

**OPINION, P2**

Modi thought and its consequences

ACROSS THE AISLE, P CHIDAMBARAM

**MIND & GAMES****CAN'T TAKE THE HEAT? A TASTE FOR SPICY FOODS CAN BE LEARNED**

If you feel left out, here are tips for enjoying—or at least tolerating—the burn

**Page 10**

VOL. XX NO. 22

Follow us on Twitter & Facebook. App available on App Store & Play Store [WWW.FINANCIALEXPRESS.COM](http://WWW.FINANCIALEXPRESS.COM)

# SUNDAY

FINANCIAL EXPRESS ON SUNDAY

READ TO LEAD



**IDEA EXCHANGE**  
Prashant Kishor  
'Identity politics was always there... question of how you play it up... SCs in Bengal most crucial factor' **Page 9**

**SPOTLIGHT****THE POLITICS OF FASHION**

Politicians' fashion choices often become a window to their philosophy **Pages 6-7**

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

■ LEISURE, P8

Alastair Lewis

'Only tackling vehicles wouldn't solve the air pollution problem in India'

■ EXPRESS ADDA, P5

Amarinder Singh

'I don't believe in this business of either religion or regionalism'



■ WORDS WORTH, P4

Laura Spinney

'Covid-19 might buck trend of historically forgetting pandemics'

**ODD & EVEN**

ROHIT PHORE

**QuickPicks**

Suez Canal backlog ends, days after giant vessel freed

ALL SHIPS stranded by the grounding of the giant container ship Ever Given in the Suez Canal in March had passed through the canal by Saturday, ending the backlog that built up during the blockage, the canal authority said, reports **Reuters**. The last 61 ships, out of 422 ships that were queuing when the vessel was dislodged on Monday, passed through the vital trade artery on Saturday, the Suez Canal Authority said. **PAGE 11**

Amazon admits issue of drivers urinating in bottles in apology

AMAZON.COM HAS apologised to US Representative Mark Pocan, admitting to scoring an "own goal" in its initial denial of his suggestion that its drivers were sometimes forced to urinate in bottles during their delivery rounds, reports **Reuters**. Its admission came a week after the Democrat criticised Amazon's working conditions. **PAGE 11**

AMAZON.COM HAS

apologised to US

Representative Mark Pocan,

admitting to scoring

an "own goal" in its

initial denial of his

suggestion that its

drivers were sometimes

forced to urinate in

bottles during their

delivery rounds, reports

**Reuters**.

Its admission came a

week after the Democra

tic criticised

Amazon's working con

ditions. **PAGE 11**

AMAZON.COM HAS

apologised to US

Representative Mark Pocan,

admitting to scoring

an "own goal" in its

initial denial of his

suggestion that its

drivers were sometimes

forced to urinate in

bottles during their

delivery rounds, reports

**Reuters**.

Its admission came a

week after the Democra

tic criticised

Amazon's working con

ditions. **PAGE 11**

AMAZON.COM HAS

apologised to US

Representative Mark Pocan,

admitting to scoring

an "own goal" in its

initial denial of his

suggestion that its

drivers were sometimes

forced to urinate in

bottles during their

delivery rounds, reports

**Reuters**.

Its admission came a

week after the Democra

tic criticised

Amazon's working con

ditions. **PAGE 11**

AMAZON.COM HAS

apologised to US

Representative Mark Pocan,

admitting to scoring

an "own goal" in its

initial denial of his

suggestion that its

drivers were sometimes

forced to urinate in

bottles during their

delivery rounds, reports

**Reuters**.

Its admission came a

week after the Democra

tic criticised

Amazon's working con

ditions. **PAGE 11**

AMAZON.COM HAS

apologised to US

Representative Mark Pocan,

admitting to scoring

an "own goal" in its

initial denial of his

suggestion that its

drivers were sometimes

forced to urinate in

bottles during their

delivery rounds, reports

**Reuters**.

Its admission came a

week after the Democra

tic criticised

Amazon's working con

ditions. **PAGE 11**

AMAZON.COM HAS

apologised to US

Representative Mark Pocan,

admitting to scoring

an "own goal" in its

initial denial of his

suggestion that its

drivers were sometimes

forced to urinate in

bottles during their

delivery rounds, reports

**Reuters**.

Its admission came a

week after the Democra

tic criticised

Amazon's working con

ditions. **PAGE 11**

AMAZON.COM HAS

apologised to US

Representative Mark Pocan,

admitting to scoring

an "own goal" in its

initial denial of his

suggestion that its

drivers were sometimes

forced to urinate in

bottles during their

delivery rounds, reports

**Reuters**.

Its admission came a

week after the Democra

tic criticised

Amazon's working con

ditions. **PAGE 11**

AMAZON.COM HAS

apologised to US

Representative Mark Pocan,

admitting to scoring

an "own goal" in its

initial denial of his

suggestion that its

drivers were sometimes

forced to urinate in

bottles during their

delivery rounds, reports

**Reuters**.

Its admission came a

week after the Democra

tic criticised

Amazon's working con

ditions. **PAGE 11**

AMAZON.COM HAS

# Opinion

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021

**POLLING WILL BE** completed in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the UT of Puducherry two days from today and part-completed in West Bengal, with five phases remaining. The BJP has high stakes in Assam and West Bengal and is making a desperate effort to get a toe-hold in the other three places. The Congress has equally high stakes in Assam and Kerala where it is fighting to regain power and in Tamil Nadu where it is helping the DMK regain power.

Nothing is certain about the outcome of any election. More so, when there are key players other than the Congress and the BJP such as the CPI(M) in Kerala, TMC in West Bengal and AINRC in Puducherry. In each of these places, there is a popular, though controversial, individual leading his/her party — Mr Pinarayi Vijayan (Kerala), Ms Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal) and Mr N Rangasamy (Puducherry).

DMK, TMC will win

Pre-poll surveys can indicate only the direction of the election, not the outcome. Based on different surveys, it appears to me that the DMK alliance will win in Tamil Nadu and the TMC will win in West Bengal. In Assam and Kerala the rival alliances are more or less evenly matched and the elections could throw up surprising results. Puducherry reveals a confusing picture.

The Congress is fighting on a common plank of states' rights, secularism, pluralism and addressing the acute economic distress. The BJP has a state-specific agenda. It is the CAA in Bengal but studied silence on the CAA in Assam. It is a communal agenda in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. By forging broad alliances, the Congress has thwarted the BJP's goal of a Congress-mukt India. By aggressively and unapologetically pushing its agenda, the BJP has taken a huge gamble.

Beyond election results

While the results of the elections in the four states are of immediate interest, the larger question is how will the country be governed in the three remaining years of the BJP government at the Centre. The basic principles of governance of the Modi government (essentially, the person Mr Narendra Modi) are quite evident:

*Firstly*, Mr Modi will not brook any dissent. Dissenting Opposition leaders and Opposition parties will be punished. Apart from the Congress which is the prime target, others who are targeted by the investigating agencies are the National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party in Jammu & Kashmir; the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal; the Nationalist Congress Party in Maharashtra; the CPI(M) in Kerala; and the DMK in Tamil Nadu. Among those spared are the Biju Janata Dal in Odisha, the YSR Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh and the Telangana Rashtra Samithi in Telangana. The parties, including their leaders, that are cosseted are the JD (United) in Bihar and the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu. Never before has the power of the Central government been so blatantly abused in order to promote the hegemony of one political party.

*Secondly*, the brute majority in the Lok Sabha and the ability to stitch together a simple majority in the Rajya Sabha will be used to pass legislation

## ACROSS THE AISLE

P Chidambaram



## FIFTH COLUMN

TAVleen Singh

Is peace with Pakistan possible?

**FOR A BRIEF** moment last week, it seemed as if hostilities between us and the Islamist Republic next door were beginning to wane. Pakistan showed interest in importing Indian sugar and cotton and this would have meant the revival of trade even if diplomatic relations remain suspended. Then suddenly Imran Khan's Cabinet declared that until Article 370 was restored there would be no trade. After Article 370 was abrogated, on August 5, 2019, the Prime Minister of Pakistan has made it his business to try and get the Islamic world to censure India for ending the special status of the former state of Jammu & Kashmir. He went to the extent of appointing himself 'Kashmir's ambassador' but failed to drum up much support.

From an Indian perspective, the removal of Article 370 became necessary because it had served mostly to give Kashmiri Muslims the false impression that secession was still a possibility. Nor has 'azaadi', and there is much less chance of either happening now. For the Hindutva lunatic fringe that continues to believe that 'Akhand Bharat' (undivided India) is still possible, the same message applies. If we have to move towards genuine peace with Pakistan, saying clearly that Kashmir is not up for discussion has to be the basis of future dialogue. Too many terrible things happened behind the wall that Article 370 had become between Kashmir and the rest of India. We must not forget.

The ethnic cleansing of the Kashmiri Pandits must never be forgotten. It should shame every Indian that this happened, and it should shame us more that no Indian leader was able to reverse this terrible tragedy. Once the Valley became populated only with Muslims, it was easy to forget that Kashmir had been a vital centre of Indian civilisation long, long before Islam. The Valley's magnificent, ruined temples bear testament to this. The ethnic cleansing of Kashmiri Hindus would not have happened if Pakistan's jihadi military men had not actively promoted jihadi ideas in the Valley and changed the very nature of Kashmiri Islam.

The other thing that we must not forget is that despite the ethnic cleansing of Hindus, our first BJP prime minister tried harder than any other Indian leader to make peace with Pakistan. I was among those who waited on the Pakistani side of the Wagah border when he arrived in that gilded bus. Ahead of the Indian Prime Minister's bus came a man in a long coat and a formal Indian turban carrying a basket of sweets on his head, and just behind him a troop of Punjabi women wearing long skirts of orange, yellow and red that shone in the afternoon sunlight as they danced across

the border. Vajpayee's speech in Lahore the next day was emotional and eloquent and Pakistanis in the audience wept as he spoke. Everyone hoped that the Lahore declaration he signed marked a new beginning. Instead, months later came the Kargil war, and hope died. But not for Atalji, who months later invited General Pervez Musharraf to India. The talks that were held in Agra ended with Musharraf throwing a tantrum because all he had come to talk about was Kashmir.

After 9/11 Pakistan was dragooned into the war against terrorism, but the jihad against India continued. Three months after 9/11 came the attack on our Parliament. Other jihadist attacks followed but the one that convinced most Indians that peace with Pakistan was impossible was the 26/11 attack. It is hard to understand why attacking Mumbai's hotels, restaurants, railway stations, hospitals and Jewish establishments was necessary to further Pakistan's claims on Kashmir. Harder still to understand why despite solid evidence of its involvement in this cowardly attack, Pakistan has not made a serious attempt to punish those responsible. This is the reason why it is not wrong to describe Pakistan as an Islamist Republic and not an Islamic one.

India has many more reasons to continue hostilities, especially today when we have a government whose spokesmen and supporters use the word Pakistani as a term of abuse. Some of them are defined by their hatred for Islam and Muslims and spit out the word 'Pakistani' every time they appear on television. And there are far too many famous anchors who allow abuse of Pakistan to define their shows. So, it is hard to believe that a peace process can begin in the near future, but it has to. When and if it does, we must hope that the Modi government will be as ruthless about defining India's position as it was about removing Article 370.

As someone who wrote a book sympathising with the Kashmiris for having endured decades of fraudulent elections and a brutal denial of their basic democratic rights, I lost sympathy when the cause changed. For a very long time now it is not basic democratic rights and special autonomy that Kashmiri secessionist groups have been fighting violently for. The cause has become the establishment of Sharia in the Valley, and to do this, young men have been recruited in much the same way that the Islamic State recruited their jihadists. It is madness to believe that any Indian prime minister, leave alone Narendra Modi, could allow the creation of an Islamist state within the borders of India. These things must be made clear before a peace process begins.



Security personnel keep vigil as villagers raise slogans against West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, during the second phase of West Bengal assembly polls, at Boyal in Nandigram

that are manifestly unconstitutional, besides being unjust. The legislation to dismember J&K and to reduce the government of Delhi to a glorified municipality are the most recent examples. Earlier examples were the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the three farm laws. More can be expected. The reprieve given by the courts — due to various reasons — means that these laws will exact their toll until they are examined and pronounced.

*Thirdly*, there will be no place for new ideas, new initiatives or new experiments to improve the administration. There is place for only one thought — Modi Thought. An example is the mess that has been made of the Covid-19 vaccination programme. The first step to prioritise health and frontline workers was correct, but all subsequent steps were absolutely wrong. Particularly wrong were the stag-

gered phases, the App, the requirement for pre-registration and bureaucratic oversight. Contrast the vaccination drive with the Pulse Polio programme. A simple announcement of the date (when oral polio drops will be given) brings thousands of mothers with their babies to every kind of hospital or health centre. The result of bureaucratisation of the vaccination programme is unconscionable delay that will frustrate the target of 400 million jabs by the end of July 2021. Meanwhile, thousands will be infected and hundreds will die every day. The same 'follow the Modi Thought' rule affects every programme of the government from the PM Awas Yojana to crop insurance. Incidentally, both are massive failures.

### More into poverty

*Fourthly*, the policies to promote economic recovery will be determined

by corporate interests. Hence, the government has followed a supply-side driven strategy that has denied a fiscal stimulus, delayed the recovery, left millions of people unemployed, created few new jobs, reduced the earnings of every section of the population and pushed more people into poverty and debt. Compassion for the poor and the middle classes is totally absent: examples are the extortionate prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas and the heartless slashing of interest rates on small savings when inflation is printing at 6% and is expected to rise.

The million dollar question is, will the results of the elections reinforce these basic principles of Modi Thought or will they cause a shake-up of the government and the ruling party?

Website: [pchidambaram.in](http://pchidambaram.in)  
Twitter @Pchidambaram\_IN

# Ground Rules

Don't penalise yourself. Golf is hard. You'll make it harder if you don't know The Rules of the game

## OVER THE TOP



Meraj Shah

**NON-GOLFERS HAVE AN** arrogant hierarchy of existence. Right on top, is, let's just call it a celestial presence, that looks over the world; below that lie humans, and below them, lie all other living things on this planet. Now I'm not trying to exclude golfers from the follies of their species, but the trials and tribulations of their lives are written, literally, not by divine providence but, by a set of nameless, faceless gents they'll never get to meet. In the United States that's the United States Golf Association, and for the rest of us, it's the hallowed and 'Royal & Ancient' Subtle.

Now these people, for their collective wisdom and experience, are entrusted with being the keepers and protectors of the game's holy book — The Rules. Unrelenting and often cruel, golfing history is littered with instances of players falling foul of some archaic guideline, and being suitably chastised. Not just

that, golfers are also expected to — in line with the spirit and history of the game — stoically bear the consequences of their infraction. Taken it on the chin, so to speak.

Then there are cowboys who won't play by the rules. You know them all too well; you might be unlucky to have one in your weekly four ball. These blokes are completely oblivious to social censure; impervious to the lowered heads and indistinct mutterings that seem to fill the chaining rooms when they enter. I've met a few in my life — bona fide 18-handicappers who'll frequently break 80 at club championships, or possess supernatural abilities to extract themselves from the rough, and yet, are inexplicably challenged when it comes to counting strokes. When caught these people show complete commitment in the power of absolute denial. You'd think people like these wouldn't go very far in their pursuit of the game. But they do, in fact one made it all the way to becoming the leader of the free world. Another, Patrick Reed, who plays on the PGA Tour, is another brazen interloper. Reed was at the centre of a social media storm a few weeks back for picking up and replacing his ball claiming it was 'embedded'. Even



Patrick Reed was accused of cheating fans at the Farmers Insurance Open

though that wasn't the case he got away with it.

Since The Rules assume that the player has the integrity to call a penalty on himself, it makes sense for all of us to go beyond just a rudimentary understanding; at the very heart of the amendments that were bestowed upon us in 2019 by the governing bodies of the

game, was to make the game easier and just insert some common sense into a few of the hackneyed concepts we were expected to abide by.

Start with these: the most humane amendment was aimed at giving us a break, literally, on the greens. Now, if you accidentally hit your ball on the green, whether it's while taking a backswing, or

even if you happen to kick it then it can be replaced to the original spot without penalty. Same goes for the ball marker. If this rule had come into effect in 2016, then Dustin Johnson would have won the US Open. You can also repair spike marks on the green, shoe damage, or any indentations caused by the flagstick, or critters on the green. Keep in mind that you still can't fix natural wear around the hole.

What's the most embarrassing shot you've ever hit? Mine was a from a fairway bunker in which the shaft broke and travelled twice as far as the ball. But a fluffed double-hit chip comes a second close. Taking pity on players who manage to accidentally engineer this shot (it's almost impossible to hit on purpose), the Rules were changed. That magnanimity also extends to poor sods who hit their ball into impenetrable undergrowth, rough and the like in which the ball is hard to spot. In case you happen to step on your ball while looking for it in the thick stuff then you can replace it in the place you found it without penalty.

You can touch the ground with your practice swing in all penalty areas (that now include water hazards) and, even more critically, when playing from places where you risk damaging your club, you can remove loose impediments like stones as long as doing that doesn't move your ball. The one I really like is the

amendment concerning free drops; if you're taking relief on account of a sprinkler head of an 'abnormal' course condition that interferes with your stance or swing then you can drop it within one club-length, even if that improves your lie. That could potentially mean you playing from the fairway instead of the rough, or the green instead of the fringe.

And the 'embedded' rule that Reed used is meant to claim relief in case the ball gets plugged (anywhere on the course except the bunker) on account of the ground being wet. If the ball has bounced, as replays of Reed's shot clearly showed it had, then it cannot be 'embedded'.

Are these amendments subject to manipulation? Of course they are, but here's the rub, and it cuts both ways. 'Player intent' is the premise that's now been introduced to curb such infractions. For me that calls into question the integrity and conduct expected of everyone who plays this game. Questions of honour are difficult... can become confused and abstruse, and golf has always set high standards for those who play it. That's why, wanton cheaters will never be remembered for their successes, but people are unlikely to forget their failings to play in the spirit of the game.

A golfer, Meraj Shah also writes about the game

## 7 blood clot deaths after 18.1mn jabs, AstraZeneca vaccine safe: UK regulator

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
London, April 3

THE UK'S MEDICINES regulator has confirmed seven cases of blood clot-related deaths in people who received the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine against Covid-19, but stressed on the safety of the jabs as there is no evidence of a causal link. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) said in its latest 'Yellow Card' monitoring of the coronavirus vaccine programme this week that of the 18.1 million people who had the Oxford vaccine in the UK, 30 people developed blood clots and seven had died as of March 24.

Its official advice continues to be that the benefits of the vaccine, which is also being produced as Covishield by the Serum Institute of India, far outweigh any risks. "Our rigorous review into the UK reports of rare and specific types of blood clots is ongoing. Up to and including 24 March, we have received 22 reports of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) and 8 reports of other thrombosis events with low platelets, out of a total of 18.1 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine AstraZeneca given by that date," the MHRA report said.

"On the basis of this ongoing review, the benefits of the vaccines against Covid-19 continue to outweigh any risks and you should continue to get your vaccine when invited to do so," it said.

The regulators said that investigations are underway to determine if there is a link or if the cases are a coincidence and reiterated that increased adverse reaction or ADR reports reflect the increase in vaccine deployment. "The number and nature of suspected adverse reactions reported so far are not unusual in comparison to other types of routinely used vaccines. The overall safety experience with both vaccines is so far as expected from the clinical tri-



AstraZeneca vaccine shot being prepared by a medic

**The MHRA said there were no blood clot reports for the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, the other jabs being rolled out in the UK. Concerns had been raised about blood clots after a small proportion of cases arose among millions who received the Oxford/AstraZeneca jab across Europe**

als," it adds.

The MHRA added that there were no blood clot reports for the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, the other jabs being rolled out in the UK. Concerns had been raised about blood clots after a small proportion of cases arose among millions who received the Oxford/AstraZeneca jab across Europe.

Some countries, such as Germany, have restricted its use to certain ages but the European medicines watchdog and the World Health Organisation (WHO) both continue to advise that it is safe and effective. As an additional measure, the British Society for Haematology has issued new guidance for doctors, amid concerns cases of blood clotting could be linked to a condition known as thrombocytopenia.

"At the moment, any causal association with Coronavirus vaccination has not been

established. However, if you identify patients with this syndrome in proximity to coronavirus vaccination, it is very important that you complete the online 'Yellow Card' this will trigger a request from MHRA for further details," their guidance notes. The MHRA has previously said that anyone who has had the vaccination and who then has a headache that lasts for more than four days afterwards, or bruising beyond the site of the vaccination after a few days, should seek medical attention.

Headache is also part of one of the most common side effects of the vaccine, others being flu-like symptoms which normally disappear within a day or two. The latest MHRA review notes: For both vaccines, the overwhelming majority of reports relate to injection-site reactions (sore arm for example) and generalised symptoms such as 'flu-like' illness, headache, chills, fatigue (tiredness), nausea (feeling sick), fever, dizziness, weakness, aching muscles, and rapid heartbeat.

"Generally, these happen shortly after the vaccination and are not associated with more serious or lasting illness. These types of reactions reflect the normal immune response triggered by the body to the vaccines. They are typically seen with most types of vaccine and tend to resolve within a day or two," it notes.

At the moment, any causal association with Coronavirus vaccination has not been

## Robot sells digital art for \$688,888, plans music career

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Hong Kong, April 3

SOPHIA IS A robot of many talents she speaks, jokes, sings and even makes art. In March, she caused a stir in the art world when a digital work she created as part of a collaboration was sold at an auction for \$688,888 in the form of a non-fungible token (NFT). The sale highlighted a growing frenzy in the NFT market, where people can buy ownership rights to digital content. NFTs each have a unique digital code saved on



Sophia and her artwork at Hanson Robotics studio in Hong Kong

AP/PTI

blockchain ledgers that allow anyone to verify the authentic-

ity and ownership of items. David Hanson, CEO of Hong Kong-based Hanson Robotics and Sophia's creator, has been developing robots for the past two and a half decades. He believes realistic-looking robots can connect with people and assist in industries such as healthcare and education. Sophia is the most famous robot creation from Hanson Robotics, with the ability to mimic facial expressions, hold conversations and recognise people. In 2017, she was granted Saudi Arabian citizenship, becoming the

world's first robot citizen. "I art work herself, that could generate art," Hanson said.

**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** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 08.01.2021 calling upon the Borrowers Mr. Jasveer Singh Som S/o Mr. Meghraj Singh, Mrs. Meeta W/o Jasveer Singh Som and Guarantor Mr. Amit S/o Mr. Satyaveer to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 31,06,167.56 upto 04.01.2021 including interest and further interest, other expenses within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 and sub section (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002 on this **1st Day of April of the year 2021**.

The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda, for an amount of Rs. 31,06,167.56 upto 04.01.2021 including interest and further interest and other expenses thereon till date of payment.

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 that part and parcel of the property of Mr. Jasveer Singh Som situated at Flat No-GF-A, Ground Floor without roof rights of residential property No. KC-73, Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad, Covered area 110 Sq Yds (91.971 Sq Mtrs) as per records available with bank) Registered with sub-registrar-I, District- Ghaziabad, Bounded as: East - Property No. 72, West - Property No. 75 & 30ft wide road, North - 30ft wide road, South - Property no 41 & 42

Date : 01-04-2021, Place : Indirapuram, Ghaziabad Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda

**punjab national bank**  
...the name you can BANK upon!  
...the name you can BANK upon!

CIRCLE SASTRA CENTRE, SOUTH DELHI, Upper Ground Floor, 7 Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066, Ph.: 8003090044, E-mail: coselrd@pnb.co.in, cs3320@pnb.co.in

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE [For Immoveable property]**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **Punjab National Bank** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 9.1.2020 calling upon the Borrower **Smt. Munni Devi Aggarwal & Sh. Harphool Chand Aggarwal, both residing at 1) I-11, Plot No. 52 Parvana Vihar Sector 9, Rohini New Delhi 110085 & (2) Also at QP 105, Block Qp, Pitampura New Delhi 110085 (3) M/s J S R Dream Interiors, 72 Ground Floor, Marbil Market Mangolpur Kalan New Delhi 110083 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 22,32,058.05 (Rs. Twenty two lakh thirty two thousand fifty eight rupees and five paisa) outstanding as on 31.12.2019 with further interest, incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. until payment in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.**

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the properties 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 this the 30th march day of the year 2021.

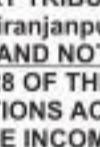
The borrower's /guarantor's /mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK** for an amount of Rs. 22,32,058.05 (Rs. Twenty two lakh thirty two thousand fifty eight rupees and five paisa) outstanding as on 31.12.2019 with further interest, incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. until payment in full.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY**

All part and parcel of property bearing entire basement (without roof/terrace rights), a part of built up free hold property bearing No. 105, in Block-QP, built on land area measuring 84.00 sq mtrs situated in the layout Plan of Pitam Pura Residential Scheme, Delhi in the name of Mrs. Munni Devi Aggarwal, Bounded as: East - Service Lane, West: Road 5mtrs wide, North - Other's property, South - Road 7mtrs wide

Date : 30-03-2021, Place : New Delhi Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank



**OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I/II DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DEHRADUN**

Paras Tower, 2nd Floor, Majra Niranjanpur, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun DEMAND NOTICE

**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.**

RC/321/2020 (Diary No-34) INDIAN BANK (ALLAHABAD BANK) Versus SMT. RUKHSANA W/O SH. MOHD. ASLAM

04-02-2021

To: **CD-1 : Smt. Rukhsana** W/o Sh. Mohd. Aslam R/o Abid Nagar Tila, Peer Ka Bazar, Baghi, Jaunpur, Moradabad, U.P.-244001.

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of order passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTORS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DEHRADUN in OA/109/2020 an amount of Rs. 2662924.00 (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Four Only) along with pendiencelife and future interest @ 10.00% Simple Interest Year w.e.f. 12/03/2020 till realization and costs of Rs. 62000 (Rupees Sixty Two Thousand Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of this notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules thereunder.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 06/04/2021 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:

(a) Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 04/02/2021 Recovery Officer Debs Recovery Tribunal, Dehradun

Note : Strike out whichever is not applicable.

**The Karnataka Bank Ltd.** Your Family Bank. Across India.

Head Office, Mangaluru - 575 002 | CIN : L85110KA1924PLC00128

Asset Recovery Management Branch-8, First Floor, Rajendra Park, Pusa Road, New Delhi-110060. I Phone : 011-25813466 | Mobile : 9319891680 E-Mail : delharm@tktbank.com | Website : www.karnatacabank.com

**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 9(1) of 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 / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower(s) and guarantor(s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

### SCHEDULE OF SALE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

**Description of the Properties / Owner's Name**

**(A) RESERVE PRICE**

**(B) EMD (Last date of deposit EMD)**

**(C) Bid Increase Amount**

**DATE/ TIME OF E-AUCTION**

**Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors**

**(A) Rs. 119.00 Lacs**

**(B) Rs. 11.90 Lacs (11-05-2021)**

**(C) Rs 50,000/-**

**(A) Rs. 41.40 Lacs**

**(B) Rs. 4.14 Lacs (11-05-2021)**

**(C) Rs 10,00/-**

**Brief Terms and Conditions of E-Auction Sale:** The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions: (1) The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" (2) The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. (3) The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.mstccommerce.com> on date and time of auction specified above. (4) For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer [www.bapiin.gov.in](http://www.bapiin.gov.in), [www.tenders.gov.in](http://www.tenders.gov.in), [www.mstccommerce.com](http://www.mstccommerce.com), [eprocure.gov.in](http://eprocure.gov.in)/publish/app, [etender.pbnnet.in](http://etender.pbnnet.in):8443/banks/detail/pnb/MTQy

**STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002**

(Ram Babu) Chief Manager, Authorized Officer, Secured Creditor, Mob: 9897209897, AUTHORIZED OFFICER, PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK

Date: 03-04-2021, Place : Gurugram

For Karnataka Bank Ltd., Chief Manager & Authorised Officer

New Delhi

# Words Worth

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021

ON THE SHELF

INTERVIEW: LAURA SPINNEY, science journalist &amp; author

## 'Covid-19 might buck trend of historically forgetting pandemics'

**British science journalist Laura Spinney** refuses that she was prophetic when she wrote the book *Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918 and How It Changed the World* in 2017 when we were a few years away from the pandemic. When the pandemic of this century struck, she donned her journalist hat to report extensively on Covid. In the process, she got infected with the virus and tested positive. She says she has been confined to her Paris home since most of 2020 and misses the freedom. In conversation with Reya Mehrotra, Spinney, who was part of the recent Jaipur Literature Festival, calls the pandemic a "collective problem that has to be dealt with collectively". Edited excerpts:

Your book *Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918 and How It Changed the World* came out in 2017 when we were just a few years away from the pandemic. Had you imagined another pandemic breaking out soon?

I wrote my book to mark the centenary of the 1918 influenza pandemic because for me it was something we had not accorded enough space in history given the scale of the catastrophe. So it wasn't in any way prophetic. Public health experts will tell you that pandemics happen and they are not that unusual. In fact, we have had 15 pandemics in the last 500 years and two so far in this century alone. At this point, we are not able enough to predict when and where a pandemic will be declared. So the timing and where it would happen, what virus would cause it could not have been predicted for this one too.

It is said every 100 years a pandemic strikes the world — is it a fact or a myth?

It is a sort of myth but every myth has a grain of truth. I think every pandemic in history has been caused by influenza as far as we know. Flu is a disease which lends itself to global spread. It is very mutable — the virus can change very easily so new strains and new subtypes develop to which everybody alive on the planet does not have immunity to. If you think about 100 years, that's roughly the length of a human life and that's roughly how long it takes for the global population to turn over such that when the new strain comes out, nobody is alive who has immunity to any component of that strain as whoever may have been exposed to it before has died. So there is some truth to it.

Most of your books are medical fiction, suspense and thrillers. What draws you to this genre?

*The Spanish Flu* was non-fiction. I love to write fiction. For me it's the antidote to writing non-fiction, about facts — what actually happened. It is my release as I can set off with my imagination. I try to keep it separate but actually the two nourish



(Left) Laura Spinney; and (right) a man crosses an empty street in Greater Brisbane, Australia, earlier this week



AAP IMAGE/DARREN ENGLAND VIA REUTERS

each other. My second novel *The Quick*, which was published in 2007, is the story of a patient with Locked-in Syndrome (LIS) that is somebody who is conscious but completely paralysed. That was nourished by what I was learning in the field of neuroscience and things that I was reporting at that time. So I try to keep these two separate but in reality they tend to bleed into each other.

### What genres attract you?

Literary fiction, crime fiction, biographies and certain kinds of history. I am not quite a big fan of science fiction which is interesting given that I write about science and fiction, but not science fiction as a genre. The interesting thing about pandemics is that they tend not to find their way into fiction. Literary novelists don't really tend to treat pandemics for reasons I am not clear about. It has so much to do about storytelling I believe. But science fiction writers do treat pandemics in their work. Pandemics as a literary fictional device are something which science fiction writers are very familiar with and have been for decades. So, there's a very interesting dynamic going on there.

What should we learn from this pandemic and how do we prepare for the next one?

We should 'remember'. Remember the

pandemics that we have lived through because we have this historic tendency to forget them since they have passed and that means we are trapped in a kind of a cycle of panicking complacency where we panic when one erupts because we forget. One can't predict when the next pandemic will erupt, but prepare by making the health system more robust and putting in place protocols for when such an emergency comes about. We tend not to be very good at doing this, so that could be one thing we could take away from this pandemic, and we will this time because this pandemic is different. It is the first major pandemic to be digitally witnessed, first major pandemic which we have lived through since the internet and its access to everybody. Over the last 12 months you could watch inflation rates and mortality rates pretty much in real time because there was access to the internet. So this pandemic might buck the trend of historically forgetting the pandemics.

Do you think the lived experiences will help the future generation?

We know about the lived experiences in 1918 too because there were newspapers and people recorded their experiences but not in the same volume as now. The internet has completely transformed the volume of information and the speed with which information can be transmitted.

Like, from the beginning we all agreed on a single name Covid-19 whereas in 1918 when the world was at war, the news was slower and people were more isolated in their communities in the world. It took longer for them to realise this was one disease affecting the whole world. It took a while to realise there were many local epidemics so that reflected in names. Many different names were given to that disease in different parts of the world, especially by the most powerful nations in the world that won the world war at that time and that's where the politics comes in. It is always in someone's interest to blame someone else for the pandemic. Pandemics have always gone hand in hand with xenophobia.

Do you plan to write about the coronavirus pandemic?

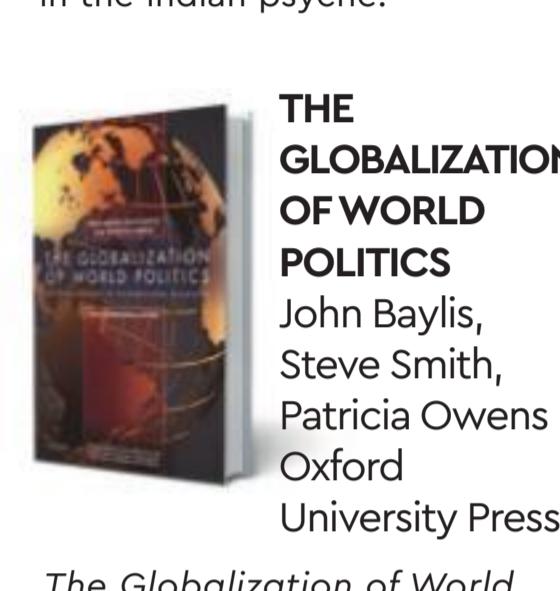
I have been writing about Covid all year and feel like I have done my pandemic book. A lot of books have come out already and I think it's for somebody else to write the definitive story. There will be a new set of stories once the pandemic is over about the impact it had on us as a species. It's important that these books exist along with the digital witnessing. As a writer, I am going to move on to other things. But as a journalist yes, I will write to understand the evolution of the pandemic and why we are still in it.

We are living in an era of misinformation being peddled digitally...

That's a problem and the latest manifestation of it now is with various conspiracy theories about vaccines and it is doing damage, but the rate at which good information has flowed has its advantages. The virus was known all over the world within a few days, the vaccines have come out in a year — none of that could have happened without speedy and accurate information. Maybe in some time we will have filters to separate the two but at this time we have to take on both.

How do you think the pandemic will impact the world?

We are still quite in it. It has killed more than four million people as compared to the 1918 one when it killed 50-100 million people. Whatever happens in this pandemic it is not going to be as bad as that one, especially now that we have got the vaccines. The impact of the former one was much profound and the latter's would be much less. In 1918 it accelerated the trend of socialised medicine. It was in discussion but nobody acted on it. But after this pandemic, universal healthcare system is being looked upon and the governments are realising healthcare as a population issue.



**THE GLOBALIZATION OF WORLD POLITICS**  
John Baylis, Steve Smith, Patricia Owens Oxford University Press

*The Globalization of World Politics* offers the most comprehensive coverage of the key theories and global issues in world politics. The eighth edition engages with contemporary global challenges, featuring a brand new chapter on Refugees and Forced Migration and updated coverage of decolonisation to ensure the book continues to cover those topics that will define the key issues in the future.



**THE NEXT STOP**  
Edited by Vikram Singh Mehta HarperCollins Pp632, ₹799

Edited by Vikram Singh Mehta, an authority in the energy domain, and with essays by a number of global experts, this anthology lays out a comprehensive roadmap for India's natural gas sector by analysing supply, demand, infrastructure, pricing, regulations, finance, technology, policy and a host of other issues. *The Next Stop* is an essential overview of the country's emerging energy sector in the 21st century.



**DEACON KING KONG**  
James McBride Penguin Random House ₹499

In September 1969, a fumbling, cranky old church deacon known as Sportcoat shuffles into the courtyard of the Cause Houses housing project in south Brooklyn, pulls a .38 from his pocket, and, in front of everybody, shoots the project's drug dealer at point-blank range. The reasons for this desperate burst of violence and the consequences that spring from it lie at the heart of *Deacon King Kong*, James McBride's funny, moving novel.



**YOU LOVE ME**  
Caroline Kepnes Simon & Schuster ₹550

Joe Goldberg is done with cities, done with the muck and the posers, done with love. Now, he's saying hello to nature, to simple pleasures on a cosy island in the Pacific Northwest. For the first time in a long time, he can just breathe. He gets a job at the local library — he does know a thing or two about books — and that's where he meets her: Mary Kay DiMarco. The trouble is Mary Kay already has a life. She's a mother.

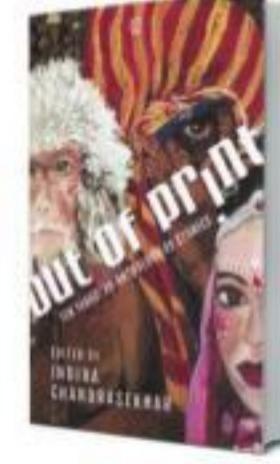
All books available as e-books

### NAWAID ANJUM

**Y**EARS AGO, WHEN Bill Buford was the fiction editor (1995-2002) of *The New Yorker*, he had published a short story by George Saunders, who went on to win the Booker Prize for *Lincoln in the Bardo* in 2017. Saunders, who had to put up with a series of painful edits and was fishing for a compliment, whined to Buford on the phone: "But what do you like about the story?" There was a long pause at the other end. And, then, Buford, who had relaunched the then-defunct *Granta* in 1979 and vaulted it to the literary glory as its editor till 1995, said: "Well, I read a line. And I like it... enough to read the next."

"And that was it: his entire short story aesthetic and presumably that of the magazine. And it's perfect. A story is a linear-temporal phenomenon. It proceeds, and charms us (or doesn't), a line at a time. We have to keep being pulled into a story in order for it to do anything to us," writes Saunders in *A Swim in a Pond in the Rain* (2021), in which he tries to understand the physics of the form through Russian classics.

In *Out of Print, Ten Years: An Anthology of Stories*, a commemorative compendium of 30 stories compiled from the short fiction published in the online literary magazine, *Out of Print*, which completed 10 years in September 2020, the staggering power of the form reveals itself to the reader — a line, a segment and a structural pulse at a time. It was this power that had led Indira Chandrasekhar, a scientist and writer, to envisage a platform devoted to the genre of short fiction from or connected with the Indian sub-continent. The anthology gives a peek into just how substantive the decade has been for the quarterly literary e-zine that has, over the years, featured work from a wide spectrum of writers. Chandrasekhar



**Out of Print, Ten Years: An Anthology of Stories**  
Edited by Indira Chandrasekhar Context Pp 261, ₹499



## A string of stories

An anthology helps us glimpse the many fractures & fissures of India

notes in the introduction that the range of writing reflects "the issues dominating our collective psyche". These writers — both those writing in English as well as those (nearly half) whose works have been translated from Indian languages, including Urdu, Hindi, Kannada, Bangla, Marathi, Malayalam and Gujarati — are "writers with spike and bite, writers rooted and restless, writers telling good old-fashioned stories, undercut with unease", as Sampurna Chattarji succinctly summarises in her blurb for the book. Their stories help us glimpse, Chattarji

adds, "the fractures and fissures of the India we must constantly reimagine, remake, retell and yes — record".

The volume has been neatly categorised into five sections, with each section containing stories with common terrains and thematic concerns. The sections begin with comments by different writers that bring into relief the strands coursing through the veins of these stories — the strands that bind them — as well as their narrative arc. The stories range from the mythological and magical, subversive and surreal. There are stories that delight and

stories that disturb, stories that are at once profound and perceptive, uncanny and evocative, eclectic and electrifying. Some reflect on life and death, others on love, art and beauty. Some explore a sense of the self of their characters while others seem to be preoccupied by their protagonists' place in the world and their journeys within.

In the opening story, *Three Princesses of Kashi*, Shashi Deshpande draws on *Mahabharata* to re-examine and reinterpret the voicelessness and powerlessness of the three Princesses of Kashi — Amba, Ambika and Ambika. At some point in the story,

Ambika, who narrates the story, wonders: "Sometimes I think that if Bhishma had had a mother, if he had a wife, sisters, if he had lived even a part of his life among women, he would have been a different man. But he never knew women, any woman, intimately. He sees them only as creatures meant to bear children, heirs for the family." In her opening comment, Samhita Arni, one of the magazine's first editors, writes how it is essentially a story of sexual exploitation that has its resonance in the era of #MeToo: a story that uses "muted, forgotten" characters to "offer us rich possibilities and new perspectives". The stories that follow, across the sections, are each wondrous in their own ways. For instance, UR Ananthamurthy's *Apoorva* (translated from the Kannada by Deepa Ganesh), Anjum Hasan's *The Big Picture* and Chandrashekhar Choudhury's *Dyaneshwar Kulkarni Changes His Name* — that foreground the dichotomy between the inside and the outside — demonstrate how fiction writers shift between the self, both familiar and strange. Jayant Kaikini (*Threshold*) and Annie Zaidi (*Sujata*) are among the writers who capture the dissolution of love and hope. Krishna Sobti (*The Currency Has Changed*) and Anita Roy (*Jenna*) are among those who "craft place from layers of memory". The six translated stories in the final section, titled *Reality Imagine*, include those by Ali Akbar Natiq (*The Graveyard*), Paul Zacharia (*The Bar*) and Mustansir Hussain Tarar (*Baba Bagloos*). They all examine the inequitable social realities that engender sorrow and suffering, despair and helplessness.

A good short story is said to be the one that examines the human condition well. Many of the stories in this volume live up to that adage — a sharp, a sliver, a vignette at a time, a line at a time.

Nawaid Anjum is a Delhi-based independent culture journalist

New Delhi

# Express Adda

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021



**JAGJIT SINGH MAJHA**  
CHAIRMAN, PCL HOUSING &  
PRESIDENT, CREDAI PUNJAB

I am from a sector which is the second-largest sector after agriculture, contributing eight per cent to the GDP, with the potential of going up to 13 per cent by 2025 if things go the right way. And we are providing support to as many as 669 ancillary industries. Due to the pandemic, we have suffered a lot. Is there any special package in the year to come for the real-estate sector? I am from New Chandigarh and we want a truly international airport so that the youth can come and invest here.

We have three international airports — Chandigarh, we have Halwara which is coming up, and the one in Amritsar. In addition to these international airports, we have other airports like Bathinda and Adampur. As for the number of flights, unfortunately, Covid-19 pushed us back, but the number of flights depends on international agreements. Because if we want to go to Dubai twice a day, we have to allow the Dubai aircraft to come in twice a day. So there seems to be reciprocity on that. As far as urban business is concerned, in Chandigarh, the real-estate prices have risen by 25 per cent in one year despite Covid-19. And the predictions for Chandigarh are that it is going to grow another 25 per cent by next year. So I hope that's good news for you. And as far as the rest of Punjab is concerned, we've had problems during Covid-19, mainly because the construction workers and labourers went back. I had to send back about 470 trains full of labourers to their homes, but they've all returned now and things are working again. So I hope if this is what's happening in Chandigarh, it will start happening in the rest of Punjab too. And if there's anything we can do to assist you, please tell us and we will be there for you.



**SUMAN BERY**  
BOARD MEMBER, SHAKTI  
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY  
FOUNDATION

For Punjab specialising in agriculture, it is also the case that you and other chief ministers have had the benefit of advice from some of India's most distinguished economists, including Dr Manmohan Singh. What practical ideas have they given you about how to close the gap, say with Haryana, because there was a stage at which Punjab was one of the richest states, but now you're at about No. 19 while Haryana is about No. 5?

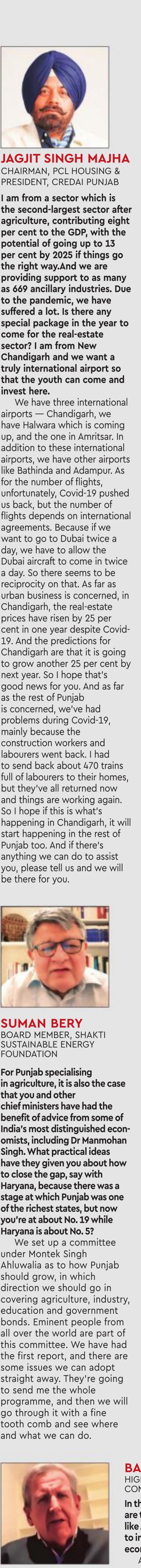
We set up a committee under Montek Singh Ahluwalia as to how Punjab should grow, in which direction we should go in covering agriculture, industry, education and government bonds. Eminent people from all over the world are part of this committee. We have had the first report, and there are some issues we can adopt straight away. They're going to send me the whole programme, and then we will go through it with a fine tooth comb and see where and what we can do.



**BARRY O'FARRELL**  
HIGH COMMISSIONER, AUSTRALIAN HIGH  
COMMISSION TO INDIA

In the post-Covid world, what opportunities are there in states like Punjab, for countries like Australia that are strong allies of India — to invest, to trade more, and to help both our economies recover?

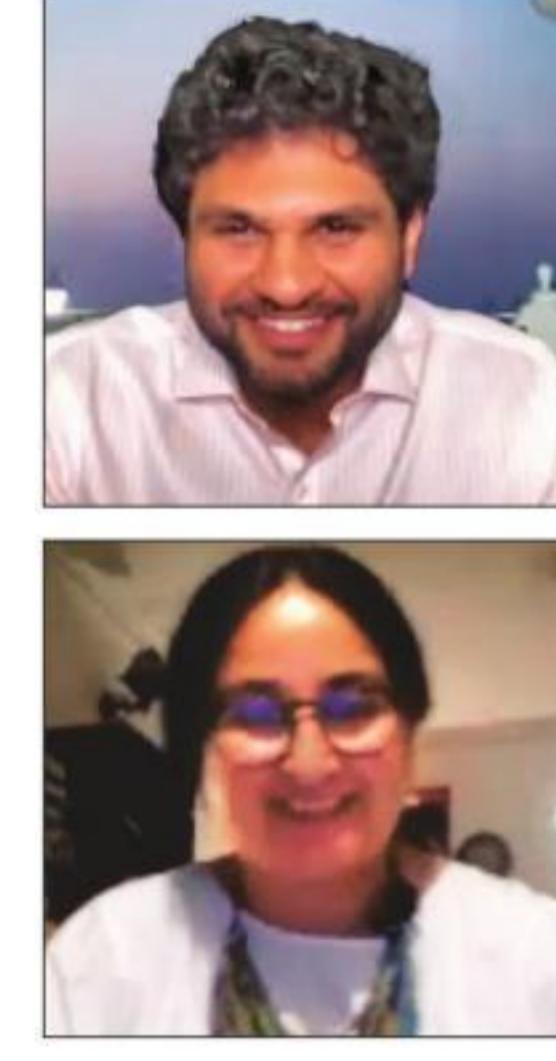
At the moment, we don't have much



presents

**The Indian EXPRESS**  
**eAQDA**

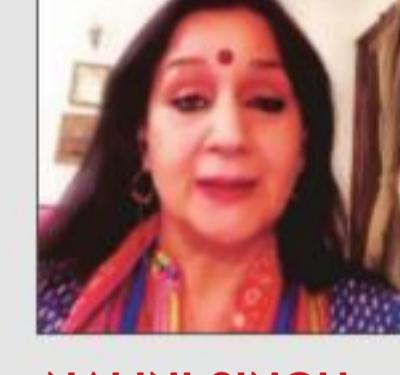
Singh was in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, and Vandita Mishra, National Opinion Editor, *The Indian Express*



**SANJIV NAVANGUL**  
CEO AND MANAGING  
DIRECTOR, BHARAT SERUMS  
& VACCINES

We always talk about targets on food production, but probably up the value chain on food processing and storage, we don't talk much and that is not something where India has been successful. Is there a way to ensure that we really go up the value chain there?

We must remember that there's no stoppage of any food processing industry coming in here. I have ITC working here, Nestle and Amul are here also, they have come from Gujarat. Pepsi is making snack foods here, so is perhaps ITC. If anyone wants to come here for the food industry, we have no objection. Prices have been better this year but there was a time when people were dumping potatoes on the road, because they couldn't even recover the harvesting cost.



**NALINI SINGH**  
DIRECTOR, TV LIVE INDIA

You were very dismissive of General (Qamar) Bajwa, and maybe that's perfectly right. But the UAE has told the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to cease hostilities. How do you read this, that the deepest heart of the Islamic hub, the UAE, should be nudging an Islamic Republic to become closer to an increasingly Hindu India?

Today, our relationship with our friends in the Islamic world is becoming warmer, and I think that could be an avenue which could be used by our country and our friends to bring peace with the Islamic world. As for being dismissive of General Bajwa, the man is not in a position to call the shots himself. He operates according to his core commanders, and he has to have the ISI, the civil government companies and/or the prime minister on board. Has he taken them up or is he just shooting off on his own? But I know that the ordinary people of Pakistan want peace.



**AJIT GULABCHAND**  
CHAIRMAN, HCC LIMITED

You are a border state, you have been hurt by every war we've had with Pakistan, even the Partition, which is a non-war war, you got hurt. What do you think is the defence of the 21st century for India that will allow Punjab to protect itself and also, therefore, as a result, create peace with Pakistan?

You know, nobody wants war. Least of all a soldier. Nobody wants to see their colleagues being shot. But it's our job to protect our borders. As far as how it's going to end, it is not in our hands. We are there to defend the country, it is for the Government of India to decide whatever it wishes in terms of bringing peace with Pakistan and China. And that is the way that Punjab can secure itself.

## QUICK QUESTIONS

At an e-Adda held recently, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh spoke on why he changed his mind to contest the next elections, the new farm laws and the crisis in the Congress leadership

### On contesting elections again

Before the election, I had said that this was going to be my last, but it's not going to be my last term, till I can get Punjab out of the woods, which I think is my duty. And not only my duty, it's also my love for my state. I resigned twice from Parliament to be with my state. I have been in politics for 52 years and I take a lot of interest in doing what I can to pull us out of this mess — whether it's an industrial or agricultural mess.

### On the new farm laws

We have an *arhtiya* system in Punjab, which has worked for 100 years. In this system the commission agents are there, farmers are there, and they have a relationship between them. The farmer always goes to the *arhtiya* men and takes whatever advance he needs, for a wedding, health emergency or other problems. So, it's a system that has worked. Why are you messing around with this system? Second, when Punjab has contributed since 1967 — we're two per cent, and we contribute 40 percent to the nation's food pool — when you make laws, you must consult the people who are in this. Now in this case, we were not consulted at all.

### On where the farmers' protests are headed

Farmers are backed by everybody in Punjab. There are about 13,000 villages, and every village has contributed... Why? Because they realise that if they are seeing what is happening, it's going to be the end of the farming community's profitability in Punjab. Why can't you just allow things to carry on? I don't understand why the government has been so rigid about this.

### On whether a middle path is still possible

Every battle, every war has to end in an agreement, whether it was World War I or II, whether in corporate disagreements or anywhere. So, you have to sit down and resolve it. And it is for the government to come to that because they are the ones who created the Bill.

### On whether he is worried a hardliner fringe in Punjab could be stoked up

This is something that can always happen. I've seen it happening, 52 years is a long time in politics, and I've been through the (Operation) Blue Star period, I've been through the post-Blue Star period, I've been through the period when my chief minister (Beant Singh) was assassinated. I've

six books on military history. If you are talking about history, then I think Waterloo. Then of course, I went to Ypres, where my own regiment fought, and I followed the path with a military historian. In India, I think it's how we contained Operation Gibraltar. When fellows sent some seven columns across and they wanted to penetrate Kashmir and operate in various areas, kill, assassinate, and how General Harbaksh Singh dealt with it.

### One thing you like about our Prime Minister

I have known Mr Modi since we were chief ministers together. He was the CM of Gujarat and I of Punjab — 2000-07. He has his own outlook to life, whether you agree with that or not, but he's determined. One thing I like about him is that he is quite clear in his mind what he wants and he goes ahead. There's no waffling. Otherwise, I don't agree with many of his policies. I don't agree with his agricultural policies at all. I don't agree with this business of turning the country into a Hindutva state.

been subsequently into the other period, it nearly started again, had we started digging the SYL (Sutlej-Yamuna Link) Canal again. I've got a 600-mile border, right from Akhnoor down to Fazilka, with Punjab, with Pakistan, and they have open access now. Earlier it used to be tunnelling under the wire or crossing the river, now you've got drones, and these will increase in capacity.

For longer version, go to  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

Eminent guests who participated in the e-Adda include Sandeep Mishra, Director, Standard Chartered; Yoginder Alagh, Professor Emeritus & VC, Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research; Mahesh Munjal, CMD, Majestic Auto Ltd; Alok Agarwal, Founder & ED, Striver Capital Advisors; Gurdeep Singh, Chairman, Kloeckner Pentaplast India; Mangal Dev, Chief Executive, Hitachi; Anu Aga, Former Chairperson, Thermax Ltd; Neelkanth Mishra, Co-head of APAC Strategy - India Strategist, Credit Suisse; Bharat Kewalramani, Director, 3D Technopack; Saugata Bhattacharya, EVP and Chief Economist, Axis Bank; Atul Choksey, Chairman, Apcotex Industries; Mohit Batra, Butalia, Director, Zubaan Publishers; Nasim Zaidi, Former CEC, Govt of India; Sudeep Lakhtakia, Former DG, NSG; Tavleen Singh, Columnist; Girish Luthra, Former Commander-in-Chief, Indian Navy; Fali Nariman, Senior advocate and jurist; Ayaz Memon, Journalist; Shubhada Rao, Founder, QuantEco Research; Ranganathan V, Director, India Cements Ltd; Rakhee Bhandari, Resident Commissioner, Punjab Govt; Sanjay Sachdev, Chairman, Zyfin Capital; Arvind Paranjpye, Director, Nehru Planetarium; Anshul Mathur, Vice president, Communications & Advocacy, Asia Pacific, BP; Ajit Shriram, Managing Director, DCM Shriram Ltd; Feroz Abbas Khan, Screenwriter, Theatre & Film Director

### Associate Partners



**SONALIKA**  
LEADING AGRI EVOLUTION

**SURYA**  
PROFESSIONAL LIGHTING SOLUTIONS

**EXPERION**  
THE POSITIVE SIDE OF LIFE  
100% FDI REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER

**BARRY O'FARRELL**  
HIGH COMMISSIONER, AUSTRALIAN HIGH  
COMMISSION TO INDIA

In the post-Covid world, what opportunities are there in states like Punjab, for countries like Australia that are strong allies of India — to invest, to trade more, and to help both our economies recover?

At the moment, we don't have much

Australian interest in in Punjab, we would certainly welcome anything. It's very nice of you to ask this. Any group from Australia that wishes to come to Punjab, please tell us. You want me to go to Australia to meet them, we are happy to do that, or you will send them here for me, and we will do anything we can. I want Punjab to be a welcome destination for all industries.



**CHANDRAKANT SALUNKHE**  
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, SME CHAMBER  
OF INDIA

How will you encourage more industry in Punjab? I have attended one or two programmes of investment in Punjab, where I found that the government officials are focussing more on the CII and FICCI. I wanted to suggest if you could set up one exclusive

desk at such events, where SMEs from India and abroad can think about investment in Punjab.

We would welcome your anytime. The CII is here, and we meet them, but if you want to come and organise something here, please tell me, I will organise it for you. We will bring your people here and have a meeting. There is no monopoly with CII or somebody else, we would like everyone to come to Punjab.

New Delhi

# Spotlight

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021



## THE POLITICS OF FASHION

VAISHALI DAR

**L**EAD IN A cast, rolling in a wheelchair, Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee rallied her election campaign in the heart of Kolkata despite an injury. A valiant and relentless electoral campaigner in spirit and soul, she forewarned her rivals on how "an injured tiger is far more dangerous". Attesting to this was her disarming trademark white cotton sari with a monochrome blue border and her signature *hawai chapati*—possibly a preferred "uniform" outfit and a forte multiplier to resonate with the common man. Blue and white are Banerjee's favourite colours and all government buildings in West Bengal are painted in the two shades.

Before the Lok Sabha election in 2019, the political slogan on her chappals, "Dilli jabe hawai choti" (The chappal will go to Delhi), went viral. All this is related to Banerjee's non-elite, ordinary social background and committed political career, with her sartorial style playing a major role in defining mass appeal. "Attire is a powerful visual means of communicating ideology, whether political, social or religious. From the communist values of simplicity, equality, frugality and solidarity, exemplified in the Mao suit, to the myriad of fashion protests by feminists such as French revolutionary women's demand to wear trousers, the dress can symbolise ideological orthodoxy, as well as revolt," says Delhi-based Nandita Abraham.

### Personalised style

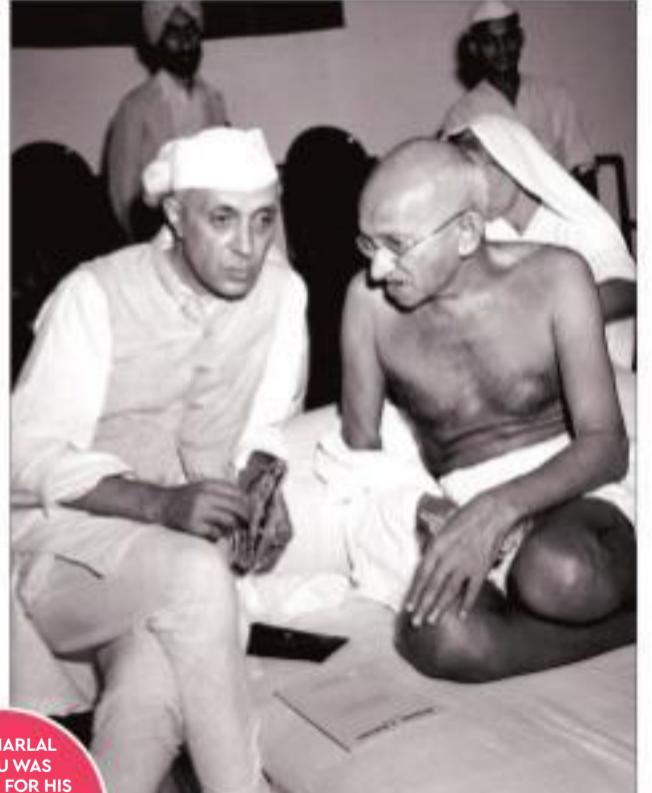
All through modern history, politicians across the world have chosen style statements that assert their philosophy or belief system. Sometimes it is so overpowering that it captures our collective imagination.

Dressing is a medium of communication through which people in positions of power aim to evoke emotional response and connect at the grassroots and cultural level, says Antonio Maurizio Grilo, dean, school of fashion, Pearl Academy, adding that communication is one of the major beacons of social design, empowering faith, unity, integrity and reuniting purpose. "Starting from the political to cultural fabric, the role of signifying by colour, attire and style has helped to establish icon and standard ideologies. Over a chronological study, it would be very easy to decipher that leaders of politics, culture, etc, have defined faith and beliefs with the help of personal style," says Grilo.

Closer home, Mahatma Gandhi may have been seen as "indecently dressed", during his movements abroad, but he nevertheless made a mark through his attire. Gandhi, who was always clad in a *dhoti*, was quite infamously labelled "the half-naked *fakir*" by Winston Churchill. "Gandhi's humble and profoundly effective *khadi* attire symbolised humility and *ahimsa*," says Soumik Sen Barat, creative head and founder, House of Three, a Bengaluru-based fashion design studio.

Gandhi's attire was a façade of simple living, as the CBI questioned his nephew and TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee's sister-in-law in a coal scam this year.

The politics of dressing has always been under scrutiny as it reckons with the past and the present, sometimes doubt the integrity and image of our favourite politicians. For instance, Banerjee's dressing, according to Madhya Pradesh minister Nilotapan Mishra, is a



JAWAHARLAL NEHRU WAS FAMOUS FOR HIS WELL-FITTED JACKETS, WHILE GANDHI WAS ALWAYS CLAD IN A DHOTI

ments by designers Stewart Parvin and Angela Kelly. According to her daughter-in-law Sophie, the Countess of Wessex, and as quoted in the documentary, *The Queen at 90*, "She wears to ensure crowds can see her."

Close home, Mahatma Gandhi may have been seen as "indecently dressed", during his movements abroad, but he nevertheless made a mark through his attire. Gandhi, who was always clad in a *dhoti*, was quite infamously labelled "the half-naked *fakir*" by Winston Churchill. "Gandhi's humble and profoundly effective *khadi* attire symbolised humility and *ahimsa*," says Soumik Sen Barat, creative head and founder, House of Three, a Bengaluru-based fashion design studio.

Gandhi's attire was a

caps, Indira Gandhi's handloom cottons and Rahul Gandhi's more contemporary twist, replacing the *jawahar* waistcoat with a quilted Burberry bomber waistcoat, each had their own message to deliver," says Barat, adding, "Politicians have a value system to uphold and their personal style is thoughtfully crafted to communicate those values. Conservatives dress conservatively, secular liberals add a touch of contemporary, stern right-wingers dress flamboyantly and assertively, using bold colours (reflecting a mix of arrogance, adoration and attention-seeking pomp and show), while dictators wear military uniforms.

— SOUNAK SEN BARAT, CREATIVE HEAD & FOUNDER, HOUSE OF THREE, A FASHION DESIGN STUDIO

ments by designers Stewart Parvin and Angela Kelly. According to her daughter-in-law Sophie, the Countess of Wessex, and as quoted in the documentary, *The Queen at 90*, "She wears to ensure crowds can see her."

Close home, Mahatma Gandhi may

have been seen as "indecently dressed", during his movements abroad, but he nevertheless made a mark through his attire. Gandhi, who was always clad in a *dhoti*, was quite infamously labelled "the half-naked *fakir*" by Winston Churchill. "Gandhi's humble and profoundly effective *khadi* attire symbolised humility and *ahimsa*," says Soumik Sen Barat, creative head and founder, House of Three, a Bengaluru-based fashion design studio.

Gandhi's attire was a

caps, Indira Gandhi's handloom cottons and Rahul Gandhi's more contemporary twist, replacing the *jawahar* waistcoat with a quilted Burberry bomber waistcoat, each had their own message to deliver," says Barat, adding, "Politicians have a value system to uphold and their personal style is thoughtfully crafted to communicate those values. Conservatives dress conservatively, secular liberals add a touch of contemporary, stern right-wingers dress flamboyantly and assertively, using bold colours (reflecting a mix of arrogance, adoration and attention-seeking pomp and show), while dictators wear military uniforms.

— SOUNAK SEN BARAT, CREATIVE HEAD & FOUNDER, HOUSE OF THREE, A FASHION DESIGN STUDIO

Sometimes a pen in the pocket, a tie pin, a brooch, pocket square and choice of footwear can make strong statements as well

— YATAN AHLUWALIA, A GURUGRAM-BASED FASHION GROOMING & IMAGE CONSULTANT

**From the simple *dhoti* of Mahatma Gandhi and tailored *bandhgala*s of Jawaharlal Nehru to Mamata Banerjee's trademark blue-and-white cotton sari and Arvind Kejriwal's muffler, politicians' choice of clothes and accessories have often gone beyond reflecting their sartorial sense, becoming a window to their philosophy and belief system**

known these jackets as Nehru jackets & now I find these ones have been labelled 'Modi Jacket'. Clearly, nothing existed in India before 2014."

In a 2018 report published in a British daily, Modi jacket was subject to colour. However, the makers of the jacket confirmed the difference between the two. "Nehrujacket used to largely wear white and off-white jackets. He never wore colours. Modij brought in colours and a new design," said Gujarat-based Bipin Chauhan, managing director, Jade Blue Lifestyle India, the retailer of Modi jackets, in an interview with *The Indian Express*, adding that Modi popularised the jacket and took it to the masses, making it a statement among corporates.

Conscious of their image and fan following, many political leaders make use of subtle dressing styles to connect with the common man. While some opt for a more personalised style using specific colours (often the colours of the flag as seen in the ties worn by Trump—mostly red or blue), things like religious identity (saffron for Hinduism, green for Islam), prints, patterns and accessories help them make a cultural connection (wearing a print from a region while addressing a rally). "Khadi in India is worn to connect with the people. Rahul Gandhi has worn shirts with jeans, which helps him connect with a younger audience, especially when he is sporting a young and lively image in a *kurta-pyjama* and sneakers, sitting in a *chattri* and talking to people in a *dhobi* shop," says Ahluwalia.

Sonia Gandhi, too, has been known for her dignified dressing sense from before she entered politics. Her love for *khadi* prints and traditional handloom weaves like Telia Rumal from Andhra Pradesh is clear from her various appearances, be it public gatherings or election campaigns. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, too, is often seen in a crisp white shirt with black trousers that resonate with the capital's cosmopolitan culture or a handloom saree that reminds one of her Indianness.

The hair, too, becomes an accessory. A striking feature in former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi's persona was a streak of grey in her hairdo, done by Habib Ahmed, father of celebrity hair stylist Habib. Then there is Mayawati. Her look—diamond earrings, a *dupatta* slung around her neck and a bob cut—signifies pride in her cluster Dalit following.

Some politicians, however, don't need styling tips. Their natural sense of style makes a statement and conveys a message. Like the iconic red rose pinned in Jawaharlal Nehru's *sherwani*, Rajiv

Gandhi's modern and chic dressing in sneakers and sleeveless jackets, and Rahul Gandhi's sleek version of Nehru jacket as compared to Modi's in linen, silk, pastel shades, etc.

In yet another innovation, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal earned himself the moniker of "muffler man", thanks to his trademark woollen scarf. His *topi* during the Jantar Mantar and Ram Leela Maidan protests also resonated with the common man. "Wearing the national dress has been a common practice. Some first ladies and women leaders cover their arms and legs while visiting the Middle East. Most politicians normally don't follow fashion trends and like to keep their look understated, simple and fuss-free. However, sometimes a pen in the pocket, a tie pin, a brooch, pocket square and choice of footwear can make strong statements as well," says Ahluwalia.

The hair, too, becomes an accessory. A

striking feature in former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi's persona was a streak of grey in her hairdo, done by Habib Ahmed, father of celebrity hair stylist Habib. Then there is Mayawati. Her look—diamond earrings, a *dupatta* slung around her neck and a bob cut—signifies pride in her cluster Dalit following.

In his book, *Power Dressing: First Ladies, Women Politicians and Fashion*, fashion journalist and author Rob Young offers an engaging perspective on the ability of style to influence the careers of women politicians and first ladies, ranging from such contemporary figures as Michelle Obama, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, Angela Merkel and Queen Rania of Jordan to iconic women like Eva Perón, Imelda Marcos and Margaret Thatcher. In his past media interactions, Young has emphasised how many female political leaders with their diverse wardrobes have made a strong statement and become powerful dressers compared with their male counterparts.

Fashion expresses political opinion

through personality, prints and designs, say experts. "Fashion as a medium has the power to make political/social commentaries that can be hard-hitting and effective. Masses in general follow more fashion than art or literature and, hence, using it as a medium to send a message has been used time and again by designers and brands for outdoor activities.

While Theresa May, former prime minister of the UK, wears a mix of graphic designs and textured jackets, Barack Obama, former president of the US, adapts a chic and classy look in his tailored dark-hued suits from Chicago-based label Hart Schaffner Marx.

Hillary Clinton, too, is often known to choose pantsuits that make a bold statement—she wore a white pantsuit to Donald Trump's presidential inauguration in 2017. According to news reports, Clinton's choice of white was a subtle show of support to the historic women's suffrage movement.

When it comes to Michelle Obama, the former first lady is quite fond of India-born designers, especially Naeem Khan and Bibhu Mohapatra. Khan designed her gown for a state dinner in India in 2009, as well as many looks for her daughters Malia and Sasha. He also designed a dress made of fabric from Kashmir and embroidered with floral Indian motifs for a 2016 Cuba state dinner. Minniesha and Nusrat Jahan were in the spotlight for wearing western outfits to the Parliament in 2019. In 2008, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra wore trousers with a white shirt to Parliament to hear her brother Rahul Gandhi's speech during the vote debate.

When a bastion of traditions fall, fashion claims its space and parliaments around the world have slowly begun to embrace change. In 2017, John Bercow, former speaker of the House of Commons in the UK, said the convention required male MPs to wear jackets and blazers while Hillary Clinton's kitten heels, with a subtle message of a woman's strength, were a hit.

The French parliament, on the other hand, has a dress code for MPs, requiring them to dress formally. It does not, however, have an official dress code policy. And yet French MP Jean-Luc Mélenchon sparked outrage in 2017 for refusing to wear a tie in parliament, claiming he did not want a dress code to be "imposed" on him. President Emmanuel Macron, on the other hand, is always immaculately dressed in a suit and tie.

When it comes to women politicians in parliament, there are a multitude of hurdles to overcome. In 2012, for instance, a colourful dress worn by Cécile Duflot, the former French minister of housing, triggered an inappropriate remarks and whistles from her male counterparts. Donald Trump, too, had a fix with the dress code to "dress like women".

Women politicians and fashion, fashion journalist and author Rob Young offers an engaging perspective on the ability of style to influence the careers of women politicians and first ladies, ranging from such contemporary figures as Michelle Obama, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, Angela Merkel and Queen Rania of Jordan to iconic women like Eva Perón, Imelda Marcos and Margaret Thatcher. In his past media interactions, Young has emphasised how many female political leaders with their diverse wardrobes have made a strong statement and become powerful dressers compared with their male counterparts.

Fashion expresses political opinion

EXPRESS PHOTO



BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE PREFERENCES TO WEAR WHITE COTTON SARIS WITH A MONO-COLOURED BLUE BORDER

Gandhi's modern and chic dressing in sneakers and sleeveless jackets, and Rahul Gandhi's sleek version of Nehru jacket as compared to Modi's in linen, silk, pastel shades, etc.

In yet another innovation, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal earned himself the moniker of "muffler man", thanks to his trademark woollen scarf. His *topi* during the Jantar Mantar and Ram Leela Maidan protests also resonated with the common man. "Wearing the national dress has been a common practice. Some first ladies and women leaders cover their arms and legs while visiting the Middle East. Most politicians normally don't follow fashion trends and like to keep their look understated, simple and fuss-free. However, sometimes a pen in the pocket, a tie pin, a brooch, pocket square and choice of footwear can make strong statements as well," says Ahluwalia.

Sonia Gandhi, too, has been known for her dignified dressing sense from before she entered politics. Her love for *khadi* prints and traditional handloom weaves like Telia Rumal from Andhra Pradesh is clear from her various appearances, be it public gatherings or election campaigns. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, too, is often seen in a crisp white shirt with black trousers that resonate with the capital's cosmopolitan culture or a handloom saree that reminds one of her Indianness.

The hair, too, becomes an accessory. A

striking feature in former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi's persona was a streak of grey in her hairdo, done by Habib Ahmed, father of celebrity hair stylist Habib. Then there is Mayawati. Her look—diamond earrings, a *dupatta* slung around her neck and a bob cut—signifies pride in her cluster Dalit following.

In his book, *Power Dressing: First Ladies, Women Politicians and Fashion*, fashion journalist and author Rob Young offers an engaging perspective on the ability of style to influence the careers of women politicians and first ladies, ranging from such contemporary figures as Michelle Obama, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, Angela Merkel and Queen Rania of Jordan to iconic women like Eva Perón, Imelda Marcos and Margaret Thatcher. In his past media interactions, Young has emphasised how many female political leaders with their diverse wardrobes have made a strong statement and become powerful dressers compared with their male counterparts.

Fashion expresses political opinion

through personality, prints and designs, say experts. "Fashion as a medium has the power to make political/social commentaries that can be hard-hitting and effective. Masses in general follow more fashion than art or literature and, hence, using it as a medium to send a message has been used time and again by designers and brands for outdoor activities.

While Theresa May, former prime minister of the UK, wears a mix of graphic designs and textured jackets, Barack Obama, former president of the US, adapts a chic and classy look in his tailored dark-hued suits from Chicago-based label Hart Schaffner Marx.

Hillary Clinton, too, is often known to choose pantsuits that make a bold statement—she wore a white pantsuit to Donald Trump's presidential inauguration in 2017. According to news reports, Clinton's choice of white was a subtle show of support to the historic women's suffrage movement.

When it comes to Michelle Obama, the former first lady is quite fond of India-born designers, especially Naeem Khan and Bibhu Mohapatra. Khan designed her gown for a state dinner in India in 2009, as well as many looks for her daughters Malia and Sasha. He also designed a dress made of fabric from Kashmir and embroidered with floral Indian motifs for a 2016 Cuba state dinner. Minniesha and Nusrat Jahan were in the spotlight for wearing western outfits to the Parliament in 2019. In 2008, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra wore trousers with a white shirt to Parliament to hear her brother Rahul Gandhi's speech during the vote debate.

When a bastion of traditions fall, fashion

claims its space and parliaments around the world have slowly begun to embrace change. In 2012, for instance, a colourful dress worn by Cécile

Duflot, the former French minister of housing, triggered an inappropriate remarks and whistles from her male counterparts. Donald Trump, too, had a fix with the dress code to "dress like women".

But things are slowly beginning to change. Last year, Switzerland rolled back an "antiquated" ban on women showing their shoulders in parliament and relaxed its clothing regulations for women to wear clothing which is appropriate to their official standing.

### STYLE STATEMENT

Former first lady of the US Jackie Kennedy, who made a statement with her pillbox hats, pearls and white gloves, was styled by designer Oleg Cassini. He also dressed Hollywood stars like Jayne Mansfield, Audrey Hepburn & Rita Hayworth.

# Leisure

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021



## LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

The linguistic diversity of coastal India includes languages of the Dravidian language family, including Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Tulu and Kannada; languages belonging to the western zone of Indo-Iranian language families, including Gujarati, Marathi, Konkani, etc

### ● INTERVIEW: ALASTAIR LEWIS

Professor, University of York, and director, National Centre for Atmospheric Science, UK

# 'Only tackling vehicles wouldn't solve the air pollution problem in India'

**Professor of atmospheric chemistry at the University of York and a director of the National Centre for Atmospheric Science in the UK, Alastair Lewis is a leading international figure in fighting air pollution across the world. Currently chair of the UK government's science advisory group on air pollution, he has been working with scientists in India the past five years to create new measurements of emissions for Delhi. Lewis, who was a speaker at this year's Jaipur Literature Festival, spoke with Faizal Khan about the science of air pollution and his work in India. Edited excerpts:**

**How different and dangerous is our atmosphere today compared to the last century?**

It's a complex answer to a simple-sounding question. In short, it depends very much on where you are in the world. In some locations, notably Europe, North America and Japan, air quality in 2021 is much better than it was 50 or 100 years ago, the product of more than a century of emissions controls, gradual de-industrialisation and decarbonisation of the energy supply. However, for perhaps the majority of the world population, air pollution has gotten worse compared to 50 or 100 years ago. Lots of reasons lie behind this: rapid growth in population, expansion in economies, industrialisation replacing agriculture as a dominant part of economies and increased standard of living are all drivers of increased pollution. In terms of danger, this is a difficult one to answer. The toxicity of air pollution has certainly changed over the last 50-100 years.

**What are the major factors that have contributed to the deterioration of earth's atmosphere?**

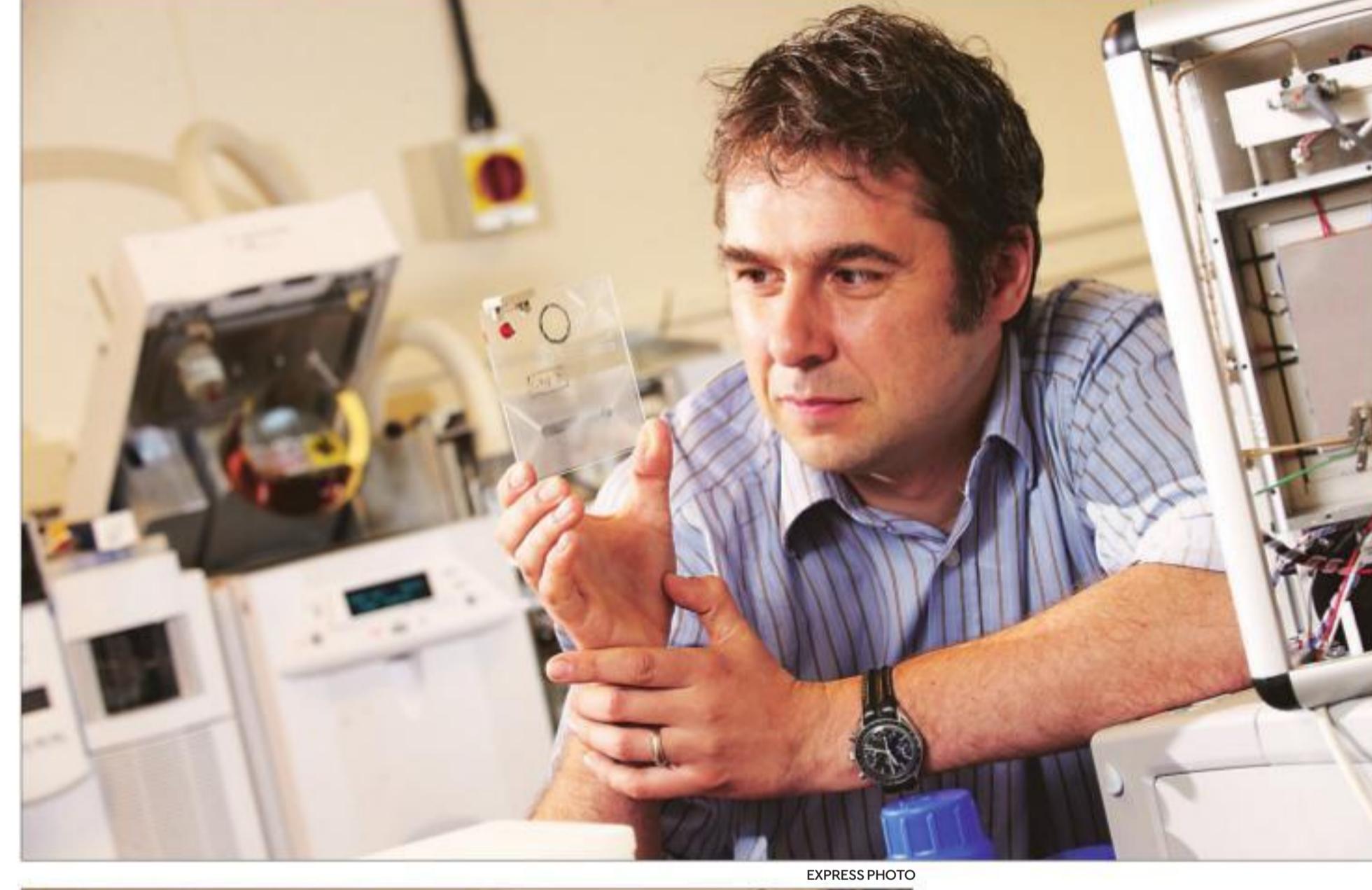
There is a difficult balancing act to manage, something which has played out over centuries, which is how do you grow economies and improve standards of living without going through a period of poor air quality as a consequence? Providing affordable access to electrical power and heat for homes and cooking has, in the past, meant burning fossil fuels, and coal has historically been a very cheap way to do this (although this is changing rapidly). Increased transportation of people and goods leads to more fossil fuel-based emissions, and even the provision of more food leads to emissions and air pollution. There are now solutions to many of these problems, but they often still cost more than the older polluting versions, and the demand for economic growth has often taken precedence.

**How do you explain the vast differences in air quality of places like Delhi and London?**

The first point that is often overlooked is geography. Even if London and Delhi had identical emissions per person, London would probably do better on average. The UK is a small island on the edge of a very windy and wet Atlantic ocean with very little in the way of upwind emitters for thousands of kilometres. Delhi is surrounded by a large land mass and has climatic conditions in winter that can lead to severe build-up of pollution. Of course, that isn't the only reason. London has been grappling with air pollution since the early 1800s and was, for many years, probably the most polluted city on earth. It is now almost completely de-industrialised and has seen implementation of ever more stringent air quality controls, and in the wider UK, since the 1960s. Delhi currently has substantial emissions coming from within the city itself, but it's also affected by the wider NCR, and indeed the country beyond that. The process of controlling and reducing air pollution in India has only been running in earnest for a couple of decades, so is in its early phases. The key challenge for India and Delhi is to pass through this polluted transition as quickly as possible. London was terribly polluted for perhaps 150 years. The question is whether Delhi can fix its pollution problems much quicker than that.

**Is there enough international collaboration on air pollution and setting standards and limits?**

There is excellent international collaboration on research into atmospheric chemistry and air pollution, and an open environment of sharing knowledge. Often, this is very hands-on international cooperation on measuring pollution in the field, sharing advanced instruments for studying pollution and developing models. In the last five years, I've been involved in large



collaborative projects between the UK and Chinese scientists on measurements in Beijing, and with Indian scientists, working together in Delhi.

You have mentioned working with Indian scientists in Delhi. Would you elaborate on the collaboration?

There have been some large India-UK collaborative experiments on air pollution in the last couple of years. My own institution, University of York along with Universities of Manchester and Birmingham have been working with IIT-Roorkee, IIT-Kanpur, CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur. This has involved bringing equipment from the UK to India to join with equipment already in India to make new measurements of atmospheric composition, of pollution emissions (for example, from vehicles) and to improve modelled estimates of emissions for official inventories.

How advanced is scientific research into air pollution today? Are there things we don't know yet?

The major challenge is ensuring that we keep track of how the chemistry of pollution changes as pollution sources change, and that we are confident that we can design solutions that work well for the place they're going to be implemented. In the 1960s in the UK, pollution chemistry was dominated by sulfur from the burning of coal in power stations and homes. That

needed research to understand those processes. But coal burning has virtually disappeared in the UK, to be replaced by processes linked to vehicles and agriculture instead. The chemistry that produced photochemical smog (which is predominantly low-level ozone) used to be dominated by the chemistry of gasoline vapour and car exhaust, but now, it is controlled by chemicals from commercial solvents and household products. So air pollution is a moving target and ensuring our scientific knowledge keeps up with present-day (and future) emissions is key.

Vehicular pollution is often cited as the major reason for air pollution in Indian cities. How does it hold against science and data?

It's not just Indian cities... around the world, vehicles are probably the most clearly identifiable source of urban air pollution. They are, of course, very important, and this includes not just pollutants that come from the tailpipe, but also from the

(Left) A file photo of traffic in Noida, one of the most polluted cities in the country; and (below) men fishing in a polluted Yamuna

wear of tyres and brakes, and the agitation of the road surface. But there is a risk that sometimes too much attention gets paid to this one very visible source. The harmful effects of nitrogen oxides from vehicles combine with agricultural emissions of ammonia to form harmful particulate matter (sometimes called PM2.5). Only tackling polluting vehicles wouldn't solve the problem, it needs policies that reduce emissions from multiple sectors simultaneously. Having said that, Delhi does still operate with a large proportion of high-emitting vehicles and so there is a lot that can be done to reduce emissions.

During the lockdown last year, people in Punjab could see the Himalayan peaks over 100 km away. How has coronavirus impacted air pollution?

In some places, the reduction in travel and industrial output has had a significant impact on air pollution. It hasn't been universal, but some of the imagery of improved visibility that came out of India was the most dramatic anywhere in the world. The pandemic has shown how the atmosphere responds to large changes in emissions, and that the effects and benefits can occur very rapidly. The biggest sector affected by the pandemic was transportation, and so those locations where transport made up a large fraction of air pollution saw the largest improvements—India being one of those places. The pandemic has seen considerable social engagement with the issue of air quality, and it has been an encouragement in some badly affected countries to do more, because for the first time, a world without poor air quality has been visible. Having said that, in countries like the UK, reductions in some pollutants were rather small because road transport is no longer such a dominant source of pollution.

You have criticised air filtration methods like smog towers in the past. Are domestic air purifiers any different?

They can make a positive difference for particulate matter, especially if you live in a badly polluted location. If I lived in Delhi, I would probably own an air filtration system for my home. But they aren't an equitable or sustainable solution. They move responsibility for good air quality away from the polluter and on to the individual family, leaving them to clean up the air in their own home even if they didn't pollute it. This introduces a whole set of inequalities into the provision of clean air. If you have the resources, you can buy your way around the problem. Up until recently, air pollution has been a great leveller. No matter whether you were rich or poor, we all breathed the same air, and that was a powerful motivation for action at the civic level.

There are also a whole bunch of other unsustainable aspects about filtration like the materials to feed them with electricity and filters and so on, and I have some concerns about how the disposal of billions of filters in landfill might play out over time.

Faizal Khan is a freelancer



## STORIES FROM THE COAST

Chennai-born naturalist Yuvan Aves has been on the road the past two years to document stories along the Indian coastline

### FAIZAL KHAN

**YUVAN AVES WAS A CLASS X student when he walked out of school one day never to return. The Chennai-born naturalist and ecological activist began a journey of self-education, racking up A-levels and degrees through distance learning. Years later, Aves has embarked on another journey — this time to educate society about the well-being of human beings and the earth.**

Two years ago, Aves hit the road to launch his massive project to travel along the Indian coast to document stories of coastal communities. So far, he has visited his home state of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, the Andaman Islands and Goa. "I am collecting stories from around the coastline — about biodiversity, conservation efforts, coastal communities and livelihoods, displacement and habitat loss, and changing coastal geographies in India," says the naturalist.

Aves appeared for the first time at this year's Jaipur Literature Festival on its opening day to talk about nature with British writer Robert Macfarlane and illustrator Jackie Morris, who together created the award-winning *The Lost Words: A Spellbook* about the disappearance of words related to nature from lexicons.

The naturalist and activist traces the origin of his journey along the Indian coastline to his involvement in the campaign against a megaport project near Pulicat lake in Tamil Nadu, which many believe would cause severe environmental damage to the fragile coastal wetlands near Chennai.

"The megaport project (with several illegalities) proposed near the Pulicat lagoon would erase this bioregion from our maps and make a large part of Chennai prone to cyclone and flooding, along with threatening its water security," explains Aves, a member of the Madras Naturalists Society.

"But the commercial interests of Adani Port Ltd seem to be more important than the interests of lakhs of people who would be affected and are protesting against it. For environmental justice, we need radically ground-up systems of governance and politics," adds the activist, who has completed documentation of the Tamil Nadu coast with the Madras Naturalists Society.

His interest in nature began when he was a student at the Krishnamurti Foundation of India school in Chennai. His mother, who spotted the child's early interest, backed her son. "My school was grounded in J Krishnamurti's philosophy. He said, 'One has to be a light onto oneself' and about having a relationship

with all of life," says Aves.

The naturalist in him became an activist (though he fails to see a distinction between the two) when he was watching Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg's movement and young people across the world demanding climate justice. "I was also watching environmental misgovernance in India and in Tamil Nadu, and felt strongly that we had to speak up," he adds. In 2019, Aves and his fellow climate activists created the Chennai Climate Action Group to advocate, research and campaign for environmental and social causes.

Aves is aghast at the inability of society to understand its irrevocable links with nature. "American naturalist EO Wilson speaks about our natural affinity to relate, protect and interact with wilderness and calls it 'biophilia,'" Aves says. "I think part of the reason for the crises today is the prevalent ecological illiteracy. We don't understand how the living earth and its various ecologies function as a whole. We let companies decide what happiness and well-being should mean for us, and let these ostensible ideas be monocultured," he says.

Aves is, however, optimistic about the future. "I believe that if schools and children could have extraordinary education where the well-being—in all its complexity and plurality—of all human-beings and the earth was the centre of the curriculum, we would see such a difference in the world in a single generation," he says, reeling out the biggest challenges facing ecological conservation in the country.

"The biggest challenges are colonial-type top-down systems in place, where the voices of people in power and with wealth matter far more than the people on the ground."

Aves's journey along the Indian coast has taken him to Kumbalangi near Kochi in Kerala, Havelock and Port Blair in the Andaman Islands and the northern coast of Goa. While visiting coastal communities, he meets fisherfolk, local activists, scientists and conservationists. "I study about the place beforehand, but go to see what that specific coastal ecology has to speak for itself. I am learning that fisherfolk and coastal communities are very broad terms, which include a multitude of micro-economies and livelihoods dependent on the coast and the sea.

"And I am learning that they are politically, geographically and climatically most vulnerable."

Aves is hoping to complete his journey in the next three years and put all the stories from the coast in a book.

Faizal Khan is a freelancer



AVES  
HOPE TO COMPLETE HIS JOURNEY IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS AND PUT ALL THE STORIES FROM THE COAST IN A BOOK



While visiting coastal communities, Aves makes it a point to meet fisherfolk, local activists, scientists and conservationists

# Idea Exchange

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021

You say Didi government has not delivered but the BJP has not presented any alternative agenda either. So if there is a weakness, it is that they haven't been able to give a positive agenda... and that is going to be decisive"



## WHY PRASHANT KISHOR

From Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2014 campaign, that propelled the BJP to victory after 10 years, to successfully helming the poll strategies of chief ministers such as Amarinder Singh, Nitish Kumar, Arvind Kejriwal and Jagan Mohan Reddy, Kishor has been at the centre of many high-profile political campaigns in the past

decade. In the coming elections, he is hoping to work the same magic, as he steers the campaigns for CM Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal and DMK chief MK Stalin in Tamil Nadu — both high-stakes contests. Kishor also had a brief stint in the JD(U) organisational side, but was dropped from the party last year



"In a polarised election 50-55% of the majority community votes for BJP. They cannot win Bengal unless they get 60% of majority votes... I don't think Bengal is as polarised as we have seen in other parts of India..."

## 'Identity politics was always there... question of how you play it up... SCs in Bengal most crucial factor this time'

Poll strategist Prashant Kishor says it is a fight between Mamata and Modi and turncoats don't matter, explains how BJP creates fear before a contest, and warns that if TMC loses Bengal, India will be headed for one nation, one party, with BJP controlling people's lives



Prashant Kishor with Political Editor and Chief of National Bureau Ravish Tiwari in The Indian Express newsroom

ABHINAV SAHA

must admit he is quite popular... He is probably the most popular BJP leader. (But in Bengal) He is not more popular than Didi. And in an election where it is about electing a chief minister, probably we have an advantage.

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR: How much has your presence added to the narrative of the TMC's collapse, with many leaders like Suvenu Adhikari alleging that Mamata doesn't run the TMC?

I am there to do a job, which is to help the Trinamool win elections. I am not there to make friends... Suvenu Adhikari was a powerful Trinamool leader. He has said on stage that he has been in touch with the BJP since 2014. Now, if you are advising the Trinamool and you know this fact, what would you say? You would say that please get rid of these people. Also, since the reorganisation after the Lok Sabha polls, some might have felt that they have not got as much prominence as they would have liked... Okay, blame Prashant Kishor because he is new... It doesn't bother me. Somebody will run the affairs. To say that Prashant Kishor is running... Earlier it was Suvenu Adhikari, before that Mukul Roy... A lot of people are making accusations that Didi is no longer running the party. My argument is Mr Amit Shah runs the BJP. All the decisions of organisation and otherwise are taken by him. But can we say that Mr Modi is not running the BJP? It is not a valid argument. Whoever the leader of the party trusts will run the party as per her wishes and direction. Didi is the core of the Trinamool, there is no Trinamool without Mamata Banerjee. She is not a part-time politician; she is there 24/7. You cannot make any significant decision without her consent... I'm not a factor, Suvenu Adhikari is not a factor. The fight is between Mr Modi and Ms Mamata Banerjee; I'm inconsequential. People like me are inconsequential. We are probably giving ourselfs too much importance on both sides.

HARISH DAMODARAN: Both the TMC and DMK (which Kishor is also working for) are playing on sub-national pride. But don't you think a new constituency is coming up which looks at Hindi as aspirational, Lord Ram as aspirational, and that Mr Modi is addressing them directly?

As a political entity, you are entitled to use what you think is going to work for you. If you think Ram or Hindi is going to work for you, or creating a national identity is going to work for you, you can use it. If somebody else thinks creating a sub-national identity — that I'm a Bengali or

central committee of the BJP to sit here and know the nuances of the block- and taluka-level politics in West Bengal or Tamil Nadu and make those decisions?

DIPANKAR GHOSH: Will anti-incumbency and anger against local leaders affect the TMC's chances?

Yes, it is a factor and that's why the effort is to mitigate it to the extent possible. Almost 60% of the Block presidents are now new. More than 80 MLAs have been dropped. All those things, I hope, have contributed to mitigate... I am not saying everyone will become a fan of your government, but it will certainly help mitigate some of the anger, if there was any.

RAVISH TIWARI: By doing things like reciting *Chandi Path*, is Mamata Banerjee falling into the BJP's trap. Also, is she opting for defensive tactics?

It is right to be a bit defensive and not unnecessarily take too many risks, because elections are also about not making unforced errors. Yes, you want to win, but you do not want to commit too many unforced errors. Why would she go and do something which could be risky? We have a good lead... It is for the BJP to take the risk.

MONOJIT MAJUMDAR: What specific inputs do you give Didi in terms of candidate selection, strategy?

The work we do is quite misunderstood. We do everything that is required to be done to help the party or the leader who we are working for to win the election. We do everything. Now if I do their social media, or help them with data, or whether I'm doing candidate selection or advising her on her speeches... It is futile to get into that. We do everything that is required for a party that is willing to seek our opinion. Do you think the BJP makes candidate selections without inputs from professional agencies? What are you talking about? Do you think it is possible for the

a Tamilian — is going to help, then they are entitled to use it... At the end of the day it is a provincial election. If Mr Modi says I am son of Gujarat, he has a natural advantage in Gujarat. So if someone is claiming I am the daughter of Bengal, what is wrong in that? She (Mamata) is a daughter of Bengal...

KRISHN KAUSHIK: As a political strategist, do you see any weaknesses in the BJP's Bengal campaign and Brand Modi in particular?

In Bengal, they (the BJP) haven't been able to present a positive narrative. You say Didi's government has not delivered but the BJP has not presented any alternative agenda either. So if there is a weakness, it is that they haven't been able to present a positive narrative or positive agenda... and that is going to be the decisive factor.

(On Brand Modi) I am not an expert but the BJP usually underperforms in Vidhan Sabha elections compared to the Lok Sabha polls. The performance in the Lok Sabha can be attributed to Mr Modi's popularity, but the reverse is also true — the under-performance is because of his inability to transfer his votes to the provincial leader.

If you plot it on a graph, you will see a downward trend (in Assembly poll results) since 2014. I am not saying he is not popular, but his ability to transfer votes is probably starting to go down a little bit... For example, since 2019, the BJP's performance in Assembly polls has seen a double-digit percentage point decline in vote share, whether it is Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Delhi or Bihar. Everywhere they have seen close to 12 percentage point decline since 2019. This underperformance was in high single digits between 2014 and 2019.

RAVISH TIWARI: What do you make of doubts over EVMs by political parties?

Unless you have substantive proof to

"If performance in LS polls due to Mr Modi, BJP's underperformance in Assembly polls is because of his inability to transfer his votes to provincial leaders... Since 2019, this has seen a double-digit decline"

back what you are saying, it's just gossip. Even if it is true, I don't have proof...

RITIKACHOPRA: But the TMC has raised the issue of rigging of EVMs...

Political parties can raise the issue. I am not here to comment on the Election Commission of India... (But) It is not a coincidence or, maybe it is, that all the seats in which the BJP was leading in the Lok Sabha polls are being slotted for the first four-five rounds... For the first time a district is being carved out for three, four or five rounds. For example, Nadia North is run by the Trinamool and Nadia South by the BJP. Now South goes to polls first, North later... We would like to believe that the ECI is independent. But if you are really turning the lens on it... Why should four out of 31 seats of South 24 Parganas be slotted in round one? It's beyond me... We know that in a phased election, if you gain early traction, you are likely to benefit on the margins in terms of perception. All strongholds of the Trinamool are slotted in the sixth, seventh and eighth rounds...

RAVISH TIWARI: Do think identity or social justice politics has come to Bengal?

Identity politics was always there. It's a question of how much you play it up. I haven't gone to any state in India where caste/identity is not a factor. The SCs in Bengal are the most important factor in these elections. This is not to say that Rajbanshis and Namasudras... didn't exist earlier. They always existed, parties paid attention to them also. But it is now being brought to the forefront a bit more... just like we have seen in UP and Bihar.

RAVISH TIWARI: The Modi government has completed seven years. What has changed electorally and what still remains a constant?

I have said this in the context of the Bengal elections... If the BJP were to win, we are looking at the prospect of one nation, one party. Why do I say so? We have seen governments with a bigger majority than this one. We have also seen parties ruling India for far longer than this. Why are we saying that this is different? It is because of the reason that beyond your voting preference, here is a government that wants complete dominance on the psychological mindspace of people. They don't just want your vote. They also want to interfere into what you wear, eat, who you are friends with, and what your faith is. That bothers people... Never before in this country, a ruling party has given a war cry to wipe off the Opposition. That is problematic... People are not worried because they voted for them (the BJP) and they are in majority. People are worried that when they come,

they will say you cannot wear jeans, be friends with Muslims... Hence, in this backdrop, if they win Bengal, we would have made a decisive step in the direction of one nation, one party.

VANDITA MISHRA: When parties rely on professional organisations like yours, does it mean they are losing faith in own feedback mechanisms? Also, since you handle campaigns for parties, how important is a campaign for winning an election?

It is not that parties have lost faith in their own feedback mechanisms... (At) End of the day, it is the politician who makes the decision. Whether he is basing his decisions on two inputs or 20 inputs is immaterial. But logically speaking, more the sources of information, better are the chances of factoring in many more issues.

Campaigns perse cannot make you win or lose elections. We collect data for some people, manage social media for others. We also help in candidate selection. But we have taken a conscious call that we will only do elections where we have an opportunity of a year or a year-and-a-half, where we help rebuild the party and leader. If you look at our association with the Trinamool or the DMK, it's much longer. So by campaign if you mean the efforts in the last 30 or 60 days, that cannot change the result.

RAVISH TIWARI: You said what is worrying about this dispensation is that they want to go beyond the vote. How effective has the Opposition been in talking about this?

It is worrying for a lot of people but the Opposition is just not getting it. They are thinking... it's because they (the BJP) are winning elections and the media is fearful... But winning elections isn't creating fear... People are much more fearful because they (the BJP) want complete dominance beyond votes, electoral politics... They want to reset the narrative — the way you think, work. That is creating fear and the Opposition is not handling that issue.

Why have we given this 'Khela hobe' slogan in West Bengal? Before the BJP enters an election, they create psychological fear. They are a three-MLA party in Bengal and Amit Shah comes and claims Didi is gone and that she is alone. You give up without fighting. Hence, we are saying game on. That's why this ('Khela hobe') has become such a big thing. So much so that the PM is responding every day to it.

The second part is the repositioning from 'didi' (sister) to 'beti' (daughter). When you call someone 'didi', you are looking at them as the provider, the protector... And hence the slogan 'Bangla nijermeyeke chai' (Bengal wants its own daughter).



# Mind & Games

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021

## Can't take the heat? A taste for spicy foods can be learned

If you feel left out, here are tips for enjoying—or at least tolerating—the burn

DANIEL VICTOR

**T**HE SAUCES ON the table remain untouched—plain is fine, thank you. Is that some sort of red flake? Better pick around it. Travelling to a country known for its red-hot cuisine? Cross your fingers that you can find the one mild dish on the menu.

Those who love spicy food might find these behaviours pitiable. But to those who struggle with spiciness and culinary heat, they may be part of a routine mealtime negotiation that involves stepping around potential land mines that will produce agonising pain and make the food all but inedible. A resistance to spiciness can produce shame as well as taunts from others who see their love of spiciness as an act of courage or a mark of more refined tastes. Others who don't like the spiciness myself included—might counter with, "It really hurts, and how could anyone possibly enjoy this sensation?" But for those who would like to wipe their aversion away, opening themselves up to a much fuller world of flavours and experiences, experts offer some solace: Yes, most people can train themselves to eat spicy food.

"It is absolutely possible to do that," said John E Hayes, a professor of food science and the director of the Sensory Evaluation Center at Penn State University. "We have the laboratory data to show that even in a few weeks you can increase your tolerance."

For some people, it may take much longer than a few weeks. But experts say there do not appear to be any genetic factors preventing most people from liking spicy food. It's more about repeated exposure.

Alissa A Nolden, a professor of food science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, conducted an experiment with people who reported not liking spicy food.

For three weeks, the researchers had the subjects rinse in the morning and at night with a mouthwash containing capsaicin, the active component in peppers that creates a burning sensation. They were asked to record how intense they thought the heat was each time.



The researchers observed "a huge change in intensity rating" toward the end of the experiment, Nolden said. Much of the disparity in people's perceptions traces back to what kind of food they ate as children, said Mary-Jon Ludy, a professor and chair of the department of public and allied health at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. A child raised in Mexico or India, or raised in the United States by parents who cooked spicy food, is more likely to seek out spiciness as an adult than those raised on blander diets.

Ludy herself grew up without spicy food, not trying it until she went to an Indian restaurant in college. It "set my mouth on fire," she said. Though she likes spicy food now, she still does not enjoy more intense heat.

"For folks who don't consume spicy foods on a regular basis, even a small amount seems to overwhelm the ability to experience flavour and enjoy the other components of foods," Ludy said.

Those who have learned to like spicy food as adults often tell a similar story: They slowly ramped up their exposure, trying medium buffalo wings after they

MUCH OF THE DISPARITY IN PEOPLE'S PERCEPTIONS TRACES BACK TO WHAT KIND OF FOOD THEY ATE AS CHILDREN

became accustomed to mild buffalo wings, or progressively adding chili flakes to their meals. Some people say they rapidly adapted their tastes. Others say it took them years.

Hayes of the Sensory Evaluation Center says there is little to immediately show for the efforts. Unlike beer or coffee, which some people find distasteful at first but come to appreciate for their immediate effects, spicy food doesn't leave reluctant people feeling anything positive after trying it, he said.

One technique he recommends is to take a page from training a dog or a child. Reward a reluctant person for eating spicy food by offering verbal praise, positive affirmation or other incentives.

But those undertaking the journey should be aware that they might build a willingness to eat spicy food without ever developing the burning desire for it seen in others, Hayes said. "You could become more tolerant while still hating it," he said.

Sara Kay, a 32-year-old in Bratislava, Slovakia, who was raised in Rockville, Maryland, said it was not hard avoiding spicy food for most of her life. Her parents' cooking was delicious but not spicy. Later, she attended culinary school in France, where the cuisine did not require much spiciness.

Her turning point came in 2013 when a friend took her to Xi'an Famous Foods in New York. She tried a salad that was numbingly hot, but despite the pain she still loved the taste of it.

"I'm crying while I'm eating this salad, but I feel like I needed to embrace it," she said. After that, she started adding Frank's RedHot sauce to more of her dishes, and then Sriracha. She has trained herself to enjoy it more and

more, and now appreciates that she can order more items off menus, she said.

For Shane Leigh, 46, his longtime distaste for spicy food was wrapped up in his identity issues, he said.

The son of two Jamaican immigrants who often cooked with jerk sauce and made curried goat and chicken, he grew up in the Kensington neighbourhood of Brooklyn around people who were mostly of European descent, many of them Italian or Irish. To fit in, he thought he needed to shy away from his heritage, including its food. "There was a disconnect for me with what I was living at home and what I thought was the path to popularity when I left the home: hamburgers, hot dogs and pizza," he said.

But in his 30s, he became more interested in his heritage. And his wife, the daughter of immigrants from Hong Kong, also had an aversion to spicy food.

So they slowly worked to embrace spiciness together, gradually building up their tolerance over several years. Now they have both adjusted, and even crave foods they couldn't stand before.

"Embracing the food from the place where my parents are from is sort of like a homecoming that you didn't know you needed," Leigh said.

And now your author will confess that this has also been self-help disguised as reporting, as my inability to handle spiciness has carried a significant social cost.

At times I feel no need or desire to adapt, because, oow, it is intense pain and I am nowhere near enjoying it.

If other people enjoyed being punched in the face while they ate, and insisted there was something wrong with me for not enjoying being punched in the face while I ate, I would not request that they punch me progressively harder until I began enjoying it. I would wonder why everyone didn't just eat their dinners without being punched, and I'd be happy that I avoided that fate.

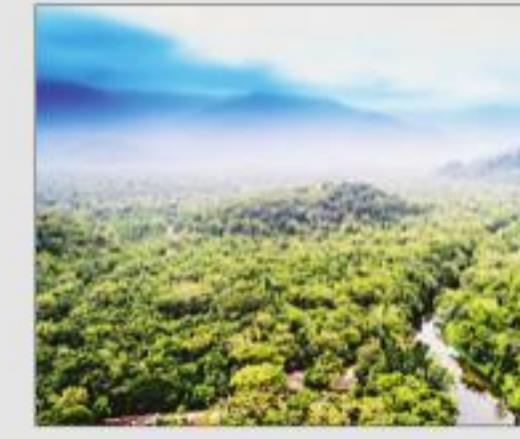
But I am well aware that this approach to eating has its limitations.

It isn't fun to sheepishly ask friends to taste-test curries at the Indian restaurant for you, or to disappoint everyone by asking if a shared dish can be served mild, or to admit you won't be able to split your dinner companion's favourite appetiser.

I am often told I'm missing out not just on flavours, but also on the way they're woven into cuisines from other cultures that I would otherwise like to experience.

So I'm working on it. Maybe getting punched will be nice someday.

NYT



**Tropical forest destruction accelerated in 2020**

■ Tropical forests around the world were destroyed at an increasing rate in 2020 compared with the year before, despite the global economic downturn caused by the pandemic, which reduced demand for some commodities that have spurred deforestation in the past.

■ Worldwide, loss of primary old-growth tropical forest, which plays a critical role in

keeping carbon out of the atmosphere and in maintaining biodiversity, increased by 12% in 2020 from 2019, according to the World Resources Institute, a research group based in Washington that reports annually on the subject.

■ Overall, more than 10 million acres of primary tropical forest were lost in 2020, an area roughly the size of Switzerland. The institute's analysis said loss of that much forest added more than two-and-a-half billion metric tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere every year.

■ Brazil once again led the world in forest loss by a wide margin, as the pro-development policies of the country's President, Jair Bolsonaro, led to continued widespread clear-cutting. Surging forest losses were also reported in Cameroon in West Africa. And in Colombia, losses soared again last year after a promising drop in 2019.

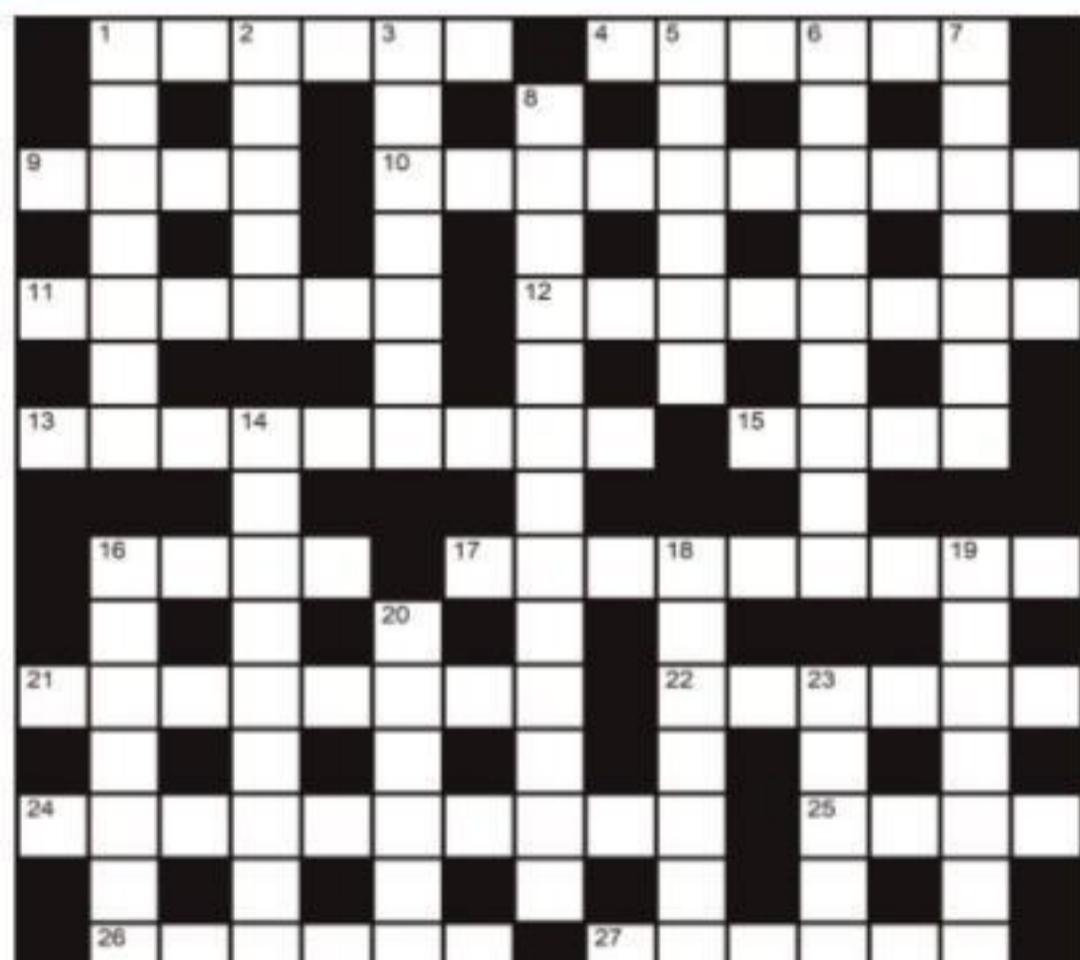
HENRY FOUNTAIN/NYT

## CROSSWORD

## KAKURO

## BRIDGE BOUTS L SUBRAMANIAN

## LEXICON



**ACROSS**  
1 Russian currency (1/100th of a Rouble) (6)  
4 Clanger, "muster" anagram? (6)  
9 "A" in LAN, the computer jargon (4)  
10 Retire - with a golden handshake, maybe (7,3)  
11 \_\_\_ Laboratories Ltd (sounds like a man who is in charge of a monastery!) (6)

26 Uproar; enthusiasm; admiration? (6)  
27 Check or stop development of (6)

**DOWN**  
1 Arctic deer (7)  
2 Famous art gallery in Madrid - "do rap" anagram? (5)  
3 The money invested, in a way (7)  
5 Purlin (6)  
6 Place where monks or lamas stay? (9)  
7 Mirror or contem-plate (7)  
8 The Ambani brothers (4,3,6)  
14 Paper Mills Ltd : paper mill of the Thapar Group (9)  
16 Didn't buy? (4)  
17 E in ESOP (9)  
21 The axe used by the Red-Indians (8)  
22 Honda's car model (6)  
24 "C" in CNG (10)

given to bind a contract (7)  
20 Mr Gehlaut the co-founder of Indiabulls (6)  
23 It's prices are mostly governed by OPEC (5)



## BIZ QUIZ

1 Who is the head of the experts advisory committee set up for the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme?  
2 Which Indian public-sector bank has incorporated a new wholly-owned subsidiary for its credit card business?  
3 India's envoy in which country has handed over training kits worth ₹81 lakh for capacity building?

## 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

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.

## REVERSE JUMP- PART II

We shall now see how the responder rebids after opener's reverse jump:

Let us say west has opened 1C and east has responded 1S with S Q-T-x-xHx-x-xD K-J-x-xCx-x. When west jumps to 3D, east should simply bid 3S, indicating he is bare minimum for his response and that he is not interested in bidding game. West usually passes this unless he is 18+, in which case he can bid game.

Suppose east had bid 1S on S Q-T-x-xH K-x D A-x-x-xCx-x. When west jumps to 3D, east should jump to 4S.

Suppose east has a near-opening hand or better, he can bid 3H as an enquiry. Opener bids 3NT to show singleton in heart, the other major, 4D to show singleton diamond (both indicate 'mini splinter' hands with 16-17 points). 4S shows balanced 'power raise' hands of 4-4-3-2/4-3-3. However, opener bids 4C if he has 18+ points and 5-4-2-2 'power raise' hand.

If the response had been 1H and a reverse jump is made, 3H is passable. 3S is enquiry, with 3NT/4D showing 'mini splinter'. 4H shows balanced 'power raise' hands of 4-4-3-2/4-3-3. As before 4C shows 'power raise' with 5-4-2-2.

Let us bid a few hands:

West	N SA 5 2 H 7 D K Q 6 CA K 3 2	East	S E 6 4 3 HK 9 5 3 D 1 7 5 C Q 7	1C 3D Pass	1S 3S
------	---	------	--	------------------	----------

West	N SK Q 5 2 HA 7 5 D 4 CA K 6 3	East	S S 7 4 3 HK 6 4 DA 8 2 CT 7 5	1C 3D Pass	1S 4S!
------	--	------	--	------------------	-----------

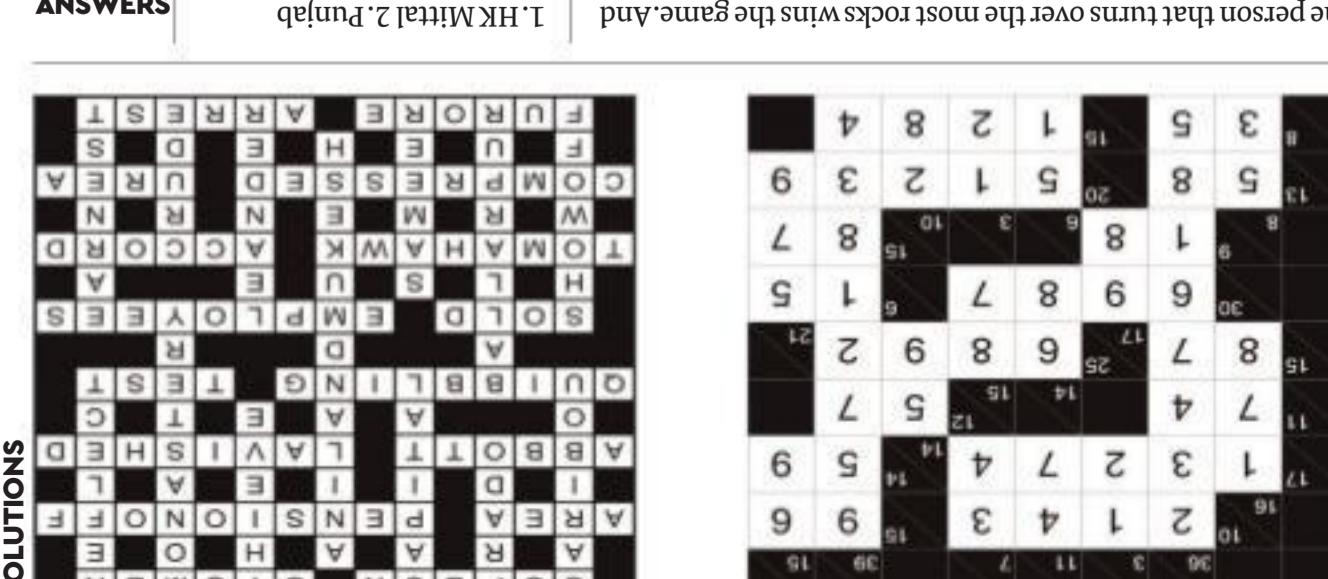
West	N SA 8 HA 7 5 3 DA 7 6 CK Q J 5	East	S SK T 5 HK 9 6 2 DK 8 5 CA 9 6	1C 3D 4H 5C Pass	1H 3S 4NT 6H
------	---	------	---	------------------------------	-----------------------

West	N SA 7 5 3 HA 8 DA 7 CK Q J T 5	East	S SK Q 6 2 H K T 5 DK 8 5 CA 9 6	1C 3D 4C 5C Pass	1S 3H 4NT 7S
------	---	------	--	------------------------------	-----------------------

**PUNDIT**  
■ n. A young and inexperienced critic or commentator.

Washingtonians still cling to their notions of power, even as the city's importance is draining away. Instead of great cold war statesmen, we have Clinton, Gingrich, Hastert and Carville. Instead of Walter Lippmann, we have 20-something pundits on MSNBC.

—David Brooks, "A Money Player in A Power Town," The New York Times, December 26, 1999



**SOLUTIONS**

ANSWERS  
1. HK Mittal 2. Punjab  
2. National Bank 3. Sri Lanka  
3. Peter Lynch  
4. PDU equals KIT  
5. Una mashiq unyu ucsqh ilas una wihi sieph fdqhu una tywa. Yqb unyu'h xyfvh jaaq vv mndxihimnyw. - Maus Xvgn  
6. This person that turns over the most rocks wins the game. And that's always been my philosophy.

**BLOCKAGE CLEARED**

# Shipping backlog in Suez Canal ends, days after giant vessel freed



United States Navy aircraft carrier USS Dwight D Eisenhower (CVN 69) transits the Suez Canal, in this picture taken on April 2 and released by the US Navy on April 3

CAMERON PINSKE/US NAVY/HANDOUT VIA REUTERS

**The last 61 ships, out of 422 ships that were queuing when the vessel was dislodged on Monday, passed through on Saturday**

REUTERS  
Cairo, April 3

**ALL SHIPS STRANDED** by the grounding of the giant container ship Ever Given in the Suez Canal in March had passed through the canal by Saturday, ending the backlog that built up during the blockage, the canal authority said.

The last 61 ships, out of 422 ships that were queuing when the vessel was dis-

lodged on Monday, passed through the vital trade artery on Saturday, the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) said.

International supply chains were thrown into disarray when the 400-metre-long (430-yard) Ever Given ran aground in the canal on March 23, with specialist rescue teams taking almost a week to free her after extensive dredging and repeated tugging operations.

In total, 85 ships had been due to pass through the canal on Saturday including 24 ships that arrived after Ever Given was dislodged, the SCA said.

An SCA investigation began on Wednesday into what caused the vessel to run aground in the canal and block the waterway for six days, the canal authority's chairman, Osama Rabie, told the MBC Masr private TV late on Friday. "The investigation is going well and will take two more days, then we will announce the results," he added.

Germany, along with the European Union as a whole, has lagged behind the US and the UK in the speed of its vaccination effort amid slower procurement of vaccines and complaints about excessive bureaucracy and paperwork.

Poll numbers for Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative party have slipped as the country faces a national election on September 26.

The petition of Bharti Airtel, which was filed before Vodafone Idea's, is also on similar grounds. "There are a number of apparent arithmetic errors in DoT's demands, such as duplications in revenue addition, errors of omission and errors of commission, which have nothing to do with the inclusion or exclusion of a particular head of revenue as final as per the AGR judgement dated October 24, 2019," Bharti Airtel said.

Tata Teleservices has also filed a petition on similar grounds.

Though in February last week the SC had agreed to hear the petitions, it has so far not given a date. Both DoT officials and industry executives feel that both the issues, whether they need to pay 10% of the total amount as first installment or the balance amount, and the rectification of arithmetical

errors, maybe clarified and considered when the matter comes up for hearing.

**Another new high for India, 89,129 daily cases reported**

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 24,69,59,192 samples have been tested for Covid-19 up to April 2 with 10,46,605 of them being tested on Friday.

The 714 new fatalities include 481 from Maharashtra,

57 from Punjab, 43 from Chhattisgarh, 16 each from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, 14 each from Kerala and Delhi, 12 from Tamil Nadu, 11 from Gujarat and 10 from Haryana.

Of the 1,64,110 fatalities reported so far in the country,

55,379 are from Maharashtra,

12,750 from Tamil Nadu,

12,591 from Karnataka, 11,050

from Delhi, 10,335 from West Bengal, 8,836 from Uttar Pradesh and 7,225 from Andhra Pradesh and 6,983 from Punjab.

The health ministry has

stressed that more than 70%

of the deaths occurred due to

comorbidities. "Our figures are

being reconciled with the

Indian Council of Medical

Research," the ministry said on

its website, adding that state-

wise distribution of figures is

subject to further verification

and reconciliation.

The petition of Bharti Airtel,

which was filed before Vodafone

Idea's, is also on similar grounds.

"There are a number of apparent

arithmetic errors in DoT's

demands, such as duplications

in revenue addition, errors of

omission and errors of comis-

sion, which have nothing to do

with the inclusion or exclu-

sion of a particular head of rev-

enue as final as per the AGR judg-

ment dated October 24, 2019," Bharti

Airtel said.

Tata Teleservices has also

filed a petition on similar

grounds.

Though in February last

week the SC had agreed to hear

the petitions, it has so far not

given a date. Both DoT officials

and industry executives feel that

both the issues, whether they

need to pay 10% of the total

amount as first installment or

the balance amount, and the

rectification of arithmetical

errors, maybe clarified and con-

sidered when the matter comes

up for hearing.

**Another new high for India, 89,129 daily cases reported**

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 24,69,59,192 samples have been tested for Covid-19 up to April 2 with 10,46,605 of them being tested on Friday.

The 714 new fatalities include 481 from Maharashtra,

57 from Punjab, 43 from Chhattisgarh, 16 each from Uttar

Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, 14 each from Kerala and Delhi, 12 from Tamil Nadu, 11 from Gujarat and 10 from Haryana.

Of the 1,64,110 fatalities reported so far in the country,

55,379 are from Maharashtra,

12,750 from Tamil Nadu,

12,591 from Karnataka, 11,050

from Delhi, 10,335 from West Bengal, 8,836 from Uttar

Pradesh and 7,225 from Andhra

Pradesh and 6,983 from Punjab.

The health ministry has

stressed that more than 70%

of the deaths occurred due to

comorbidities. "Our figures are

being reconciled with the

Indian Council of Medical

Research," the ministry said on

its website, adding that state-

wise distribution of figures is

subject to further verification

and reconciliation.

The petition of Bharti Airtel,

which was filed before Vodafone

Idea's, is also on similar grounds.

"There are a number of apparent

arithmetic errors in DoT's

demands, such as duplications

in revenue addition, errors of

omission and errors of comis-

sion, which have nothing to do

with the inclusion or exclu-

sion of a particular head of rev-

enue as final as per the AGR judg-

ment dated October 24, 2019," Bharti

Airtel said.

Tata Teleservices has also

filed a petition on similar

grounds.

Though in February last

week the SC had agreed to hear

the petitions, it has so far not

given a date. Both DoT officials

and industry executives feel that

both the issues, whether they

need to pay 10% of the total

amount as first installment or

the balance amount, and the

rectification of arithmetical

errors, maybe clarified and con-

sidered when the matter comes

up for hearing.

**Another new high for India, 89,129 daily cases reported**

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 24,69,59,192 samples have been tested for Covid-19 up to April 2 with 10,46,605 of them being tested on Friday.

The 714 new fatalities include 481 from Maharashtra,

57 from Punjab, 43 from Chhattisgarh, 16 each from Uttar

Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, 14 each from Kerala and Delhi, 12 from Tamil Nadu, 11 from Gujarat and 10 from Haryana.

Of the 1,64,110 fatalities reported so far in the country,

55,379 are from Maharashtra,

12,750 from Tamil Nadu,

12,591 from Karnataka, 11,050

from Delhi, 10,335 from West Bengal, 8,836 from Uttar

Pradesh and 7,225 from Andhra

Pradesh and 6,983 from Punjab.

The health ministry has

stressed that more than 70%

of the deaths occurred due to

comorbidities. "Our figures are

being reconciled with the

Indian Council of Medical

Research," the ministry said on

its website, adding that state-

wise distribution of figures is

subject to further verification

and reconciliation.

The petition of Bharti Airtel,

which was filed before Vodafone

Idea's, is also on similar grounds.

"There are a number of apparent

arithmetic errors in DoT's

demands, such as duplications

in revenue addition, errors of

omission and errors of comis-

sion, which have nothing to do

with the inclusion or exclu-

sion of a particular head of rev-

enue as final as per the AGR judg-

ment dated October 24, 2019," Bharti



OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II  
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DEHRADUN  
Paras Tower, 2nd Floor, Majra Niranjanpur Saharanpur Road, Dehradun  
DEMAND NOTICE  
NOTICE UNDER SECTION 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.  
RC/323/2020 (Diary No-33) 04-02-2021  
INDIAN BANK (ALLAHABAD BANK)  
Versus  
HARSH KUMAR DIXIT S/O YADAV DUTT DIXIT

To,  
CD-1 : Mr. Harsh Kumar Dixit S/o Sh. Yadav Dutt Dixit R/o C-2/10, Cheheka Beauty Parlour, Near Patwari House, Mansarovar Colony, Moradabad-244001, U.P.  
CD-2 : Mrs Vibha Dixit W/o Sh. Harsh Kumar Dixit R/o, Cheheka Beauty Parlour, Near Patwari House, Mansarovar Colony, Moradabad-244001, U.P.

This is to notify that per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of order passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DEHRADUN in OA/107/2020 an amount of Rs. 2647818.00 (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Forty Seven Thousands Eight Hundred Eighteen Only) along with pendenteille and future interest @ 9.15% Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 12/03/2020 till realization and costs of Rs. 62000 (Rupees Sixty Two Thousand Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 06/04/2021 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:

(a) Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 04/02/2021  
Recovery Officer  
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Dehradun

Note : Strike out whichever is not applicable.

**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, CHANDIGARH**  
S. C. O. No. 33-34-35, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, SECTOR 17-A, CHANDIGARH  
RC No. 606/2019

Canara Bank Versus. ...Certificate Holder

M/s Shiv Metal Tech Ltd., ...Certificate Debtor

**Demand Notice under Rule 2 of the Second Schedule to Income Tax Act , 1961 read with section 25 to 28 of the R.D.B & F.I Act , 1993 .**

(Publication)

1. M / s Shiva Metal Tech Ltd., a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and having its Registered office at Trilokpur Road, Village Kheri, Kala Amba , District Sirmour (H.P.) through its Managing Director.

2nd Address : - Administrative Office - C - 1 / 9 , Ashok Vihar - II, New Delhi - 110 052 .

3rd Address : - Works : - Village Kheri , Trilok Pur Road , Kala Amb , District Sirmour (H.P.)

2. Shri Ashok Jain, son of Shri R.D. Jain, D - 100 , First Floor , Mahendra Enclave, Delhi .

3. Smt. Sudesh Jain wife of Shri Ashok Jain, D - 100 , First Floor,Mahendra Enclave , Delhi .

4. Shri Ravinder Kumar Jain, son of Sh. J.K. Jain , 1/111 93 , Street No. 13 , Subhash Park, Shahdara, New Delhi.

In terms of the Recovery certificate No. 606/2019 in O.A. No. 2149/2020 issued by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer , a sum of Rs.1,77,40,798.85p has become due from you.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within fifteen days of the receipt of this Notice.

Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore this notice is given by this publication directing you to put in appearance before this Tribunal.

You are also directed to appear before the undersigned 13.05.2021 along with the affidavit disclosing your movable and immovable assets. In case you fail to appear on the said date personally or through your authorized representative / counsel , the case will be decided as per Law.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on 28.01.2021 at Chandigarh  
(Recovery Officer)  
DRT-II, Chandigarh

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited  
Zonal Office (North)  
Plot No.132-134 Sector 44, Gurgaon (Haryana)  
India GSTIN: 981AAACT6167G12B

T : +91 (0)124-4715800, F : +91 (0)124-4715800 E : iapmd.del@jkbank.net

"Notice Us 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002"

Ref No: JK-B/2020/North/14PM/2021 Dated: 21/03/2021

1. Mr. Davinder Singh Varmani S/o Sh. Harmohinder Singh Varmani R/o A-3/42, Sector-17 Rohini, Delhi-110085 (Borrower). Also at Plot No. 172, 3rd Floor, Block-AM, Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110088.

2. Mr. Udit Varman S/o Mr. Davinder Singh Varmani R/o A-3/42, Sector-17 Rohini, Delhi-110085 (Guarantor)

Dear Sir/Madam,

**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002.**

For and on behalf of THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LTD, a Banking Company established under the JK Companies ACT 1977. (Samrat) having its Registered Office at M.A.Road, Srinagar and a branch office amongst others at B-161 Lok Vilas Pilampra Delhi-110034, hereinafter referred to as the bank (which expression shall include and its successors and assigns, successors in interest etc.), I, Tejinder Singh, presently posted as Executive Manager, Zonal Office Delhi (North) Gurgaon and duly authorized by the Board of Directors of the Bank in this regard, do, hereby, serve you with the following notice under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

1. That the Bank in the year 2015, on your request, sanctioned a Car Loan Facility of Rs. 11.75 lac (Rupees Eleven Lac Seventy Five Thousand only) in your favor, and for availing the said facility, you executed various security documents and created security interest inter-alia, in respect of the following secured assets in favor of the Bank, besides other securities:

i. Primary Security Hypothecation of the Vehicle "Honda City VX (O) Diesel" bearing registration no. DL11CA-6033.

ii. Collateral Security Third party guarantee of Mr. Udit Varman S/o Mr. Davinder Singh Varmani R/o A-3/42, Sector-17 Rohini, Delhi-110085 (Guarantor)

2. You availed the aforementioned facility, but defaulted in repayment of the secured debt and thus, committed breach of the terms and conditions on which the said loan facility was granted and granted to you. As a result of the default committed by you, your above mentioned loan account has been classified by the Bank as 'Non Performing Asset' on 30.09.2019 in accordance with the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India.

Now, as on 28.02.2021, there is due and payable by you in your loan accounts the following amount:

Facility Account no. Balance Outstanding

CarLoan 0467265240000086 Rs.7,85,106/-

You are also liable to pay floating interest @ Base Rate + 1% present effective 10.50% with monthly rests on the aforesaid amount of Rs. 7,85,106.00 (Rupees Seven Lacs Eighty Five Thousand One Hundred and Six Only) w.e.f. 01.03.2021 till the date of payment of dues in full.

The Bank is a "Secured Creditor" as defined under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in respect of the amount outstanding referred in Para 2 above.

NOW THEREFORE IN EXERCISE OF THE POWERS VESTED IN THE BANK UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002, I, the above named, hereby, call upon you through the medium of the notice under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 to pay to the Bank, the aforesaid amount of Rs. 7,85,106.00 (Rupees Seven Lacs Eighty Five Thousand One Hundred and Six Only) along with floating interest Base Rate + 1% present effective 10.50% with monthly rests w.e.f. 01.03.2021 outstanding against you in the books of accounts of the Bank within its Branch A-161 LOK VIHAR PITAMPARA NEW DELHI-110034 till the date of repayment of the dues in full along with other charges and costs incurred to be incurred by the Bank from time to time, less by credits, if any, and thereby, discharge in full all your liabilities to the Bank within a period of 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which the Bank shall at your costs and risk exercise its powers under the Act (Supra) and take all or any of the following measures to recover its secured debt name:

(I) Take possession of the secured assets including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured assets, (II) Take over the management of secured assets including the right to transfer by way of Lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured assets, (III) Appoint any person to manage the secured assets, (IV.) Require at any time by Notice in writing any person who may have acquired any of the Secured assets from you to pay the Bank.

3. Do note that Sec. 13 (13) of the said Act restrains you, after this notice, from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise, your aforesaid Secured Assets, without prior written permission of the Bank. You are, hereby, put to notice that you shall not accept of this notice deal with the aforesaid secured assets in any manner, whatsoever, to the prejudice of interest of the secured creditor. You are also duty bound to preserve the secured assets for which you are a trustee. If you have already transferred these assets or would transfer after service of this notice, you shall be held liable for criminal action under section 406 of Indian Penal Code in addition to penal provisions in this Act.

4. Further, please note that in the event, you fail to discharge the liability in full within 60 days from the date of this notice and the Bank takes any action under Sub-Section 4 of Section 13 of the Act (Supra), you shall further be liable to pay to the bank all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank in that connection. In case, the dues to the Bank are not fully satisfied with the sale proceeds of the secured assets, the Bank shall proceed for the recovery of the balance from you personally and from the other persons liable thereto.

5. This Notice is issued without prejudice to the Bank's all rights, remedies and contentions in the pending Debt Recovery Proceedings or the proceedings pending before any other Court / Appellate Tribunal/ Authority and also Bank's right to recover the dues from any other security furnished to the Bank in respect of the aforesaid liability.

6. Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub sec (8) of Sec 13 of the SARFAESI Act where under, you can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of secured asset(s) by public auction by inviting quotations, tender from public or private treaty. Please also note that if the entire amount of outstanding dues together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is not tendered before publication of notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or private treaty, you may not be entitled to redeem the secured assets.

7. This demand notice is recall of the loan amount and demand of the secured creditors of the outstanding amount without prejudice to Bank's right to recover the remaining balance in case our liability is not discharged in full after enforcement of security interest pursuant to this notice. Further, please note that this notice should not be construed as waiver of any rights or remedies which we may have including without limitation the right to make further demands in respect of sums owing to us.

Sd/-  
(Tejinder Singh)  
Authorized Officer  
The J&K Bank Ltd

## OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI

4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, PATEL CHOWK, NEW DELHI - 110001

R. C. No. 53/2019 Dated: 09.03.2021

## E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Dated: 09.03.2021

## INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK Vs METALS MINE ENTERPRISES

### "ORDER"

As per my order dated 09.03.2021 the under mentioned property will be sold by e-auction sale in the matter of IOB VS. METALS MINE ENTERPRISES. The auction sale will be through 'online e-auction' through website: <https://www.bankeeuctions.com>. Date and Time of Auction: 12.05.2021 between 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM. (with auto extension clause in case of bid in last 5 minutes before closing, if required).

S. No.	Property Particulars	Reserve Price/ EMD
1.	Mazzanine Floor (Northern side) of property bearing Municipal No. 5795 to 5796 & 5806 to 5811 built on Plot NO. 61, Basti Harphool Singh Sadar Thana Road, Delhi	Rs. 43,77,125/- EMD : Rs. 4,37,713/-
b)	Ground Floor, Shop without roof rights of property bearing Municipal No. 5791 built on Plot NO. 64, Ward No. XIV, Basti Harphool Singh, Sadar Thana Road, Delhi	Rs. 23,01,375/- EMD : Rs. 2,30,138/-
c)	Ground Floor, Shop without roof rights of property bearing Municipal No. 5795 built on Plot NO. 61, Basti Harphool Singh, Sadar Thana Road, Delhi.	Rs. 23,01,375/- EMD : Rs. 2,30,138/-
d)	Ground Floor, Shop without roof rights of property bearing Municipal No. 5711 and forming part of Municipal No. 5795 to 5796 & 5806 to 5811 built on Plot NO. 61, Basti Harphool Singh, Sadar Thana Road, Delhi	Rs. 23,91,625/- EMD : Rs. 2,39,163/-

Note : The above mentioned properties will not be sold below reserve price

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Auction/bidding shall only be through online electronic mode through the website.
- The intending bidders should register the participation with the service provider well in advance and get user ID and Password for participating in E-auction. It can be procured only when the requisite earnest money deposit is paid by prescribed mode.
- EMD shall be deposited by 10.05.2021 by way of DD/pay order in favour Recovery Officer-I, DRT-III, Delhi in the sealed cover before 4:00PM. EMD deposited thereafter shall not be considered for participation in the e-auction.
- The copy of PAN card, Address proof and identity proof, E-mail ID, Mobile No. and declaration if they are bidding on their own behalf or on behalf of their principals. In the latter case, they shall be required to deposit their authority, and in default their bids shall be rejected. In case of the company copy of resolution passed by the board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company and the receipt/counter file of such deposit should reach to the said service provider or CH Bank by e-mail or otherwise by the said date and hard copy shall be submitted before the Recovery Officer-I, DRT-III, Delhi.
- Prospective bidder may avail online training from service provider e-auction and bidding shall take place through M/s. C-1 India Pvt. Ltd., Udyog Vihar, Phase 2, Building No. 301, Gurgaon, Haryana (India) Tel.: +91 7291981124/25/26 Contact person Sh. Vinod Chauhan, Mobile No. 9813887931, E-mail: support@bankeeuctions.com. Website <https://www.bankeeuctions.com>
- Property shall remain open for inspection by prospective bidders on 04.05.2021 from 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. in case of any query & inspection of the property, intending bidder may Contact Sh. Amandeep Singh (Ast Manger )Mob: 9643330180, Sh. M Christhuvaraj (Chief Manger )Mob: 9884036103.
- Prospective bidder are advised to go through the website <https://www.bankeeuctions.com> for details terms & conditions of sale before submitting their bids.
- The property shall not be sold below the reserve price.
- The bidder shall improve offer in multiple of Rs. 50,000/- for each property.
- The property shall be sold "As Is Where Basis and As Is What is Basis".
- The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the sale proceeds after adjustment of EMD on being knocked down by next day i.e. by 3:00 PM. in the said account as per detail mentioned in para 3 above. If the next day is Holiday or Sunday, then on next first office day.
- The successful highest bidder shall deposit the balance 75% of final bid amount on or before 15th day from the date of sale of the property. If the 15th day is Sunday or other Holiday, then on the first bank working day after the 15th day by prescribed mode as stated in para 3 above. In addition to the above the purchaser shall also deposit poundage fee with Recovery Officer-I, DRT-III @ 2% upto Rs. 1,000/- and @1% of the excess of said amount of Rs. 1,000/- through DD in favour of Registrar, DRT-III, Delhi, within the period of 15 days as stated above.
- In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the deposit, after defrayment of the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or the amount deposited. The property shall be resold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. Further the purchaser shall also be liable to make good of any shortfall or difference between his final bid amount and the price for which it is subsequently sold.
- The Recovery Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or bids or to postpone or cancel the e-auction without assigning any reasons.
- Unsuccessful bidder/s are directed to file an application along with identity proof in the Registry of DRT-III on or before the schedule date of hearing of the RC for refund of their EMD which shall be refunded on the schedule/subsequent date of hearing of the RC accordingly.
- There is no other detail of revenue/encumbrance or other claim against the properties in the knowledge of undersigned at this stage. However, prospective bidders are advised to make their own due diligence w.r.t. dues of electricity/water/house tax bills or any other encumbrance etc., in their own interest, before deposit of EMD.

DASTI.</p

## FE SUNDAY



**OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II  
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DEHRADUN**  
Paras Tower, 2nd Floor, Maja Niranjana, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun  
**DEMAND NOTICE**

**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.**

RC/329/2020 (Diary No-35) 04-02-2021

**INDIAN BANK (ALLAHABAD BANK)**

**Versus**

**MOHD. ASLAM S/O SH. ABDUL WAHID**

To,

**CD-1 : Mohd. Aslam S/o Sh. Abdul Wahid**

R/o/Abid Nagar Tila, Peer Ka Bazar,

Baghji, Jaintpur, Moradabad, U.P.-244001.

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of order passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DEHRADUN in OA/108/2020 an amount of Rs. 2789441.00 (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Forty One Only) along with pendiency and future interest @ 10.00% Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 12/03/2020 till realization and costs of Rs. 63000 (Rupees Sixty Three Thousands Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of this notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 06/04/2021 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 04/02/2021

Recovery Officer

Debt Recovery Tribunal, Dehradun

Note : Strike out whichever is not applicable.

## Classifieds

FROM ANYTHING TO EVERYTHING.

I, MEENAKSHI KHUBCHANDANI alias KIARA THAKWANI d/o DALIP KHUBCHANDANI w/o AMIT THAKWANI /o E-154, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-110028 have changed my name to KIARA THAKWANI. 0040568790-1

I, Vinod Mohan w/o Arun Mohan r/o EA-131, Inderpuri, New Delhi-12 that some documents my father's name is written as Bakshi Dhaniaj Chhibber, Bakshi Dhaniaj Chhibber, D.R.Bakshi, Dhaniaj Bakbhi, Dhaniaj Bakshi, Dhaniaj Chhibber. All names indicates one and same person. 0040568785-1

I, Gourav S/o Sh.Ram Saran Singh, D-1141 near Dabua-Masjid Dabua-colony, Faridabad Haryana-121001, have change my name to Gourav Kumar for all purpose. 0040568815-1

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is for general information that Sh. Raj Kumar Kapur S/o Late Sh. Om Parkash Kapur and Smt. Anila Kapur W/o Sh. Raj Kumar Kapur R/o House No. 8, Upper Ground Street No. 3, Ram Nagar, Dehradun-248001, 1100028 that their son Honey Kapur is not well behaving with my Client. Therefore my clients disinherited, disowned and severed all relations with him. He will have no right in moveable & immoveable properties of my client. Whoever deals with him, shall do so at his/her own risk.

S/o Sh. Narendra Kumar Sharma (Advocate) Enr. No. ID-01587/2010 Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the public at large that My clients Shri. Praveen Sharma Son of Late Shri. Rajat Rai Sharma and Shri. Adwait Gautam Son of Shri. Praveen Sharma, Resident of R-201, VVIP Addresses, Rajnagar Extension, Ghaziabad are respectively Husband and Son and Legal Heir of Late Shri. Sunita Wife of Shri. Praveen Sharma.

They are selling the House No. R-201 and House No. F-301 at VVIP Addresses, Rajnagar Extension, Ghaziabad.

If anyone has objection to it, the objection can be filed within 7 days of publication of this information.

**SANDEEP SHARMA (Advocate)**

201, Devika Chambers, RDC, Ghaziabad

**IN THE COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION CS (OS) 159/2020**

SH FARID AHMAD - Plaintiff VS MOHD. MUHKAT & ORS - Defendants

To, Defendant No. 2, Govt. Jamsed S/o. Haji Haroon, R/o- E-23 and E-22, Khan Jamia Nagar, Okha, New Delhi-110025 (M): 9891567200

Whereas the above mentioned plaintiff has instituted a Suit for Possession, Permanent injunction and Recovery of MESNE Profits the court, hereupon issued notice/summon in suit on 07.01.2021 against you, the above named defendant and whereas it has been shown to the Plaintiff that if it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore this notice/summon is given by way of publication directing you, the above named defendant to appear before the court at the date and time mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Court on this the 15.03.2021.

Seal ASSISTANT REGISTRAR JI (O) FOR REGISTRAR GENERAL

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is clearly known to all that my client Mr. Sama Begum and Mr. Imran Sali both are residing at D-115, Jagvir Extn- Part-B, Badarpur- New Delhi-110044 are discovered to her brother Mr. Mohd. Ishaq Sali aged about 31 years. He has been staying at the premises of First Floor in the same premises they further decide that they discovered their son Brother for all movable/immovable property and they dissolved their all relation with him if any person shall done any type of deal and make any relation with the persons who do not make the relation with him. We are hereby requesting that shall be responsible himself for all the losses my client Mrs. Sama Begum and Mr. Imran Sali shall not be held any responsibility.

Ajay Seth (Advocate)

Ch. No. 351, Saket Court, New Delhi-17

**SARFAESI का स्वाक्षर**

मेरे स्वाक्षर संसाधन का पूरा भी जब यह नियमों में 75, अवधिका जनता पर्से रोजीं बैंक-1 इंडिल्स-110085 ने अपने प्रत्यान्तर वाले उक्त कानूनों के द्वारा वर्तमान के कानून अपनी यात्रा के बदले कर दिया है। इसके तरह कानूनों लेन-देन के लिए काम करने वाले वर्तमान मेरे स्वाक्षर के उक्त कानूनों की कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं होती।

कानून शिख, अधिकारी

पृष्ठ 512, सेवा कार्ट, दिल्ली-85

**"IMPORTANT"**

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

Financial Express Ltd. 17

## DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, CHANDIGARH

S. C. O. No. 33-34-35, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, SECTOR 17-A, CHANDIGARH

RC No. 606/2019

**Canara Bank ...Certificate Holder**

**M/s Shiv Metal Tech Ltd. & Others ...Certificate Debtor**

**(See Section 25 to 29 of the RDDBFI Act, 1993 & Rule 53 of the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.)**

**Notice of Settling a Sale Proclamation**

**PUBLICATION**

To,

1. M/s Shiva Metal Tech Ltd., a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and having its Registered office at Trilokpur Road Village Kheri, Kala Amba, District Sirmour (H.P) through its Managing Director

**2nd Address :-** Administrative Office - C - 1 / 9 , Ashok Vihar - II , New Delhi - 110 052 .

**3rd Address :-** Works : - Village Kheri , Trilok Pur Road , Kala Amb , District Sirmour (H.P)

2. Shri Ashok Jain , son of Shri R.D. Jain D - 100 , First Floor , Mahendra Enclave , Delhi .

3. Smt. Sudesh Jain wife of Shri Ashok Jain , D - 100 , First Floor , Mahendra Enclave , Delhi .

4. Shri Ravinder Kumar Jain , son of Sh. J.K. Jain 1/1193 , Street No. 13 , Subhash Park , Shahdra , New Delhi

Whereas, a Recovery certificate No. 606/2019 in O.A No. 2149/2017 issued by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer a sum of Rs.1,77,40,798.85p with future interest.

Whereas, the said amount has not been paid by to you to the CH Bank, despite , service of a demand notice and expiry of a substantial period. You have to meet the requirement of the Law.

It has been decided to issue proclamation of sale in respect of the property which is mortgaged. Therefore , this notice to appear on 13.05.2021 before the undersigned to declare any encumbrances on the immovable property and settle terms and conditions for POS.

**Specification of Property:**

Land measuring 3 Bighas comprised in Khewat / Khatouni no. 42 min/ 6 min, Khasra no. 232/117/2/1, according to Jamabandi for the year 1985-1986, situated at village - kheri, Tehsil - Nahan and present Khasra no. 395/232 , Khattha / Khatouni no. 134/140 measuring 3 Bighas, situated at Mauza - kheri, Tehsil - Nahan, District - Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh as per the Jamabandi for the year 1995-96 together with construction thereon and fixtures and fittings etc. in the name of M / s Shiva Metal tech. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on 28.01.2021 at Chandigarh .

(Recovery Officer)

DRT-II, Chandigarh

**KERALA STATE DRUGS & PHARMACEUTICALS LTD. (A Government of Kerala Enterprise)**  
Kakarv - PO, Alappuzha, Kerala-690522, Tel: 0477 228104 Web: www.kspdpl.com, Email: kspd@kspdpl.com

E-mail is invited for LPP/SPP Project

**SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING AND VALIDATION OF NITROGEN, OXYGEN AND LPG GAS PIPE ROUTINE**

" Last date of tender: 08.04.2021, 03.30 pm. and opening : 09.04.2021, 04.00 pm.

For more details, please visit the website [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)

Details/Complaints/Modifications/Retenders can be seen in the above website.

Sub- Managing Director

**यूनियन बैंक** Union Bank of India

A Division of ICICI Bank

www.unionbankofindia.com

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

1. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/Movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 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/ physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:

**Branch Name and Address** VIVEK VIHAR BRANCH (E-CB), PHONE-011-22158133,22149951

**Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s** BORROWER: TASHWANT KUMAR SHARMA, 2 SMIT MAMTA SHARMA, B-43, S-3,2ND FLOOR, SHALIMAR GARDEN, EXT-II, GHAZIABAD NAME OF GUARANTORS: SH. RAVINDRA KUMAR THATHOTRA

**Property No. 1** All the part and parcel of Residential property bearing Flat No.A-1, Plot No. C-129, GF, Shalimar Garden Extn.-II, Ghaziabad, U.P. measuring 45 Sq Ft in the name of Sh. Ashwan Kumar Sharma & Mrs. Mamta Sharma. Property Description as per Sale deed: In the North: Others Flat, In the South: 30 ft Wide Road, In the East : -Property No. C-128, In the West : Others Property

**Date & Time of E-Auction:** 19.04.2021 between 12.00 PM to 5.00 PM with 10 minutes unlimited auto extension. Reserve Price RS. 20,000/-; Earnest money to be deposited - RS. 2,000/-

**Branch Name and Address** Rohini Sector-16 Branch, PHONE-011-27573662

**Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s** BORROWER: IZHAR -U-L-HAQ s/o IKRAMUL HAQ & JISHAN -U-L-HAQ Amount due-Rs. 32,53,465.58 plus interest & other charges thereon

**Property No. 2** Flatno. E-670, Gali no.3, LIG Flat, Third Floor with roof rights, Majid Wali Gali, Babarpur, Shahadara, Delhi-110032.

Boundaries of the property: East: GALI 15ft. wide, West: other property, North: other property and South: other property

**Date & Time of E-Auction:** 19.04.2021 between 12.00 PM to 5.00 PM with 10 minutes unlimited auto extension. Reserve Price RS. 8,38,00/-; Earnest money to be deposited - RS. 83,800/-

**Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s** BORROWER: Anil Kumar Jha & Archana Jha w/o Anil Kumar Jha R/o H No. D-295, First Floor, Kh.no.60, Gali no.8, New Sabhapur (Near MCD Primary School), Delhi-110094.

**Property No. 3** House No.B-272/2, Second Floor, Khasra No.316, Gali No.12, Bhajanpura, Delhi-110053

**Date & Time of E-Auction:** 19.04.2021 between 12.00 PM to 5.00 PM with 10 minutes unlimited auto extension. Reserve Price RS. 14,33,

**COVID-19 SURGE****8 states make up for 81.42% of single-day infections**

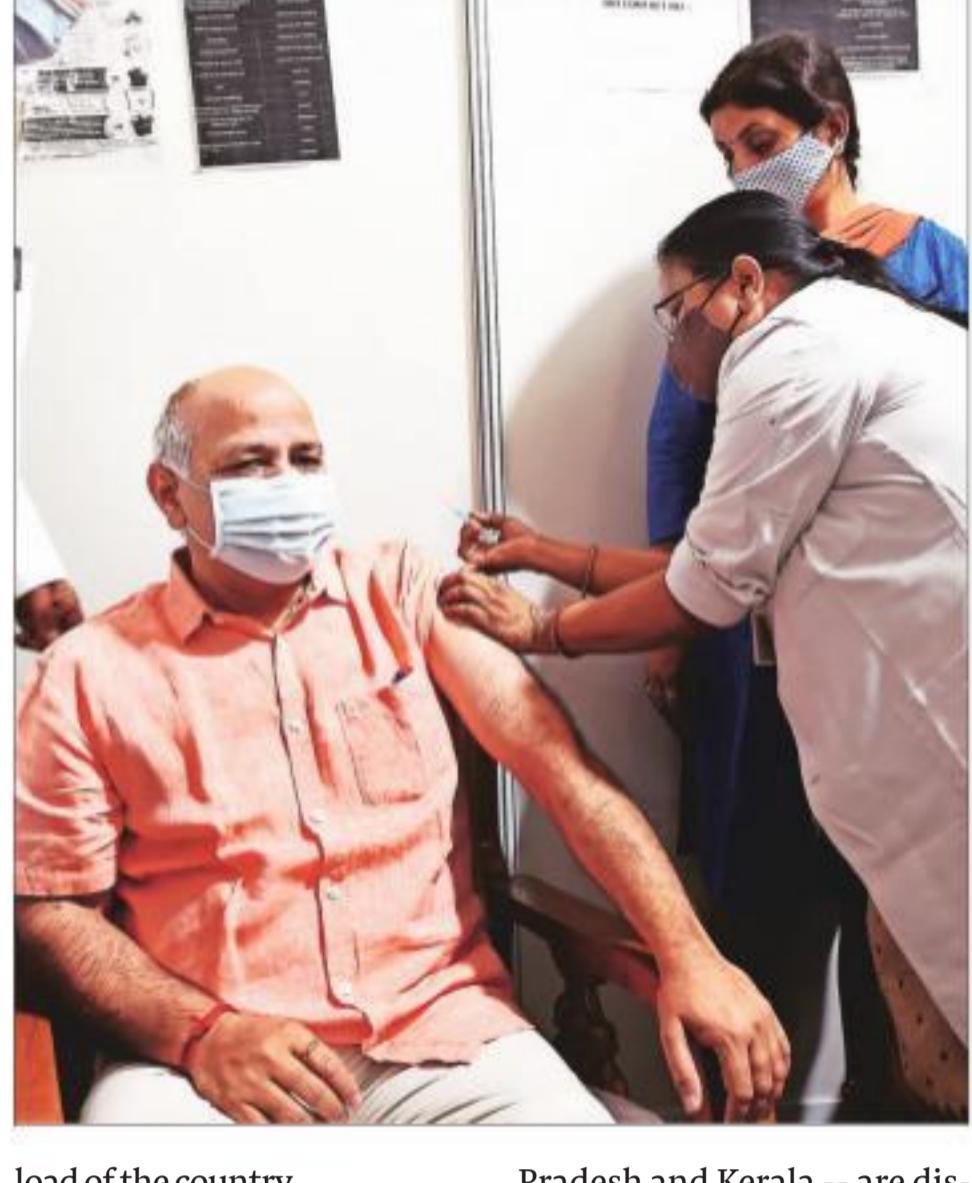
India's tally of active caseload increased to 6,58,909 and now comprises 5.32% of the total infections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, April 3

**EIGHT STATES WITNESSED** a steep rise in daily new Covid-19 cases and accounted for 81.42% of the infections reported on Saturday, the Union Health Ministry said. These eight states are Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.

India's tally of Covid-19 active caseload also increased to 6,58,909 and now comprises 5.32% of the total infections. In a day, there has been a net rise of 44,213 active cases. Ten districts – Pune, Mumbai, Nagpur, Thane, Nashik, Bengaluru Urban, Aurangabad, Delhi, Ahmednagar and Nanded – account for 50% of the total active caseload of the country. Maharashtra has shown a nine-fold jump, the maximum increase in the number of active cases in the last two months. In percentage terms, Punjab has reported the maximum increase in active cases.

Five states -- Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Punjab -- cumulatively account for 77.3% of the total active cases in the country. Maharashtra alone accounts for 59.36% of the total active case-



In a significant development in the fight against Covid-19, the cumulative number of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country has crossed 7.3-crore mark

tracing and enforcement of Covid-appropriate behaviour, and adherence to the standard clinical management protocol shared earlier with all states and UTs. India's cumulative recoveries stand at 1,15,69,241 with 44,202 recoveries being registered in a day.

Of the 714 fatalities were reported in a day, six states account for 85.85% of the new deaths. Maharashtra saw a maximum of 481 deaths, followed by 57 in Punjab.

Thirteen states and UTs have not reported any Covid-19 deaths in a day. These are Odisha, Assam, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Arunachal Pradesh.

In a significant development in the fight against Covid-19, the cumulative number of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country has crossed 7.3 crore mark.

Cumulatively, 7,30,54,295 vaccine doses have been administered through 11,53,614 sessions, according to the provisional report till 7 am on Saturday. The cumulative vaccination figure includes over 6 crore first doses, while the second dose numbers are also nearing the 1 crore mark, the ministry said.

These states and UTs "of grave concern" were advised to take up immediate and effective measures to ensure containment of active cases and daily deaths through enhanced testing, strict containment, prompt contact

load of the country.

India on Saturday recorded 89,129 new Covid-19 cases in a day, the highest daily rise in around six-and-a-half-months, taking the nationwide tally of infections to over 1.23 crore, according to the Union Health Ministry data on Saturday.

The death toll increased to 1,64,110 with 714 more fatalities in a day, also the highest since October 21.

Maharashtra has reported the highest daily new cases at 47,913, followed by 4,991 in Karnataka and 4,174 in Chhattisgarh.

Twelve states -- Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Karnataka, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar

Pradesh and Kerala -- are displaying an upward trajectory in daily new cases, the health ministry said.

Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba chaired a high-level review meeting on Friday with chief secretaries, directors general of police and health secretaries of all states, with a focus on 11 states and Union Territories that have been reporting a very high rise in daily cases and fatality because of Covid-19 in the last two weeks.

These states and UTs "of grave concern" were advised to take up immediate and effective measures to ensure containment of active cases and daily deaths through enhanced testing, strict containment, prompt contact