

OPINION, P2

'Exact words' is a betrayal

ACROSS THE AISLE, P CHIDAMBARAM

Opinion

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021

THE NAME OF the TV channel is not material. The name of the journalist is not material. The accusations in respect of some other matters against the channel are not relevant for today's column. What are relevant and material are the decision-making process and the decisions concerning national security taken at the highest levels of the government.

The purpose of this column is not to accuse or malign anyone. The purpose is to ask a straightforward question: were sensitive and protected decisions of the government shared with anyone who was not a part of the decision-making process? A supplementary question is, would some of those decisions fall under "official secrets"?

Bad news for Zuckerberg

How these matters tumbled out of the closet is a mystery. They are supposed to be "chats" on WhatsApp. The owners of WhatsApp have long claimed that all conversations on WhatsApp are encrypted from end-to-end and no one has access to those conversations. It was also claimed that the owners do not have a record of the conversations and cannot share them with anyone. I do not know if those claims are true, but there is growing doubt. Can conversations between two individuals be hacked—that is, one enters illegally and steals? I do not know the answer to that question too, but there is growing suspicion that such conversations can be hacked.

All this is bad news for Mr Mark Zuckerberg, the owner of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, and among the richest persons in the world.

But that as it may, certain conversations between two individuals have become public. To the best of my knowledge, the published material (in print and on the social media) has not been denied by the individuals concerned. If it is denied, that is the end of the matter as far as this column is concerned; if it is not, certain questions arise.

An official secret

There was an attack on an Indian military convoy at Pulwama on February 14, 2019. A conversation took place between 'Journalist' and 'Other' on February 23:

23-02-2019

10.31 pm: Journalist: On another note something big will happen.

10.33 pm: Other: Am sure you will and I strongly wish your success

10.34 pm: Other: For your success

10.36 pm: Journalist: No sir, Pakistan. Something major will be done this time.

10.37 pm: Other: Its good for big man in this season

He will sweep polls then

Strike?? Or Bigger

10.40 pm: Journalist: Bigger than a normal strike. And also on the same time something major on Kashmir. On Pakistan the Govt is confident of striking in a way that people will be elated.

Exact words used.

The attack at Pulwama was an act of terrorism and 40 soldiers were killed. The defence forces were infuriated. It was believed that Pakistan had recruited and trained the person responsible for the attack. A retaliatory strike was expected. The "conversation" took place on February 23. **Three days later**, on February 26, Indian Air Force planes struck at Balakot in Pakistan.

I am not concerned with who heard

ACROSS THE AISLE

P Chidambaram



'Exact words' is a betrayal



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg surrounded by the media during a hearing on protection of user data, on Capitol Hill in Washington, US

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

those "words". That person, I shall assume, was lucky: he was in the right place at the right time! I am concerned about who uttered those words. Why were the words uttered in the presence of a non-government person? Were they uttered with the intention of sharing protected information? While it was widely expected that the defence forces will retaliate to the Pulwama attack, no body could have imagined the "exact words used" to describe the intended retaliation. Obviously, someone shared sensitive and protected information. Who was that person?

Some decisions are Confidential, some are Secret, some are Top Secret, and some are 'For Your Eyes Only'. A retaliatory strike on a target in Pakistan would be FYEO. I am pretty certain that the decision-making process as well as the decision involved only the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister, the NSA, the

Army and Air Force Chiefs and the Commander of the Western Air Command. Even the strike pilots would have been briefed only hours before the strike, and quarantined until the launch. You may draw your conclusions on who used the "exact words" and shared the protected information.

My worry is, was the information shared with any one else who (perhaps unknown to the source) may have been a spy or informer of Pakistan? My second worry is about the "Other" person in the conversation. What was his security classification and did he share the information with anyone?

Death vigil

The collateral damage caused by the conversations was the reputation of the late finance minister Arun Jaitley (may he rest in peace):

10-04-2019

12.45 pm: Other: Jaitley is their biggest failure

Journalist: that I agree totally Shockingly, there was a death vigil over a very ill man.

19-08-2019

10.08 am: Journalist: Jaitley stretching it. PMO does not know what to do. PM leaving on Wednesday for France

10.09 am: Other: So has not died yet?

10.55 am: Journalist: Maintaining him. I expect something by the evening. One of my meetings in delhi this week gets pushed because of this.

I grieve for our country, our Armed Forces and their secrets and, not the least, for the family of Arun Jaitley who served the BJP (and its predecessor, the Jan Sangh) loyally since 1975.

Website: pchidambaram.in

Twitter @Pchidambaram_IN

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Damage control

Former US president Donald Trump's love for golf casts a long shadow on the game

OVER THE TOP

Meraj Shah

FINALLY, WE CAN all now look forward to less media scrutiny of Donald Trump's association with golf. A final salvo, that appeared in yesterday's edition of the *Indian Express*, mentioned, among other things, that Trump cheated, and did sowith the same bluster and brazenness that have characterised his conduct and demeanour during his tenure as POTUS. The writer also mentioned how golf courses owned by him (17, on both sides of the Atlantic, no less) were largely overlooked during his stint at the White House, as venues for major events on the PGA and European Tours. Four days after the riot at Capitol Hill, the PGA of America announced that the Trump National Golf Club at Bedminster would not be hosting the 2022 PGA Championship. On the other side of the pond, the R&A specified, again, that it was not considering Trump's Turnberry course, the iconic layout that's hosted several historic Opens, on its future schedule. No small

shame considering the calibre of the layout that hosted Tom Watson's Duel in the Sun, with Jack Nicklaus in 1977 and was the scene of Greg Norman's first major victory in 1986. You can't blame the R&A or the USGA for what is essentially, a damage control exercise. At the announcement, PGAofAmerica's CEO Seth Waugh averred that the PGA's executive board "had to make a business decision" to protect "our brand and reputation." As a golfer, I share the angst that so many of us do, of being clubbed together with Trump in the same lot, and, to borrow an appropriately antiquated phrase, the way he's besmirched the reputation of the game.

Now apparently, Trump played an unprecedented number of times—77 rounds—during his presidency, the most ever by any sitting President of the United States. Given his dismissal of the coronavirus at the onset of the pandemic, and the privilege of owning golf courses meant that while most golfers around the world were sitting at home licking their chops and dreaming of teeing it up, Trump was getting plenty of play. No surprise that he can, apparently, hold a 10-handicap, notwithstanding the 2.8 that the man himself insists he plays to. The USGA's handicapping system is pretty bulletproof; even Jack Nicklaus today officially plays to



Former US president Donald Trump

a 5.2 handicap. And since both are in their 70s—it's a miracle that Trump didn't overhaul Nicklaus' record of 18 Majors. There is one thing that all of us share with Trump though—whether we like it or not—we're quite delusional about our golf swings.

Don't believe me? Just ask someone to shoot a video the next time you're on the course. Not for the faint-hearted, this unforgiving mirror of an action that's probably a far cry from what you see pros execute on television. After one session

with a coach a few years back I swore I'd never willingly undertake such a soul-destroying activity ever again. It's inexplicable, but there it is: the difference between what you're actually doing with the golf club, and what you think you're doing, can trigger an existential crisis. I wouldn't recommend it; much like Endymion, who chose eternal sleep because it allowed him to be with Diana, reality is what you make it. The pandemic has caused enough grief already; no need to exacerbate things by counterproductive self-reflection.

At least we're back on the course. For those of us lucky enough to do so, getting back to the game after the lockdowns has been a mixed bag. For the life of me, I still can't chip; but the long game is another matter. Something very unprecedented has taken place that I'm still coming to grips with. Here's my hypothesis: months of not picking up a golf club meant that bad swing habits that had got ingrained over the last few years, stubborn as these were, slowly dissipated. What that led to was the re-emergence of a natural ability to hit the ball which I had as a youngster. Secondly, a redirection of efforts from golf to fitness has played dividends. Running is not like golf, mere devotion is more than enough. And the results have been spectacular. I finally understand what coaches mean when they talk about the core powering the golf swing: now that there is, in fact, a semblance of a core, it's led to better posture, a straighter spine, a more athletic setup and a more secure grip. The results, ladies and

gentlemen, I'm happy to report, are, that while I might still take at least three shots to get down from 100 yards in, the first 280-290 yards are bludgeoned in one off the tee.

Given that, I think the biggest takeaway from the pandemic for me is to work on my fitness at least half as hard as I work on my golf. Instead of pounding balls at the range four days a week, I'm going to spend at least two of those evenings at the gym. I'm no expert in physical training, but from what I've gathered over the last three months even short regimens of leg raises, squats and stretches every other day translate into exponential benefits when it comes to how you swing the club. Think about that before you put down good money for another driver: an upgrade to your physical equipment might be a cheaper, and more rewarding alternative. But that's true only for those of us who can count our strokes and aren't deluded about our golfing abilities. As a parting shot, and since I'm certain I won't ever have to write about him again, there is one thing I do have to admit: Trump was right about: his unabashed superlative estimation of himself. So yes, for the record, it's clear that Donald Trump is the worst loser of all time. In golf, and otherwise. Take a bow sir, and carry on cheating. No one cares anymore.

A golfer, Meraj Shah also writes about the game

UltraTech Cement Q3 net profit jumps over two-fold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 23

ADITYA BIRLA GROUP firm UltraTech Cement on Saturday reported over two-fold jump in consolidated net profit to ₹1,584.58 crore in the December quarter. The leading cement producer had posted a net profit of ₹711.17 crore in the October-December quarter a year ago, UltraTech Cement said in a BSE filing.

Its revenue from operations stood at ₹12,254.12 crore, up 17.38%, during the quarter under review as against ₹10,439.34 crore in the corresponding period of the last financial year. UltraTech Cement's total expenses were at ₹10,190.03 crore in the third quarter of financial year 2020-21, as against ₹9,611.08 crore, down 6.29%. During the quarter, it had volume growth of 1.4% to 22.82 million tonne, it said.

"Recovery from the Covid-19 led to the disruption of the economy. This has been fuelled by quicker demand stabilisation, supply-side restoration and greater cost efficiencies," UltraTech Cement said in a post earnings statement.

While rural and semi-urban housing continues to drive growth, pick-up in the government-led infrastructure aided incremental cement demand.

"Pent-up urban demand is expected to improve with the gradual return of the migrant workforce," it added. Though fuel prices have increased in



The Aditya Birla group company's consolidated net profit increased to ₹1,584.58 crore in the December quarter

recent months, operational efficiencies and tight control over costs are reflected in the company's 26% operating margin.

"Focus on reducing debt continues. Net debt reduction during Q3FY21 was ₹2,696 crore and year-to-date, it was ₹7,424 crore," it said.

During the quarter, UltraTech's board approved Capex of ₹5,477 crore towards increasing capacity by 12.8 mtpa (million tonne per annum) with a mix of brownfield and greenfield expansion in the fast-growing markets of the east, central and north regions of the country.

"This expansion is in addition to the company's 6.7 mtpa capacity addition that is currently underway in UP, Odisha, Bihar and West Bengal, which has picked up the pace and is expected to get commissioned

by financial year 2022, in a phased manner," it said.

After completion, UltraTech's capacity will grow to 136.25 mtpa, reinforcing its position as the third-largest cement company in the world, outside of China. Over the outlook, the company said: "With strong rural growth, revival in manufacturing sentiment, buoyancy in GST and tax collections, UltraTech expects demand to grow on the back of the government's push on infrastructure projects."

As many as 257,613 passengers flew locally as on January 22, compared with 30,000

Apollo Hospitals raises ₹1,170 cr via allotment of shares to QIBs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 23

HEALTHCARE MAJOR APOLLO Hospitals on Saturday announced raising ₹1,169.99 crore through allotment of shares to the qualified institutional buyers (QIBs).

The Fund Raising Committee on Saturday "approved allotment of 46,59,498 equity shares of face value ₹5 each to eligible qualified institutional buyers at the issue price of ₹2,511 per equity share, i.e., at a premium of ₹2,506 per

equity share aggregating to ₹11,699.99 million, pursuant to the issue," Apollo Hospitals Enterprise said in a filing to the BSE. The issue opened on January 18, 2021, and closed on January 22, 2021, it added.

"Pursuant to the allotment of equity shares in the issue, the paid-up equity share capital of the company stands increased from ₹69,56,25,795 consisting of 13,91,25,159 equity shares to ₹71,89,23,285 consisting of 14,37,84,657 equity shares," the filing said.

Domestic aviation operations nearing pre-Covid levels

BLOOMBERG
January 23

INDIA'S DOMESTIC CIVIL aviation operations continue steadily and the sector is nearing pre-pandemic levels, according to civil aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

As many as 257,613 passengers flew locally as on January 22, compared with 30,000

passengers that travelled by air when such flights were restarted on May 25, Puri said in a Twitter post on Saturday. "We are now within touching distance of pre-Covid figures."

India has allowed local airlines to fly limited schedules since May after two months of a strict nationwide lockdown, gradually opening up the domestic market.

Tata Power Solar wins ₹1,200-cr order to set up 320 MW project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 23

TATA POWER SOLAR on Saturday announced that it has bagged an order worth ₹1,200 crore from state-run powergiant NTPC for setting up of 320 MW ground mounted Solar PV project for NTPC, a company statement said.

The order value of the project is approximately ₹1,200 crore (\$162 million). The commercial



The order pipeline of Tata Power Solar stands at approximately 4 GWp

operation date for this project is set for May 2022.

With this addition, the order pipeline of Tata Power Solar stands at approximately 4 GWp with approximate value of ₹12,000 crore. The scope of work includes the land, acquisition, engineering, procurement,

and commissioning of the grid-connected solar project on a turnkey basis along with three years of operations and maintenance services for the solar plant, power evacuation system and telemetry up to the interconnecting state transmission utility (STU) substation.

Speaking on the achievement, Praveer Sinha, CEO and MD, Tata Power, said in the statement, "Tata Power is in the forefront of producing green energy across the country. Such achievement demonstrates the trust and leadership of Tata Power's project management capability and execution skills in solar projects."



MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Government of India

PUBLIC NOTICE

A New and Comprehensive Form for New Companies

SPICe+

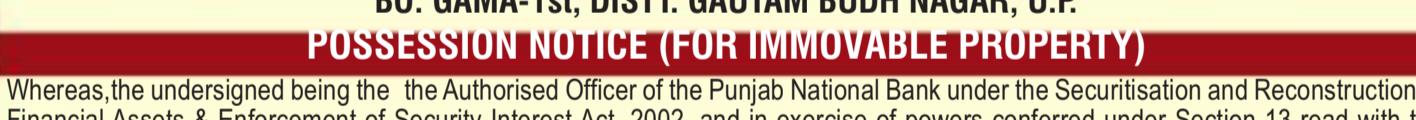
As part of Government of India's Ease of Doing Business (EODB) initiatives, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has notified and deployed a new Web Form christened 'SPICe+' (pronounced 'SPICe Plus').

SPICe+ offers 11 services by 3 Central Govt. Ministries & Departments and Two State Govt. (Maharashtra & Karnataka), thereby saving many procedures, time and cost for Starting a Business in India and is applicable for all new company incorporations.

SPICe+ is an integrated Web Form. SPICe+ has two parts viz.:

PART A FOR NAME RESERVATION FOR NEW COMPANIES, and	
PART B OFFERING A BOUQUET OF SERVICES:	
(i) Incorporation	(ii) DIN allotment
(iii) Mandatory issue of PAN	(iv) Mandatory issue of TAN
(v) Mandatory issue of EPFO registration	(vi) Mandatory issue of ESIC registration
(vii) Mandatory issue of Profession Tax registration (Maharashtra)	(viii) Mandatory issue of Profession Tax registration (Karnataka)
(ix) Mandatory Opening of Bank Account	(x) Allotment of GSTIN (if so applied for) for the Company, and

- A new and user friendly Dashboard on the Front Office has been created for company incorporation application (SPICe+ and linked forms as applicable).
- The new web form facilitates On-screen filing and real time data validation for seamless incorporation of companies.
- Registration for EPFO and ESIC is mandatory for all new companies incorporated and no EPFO & ESIC registration nos. shall be separately issued by the respective agencies.
- Registration for Profession Tax is mandatory for all new companies incorporated in the State of Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- All new companies incorporated through SPICe+ are mandatorily required to apply for opening the company's Bank account through the AGILE-PRO linked web form.



POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice/s on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice/s/ date of receipt of the said notice(s). The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on date herein mentioned below. The borrower/s /guarantor/s /mortgagor/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/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

S. No	Name of the Branch	Name of the Account	Name of the borrower (Owner of the property)	Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of notice affixed	Amount Outstanding as on the date of possession notice.
1.	GAMA-1 Greater Noida	M/s. Janki Devi Vidyamandir Prop. Smt. Babita W/o Ajay Kumar (Guarantor) Ajay Kumar S/o Shiv Singh, 80B, Abhay Khand 3 Indrapuram, Ghaziabad U.P.	Borrower(s) M/s. Janki Devi Vidyamandir Prop. Smt. Babita W/o Ajay Kumar (Guarantor) Ajay Kumar S/o Shiv Singh, 80B, Abhay Khand 3 Indrapuram, Ghaziabad U.P. Measuring 25.45 sqmt. In the name of Sh. Ajay Kumar S/o Sh. Shiv Singh.	Residential Property Situated at EWS Flat No. 483, Ground Floor, Nyay Khand-2, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad (U.P.) Measuring 25.45 sqmt. In the name of Sh. Ajay Kumar S/o Sh. Shiv Singh.	04.09.2020	21.01.2021	Rs. 67,50,753.91/- (Rupees Sixty Seven Lakh Fifty Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Three and Ninety One Paisa Only) along with further interest costs and expenses thereon.
2.	GAMA-1 Greater Noida	M/s. Janki Devi Vidyamandir Prop. Smt. Babita W/o Ajay Kumar 80B, Abhay Khand 3 Indrapuram, Ghaziabad U.P. (Guarantor) Sh. Shiv Singh S/o Deep Singh, H.No. 72, Gali No. 29C Molar Band Extension Badarpur Jaitpur, New Delhi-110044 bearing loan account no. 4604009300000275	Borrower(s) M/s. Janki Devi Vidyamandir Prop. Smt. Babita W/o Ajay Kumar 80B, Abhay Khand 3 Indrapuram, Ghaziabad U.P. (Guarantor) Sh. Shiv Singh S/o Deep Singh, H.No. 72, Gali No. 29C Molar Band Extension Badarpur Jaitpur, New Delhi-110044 bearing loan account no. 4604009300000275	Residential Property Situated at EWS Flat No. 490, Ground Floor, Nyay Khand-2, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad (U.P.) Measuring 24.65 sqmt. In the name of Sh. Shiv Singh S/o Deep Singh.	04.09.2020	21.01.2021	Rs. 67,50,753.91/- (Rupees Sixty Seven Lakh Fifty Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Three and Ninety One Paisa Only) along with further interest costs and expenses thereon.
3.	GAMA-1 Greater Noida	M/s. Janki Devi Vidyamandir Prop. Smt. Babita W/o Ajay Kumar 80B, Abhay Khand 3 Indrapuram, Ghaziabad U.P. (Guarantor) Sh. Shiv Singh S/o Deep Singh, H.No. 72, Gali No. 29C Molar Band Extension Badarpur Jaitpur, New Delhi-110044 bearing loan account no. 4604009300000275	Borrower(s) M/s. Janki Devi Vidyamandir Prop. Smt. Babita W/o Ajay Kumar 80B, Abhay Khand 3 Indrapuram, Ghaziabad U.P. (Guarantor) Sh. Shiv Singh S/o Deep Singh, H.No. 72, Gali No. 29C Molar Band Extension Badarpur Jaitpur, New Delhi-110044 bearing loan account no. 4604009300000275	Residential Property Situated at EWS Flat No. 493, Ground Floor, Nyay Khand-2, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad (U.P.) Measuring 25.45 sqmt. In the name of Sh. Ajay Kumar S/o Sh. Shiv Singh.	04.09.2020	21.01.2021	Rs. 67,50,753.91/- (Rupees Sixty Seven Lakh Fifty Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Three and Ninety One Paisa Only) along with further interest costs and expenses thereon.
4.	GAMA-1 Greater Noida	M/s. Janki Devi Vidyamandir Prop. Smt. Babita W/o Ajay Kumar 80B, Abhay Khand 3 Indrapuram, Ghaziabad U.P. (Guarantor) Sh. Shiv Singh S/o Deep Singh, H.No. 72, Gali No. 29C Molar Band Extension Badarpur Jaitpur, New Delhi-110044 bearing loan account no. 4604009300000275	Borrower(s) M/s. Janki Devi Vidyamandir Prop. Smt. Babita W/o Ajay Kumar 80B, Abhay Khand 3 Indrapuram, Ghaziabad U.P. (Guarantor) Sh. Shiv Singh S/o Deep Singh, H.No. 72, Gali No. 29C Molar Band Extension Badarpur Jaitpur, New Delhi-110044 bearing loan account no. 4604009300000275	Residential Property Situated at EWS Flat No. 493, Ground Floor, Nyay Khand-2, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad (U.P.) Measuring 25.45 sqmt. In the name of Sh. Ajay Kumar S/o Sh. Shiv Singh.	04.09.2020	21.01.2021	Rs. 67,50,753.91/- (Rupees Sixty Seven Lakh Fifty Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Three and Ninety One Paisa Only) along with further interest costs and expenses thereon.
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DATE : 21.01.2021, PLACE : GREATER NOIDA

AUTHORISED OFFICER, PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK, CIRCLE SAstra Noida



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Words Worth

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021

ON THE SHELF



Beyond COVID'S SHADOW
Sanjaya Baru
Rupa
Pp 336, ₹595

The ironies of politics

This account of Vajpayee's term lays bare the hypocrisy of political theorists more than it reveals new facets of the former PM

RISHI RAJ

EMINENT HISTORIAN ERIC Hobsbawm once said that when he met heads of governments, he was not interested in what they said on record as it was for building a legacy. What he was interested in was what they said off the record, because the real stuff was a different story altogether.

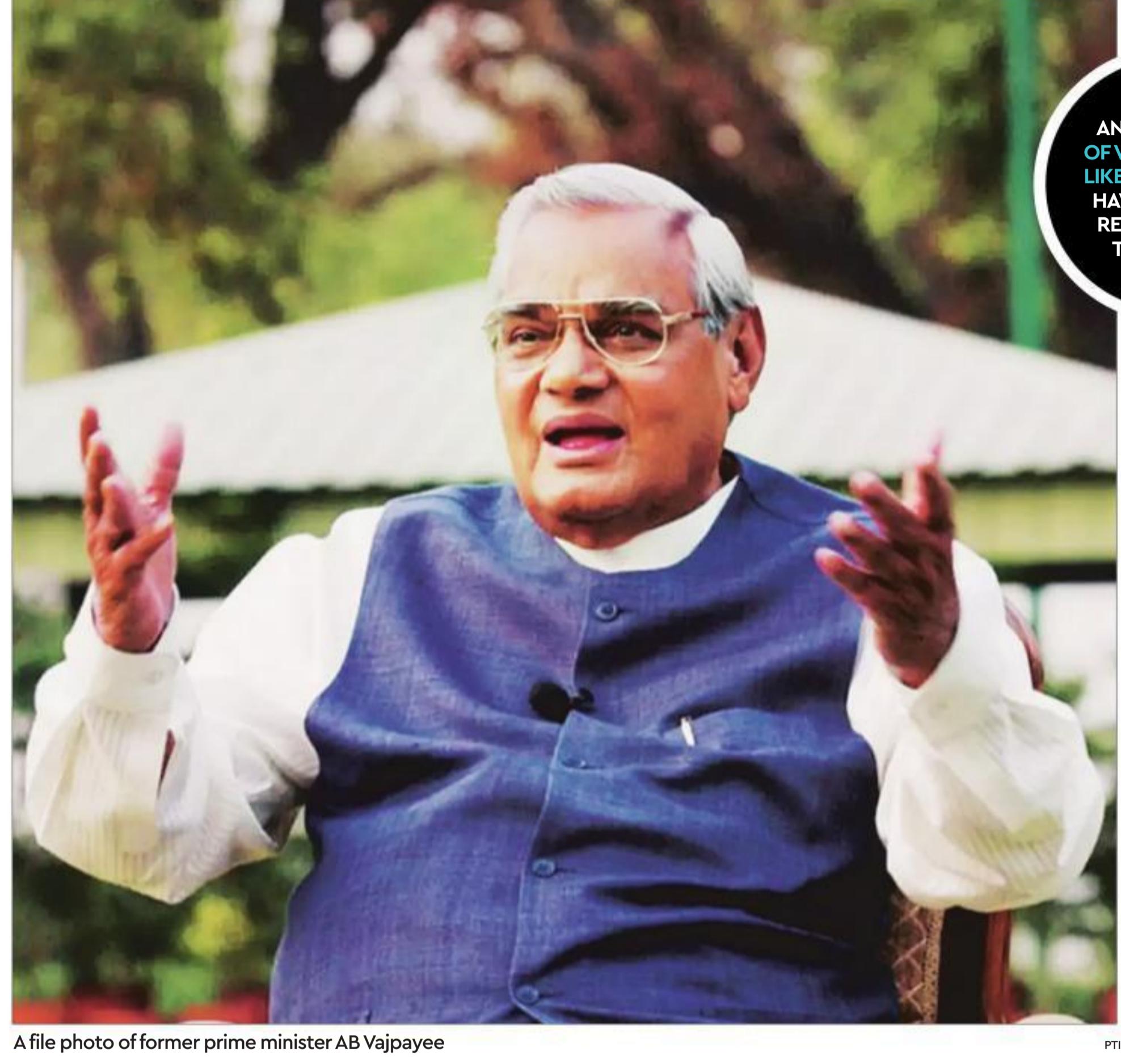
So picking up a book on a former prime minister that is penned by a close aide in his office, one expects to find several anecdotes on what the person said in moments of privacy. Such nuggets could be relating to political pressures, back-room machinations related to policy-making, or with regard to personal relations with other key personalities of the time.

Judged on this parameter, Shakti Sinha's *Vajpayee: The Years That Changed India* could be a little disappointing, for the book does not really reveal much that is not already known. One expected much more from Sinha considering he was Vajpayee's private secretary during the latter's first term in office during 1998-99 (the book details events of this period). Later, during Vajpayee's second term from 1999 onward, Sinha was joint secretary in the PMO. He also served as Vajpayee's private secretary when he was leader of the opposition after the fall of his 13-day government in 1996.

The limitation with Sinha not writing about such incidents could be because he did not maintain a daily diary, as BN Tandon did when he was joint secretary in Indira Gandhi's PMO. Or it could just be that Sinha does not want to reveal much. But he has not put a cover on things either.

Generally officials serving the PM from such close quarters tend to pen hagiographies. Not in the case of Sinha. He is very objective in his account and does not shy in putting on record where he thinks the former PM went wrong. Where Sinha's account needs to be lauded is that it creates a record of those times, helping build contemporary history. Indians may be great at remembering the times of Akbar, but conveniently forget what happened 20 years back.

At a time when there is a single-party majority government, critics of BJP and Narendra Modi have begun a narrative how such governments tend to be authoritarian. Terms like 'electoral authoritarianism', 'illiberal democracy', 'tyranny of the majority', etc., have been coined and have made an entry into the discourse on political theory. These voices have suddenly discovered the

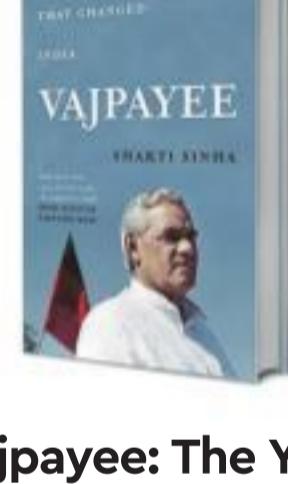


A file photo of former prime minister AB Vajpayee

advantages of coalition governments and how they are more accommodating and balance the interest of disparate groups. Sinha's book is a great reminder for such people, who before 2014, used to wax eloquent as to how coalition governments lacked political stability and slowed economic reforms, but have now changed their tune.

The pulls and pressures of various allies like Jayalalithaa, Mamata Banerjee, Chandrababu Naidu, Naveen Patnaik, Nitish Kumar, etc., have been well recounted and apart from refreshing the memories of intellectuals who have suddenly discovered a love for rickety governments, the book also serves as a good history lesson for youngsters who are being fed the new political theories of electoral authoritarianism.

In fact, the chapters on the events leading to the formation of government by Vajpayee and the various demands and antics of coalition partners, both before and after government formation, make for hilarious reading for even people who lived during those years. It would not be far-fetched to say that if a film was to be made on those antics today, it would be a great comical hit. The most interesting part is that all

**Vajpayee: The Years That Changed India**
Shakti Sinha
Penguin Random House

Pp 368, ₹599

regional coalition partners wanted Vajpayee to dismiss the governments in their respective states led by opposition parties as a price for supporting him. The number of times such demands came and the manner in which Vajpayee dealt with them may also embarrass those who have suddenly discovered the virtues of a coalition government.

Sinha's greatest contribution through this book is bringing back to public memory the misdemeanours of then president KR Narayanan, who, because of his distaste for BJP and its ideology and love for Congress, threw constitutional norms to the wind. Also, when the government fell after 13 months, Narayanan again did not heed constitutional practices to enable Sonia Gandhi to form the government. That he did not succeed is another story.

The most illuminating chapter is on the nuclear test where Sinha details the Pokhran exercise, the American duplicity vis-a-vis India and Pakistan and how the superpower that time knelt towards China to bend India. Though the flavour of the times is to see Trump as a clown and rightfully so, reading the account of post-Pokhran period certainly reveals Clinton to be a big villain, something like Nixon during the Bangladesh war.

For the generation who lived and saw Vajpayee's time, the book serves as a good lesson not to forget the limitations a rickety coalition government imposes on a good leader; and for the millennials it brings an equally important lesson: that in order to criticise the present do not idealise the past.

As we currently witness the farmers' agitation around the capital, demanding rollback of certain farm laws, Sinha provides vignettes from the past which remind us that some things never change in Indian politics. The book talks about several similar protests by allies of the government demanding rollback of certain reform measures, particularly relating to curtailing of fertiliser and power subsidies. The rollback was such in nature that then finance minister Yashwant Sinha earned the sobriquet of 'Roll Back Sinha'.

A book on Vajpayee cannot be complete if it does not bring out the self-deprecating humour he possessed, which also livened his speeches. Here Sinha offers several nuggets: "The year was 1998. The BJP-led Delhi Government had invited him (Vajpayee) to be the chief guest at the inauguration of the flyover at Yamuna bazar. The master of ceremonies kept referring to him as the 'bhootpoor pradhan mantri'. When it was his turn to speak, Vajpayee said that he knew he was the 'poor pradhan mantri' but had no idea where the 'bhoot' came from."

Two aspects of the book need special mention to establish that Sinha is no hagiographer but an honest and objective chronicler of times. Writing about the trust vote which the Vajpayee government needed to win in 1998, he says, "The Vajpayee government had also got two Anglo-Indians nominated to the Lok Sabha, as allowed by the Constitution, but before the government could win the confidence of the house. Even I was surprised that President Narayanan had gone along with this step, since it effectively added to MPs to the ruling side."

In another instance, where certain decisions related to corruption cases pertaining to Jayalalithaa were taken to save the government, Sinha writes, "While politics is not about ethical behaviour, however desperate the circumstances, this was a cynical move that neither enhanced Vajpayee's image, nor in the final analysis, prolonged the life of his government. Even if it was Vajpayee acting on legal advice, it was not a happy occasion."

The most interesting irony or say hypocrisy which Sinha brings out in the book is how people who today sing praises of Vajpayee, calling him a liberal and not hardcore and communal like Modi, sang a different tune when he was the PM. Sample the criticism of leftist historian KN Panikkar on the issue of conversions, which became controversial during Vajpayee's time: "The response of Prime Minister Vajpayee, who is considered a good man and a liberal by many, was the most devious. By calling for a public debate on conversions, he suggested that the blame, in fact rests with the victims...this anti-Christian tirade was...another example of the unfolding of the fascist agenda of the Parivar."

For the generation who lived and saw Vajpayee's time, the book serves as a good lesson not to forget the limitations a rickety coalition government imposes on a good leader; and for the millennials it brings an equally important lesson: that in order to criticise the present do not idealise the past.

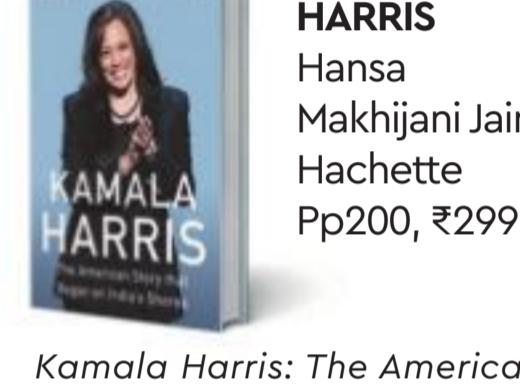
use it wisely and for selective issues, when it matters and not when it is required.

While I would side with Maher and Charles that we as a society are becoming overly sensitive about issues, what people fail to realise is that this is not a new phenomenon. The world, in the past, has been rather too selective about outrage. Issues have been lost in obscurity because society has paid too much attention to other nuances. That is why people have waited for opportunities rather than picking up issues when it mattered. Take the case of the civil rights movement. Rosa Parks became the symbol, or in Martin Luther King's words "the angel" of defiance, but it was actually Claudette Colvin who carried out the same act nine months before Rosa Parks. However, she got lost in the morality of the movement. Claudette was unmarried and later pregnant, and many felt making her the face would mean giving the Caucasian majority a reason to denounce the movement.

Social media has indeed amplified hate and often obscures the real issue. But had it not been for social media, #MeToo, #BlackLivesMatter would not have been a reality. Second, and most importantly, the problem with modern-day liberalism is that it tries to impose liberalism onto others. The idea of free speech and freedom applies only if you adhere to standards of it. Sadly, all sides are relying too much on the notion on what they deem right with little regard to freedom. Let people mount a war, but don't let it become the main discourse that decides the fate of society. In Rachel Dolezal's case, for all its misgivings, it did start a debate on identity. Enough for Charles to consider it as a chapter. As for *Outrage*, there are no real takeaways. Though there is nothing that you do not know or have not seen, it is still worth a read.

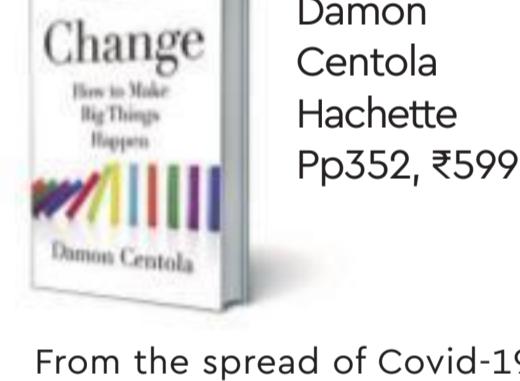
INDIA 2030
Edited by Gautam Chikermane Penguin Random House

India 2030 is a compilation of thought leaders from 20 diverse fields, ranging from education to healthcare, science, energy, politics and foreign policy, as they speak of their predictions for India in 2030 and look at how the nation will evolve this decade. Editor Gautam Chikermane weaves together essays by Bibek Debroy, Vikram Sood, Monika Halan, Raghunath Anant Mashelkar, Ram Madhav, David Frawley, etc.



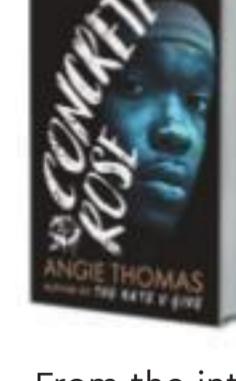
KAMALA HARRIS
Hansa Makhijani Jain Hachette Pp200, ₹299

Kamala Harris: The American Story that Began on India's Shores tells the extraordinary and inspirational tale of a courageous and charismatic woman, a pioneer in her own right, who has today become a symbol many look up to in the hope of a more inclusive world. Her inspirational rise to the top holds the promise that she will not be the last woman to conquer this mountain.



CHANGE
Damon Centola Hachette Pp352, ₹599

From the spread of Covid-19 to the rise of political polarisation, from implicit bias to genetically modified food, from NASA to Netflix, it's time to think differently about how change works. In this book, Centola distills over a decade of deep experience into a fascinating new theory that challenges previous assumptions that new ideas are either contagious or not.



CONCRETE ROSE
Angie Thomas Penguin Random House

From the international phenomenon Angie Thomas comes a hard-hitting return to Garden Heights with the story of Maverick Carter, Starr's father. It is set 17 years before the events of the award-winning *The Hate U Give*. With his King Lord dad in prison and his mom working two jobs, 17-year-old Maverick Carter helps the only way he knows how: slinging drugs. Until he finds out he's a father.



UNSCRIPTED
Vidhu Vinod Chopra and Abhijat Joshi Penguin Random House ₹699

Starting in Wazir Bagh, a small *mohalla* in Kashim, Vidhu Vinod Chopra's life has been well and truly unscripted. Over the last 30 years, he has blazed a trail in Hindi cinema. In *Unscripted*, Chopra speaks to his longtime collaborator and scriptwriter Abhijat Joshi about his exceptional journey. The book provides a glimpse into the mind, method and madness of one of contemporary Hindi cinema's best filmmakers.

An intolerant world

Ashley Charles details the history of outrage and how it is getting diluted in today's rather over-sensitive times, sometimes obscuring reality



and how it has impacted them. There is scientific research, and most of all, there is mention of instances that you can connect with. There is a viewpoint too, but that remains hidden between the lines and only presents itself in the last few chapters.

The book starts with the episode of Rachel Dolezal, who, despite being Caucasian, identified herself as a person of

**Outraged: Why Everyone is Shouting and No One is Talking**
Ashley 'Dotty' Charles
Bloomsbury

Pp 176, ₹2,080

episode of Jamie Oliver and jerk rice. The famous food show host was accused by the gatekeepers of righteousness of cultural appropriation and admonished. The book is replete with such examples, and the history of outrage related to civil rights movements, slavery and women's suffrage. The last chapter, however, is a guide to new-age social media, which details how we need not forego our outrage but need to be selective about it and

New Delhi

Express Adda

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021

The Indian EXPRESS
e.AQDA



SHASHI THAROOR
CONGRESS LEADER & MP
Do you think it's not a decline of the West, but the rise of the rest?

Look at Turkey. 35 years ago, when the US wanted it to do something, they would ask how high do we jump. Now with three decades of economic growth, a consolidated new political system and cultural confidence, Turkey will not listen to Washington. That's how the world has changed.



DINESH TRIVEDI
MP, RAJYA SABHA
Would you agree that the spirit of democracy has disappeared today?

In Western democracy, it's polarised, not just in terms of ideas, but around race and colour. It is one of the reasons why I admire what Gandhi and Nehru tried to do in India, which was to emphasise the secular character of the country, not just from the point of view of communal harmony, but it is the only basis on which you can have a sustainable democratic experiment. Otherwise, what happens is people move into armed camps; we saw that in Capitol Hill.



AJIT GULABCHAND
CHAIRMAN, HCC LTD

Why did you leave India?
When I was growing up in India in the '70s, it was pretty rough. Indira Gandhi had nationalised the banks, and the economy was stagnant. Personally, I found it immensely attractive, the idea of the openness, the spirit of adventure, the canvas on which you could paint in the United States. India seemed a cramped and difficult society at the time. I don't know how I would feel if it were 25 years later and India has become as dynamic as it has. It was a particular idiosyncratic choice. I don't pretend that it is some kind of ringing affirmation of one society over the other.



PALLAVA BAGLA
SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR
We have seen America turned into a banana republic...

America did not turn into a banana republic. Look at their checks and balances. You had Republican governors and Secretaries of State ratifying an election in which their candidate lost. There were cases that Trump took to the courts, but lost. It describes a constitutional democracy that was placed under strain, but ultimately affirmed itself.



ASHOK KHEMKA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA
Do you think the farmers agitation is an expression of corporate mistrust or misgovernance?

It is both. Agriculture in India has been mismanaged from the start. That agriculture is protected in the Constitution is obviously a mistake. It prevents a dynamic



'An institution is only so strong as the people willing to defend it'

At an e.Adda held recently, international affairs columnist, CNN news host and author Fareed Zakaria spoke on democracy in America, the challenges for journalism, big tech and why India needs to have a strategic conception of its place in the world

On whether the Trump era is over

I think, finally, we're seeing a break in the Republican Party. We're seeing people willing to find a way to separate themselves from him, but the base is still with Trump. This may seem fantastical, but it is basically true that nearly 60-70% of Republicans still believe that Trump is right, that the election was stolen. You're talking about 50-60 million Americans. So, the challenge for the party will be how do you dissociate from Trump without dissociating yourself from the base, the energy and the intensity of support that comes with it. So, here's what's going to happen — the Republican Party is going to break. In any dictatorship, you know things are getting bad when you see disension at the top. I think you're beginning to see that.

On the dangers of illiberal democracy

I think the lesson of the deterioration of democracy in America is this — you can look at systems and say this one is weak because these institutions are new, the independence of the courts is new, the separation of powers is new, they haven't had the time to build. I think what I didn't realise is institutions are human, they're fragile by definition, that at the end of the day, an institution is only as strong as the people who are willing to defend it, the people who are willing to uphold it, and that they can shift very easily.

On India's strategic choices

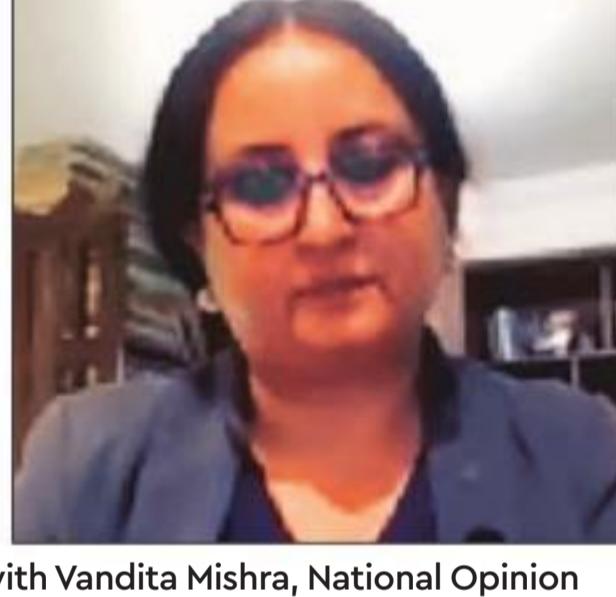
The challenge is that India hasn't figured out what it wants. For that, it needs to have a strategic conception of its place in the world, its place in Asia. And it doesn't have that right now. Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi says his policy is multi-national, etc, but I'm going to be nice to everybody. That is opposite of having a foreign policy. Foreign policy is making choices. I think if India were to decide that it wants a strategic partnership with the US, centred around cooperation and shared information, that would be a transforming relationship. But India needs to be much clearer about this. There's still a certain amount of the non-aligned mentality that is still part of the Indian foreign ministry. So, until it can get rid of those phobias and realise it's actually in a new world, I don't think you'll get as much out of the American relationship as you could.

On the link between political fanaticism and the pandemic

Look, I quote this line of Lenin's in the book that there are decades when nothing happens and, then, there are weeks when decades happen. The pandemic has sort of put life on fast forward, it's accelerated many trends taking place around the world, within our system. Now, if you look at this election in the US, it was a heroic achievement. You had a pandemic and yet,



(From top) Zakaria was in conversation with Vandita Mishra, National Opinion Editor, and Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group



Eminent guests who participated in the e.Adda include Niraj Bajaj, Director, Bajaj Group; Harsh Goenka, Chairman, RPG Enterprises; Ajit Shiram, MD, DCM Shiram Ltd; Federico Salas, Mexico Ambassador; Surendra Ahuja, MD, Boeing Defence India; Sajid Chinoy, Chief India Economist, JP Morgan; Nasim Zaidi, former CEC; Fali Nariman, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India; Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, Indian Navy; Vinod Dhall, former Secretary, Govt. of India; C Rajkumar, Vice Chancellor, OP Jindal; Yoginder Alagh, Vice Chairman, Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research; Dr Najma Heptulla, Governor of Manipur; Naseem Naqvi, Bureau Chief, AIR News; R Sudarshan, Dean, OP Jindal Global University; Paresh Parasnis, CEO, Piramal Foundation; Kedar Upadhye; Global CFO, Cipla Ltd; Kamal Meattle, Chairman Emeritus, Paharpur Business Centre; Shantanu Banjha, CEO - Consumer Products, Pidilite; Maja Daruwala, Board Member, CHRI; Nalini Singh, Director, TVLIVE India Pvt Ltd

we have had a record turnout and the largest participation by Americans, in a hundred years. But it has raised the stakes, it has heightened the intensity, it has made people feel that this is a make-or-break moment, and when those kinds of things happen, the atmosphere gets charged. So, that's the sense in which the pandemic had an effect. It also has something to do with the #BlackLivesMatter protests that happened. Again, this same feeling of intensification and high stakes, it has something to do with the challenges to democracy because the election became a high-stakes game, but I wouldn't discount the reality of Donald Trump. Trump is not produced by the pandemic, he precedes it.

On the growing divide in society

There is a particularly dangerous trend,

because we have this big and growing divide in almost every society — between an urban, educated, somewhat richer group on the one hand and a rural, less educated, somewhat poorer group on the other. It's not only about money, it's really about a sense of class difference, class resentment, class anxiety. And unless we are careful about this, we will create a permanent politics of resentment and grievance, which can then be used very effectively by skilful politicians. Modi uses it in India, Erdogan uses it in Turkey, Putin uses it in Russia, and of course, Trump uses it in the United States.

On the one lesson one can learn from Trump

Probably the one lesson would be, to remember sometimes what people forget

more than anything else — that human beings want dignity, they want a sense of recognition. What Trump makes you realise is that a lot of his programmes help the millionaire class but he still has this incredible support among the working class. Why? Because he speaks to them with dignity. And that feeling that I see you, I hear you, turns out to be very important for people's emotional and psychic well-being. The last Democrat who was able to do that was Bill Clinton.

On the challenge for journalism

I think there's no going back to the old world. The old world was one where you had a limited supply. And that shaped journalism in those days. So in the United States, you had three networks, you got all your news from those networks, then four or five big national papers. And the most important thing about those networks was they knew they had a mixture of people — Democrats, Republicans, Left, Right. Fortunately, they had a lot of people who were not very political. And so they had to provide a kind of centrist, fact-based diet of news. This shift that's taking place is two-fold. One, you've lost that cartel that was able to just feed people what they thought was the important thing. And you now have many different platforms of various kinds. But the second is that a large number of people who were listening, watching, reading in the old days out of a sense of obligation — they actually turn out not to be that interested in politics. So what happens is, now political journalism has to contend with the reality that they are only getting the junkies and those tend to be more partisan. The challenge is that you have to still maintain your standards.

On political parties and populism

Parties have always played that role of reconciling differences within a population, and channelling passion into policy. The problem is not just populism, but a kind of democratisation where everybody thinks that these elites are bad, party elites are bad. Why should they be making the choices? So when you move into that world, it becomes very difficult for parties to play that stabilising role as gatekeepers.

On whether any government is big enough to regulate big tech

Between the information revolution and globalisation, mostly it is technology that is driving us towards the single platforms, which means that these single companies have enormous power. I don't know how easy it is going to be to regulate it. The market is not going to provide a solution. So the state, the government has to find some way... the Twitter ban on Trump, is completely egregious. I don't think it's a good idea.

For longer version, go to www.indianexpress.com



SACHCHIDANAND SHUKLA
CHIEF ECONOMIST,
MAHINDRA GROUP
After Capitol Hill, does the US have the moral authority to lecture others on improving democracies?

If I were to advise the State Department, I would say be open, be honest, and say we face challenges too. We understand the challenges you're facing; learn from our mistakes and successes. We all are facing our own demons. At its best, that has always been the way the US presented itself, not as this sort of shining city on the hill, but as a country that is grappling with the complexities of freedom.



JEETU PANJABI
CEO, EM CAPITAL ADVISORS
Do you see any rising stars among world leaders?

You have very spirited, effective, liberal democrats who have been running their countries very well. I'm thinking of everywhere from Canada to New Zealand. In Germany, you have an extraordinary woman, one of the longest serving Chancellors in German history, who is utterly committed to liberalism and democracy. In France, you have Macron, who has found a way to thread the needle by being, both dynamic, forward-looking and at the same time maintaining a certain degree of popular support. So, I think there is a lot of good news in the world.



JAMAL MECKLAI
CEO, MECKLAI FINANCIAL
Can the social and economic structure of Europe be the future?

Europe has found a way to create a vibrant capitalist system that still provides a fair degree of social equity to people. But it still remains a collection of countries that do not have a common government. It means that they don't project themselves strategically on the world stage. In the end, you need some standard and the US provides the only standard.



SANJAY PUGALIA
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR,
THE QUINT

How should Trump be dealt with?

You defeat this kind of force politically, not legally. One strategy would be a Congressional censure. But ultimately, you have to hope that the public will get tired of him. There will be court cases, but politics should be aimed at discrediting him politically, rather than criminalising his activities.

Associate Partners



VN DALMIA
DIRECTOR & FORMER CHAIRMAN, DALMIA CONTINENTAL PVT LTD

Is it time for the US to reinvent itself?

It is a wake-up call for the US, and one that will come to other countries as well, including India. We are in a world where you have 10 to 20% of the population generating huge amounts of economic wealth, and 20 to 30% of the country is

simply left behind. And there'll be some group in the middle, which feels that this cannot be a viable social system. What you're seeing in the US is this deep backlash, produced by people who feel as though their world is disappearing. Part of it is cultural and racial, but part of it is economic. And when you have that, it is very hard to find a way to make the country come together.

process that must take place in every economy. So, I have a certain amount of sympathy for the government. They're trying to make reforms finally, but it's just very hard because you have left this problem unattended, and allowed it to exacerbate. But there is another challenge, which is the degree of mistrust, due to the government's insistence on maintaining control over the economy.

New Delhi



Spotlight

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021



TRUE STORY

The 1999 horror film *The Blair Witch Project* is based on the purportedly true story of three student filmmakers who hiked to Black Hills in Maryland, US, in 1994 to film a documentary about a local legend known as the Blair Witch. The three mysteriously disappeared



THE WITCH'S TALE

For a long time, Indian cinema has portrayed the female ghost as a dangerous demon with long hair, bulging eyes and twisted feet. That narrative is slowly changing with a clutch of filmmakers giving the witch a voice and story of her own

REYA MEHROTRA

THE 2018 HORROR-COMEDY film *Stree* made headlines for its different storyline. It was based on an Indian folk legend about a witch who abducts men at night, leaving behind only their clothes. Based in Chanderi, the ingenious scriptwriting portrayed the men of the small town as afraid to step out of their houses after dark and hiding behind their wives. But what truly made the film stand out was its humane treatment of the female supernatural figure, who was shown in the climax as somebody who only desired love and respect. In giving her a sympathetic back story, the film, unlike others in the genre, painted her as the protagonist rather than the antagonist.

Stree is just one example of a niche yet refreshing change that is underway in cinema. One wherein writers are using a lot of sensitivity in the portrayal of the proverbial *chudail* (witch). Moving beyond how horror films have mostly stereotyped the ghost as female, films like *Stree* are now exploring why the oppressed female becomes a *chudail* in the first place.

Breaking the mould

In June last year, Netflix premiered a film called *Bulbbul*. Produced by actor Anushka Sharma, the supernatural thriller narrates the story of the eponymous character and how she transforms from a naive young girl to what many think of as a *chudail*. Deconstructing the popular legend of the witch, the movie humanised her, reasoning why she became one. In doing so, *Bulbbul* became one of the few movies to give a voice to the 'demoness', presenting the story from her perspective.

The female ghost, long painted by popular culture as a dangerous demoness with long hair, scary face, bulging eyes and twisted feet (the most iconic feature), was given a story of her own. In the film, the protagonist *Bulbbul* is married as a child to a man much older than her. Her husband Indranil physically abuses her so much so that her feet get broken, her brother-in-law rapes her and her youngest brother-in-law, whom she loves, abandons her. Till one day, *Bulbbul* transforms herself. For some, she becomes a *chudail* who wants to avenge herself, for others, a *devi*, or a protector, for other voiceless women like her. As the village doctor, Sudip, who used to regularly visit to check her feet and the only character who knows her truth, remarks, "Rakshas nahi hai woh, devi hai".

There is a transformation happening in Bollywood... Even if there is a witch, she is not all devilish, but powerful and has a purpose

— INDRANI CHAKRABARTI,
CREATIVE DIRECTOR, SCREENSHOTS
(EMVEEBEE MEDIA PVT LTD), KOLKATA

— INDRANI CHAKRABARTI,
CREATIVE DIRECTOR, SCREENSHOTS
(EMVEEBEE MEDIA PVT LTD), KOLKATA

Anvita Dutt, who wrote the screenplay and directed the dark fairytale, shares, "I just told a story with a theme that moves me. Fantasy is my genre of choice even when I read. And I have read great stories from Ursula K Le Guin, Neil Gaiman, Stephen King, Jorge Luis Borges, Susanna Clarke, etc., who were all changing the world one word at a time much before me and way better than me." Dutt has in the past been associated with films like *Phillyauri* (2017) and *Pari* (2018), which also tell stories of female ghosts. Both were produced by Sharma.

Author Kavitha Mandana, who has written several books like *Tenali Raman, Akbar, The Mighty Emperor*, etc., compares *Bulbbul* to the female version of Robinhood who sets out to straighten the wrongdoings of patriarchy. "Such characters in films will be very appealing to girls who need a superhero figure on celluloid," says Mandana, whose book *Trapped* (2016) tells the story of a ghost called Amit, a stillborn child who is genderless as it never grew up.

But the earliest trendsetter could well be legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray whom we can thank for setting the standards rather high when it comes to depicting women. In Bengali films and literature, in fact, the portrayal of women is far more evolved and ahead of time. The 1960 film *Devi*, written and directed by Ray and starring Sharmila Tagore, for instance, explored the story of the fictional character Doyamoyee, a woman thought to be an avatar of goddess Kali and thus denied the right to live a normal life. The blind faith in her crumbles when her nephew dies, as the family refuses to see a doctor, believing that Doyamoyee would cure him with her powers.

Kolkata-based Indrani Chakrabarti, creative director at Screenshots (EmVeeBee Media Pvt Ltd) (a production house creating content for various platforms), and creator of *Chhupe Saaye*, a horror show on Audible Suno, says, "In Bengal works, ghosts are far more evolved, and horror and suspense remain the most popularly consumed kinds of work... One of the best examples of ghost stories are by our very own Satyajit Ray who was one of the finest storytellers in this genre. Today, there is a transformation happening in Bollywood... Even if there is a witch, she is not all devilish, but powerful and has a purpose."

Not just the Indian film industry, Hollywood, too, has been exploring the concept for quite some time now. In 2014, the Angelina Jolie-starrer *Maleficent* revisited the fairytale world to bring out the story of one of the most dreaded characters in children's literature: the evil fairy from Walt Disney's *Sleeping Beauty*. The movie nar-

rated the story from her perspective and gave a glimpse into her life—why she turned evil, how she was wronged at the hands of men, especially her lover Stefan who severed her wings in order to marry King Henry's daughter. When he has a daughter named Aurora with the king's daughter, Maleficent wants to avenge herself and, hence, curses her. The plot, however, refrains from painting her as an all-evil character instead showing her with shades of grey. Maleficent eventually grows fond of Aurora and acts as her protector. In the movie, Aurora does not wake up from the prince's kiss, but with the kiss of Maleficent who begins to love her.

Interestingly, the change in mindset isn't restricted to the film world alone, as many female authors, too, are increasingly opting to give a voice to the female ghosts in their books and refraining from stereotyping them. Nalini Ramachandran, author and editor of children's books and graphic novels, says that the female ghost character from her short story *Shakti in Scary Tales*, a horror anthology published in 2016 by Scholastic India for young adults, had traits which today's youth could easily relate to—dealing with fragile friendships, trying to fit in and the underlying loneliness. "I consciously stayed away from the old witch or the seductress frameworks," she says.

The invisible female

The writing of history is largely male-centric whereby women are usually made invisible or portrayed as trivial, feels writer and historian Devika Rangachari, who has authored books like *Queen of Ice* (2014) and *Queen of Earth* (2020). "Powerful women who subvert feminine stereotypes by virtue of their knowledge, intelligence, curiosity, skills or other abilities have always been demonised in the Indian (and world) context all through history," she says, adding, "Witch hunts, for instance, were targeted at women who transgressed the patriarchal mould in one way or the other. The fear they evoked manifested itself in violence towards them. I would imagine the *chudail*, the 'possessed' are more examples of the same—and one does not necessarily need to be a female writer to recognise this. Didda (the lead character from *Queen of Ice* and the 10th-century queen of Kashmir) and other remarkable women in the Indian past have

Thrill-a-minute

Some popular supernatural & psychological thrillers over the years

- Frankenstein (1931)
- Gaslight (1944)
- Madhumati (1958)
- Psycho (1960)
- The Exorcist (1973)
- Veerana (1988)
- Raaz (2002)
- Jaani Dushman: Ek Anokhi Kahani (2002)
- Bhool Bhulaiyaa (2007)
- Black Swan (2010)
- Jane Eyre (2011)
- Ek Thi Daayan (2013)
- The Conjuring (2013)
- Stree (2018)
- Pari (2018)
- Bulbbul (2020)

also been demonised in different ways in historical narratives," she says.

Filmmaker Dutt agrees, saying that, unlike history and most of the epics, which were written by men, women were the original storytellers for ghost stories. "Biology has nothing to do with intellect. Be it Margaret Atwood, Jo Walton, Daphne du Maurier, Sarah Perry, Jane Austen or the Bronte sisters, there are women writers who are heard and will continue to be heard," she says.

Women understand fear better because they live with it, be it walking alone on a dark street or a stranger walking up to them in an unknown place, Prema Gill, editor at HarperCollins India and author of *The Female Supernatural Being in Contemporary Gothic Literature and*

Witch hunts were targeted at those who transgressed the patriarchal mould... the *chudail*, the 'possessed' are examples of this... and one does not need to be a female writer to see this

— DEVIIKA RANGACHARI, WRITER & HISTORIAN

women can be easily possessed.

Ramachandran, who has finished working on a children's book titled *Nav Durga: The Nine Forms of the Goddess*, says that along with the illustrator and the publisher Puffin, she has strived to break the stereotypes associated with the representation of the warrior-goddess with the book.

Film (2014), was quoted as saying in an interview with *The Times of India* in July last year.

Ramachandran, too, believes that to a large extent horror is a sub-genre of crime, especially crimes against women. "The female ghost has almost always stood for a cause—be it in *Maa* (1991), *Om Shanti Om* (2007) or in the Tamil film *Eeram* (2009). Through *Stree* and *Bulbbul*, the female ghost has shown that she has become stronger over time," she adds.

Goddess-demoness binary

One of the most common features of female horror fiction is that it often shows a naive girl who suffers at the hands of a male and then transforms into a powerful character. The suppressed-turned-protector theme was explored in both *Bulbbul* and *Stree*, bringing into play the goddess-demoness binary. In *Stree*, in fact, men were shown bowing to the statue of *Stree* and praying for protection at the end of the film.

But there lies an inherent problem in raising women to the position of a goddess or reducing them to that of a demoness. The binary is easily used to cover the conversation around mental health. Take, for instance, the several temples and religious institutions in the country, where so-called 'possessed' women are abandoned to ward off evil spirits when actually it could be a psychological or mental illness.

In the West, in fact, the horror genre has been extensively used since decades to study suppression and its impact on mental health. Alfred Hitchcock's 1944 film *Gaslight*, for instance, explores how a young woman is gaslighted into believing she is going insane by her husband. Similarly, *The Yellow Wallpaper*, a 1892 short story by Charlotte Perkins Gilman and one of the most important works of feminist literature, explores how a woman is denied the right to write and is made to believe she is sick by confining her to a room where she starts imagining things. The story ends with a horrific scene where madness completely takes over her and she is seen crawling like a ghost on her husband.

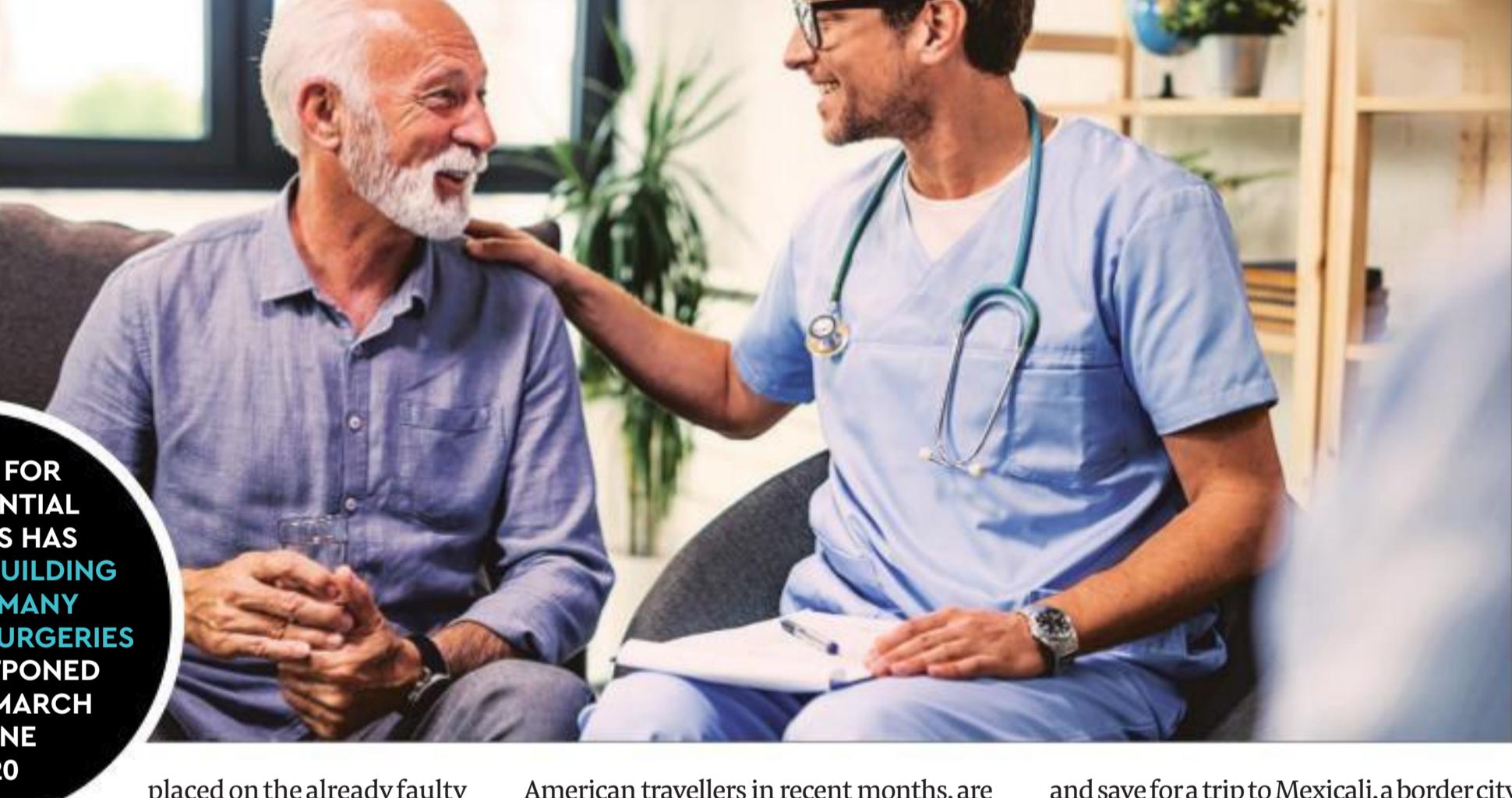
However, even in the west, be it *The Exorcist* series or *The Conjuring*, exorcism in horror movies is almost always performed on women, strengthening the narrative that

The female ghost has almost always stood for a cause... Through *Stree* and *Bulbbul*, the female ghost has shown that she has become stronger over time

— NALINI RAMACHANDRAN, AUTHOR & EDITOR

Footloose

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021



Why medical tourism is still thriving

The coronavirus pandemic has devastated medical tourism, but pent-up demand remains for affordable treatment in foreign lands

CEYLAN YEGINSU

ON A COLD February morning last year, as she lay curled up in a fetal position on her kitchen floor, Melissa Jackson called her manager at a New Jersey beauty salon to ask for some unpaid time off.

It was the sixth consecutive week that the 39-year-old beauty technician was unable to work full time because of the debilitating pain in her pelvis caused by endometriosis, a chronic condition triggered by the growth of uterine tissue outside of the uterus. As her symptoms worsened, she started exploring options to get less costly medical care abroad.

In recent years, while still on her ex-husband's health insurance policy, she had received hormonal treatments to ease the pain so she could go about her daily life. But since her divorce last year and the coronavirus restrictions placed on the beauty industry in March, those treatment costs have become prohibitive, especially with no insurance.

"There is no real cure for endometriosis, but if I want to free myself from this pain then I need to get a hysterectomy," Jackson said, her voice shaking as she described the procedure to remove her uterus. "As if the surgery isn't bad enough, I need to find 20,000 bucks to pay for it, which is just crazy so I'm going to have to find a way to go to Mexico."

The coronavirus pandemic has pushed millions of people into poverty and stripped more than 5.4 million American workers of their health insurance, according to a study by the nonpartisan consumer advocacy group, Families USA. Many people like Jackson have experienced a significant deterioration in their health because they have delayed medical procedures. The fear of large medical bills has outweighed fear of con-

tagion for some, giving rise to an increased number of patients seeking medical treatment in a foreign country.

"We are seeing a pent-up demand for medical tourism during the pandemic, particularly in the US where a fast-growing number of Americans are travelling across the land border with Mexico for health purposes," said David G Vequist IV, the founder of the Center for Medical Tourism Research, a group based in San Antonio, Texas, and a professor at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio.

Even before the pandemic, millions of Americans travelled to other countries for savings of between 40 to 80% on medical treatments, according to the global medical tourism guide Patients Without Borders. Mexico and Costa Rica have become the most popular destinations for dental care, cosmetic surgery and prescription medicines while Thailand, India and South Korea draw in patients for more complex procedures including orthopedics, cardiovascular, cancer and fertility treatment.

In 2019, 1.1% of Americans travelling internationally did so for health treatments, according to the National Travel and Tourism Office, although that figure only accounts for those who travelled by air and does not include the thousands of travellers who crossed the United States-Mexico border. Definitive statistics on medical tourism are hard to come by because countries have different recording methods and definitions of the sector.

Medical tourism has been decimated by coronavirus restrictions, but, even so, the twin crises of the economy and the enormous strain that Covid-19 has

DEMAND FOR NON-ESSENTIAL SURGERIES HAS ALSO BEEN BUILDING UP AFTER MANY SCHEDULED SURGERIES WERE POSTPONED BETWEEN MARCH AND JUNE IN 2020

placed on the already faulty health care system are pushing many patients to travel. Demand for non-essential surgeries has also been building up after many scheduled surgeries were postponed between March and June in 2020, according to the Center for Medical Tourism Research.

"Our market has always been what I call the 'working poor' and they just keep getting poorer," said Josef Woodman, the chief executive of Patients Without Borders. "The pandemic has gutted low-income and middle-class people around the world and for many of them the reality is that they have to travel to access affordable health care."

In April, following the initial global lockdown to curb the spread of the coronavirus, medical travel bookings were down by more than 89% in the most popular destinations, including Mexico, Thailand, Turkey and South Korea, according to Medical Departures, a Bangkok-based medical travel agency. Since August, the numbers have slowly been rebounding, but bookings in Mexico, which has seen an uptick in

American travellers in recent months, are still down by 32% compared to the same period of August to December in 2019.

"Covid-19 has devastated the whole medical tourism ecosystem because of all the uncertainty over travel restrictions and quarantine measures that keep changing across the world," said Paul McTaggart, the founder of the agency.

"Despite this, we are still seeing a growing number of people travelling and booking trips to address their urgent health needs, especially between the US and Mexico border where patients can travel safely by car," McTaggart said. The Center for Medical Tourism Research found that Google searches in the United States for the terms "Mexico medical tourism" went up by 64% since July, compared to pre-pandemic levels before travel restrictions were imposed in March.

"Google searches are almost directly correlated with consumer behaviour when it comes to travel across borders," Vequist said.

Before the winter resurgence of the coronavirus, Jackson had started to plan

and save for a trip to Mexicali, a border city in northern Mexico, where she can get a hysterectomy for \$4,000, one-fifth the cost of the procedure offered in New Jersey. Her best friend had offered to drive her there and pay for the gas and accommodations.

"We wanted to make a vacation out of it and have some fun before the surgery because it's such a heavy and dark thing with real consequences," Jackson said. "At 39, I have to come to terms with the reality that I'll never have kids. That's even more painful than my condition."

For now, Jackson has put the surgery on hold and will wait until the virus is brought under control. Her doctor had pointed to cheaper options for the operation in New Jersey, starting at \$11,000 in a local outpatient facility. But Jackson is adamant about having it in the hospital and says the after-care is more thorough in Mexico.

"Going for the cheaper option at home means getting lower quality care and taking a risk. That just isn't the experience for people who do this in specialised hospitals in Mexico," she said. "It's cheap and safe" (many hospitals and clinics in Mexico and

other countries have accreditation to ensure their standards are equivalent to medical facilities in the United States).

In recent weeks, Jackson has had a flare up of symptoms, which is common when the condition goes untreated.

"I'm not sure if I will be able to wait for Covid to get better," she said. "This thing cripples every part of my life."

The land border with Mexico — closed to tourists — has remained open for essential travel, which includes all medical treatment, and a handful of Americans cross the border every day into Los Algodones (also known as Molar City) to receive dental treatment or purchase pharmaceuticals.

"It's just Americans over there getting dental care," said Jeff Somerville, a Delta Air Lines flight attendant who visited the Supreme Dental Clinic in Los Algodones in September to get his crowns replaced. "You park on the US side and just walk across. It's easy and felt very safe." He said the procedure would have cost around \$25,000 in Tampa, Florida, close to where he lives in the city of Clearwater. In Mexico, he paid \$7,000.

Now, Somerville, 47, is preparing to travel to Turkey in February for a hair and beard transplant, which will cost \$3,000 and includes plasma treatments, medications, hotel lodging for three nights and a translator.

"I'm going to live my life, but I'm going to take my precautions while I do that," he said. "I'm not going to sit at home and be scared."

Turkey has remained open to tourists throughout the latest surge of the pandemic in Europe and only visitors from Britain are required to take a test as a precaution against a new, more transmissible variant of the virus. On weekends in Turkey a strict curfew is imposed on local residents to curb the spread of the virus, but foreign visitors are allowed to roam free without any restrictions. On Istanbul's main Istiklal Avenue, men recovering from hair transplant procedures can easily be spotted with bandages around their heads.

"This is the best time to get surgery," said Martin Wright, a British tourist, who had a hair transplant in Istanbul in December, before the new variant of the virus was identified in Britain. "Hotels are cheap, sites are empty and you get to have down time in a foreign city where you don't have to explain to anyone why or how you got a hair transplant."

Over the summer, when lockdown restrictions were eased across Europe, Britons travelled to the continent to receive medical treatment, after waiting lists for elective surgery on the National Health Service reached record levels. With British hospitals operating at reduced capacity to accommodate patients with Covid-19, hundreds of thousands of patients, who have been waiting for more than a year for non-urgent surgery, are facing further delays, NHS figures show.

Cynthia Hedges, a 77-year-old retired nurse from Plymouth in southwest England, travelled to France in August for a knee replacement after waiting more than 19 months to get the procedure at her hospital.

"It just became hopeless, I could barely walk and was just living off pain medication, which is not good for my health," she said in a telephone interview. "I know we can't go far these days, but I became very depressed not even being able to walk to my garden. I know it was risky to travel at the time, but it was the best thing I did. It was worth it."

Even as travel restrictions tighten, experts in the medical tourism industry see an opportunity as demand builds and health care becomes more inaccessible in people's home countries.

"It doesn't matter if you're in Europe or the Americas," said McTaggart of Medical Departures. "Financially challenged individuals will seek out and be more receptive to the idea that you can travel abroad and see substantial savings for medical treatment and get past the line."

NYT

Disneyland as a vaccination site?

Many businesses in the travel world are performing their own pandemic shift

DEBRA KAMIN

FIVE MONTHS AGO, San Francisco International Airport opened the first airport rapid coronavirus testing site in the US. Nine months ago, some of the world's most luxurious hotels, including Claridges in London and the Four Seasons in New York, began housing frontline doctors and nurses. And now another entity in the travel world is performing its own pandemic shift: Disneyland. Recently, the Anaheim, California, theme park began serving as a vaccination supersite.

The coronavirus, which has killed and infected many, has brought the travel



MANY TRAVEL FIRMS AND OPERATORS HAVE BEGUN DONATING THEIR RESOURCES TO HELP CONTROL THE PANDEMIC

to inoculate 7,000 people a day there. "There's no better place to have our first Super POD than right here at Disneyland, a travel destination for people around the world," Do said at a news conference.

The site, which is currently only accepting residents in phase "1a"—which includes frontline health care workers, paramedics and pharmacists—is being run by the county, but in addition to providing space, Walt Disney Co is providing some staffing assistance. "Disneyland Resort is proud to help support Orange County and the City of Anaheim with the use of our parking lot," said Pamela Hymel, Disney Parks' chief medical officer. "After a year in which so many in our community have faced unprecedented hardship and uncertainty, there is now reason for optimism."

Unlike its sister resort in California, Florida's Disney World reopened to guests in July. And they, too, are considering opening an on-site vaccine distribution centre in the near future, according to a report in the *Orlando Sentinel*.

Many corners of the travel industry are looking for a way to pitch in to help

end the pandemic. More than a dozen US airports now double as virus testing sites, including Chicago O'Hare and Chicago Midway, Los Angeles International, Tampa, Newark and Minneapolis-St. Paul. Inside many terminals, XpresSpa has pivoted from offering airport massages and manicures to rapid coronavirus tests.

Monterey Bay Aquarium in Monterey, California, has been closed to guests since March; in December, they lent one of their ultracold freezers to a hospital in nearby Salinas; the special freezer can maintain temperatures of minus 94 degrees Fahrenheit, which are required to safely store some coronavirus vaccines.

In the early weeks of the pandemic, the State Fair of West Virginia signed an agreement with the Greenbrier County Health Department, pledging the use of their facilities for testing, vaccination and even a surge hospital, if needed. Closed in 2020, their grounds have since been the site for three free drive-through testing clinics, and are now currently operating as a vaccination center for local residents.

NYT

Fe Lines

STORIES AND TRENDS FROM INDIA AND AROUND THE WORLD THAT CAUGHT OUR FANCY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021



The road ahead

The much-hyped arrival of Tesla in the Indian market has raised eyebrows, as electric mobility in India is still a work in progress. Can electric cars survive in the country?

FE FEATURES

LAST WEEK, ELON MUSK confirmed his India plans for Tesla with a two-word tweet. "As promised," wrote the world's richest man in a thread, linking to a blog that said Tesla cars will be expensive, but may eventually become more affordable for the Indian middle class when the company starts its own production. "At the moment, due to the high tariffs in India, Tesla cars will be expensive. Nevertheless, if the company has its own production, it will reduce the cost of cars to an acceptable level, which will make them more affordable. Thus, at some point, Tesla cars may become affordable for the middle class as well," the brand says in one of the blogs.

The first launch expected from the company is its entry-level offering, the Model 3 sedan, which will be sold in India through the CBU (Completely Built Unit) route, thus demanding a higher price tag (starting at approximately ₹60 lakh). The most affordable and best-selling product of the brand, Model 3 comes in three variants: standard range plus, long range and performance. But the brand hasn't confirmed if it will bring its Autopilot autonomous driving assist to India, one of the biggest highlights of the brand.

Autopilot is an advanced driver assistance system, which does not turn a Tesla into an autonomous vehicle or allow the driver to abdicate responsibility. Instead, it reduces the driver's overall workload.

Nonetheless, the much-hyped

arrival of Tesla in the Indian market has raised eyebrows, as electric mobility in India is still a work in progress. Also, there are already many players in the electric vehicle market in India. Tata Motors' brand of electric vehicles starts at ₹15 lakh, Mahindra Electric sells eVerito cars that are battery operated, and Morris Garage and Hyundai, too, sell battery-operated vehicles.

In fact, there are many upcoming electric cars in 2021 as well. Take, for instance, Mahindra XUV300 Electric, an all-electric version, which is powered by a 130hp electric motor with a 30kWh battery to deliver a range of over 300 km on a single charge. Or the BMW i3, which is expected to be a lighter vehicle in the segment and travel a distance of 128–150 km on a single charge. Tata Altroz EV will come with a 30kWh battery that will offer a range of around 300 km on a single charge. US-based Triton Electric Vehicles, too, plans to introduce its N4 sedan in India, starting at a price of ₹35 lakh.

But can India easily achieve transi-

AS PER A STUDY, MOST CONSUMERS IN INDIA WOULD CONSIDER BUYING AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE BY 2022, BUT MOST ALSO BELIEVE THAT IT WON'T BE UNTIL 2025 THAT MAJORITY OF NEW CARS PURCHASED WILL BE ELECTRIC

sition to e-mobility? The ministry of power has allowed the sale of electricity as a service for charging electric vehicles. The ministry of road transport highways has notified that there will be an exemption of official permit for battery-operated vehicles. But there is an increasing need to make ample charging stations available and this can lead to pressure on electricity generation. Plus, renewable energy resources should be coupled with charging stations for efficiency.

According to a 2020 study by lubricants major Castrol, most consumers in India would consider buying an electric vehicle by 2022, but most of them also believe that it won't be until 2025 that the majority of new cars purchased are electric. The study found that, on average, for consumers in India, a price point of ₹23 lakh (or \$31,000), a charge time of 35 minutes and a range of 401 km from a single charge represent the 'tipping points' to achieve mainstream EV adoption.

Also, when Tesla comes to India, the brand will have to pay special emphasis on the next-generation electric vehicle batteries, turning to lithium iron, not lithium ion. The next generation of lithium iron batteries have fundamental chemical engineering science powering EVs. The lithium-iron phosphate does not require nickel or cobalt, and lab research shows that this will cut costs, enhance much longer-range and durable battery cells. The new technology can allow cars to go 400 miles or more between charges and last as long as 1 million miles.

COVER TALK

Magazine covers not only attract eyeballs, but also headlines sometimes. Over the years, some covers have garnered more attention than others, going down as iconic in popular culture. Here are some of the most talked about magazine covers over the years.
By Reya Mehrotra



Afghan girl

In 1985, a daunting image of a young Afghan girl appeared on the cover of *National Geographic* magazine. The photographer documented the struggles of Afghanistan's refugees through the photo series. As no one knew her name, she came to be known as the Afghan girl and her scared eyes became a captivating image. It has remained the most iconic cover picture ever since.

Kamala Harris

The recent *Vogue* had the first female Asian-African-American Vice President of the United States Kamala Harris on its cover. But despite being a proud moment, it turned out to be controversial as comments poured in over her portrayal. People said she was made to look bad on purpose with the pink background, brown suit and sneakers, and an alleged lightened skin tone. After the backlash, *Vogue* released another digital cover photo of Harris in a blue powdered suit.



and dreaded persons in history, appeared on the cover of *TIME* magazine multiple times. But one of the most talked about and controversial covers was that of 1939 when he was named Man of the Year. This was mainly because the dictum of the magazine was that the newsmaker of the year would be someone who influenced the world for better or worse. It was an impactful image that showed Hitler playing an instrument with his murdered victims hanging on it.

Princess Diana

Princess Diana was a constant favourite on magazine covers. The people's princess graced the covers of *People* magazine, *HELLO*, *TIME*, *Vanity Fair* and *Vogue* multiple times. After her split with Prince Charles, *TIME* magazine featured her with the title 'It's Over', while *People Weekly* magazine wrote 'He Never Loved Her.'

Adolf Hitler

Adolf Hitler, one of the most influential

John Lennon

The January 1981 cover of *Rolling Stone* magazine featured a naked John Lennon curled up next to his fully clothed wife Yoko Ono. The iconic image was clicked by Annie Leibovitz. The most interesting fact remains that the picture was clicked on December 8, 1980, just 12 hours before his death. He was shot by an obsessed fan the same night. The portrait is the final picture of the couple together.

Twin Towers

In 2001, on the morning of the deadly 9/11 attacks in the US, photographer Lyle Owerko captured the image of the Twin Towers being attacked and the image appeared on the cover of *TIME* magazine. Owerko captured the image during the time of the attack and witnessed the towers collapsing. Not surprisingly, his work was chosen by *TIME* for its cover. Today, he says the pictures are not his, but the world's and that they belong to history.



Donald Trump

The former president of the United States has been on the cover of *TIME* magazine several times. One of his most memorable covers, however, remains when he was named Person of the Year in 2016, the year he won the election and became the 45th President of the United States. The cover had him sitting on a chair with his back towards the camera, but face turned back to stare into the lens.

Osama bin Laden

Another striking image on *TIME* magazine was that of Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden after his death. Published in May 2011 right after his demise, the cover had the face of the terrorist crossed with red ink to symbolise the end of terror. Laden was killed in Pakistan after a coordinated operation by the US Navy SEALS of the US Naval Special Warfare Development Group.

Saddam Hussein

Following his capture by the US forces, Saddam Hussein featured on the cover of *TIME*. Though he had appeared several times before, the image on the cover this time was from when he was in custody. Alongside his picture, the magazine wrote 'We Got Him!' Other covers of *TIME* with Hussein had headlines like 'Life After Saddam', 'Playing Cat and Mouse', 'Are We Ready for War' and 'The Sinister World of Saddam'.

Supermodel era

The 1990 cover photo of British *Vogue* by photographer Peter Lindbergh was an iconic one. It featured supermodels Naomi Campbell, Tatjana Patitz, Christy Turlington, Cindy Crawford and Linda Evangelista posing together in simple 90s' outfits. The shoot heralded the beginning of the 90s' supermodel era. The idea was to photograph the new woman of the 90s. The styling of the models was also different from the 1980s' era of bright makeup and big hair. It was all natural and undone.

TECH-NOW-LOGY

Is Letterboxd on the way to becoming a blockbuster?

The social media network has finally left the cinephile niche and entered the mainstream

CALUM MARSH

EARLY LAST DECADE, Matthew Buchanan and Karl von Randow, web designers based in Auckland, New Zealand, were seeking a passion project. Their business, a boutique web design studio called Cactuslab, developed apps and websites for various clients, but they wanted a project of their own that their team could plug away at when there wasn't much else to do.

Buchanan had an idea for a social media site about movies. At the time, he reflected, he used Flickr to share photos and Last.fm to share his taste in music. IMDb was a database; it wasn't, in essence, social. That left a gap in the field. The result was an app and social media network called Letterboxd, which its website describes, aptly, as "Goodreads for films".

After it was introduced at the web conference Brooklyn Beta in the fall of 2011, Letterboxd steadily developed a modest but passionate following of film fans eager to track their movie-watching habits, create lists of favourites, and write and publish reviews. In 2020, however, the site's growth was explosive. Letterboxd has seen its user base nearly double since the beginning of the pandemic. They now have more than three million member accounts, according to the company, up from 1.7 million at this time last year.

And it's not just more users. It's more use: "We've seen more activity per member," Buchanan said in a recent Zoom interview. "Our metrics

are up across the board." Their revenues have increased, from advertising and optional paid memberships, which give users added features. The company is no longer just Buchanan and von Randow's side project, and over the last year, they have brought on several full-time staff.

The pandemic has ravaged the movie industry, as theatres have remained mostly shuttered and high-profile would-be blockbusters like *Tenet* have drastically underperformed. But for Letterboxd, all that time at home has been a boon. "We love talking about movies," said Gemma Gracewood, Letterboxd's editor in chief. "And we're talking even more about what we love lately because we're all stuck indoors."

In the beginning, Letterboxd mainly attracted film obsessives: hardcore cinephiles, stats fanatics and professional critics looking to house their published work under one roof. Mike D'Angelo, a longtime contributor to *Entertainment Weekly* and *Esquire*, used Letterboxd to retroactively log every movie he has seen, by date, since January 1992. In addition to uploading his old reviews to the platform, he uses the site as a kind of diary for more off-the-cuff musings.

"If I'm writing a professional review, I'm writing for a general audience," he said in a recent phone call.

"Whereas on Letterboxd, I don't worry about pro forma things like plot synopsis. I make jokes and references you would have to have a fairly deep film knowledge to understand. I find more liberating."

That freedom gives writing on Letterboxd a kind of wild-west quality. What rises to the top of the site's page for most popular reviews ranges wildly: There are obscure memes, diaristic essays and sprawling screeds packed with pseudo-academic jargon. You might find political disquisitions written with breathless zeal: "As the most destructive action in the world, that's the source of more war, death, and

exploitation than anything this world has known since chattel slavery was born, imperialism is the highest, most vile, most horrifying aspect of capitalism, and we oppose it" (that is, of course, a review of *Wonder Woman*). Or you might find a single cryptic sentence, such as one of the site's most popular reviews of the movie *Joker*. "This happened to my buddy Eric."

The unedited, anything-goes spirit of Letterboxd can be off-putting: D'Angelo confessed he finds it "maddening" when writers "use all lowercase" or refuse "to use normal grammar or punctuation," which on the site is often. But the lack of rules or structure can also lead to some interesting, unconventional criticism, and offers a platform to voices that might otherwise not be heard. On Letterboxd, you can discover not only new movies to watch, but new critics to follow.

Sydney Wegner, a single mother in rural Texas, started using Letterboxd in late 2012. Under the username @campbart, she has written vivid, free-form reviews (almost exclusively in lowercase) of sci-fi, horror and action movies, including a heartfelt piece about *Minions* that reads like a poetic ode to her daughter. "I wrote that way because that's what I like to read," she said recently. "I find criticism very boring unless there's a personal aspect to it."

Wegner said she "never intended to write professionally," but as her account began to gain followers, she soon found herself fielding requests for paid work as a critic. She has appeared as a guest on film podcasts, done introductions for film screenings and been commissioned by editors at several film review websites, such as Film Freak Central.

On the app, which the company reports is how 75% of users access Letterboxd, the largest demographic is 18- to 24-year-olds. "There's been an enormous growth in younger members," Gracewood said. And she said that once drawn to the platform, these younger members often soon find their tastes starting to evolve. "They're coming on having watched *The Princess Switch: Switched Again* and discovering *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*," she said.

That shift toward a younger user base means Letterboxd is finally starting to expand outside the hard-core movie-buff niche — and the more than a million new users in 2020 represent a lot of people "who aren't strictly cinephiles," Buchanan explained. The growth has brought the platform to a new level of success, and Buchanan sees even greater potential. "There are tens of millions of Netflix users, for instance. We know we're not going to appeal to every single Netflix user, but we also know that the appetite for film content is growing."

NYT



The animated film *Minions* received a heartfelt review from a user on Letterboxd

Mind & Games

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021

TARIRO MZEZWEA

TEDDY JOHNSON HAS a very clear fantasy for what he's going to do the day the pandemic is "over" — whatever that day might look like, and whenever it may be.

He's banking on the day being sunny, perhaps the temperature of early summer. *I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me)* by Whitney Houston will be playing everywhere — on the streets of New York City, where he lives; on the subway; and definitely in the club where Johnson will gather with all his friends. He will wear a cropped white tank top with speckles of paint all over it with his favourite pair of tight bell-bottoms and sunnies sunglasses.

"I can't wait to dance with my friends," said Johnson, 28, over the phone from his apartment in Manhattan. It won't erase the pain of last year, which was compounded for Johnson by the loss of his job, but the dance floor fantasy is soothing — something to look forward to. "Dancing is as important to me as water," he said. "Thinking about getting on a dance floor with the people I love is getting me through this stay-at-home life."

Johnson's fantasy may seem premature — most of us won't be rushing back to a crowded dance floor, no matter how much we miss it — but experts say that fantasising, forward thinking and using one's imagination are powerful tools for getting people through difficult times.

With the winter's end nowhere in sight, with coronavirus cases and deaths still high (and a new variant at large that's more transmissible), people have a need to look ahead to the parties they'll host, the hugs they'll give and receive, the conversations they'll have and the trips they'll take, once it's safe.

"The important thing about imagination is that it gives you optimism," said Martin Seligman, a professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania and the director of the Positive Psychology Center there.

His work is dedicated to studying human agency, which is predicated on efficacy, optimism and imagination. (When Seligman was president of the American Psychological Association in 1998, he pushed for moving away "from focusing on what's wrong to what makes life worth living.")

The hours spent fantasising and daydreaming about future plans are valuable, Seligman said. They allow people to



Go ahead. Fantasise

Imagining a better future, whether it includes gigantic house parties or just more hugs, helps humans cope with difficult times



escape routine, and cultivate hope and resilience. Imagination also helps people live a "good life," which Seligman has found is greatly influenced by positive thinking, emotion, engagement, relationships, meaning and accomplishments — or what he calls PERMA.

"Imagining the future — we call this skill prospection — and prospection is subserved by a set of brain circuits that juxtapose time and space and get you imagining things well and beyond the here and now," Seligman said. "The essence of resilience about the future is: How good a prospect are you?"

And that's the case regardless of whether one's imaginings of the future are over-the-top and unbelievable, or seemingly mundane.

Twenty-seven-year-old Gabriela Aguilar, a mother of two who runs an Etsy shop of homemade goods, said the thing she is looking forward to the most is taking her children to a playground. The Zilker Park

playground in Austin, Texas, is her ultimate fantasy.

Aguilar's family moved from Houston to Austin in 2020, and her children have not been able to play with other children since they got there. "I feel bad when we go on walks and I see other kids," Aguilar said. "They want to play and have fun and just be kids, but there's this awkwardness of us pulling our kids apart and not letting that happen."

Dream big or small

Rachel Syme, who writes about fashion, style and culture for *The New Yorker*, said that she and her friend Avery Trufelman, who hosts The Cut podcast, have been talking about throwing a party once it's safe to do so. The party will be called The After Party.

"We can wear the outfits we did not

get to this year — no outfit too over the

THE HOURS SPENT DAYDREAMING ALLOW PEOPLE TO ESCAPE ROUTINE AND CULTIVATE HOPE & RESILIENCE

top, no rules," she said in an email sent in December. "Come in a velvet suit, come in a leotard, come in a ball gown. NO RULES."

Imani Baucum, 29, a teacher in Washington, DC, has been fantasising about taking a trip to the Dominican Republic to see a class of fifth graders she taught some seven years ago. They'll be graduating from high school this spring.

Jordan Firstman, a television writer who has found some celebrity this year doing impersonations on Instagram, is fantasising about a day that kicks off with a 20-person breakfast at a restaurant, indoors, followed by an orgy, dinner, live theatre, a warehouse party and clubbing "until 6 am," he said. "Then we'll go see *Wicked* at 8 am because we didn't get enough theatre the night before. We want more theatre."

Outsize fantasies like these are, at their root, similar to simpler ones — a date, a cocktail, the ability to eavesdrop again — in that they are all expressions of an intense human need to connect.

"They are fantasising about what they're missing right now," said Deirdre Barrett, a psychologist who teaches at Harvard Medical School. "These day-dreams serve as a substitute, which gives them some of the pleasure the real experience would."

Hold on to hope

At a time in which many people have lost loved ones, or are struggling to pay their bills, feed their families and hold on to their homes, fantasising about better times is not necessarily a given.

"We forget that imagination isn't just about the positive," said Peg O'Connor, a professor of ethics at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota. "To always think of imagination as a good thing is a danger. A lot of people can't imagine good, joyful hopeful things because they are not able to or their lives have had so much difficulty that it feels foolhardy to."

This was echoed by April Toure, a psychiatrist who specialises in working with children and adolescents at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn.

"Even though it's not considered a core symptom of depression, the absence of hope is a common symptom," said Toure. Future thinking, or "the imagination and belief that something better is coming," is crucial to getting through hard times.

Holding on to hope, even about one simple, mundane thing can make a big difference, O'Connor said. "I'm not daydreaming of big trips," she said. "I can't wait to hug my mom."

NYT



Improve your life with these tiny chores

■ Being home all the time has been hard on your house too. So invest your time in small projects that have big-gratification appeal.

■ Deep-clean your bed: Not only does a clean bed feel good, it is better for your health. Bedding and accessories can collect dust, making them an allergy trigger. Do this at least twice a year.

■ Sharpen your knives: It seems counterintuitive, but sharp knives are safe knives, said Quintin Middleton, a bladesmith based in South Carolina. Sharp knives also prolong the life of the knife, said Brian Casey, a chef.

■ Organise the medicine cabinet: Drugs expire and get pulled from the marketplace, so making sure what you have is still safe to use will give you peace of mind. Doing this once a year should be fine, said Thomas So, a clinical pharmacist.

■ Unclog that drain: Apart from being gross, drain blockages generally only worsen with time, said Jake Romano, who works for the Ottawa-based plumbing company John The Plumber. Romano recommends doing a baking soda and vinegar drain cleanse every month.

■ Clean your filters: Food and other contaminants can gunk up filters and zap performance of appliances, said Katie Sadler, a brand manager for Whirlpool's kitchen and cooking line. You should clean filters every six months.

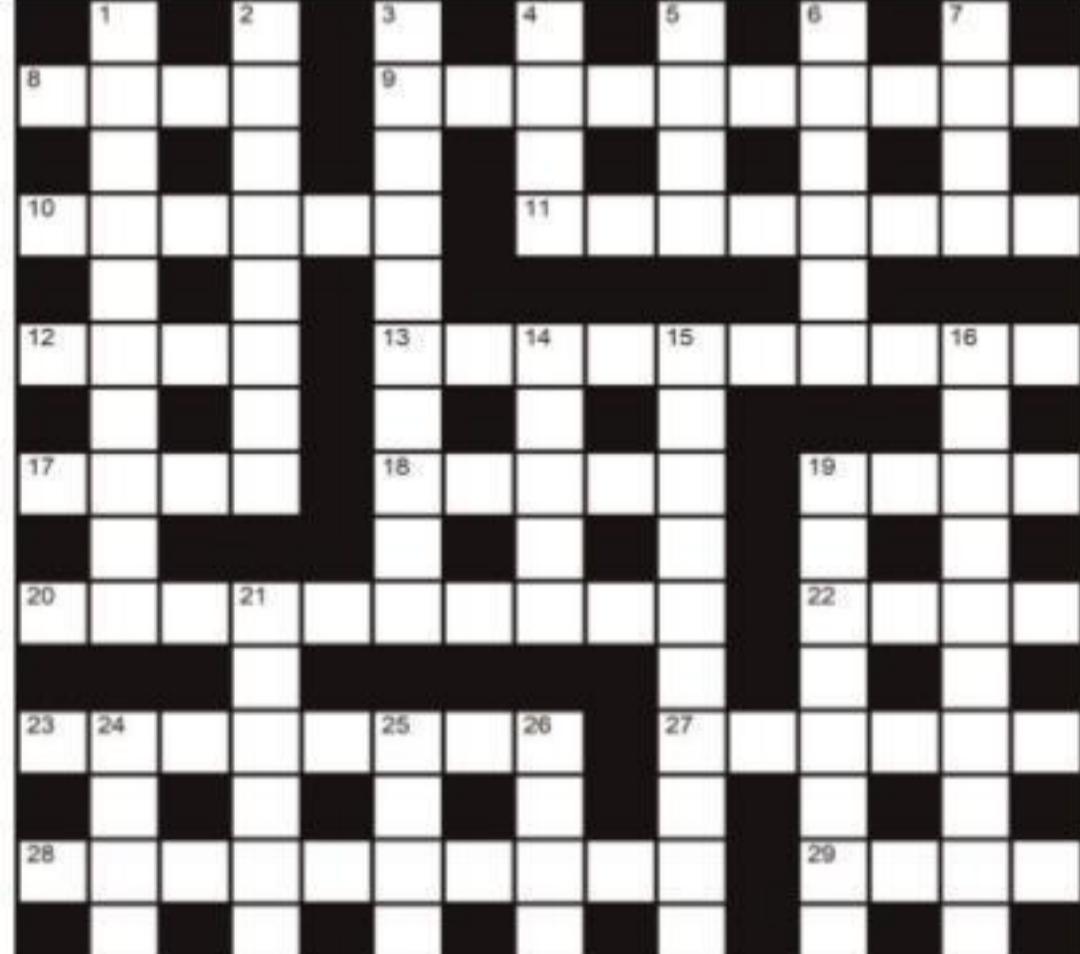
AC SHILTON/NYT

CROSSWORD

KAKURO

BRIDGE BOUTS L SUBRAMANIAN

LEXICON



ACROSS

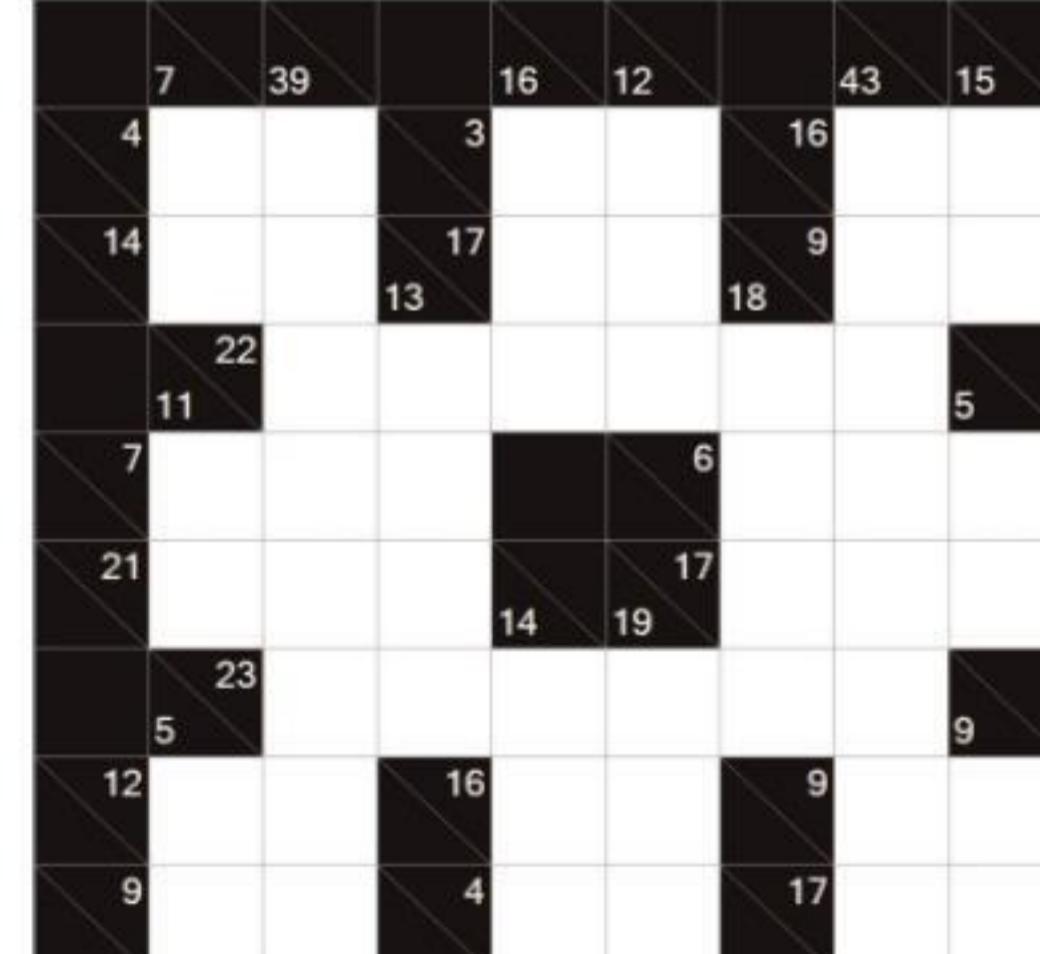
- 8 Short skirt (4)
- 9 Former Chief Executive Officer of beverage giant PepsiCo (5,5)
- 10 South American wool-bearing mammal resembling a llama (6)
- 11 A cutting tool (8)
- 12 At a distance (4)
- 13 Dramatic author (10)
- 17 Cook in an oven (4)
- 18 Prudential Life Insurance (5)
- 19 Ellipse or its shape (4)
- 20 "D" in DoT (10)
- 22 Gives money for a purchase or for services (4)
- 23 Provider of food-stuffs (8)
- 27 "A" in AGM (6)
- 28 "E" in EDP, the computer work (6)
- 29 Russian no (4)
- 30 Uninsightful (4)

DOWN

- 1 A written document by which a party legally transfers ownership of goods to another party (4,2,4)
- 2 Differ (8)
- 3 Thwart or frustrate, in a way (10)
- 4 Harem rooms (4)
- 5 Industrially developed Gujarat city (4)
- 6 A potted shrub that has been dwarfed (6)
- 7 Ogler or viewer (4)
- 14 Quick and nimble (5)
- 15 Rado or Omega product (10)
- 16 Compound of deuterium and oxygen used in atomic reactors (5,5)
- 19 Adversary (8)
- 21 A type of notification by an advising bank (6)
- 24 Uninsightful (4)

25 One of 1760 in a mile? (4)

- 26 A division of a Finnish poem (4)



In Kakuro sum puzzles, the numbers in the black squares refer to the SUMS of the digits, which you are to fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the black square containing the number. No zeroes are used here, only the digits one through nine. An important point: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination.

BIZ QUIZ

- Which Union ministry is to set up a National Faceless Penalty Centre?
- Ministry of minority affairs has decided to geo-tag all Waqf properties in which Indian state/UT?
- The leader of which country has been given a title of "General secretary" of the ruling Workers' Party?

BUZZ WORD

- The Buzz Word is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is

by trial and error.

Today's clue: FSE equals VAS

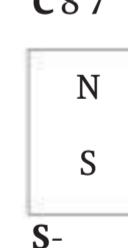
Wshcya abrrlncbce ce s
nitncsz ehczz skifix zlfzlz
Gilkli Ritnhlh

DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY

Sometimes you lose focus as you get carried away by your good bidding and miss an easy play while executing the contract. Today's deal is from an IMP pairs contest. Enjoy the crazy bidding of N-S, but see whether you can find the play.

Partner opens 2NT (20-21) and you look at S - H J - 4 - 2 D Q - J - 9 - 7 - 6 - 5 - 4 C A - Q - T. You blast 6D, as you feel there should be a good play for it. Partner has complete faith in your playing capabilities and raises you to grand!

Dir: North	SAK 8 7 6 3	N
Vul: E-W	HAQ 5	2NT
	DAK	6D!
	C 8 7	7D??
		Pass



S-

HJ 4 2

DQJ 9 7 6 5 4

CAQT

Contract: 7D by south. West leads the D2. Plan the play.

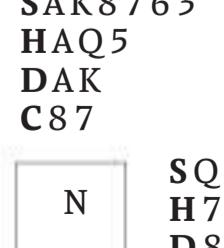
Bidding comment: 2NT is a good compromise between opening 1S and opening 2C, strong and artificial. North seems to be a good guesser in finding you with the club ace!

Play: You win the DA and ruff a spade at once. When you play a trump to dummy's king, you find both defenders follow to it. How should you proceed?

Let us say that you ruff one more spade and both follow suit. Suppose you play a heart to dummy's ace and cash SA. You will receive the jolt of your life as west will discard a club and you will go down in the contract. You may wonder where declarer went wrong.

Correct play: Once you find the trumps to be 2-2, there is no reason not to cash the SA-K to find how the suit breaks. When you find the spades to be 5-2, your only hope is to play west for the HK. Ruff a spade, take the heart finesse and when it wins, ruff another spade to establish the sixth spade in dummy. You can claim the grand now. The complete hands are:

SAK 8 7 6 3	N
HAQ 5	2NT
DAK	6D!
C 8 7	7D??
	Pass



S-

H 4 2

DQJ 9 7 6 5 4

CAQT

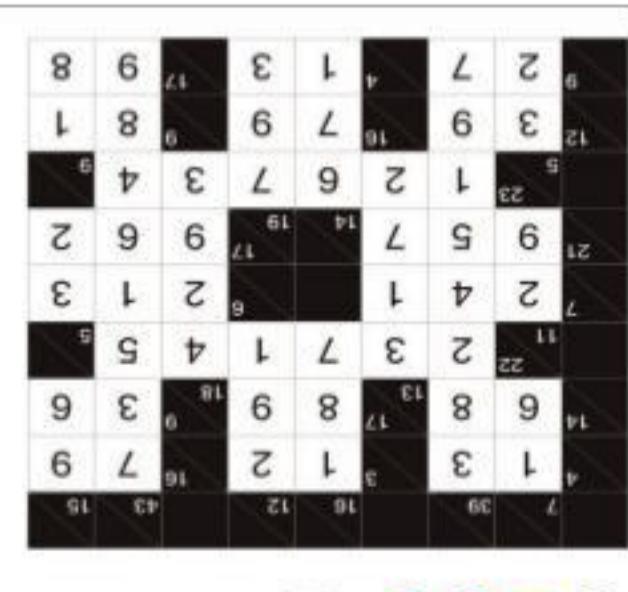
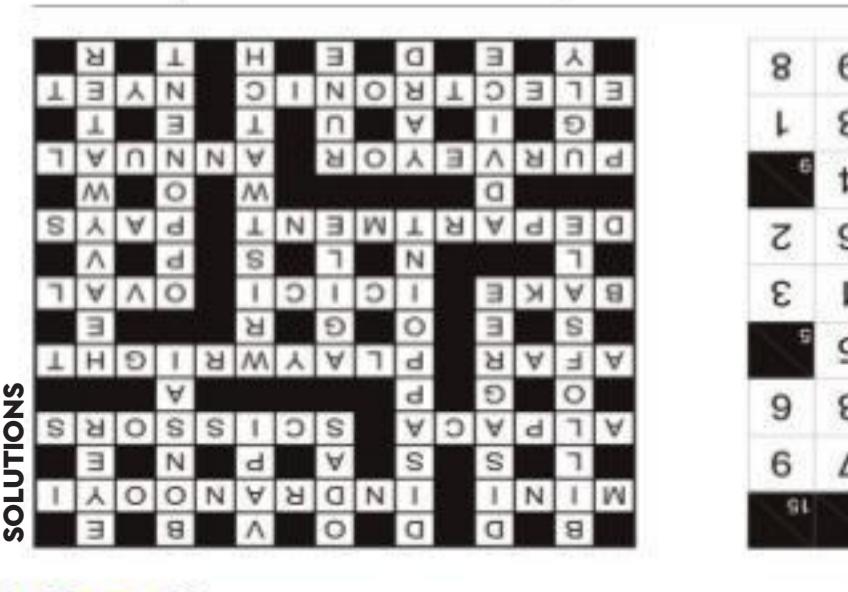
Did you play it correctly?

DRUNKEN TREES

■ In a northern climate, a stand of trees under which the permafrost has melted.

Mr. Rude says he no longer recognises Alaska weather. "This year, we had a real quick melt of the snow, and it seemed like it was just one week between snow-melting in the mountains and riding around in the boat in shirt-sleeve weather," Mr. Rude said. Other forests, farther north, appear to be sinking or drowning as melting permafrost forces water up. Alaskans have taken to calling the phenomenon "drunken trees."

—Timothy Egan, "Alaska, No Longer So Frigid, Starts to Crack, Burn and Sag," The New York Times, June 16, 2002



New Delhi

From the Front Page

Auctions may be a no-show

In addition, it is likely to buy additional spectrum in 1800 MHz and 2300 MHz band in order to build a portfolio of 10 MHz and 40 MHz, respectively. With this strategy, Jio will end up expanding its 4G spectrum from the existing 23.4 MHz to 40.82 MHz – a 74.4% increase.

The company's total outflow is likely to be ₹57,700 crore at the reserve price. Since operators are required to pay only 25% upfront and can pay the remaining amount over a 16-year period after a two-year moratorium, its immediate outflow will be approximately ₹14,400 crore.

In the case of Bharti Airtel, a total of 57.60 MHz is expiring later this year, of which bulk 51.40 MHz is in 1800 MHz and 6.20 MHz is in 900 MHz band.

The company is likely to go for spectrum in the 900 MHz to complete a block of 5/10 MHz in every circle. Also, it is likely to try to take additional spectrum in 1800 (to complete 15 MHz), 2100 (to complete 10 MHz), and 2300 MHz band (to complete 40 MHz).

With this bidding strategy, Bharti will end up expanding its 4G spectrum from the existing 31.6 MHz to 44.9 MHz – a 42% increase. Its total outflow is likely to be ₹34,023 crore at the reserve price and if its pays 25% of the amount upfront, its immediate outflow will be approximately ₹8,500 crore.

For Vodafone Idea, a total 51.05 MHz spectrum is expiring, of which again bulk of 51.05 MHz is in 1800 MHz while 6.20 MHz falls in 900 MHz band.

It is likely to opt for spectrum in the 900 MHz to complete a block of 5 MHz in every circle. Also, it may try to take additional spectrum in 1800 (to complete 10 MHz), 2100 (to complete 10 MHz), and 2500 MHz band (to complete 20 MHz).

If it adopts this strategy, Vodafone Idea will end up expanding its 4G spectrum from the existing 39.1 MHz to 45.4 MHz – a 16.11% increase. Its total outflow is thus likely to be ₹17,908 crore at the reserve price. At 25% upfront payment, its immediate outflow is likely to be approximately ₹4,700 crore.

As reported by FE earlier, of the total 2,251 MHz of spectrum worth ₹3.92 lakh crore at reserve price in the 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands; which would be put up for auctions, the government can mop up a total of around ₹1.09 lakh crore, assuming there's no participation for 700 MHz band. This would be around 28% of the total value. This means that around 60% of spectrum will remain unsold.

Premium hatchbacks in demand

The Baleno is the new Alto. Sanjeev Garg, practice leader, automotive, Praxis Global Alliance, says the trend started showing clearly from

2018 onwards, and attributes four reasons for this. "One, there are a lot of new cars in this segment, including Tata Altroz and Toyota Glanza. The Baleno is still doing 50% sales in this sub-segment, and the i20 has picked up in a big way. Two, the aspirations of the youth are changing—they want features such as Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, sunroof, touch-screen, etc., and premium hatchbacks offer these. Three, while in rural areas and smaller cities people still buy entry-level hatchbacks as their first car, in tier-1 cities and metros they have shifted towards premium hatchbacks. Four, there is easy access to finance and low EMI—at an interest rate of 8-9%, the EMI difference between a premium hatchback and entry-level could be merely ₹3,000."

One trend that has picked up is sunroof. Tarun Garg, director, sales and marketing, Hyundai Motor India, told FE that about 30% bookings of the new i20 are of the variant with the sunroof.

Som Kapoor, partner, automotive sector, EY India, says the sunroof is a differentiating factor. Even though in a climate such as India, people may not use it most of the time, they want a sunroof. "If you look at an advertising of any car that has a sunroof as an option, the ad will always display the sunroof. Kids in particular want it, and they are decision-drivers."

He adds that many premium hatchbacks offer a sunroof, as also features such as connectivity, which may not be there in entry-level hatchbacks. "Indian consumers are maturing; they want feature-rich cars, those that offer a lot of features on the dashboard," he says.

Recently, Deloitte had released the '2021 Global Automotive Consumer Study', which, among other things, noted that 65% of

consumers in India intend to acquire a less expensive vehicle than earlier planned because of the Covid-19 pandemic. But the study also added that "there is a positive consumer perception of connected vehicles that appears to be edging up, and safety features are the top priority for 89% Indian consumers". Premium hatchbacks are perceived to be safer than entry-level hatchbacks and also offer 'connected car' features.

Rajeev Singh, partner & automotive leader, Deloitte India, says that connectivity and safety are features that were traditionally not on the top of the list for Indian buyers, but now they are.

Going forward, Garg from Praxis says that the sales share of premium hatchbacks will continue to increase. "While entry-level hatchbacks are now primarily bought by those who are upgrading from two-wheelers and in smaller towns, premium hatchbacks are becoming the first car of choice for those in bigger cities – the 'dual income, no kids' generation."

Maruti Suzuki India on Saturday said its hatchback Swift has emerged as the best selling car model in India in 2020 with 1,60,700 units.

GM warns Maha move to block its exit could hit investment

It sold one of its two factories in the country to China's SAIC Motor Corp and continued to build vehicles for export at its second plant until December 24. In January 2020, it agreed to sell its second factory in the state's Talegaon district to Chinese automaker Great Wall Motor Co, but tensions between India and China have delayed completion of that deal.

GM said it planned to seek a reversal of the state's order as

soon as possible. "Effectively, the state's decision amounts to a requirement that GM either produce vehicles for which there are no customer orders, or pay workers indefinitely for doing no work. We reject both suggestions," the spokesman said, adding production would not resume.

GM is offering higher than the statutory severance pay to its roughly 1,500 workers at the plant, amounting to nearly two years of salary and is willing to negotiate further, said a source with knowledge of the matter.

Indian smartphones back in the game

"We plan to focus initially on the ₹5,000-7,000 price band as there isn't much competition in this segment, and then we will gradually move upwards to ₹10,000," says Pardeep Jain, MD, Karbonn Mobiles. The company plans to target tier II and III cities for these devices and is planning to tap its network of 45,000 retail touchpoints as well as e-commerce marketplaces to sell them. It plans to offer features such as 2GB RAM and 32 GB storage with over six inches of screen display under Rs 7,000 to draw consumers. Overall, the company plans to launch eight smartphone devices in 2021.

Micromax is eyeing the 'millennial' target group for its new range of smartphones and an online-first strategy for retailing. The company initially launches its products online on Flipkart and its e-commerce platform Micromaxinfo.com, followed by offline retail, where it has a presence in 10,000 outlets. The company is also boosting its manufacturing capabilities.

"We have three state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in India in Bhiwadi, Hyderabad and Rudrapur with a capacity of producing

over 20 million phones annually," says a Micromax spokesperson.

These companies have set their sights on the lower price segment, eyeing feature phone users who may be looking to upgrade to smartphones soon.

Though these companies are operating in the feature phone segment, they had pulled back from the smartphone market after the onslaught of Chinese brands. Xiaomi, OPPO and Vivo had forayed into the Indian market in the middle of the last decade, armed with feature-heavy affordable smartphones and manufacturing prowess, to aid mass production. Indian brands were unable to foresee the oncoming shift towards 4G phones, which presented an opening to Chinese companies.

Subsequently, the smartphone market share of Micromax and Lava, which stood at 16% and 6%, respectively, in 2015, as per Counterpoint Research, dwindled to below 1% in 2020.

Now, with the increasing anti-China sentiment in the country, the Centre's push towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat and backed by the government's performance-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for mobile manufacturing, these companies are back in the segment.

As per experts, though these brands have made a good comeback attempt, their success depends on matching with Chinese

smartphone players in terms of value for the price, multi-channel approach and marketing initiatives. "A set of Indian consumers would be keen on buying a home-grown brand. However, when it comes to shelling out money, the value being offered takes precedence," says Navkendar Singh, research director, IDC India.

Singh says since the residual brand value of these companies lies in markets where affordability is important, their game plan to enter the market below ₹10,000 could prove to be effective.

But it is not going to be easy for these companies to dethrone Chinese brands, which command almost three-fourths of the smartphone market in the country. As some of the Indian brands already have an optimal presence in the offline market due to their feature phones, Pradeep Jain, senior analyst at Counterpoint Research, says that they now need to forge partnerships with online marketplaces. "Availability, backed by marketing, will be key to their success, considering that Chinese smartphone brands are present in every nook and corner of the country," he adds.

Offices 2.0 await employees this year

"Majority of our people rely on public transport. Also, commuting involves high

risk unless you use your own car or cab," Nathan says.

Mumbai-based EuroKids International is operating at 40% strength. Desks and chairs have been labelled to ensure that there is no swapping and employees have been advised to eat at their desks. Rostering at work has been extended to all housekeeping and support staff besides full-time employees, says co-founder and group CEO Prajodh Rajan. To enable a graded return to work, the company has implemented a hybrid work model wherein teams attend office on certain days and work from their homes on the remaining days. "A lot of people want to break the work from home monotony," says Rajan. The regional offices of the firm are, however, shut.

At Flipkart, a bunch of employees who are not being able to work optimally from home have been permitted to come to the office. However, they need to book their seats prior to visiting the office campus. Most of the staff will continue working from home till May, said a company spokesperson.

Beam Suntory has divided the employee strength into weekly rosters to ensure limited occupancy, with Fridays being universal work from home for all. The company, however, is following a voluntary opt-in policy currently that allows only those employees to come to the office who are comfortable with the idea and also do not

rely on public transportation. The firm has installed sanitiser stations at various spots and allocated special roster seats to employees. In common areas such as the cafeteria and washrooms, special markings have been made to ensure a six-feet distance between people at all times, says human resources director, Savan Chatterjee.

Marico has reconfigured cafeteria and seating spaces to maintain social distancing. Members are required to wear face masks at all times within office premises and occupy not more than 50% of the original capacity of meeting rooms. "Our members will have the liberty to choose the rotations with which they would like to work from the office, and we aim to continue this further in the coming year. We believe that by offering our members the flexibility in work, we would be able to offset the fatigue that has started to arise while working from home on a prolonged basis," says chief human resources officer Amit Prakash.

Co-working firm WeWork claims to be providing access to a safe, hygienic and secure working environment, at various pricing models to cater to its diverse set of members. Apart from the mandatory temperature screening and wearing of masks, the work spaces are also installed with hand sanitiser dispensers at all high touch point areas, says head of people Priti Shetty.

FRANKLIN TEMPLETON**Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund**

Indiabulls Finance Center, Tower 2, 12th and 13th Floor, Senapati Bapat Marg, Elphinstone Road (West), Mumbai 400013

Dividend in Franklin India Taxshield

The Trustees of Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund have decided to distribute the following dividend:

Name of the Schemes / Plans	Face Value per Unit (₹)	Amount of Dividend per Unit* (₹)	NAV per Unit as on January 21, 2021 (₹)
Franklin India Taxshield (FIT)			
FIT – Dividend	10.00	3.5	44.4362
FIT – Direct – Dividend			48.9332

The Record Date for the same will be January 29, 2021 (Friday). If in any case the Record Date falls on a non-Business Day, the immediately following Business Day shall be the Record Date. All the Unitholders / Beneficial Owners of the dividend plan / option of the scheme whose names appear in the records of Registrar / Depositories as on the Record Date shall be entitled to receive dividend. The investors in the dividend re-investment plan/option will be allotted units for the dividend amount at the NAV of next Business Day after the Record Date.

Please note that the dividend payout shall be subject to the availability of distributable surplus and if the available distributable surplus as on the record date is lower than the aforementioned dividend rate, then the available distributable surplus shall be paid out. The payout shall be subject to tax deducted at source i.e. TDS, as applicable.

Pursuant to payment of dividend, the NAV of the scheme would fall to the extent of payout and statutory levy (if applicable)

For Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) Pvt. Ltd. (Investment Manager of Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund)

Sd/-
Sanjay Sapre
President

Date: January 23, 2021

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

ZENOTECH LABORATORIES LIMITED

CIN: L27100TG1989PLC010122

Survey No.250-252, Turkapally (V), Shamsherpet (M), Hyderabad - 500078

Phone:+91 90320 44584/585/586 Website: www.zenotechlab.com

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

(Rs. in lakhs, except share and per equity share data)

PARTICULARS	Quarter ended			Nine months ended			YEAR ENDED
	31.12.2020 Unaudited	30.09.2020 Unaudited	31.12.2019 Unaudited	31.12.2020 Unaudited	31.12.2019 Unaudited	31.03.2020 Audited	
Total Income from operations (net)	567.79	396.04	685.48	1,466.34	2,164.67	2,719.08	
Net Profit/(Loss) before exceptional items and tax	7.23	(207.23)	48.59	(239.45)	444.19	440.79	
Exceptional items	-	-	-	-	636.96	636.96	
Net Profit/(Loss) after exceptional items and tax	7.23	(207.23)	685.55	(239.45)	1,081.15	1,077.75	
Total Comprehensive income for the period (comprising profit/(loss) for the period after tax and other comprehensive income after tax)	6.06	(208.40)	685.75	(242.96)	1,081.73	1,073.07	
Paid-up equity share capital	6,103.06	6,103.06	6,103.06	6,103.06	6,103.06	6,103.06	
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the Previous Year							(1,140.16)
Earnings/ (loss) per share (Basic & Diluted) (Face value Rs. 10/- per share)	0.01	(0.34)	1.12	(0.39)	1.77	1.77	

Notes :

- The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on Jan 23, 2021.
- The financial results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) notified under the Companies (Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 as amended by the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) (Amendment) Rules, 2016. The Company adopted Ind AS from April 1, 2016 and accordingly, these financial results have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles in Ind AS

K.P.R. MILL LIMITED

Regd. Office: No.5, Gokul Buildings, 1st Floor,
A.K.S. Nagar, Thadagam Road, Coimbatore-641001.

Email:corporate@kpr.com
Website:www.kamilmill.com Phone: 0422-2207778 CINL711172003C010518

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Regulation 47 read with Regulation 29 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that the Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Wednesday the 03rd February, 2021 at 11.30 A.M. at K.P.R. Mill Limited, SF.No. 181, Kollupalam Village, Asarur (Post), Coimbatore-641407 to consider and approve, inter alia, the Un-audited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter ended 31.12.2020 and declaration of Interim Dividend for FY 2020-21 to the Shareholders.

For K.P.R. Mill Limited
Sdr.-Praveen Kumar
Manager-Director
(DIN: 00229137)
Date: 23.01.2021

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No: T No.145/2020-21/S/E/O Providing Functional Household Tap Connections, Distribution networks in Zone IIIB, Zone IV A and Zone IV B, Laying 2000 Mm DI Transmission main, Construction and Commissioning of 3ML GLSR at Eranoor, Compound Wall, Approach road and Maintenance of Existing tank Vettikkaval Panchayath in Kollam District EMD-Rs. 50000/-/Tenderer's Rs.15000+2700 (16% GST - It will be paid by the contractor on reverse charge basis while filing his returns). Last Date for submitting Tender: 15-02-2021 02:00pm .Phone: 0474-2745293 Website:www.kwa.kerala.gov.in/www.eternders.kerala.gov.in

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Kollam
KWA-JB-GL-6-909-2020-21

FINOLEX INDUSTRIES LIMITED

CIN: L41018PN1981PLC024153
Registered Office: Gat No.399, Urse, Taluka Maval, District Pune 410 506

Phone : +91-2114-237251 Fax : +91-2114-237252.
Email:investors@finlexind.com Website: www.finolexpipes.com

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 and 47(1)(a) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Monday, 01st February, 2021 to consider and approve, inter alia, the un-audited financial results for the quarter & Nine Months ended 31st December, 2020.

Trading Window for dealing in the securities of the Company shall remain closed from 1st January, 2021 to 3rd February, 2021 (both days inclusive).

Pursuant to Regulation 47(2) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the information contained in this notice is also available on the Company's website (www.finolexpipes.com) and also on website of BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com) and National Stock Exchange of India Limited (www.nseindia.com)

For Finolex Industries Limited

Ashutosh Kulkarni

Company Secretary & Legal Head

Place : Pune
Date : 23th January, 2021

For BLS International Services Limited

Sdr.- Dharak A. Mehta
Place : New Delhi
Date : 23.01.2021
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

WELCAST STEELS LIMITED

CIN: L27104GJ1972PLC085827
Regd. Office: 115-16, G.V.M.M. Estate, Odhav Road, Odhan, AHMEDABAD - 382 415.

Website: www.welcaststeels.com
E-mail: info@welcaststeels.com
Phone: 079-22901078, Fax: 079-22901077

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, the 5th day of February 2021 through Video Conferencing, inter alia, to consider, approve and take on record the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and Nine Months ended 31st December 2020.

This intimation is also available at the website of the Company www.welcaststeels.com and also on the website of Stock Exchange www.bseindia.com.

For Welcast Steels Limited

Sdr.- S. N. Jethelya
Place: Ahmedabad
Date: 23.01.2021
Company Secretary

"IMPORTANT"

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SCHEDULE II - FORM B PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT	
(Regulation 12 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016)	
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF MAA TARA FERROTECH PRIVATE LIMITED	
Sl.No.	PARTICULARS
	DETAILS
1	Name of corporate debtor
2	Date of incorporation of corporate debtor
3	Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated/registered
4	Corporate Identity No. of corporate debtor
5	Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor
6	Date of closure of Insolvency Resolution Process
7	Liquidation commencement date of corporate debtor
8	Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as liquidator
9	Address and e-mail of the liquidator, as registered with the Board
10	Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the liquidator
11	Last date for submission of claims

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal Kolkata Bench has ordered the commencement of liquidation of the MAA TARA FERROTECH PRIVATE LIMITED on 22.01.2021 under section 33 of the Code.

The stakeholders of MAA TARA FERROTECH PRIVATE LIMITED are hereby called upon to submit their claims before the liquidator on or before 21.02.2021, to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item No. 10.

The financial creditors may submit their claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means.

Submission of false or misleading proof of claims shall attract penalties.

Name and signature of liquidator: CA Anish Agarwal

Date and place: 24.01.2021, Ranchi

IP REG NO.: IBB/IPA-001/IP-01497/2018-2019/12256

CANARA ROBECO**Canara Robeco Mutual Fund**

Investment Manager : Canara Robeco Asset Management Co. Ltd.
Construction House, 4th Floor, 5, Walchand Hirachand Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai 400 001.

Tel.: 6658 5000 Fax: 6658 5012/13 www.canararobeco.com CIN No: U65990MH1993PLC071003

NOTICE NO. 45**Declaration of dividend in Canara Robeco Mutual Fund Schemes:**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of Canara Robeco Mutual Fund has declared dividend in the following schemes, subject to availability of distributable surplus:

Scheme Name	Investment Option	Dividend (₹ Per unit)	Face Value (₹ per unit)	NAV Per Unit as on 22.01.2021
Canara Robeco Conservative Hybrid Fund	Regular Plan - Monthly Dividend Option	0.10	10.00	14.0702
	Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Option	0.10	10.00	15.6688
Canara Robeco Short Duration Fund	Regular Plan - Monthly Dividend Option	0.06	10.00	15.4468
	Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Option	0.06	10.00	16.9468
Canara Robeco Equity Hybrid Fund	Regular Plan - Monthly Dividend Option	0.73	10.00	85.1500
	Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Option	0.60	10.00	96.7900

Pursuant to payment of dividend, the NAV of the dividend option of the schemes would fall to the extent of payout and statutory levy (if any).

Record Date for the purpose of distribution of dividend is 29th January, 2021 or the next business day if the record date happens to be a non-business day. All unit holders, under the abovementioned Plan/Option, whose names appear on the register of unit holders of the Scheme as on the record date, are eligible for the dividend.

The Dividend declared out of the Distributable Surplus of the abovementioned Schemes will be paid net of tax deducted at source (TDS) as applicable, to those unit holders whose names appear in the register of unit holders as on the Record Date.

Declaration of dividend is subject to availability of distributable surplus on the record date/ex-dividend date. In case the distributable surplus is less than the quantum of dividend on the record date/ex-dividend date, the entire available distributable surplus in the Scheme/plan will be declared as dividend.

In view of individual nature of tax consequences, each investor is advised to consult his/her own professional financial/tax advisor.

Unitholders are requested to visit www.canararobeco.com to claim their amounts remaining unclaimed or unpaid and follow the prescribed procedure therein.

For and on behalf of Canara Robeco Asset Management Company Ltd.
(Investment manager for Canara Robeco Mutual Fund)

sd/-

Authorised Signatory

Date: 23-01-2021
Place: Mumbai

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

financialexpress.epaper.in

**JCT LIMITED**

CIN: L17117PB1946PLC004565, Regd. Office: Village Chohal, Dist. Hoshiarpur (Punjab)

Phone : 01882-258780, Fax: 01882-258059, Website: www.jct.co.in E-Mail: jctsecretarial@jcltd.com

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Saturday, the 30th day of January, 2021, to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and Nine Months ended 31st December, 2020.

The Notice is available on the website of the Company and BSE Limited.

For JCT Limited
Sandeep Sachdeva
Company Secretary

**ZEN TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED**

CIN: L72200TG1993PLC015939
B-42, Industrial Estate, Sananthnagar, Hyderabad, Telangana-500018

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that, a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held Saturday 30th January, 2021, inter alia, to consider and approve the unaudited financial results (Standalone & Consolidated) for third quarter Nine months ended 31st December, 2020. The Trading Window for dealing in the equity shares of the Company was closed from 01st January 2021 and shall remain closed till 01st February 2021 and reopen on 02nd February 2021.

This information is also available in Company's website www.zentechologies.com and website of stock exchanges www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.

for Zen Technologies Limited

Sd/-
Hansraj Singh Rajput
Place : Hyderabad
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Date : 23-01-2021

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.

(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)

KMML
Sankaramangalam, Chavara, Kollam-691 583, Kerala, India

Ph: +91 476 2651215 to 2651217 CIN: U44061197290030384

Fax: 91 0476 2680101, 2686721 E-mail: contact@kmml.com, URL www.kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-tendering portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmml.com

Chavara 24.01.2021 Sd/- DGM (Mts) For The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

Our products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge

No. Tender ID Items

1. 2021_KMML_406443_1 For the supply of SS Pipe

2. 2021_KMML_406054_1 For the supply of Crude Tickle transfer pump

Sumit Binani
Liquidator
Date: January 24, 2021 sumit_binani@hotmail.com

IBBI Registration Number: IBB/IPA-001/IP-N0005/2016-17/1025

RELIANCE Infrastructure

NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client, Irshad Beg (Aadhaar: 50504 0066 1492) s/o Mohd Mobeen Beg r/o F-83, Karam Pura, Delhi 110015 have debarred and disown his son, Ashraf Beg (Aadhaar: 3339 4754 4103) from all his assets and properties and severed all relations with him. Any person dealing with him shall be doing all at his own risk etc.

R. K. Tiwari, Advocate,
169, New Delhi Courts,
Patiala House,
New Delhi 110001

BUSINESS OFFERS

Horizon Supports For Take over Merger of Running Industrial Units. Also Deals in Factory Shed, Industrial Land, MIDC Land , Warehouse Sale Purchase Rent. (In Maharashtra) Contact Vasu Patil 9657141085

0050173043-1

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Buying Selling High End Luxury properties in Delhi NCR Mumbai, Chandigarh Handle disputed Properties Contact: 93162-55513, Email: nrser-vices21@gmail.com

0020416362-2

"Form No. INC-26"
[Pursuant to rule 30 the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
Before the Central Government (Regional Director, New Delhi)
Northern Region

In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND
In the matter of Pal Cristal India Private Limited having its registered office at H-35, Ground Floor, Sector-63, Phase-II Noida UP 201308.

.....Petitioner
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government (Regional Director, Northern Region, New Delhi) under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on 4 December 2020 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from "State of Uttar Pradesh" to "the State of Haryana".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or sent by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director at Northern Region, B-2 Wing, 2nd Floor Parivar Bhawan CGO, Complex, New Delhi -110003 within fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

H-35, Ground Floor, Sector-63, Phase-II Noida UP 201306

For and on behalf of the Applicant
Pal Cristal India Private Limited
Sd/-
(Jagjeet Singh)
Director
DIN: 02809951

Date : 08.01.2020

Place : U.P.

Bank of India BOI Zonal office, 1st Floor, LIC Building, Sanjay Place, Agra | E-Auction Sale Notice

[Appendix IV-A (PROVISO TO Rule 6(6))]

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 Constructive / Symbolic / Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As Is where Is", "As Is what Is", and "Whatever there Is" on Dt 08.03.2021 for the recovery of dues mentioned below against the account due to the 'Bank of India' Secured Creditor from the Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) The Reserve Price & the Earnest Money Deposit has been mentioned against each properties.

Name of Borrower/ Guarantor & Address	Description of Properties	Type of Possession	Reserve Price	Date of Demand
			Earliest Money Increment Bid	Claim Amount as per Demand Notice
Contact Us: Chief Manager, Branch: Trans Yamuna Colony, Agra, Pin No. 8535000073				
1. Borrower: Mr. Santosh Dhakrey & Mrs. Rakhi Dhakrey.	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of house no. 4, Amar Vihar (Near K.K.Nagar), Sikandra, Bahistabhad, Agra, Area-83.61 Sq. mtr., In the name of Mrs. Rakhi Dhakrey, Bounded as: East: Plot No. 5 & 6, West: Plot No. 3, North: Property others, South: 20 feet road.	Symbolic Possession	Rs. 26,81,000/- Rs. 2,68,100/- 10,000/-	08.07.2019 Rs. 6,74,885.28 + Int. & other Charges
2. Borrower: M/s Shyam Building Materials & Suppliers, Prop. Mrs. Anju Yadav W/o Mr. Shyam Sundar Yadav.	1. H. No. 6/42, Teela Bhalron Nala, Hing Ki Mandi, Kotwalli ward, Distt. Agra, Area- 217.85 sq. mtr. In the name of Mr. Shyam Sundar Yadav S/o Mr. Mohan Singh, Bounded as: East: part of property no. 6/42, West: Rasta 1.22 mtr. wide, North: Raasta 3.05 mtr. wide, South: Temple and part of said property. 2. Hypothecation of Stock at M/s Shyamji Building Materials & Suppliers, 7, Krishna Vatika, Kalindi Vihar, Agra.	Symbolic Possession	Rs. 42,30,000/- Rs. 4,23,000/- 10,000/-	01.09.2018 Rs. 31,38,227.36 + Int. & other Charges
3. Borrower: Mr. Kamaruddin Ali S/o Mr. Sabir Ali & Mr. Haider Abbas S/o Mr. Kamaruddin Ali & Guarantor: Mr. Sunil Gupta S/o Mr. Sunder Lal Gupta.	All that part & parcel of the property consisting House No. B-145, Shastrapuram, Sikandra, Agra, Area: 27.87 Sq. mtr. in the name of Mr. Kamaruddin Ali S/o Mr. Sabir Ali Khan, Bounded as: East: Common open place, West: 15' Road, North: 15' Road, South: House No. 146.	Symbolic Possession	Rs. 9,00,000/- Rs. 90,000/- 10,000/-	22.02.2019 Rs. 10,93,347.94 + Int. & other Charges
4. Borrower: M/s Murli Traders & Manufacturers Prop. Mrs. Manju Sharma W/o Mr. Hari Shankar Sharma, Guarantor: Mr. Hari Shankar Sharma S/o Mr. Jayanti Prasad Sharma.	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of one Plot Situated at Gata No. 283, Mamta Vihar, Mauza Dehtora, Tehsil & Distt. Agra, Area: 222.95 Sq. mtr. in the name of Mr. Hari Shankar Sharma S/o Mr. Jayanti Prasad Sharma, Bounded as: East: Rasta 6.09 mtr wide, West: others property, North: House of Narendra Kumar, South: others Property.	Symbolic Possession	Rs. 21,88,000/- Rs. 2,18,800/- 10,000/-	01.05.2018 Rs. 9,50,231.26 + Int. & other Charges
5. Borrower: Mr. Vishal Saxena S/o Late Mr. Prakash Chand Saxena, Mrs. Kanchan Arora W/o Mr. Vishal Saxena & Mrs. Mithlesh Saxena W/o Late Mr. Prakash Chand Saxena since decease legal hair Mr. Vishal Saxena S/o Late Prakash Chand Saxena, Add of all: A-24, L.I.G., New Shahganj Distt.Agra, Guarantor: Mr. Ambish Agarwal S/o Mr. Suresh Chandra Agarwal, Add:315, Jaipur House, Agra.	Khasra No. 213, Maazia Bisbarana, Fatehabad Road, Distt. Agra, Area 49.15 Sq. mtr. in the name Mrs. Mithlesh Saxena W/o Late Prakash Chand Saxena, Bounded as: East: Part of Khet No. 213, West: Rasta, North: Part of Khasra No. 213, South: Khet of Mr. Gajendra Singh, Khasra No. 213 & Khet Mr. Balbir and Mr. Parshu Ram.	Symbolic Possession	Rs. 56,97,000/- Rs. 5,69,700/- 10,000/-	12.07.2016 Rs. 16,04,282/- + Int. & other Charges
6. Borrowers: Mr. Daya Shankar Gupta, Mrs. Laxmi Gupta & Mr. Amit Gupta.	1. EQM of immovable Property: All that piece of Land with building sheds & structures Standing thereon situated at 19/10/A/320 Jaipur House Loha mandi ward Agra, Area: 83.61 sq. mtr. in the name of Mr. Daya Shankar Gupta (Undivided 1/2 share residential house) Bounded as: East: Rasta 30 feet wide, West: Plot no. 311/312, North: Plot No. 329, South: Plot No. 319 2. EQM of immovable Property: All that piece of Land with building sheds & structures Standing thereon situated at 19/10/A/320 Jaipur House Loha mandi ward Agra, Area: 83.61 sq. mtr. in the name of Mrs. Laxmi Gupta (Undivided 1/2 share residential house) Bounded as: East: Rasta 30 feet wide, West: Plot no. 311/312, North: Plot No. 329, South: Plot No. 319.	Symbolic Possession	Rs. 1,45,03,000/- Rs. 14,50,300/- 10,000/-	06.02.2018 Rs. 29,56,283.01 + Int. & other Charges

Date of E-Auction : 08.03.2021, Timing : 11:00 am to 4:00 pm &

Last Date of EMD : 05.03.2021 upto 5:00 P.M.

Terms & Conditions :- For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditor's the web portal of i.e. <https://www.bankofindia.co.in>, https://ibapi.in/Sale_Info_Home.aspx. For further details contact above mentioned Branch Manager/Senior Manager/Chief Manager Numbers as given above. The above mentioned Borrower(s) /Guarantor(s) /Mortgagor (s) is given notice to deposit there total Outstanding, Interest & Other expenses before the E-Auction date. Failing which, the said property will be auctioned, and the outstanding amount if any, will be recovered along with interest and costs.

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 6(2) & 8(6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002
This may also be treated as notice under rule 6(2) & 8(6) of SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) Rules, 2002 to be the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

Date: 24.01.2021

Authorised Officer

ASIA PACK LIMITED
Registered Office: 3rd Floor, Miraj Campus, Uper Ki Oden, Nathdwara, Rajasamand, Rajasthan, India, PIN-313301
Tel. No.: 1800123699
CIN: L74950RJ1985PLC003275
E-Mail Id: ankita.mata@mirajgroup.in, Website: www.asiapackltd.com

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Sunday, the 31st day of January, 2021 at Registered Office of the Company at 3rd Floor, Miraj Campus, Uper Ki Oden, Nathdwara, Rajasamand, Rajasthan, India, PIN-313301, inter-alia, to consider and approve the unaudited financial results of the company for the quarter and nine months ended 31st December, 2020.

The information contained in the said notice is available on the Company's website i.e. www.asiapackltd.com and also on the website of the stock exchange i.e. www.bseindia.com

For Asia Pack Limited

Sd/- Ankita Mata

Place: Nathdwara Date: 23rd January, 2021

Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

INDIAN TONERS & DEVELOPERS LIMITED
Regd. Office: 10.5 Km Milestone, Rampur Bareilly Road, Rampur - 244 901 (U.P.)
(CIN L74993UP1990PLC015721)
E-Mail ID - info@indiantoners.com, Website: www.indiantoners.com
Phone No. 0595-2356271 Fax No. 0595-2356273

NOTICE FOR LOSS OF SHARES

Notice is hereby given that the following share certificate(s) have been reported as lost/stolen/misplaced/not traceable and the registered holder(s) has/have applied to the company for issue of duplicate share certificates.

Any person(s) who has/have any claim in respect of these share certificates should write to the company at the address given above within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. In case where no objection is received within 15 days, the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificates. The public is hereby warned against purchasing or dealing in anyway with the above share certificates.

For Indian Toners & Developers Limited

Sd/- (S.C. SINGHAL)

COMPANY SECRETARY

Rajinder Nagar Ghaziabad Branch,
84, Prime Plaza, Rajinder Nagar,
Sector- 5, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad- 201005,
Phone Number:- 0120-2632121

POSSESSION NOTICE [Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002] Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **Bank of Baroda**, Rajinder Nagar Branch Ghaziabad under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a demand notice dated 09-11-2020 calling upon them Mr. Vijay Kumar S/o Sh. Surrender Kumar & Mrs. Poonam W/o Vijay Kumar to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 32,89,693.88 (Rs. Thirty Two Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Three and Paisa Eighty Eight only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice with further interest and incidental charges w.e.f. 08-11-2020

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the properties/assets described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 20th January 2021.

The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property/assets and any dealings with the property/assets will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of Baroda**, Rajinder Nagar Branch Ghaziabad for an amount of Rs. 32,89,693.88 (Rs. Thirty Two Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Three and Paisa Eighty Eight only) as on 09-11-2020 and further together with further interest thereon plus other charges & expenses.

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.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MOBILE PROPERTY

All the part & parcel of the property situated at Part Flat No. G-3/0103, TDI Kinsbury Apartment TDI City, Kundli, Sonipat, Haryana, admeasuring super area of 117.42 sq. mtrs. (1264 sq. ft.) approximately, Bounded as: West- Open area, East- Flat No. G-3/104, South- Flat No. G-3/102 & Entry to Flat, North - Open area

Date: 20-01-2021, Place : Ghaziabad Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda

SIGNATURE GLOBAL
MAKING INDIA AFFORDABLE
AN ISO 9001:2015, 14061:2015, 45001:2018 CERTIFIED COMPANY

2BHK TYPE -1 (580.836 Sq.Ft.)		2BHK TYPE -2 (589.243 Sq.Ft.)		2BHK TYPE -3 (598.069 Sq.Ft.)	
195	1510	3753</			

COVID-19 VACCINATION

14 lakh beneficiaries inoculated in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 23

NEARLY 14 LAKH beneficiaries have been vaccinated against Covid-19 in the country, including 3,47,058 in the last 24 hours, the health ministry said on Saturday.

According to data released by the ministry, the highest number of 1,84,699 vaccina-

tions in the country has been reported from Karnataka, followed by Andhra Pradesh (1,33,298), Odisha (1,30,007) and Uttar Pradesh (1,23,761).

As many as 1,10,031 beneficiaries were inoculated in Telangana, 74,960 in Maharashtra, 63,620 in Bihar, 62,142 in Haryana, 47,293 in Kerala and 38,278 in Madhya Pradesh, according to the

data. In a statement, the ministry said in the last 24 hours, 3,47,058 people were vaccinated in 6,241 sessions and 24,408 such sessions have been conducted across the country so far.

"As on January 23, 2021, till 8 am, nearly 14 lakh (13,90,592) beneficiaries have received the vaccination under the countrywide vacci-

nation exercise," it said.

India's active Covid-19 caseload continued to manifest a downward movement and dropped to 1,85,662 on Saturday. "India's present active caseload now consists of just 1.74 % of India's total positive cases," the ministry said. It added that 28 states and Union territories in the country have

less than 5,000 active Coronavirus cases each and their recovery rate is above the national average.

The country's total caseload has mounted to 1,06,39,684 and the death toll due to the viral disease has climbed to 1,53,184 with 152 people succumbing to it in a span of 24 hours, the data showed.



A tableau depicting the globe and vials during full dress rehearsals for the Republic Day parade in Delhi

India's active Covid-19 caseload continued to manifest a downward movement and dropped to 1,85,662 on Saturday. "India's present active caseload now consists of just 1.74 % of India's total positive cases," the ministry said. It added that 28 states and Union territories in the country have less than 5,000 active cases each and their recovery rate is above the national average.

पंजाब एण्ड सिंध बैंक
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)



Punjab & Sind Bank
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Where service is a way of life

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES ON 26.02.2021 at 11:00 AM TO 01:00 PM

Sale of immovable property mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002) Whereas, the Authorized Officer of PUNJAB & SIND BANK had taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with our Branches with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS AND AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: (<https://www.bankeauctions.com>)

E-AUCTION
(Sale through
E-Auction only)

C-1A, SECTOR-63, NOIDA
PH.: 0120-4314956

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower/Guarantor & Branch	Description of the property	Status of Possession	Demand Notice	Reserve Price	EMD	EMD Account	Date of E-Auction	Date of Property Inspection	Incremental Bid Amount	Authorized Officer
1.	B.O.Baghpat Borrower - Sh. Shyamsunder Jain and Smt. Suman Jain	MPL No. 24/290 Old MPL No. 18/435, Mohalla Gali Jagot Singh, Patni Baru, Baraut, Baghpant, U.P. Measuring 91.50 Sq.Mt in favour of Sh. Shyamsunder Jain and Smt. Suman Jain	Symbolic	28.07.2015 Rs. 15,91,275.40 (Rupees Fifteen lakhs Ninety One Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Five and Forty Paise Only) as on 30.06.2015	Rs. 19,45,000 (Rupees Nineteen Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand Five Hundred Only)	Rs. 1,94,500 (Rupees One Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand Five Hundred Only)	A/c No. 1511100000170; A/c Name - ZO NOIDA/A/C E AUCTION; Name of Beneficiary - Punjab & Sind Bank Bank IFSC - PSIB021511	26.02.2021	08.02.2021	Rs.10000 (Rupee Ten Thousand)	Sh. Nalin Kumar B.O. Begum Bridge Meerut; Ph: 0121-2656071; Mobile - 7814677778; Email - m0169@psb.co.in
2.	B.O.Baghpat Borrower - Sh. Hari Om	Part of Khasra No. 1085, Gali No. 13, Mohalla Ajad Nagar, Baraut, Baghpant, U.P. Measuring 62.60 Sq.Mt in favour of Sh. Hari Om	Symbolic	06.05.2017 Rs. 8,56,214.00 (Rupees Eight Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen Only) as on 30.04.2017	Rs. 8,75,000 (Rupees Eight Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Only)	Rs. 8,75,000 (Rupees Eighty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Only)	A/c No. 1511100000170; A/c Name - ZO NOIDA/A/C E AUCTION; Name of Beneficiary - Punjab & Sind Bank Bank IFSC - PSIB021511	26.02.2021	08.02.2021	Rs.10000 (Rupee Ten Thousand)	Sh. Nalin Kumar B.O. Begum Bridge Meerut; Ph: 0121-2656071; Mobile - 7814677778; Email - m0169@psb.co.in
3.	B.O. Begum Bridge; Borrower - Sh. Kuldeep Kumar and Sh. Sanjeev Yadav	House No. 205/1, Old Mohanpuri, Meerut, U.P. Measuring 208.26 Sq.Mt. in favour of Sh. Kuldeep Kumar and Sh. Sanjeev Yadav	Symbolic	12.10.2020 Rs. 9,49,685.40 (Rupees Nine Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Five and Forty Paise Only) as on 30.09.2020	Rs. 58,00,000 (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakhs Only)	Rs. 5,80,000 (Rupees Five Lakh Eighty Thousand Only)	A/c No. 1511100000170; A/c Name - ZO NOIDA/A/C E AUCTION; Name of Beneficiary - Punjab & Sind Bank Bank IFSC - PSIB021511	26.02.2021	09.02.2021	Rs.10000 (Rupee Ten Thousand)	Sh. Nalin Kumar B.O. Begum Bridge Meerut; Ph: 0121-2656071; Mobile - 7814677778; Email - m0169@psb.co.in
4.	B.O. Begum Bridge Borrower - M/s Vidyा Book Distributor Prop. Sh. Naresh Kumar	House No. 3E-823, Scheme No. 10, Madhavpuram, Meerut, U.P. Measuring 83.25 Sq.Mt. in favour of Sh. Naresh Kumar	Symbolic	19.03.2019 Rs.3,99,323.70 (Rupees Three Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Three and Seventy Paise Only) as on 28.02.2019	Rs. 26,00,000 (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Only)	Rs. 2,60,000 (Rupees Two Lakh Thirty Thousand Only)	A/c No. 1511100000170; A/c Name - ZO NOIDA/A/C E AUCTION; Name of Beneficiary - Punjab & Sind Bank Bank IFSC - PSIB021511	26.02.2021	09.02.2021	Rs.10000 (Rupee Ten Thousand)	Sh. Nalin Kumar B.O. Begum Bridge Meerut; Ph: 0121-2656071; Mobile - 7814677778; Email - m0169@psb.co.in
5.	B.O. Begum Bridge Borrower - M/s Al Afaya Trading Prop. Sh. Mohd Gulzar	House No. 616 and 617, Khasra No. 1222, Aali Nagar, Idgah Road, Kotla Mewatian, Hapur, U.P. Measuring 167.28 Sq.Mt. in favour of Sh. Mohd Fakira	Symbolic	29.03.2016 Rs.26,46,358.00 (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Forty Six Thousand Three hundred Fifty Eight Only) as on 28.02.2016	Rs. 48,00,000 (Rupees Forty Lakh Eighty Thousand Only)	Rs. 4,80,000 (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty Thousand Only)	A/c No. 1511100000170; A/c Name - ZO NOIDA/A/C E AUCTION; Name of Beneficiary - Punjab & Sind Bank Bank IFSC - PSIB021511	26.02.2021	09.02.2021	Rs.10000 (Rupee Ten Thousand)	Sh. Nalin Kumar B.O. Begum Bridge Meerut; Ph: 0121-2656071; Mobile - 7814677778; Email - m0169@psb.co.in
6.	B.O. Daurala Borrower - Sh. Ravinder Kumar	Flat No. G-60/4, Ground Floor, Part of Plot No. 60/4, Part of Khasra No. 544 and 545, Dwarka Dham Colony, Village Siwya Jamaulapur, Pargana Daurala, Sardhana, Meerut, U.P. Measuring 920 Sq.Ft. in favour of Sh. Ravinder Kumar	Symbolic	05.07.2016 Rs.15,33,088.00 (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Eighty Eight Only) as on 30.06.2016	Rs. 16,50,000 (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Only)	Rs. 1,65,000 (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Only)	A/c No. 1511100000170; A/c Name - ZO NOIDA/A/C E AUCTION; Name of Beneficiary - Punjab & Sind Bank Bank IFSC - PSIB021511	26.02.2021	10.02.2021	Rs.10000 (Rupee Ten Thousand)	Sh. Nalin Kumar B.O. Begum Bridge Meerut; Ph: 0121-2656071; Mobile - 7814677778; Email - m0169@psb.co.in
7.	B.O. Loni Border Borrower - Smt. Jasbir Kaur and Sh. Arvinder Singh	House No. 11/51 D Block No.11, Sector-3, T.H.A Rajender Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P. Measuring 110.36 Sq.Mt. in favour of Smt. Jasbir Kaur	Symbolic	06.06.2019 Rs.36,49,850.00 (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Three Only) as on 31.05.2019	Rs. 63,95,000 (Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only)	Rs. 6,39,500 (Rupees Six Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only)	A/c No. 1511100000170; A/c Name - ZO NOIDA/A/C E AUCTION; Name of Beneficiary - Punjab & Sind Bank Bank IFSC - PSIB021511	26.02.2021	10.02.2021	Rs.10000 (Rupee Ten Thousand)	Sh. Chandar Pal Mehmi B.O. Railway Road Ghaziabad; Ph: 0120-2856504; Mobile - 8968419996; Email - g0191@psb.co.in
8.	B.O. Chhijarsi Borrower - Sh. Shubham Tyagi	Flat No. P-09, Ground Floor, Without Roof Right, Block-P, Sector-23, Sanjay Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P. Measuring 1030.97 Sq.Ft. in favour of Sh. Shubham Tyagi	Symbolic	04.12.2016 Rs.16,77,585.00 (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Five Only) as on 30.11.2016	Rs. 36,10,000 (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Sixty One Thousand Only)	Rs. 3,61,000 (Rupees Three Lakh Sixty One Thousand Only)	A/c No. 1511100000170; A/c Name - ZO NOIDA/A/C E AUCTION; Name of Beneficiary - Punjab & Sind Bank Bank IFSC - PSIB021511	26.02.2021	09.02.2021	Rs.10000 (Rupee Ten Thousand)	Sh. Chandar Pal Mehmi B.O. Railway Road Ghaziabad; Ph: 0120-2856504; Mobile - 8968419996; Email - g0191@psb.co.in
9.	B.O. Indrapuram Borrower - Sh. Mandeep Singh and Smt. Harvinder Kaur	Flat No. G-2, MIG, Plot No. A-55, Ganga Vihar, Sadullabad, Pargana Loni, Ghaziabad, U.P. Measuring 78.96 Sq.Mt. in favour of Sh. Mandeep Singh and Smt. Harvinder Kaur	Physical	08.05.2017 Rs.19,56,307.00 (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Three Hundred Seven Only) as on 30.04.2017	Rs. 18,30,000 (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Only)	Rs. 1,83,000 (Rupees One Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Only)	A/c No. 1511100000170; A/c Name - ZO NOIDA/A/C E AUCTION; Name of Beneficiary - Punjab & Sind Bank Bank IFSC - PSIB021511	26.02.2021	10.02.2021	Rs.10000 (Rupee Ten Thousand)	Sh. Chandar Pal Mehmi B.O. Railway Road Ghaziabad; Ph: 0120-2856504; Mobile - 8968419996; Email - g0191@psb.co.in
10.	B.O. Indrapuram Borrower - Smt. Babita Gupta and Sh. Pankaj Kumar	Flat No. G-01 on Plot No. B1/144, Block B1, DLF Dilshad Extension-II, Pargana Loni, Ghaziabad, U.P. Measuring 74.31 Sq.Mt. in favour of Smt. Babita Gupta and Sh. Pankaj Kumar Kaur	Symbolic	03.04.2016 Rs.12,87,195.00 (Rupees Twelve Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand One Hundred Ninety Five Only) as on 31.03.2016	Rs. 20,80,000 (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Eighty Thousand Only)	Rs. 2,08,000 (Rupees Two Lakh Eighty Thousand Only)	A/c No. 1511100000170; A/c Name - ZO NOIDA/A/C E AUCTION; Name of Beneficiary - Punjab & Sind Bank Bank IFSC - PSIB021511	26.02.2021	10.02.2021	Rs.10000 (Rupee Ten Thousand)	Sh. Chandar Pal Mehmi B.O. Railway Road Ghaziabad; Ph: 0120-2856504; Mobile - 8968419996; Email - g0191@psb.co.in
11.	B.O. Indrapuram Borrower - Sh. Amar Nath Mishra and Smt. Ranju Mishra	Flat No. UG-02, Upper Ground Floor, MIG, Plot No. 29-A, Out of Khasra No.60, New Sabhapur, Karawal Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi Measuring 650 Sq.Ft. in favour of Sh. Amar Nath Mishra and Smt. Ranju Mishra	Physical	08.05.2017 Rs.15,94,515.00 (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Five Hundred Fifteen Only) as on 30.04.2017	Rs. 19,00,000 (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Five Hundred Only)	Rs. 1,90,000 (Rupees One Lakh Ninety Thousand Only)	A/c No. 1511100000170; A/c Name - ZO NOIDA/A/C E AUCTION; Name of Beneficiary - Punjab & Sind Bank Bank IFSC - PSIB021511	26.02.2021	11.02.2021	Rs.10000 (Rupee Ten Thousand)	Sh. Chandar Pal Mehmi B.O. Railway Road Ghaziabad; Ph: 0120-2856504; Mobile - 8968419996; Email - g0191@psb.co.in
12.	B.O. Indrapuram Borrower - Sh. Ravi Arora	Entire First Floor, Plot No. D-79, Block D, Khasra No 210/2, HIG, SLF Ved Vihara Colony, Sadullabad, Pargana Loni, Ghaziabad, U.P. Measuring 900 Sq.Ft. in favour of Sh. Ravi Arora	Symbolic	30.08.2017 Rs.19,19,002.00 (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Two Only) as on 31.07.2017	Rs. 25,30,000 (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Thirty Thousand Only)	Rs. 2,53,000 (Rupees Two Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Only)	A/c No. 1511100000170; A/c Name - ZO NOIDA/A/C E AUCTION; Name of Beneficiary - Punjab & Sind Bank Bank IFSC - PSIB021511	26.02.2021	11.02.2021	Rs.10000 (Rupee Ten Thousand)	Sh. Chandar Pal Mehmi B.O. Railway Road Ghaziabad; Ph: 0120-2856504; Mobile - 8968419996; Email - g0191@psb.co.in
13.	B.O. Indrapuram Borrower - Sh. Sunil Pathak	Flat No. F-01, First Floor, Plot No 103, Satyam Enclave, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P. Me									