setting up the legendary Almora Dance Centre. This book provides a rare documentation of its beginnings, its supporters, its dancers and members, and its methodology. I was fascinated to read that among the sponsors of the centre were luminaries like Jawaharlal Nehru, (Russian actor) Michael Chekhov, Sir Feroz Khan Noon, Rabindranath Tagore, (American dance critic) John Martin and (French novelist/dramatist) Romain Rolland. Among its members, apart from Zohra were (theatre person) Gul Bardhan, (dancer) Sundari Shridharani, (actor-director) Guru Dutt, (writer) Nayantara Sahgal and (dancer-stage director) Shanta (Gandhi). The legendary Ustad Allauddin Khan also agreed to join for music. One can only imagine how electric the environment must have been. The place had a magic where an artiste like Segal blossomed, and also found her life partner in Kameshwar Segal.



EXPRESS ARCHIVE

ENTER STAGE RIGHT

Actor Zohra Segal at her residence in New Delhi in 2014

ZOHRA! A BIOGRAPHY IN FOUR ACTS
BY RITU MENON
Speaking Tiger
272 pages
₹599

I must say that the book reads like the *Arabian Nights*, unfolding one story after another, the common thread to all of these being *shehzadi* Zohra. Each story is about some legendary personality, event or institution. Brief history of all these has come alive through painstaking research into archives, interviews with friends and relatives, and putting together stray references.

Act II of this life drama is about her shift to Mumbai after a brief stint in Lahore trying to run a dance school there in pre-independence India. In Mumbai, she lived in the same house as the Anands (Uma and Chetan), along with Dev Anand, Balraj Sahni and his wife Damyanti and regularly met a huge artiste community. It is from here that Segal made a switch from dance to theatre by joining Prithviraj Kapoor's Prithvi Theatre in 1945. She spent more than 14 years acting, choreographing and touring with the company. Thanks to the personality and work ethic of her mentor Kapoor, whom she called "Papa*ji*", theatre and acting became her second passion — one which she pursued till the end of her life. This part is a superb documentation of the work and ethos of Prithvi Theatre. Segal left Bombay when, close on the heels of her husband's sudden death, Prithvi also closed down. She had now lost both her anchors. She called this period "a period of dying".

Meanwhile, her children had grown up. So, the intermission consists of her moving briefly to Delhi, where she tried her hand at art administration. Not really enjoying it, she grabbed the chance to go to London for a 10-week acting course at the British Drama League. Act III is about London, where she tried bit roles on the stage. This phase of her life also throws light on the lack of space for diaspora Asian artistes in British theatre and television. With her talent and tenacity, Segal gradually made her presence felt in serials and films there. In the last Act, she returned to Delhi in 1987 and continued to travel for film and theatre projects, which not only kept her in the limelight but also helped earn a livelihood.

There are so many significant details that this biography offers. I would recommend it strongly to those interested not just in the life of Segal but also wanting to know about institutions and individuals who were significant but their role has not really been documented well. I will end this review with the lines Zohra mentioned in an interview... "I didn't want money; I was interested in fame, I wanted power." She did get that in abundance. And she deserved every bit of it. Hats off to this feisty diva — an inspiration to us all.

Kirti Jain is a Delhi-based theatre director

What We Lack

A critical engagement with history looks to creating an action plan for the future

TCA Raghavan

MAKING INDIA Great Again, as the title, does suggest that the work aims to give prescriptions on how a long past golden age can be reconfigured. That, however, is not the intention of the Rajivlochans. Their aim is to closely scrutinise some aspects of our history and extract from it a list of deficiencies as action points to be addressed and fixed as India looks to the future. Finding "lessons" from history is, of course, treading on a slippery path but within the methodological limits posed by this caveat, their book is a thought-provoking effort to critically engage with our history with a view to our present predicaments. The latter, in particular, can be summarised as simply that while we have made some good progress and have substantial achievements to our credit, our performance remains under potential and others have done better.

In pre-colonial times, India had developed a certain dexterity in establishing complex financial institutions; it had substantial achievements in mathematics, as well as a level of technology which demonstrated that it was second to none in the world in these and related skill sets. Yet, colonial conquest, economic exploitation and degradation followed at the hands of external powers that were smaller, weaker and, in many ways, less developed. Why did this happen? The answer that the book develops has different dimensions but each emerges from one central impulse: "A certain inability to systematise information". The authors explain at the outset "whether it is taxation, fighting battles or doing business and making money, it is a superior quality of information that would decide who might win and who finally loses. The encounter with the English East India Company in the 17th and 18th centuries is important in that it shows both missing pieces. It is neither superior technology, nor a greater access to capital that gave the Company decisive advantage over local rulers and merchants. These advantages were generated by superior record-keeping, a high quality of information for better decision-making and the knowledge that trading produces more profit when protected by the authority of the state."

MAKING INDIA GREAT AGAIN: LEARNING FROM OUR HISTORY
BY MEETA AND RAJIVLOCHAN
Manohar Publishers
299 pages; ₹320

This thesis is fleshed out with examples from our history: the House of Jagat Seth in eastern India; the making of high-quality steel that had a great reputation internationally till well into colonial times, and, the many achievements in mathematics, but no comparable achievement in other sciences or in marrying science to practical knowledge to advance and scale up technology. In each of these varied fields, the authors point out the common thread running through is the absence of systems for systematising information and experience to establish a knowledge pool which could be transmitted, replicated and scaled up. Thus, in India while "knowledge was important, knowledge systems remained distant". India fell behind, in other words, because Indians were deficient in collecting, organising and passing on knowledge to create ever expanding "systematic networks of information and trust". In contrast, Europe "forged ahead to use its collective knowledge, accumulated over generations, to bring in industrialisation and associated efficiencies, reduction in the cost of production and enlargement of the scale of society." Thus, India remained as it was while the world around it changed.

Why didn't Indians change when they saw Europeans doing things differently? At times, the authors suggest that existing endowments in terms of rich natural resources were so plentiful that there was little incentive to change. More convincing is the argument that "Indian society found it difficult to generate means, whether formal or informal, of exchanging information across groups." These deficiencies also had a direct impact on political and military power. The Marathas lost to the English not because they lacked superior firepower or were deficient in numbers but because the English, Scottish and Eurasian officers they relied upon were not going to fight the English. But "no Maratha chief had ever cared to set up any institution for formal training of their officers" and, thus, the larger failure was the inability to understand the value of knowledge systems.

This, the book argues further, is by no means restricted to the story of India's past. If India is to become a wealthy nation we need to, it says, "build a learning society" which means "a society that is self-reflexive; that constantly takes feedback" and "we should stop looking for feel-good arguments which only see India as a victim". These are conclusions difficult to disagree with and the book is a serious effort to understand and explain our sub-optimal performance in different fields.

TCA Raghavan is a former diplomat. His latest book is History Men: Jadunath Sarkar, GS Sardesai, Raghubir Sinh and Their Quest for India's Past (2020)

SHELF LIFE

March of History

IN HER deeply researched book, by placing the work of the triumvirate: Ritwik Ghatak, Mrinal Sen and Satyajit Ray in the "postcolony", author-professor-historian Rochona Majumdar, "activates the past". Since the epic task of a comprehensive analysis of the Indian art cinema's movement isn't for a book to realise, she zooms on what's proximate and familiar, to the fount that paved the way for future rebellious cinematic voices to emerge.

She locates her accessible academic book — laced with evocative archival film stills, scene dissections and criticisms dug from the dustbin of history — in the "postcolony", the post-independence decades, whence emerged Ray and his confrères. The postcolonial, what she calls the "long present", begins with colonialism and continues to the present day.

She references English critic-filmmaker Marie Seton's efforts, in the 1950s, to establish "art cinema as a universal idiom"; and the 1951 Film Enquiry Committee acknowledging the form as "good cinema", aiding the nation-building process.

Majumdar charts the march of history through the trilogies of the respective auteurs: Ghatak's 1960s' Partition trilogy (*Meghe Dhaka Tara, Komal Gandhar, Subarnarekha*), Sen's (*Interview, Calcutta 71, Padatik*) and Ray's (*Pratidwandi, Seemabaddha, Jana Aranya*) 1970s' Calcutta films. If the "tragedy of Partition" was desolate and unrelenting Ghatak's "lifelong obsession", the Bengal famine, was angry Sen's cinematic deliberation. The Nehruvian optimism of chronicler-ethnographer Ray dissolves into seeing "the contemporary as deadlock in nation's history". It is to the "forgotten futures" one needs to look back in anger — the "utopian desire for unity" that Ghatak ended his meditations on loss and longing with, the "betrayal of ancestors" that Sen invokes, to hammer in the speciousness of democracy, jolting public into "questioning national sovereignty, when people remained poverty-stricken, unemployed, insecure in the new republic", and the hope for a more (gender and racial) "equitable, yet unattained, future" as seen in Ray's *Mahanagar* (1963).

ART CINEMA AND INDIA'S FORGOTTEN FUTURES: FILM AND HISTORY IN THE POSTCOLONY
BY ROCHONA MAJUMDAR
Columbia University Press
307 pages; ₹699

Sen created the original onscreen Angry Young Man — starting with Ranjit Mallick in *Interview* (1971), replete with political ambivalence — which was amiss in the more popular Hindi film's Vijay, essayed by Amitabh Bachchan. But the woman question sticks out like a sore thumb. Ray's "crisis of historicism" in his city films was in showing women as ciphers, their "complexities and quirks" not fleshed out like the men's. Ghatak projected a sacrificial lamb, and Sen a disillusionment with the absent intersectionality in the women's movement.

History moves in circles. The first blow to art cinema came with the restructuring of the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) in the 1980s. Today, as NFDC is set for yet another restructuring, the statist erasure of art cinema might be near-complete. The book exhorts that art cinema, as a tool of history, offers resources to live through our disorienting times, of "global pandemic, authoritarian politics... and tremendous might of neoliberal states challenging conditions of being citizens and humans".

TANUSHREE GHOSH

To the Men Who Never Loved Us

A superstar becomes the starting point in this book that examines gender relations

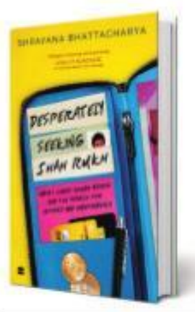
Adrija Roychowdhury

RARELY DOES a book appear as if it was written just for you, to help you make sense of your life. Shrayana Bhattacharya's book is one of them. The title might suggest that the book is about Shah Rukh Khan and how a generation of women are hopelessly looking out for him. But going through the interviews carried out by Bhattacharya of female fans of Khan, spread out across class, caste, professions and religion, one realises that the actor is, in fact, a myth, a symbol of a particular kind of romance these women are seeking. In spite of the multifaceted backgrounds, a few things are common among all her interviewees. One, of course, is that they love Khan and everything he represents. They also grew up in post-liberalisation India and desire a life of economic independence in which men are desired for companionship and not for financial security.

Last year, I turned 31. In a locked-down year, conversations around marriage and "settling down" became harder to dodge. Unhappily, I settled for the idea of an arranged marriage. A matrimonial agency was found and a profile created. What followed is a saga best forgotten. Men with illustrious degrees, high-paying jobs and from "good families" were put on display. One MBA graduate told me that he wants a career woman, but too much time spent on the job meant that I am bad with time management. Another rejected me with the explanation that while he appreciated my career aspirations, he wanted someone whose priority would be the family.

I was unable to articulate to my parents what exactly I was looking for. I wanted someone to acknowledge my aspirations, appreciate my independence and be proud of my accomplishments. I wanted the Shah Rukh Khan of the movies I had grown up watching, one who would look into the eyes of the woman he loved, open his heart and arms to her and admire her for who she was. If I told this to my mother, she would likely roll her eyes in despair at my impracticality. "Marriage is about compromise" she would tell me, as she has, so often in the past.

Yet, as Bhattacharya's book shows, I am not alone in craving for such a partner. Through hard data and long conversations, she has established the struggle women face to find a unique combination of independence and intimacy in a post-liberalised India. Despite the many leaps and bounds made by the Indian economy after the historic reforms of 1991, gender relations in the country continue to be steeped in inequality.



DESPERATELY SEEKING SHAH RUKH: INDIA'S LONELY WOMEN AND THE SEARCH FOR INTIMACY AND INDEPENDENCE
BY SHRAYANA BHATTACHARYA
HarperCollins India
445 pages; ₹699

Money and love and the interaction between the two is the running theme of Bhattacharya's book. Interestingly, while more money ensures more love for men, for women, it plays out otherwise. "Women feel more loved when they toe the patriarchal line, when they prop up powerful men," she writes. The numbers put together by Bhattacharya testifies to this sad reality. "As the Indian economy grew at an average of seven per cent between 2004 and 2011, the share of women in the labour force fell to 33 per cent before plunging even further between 2011 and 2017 to a historic low of 23.3 per cent," she writes. This, despite the fact that in post-liberalised India there has been a sharp increase in the number of educated women.

Then there are those like Vidya, a Delhi-based engineer, with degrees from some of the best institutions in the world, working for a hefty pay package at a private foundation. Her boyfriend of nine years had broken up with her for her supposed "arrogance". Over the years, she kept meeting men who were just as disappointing. Vidya belongs to a minority of women, the true beneficiaries of liberalisation, who choose to remain defiant, opting for financial independence over settling down with a man far from their dreams. "Blame the Shah Rukh movies, the books I've read, but I just won't do it!" she says.

The relationship between love and money plays out differently as one moves down the class ladder. The women of *agarbatti* (incense sticks) colony in Ahmedabad have benefitted from the emergence of home-based jobs. But they realise the precariousness of their newfound independence. Most are married to men with unstable incomes and raging tempers. They are fearful of losing their love. So, they silently endure violence at home and find respite in Khan's movies.

Bhattacharya's approach to gender is unique. In exploring Khan's fandom, she reveals why Indian women continue to struggle in the workplace, the kitchen and the bedroom. Economic theories and data blend beautifully with her anthropological approach. For instance, she writes about a east Delhi accountant who spent years finding a government job. Her parents finally stopped looking for a groom for her in her mid-30s when a prospective suitor and his family complained about her complexion, suggesting that the travel to office and back was making her dark. That day, the accountant cried afterwards. "These matches were always insulting my hard work and everything I had done in life," she tells Bhattacharya. My heart went out to the woman. Aren't we all seeking the same things in love — to be seen, acknowledged and appreciated?

Ruusuvuori sets up Tata Open final clash vs Sousa

Emil Ruusuvuori during his 6-3, 7-6 win over Kamil Majchrzak. *Tata Open Maharashtra*

Finland youngster Emil Ruusuvuori earned a shot at his maiden ATP World Tour title with a hard-fought win over Kamil Majchrzak while Joao Sousa edged out Elias Ymer after saving three match points in high-quality semifinals at the Tata Open Maharashtra, here on Saturday. Kamil got himself to a position where he was serving for the second set to force a decider but 22-year-old Emil walked out a with a 6-3 7-6 (0) win after one hour and 46 minutes of engrossing tennis at the Balewadi Sports Complex.

In the other semifinal, world number 137 Sousa used all his experience to wriggle out of crunch situation against talented Ymer to win the marathon contest 5-7 7-6(4) 7-5 in three hours and 13 minutes. Sousa, 32, will now fight for his fourth singles title in his 11th final on the ATP Tour.

In the first semifinal, intense rallies featured from the beginning with both Emil, ranked 87, and 95th-ranked Kamil displaying their range of shots. It was not before the eighth game that a break opportunity opened up for the Finnish player in the opening set. Kamil's backhand landed just outside the lines and Emil found a passing winner to convert the chance as the Polish player was not in a position to counter while approaching the net. Emil's ability to find angled shots, that made Kamil work harder to reach out balls, made a huge difference. **PTI**

Bengaluru rally past JFC

Bambolim: Bengaluru FC made it three wins on the spin to move to the third spot, riding a come-from-behind 3-1 victory over Jamshedpur FC in the Indian Super League at the Athletic Stadium here on Saturday. Daniel Chima Chukwu had given Jamshedpur the lead inside the first minute but Bengaluru made a roaring comeback in the second half with Cleiton Silva (62nd, 90th) scoring twice on either side of Sunil Chhetri's equaliser in the 55th minute. Chhetri scored his 49th goal, equalling Hyderabad FC's Bart Ogbeche who became the all-time highest scorer of the ISL the other day with 49 strikes as Bengaluru stretched their unbeaten run to eight games. Jamshedpur had their chances but Chukwu and Stewart were denied from the goal line. Bengaluru now have 23 points from 15 games, same as Kerala Blasters who are second due to better goal difference. Jamshedpur dropped to fourth with the loss with 22 points from 13 matches. **PTI**

China seek 9th Asian Cup title

China would look for an unprecedented ninth title while Korea seek their maiden triumph when the two continental heavyweights square off in the summit clash of the AFC Women's Asian Cup on Sunday. China and Korea have defeated two-time defending champions Japan and another title favourite Australia, respectively, en route to the finale at the DY Patil Stadium. History favours China as they have won the tournament seven times on the trot from 1986 to 1999 before adding another one in 2006. They have also been in the top four in every edition from 1986 till now, which is an amazing achievement. Korea, on the other hand, have reached the last four on four earlier occasions.Coached by five-time AFC Women's Asian Cup winner Shui Qingxia, China also have a superior head to head record against Korea Qingxia said her side's win over defending champions Japan in the semi-finals via penalty shoot-out, after trailing in 120 minutes of play, will inspire them. **PTI**

Bawa saves best for last

Raj Angad had been barred from bowling fast by father-coach for five years

PRATYUSH RAJ
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

BACK IN 2000, when Mohammad Kaif-led India won the Under-19 World Cup, Sukhwinder Bawa was the toast of every cricket journalist. His ward Yuvraj Singh was Player of the Tournament, and everyone wanted a piece of the coach who had trained the to-be superstar.

Cut to the present, two decades later. Sukhwinder's phone is buzzing, but he is not overwhelmed. "I am having deja vu. I have seen it before," he says.

"Back then, it was an adrenaline rush. Abhi aisa lag raha ki yaar ye sab dekh chuka hoon (Now I feel like I have seen all these things before). Yes, I am a bit emotional because Raj is my son," says Bawa with a heavy voice.

Sukhwinder Bawa's son Raj Angad Bawa has not put a foot wrong in the 2022 U-19 World Cup. He bagged a four-wicket haul against South Africa. With his 108-ball unbeaten 162 against Uganda, he surpassed Shikhar Dhawan's 155 against Scotland in 2004 as the highest individual score by an Indian at an U-19 World Cup.

He was the destroyer-in-chief for India in the final with fiery figures of 5 for 31 as he ran through England's middle order; it was the best bowling performance ever in an U-19 World Cup final.

What impressed Sukhwinder the most was George Bell's dismissal. A well-directed bouncer first ball, right up near the grille; Bell was taken aback, and wicketkeeper Dinesh Bana did the rest.

"He can't do anything wrong today, can he," says Sukhwinder. "That dismissal will make any fast bowler proud. I am sure Bell was not expecting a bouncer first ball. It was well executed."

Especially by someone who had been banned from bowling quick for at least five years, by his father. Raj was then a middle-order batter who would bowl off-spin, and Sukhwinder was more focused on his son's batting.

"Fast bowling toh uske DNA mein hai (Fast bowling is in his DNA). He picked up a five-wicket haul in an U-12 match in Gurgaon. That was the moment I told him you should focus on your batting more," Sukhwinder tells *The Indian Express*.

"I wanted him to become a proper batter, not some fast bowler who can't even face 10 balls. I worked on his batting and never allowed him to bowl pace for almost five years."

The love for fast bowling reignited when Raj was selected for the Punjab U-16 team. There was a strict instruction from Sukhwinder that he must focus on his batting, but the teenager would bowl at nets, and request everyone to keep it a secret.

Raj Angad Bawa was the destroyer-in-chief for India in the U19 World Cup final with fiery figures of 5 for 31 as he ran through England's middle order. *PTI*

"I knew the first day he started bowling again. Baap hoon uska (I am his father after all). I didn't say a word because he was scoring runs," says Sukhwinder.

Sukhwinder played hockey for the Haryana junior team and was even selected for the India U-19 camp in 1988. His dream of playing cricket, however, ended due to a slipped disc injury, and at the age of 22, the student of the late coach DP Azad became a coach himself.

"When I completed my diploma from SAI Centre Gandhinagar, I was very young. I always dreamt of producing a genuine all-rounder who can bowl at deceptive pace and is a solid batter. Maybe because growing up, I have seen the likes of Kapil Dev, Imran Khan, Ian Botham and Richard Hadlee. What a rivalry it used to be among them!" says Sukhwinder.

His dream to develop a proper all-rounder came to be fulfilled with his son's growth. "Raj was with me 24x7. He used to accompany me everywhere. We've always talked cricket, and I used to tell him stories about Kapil paaji. I think he sensed at a very young age what I was looking for.

"When I saw his bowling, I knew he was a natural pacer. So I concentrated all my efforts on his batting. I am glad it has worked. He is a complete all-rounder, not even 60-40." When asked why he didn't allow him to bowl quick for almost five years, Sukhwinder replies, "You can work on someone's technique till they are 16; after that, it is all mental. I have been able to groom him technically. But I've worked very little on his bowling. The only thing I have worked upon is his landing knee because it used to bend a lot, and was injury-prone."

Raj bowls with his right arm but bats left-handed. He switched his stance after watching Yuvraj. "I used to watch Yuvraj practise at my father's coaching centre. When I first picked up the bat maybe I was trying to imitate him, and it stuck with me," says Raj, who idolises Yuvraj, and dons the same jersey No 12.

Sport runs in the family. Raj's grandfather, Tarlochan Singh Bawa, was part of the Indian hockey team that won the 1948 London Olympics gold. Tarlochan scored in the 4-0 win over Great Britain in the final, earning independent India its first gold medal.

"Mujhe India khelna hai, aur saare formats khelna hai (I want to play for India in all three formats)," Bawa told this paper ahead of the final.

"But my real struggle will start once I return from the U-19 World Cup. I will have to establish myself in first-class cricket. As my father always says, 'believe in the process, and keep working hard.'"

Indian pacers restrict England

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
FEBRUARY 5

Around the 13th over mark, the Indian voices became louder on the field. Kaushal Tambe from first slip was the 'chirp-leader'.

The England colts seemed intimidated, thanks to that one Raj Bawa delivery that dismissed George Bell for a golden duck. Teh ball reared off a length, angled in towards Bell, who gloved it to the wicket-keeper.

Bawa had accounted for William Luxton in his previous delivery, extra bounce getting the better of an attempted square cut. But it was the bouncer to Bell that tilted the balance of the World Cup final in India's favour.

Bawa welcomed Rehan Ahmed with chin music, the latter going for an attempted pull and taking a blow on the helmet. So, an over later, when the 19-year-old bowled fuller to Ahmed, in the fourth stump channel, the batsman's feet barely moved. Tambe had a simple catch at slip. Bawa's spell read: 7-1-19-4. He returned with 5/31 from 9.5 overs.

It was Ravi Kumar, the left-arm seamer who came back from a back injury earlier this season, who had dealt the first blow. Kumar's action gives him a natural inswing. And in the final, he used the seam effectively.

Kumar bowled an excellent length and moved the ball late. Opener Jacob Bethell was snaffled by an inswinger, the ball holding a beautiful seam position and straightening after pitching. Bethell was plumb.

Thomas responded to the early blow through a couple of fours and a six against Rajvardhan Hangargekar, but Kumar removed England U-19 captain Tom Prest in his next over with a shortish delivery that sat up a bit. Prest was played-on and his team was in trouble.

With England 91/7, the final looked set for an early finish. But England U-19 clawed back, riding on a fine knock from Rew. Eventually, he fell for 95. It was Kumar's third wicket.

Kumar soon bagged his fourth (4/34) by removing Thomas Aspinwall and England U-19 skittled out for 189.

In the grand scheme of things, though, Indian cricket got something more significant from this game. Bereft of a seaming all-rounder for long, Bawa could be the answer to the problem if he makes a seamless transition to the senior level. In the recent past, players like Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant have done that and Bawa showed the potential to reach the next level. After the final, his wickets tally reached nine scalps from six games at an average of 16.66. He has scored 217 runs, including a record-breaking century.

BRIEF SCORES: England U-19: 189 all out in 44.5 overs (James Rew 95; Raj Bawa 5/31, Ravi Kumar 4/34).

BRIDGE

Dealer: North Vulnerable: None

NORTH
♠ 862
♥ A42
♦ A83
♣ A765

SOUTH
♠ QJ7
♥ QJ53
♦ J54
♣ K102

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1C		Pass	1H
1S	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the five of spades and South takes trick one. Where are the tricks coming from?
The West Hand: S-AK954H-108D-Q972C-J8
The East Hand: S-103H-K987 D-K106C-Q943
South has six tricks he can count on. He has a spade, two hearts for sure, one diamond, and two clubs. He can get another trick if hearts are three-three or if clubs are three-three. The problem is that South can't try all his options because the opponents are going to be getting around to diamonds sooner or later. How should South go after a seventh trick? Should he start with a heart finesse?

South should not lead the queen of hearts. If he does that he will take three hearts only when the suit divides three-three. Hearts is the right suit to play on but not in that fashion.
Lead a heart but lead a little one. Go to the ace of hearts and lead back toward your hand. East will play low and you should play the queen. It wins. This is not a big surprise because even though West bid, there was plenty of room for East to have the king of hearts. And now?
Go to dummy with a club and lead another heart. East takes his king and the defenders continue with a lot of spades. They do not have enough spades to hurt 1NT and in the fullness of time South takes seven tricks.

Dealer: South Vulnerable: East/West

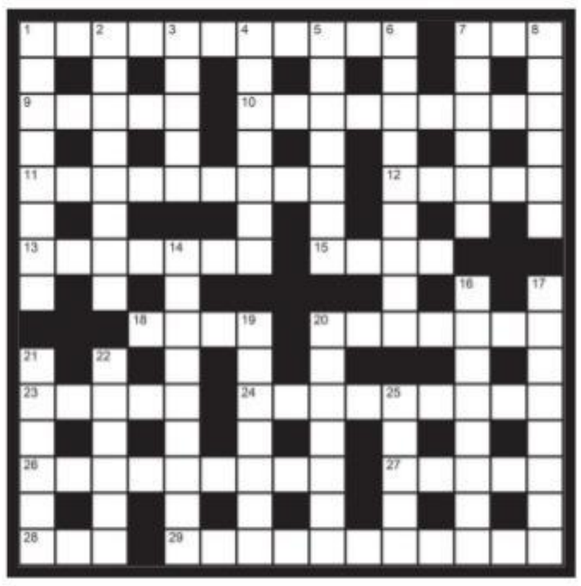
NORTH
♠ 5432
♥ None
♦ 7632
♣ J8643

SOUTH (YOU)
♠ AKJ108
♥ AK
♦ AKQJ5
♣ 9

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1C	Pass	2H
1S	dbl	Pass	4H
Pass	3H	Pass	4H
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South gets to 4H after a 1S overcall by West and a Negative Double by North. It's hands like this one that make you realize that the opponents' bidding isn't always a pain. On this hand their bidding gives you a big clue about the winning line. West leads the queen of diamonds. South wins and leads the queen of hearts, won by West with the ace. West continues with the ten of diamonds and you win in dummy. Another heart lead goes to East's king, West following. East leads a diamond and South ruffs. One possible line is to play a club to the ace and finesse the jack. This would give you a place to get rid of a spade. Do you see anything better?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2359



QUICK CLUES
ACROSS
1. Practical guide (4,2,5)
7. S. American city __ Paolo (3)
9. Tilts over (5)
10. Mass (9)
11. Knickknack (9)
12. Striped animal (5)
13. At least theoretically, if not practically ? (2,5)
15. Brass instrument (4)
18. Roman poet (4)
20. English mathematician (7)
23. Basic drink (5)
24. Shakespeare's shrew tamer (9)
26. Peeved (9)
27. Rigid social stratum (5)
28. Chap (3)
29. Hard-working (11)

DOWN
1. Connection (8)
2. When this is gone, one gives up ! (4,4)
3. Beginning (5)
4. Instructor (7)
5. An ointment (7)
6. Satan (9)
7. Run-down (6)
8. Musical dramas (6)
14. Tenor Luciano (9)
16. Exaggerated sense of manliness (8)
17. Updates or refashions (8)
19. Delegated task to a person ? (7)
20. Happens to, archaically speaking ? (7)
21. Possessing (6)
22. Strongly built (6)
25. Sore (5)

CRYPTIC CLUES
ACROSS
1. Office worker with cabinet duties maybe (6,5)
7. Shed tears in Caesar's obituary (3)
9. Teaching assistants run into hospital facility for shocker (5)
10. Making no move to get things done (9)
11. Advisory group consider equipment for army (5,4)
12. They make a difference to the position on the board (5)
13. Hope expressed that it's all wrapped up (7)
15. Perhaps an American vessel to pull? (4)
18. Beast turning up with a person of learning (4)
20. Sounding expert perhaps, he certainly knows his pipes (7)
23. Rubbish tip initiated skin complaint (5)
24. Gold sovereign? (4,5)
26. How a groan jangled North Sydney (9)
27. Man at university dressed to go around (5)
28. Not very clever to reduce the wattage ? (3)
29. Scientific study of current affairs (11)

DOWN
1. Healthy country is in suitable condition (3,5)
2. Deliciously lush? (8)
3. Norwegian of some minor skills (5)
4. Leading player dividing beastly food and sauce (7)
5. Earth opening - risk always here in Outer Hebrides (7)
6. Moved, thank Maud for a place in the Himalayas (9)
7. Irreproachable Frenchwoman, first lady to load cargo (6)
8. Most low, as in defeat (6)
14. House plot developed at nether end (5,4)
16. Arab emirate has an immature flower in a habit yet incomplete (3,5)
17. Takes chair, sees drip forming (8)
19. It starts to be questionable to look so doubtful (7)
20. One hung by the neck seen to breathe with difficulty, about to die (7)
21. A good man got into debt when laid up (6)
22. Indian chief gives me cash (6)
25. No flight speed is showily masculine (5)

Solutions to 2358

QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Facebook, 5 Impugn, 9 Transept, 10 Willow, 12 Exercises, 13 Tamed, 14 Aced, 16 Nunnery, 19 Prosaic, 21 Pods, 24 Navel, 25 Duplicity, 27 Toning, 28 Train-set, 29 Rhymed, 30 Escapade. **Down:** 1 Fitted, 2 Crates, 3 Basic, 4 Opposed, 6 Moistened, 7 Unlimber, 8 Nowadays, 11 As an, 15 Challenge, 17 Spinster, 18 Solvency, 20 Cads, 21 Papyrus, 22 Miasma, 23 Myrtle, 26 Ibiza.
CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 1 Cerebral, 5 Scouts, 9 One's word, 10 Tocsin, 12 Punishers, 13 Loath, 14 Pall, 16 Pig-iron, 19 Circlet, 21 Rack, 24 Ulema, 25 Off-season, 27 Crowns, 28 Well-nigh, 29 Refuse, 30 Eton crop. **Down:** 1 Choppy, 2 Rueing, 3 Bowls, 4 Air-cell, 6 Chop logic, 7 Upstairs, 8 Sunshine, 11 RSVP, 15 All Saints, 17 Scout-car, 18 Cries off, 20 Trot, 21 Reflect, 22 Ashier, 23 Unship, 26 Ellen.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday February 6
Deep stirrings in positive regions of your solar chart will soon burst into the open and you will gain the confidence and faith in yourself which is necessary if you are to make your dreams come true.

Monday February 7
Happily, you'll feel one particular burden lifted from your shoulders in about four months, and a surge of confidence and optimism in about nine months.

Tuesday February 8
Even while you're looking at life's spiritual realities, you'll be much more involved in business, and there could be amazing chances to make money.

Wednesday February 9
There seems to be a strange connection between whatever happened about eight years ago and plans which are coming to fruition around now.

Thursday February 10
If you're really and truly sensitive, then you'll be aware of the subtle changes taking place at the moment, deep down in the recesses of your psyche.

Friday February 11
Your pattern of beha viour seems to be shifting, and over the next few weeks you'll be made more aware of the need to take a down-to-earth and practical approach to almost everything.

Saturday February 12
It's never too late to say never. You're about to have a second chance to take a major long-term decision, even to back out of a recent commitment.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
The Sun makes its way through a creative region of your chart, shedding new light on areas of experience you'd thought were gone for good, or which you had never even considered. It's not a bad moment for falling in love so, if you're already happily settled, you can rekindle old feelings.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
You may still be keeping yourself to yourself. The advantage of the current moment is that you can, if you wish, explore those spiritual and mystical realities which underlie the world you take for granted. Once you understand life's deeper meaning, you'll put your daily affairs into order.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Short distance travel is more likely than long although, as soon as you leave home, you are liable to face delays. On the other hand, you never know when a hold-up might actually be for the best, perhaps saving you from a worse fate. At work, you may replace one job with another.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Ambitious stars are in the ascendant. Press ahead at work, and even in leisure activities, you should aim to come first. You're in a competitive mood, and you may as well recognise it, for false modesty will only lead to frustration in the long run.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
The more adventurous zones of your chart are being triggered by brilliant planetary movements, which means that if you don't set off on some new venture now, you may have to wait another month or so. Always remember that the past holds the key to future success.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
There is much to be said for taking a break from your normal commitments. You do have a tendency to live the life of a hermit, and right now a brief period of solitude could be the most invigorating way to spend your time. Oh, and think ahead and arrange entertainments and gatherings for next month.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
It's time to pay a little more attention to all those routine matters, like how much things cost. You can be businesslike when you want, and this is precisely the time to take the lead and sort other people out as well. Younger relations will rely on you for your firm support, and will repay any favours over the coming years.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)
All your stars are crying out for collaboration and you will have to team up with partners: there is no choice. If you don't keep up, or if you imagine that you can go it alone, you will soon find otherwise. In love you are searching for status.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)
Travel plans could be subject to some delay, so take the necessary action, like making sure you give yourself enough time. A family matter may involve a legal dimension so, here as well, you should be thoroughly prepared: leave nothing to chance.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Your stars are making a rather lively turn. Take a more adventurous line, and also consider the ethical and moral consequences of your actions: if you have any doubts, hold on until you've been reassured. Travel plans should be put on to the top footing.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
You may take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that, if you are let down in the future, no problems ensue. You should make a point of encouraging other people to see that their choices are theirs alone, and that you are not holding them back.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
If you do your best for other people, they will undoubtedly do their best for you. You should be as generous as you can. This is not to say that you should be exploited, but whenever you see a deserving cause you must chip in with moral support and financial help.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.
Only the ideas that we_____have any value. - Hermann Hesse (6,4)

GLAEE
EHRULL
GLILR
EFIRVY

SOLUTION: EAGLE, GRILL, HULLER, VERIFY
Answer: Only the ideas that we **really live** have any value. - Hermann Hesse

SUDOKU 4737

Difficulty Level 2s
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

		9	1	3	6	4		
2				7				1
		2			1		5	
	6						9	
	7		5			8		
6				1				8
		3	7	9	5	1		

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4736

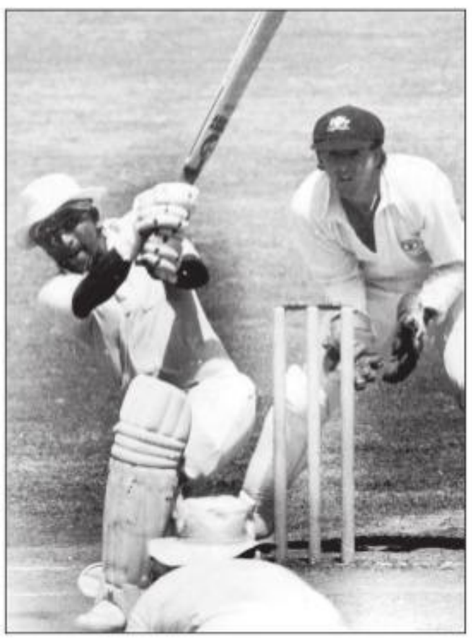
6	7	1	9	3	5	8	2	4
8	5	3	7	2	4	9	1	6
4	9	2	8	1	6	7	5	3
9	1	4	3	7	8	5	6	2
5	6	7	4	9	2	1	3	8
2	3	8	6	5	1	4	7	9
7	8	9	5	6	3	2	4	1
3	2	5	1	4	9	6	8	7
1	4	6	2	8	7	3	9	5

When Virat was captaining, I was the vice-captain, so we pretty much went about the team in similar fashion. I just have to take it from where he (Virat) left."

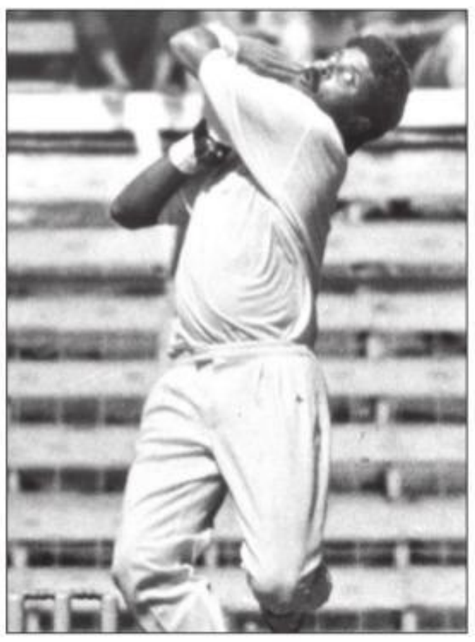
ROHIT SHARMA
INDIA ODI CAPTAIN

INDIA'S 1000 ONE-DAYERS, ONE DECADE AT A TIME

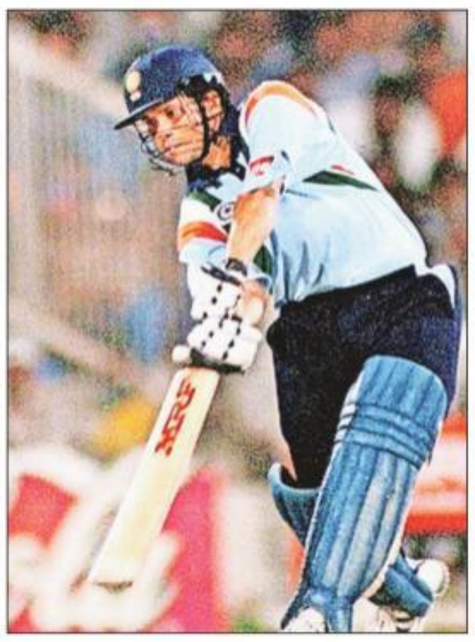
The 50-over has lost some of its old pomp and pride, but it remains a format close to the heart and history of the country's emergence as a cricketing force, financially and sportingly. In the onslaught of T20s and IPL, a renewed attention on Test cricket, it might no longer be the favourite format, but few incarnations of the game have rolled out as many memorable moments in its heyday. A short history through the eyes and lives of those that have played in different eras. **SANDIP G** reports



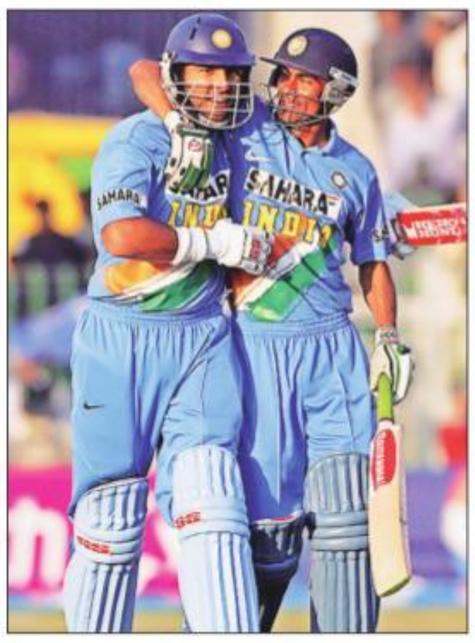
Sunil Gavaskar's 176-ball 36* was a metaphor for the confused approach to ODIs initially.



Kapil Dev and Co's historic World Cup win was but one step in India's rapid rise.



India found its first deity-star-multimillionaire cricketer, Sachin Tendulkar. *Reuters*



Leading a revamped India's charge on the field were Kaif and Yuvraj. *Reuters*

MS Dhoni, India's most successful leader in the format, wrapped up the World Cup win.

BABY STEPS (1974-1979)

India stutters and stumbles as they grapple with the ways of the new format.
Played: 13, Won: 2; Lost: 11

THREE YEARS after the accidental birth of one-day international cricket, India, the future cradle of this format, made baby steps into the unknown. There, though, was no sense of history-making or excitement, or a sense of foreboding that the format was to change the landscape of the game in the country, for most of the eleven debutants. "Looking back, and compared to the boys now, we were naive," says Madan Lal, then just a 23-year-old overzealous youngster.

There were graver concerns, for both the country and its cricket team. After mounting expectations before the series, they stumbled to a 3-0 defeat in Tests and worse of all, were skittled out for their then lowest Test score of 42. While they were still in England, there was tumult back home. Vijay Balla, a giant bat erected in memory of India's series wins in England and West Indies in 1971 were defaced by tar in Indore. Soon upon landing, captain Ajit Wadekar lost his captaincy, whereupon he retired. The nation, meanwhile, was descending into a state of Emergency.

There, though, was curiosity. From the outside, it looked like a compressed Test match. They laid plans accordingly, before their leap into the dark at Leeds in June 1974. A brief and rough plan was sketched. "How do you prepare for a format you haven't played? Or even watched. The general approach was that we would bowl as normal, but start playing attacking shots a bit earlier than in the Test matches. There were a few more men near the ropes, but at the same time slip-fielders and other catchers. More than batting and bowling, we struggled in setting fields," he remembers.

For first-timers, they batted with stoic clarity. In the first game, they compiled a modest 265 in 54.3 overs (of 55 overs), powered by Brijesh Patel's 78-ball 82. But they could not contain England with the ball. "We got a taste of the format and we liked it. Obviously, we had to trial and error to be successful in a new format. We knew that the more we played, the better we would get in this format," Lal recounts.

Nearly 10 months later, a fortnight before the Emergency was declared, India were in England again for the inaugural World Cup. They thought they were better prepared, but then the moment of truth arrived. Sunil Gavaskar's 36 not out off 176 balls against England when chasing 334 (in 60 overs) stood out as a metaphor for their confused approach in the format. Lal refutes: "That game was an aberration. We were a much more competent side, and knew what this format required. Just that we were inexperienced. We played just two, three games a year," says Lal. The first win winked in — against East Africa, a hotchpotch of Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Zambia — but that was as good as it got.

There were years that passed by without them playing a single game (there was a 32-month ODI-less stretch, that largely overlapped with the Emergency in the country). "Often, it was like starting all over again," he says.

As the years unrolled, it didn't get any better. They played just six games in the next three years, managing to win just one game, against Pakistan, and contriving to lose all three in the 1979 World Cup. Wages were meagre — the weekly allowance for the 1979 World Cup was 105 pounds. Jerseys barely fitted; no sponsor's logo blazed from the sleeves. The sweaters were so substandard that an English apparel company donated them woollen. The set-up was amateurish.

Tell them they were going to lift the next World Cup, Lal said chuckling: "We would have rolled on the grass." There was no hunch of history awaiting them, though by then they had a taste of the format's dynamics. And they liked it.

A LEAP (1980-1989)

From childhood, India leap straight to youth
Played: 155; W: 69; L: 80

ONE OF the greatest underdogs stories in world cricket was scripted at the World Cup in 1983, but that was not all. It was the decade both India and the ODIs truly emerged. ODIs as the sport's glamour-spread, and India as its fast-emerging market. For Indian cricket, there was no tumultuous teenage, it was a leap from childhood to early adulthood.

The World Cup triumph altered the trajectory of Indian cricket in ways unimagined. But even some of the World Cup-winning cricketers realised the format's capacity for change at the World Series Championship in Australia two years later. If the World Cup popularised the sport, WSC glamourised it. Cricketers were made to feel Hollywood. "The first time I played, it was unlike any other tournament I had played," says Dilip Vengsarkar.

There was so much colour, literally and figuratively. "It was the first time we played in coloured clothes, and under lights in packed Australian stadiums. White balls were used and the atmosphere was truly electric. There were actual prizes of the Man of the Match and Man of the Series. I thought like how quickly the game had changed in a few years," he remembered.

The grandeur was sparkled further by splendid broadcasting. Topnotch commentary — spearheaded by Richie Benaud and Tony Greig — introduction of multiple camera angles, pitch reports (in which Greig always plonked his keys in the pitch), the magic marker that helped us learn about field placements and stump cam all made WSC an endearing, often unputdownable spectacle in an era were televisions were becoming popular in the country.

The concept of multi-team series gathered currency and in 1984, Sharjah hosted the Rothmans Cup for the first time. It was the dream-child of Abdul Rahman Bukhatir who, back in 1981, envisaged turning Sharjah, an outpost in Arabia, into another Mecca for world cricket, after falling for the game when at school in Pakistan. The stadium was then just a concrete block with a couple of tents, with the grass playing area leased from the local football club, but he had faith. Till 2003, it was an annual affair, though the names changed frequently, as Sharjah became the venue that had hosted the most ODIs (191). Driven no less by marketing forces and the burgeoning clout of cricket's South Asian bloc, the World Cup dragged out of England, as Pakistan and India co-hosted the 1987 edition, which was a box-office hit.

Suddenly, the calendar filled with more dates to accommodate the swelling demand. "From playing two-three games a year we started playing 10-15. So we got more familiar with the format, and we did pretty well too in big tournaments. We won the World Cup, World Series Cup, a series against England and two, three Sharjah Cup," he says.

Along with the game's shooting portfolio came celebrity-hood, sponsors and better wages. From drawing remuneration of Rs 1,500 plus an allowance of Rs 200 for a one-day game in the 1983 World Cup, there were five-digit salaries, besides advertisements and endorsements. On the field, they played exuberant cricket, the success corner-stoned by their panoply of all-rounders and dashing batsmen. "We had all sorts, all-rounders who bowled swing, seam, off-spin, left-arm spin. The team had great flexibility," he says.

By then, cricket had well and truly arrived in the country and expectations had begun to rise. The sport reached the far reaches of the nation, and cricket had begun to be the country-unifying force it would later be, like its magnificent railways. And for this reason, Vengsarkar calls the era "the most significant one in the country's history." A foundation-laying era, without which the sky-piercing skyscraper that is Indian cricket would never have sprung up.

EMOTIONAL ERA (1990-1999)

India were expected to fly, but they barely walked despite Sachin, the opium of the masses
Played: 257; Won: 122; Lost: 120

THERE WOULDN'T be an era where fans were so emotionally or passionately invested in the game. The market had opened up for foreign investment, the board became richer and more powerful, thanks to hefty sums for broadcasting rights, and most especially of all, Indian cricket had its first deity-superstar-multimillionaire cricketer, Sachin Tendulkar.

No cricketer, before or after, has enjoyed as much adulation or admiration, or love, as Tendulkar. Tendulkar in the 90s was an ineffable emotion, one you could explain only if you have lived in that era. You needn't necessarily be a cricket fan to understand that. When he batted, he dictated the mood of the nation. When he scored a hundred, the nation smiled; when he didn't the nation mourned. More often than not, he made them smile and dance, forget the pangs of an economic crisis of the early years, stock-market crashing and acts of terrorism that were getting more frequent.

To him was attached the warmest of 90s memories, be it the twin hundreds in Sharjah, the famous Desert Storm that stoked a passion for the game in the mind of his spiritual successor Virat Kohli, or his five-wicket haul in Kochi against Steve Waugh, the mauling of Henry Olonga, thrashing Kenya in the 1999 World Cup, soon after performing the last rites of his father. A generation would relate their memories to the knocks he rolled out, sometimes even the strokes he unfurled. He was the first love of the 90s kids.

The Desert Storm knocks still make you tear up in joy. "It inspired several generations of cricketers and will continue to do so. It has to be one of the most important 50-over knocks, and to me, the best by an Indian batsman," says Anshuman Gaekwad, who was then the national coach. "It gave India the belief that they could beat the best teams from any situation. It was several years later that they won the Champions Trophy and the Natwest Trophy. But it all began here," he adds.

It was not always Tendulkar — there was a clutch of match-winners, from Mohammad Azharuddin and Anil Kumble and Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid towards the end of the decade — but it was still always Tendulkar. Yet, for all the quality on paper, India struggled to lap up trophies, most heartbreakingly the 1996 World Cup. The other two World Cups too ended on a disappointing note. The 1999 edition is one of regret for Gaekwad. "We were just a bit unlucky. We missed Sachin for that game against Zimbabwe. We lost that game and it had a huge bearing on our campaign," he observes.

The board, though, got wealthier and more powerful. For the first time in 1993, the BCCI sold television rights to Trans World International (TWI) for the India-England series, which earned them $600,000. Consequently, there was an explosive spurt in the number of 50-over games they played too. The graph just kept climbing; in 2018, the Star Group shelled out 944 million dollars for broadcast rights for matches in India.

But in arguably the most competitive era of one-day cricket, India were woefully inconsistent and lagged behind the likes of South Africa and Australia in fielding, bowling resources, all-round utility and planning.

"However, towards the end of the decade we were winning more consistently, and we all knew that we had the nucleus of a good team. There has to be a beginning, and that beginning was that victory in Sharjah," says Gaekwad.

Through all these travails, though, they tugged onto Tendulkar, like a pillow.

TURNAROUND (2000-2009)

India embrace a bolder, tougher approach to assemble the blocks of a world-beating side
Played: 307; Won: 161; Lost: 130

TEN YEARS flew by. The decade began with Indian cricket, nay world cricket, slumping to the worst match-fixing scandal in its existence. Hordes of disillusioned fans slunk away from the game, some never returned, but for a majority, the sport was an irresistible pull. They returned, they could not but, once India resurged under Sourav Ganguly. There were fresh faces, a confident and daring, at times even abrasive, generation; unabashed to throw their bodies around, stare into the eyes of their mean-eyed combatants, spout expletives if need be. Ready to pour their mind on the ground and put the body on the line, demonstrating steel and athleticism that was often absent from their predecessors.

Leading them on the field were Mohammad Kaif and Yuvraj Singh, often prowling the arc from cover to backward point. "Great fun it was, we liked to dive around, block runs and pluck catches. Such efforts brought a smile to the face of the bowlers and audience, besides creating a buzz. It's what you played the game for, for that buzz," says Kaif.

Ganguly embodied their spirit (the steeliness of mind, not always athleticism) — when he whipped off his top and whirled it frantically on the Lord's balcony, as much as an act of spontaneous joy as a piece of defiance. A symbolic statement that never again would India be the uncomplaining patsies of world cricket. Even now, it stands as a metaphor of the Brave New India. In this context, the Natwest Trophy victory had far-reaching consequences.

The greatest joy for Kaif, who conceptualised the steep chase with 87 not out off 75 balls, is that people still relive that moment. "The other day when I was at the airport, a security guy told me that he had just watched the highlights of the game. There were others who told me that they were doing this or that when the match was going on. So that shows the impact of the knock," he says.

Less than a year later, they reached the World Cup final, losing to arguably the finest of all Australian World Cup winners. India wailed and wallowed when they lost the final, but they dragged themselves back onto their feet, self-commiserating that it was one of the most competitive editions. Like the 90s, it was an ultra-competitive era. "When we played Pakistan, it was like playing for a team of legends against a team of legends. We had Sachin, my role model and inspiration, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and Anil Kumble, and they had Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Saeed Anwar and Shoaib Akhtar. Then there was Ricky Ponting, Shane Bond, Glenn McGrath and Shaun Pollock and all. It was a great era to play cricket," Kaif remembers.

Match-winners popped up, one after the other, the pieces of the jigsaw falling into their places as if glued by destiny. First came Zaheer Khan, Yuvraj Singh and Mohammad Kaif; then came along Harbhajan Singh and Virender Sehwag, before MS Dhoni and Gautam Gambhir emerged. Together with Tendulkar, they formed the nucleus of the 2011 World Cup-winning side. They cracked the code of chasing — stitching 17 successive ones. "Not long ago we failed to chase 250-odd against England at the Wankhede, and here we chased down 325. That made us believe that we could chase any target, and that's the reason we became good chasers in the coming years," says Kaif. A mental block was cleared.

There were thorns strewn on the rosy path. Like the disastrous 2007 World Cup campaign, the tumultuous Greg Chappell days. There were distractions too. Like a new format, a World Cup victory in it, the IPL, auctions and after-match parties, but India were hurtling inevitably to World Cup glory and cricket's financial behemoth. The CB Series win in Australia was a precursor.

PEAK, PLATEAU (2010-2019)

After triumphant start, India flatlined amid an existential crisis for the format itself
Played: 249; Won: 158; Lost: 78

THE NARRATIVE of the decade could be told through the overlapping careers of three icons of the game. Through Sachin Tendulkar, the ageing superhero who got to kiss the one piece of precious trophy that had eluded him all his life. Through MS Dhoni, the country's most successful leader in this format and finisher exemplar, wrapping up the World Cup win with arguably the most famous six in Indian cricket's folklore. Through Virat Kohli, an inheritor of the mantles of both Tendulkar and Dhoni, the premier batsman in the post-Tendulkar era and the captain when Dhoni relinquished his throne.

The World Cup remains the pinnacle; its memories still fresh and radiant. Suresh Raina breaks into a nostalgia-hewn trip. "For a lot of us, the greatest moment of our lives, one we had been dreaming of since we were kids. It was a fabulous team, all legends and heroes, and at the peak," he says.

Flawless a team seldom has been — as opposed to the first World Cup winners. Batsmen of hues, from biffers to finishers, bowlers of all sorts — left-arm seamers to off-break virtuosos — agile fielders and astute strategists, it would have been a catastrophe had they not held the trophy aloft. Raina delves on an often under-stated dimension — the role of the part-timers. "Viru pa and I used to bowl off-spin, Sachin paaji bowled leg-spin, off-spin and seam-ups. There was the left-arm spin of Yuvi pa. Yusuf (Pathan) bowled. We all used to relieve some burden of the main bowlers, and chipped in with wickets," he says.

Their diminishing was among the reasons India plateaued after scaling the peak in 2011. Post-2011, India were expected to set up a dynasty as Australia had in the previous decade, they seemed to have the goods, but that was not to be. The 2013 Champions Trophy was their last stand of glory. They had the most ingredients to be a superpower — arguably their best ever fast bowler (Jasprit Bumrah), a clutch of extraordinary batsmen (Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan), a rare seam-bowling all-rounder (Hardik Pandya) and a wrist-spinner (Yuzvendra Chahal). Yet, they have often emerged as the second-best or the semifinalists. "Definitely, this team would be better with some of the part-time all-round options we had," says Raina.

Bizarrely, India somewhat failed to sense the direction the format was to take, thus lagging behind teams like England and New Zealand with their bolder, braver philosophy. In that sense, the decade was a blend of the eighties and 90s. The spurt of the former and the stasis of the latter.

A powerful India ODI team is indispensable for the format's survival, at a time when it's grappling with context. T20s have clearly usurped the ODIs in the popularity scale. Any given window, boards exuberantly squeeze in T20s, like how ODIs were in the 90s. The triangular and quadrangular series ceased to exist long ago, and subsequently the number of ODIs have gone down (from 307 in the aughts to 248), for the first time since India won the World Cup. Bilateral series are more like a complimentary side dish with the main menu, assuming significance only in the proximity of a World Cup that comes in four years. But Raina says the doomsday is distant. "It's still an exciting and popular format.

Despite T20s, they still run full houses. I think it will stay on. The last few years didn't have too many games because of the pandemic," asserts Raina. A lot of the format's popularity hinges on how India would perform in this decade. In this context, the next World Cup at home could be as significant as the 1983 and 2011 editions. Lest it would be like a geriatric on the deathbed, the days of glory and gaiety long over, and waiting now for the requiem.

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