



The lockdown to contain the coronavirus outbreak has disrupted supply chains. One crucial chain is delivery of information and insight – news and analysis that is fair and accurate and reliably reported from across a nation in quarantine.

A voice you can trust amid the clanging of alarm bells.

Vajiram & Ravi and *The Indian Express* are proud to deliver the electronic version of this morning's edition of *The Indian Express* to your Inbox. You may follow *The Indian Express's* news and analysis through the day on **indianexpress.com**



INDIAN
EXPRESS
GROUP





Reliance Retail adds Future Group firms to its shopping cart

Sale of Big Bazaar, Easyday part of Rs 24,713-cr deal

PRANAV MUKUL & GEORGE MATHEW
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, AUGUST 29

MUKESH AMBANI'S Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has agreed to acquire the retail business of Kishore Biyani's Future Group in a mega deal involving a consideration of Rs 24,713 crore.

After months of negotiations, Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), a subsidiary of RIL, announced Saturday that it is acquiring the retail and wholesale business, including the Big Bazaar hypermarket chain, and the logistics and warehousing business from the Future Group as going concern on a slump sale basis. Biyani, who was known as the

EXPLAINED Why this is key to RIL plans

THE DEAL strengthens RIL's position in the country's retail ecosystem by enabling it to control nearly a third of organised retail revenues, and also bolsters Reliance's own retail plans. The company recently launched its online grocery portal under the JioMart brand and the cross-linkages between Future Group's large logistical and warehousing footprint will add to its presence in retail and wholesale businesses.

"retail king", was overburdened with a debt of Rs 12,778 crore and faced repayment issues.
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CWC AND LETTER OF 23

'No one stepped in when we were attacked, not one concern addressed'

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29

NOT ONE of the concerns they had raised was either addressed — or even shared — at the Congress Working Committee meeting and no leader stepped in when those who wrote the letter were attacked, said senior leader Kapil Sibal who is one of the 23 signatories to the unprecedented letter calling for reforms in the party.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, which first reported on the letter last Sunday, (full text of the letter is at indianexpress.com), Sibal said Saturday that the Congress needs a "de jure and a de facto president" and the concerns outlined in the letter should be



P5
POLITICS IN THIS COUNTRY IS BASED NOW PRIMARILY ON LOYALTY. WE NEED LOYALTY PLUS

KAPIL SIBAL

DEAR CONGRESS PRESIDENT: THE FULL TEXT
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

SUNDAY STORY

PAGE 13

THE VACCINE VOLUNTEERS

Meet six who have signed up for 'Covishield' trials

My ISOLATION

A weekly window into lives of India's newsmakers, impact of the pandemic on them

PAGE 12

'I spend 8-10 hrs in front of screen. Can't complain'

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN
MADHYA PRADESH CM

NCRB data: Higher share of Dalits, tribals, Muslims in prison than numbers outside

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29

THE LATEST data on prisons released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) show that Dalits, tribals and Muslims continue to be jailed in numbers disproportionate to their share in the population, unlike OBCs and those belonging to the general category or upper castes.

The data, for the year 2019, also show that among the marginalised groups, Muslims are the one community which has more undertrials than convicts.

At the end of 2019, Dalits made up 21.7% of all convicts in jails across the country. The share of Scheduled Castes among undertrials languishing in jails stood at 21%. The 2011 Census put their share in the population at 16.6%.

In the case of tribals, the gap was equally big. While the Scheduled Tribes made up 13.6% of the convict population, and



AWARDS, VIRTUALLY

Boxer Lovlina Borgohain with her Arjuna Award citation at the UT Secretariat in Chandigarh on Saturday. The awards were held online, with players logging in from across the country or turning up at fixed venues. Kamleshwar Singh

REPORT, PAGE 18

GST COMPENSATION

Centre gives states 2 options: easier terms for lower borrowing

Option 1 won't be treated as state debt; in Option 2, need to service interest on debt

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29

TWO DAYS after the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting, the Centre Saturday detailed the borrowing options proposed to states for meeting this year's compensation shortfall of Rs 2.35 lakh crore under the indirect tax regime.

Option 1 has a special window for states, coordinated by the Finance Ministry, to borrow the projected shortfall of Rs 97,000 crore only on account of GST implementation — and not the Covid-19 pandemic — and this amount can be fully repaid from the compensation cess fund, without being counted as states' debt.

Option 2 takes into account the impact of the pandemic, proposing states to borrow the entire Rs 2.35 lakh crore and bear-

ing the interest burden though principal will be repaid from the cess proceeds. The GST shortfall amount (Rs 97,000 crore) will not be counted as states' debt, while the rest of the amount of Rs 1.38 lakh crore will be counted in the books of the states.

Finance Secretary and Expenditure Secretary will hold a meeting with state finance secretaries on Tuesday to clarify issues regarding these two borrowing options.

The sharing of interest burden in the second option has been modified from what was announced Thursday. Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey had then said, "So far as the repayment of loans is concerned in both the options, it will be made through the cess collected in the 6th year, 7th year or whatever time it takes to repay the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Raina returns to India as positive cases rise in CSK ahead of IPL

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, AUGUST 29

FORMER INDIA player and Chennai Super Kings star Suresh Raina has pulled out of the Indian Premier League that starts September 19 in the UAE.

On Saturday morning, a statement on the CSK official Twitter handle said Raina had returned to India because of personal reasons and the franchise



'Personal reasons'

offered "complete support to Suresh and his family during this time". Later in the day, the BCCI, in a press release, said 13 personnel in the UAE, including two players, had tested positive for Covid-19. While the Indian board didn't identify those who have been infected, it is learnt that all are from the CSK tour party. Incidentally, CSK is the only team that conducted a five-day camp in Chennai before flying to the UAE.

Those in the know say that though Raina's test was clear, the rising number of Covid cases around him and the subsequent extension of the quarantine period for CSK resulted in the left-hander taking this step.

Raina's exit came as a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WORLD



'BLACK PANTHER' CHADWICK BOSEMAN DIES OF CANCER AT 43
PAGE 14

UNLOCK 4.0: CENTRE'S GUIDELINES

Metro to start Sept 7, no state lockdowns outside containment zones

Students can visit schools, colleges; gatherings of up to 100 from Sept 21

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29

METRO SERVICES will start from September 1, larger gatherings will be allowed in a limited manner from September 21, while senior students can come to schools on a voluntary basis. The Centre's step-by-step opening up post-coronavirus lockdown is set to see major relaxations in Unlock 4.0, which was unveiled on Saturday.

The guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs say that states can no longer impose lockdowns outside containment zones without the Centre's permission and must not seal borders.

Metro trains will run for the first time since March starting September 7, "in a graded manner" while social, academic, sports, entertainment, cultural, religious and political functions can be held with a maximum of 100 people from September 21.

The Centre has also allowed operation of open air theatres from September 21.

While schools and colleges will remain shut till September end, they can call in 50% of their teachers for facilitating online teaching. Students of classes 9 to 12 can visit schools on a "voluntary basis" to clear their doubts.

The only activities expressly prohibited under the new guidelines are opening of cinema halls, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres (excluding open air theatres) and similar places with a high risk of spread of the virus. International air travel of passengers, except as permitted by the MHA, and train services will remain restricted.

On Metro services, the guidelines say, "Metro rail will be allowed to operate with effect from 7th September 2020 in a graded manner." It says the Ministry of Railways and Urban Affairs will run the trains in consultation with the MHA, and the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WHAT'S ALLOWED

- Metro from Sept 7
- Congregations of up to 100 people from Sept 21, including for sports
- 50% teachers in schools, colleges for online classes
- Students in schools on "voluntary basis" if parents permit
- Open air theatres
- Higher education institutes requiring research and lab work for PG and PhD

WHAT'S NOT

- Cinema halls
- Swimming pools
- Entertainment parks
- Theatres

RESTRICTED

- International air travel
- Train services

RELATED REPORT, PAGE 3

China in Russia military exercise, India opts out citing pandemic

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29

INDIA HAS pulled out of a multi-lateral tri-services military exercise being hosted by Russia next month because of the participation of a Chinese contingent.

India was one of the countries scheduled to participate in Kavkaz 2020 from September 15 to September 27. Members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisat-

ion, central Asian nations, Turkey and Iran will be sending contingents to Russia for the exercise.

On Friday, India cited the Covid-19 pandemic as the reason to turn down Russia's invitation, but sources in the defence establishment said India did not want to participate in a friendly exercise alongside Chinese troops at a time when the two countries are involved in a tense military standoff in Ladakh.

In a statement, the Ministry

of Defence said: "Russia and India are close and privileged strategic partners. At Russia's invitation, India has been participating in many international events. However, in view of Pandemic and consequent difficulties in exercise, including arrangements of logistics, India has decided not to send a contingent this year to Kavkaz-2020. The same has been informed to the Russian side."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INSPIRING INNOVATION

LIVE/ONLINE
Classes Available
www.visionias.in

Heartiest Congratulations
To All Successful Candidates

7 IN TOP 10 SELECTIONS IN CSE 2019
from various programs of VISION IAS

2 AIR
JATIN KISHORE

3 AIR
PRATIBHA VERMA

6 AIR
VISHAKHA YADAV

7 AIR
GANESH K BASKAR

8 AIR
ABHISHEK SARAF

57 AIR
YASHNI NAGARA JAN
North East topper

59 AIR
ARANYAK SAIKIA
Assam topper

133 AIR
RICHARD YANTHAN
Nagaland topper

"You are as strong as your Foundation"

Foundation Course
GENERAL STUDIES
PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2021

PREPARATION UNINTERRUPTED
Organize all your lectures and study material effectively & access them from anywhere, anytime

LIVE / ONLINE cum Offline classes

DELHI

Regular Batch 11 Sept 10 AM	Weekend Batch 21 June 9 AM
--	---

फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन

▶ प्रारंभिक, मुख्य परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक का विस्तृत कवरेज

15 Sept | 1:30 PM लाइव / ऑनलाइन एवं ऑफलाइन कक्षाएँ

ONLINE OFFLINE* #PrelimsisComing

ABHYAAS 2020 OFFLINE IN 65 CITIES*

ALL INDIA GS PRELIMS MOCK TEST SERIES

4 TESTS TEST 2 6 SEPT TEST 3 13 SEPT TEST 4 20 SEPT

Register at: www.visionias.in/abhyas

*Subject to Government regulations and the safety of the students. For more details visit the registration page.

DELHI • HEAD OFFICE: Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh | CONTACT: 8468022022, 9019066066

JAIPUR | PUNE | HYDERABAD | AHMEDABAD | LUCKNOW | CHANDIGARH

9001949244 | 8007500096 | 9000104133 | 9909447040 | 8468022022 | 8468022022



0-50 Good

ANAND VIHAR
Satisfactory94
AQI
PM: 2.5

0 500

SIRIFORT
Satisfactory72
AQI
PM: 10

0 500

SHADIPUR
Satisfactory77
AQI
PM: 10

0 500

DWARKA-SECTOR 8
Satisfactory89
AQI
PM: 10

0 500

51-100 Satisfactory

101-200 Moderate

201-300 Poor

301-400 Very Poor

401-500 Severe

UNDER UNLOCK 4.0; 1,954 NEW COVID CASES REPORTED ON SATURDAY

Details being chalked out as Metro prepares to reopen after five months

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29

WITH THE Home Ministry announcing resumption of Metro services from September 7, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) announced that it will restart operations in a "calibrated manner". Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who had proposed that government employees be allowed to avail Metro services in the first phase, tweeted that he was "glad" that operations would restart "in a phased manner". Metro services have been shut since March 22.

DMRC said further details on usage by the general public will be shared once the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs issues the standard operating procedure (SOP). The Metro has, however, drawn up guidelines based on the SOP of the ministry issued in May.



Once operations resume, tokens will not be issued and cash transactions will be completely unavailable. Archive

Accordingly, it has been decided so far that tokens will not be issued and cash transactions will be completely unavailable inside the Metro system, leaving commuters with no option but to use smart cards and credit cards, debit cards or dig-

ital modes for making payments.

There will be thermal screening of every passenger, and they will have to mandatorily wear masks. Inside coaches, alternate seats will have to be left vacant and a distance of one metre will

CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL

TOTAL CASES		HOSPITAL BEDS		Total	Vacant
1,71,366		1,446		14,135	10,114
		VENTILATORS		1,229	749
Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests		
Aug 28	1,808	20	22,933		
Aug 29	1,954	15	22,004		
Total	14,040*	1,52,922	4,404	15,48,659	

*Total active cases

have to be maintained between two persons standing.

Meanwhile, a week before the resumption of Metro services, the capital has seen an uptick in Covid cases, with 1,954 new cases on Saturday, taking the number of active cases past the 14,000 mark.

The case load recorded on Saturday was the highest since July 10, when 2,089 cases had surfaced. Bed occupancy in hos-

pitals, which has also been steadily rising, reached 3,904, while 6,850 people are under home isolation.

Till a fortnight ago, around 3,400 beds were occupied and 5,809 people were in home isolation. Around 10,114 beds remain vacant, with the level of unoccupancy more in government-run hospitals than in private healthcare facilities.

The city had witnessed a cri-

sis of hospital beds in early June when the daily average had breached 4,000 cases.

Subsequently, many hotels and banquet halls were attached with hospitals — an arrangement which was discontinued earlier this month due to the dip in cases. With cases rising, the Delhi government has ordered enhanced testing.

The 1,954 cases on Saturday were detected out of 16,013 rapid antigen tests and 6,920 RT-PCR tests. The CM has announced plans to test at least 40,000 samples daily.

The Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) also issued a statement on Saturday: "As per the latest guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs under Unlock-4, the NMRC will be resuming its services on the Aqua Line for public from September 7, 2020 in a calibrated manner."

More enforcement teams on ground to check violations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29

THE UPTICK in Covid cases in the capital has prompted district authorities to deploy additional teams to prevent violations, ranging from venturing out without masks to spitting in public places, resulting in a surge in penalties.

The decision to deploy additional enforcement teams was taken after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's warning against "complacency", which had come against the backdrop of a steady rise in the number of cases in the city.

According to official data, while an average of 200 such penalties were imposed daily during the first week of June in every district, the numbers have now crossed 1,000 in most cases, with the Central district alone acting against over 2,100 people on Saturday over masks and social distancing violations.

The district had recorded an average of 168 penalties per day in the first week of June.

North district, meanwhile, recorded 1,208 penalties on Saturday, as against 150 daily penalties logged on an average in June. Both central and north districts have started fielding around nine additional teams in this regard.

The teams comprise an executive magistrate, along with officials from Delhi Police and the Revenue Department. The penalties, under the Delhi Epidemic Diseases, (Management of Covid-19) Regulations, 2020, range from Rs 500 for not wearing masks to Rs 1,000 for violating social distancing norms.

Data shows that till date over 2.1 lakh people have been challaned over mask violations, around 22,000 for social distancing violations and 2,690 for spitting. Police have collected over Rs 9 crore from fines on mask violations.

The number of additional teams have been decided based on the size and population density of a district. Apart from central and north, southwest district has deployed 20 extra teams.

BRIEFLY

HC refuses to vacate stay on broadcast

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Saturday refused to vacate its stay on the telecast of a programme on Sudarshan TV about a "big expose on conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims in government service". The court gave the channel time till September 1 to reply to a notice by the I&B Ministry, which will decide on the matter within 48 hours and place its decision before the court.

8 held for smuggling

New Delhi: Eight men were arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence at New Delhi Railway Station for allegedly smuggling 504 gold bars worth Rs 43 crore into India.

Owner of car that mowed down CFO held

Gurgaon: A week after the Chief Financial Officer of an MNC died after the bike he was riding was hit by a car allegedly being driven by a minor, police has arrested the car owner.

Woman rescued

New Delhi: A 20-year-old woman, who was forced into prostitution after being allegedly lured by the promise of a high paying job, was rescued on Friday by DCW after she filed a complaint on the helpline for abuse. ENS



SKIMMING THE SURFACE

The water level of Yamuna was recorded at 204.14 metres at the Old Railway Bridge at 7 pm on Saturday, said an official of the irrigation and flood control department. The warning level is 204.50 metres. Amit Mehra

L-G differs with Delhi govt on NEET, JEE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29

LT-GOVERNOR ANIL Bajjal has given his go-ahead to hold the Joint Entrance Examination (Main) and National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (UG) in Delhi, two days after Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia wrote to the Centre seeking to postpone the exams or provide an alternative.

On August 17, the Supreme Court dismissed a plea seeking postponement of the entrance tests. JEE (Main), an online exam for engineering, is scheduled to be held from September 1 to 6 at test centres, and NEET, a pen-and-paper exam for medical and dental courses, on September 13.

Delhi government sources said Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot had also flagged his objections in writing. "The L-G has returned the position of the

elected government on the issue," a source in the Delhi government said.

Neither the government, nor the L-G Secretariat offered any official comment on the development.

In a letter to Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal, Sisodia had said that calling students to take the exams would amount to "willfully playing with the lives of the children". "In a situation like this, we will have to think not as administrators but as guardians," he wrote.

Apart from Delhi, many other states have been opposing the Centre's move to hold the exams. However, conveying the position of the Centre, Higher Education Secretary Amit Khare told *The Indian Express* recently that postponing the tests till after Diwali would wash out an entire semester and affect fresh admissions over the next few years.

Asked for help about missing child, two beat man to death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29

A DAY after a 40-year-old truck driver, who was searching for his missing child, was allegedly beaten to death by two brothers in Okhla, police said the accused, who were drunk, thought he was accusing them of kidnapping his son.

DCP (Southeast) RP Meena said, "On Thursday, around midnight, Krishan Meena was unloading some material from his truck in Okhla when his son, Rahul, got out." The victim spotted the accused, Dheeraj and Rakesh Arora, nearby and asked for help but they hurled abuses at him and allegedly beat him up in front of his seven-month pregnant wife.

The accused, drivers of a Gramin Sewa van, were arrested on Friday. During questioning, they told police they were drinking after work when Krishan ap-



The two accused who killed the 40-year-old truck driver

proached them to ask if they had seen his son. They claimed they hadn't, but Krishan did not leave, and they thought he was accusing them of kidnapping his child.

"Dheeraj got angry and caught hold of the man. Rakesh took an iron rod and hit Krishan on his head. The duo continued assaulting Krishan till his wife, Pappi Devi, screamed for help. The brothers then fled," said a police officer.

Later that night, a patrolling

Award for rejuvenating water body

New Delhi: The Delhi government has been granted an award of excellence for rejuvenation of Rajokri water body in Southwest Delhi at a summit hosted by the Ministry of Jal Shakti on Friday.

An area of 9,000 square metres has been developed in Rajokri with about 2,000 square metres of pond in the centre with an amphitheatre, a park, and a walking track around it, said Ankit Srivastava, technical advisor to the Delhi Jal Board (DJB).

The water in the pond is a mix of rainwater and treated wastewater from nearby localities, which is treated through a process called the Scientific Wetland and Activated Bio-digester. The DJB and the flood control department are working to rejuvenate 250 water bodies and 15 lakes. ENS

Suspected of theft, man tied to tree, beaten to death

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29

A 23-YEAR-OLD man was tied to a tree and allegedly beaten to death by four men who suspected he had stolen a mobile phone, police said Saturday. The incident took place in West Delhi's Naraina.

The accused, Istihar (30), Anish (24), Mustaq Ahmed (32) and his brother Shiraj (28), allegedly dragged the victim, Rahul, to a park early on Friday. Police said they tied him to a tree and beat him up with sticks and an iron rod till he died. The accused have been arrested, police said.

Police said Rahul was unemployed and was released from jail 15-20 days ago after being arrested in a case of petty theft.

Police said they were informed about the incident by an eyewitness, Shesh Kumar. He told police, "I woke up around 5:30 am and found my neighbours beating up a man. I was shocked... the man was being dragged to a nearby park. They were carrying sticks and one of them had an iron rod. I asked them to leave the man, but they told me he's a thief and threatened me as well."

Kumar called police and filed a complaint against the accused, who work as truck drivers.

DCP (West) Deepak Purohit said, "The police team found Rahul under a tree. He was already dead. There were multiple injuries on his body and some looked severe. A rope and a stole were also found near the



The victim, Rahul

body. We registered a murder case based on Kumar's statement."

Police sent their teams to the area and arrested all four men. During questioning, the accused claimed that Rahul and his associate stole Shiraj's mobile phone from his truck. The others witnessed it and chased the men, but they could only catch Rahul. The accused then took him to a park and thrashed him. When his condition deteriorated, the accused said they left the spot.

Rahul's family received information of his death around 7 am. His mother Guddi claimed: "Since he had been caught before in cases of theft, locals and police target him. Last week, a group of men thrashed him because they thought he stole their wallets, but they were wrong. Rahul fractured his left hand. On Friday, he told us he wants to start a new life and will look for a job. He got married recently and wanted to help us. He left home after his friend called him. We didn't know that he would be thrashed like this. Even if he did commit theft, the accused shouldn't have beaten him like this."

Rahul lived with his mother and his wife in Kirti Nagar.

AWARDEES INCLUDE 3 FROM GOVT SCHOOLS, 1 FROM NORTH MCD SCHOOL

12 teachers from Delhi chosen for CBSE awards this year

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29

FROM A teacher creating a smart classroom by gathering resources on his own, to one working to break taboos around menstruation, to another bringing together art with other subjects — a diverse range of teachers from the capital have been chosen for the CBSE Award to Teachers this year. The 12 awardees from Delhi include three from government schools and one from a North MCD school.

Balwan Singh has been working as a teacher at North

MCD school in Bankner. One of his biggest achievements is creating a smart classroom in his school, which, like other MCD schools, is short on resources.

"My children study in a private school, and on seeing smart classrooms there, I felt even my students should have it. I collected Rs 5,000 from the principal and senior teachers and arranged a large donation from a jewellery business in Chandni Chowk. Acquaintances offered to do the installation work of the projector and whiteboard for free, and we managed to get the system installed in 2017. It is now used as a



Balwan Singh, Arti Qanungo, Seema Pandey & Rashmi Biswal

common classroom; the interests of children in subjects like math has really increased," he said.

Among the government school teachers to have won is Arti Qanungo, who teaches English at a girls' school in

Shakarpur and has been working for years to create awareness on menstrual health. "It began with conversations with my students, but later I felt the need to extend this to the community. Through my students, I'm able to

connect with people living in nearby areas and speak to both men and women," she said.

Also among the winners is Seema Pandey, an artist who teaches art at Ramjas School Pusa Road and tries to integrate it with other subjects. "I talk to teachers of mainstream subjects and think of what activities can be introduced. Before the students learnt about concave and convex mirrors, we had an activity in which students did concave and convex portraits with spoons. I don't think they'll ever forget the subject. I introduce them to the Bengal school of art

when they learn about the nationalist movement," she said.

Another school in which arts is an integral part of the curriculum is DAV Public School, Pushpanjali Enclave, where principal Rashmi Biswal has been chosen for the award. "Our focus is on developing communication among students, teaching them to be bold; dance and dramatics play a very important role in that. Both activities are very vibrant in our school. I also encourage teachers to adapt drama as a mode of teaching. Most importantly, I believe a happy teacher makes a happy classroom," she said.

एण्ड्रयू यूल एण्ड कम्पनी लिमिटेड
ANDREW YULE & COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
CIN: L83690WB19190003229
8, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Sarani, Kolkata - 700 061

[Recruitment Advertisement No. 2320/23]

The Company is looking for candidates for General Division, Kolkata West Bengal to fill up the following positions.

Sl. No.	Position & Grade	Qualification Required	Min. Post Qualification Exp.	No of Post	Grade & Scale Proposed	Max Age in years
1.	General Manager (Finance & Accounts) (ET)/ Dy. General Manager (Finance & Accounts) - (ES)	Chartered / Cost Accountant	16 / 15 years	1	ET / ES 130000-350000 / 59300-243000	50 / 45

For details, refer to Company's Website @ <http://www.andrewyule.com/current-opening.php>

RANI DURGAVATI WISHWAVIDYALAYA, JABALPUR

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION 2020-21

Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur invites application for Admission in University Teaching Departments from eligible candidates for various Graduate/ Post Graduate/Diploma/certificate programmes for the session 2020-2021 under the faculties of Arts, Social Science, Law, Commerce, Education, Mathematics, Science, Life Science and Management.

Details of Online Admission procedures, subjects and fees structure may be obtained from the official University website- www.rdunijbpin.nic.in.

REGISTRAR
Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya,
Jabalpur (M.P.)

DRAFT EIA REPORT SUBMITTED TO DPCC; PROJECT BEING DEVELOPED BY NHAI

Proposal to cut 17,000 trees for 3rd ring road

SHIVAMPATEL NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29 TO MAKE way for Delhi's third ring road and two connecting spur roads to Haryana, around 17,000 trees, including those in protected forest areas, will need to be cut, as per a draft environmental impact assessment (EIA) report submitted to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC).

The 38-km stretch has been classified as National Highway number 344M and was proposed by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) as part of the Delhi Master Plan 2021 to decongest the city. "Delhi being the national capital generates and attracts huge quantum of traffic not only from within Delhi but also from surrounding regions. To cater to this regional traffic, Inner and Outer ring roads were planned in 1962, of which only the inner ring road could be completed whereas outer ring road is still not a full ring," the draft EIA reads.

The Urban Extension Road II, being developed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), also passes through 9.28 hectares of protected forest land in the city as per the draft EIA prepared by a project consultant.

The Urban Extension Road II, being developed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), also passes through 9.28 hectares of protected forest land in the city as per the draft EIA prepared by a project consultant.

The Urban Extension Road II, being developed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), also passes through 9.28 hectares of protected forest land in the city as per the draft EIA prepared by a project consultant.

The Urban Extension Road II, being developed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), also passes through 9.28 hectares of protected forest land in the city as per the draft EIA prepared by a project consultant.

Finances hit by Covid, discom unhappy with no hike in power tariff

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29 TATA POWER, which has over 18 lakh consumers in Delhi, Saturday questioned the DERC's decision to keep power tariff unchanged, saying "financial challenges" being faced by the discoms has put uninterrupted supply of power in the city at "grave risk".



DERC cited Covid-19 to not hike tariffs this year

DERC cited Covid-19 to not hike tariffs this year. TATA POWER, which has over 18 lakh consumers in Delhi, Saturday questioned the DERC's decision to keep power tariff unchanged, saying "financial challenges" being faced by the discoms has put uninterrupted supply of power in the city at "grave risk".

tomers and discoms. The sharp drop in sales to commercial and industrial customers has deeply impacted discoms' finances in the last few months. Considering the pandemic, DERC has maintained tariff at the existing level. However, for discoms, this tariff order will substantially increase financial challenges and the ability to ensure 24x7 power supply," TPDDL said in a statement.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health, Chennai - 32 Tender Notice No.1/2020-2021. Sealed tenders are invited in two cover system from the eligible bidders for the 'Supply of safety kit comprising of Personal Protective Equipments namely Safety full body harness, Safety Helmet, Electrical Safety Shoes, Safety Shoes, Reflective Jacket, Nose Mask, Hand gloves (cotton), Rubber Gloves, Electrical Safety Gloves, Rubber Boot, Safety Goggles, Welding Face Shields and safety kit bag to be supplied to one lakh construction workers' employed in the following categories as per the requirement mentioned in Table 1.

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता नलकुप्प खण्ड-प्रथम, अलीगढ़ नीलामी सूचना संख्या-03/नकूख-1/2020-21

Table with 5 columns: क्रम सं. (Serial No.), लॉट संख्या (Lot No.), आइटम का नाम (Item Name), मात्रा (Quantity), and बरोहर वनराशि का म (Bid Security Amount). Rows include Burnt Copper Wire, P.V.C. Scrap, and M.S./Iron Scrap.

- 1- उपरोक्त सामान की नीलामी सामान जैसा है, जहाँ है के आधार पर की जायेगी। 2- उपरोक्त सामान किसी भी कार्य दिवस में देर रात्र के सदरक अभियन्ता-द्वितीय से सम्पर्क कर नलकुप्प कालोनी, अलीगढ़ में स्थित केन्द्रीय भण्डार परिसर में देखा जा सकता है। 3- बरोहर वनराशि केवल बैंक ड्राफ्ट के माध्यम से जो कि अधिशासी अभियन्ता, नलकुप्प खण्ड-प्रथम के नाम बन्क हो स्वीकार की जायेगी।

Office of the Executive Engineer U.P.R.E.D. Sambhal Address:- Irrigation Colony Bahjoi, Sambhal-244410 Press Notice for Manual Tender. Letter No.- 338 /RED/Tender/File-56/ Bond Clerk/2020-21 dated:- 12.08.2020

Table with 7 columns: S. No., Name of District, Name of work, Total estimated cost (in Lakh), Bid security (EMD) in Lakh, Cost of Bid document (in Rupees), and Period of completion including rainy season. Lists various construction and maintenance work items across different districts.

Malls and markets in Gurgaon welcome change in closure days

SAKSHIDAYAL GURGAON, AUGUST 29 THE HARYANA government's decision to revise the days on which shops and malls are to remain closed every week - from Saturday and Sunday to Monday and Tuesday - has given malls and markets in Gurgaon a "lifeline" as they struggle to attract business.



Mall and shop officials said that despite losses, the closure will not impact them as badly

to curb the spike in Covid cases, the Haryana government issued orders on August 21 for weekend closure of public and private offices, malls and shops not dealing in essential services. On Friday, however, fresh directions were issued stating that "shopping malls and shops, except those dealing with essential goods and services" would have to remain closed on Monday and Tuesday instead.

incurring losses, said the two-day closure will not impact them as badly. "This is much better than the weekend closure. Most of our sales have been happening on Saturday and Sunday since the lockdown; if we had to be shut on those days, the losses would be a lot more. However, staying closed on any day means a loss as malls have their own expenses. We pay Rs 40-Rs 50 per square foot as maintenance, salaries of employees are higher than at normal markets, and so are the rentals," said Aman Bajaj,

MADURAI CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION "SWACHH BHARAT MISSION" TENDER NOTIFICATION NO.48/2020. 1. On behalf of Madurai Corporation The Commissioner, Madurai Corporation invites Sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for following works under SWACHH BHARAT MISSION.

TAMIL NADU SLUM CLEARANCE BOARD CHENNAI CIRCLE-I NOTICE INVITING SHORT-TENDER. Tender Notice No.SCR/430/HSE/CC-I/2020. For and on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, one sealed tender consisting of two separate sealed covers one for Pre-qualification with EMD and other one for Price Bid with name of work duly superscribed in both covers are invited from eligible Contractors who are in the field of Construction Industry and are registered contractors of TNSCB under Class-I and above or Government Departments / Government undertakings / Government / Semi Government Bodies / Quasi Government / Public Sector undertakings / Housing Boards/ Corporation Undertakings / CPWD and registered as a legal entity in India, by the Superintending Engineer, Chennai Circle-I, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, No.5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai - 600 005 upto 3.00 PM on 29.09.2020 and the same will be opened at 3.30 PM on the same day in the presence of the Tender Scrutiny Committee and bidders' authorised agents.

Debts Recovery Tribunal, Dehradun Government of India, Ministry of Finance, (Department of Financial Services) PUBLIC NOTICE IN O.A. No. 131 OF 2020. Summons under Sub-Section (4) of Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 Read Withsub-Rule (2A) of Rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) (Rules, 1993 as Amended from Time to Time) Dated: 28.08.2020

Whereas the above named Applicant Bank has instituted O.A. No. 131 of 2020 against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 23,45,768/- in which Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to issue Summons/Notice U/s 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and was listed before the Hon'ble Presiding Officer on 26.08.2020.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER Capt Suneel Kumar Yadav, (Posthumous) (14 Oct 1976 - 30 Aug 1999). This historic day fills our hearts with pride and sorrow alike when in the highest traditions of the Indian Army, you laid down your life in the line of duty. World is a lesser place without you but we know that you are with the gods above and even heavens have improved by your gracious presence.

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (A Super Speciality, Autonomous Institute Of Govt. Of Bihar) IGIMS Medical College, IGIMS Nursing College. Tender Notice No.-08/2020-21/Furniture/IGIMS/Store. TENDER NOTIFICATION. Sealed tenders in two packet systems (Technical & Financial bid) are invited from eligible and qualified manufacturers or their authorized distributors / agents for Annual Rate Contract for the supply of Hospital Furniture, Hostel Furniture, Library Furniture & Office Furniture to this Institute.

कार्यालय प्रशासन, स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, फिरोजाबाद. संख्या-एफजेडडी/2020/1873 दिनांक-29 अगस्त, 2020. प्रुन-अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना. इस चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय के निविदा संख्या एफजेडडी/2020/1771 दिनांक 20 अगस्त, 2020 के क्रम में प्रतिष्ठित/ख्यातिलब्ध/स्थानीय फर्मों से Inj. Remdesivir 100 mg के क्रय हेतु ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

DANAPUR CANTONMENT BOARD TENDER INVITATION NOTICE (Only through the e-procurement - http://eprocure.gov.in/cppp). Danapur Cantonment Board invites the following items separate tender through e-procurement portal site http://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/ in the two sealed envelope i.e. (i) Technical Bid (Envelope 1) and (ii) Financial Bid from the desired bidder for the financial year 2020-21.

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No., Tender, Estimated Amount in Rs., EMD, and Registration fee. Lists items like Fishery Right in Dewania Nalah with amounts and fees.

By Order of Tribunal Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal, Dehradun (M)95600-72676(O) 0135-2720854

150 academics write to PM in support of JEE, NEET decision

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29

AROUND 150 academics from different universities have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking him to go ahead with the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) and National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) as planned, and not give in to voices of opposition.

"Youth and students are the future of the nation but in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, clouds of uncertainty have gathered over their careers too. There are a lot of apprehensions about admissions and classes which need to be resolved at the earliest," the academicians wrote in the letter sent on August 27.

The signatories include Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Motihari, Sanjeev Sharma, V-C of Baba Saheb Ambedkar University, Ahmedabad, Amil Upadhyay, and Pro-V-C of Central University of Kerala, J Jayaprasad, along with several teachers from Delhi University and Jawaharalal Nehru University.

"The government has declared its decision to conduct the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) and the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and announced the respective dates. We wholeheartedly welcome this move. The Honourable Supreme Court too dismissed a petition for postponement of these exams saying that any further delay in conducting the test would result in waste of precious year for students," they wrote.

"The dreams and future of our youth and students cannot be compromised at any cost. However, some are trying to play with the future of our students simply to propel their own political agenda and oppose the government. We hope and strongly believe that under your able leadership, the central government will successfully conduct the JEE and NEET exams taking full precautions to ensure that the future students is taken care of and the academic calendar for 2020-21 is rolled out," they added.

'Informal' classes in Assam govt schools from Sept 15

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, AUGUST 29

THE ASSAM government will begin "informal" classes in its schools from September 15, state Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday.

"The timeline for teachers to get mandatorily tested has been extended to September 15. Those who are tested by now will join schools from September 1. First 15 days, they will be supervising school sanitisation work and re-organise classrooms as per social distancing norms," Sarma told reporters at a press conference in Guwahati.

From September 15, the minister said, when children reach school to receive their midday meal packs during the week, teachers will interact with them and issue question papers. "...they will provide study material for the week," Sarma said.

"For Class XII and final-year graduation students, teachers will hold informal classes in groups of 4-5," Sarma added.

For other classes, teachers will be conducting online classes — not from their homes, but from schools and colleges, Sarma said.

He however added that the plans could be altered as per the unfolding Covid situation.

Complete lockdown in Kota until September 6

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, AUGUST 29

THE KOTA district administration on Saturday decided to impose an eight-day-long complete lockdown from August 30 to September 6 in view of the rising number of Covid-19 cases.

So far, nearly 5,000 cases have been reported from the district along with 71 deaths — including two deaths on Saturday. According to the Rajasthan Health department's daily Covid-19 report, 200 new positive cases were detected in Kota on Saturday.

Kota District Collector Ujjwal Rathore said they were left with no option but to opt for a complete lockdown in the district.

"Considering the increasing number of cases everyday, we didn't have any other option but to impose a complete lockdown... and if the rate of infection continues to be the same, we will face a severe crisis of health infrastructure resulting in the shortage of ICU beds and oxygen. We are hoping that this lockdown will help in bringing down the total number of cases," Kota collector Rathore told *The Sunday Express*.

"Apart from essential and medical services, examination centres and government offices important to handle public issues, everything else will remain closed in this period," he added.

Goa politicians opt for pvt hospitals, MGP leader says not appropriate to use govt beds

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, AUGUST 29

WITH THE Opposition and civil society criticising the admission of Goan political leaders to private hospitals for Covid-19 treatment, MGP leader and former deputy chief minister Sudin Dhavalikar has offered a bizarre defence: that politicians have opted to seek treatment in private hospitals to ensure they didn't take what was "reserved for the needy".

Over the past few weeks, Union minister Shripad Naik, former CM Churchill Alemao and Dhavalikar himself sought treatment at private hospitals. After he tested positive for the virus, Directorate of Health Service director Jose D'Sa also opted for a private hospital, leading to criticism.

In response, Dhavalikar wrote on Facebook, "...with many patients getting admitted to government hospitals and beds getting occupied, it was not appropriate for us to utilise these beds, as the same could be used by the needy when required."

He stated that he will not use government funds for his treatment, writing, "I also request other MLAs who may have taken or are taking treatment at private hospitals, not to burden the already cash-strapped government with their medical expenses."

Meanwhile, state Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said the "government can't intervene in person's individual choice".

The government has been showcasing the state-run Goa Medical College hospital and ESI hospital as Covid facilities. D'Sa himself would frequently assure Goans of the "good public infrastructure" he oversaw at ESI hospital.

IN MIGRANT DIST, DAILY POSITIVITY RATE NOW LESS THAN 2%

Ganjam rides out Covid curve with contact tracing, testing

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR, AUGUST 29

AMONG THE non-Tier I and II areas with one of the highest Covid death tolls in the country, Ganjam appears to have turned a corner. The daily positivity rate in the district where a large number of migrants flooded back following the lockdown is now less than 2%, from 14.89% at the beginning of the month. The district has gone three days without any coronavirus deaths.

Ganjam had reported its first positive case on May 2, soon after the first batch of around 200 migrants returned to it from hotspot states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. As the number of returning migrants gradually climbed to four lakh, before declining in end June, Ganjam Covid numbers rose steadily, from 59 on May 7 to 1,000 by June 22, and crossing 10,000 by end July.

A month later, while Ganjam has 17,456 cases, highest in Odisha, only 1,597 of these are active. Its death toll, at 185, is also the highest in the state. Having averaged seven deaths daily in June and mid-August, Ganjam has seen fatalities drop, while new cases have been falling from 500 per day in July to 200 in early August, to 180 in the last 10 days even as testing has increased to 10,000 daily. The daily positivity rate as on August 28 was 1.74%.

Officials attribute the turn-



Door to door screening by health officials at Babanpur village in Aska block of the district. Express

around in Ganjam to increased testing, extensive contact tracing, testing of all close contacts, and a second round of screening of recovered patients to check for relapse. The district has three Covid-only hospitals with 588 beds (261 occupied), nine Covid Care Centres with 3,744 beds (around 450 occupied), 98 ICU beds (80 occupied), and 1,763 with oxygen cylinders available (121 occupied).

Siddharth Swain, Project Director, District Rural Development Authority and nodal officer for Covid management in the district, said the testing of contacts had made the difference. "Houses in Ganjam are usually located quite close to each other, sharing the same wall, which increases the chances of transmission if the infection is undetected," he said.

Even as owners of commercial establishments were encouraged to get themselves tested, District Collector Vijay Kurlange said they ramped up antigen testing. "More funds were released for the purpose."

Senior IAS officer and Covid observer for Ganjam G Mathivathanan said some errors were behind the surge that overwhelmed the district initially, including home quarantine for those coming from outside, which was flouted by many. "That in a way compounded the problem."

Once the migrant situation was controlled, officials focused on disease management, the goal being "no more deaths". One major local-level intervention was stationing a private am-

balance with a trained health worker at each gram panchayat, apart from the 108 call service for ambulances. "We hired private vehicles, equipped them with oxygen cylinders and positioned them in panchayats. In red zones the ambulances were provided for clusters," Mathivathanan said.

Another initiative was offering counselling to patients in the first three days after they test positive. "Anxiety management has been one of our prime focus areas, and the initial days for any patient are turbulent. We have a team of counsellors (around 50 of them) available round the clock. Each one makes around 100 calls a day," the officer said.

For surveillance purposes, a nodal officer with a team of paramedics was appointed for every 400 houses. The house mapping exercise also helped officials prepare a list of patients with comorbidities.

A help desk with four lines and an outbound call centre with 10 lines monitors all the positive cases, especially those in home isolation, with calls thrice a day. Every patient has a health card, which is shared with call centre executives to help them frame questions accordingly.

As a further precaution, a plasma collection centre was opened in the district, and has seen 102 donors so far, of the 492 identified. Authorities say 25 people have recovered after receiving plasma.

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

180 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN
CASES: 34,63,972
RECOVERED: 26,48,998
DEATHS: 62,550
TESTS: 4,04,06,609 | DOUBLING RATE: 32.81**



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING RATE**
Maharashtra	7,47,995	14,427	1.86%	38.70
Tamil Nadu	4,09,238	5,996	1.55%	46.41
Andhra	4,03,616	10,526	2.70%	26.66
Karnataka	3,18,752	8,960	2.70%	26.68
Uttar Pradesh	2,13,824	5,405	2.72%	26.50

* Compounded Daily Growth Rate over last 7 days ** Calculated over 7-day growth

CASE FATALITY RATIO	POSITIVITY RATE	DAILY IN, DAILY OUT
7 DAYS EARLIER: 1.87 NOW: 1.81	7 DAYS EARLIER: 8.63 NOW: 8.57	DETECTED TODAY: 76,472 RECOVERED TODAY: 65,050

Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); indicator of progress in averting deaths

Positives against number tested (in %); indicator of the spread of disease

Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days may signal the peak

Data as on August 28, released by Union Ministry of Health, ICMR and states. Often daily numbers include data from previous days. As such, trends based on daily numbers are indicative, not definitive.

Ten Gujarat ATS personnel test positive for coronavirus

Ahmedabad: As many as ten personnel from the Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS), involved in the investigation of the alleged assassination attempt on former home minister Gordhan Zadhavia, tested Covid positive on Saturday. More than a dozen staff including senior officials have since been quarantined.

According to ATS officials, 10 personnel attached with Gujarat ATS including police inspector JN Goswami, police sub inspector JK Rathod and three constables attached with Valsad police station, one commando, two state reserve police (SRP) constables and two clerks tested positive for Covid-19 Saturday. Alleged sharpshooter from Mumbai, Irfan Shaikh, and another suspect detained in the matter have also tested positive.

The ATS members have been asked to stay in isolation for five days. ENS

Uttarakhand BJP president tests Covid positive

Dehradun: Uttarakhand BJP president Bansidhar Bhagat has tested positive for Covid-19.

His son, who is an office-bearer of the party's youth wing, had tested positive a day earlier.

The state BJP headquarters in Dehradun has been closed for two days for sanitisation.

MLA from Kaladhungi in Nainital district, Bhagat took to Twitter to confirm that his corona test report was positive. He appealed to party functionaries and workers who had come in contact with him in the last week to get tested.

Bhagat (70) is asymptomatic but has been admitted to Doon hospital due to the age factor.

As Bhagat had interacted with mediapersons on Thursday, and invited them for an interaction over lunch at his new official residence in Dehradun on August 24, the state government has agreed to get rapid antigen test of those mediapersons done.

Sources said the party will hold its state executive meet on August 31, and the party's central office-bearers from Delhi will connect via video-conferencing. ENS

Your Trust Our Rewards

Parcel Cargo Express Trains (PCETs) Services for you

Northern Railway understands the importance of time bound express delivery of all the parcels booked. These PCET Parcel Trains deliver timely and quickly all the parcels containing medicine, perishable and other commercial goods during this critical time of pandemic. In case the entire parcel train is booked, Northern Railway can deliver the goods to a specific destination also.

Following are the details of the scheduled Parcel Cargo Express Trains (PCETs)

Parcel Spl. No.	Station From	Dep. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Days of Run	Dates of Run
00401	Guwahati	00:30	New Delhi	13:15	Fri, Sun	Upto 31.12.2020
00402	New Delhi	14:30	Guwahati	03:00	Tue, Thu	Upto 31.12.2020
00463	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	09:10	Mon, Sat	Upto 04.09.2020
00464	Amritsar	17:30	Howrah	08:30	Fri	Upto 31.12.2020
00465	Guwahati	00:30	Amritsar	19:45	Wed	Upto 31.12.2020
00466	Amritsar	07:50	Guwahati	03:00	Fri	Upto 31.12.2020
00467	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	06:30	Thu	Upto 31.12.2020
00468	Amritsar	20:40	Howrah	08:30	Mon	Upto 31.12.2020
00469	Howrah	17:30	New Delhi	00:25	Mon	Upto 31.12.2020
00470	New Delhi	01:55	Howrah	08:30	Thu	Upto 31.12.2020
00621	KSR Bengaluru	17:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	15:00	Wed, Fri	Upto 30.12.2020
00622	Hazrat Nizamuddin	02:20	KSR Bengaluru	01:20	Mon, Sat	Upto 02.01.2021
00761	Renigunta	05:45	Hazrat Nizamuddin	15:50	Daily	Upto 31.12.2020
00762	Hazrat Nizamuddin	10:15	Renigunta	20:45	Daily	Upto 31.12.2020
00763	Hyderabad Decan	19:00	Amritsar	09:15	Fri	Upto 31.12.2020
00764	Amritsar	05:00	Hyderabad Decan	19:10	Mon	Upto 31.12.2020
00901	Bandra Terminus	19:30	Jammu Tawi	08:00	Sat, Mon	Upto 31.08.2020
00902	Tammu Tawi	18:30	Bandra Terminus	06:40	Mon, Wed, Thu, Sat	Upto 02.09.2020

For more information on Time-Table and running status of PCETs, please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or National Train Enquiry System (NTES) App

Security Helpline No. **182**

Commercial Control/Head Quarter **9717638775**

Commercial Control/Delhi Division **9717649915**

Integrated Helpline No. **139**

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

Please join us on SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

DEEPAK FERTILISERS AND PETROCHEMICALS CORPORATION LIMITED

Registered & Corporate Office:
Sai Hira, Survey No. 93, Mundhwa, Pune - 411 036
Tel No.: +91 20 6645 8000
www.dfpc.com, CIN: L24121MH1979PLC021360

NOTICE OF THE 40th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, E-VOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the 40th Annual General Meeting ('AGM') of the Company is scheduled to be held on **Monday, 21st September, 2020 at 11.00 a.m. through Video Conferencing ('VC') / Other Audio Visual Means ('OAVM')** without physical presence of the members at a common venue, in compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (the 'Act'), MCA circular dated 5th May, 2020 read with circulars dated 8th April, 2020 and 13th April, 2020 (collectively referred to as 'MCA Circulars') and SEBI circular dated 12th May, 2020, to transact the business as set out in the Notice of 40th AGM.

In compliance with the said MCA circulars and SEBI Circular, the Company has dispatched the **Notice of 40th AGM and Annual Report for Financial Year 2019-20 only through electronic mode to all the members** whose email IDs are registered with the Company/depository participant(s). These documents are also available on the website of the Company at www.dfpc.com, website of the stock exchanges, i.e., BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.nseindia.com and on the website of Registrar and Share Transfer Agent of the Company i.e. KFin Technologies Private Limited (hereinafter referred to as 'KFin') at <https://evoting.karvy.com>.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the items of the businesses to be transacted at the aforesaid 40th Annual General Meeting of the Company will be transacted through e-voting platform provided by KFin. The details are as under:

- The remote e-voting will commence on **Friday, 18th September, 2020 at 9.00 a.m. and will end on Sunday, 20th September, 2020 at 5.00 p.m.** The Members will not be allowed to vote electronically before the said date and time and the e-voting module shall be disabled by KFin thereafter. The company is providing the e-voting facility to all the members holding shares in physical or dematerialized form as of the **cut-off date 14th September, 2020.**
- Any person who acquires Shares of the Company and become a Member of the Company after the dispatch of the 40th Annual General Meeting Notice and holds shares as on the cut-off date, i.e. **14th September, 2020** may obtain the login Id and password by sending a request at evoting@karvy.com or investorgrievance@dfpc.com.
- The process and manner of e-voting is available in the notice of the 40th Annual General Meeting.

Members present during the meeting through VC/OAVM and who had not cast their votes on the resolutions through remote e-voting and are otherwise not barred from doing so, shall be eligible to vote through e-voting system during the AGM. **The instructions for attending the AGM through VC/OAVM are provided in the Notice of 40th AGM.**

Members who have cast their votes by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend/ participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM facility, but shall not be allowed to cast their votes again at the AGM.

A person whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as e-voting during the AGM.

Pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 10 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the **Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company shall remain closed from Thursday, 17th September, 2020 upto Monday, 21st September, 2020 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of 40th Annual General Meeting of the Company and payment of dividend for the financial year ended 31st March, 2020, if declared by the members at their 40th Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday, 21st September, 2020.**

In case of any queries/grievances, related to e-voting, the shareholder may contact the following persons or may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for members and e-voting User Manual available at the 'download' section of <https://evoting.karvy.com> or call KFin on 1800 345 4001 (toll free).

<p>Mr. K Subharaman EVP (Legal) & Company Secretary Sai Hira, Survey No. 93, Mundhwa, Pune - 411 036 Email ID: k.subharaman@dfpc.com Tel: (020) 6645 8000</p>	<p>Mr. S V Raju Deputy General Manager KFin Technologies Private Limited Unit: Deepak Fertilisers And Petrochemicals Corporation Limited Selenium Tower B, Plot 31-32 Gachibowli Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500 032. Email ID: raju.sv@kfintech.com Tel: (040) 6716 1571</p>
--	---

For Deepak Fertilisers And Petrochemicals Corporation Limited
Sd/-
K. Subharaman
EVP (Legal) & Company Secretary

Place: Pune
Date: 29th August, 2020

DELHI DISPUTE RESOLUTION SOCIETY (REGD.)

(Dept. of Law, Justice & LA, GNCTD) invites applications for Engagement of retired Govt. officers/officials in DDRS on Short Term Contract Basis for **03 posts of Additional Director** and **02 posts of Stenographer (English Grade-II)**

The terms and conditions of the engagement and format of the application are available at the website: http://web.delhi.gov.in/wps/wcm/connect/doi_tddrs/DELHI+DISPUTES+RESOLUTION+SOCIETY/Home/Vacancies/

The last date of receipt of applications in this office is 15.09.2020.

DIP/Shabdarth/0258/20-21

Chinese betting racket busted, ED freezes bank accounts with Rs 47 cr

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has frozen close to Rs 47 crore belonging to a Chinese company allegedly running illegal betting in India.

The agency also conducted searches at 15 locations across Delhi, Gurgaon, Mumbai and Pune at premises associated with the company, its directors and chartered accountants. The ED has held online payment gateways accountable for alleged "lax due diligence" and "non-reporting of suspicious transactions", which allowed this racket to flourish.

"...ED seized 17 hard disks, 5 laptops, phones, crucial incriminating documents and has also frozen Rs 46.96 crore held in 4 HSBC Bank accounts," the agency said in a statement.

The ED case is based on an FIR registered by Telangana police after it arrested Beijing resident Yan Hao and associates Dhiraj Sarkar and Ankit Kapoor on charges of running a betting racket. Hao was identified as manager of Beijing Tomorrow Power Company.

According to ED, some Chinese nationals floated multiple Indian companies with the help of Indian chartered accountants using Indian directors to incorporate them. Later, Chinese nationals took over directorship in these firms, ED said.

"Some locals were hired and used to open accounts with HSBC Bank and open trade accounts with online wallets Paytm, Cashfree, Razorpay etc. These wallets had lax due diligence mechanisms and their non-reporting of suspicious transactions to the regulatory authorities helped the accused companies to launch pan-India operations," the ED stated.

According to ED, once bank accounts were opened, internet access credentials were couriered by the Indian employees to China and major payment instructions came from the beneficial owners based in China. Accused companies allegedly floated a large number of similar looking websites which were hosted through Cloudflare, USA, the ED stated.

Owners of Kerala finance firm held in Rs 2,000 crore fraud: police

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 29

PROMOTERS OF a Kerala-based non-banking financial company, which faces several cases of fraud from depositors, were arrested on Saturday for allegedly defrauding investors of nearly Rs 2,000 crore.

Pathanamthitta district Superintendent of Police K G Simon said Popular Finance, based at Vakayar village in Pathanamthitta district, did not have the required licence from the banking regulator.

On Saturday, the company's managing director Thomas Daniel and his wife Prabha, who is also a partner, were arrested.

Their daughters and senior executives of the firm, Rinu Maria Thomas and Riya Anna Thomas, were detained at New Delhi airport on Friday, trying to leave the country in the face of complaints from aggrieved depositors, the police said here on Saturday.

The state police had alerted airports across the country after Rinu and Riya went absconding. Pathanamthitta SP Simon said,

"Our preliminary assumption is that the firm's deposit collection would go up to Rs 2,000 crore. We are getting complaints from across states, where it (Popular Finance) has branches. As per complaints already under police process, Rs 300 crore is at stake."

He said, "We don't think (people's) deposits are safe with the firm. We realised that a chunk of deposits has been shifted overseas. A probe is on."

Police sources said Popular Finance, which has stakes in several non-banking verticals and financial services, had offered high interest rates for deposits to lure customers.

"At one time, they had offered interest up to 18 per cent, which went down up to 12 per cent. When unreasonable interest was offered for deposits, the number of investors grew exponentially," an official said. "They were paid interest regularly, which created an impression that deposits were safe, attracting more investors."

But many investors did not realise that the interest for monthly payment was lifted from the deposit itself, the official said. Sources said that the nation-

wide lockdown implemented in March reduced the flow of fresh deposits, a chunk of which the firm earlier used to pay to investors whose deposits mature.

Gold pledged with the firm for loan have been re-pledged in banks by promoters for further loans, it is learnt.

The issue emerged when the firm could not repay some investors for their matured deposits. When the promoters filed an insolvency suit in a local court, panic-stricken depositors came in hordes, putting the firm in a tight spot, a source said.

Wilson Varghese, who said he is a duped investor, said around Rs 50 crore has been collected at the firm's Anchal branch in Kollam district. Many depositors are retired people, who banked on monthly interest from their deposits, he said.

"I am a Gulf returnee and deposited Rs 15 lakh in two instalments. The amount attained maturity six months ago. I want to get back at least the principal amount," Varghese said.

Popular Finance has 274 branches across the country, mainly in South India.

Officer's wife and son shot dead in Lucknow, teenage daughter held

ASAD REHMAN LUCKNOW, AUGUST 29

THE WIFE and a son of a senior officer were shot dead, allegedly by the officer's teenage daughter, at their Lucknow home on Saturday, police said.

Police said they have detained the girl who they claimed had admitted to the killings. While the motive is not yet known, police said she is suffering from depression.

"We received information in the afternoon that there has been a murder at a senior officer's house. While the officer is posted in Delhi, his family lives here. After reaching the house, we found two bodies. We were informed that the wife and son of the officer were shot. The son was shot in the head. Because there was a lot of blood, we could not figure out the mother's injuries," Lucknow Commissioner of Police Sujay Pandey said.

"When we conducted an investigation, we found that the murders were committed by the daughter. She had shot both her mother and her brother. We have seized the weapon. She has confessed to the crime and has also

Police said the girl confessed to the crime, and that they had seized the murder weapon — a .22 bore pistol

told us that she has hurt herself with a razor. We have recovered the razor and her right hand was banded. The wounds were visible after we opened the bandage. There were also old wounds. Till now, it has come to light that she is suffering from depression. We questioned her in front of her maternal grandfather... We will send her to a juvenile home later. Till then, we will take care of her. Her father is on his way," Commissioner Pandey said.

According to police, there were six to seven domestic helps at the home when the murder took place. The gun used in the crime was .22 bore pistol, police said.

"The motive seems to be depression. In the bathroom, she has written 'disqualified human' which she says she has written for herself. She had also fired at the mirror. We have found the pellet," he said.

Maharashtra to seek CBI probe into producer 'links' with BJP, 'drug nexus'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, AUGUST 29

MAHARASHTRA HOME Minister Anil Deshmukh said on Saturday that he would forward to the CBI complaints he had received about links of film producer Sandip Ssingh with the BJP and a "drug nexus" in Bollywood.

"Sandip Ssingh had made a biopic of the Prime Minister in 27 languages. I have received various complaints seeking an inquiry into his links with the BJP as well as his links with the drug nexus in Bollywood. We will forward these complaints for further investigation," Deshmukh said. Ssingh was one of the producers of the 2019 film PM Narendra Modi starring Vivek Oberoi.

The Maharashtra unit of the Congress had said on Friday that there was a need to

probe the "BJP angle" in the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. In a statement, the Congress had also raised questions about Ssingh's links with the BJP, adding that he claimed to be a friend of Rajput's.

Maharashtra Congress spokesperson Sachin Savant had shared a picture from social media of Ssingh with former Maharashtra chief minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis.

Denying any links to Ssingh, Fadnavis had said Ssingh was also said to have some association with the Shiv Sena.

"Why did the Mumbai Police not investigate these people earlier? The person in question may have been present at some function where I was present. There is also some report that the same person was the director of a movie to be made on Balasahab Thackeray," Fadnavis said in Pune.

Four children dead, thousands evacuated as rain batters MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, AUGUST 29

FOUR CHILDREN died after a wall collapsed in Dheemardhed tehsil of Katni district as heavy rain lashed several eastern districts of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. At least 9,308 people from 16 villages were evacuated and moved to shelter homes.

The four children who died were identified as Suhani Kaul (6), Pinku Kaul (8), Lalit Kaul (4) and Annapurna Kaul (8). The children were said to be playing near their house when a wall collapsed on them. The district administration has announced compensation of Rs 4 lakh for each child to the family of the deceased.

Of the areas flooded by heavy rains were three towns and 16 villages which included Bhopal, Chhindwada, Indore, Hoshangabad, Harda, Narsinghpur, Dewas and Sehore. Two helicopters of the air force were requisitioned to carry out evacuations in Sehore and Hoshangabad.

However, bad weather prevented their movement and they are expected to start rescue work on Sunday morning. A third helicopter was pressed in to rescue people in Chhindwada. In Chhindwada, five people



Commuters struggle to navigate flooded roads in Bhopal, Saturday. PTI

who were stuck for 18 hours in their village had to be airlifted.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who held a review meeting at 10 am, urged people living in low-lying areas to move to safer houses.

The Narmada river had surpassed the danger mark of 964 feet and was flowing at 973 feet in Hoshangabad after the gates of various dams had to be opened. Chouhan urged residents to dial 100 or 1079 for ask for help. NDRF and SDRF teams are equipped with 150 boats to rescue people.

As Mahanadi water levels rise, Hirakud dam opens 46 sluice gates

Bhubaneswar: As water level continued to rise in Mahanadi, along with four other rivers, a medium to large scale flood is expected in coastal parts of the state. The Hirakud dam, which controls flood water in Mahanadi, has opened 46 of its 64 sluice gates, releasing the excess water flowing in from the upper catchment area of Chhatisgarh. Officials said the water level is increasing by 8 cm every hour. "The inflow of Hirakud is 8.78 lakh cusecs while the outflow is 7.57 lakh cusecs... The water level stands at 626.89 feet as against its full capacity of 630 feet," Special Relief Commissioner Pradeep Jena said. ENS

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT CUM MEMBER SECRETARY, RAJASTHAN MEDICARE RELIEF SOCIETY, SAWAI MANSINGH HOSPITAL, JAIPUR

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY ENGINEERING BRANCH, DATE: 28.08.2020 OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRISON PRISON HEAD QUARTER: NEAR LAJWANTI GARDEN CHOWK JANAK PURI: NEW DELHI PROVISION BRANCH

GREATER WARANGAL MUNICIPAL CORPORATION RFP Notice No. COMM/GWMC/CTN/01/2020-21, Dated: 28-08-2020

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल यांत्रिक विभाग मुख्यालय गोविंदपुरा (वी.एच.ई.एल.)

Table with 7 columns: क्र., ऑनलाईन निविदा क्र., कार्य का नाम, अनुमानित राशि, धरोहर राशि, प्रपत्र राशि, कार्य हेतु निर्धारित एस.ओ.आर., कार्य की अवधि

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-NIT NO. JBP-TRO-TENDER-2020-07, DATE: 28.08.2020

Director General of Police and Director General Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services, No.1, Annaswamy Mudaliar Road, Bengaluru-560 042 Tender Abstract Notification

GUJARAT WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED, GANDHINAGAR OFFICE OF THE GEOHYDROLOGIST, UNIT-2, KHERVA-382711

KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shivamogga Division, Shivamogga-577 201.

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कार्पोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना अनुभवो फर्मों/ठेकेदार/कार्यदायी संस्थाओं से विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल मेरठ के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु मोहर बन्द ई-निविदायें ई-पोर्टल (www.etender.up.nic.in) पर दो भागों में आमंत्रित की जाती है।

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कार्पोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 36-ईसीटीसी/मु.रा./2020-21 ई-टेंडर चार भाग की वैधता हेतु दो भागों में भाग-1 व भाग-2 अधोलिखित विवरण के अनुसार आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं-

Bhushan case: SC to pronounce quantum of punishment on August 31

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 29

THE SUPREME COURT will pronounce on August 31 the quantum of punishment for advocate Prashant Bhushan...

A bench of Justices Arun Mishra, B R Gavai and Krishna Murari will deliver the ruling at 10.30 am.

On August 14, the bench had held Bhushan guilty over the tweets made on June 29 and 29. It heard arguments for sentencing on August 20 and reserved it's judgement on August 25.

During the arguments, Bhushan submitted a stated to the court that the "two tweets represented" his "bonafide beliefs" and that he did not want to apologise for the same.

The court however gave him time till August 24 "to submit unconditional apology, if he so desires".

Attorney-General K K Venugopal urged the court not to punish Bhushan, saying he had done a lot of good work in the area of public interest litigations.

Bhushan stuck to his guns and, in a supplementary statement on August 24, said the tweets represent his beliefs and apologising for them "would be insincere".

The bench met again in August 25 to consider the "effect of the supplementary statement".

Reserving its judgement that day, the bench expressed its anguish at Bhushan's criticism of "sitting and retired" judges.

The court said while criticism is welcome, one should not "attribute motives to judges" since they cannot go to the press to defend themselves and "can only speak through judgements".

J&K cops to move court against bail to pharmacist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, AUGUST 29

TWO DAYS after a UAPA court granted bail to a Health Department pharmacist, calling the charges under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act [UAPA] as an attempt to "falsely implicate" him...

Zahoor Ahmed, who was posted in Renia, of Marwar Tehsil, was arrested in Kishtwar's Dachhan area on January 6.

On Thursday, Special UAPA Judge Sunil Gupta had called the charges "a successful attempt to falsely implicate" him and said that Ahmed should be released "forthwith" from Jammu Central Jail on interim bail subject to him furnishing a surety bond of Rs 25,000, and if he is not named in any other case.

On Saturday, SSP, Kishtwar, Harmet Singh told the media that Ahmed has been granted bail by the court on "technical grounds" in one of the cases registered against him under UAPA. He said, "We had evidence against him and we had kept a photocopy of the evidence in that particular case. We will take up the case with the judiciary again."

SSP Singh said Ahmed is "involved in anti-national activities". In his bail order, Special Judge Gupta held that there was no evidence of Ahmed's involvement in any offence under UAPA and that he was only "performing his professional duty" if he was intending to deliver medicines even to a terrorist. The court said, "The offences attributed to him are with regard to unlawful activities, conspiracy, harbouring of terrorists and...support given to the terrorist organisation. None of these offences have even been alleged by any of the prosecution witnesses whose statements were recorded by the IO (investigating officer)...or even the witnesses whose statements were recorded under Section 164, CrPc."

The court held that "(on) the strength of the said copy of the statement, the IO has made a successful attempt to falsely implicate Zahoor Ahmed."

Gujarat announces inauguration of seaplane service on October 31

Vadodara: The Gujarat government has announced the inauguration of a seaplane service from October 31 - the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel - which has been billed as India's first seaplane service. The inaugural flight will take off from Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad to Statue of Unity in Kevadia colony in Narmada district, to be operated by Spicejet. In a release on Saturday, the government said that this "kind of service is first ever in the country." The service may be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said an official. ENS

Ahmedabad to Statue of Unity in Kevadia colony in Narmada district, to be operated by Spicejet. In a release on Saturday, the government said that this "kind of service is first ever in the country." The service may be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said an official. ENS

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as Capital First Home Finance Ltd) CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792 Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai - 600031. TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 | FAX: +91 44 4564 4022. Authorized Officer - Mr. Rohit Dudeja | Contact Number - 7838324723

APPENDIX - IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Bearing Shop No.002/009/2A Ground Floor, DLF, Disha Plaza DLF Disha Extn.-II, Brahmura Alias Bhopara, Tehsil And Dist, Ghazabad.

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as Capital First Home Finance Ltd) CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792 Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai - 600031. TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 | FAX: +91 44 4564 4022. Authorized Officer - Mr. Rohit Dudeja | Contact Number - 7838324723

APPENDIX - IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Bearing Upper G/F Property No.S-226, Kh.21/3, Village Razapur Khurd, Colony, Mohan Garden, Block-S, Uttam Nagar, N D, Delhi.

Elgaar Parishad case: Kin of accused, lawyers, activists hold virtual meeting

Mumbai: To mark over two years since the arrests in the Elgaar Parishad case, family members of the accused, lawyers and activists gathered in a virtual meet-

ing on Saturday evening claiming that they were falsely implicated for raising their voice against the government. Nine people were arrested in

2018 by the Pune police, who claimed their involvement in the violence which took place against Dalits gathered at Bhima Koregaon on January 1, 2018.

Three others, including Anand Teltumbde, Gautam Navlakha and Hany Babu were arrested this year by the NIA which took over the probe from the Pune police.

The event organised by People's Union for Civil Liberties was attended by others including senior lawyers Rebecca John and Mihir Desai. ENS

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES NAHARLAGUN RE-TENDER NOTICE

No. COVID-19/MDVEV-43/2020 Dated Naharlagun, the 28th August 2020.

- 1. Competitive bids are invited for the procurement of hospital equipment to prepare 10 District Hospitals (Tawang, Bomdila, Ziro, Aalo, Tezu, Namsai, Changlang, Khonsa, Seppa, Yingkiang) to fight COVID-19 under NESIDS in the Directorate of Health Services, Naharlagun in continuation of earlier publication: Part-I (medical equipment) with approximate cost of Rs. 21,63,48,650.00. Part-II (imaging equipment) with approximate cost of Rs. 15,41,00,00.00. Part-IV (mortuary van) with approximate cost of Rs. 1,20,00,000.00.

Table with 2 columns: Date of uploading in website/publishing of tender paper, Website: https://arunachaltenders.gov.in/29/08/2020 at 0900hrs. Start date & time for downloading tender documents: 29/08/2020 at 1000hrs onwards.

4. Tender fee is Rs. 5000.00. 5. The interested bidders can download tender documents from the e-tendering Website: https://arunachaltenders.gov.in

(P. Parthiban) IAS, Secretary (Health & Family Welfare) Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar. Dated Naharlagun, the 28th August 2020. DIPR/ARN No-13021-25

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDUSTRIES GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI

ADMISSION NOTICE — SESSION 2020-21 EXTENSION OF LAST DATE UP TO 4TH SEPTEMBER 2020 FOR Applying for Admission in First Year of Three Years Diploma in Handloom and Textile Technology (DHTT) Course 2020-21 Session

Please refer to our earlier office Press Advertisements for admission to the above said course dated 12.07.2020 & 19.07.2021. The last date has been extended up to 4th September, 2020 for submitting applications on prescribed format only from bona fide residents of National Capital Territory of Delhi (no application from any other State will be considered) for admission to the aforementioned course commencing from 1st October, 2020 at Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT), Jodhpur.

- (i) Educational Qualification: To be eligible for admission to first year of Diploma Course in Handlooms & Textile Technology, the candidate should have passed 10th standard or equivalent examination with English as a subject of study. (ii) Age Limit: The age limit for admission to first year of Diploma Course in Handlooms & Textile Technology for all the categories except SC/ST should be between 15-23 years and for SC/ST candidates it should be between 15-25 Years as on 01-July of 2020. (iii) Seats: Total Number of Seats for admission from Delhi State are 8 (eight). (iv) Reservation: The Reservation Policy for SC/ST/OBC as per existing policy of Govt. of Delhi will be followed. Minimum 20% of the total seats allotted to the States are reserved for candidates belonging to weavers community. Shortfall, if any, will be met out from the candidates other than weavers community. 10% Seats have been reserved for Economically Weaker Section (EWS). (v) Last Date for submission of Application Forms: 4th September 2020 up to 5.00 pm.

Application form and other details regarding total no. of seats, State reservation, availability and submission of application forms, documents to be attached, stipend etc. are available at website (http://industries.delhi.gov.in) or from the Office of Commissioner of Industries, Udyog Sadan, 419, 4th Floor Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi-110092 on all working days between 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. from the date of publication up to 4th September, 2020 and the duly filled in form should be submitted at the above office address in person. Forms sent directly to IIHT, Jodhpur will not be considered for admission process.

Sd/- SECTION OFFICER (HANDLOOM)-Link DIP/Shabdath/0210/20-21 GOVT. OF NCT DELHI

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR THE POST OF ACCOUNT ASSISTANT/CLERK STATION COMMANDER 27 ED AIR FORCE, PRAHLADPUR INVITES APPLICATION FROM EX-SERVICE MEN FOR THE POST OF ACCOUNT ASSISTANT/CLERK IN SERVICE INSTITUTE ON CONTRACT BASIS

Table with 4 columns: SL NO, NO OF VACANCIES, POST, EDN QUALIFICATION, ELIGIBILITY/WORK EXPERIENCE. Row 1: 01, 01, Account Assistant/ Clerk, 12th pass/Graduate (with Commerce), Qualification 12th pass/Graduate (with Commerce) Nationality Indian Language: English, Hindi (Read and Write) Technical Skills: Basic Knowledge in Computer, Accounting Software Work Experience: Optional Character Certificate From Gazetted Officer Other Skills: Positive attitude/Communication skills/General Service Knowledge Fitness: Physical/Medical fitness

FOR ACCOUNT ASSISTANT/CLERK Signed application (Hindi/English) with following documents (a) Curriculum Vita (b) Mark Sheet and Certificate of 12th Pass/Graduate (Commerce) (c) Work experience certificate: Optional (d) Identity Proof: EX-service men (e) Character Certificate: From Gazetted Officer (f) Contact no and address. Selection procedure: Stage 1: Written test (Basic knowledge of Accountancy, English and GSK) Stage 2: Typing Test. Duly mentioned on envelope: Application for the post of Account Assistant/Clerk Sl. 27ED AF Application to be submitted by Post/Hand at Service Institute 27 ED Air Force Air Force Station Prahladpur New Delhi- 110010

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH SCO 70, SECTOR 5, PANCHKULA, PHONE NO. 0172-2573570, E-mail: sbi.51519@sbi.co.in E AUCTION SALE NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD & DOCUMENT ALONG WITH DEMAND DRAFT (HARD COPY) ON/BEFORE 14.09.2020, Upto 4.00 PM

13 SUNDAY STORY

In efforts to find an end to the Covid-19 pandemic, global hopes rest on an Oxford University vaccine candidate — and the few who have signed up for its advanced trials. ANURADHA MASCARENHAS meets six, among many, on whom rests the fate of 'Covishield' in India, to find the roads that led them here

THE VACCINE VOLUNTEERS

EXPLAINED

A shot in the dark

WITH THE economy stagnant and cases not seeing a uniform dip, a vaccine remains the government's hope to come out of the coronavirus pandemic. However, while the trials offer a glimmer, and clearances have been fast-tracked, there is still a long way to go before a vaccine is available widely.

NEEDLE AND THE HAYSTACK

■ A total of 1,600, 18 years of age or over, are to be enrolled in the study for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine or Covishield in India.

■ They will be split into 'safety cohort' and 'immunogenicity' (to check for immunity) cohort.

■ Of the 1,600 participants, 1,200 will be split 3:1 to receive either Covishield or a placebo across all sites. They would comprise the safety cohort, and get two doses while no blood samples would be collected to check for antibodies. They would be monitored for six months.

■ The remaining 400, part of the immunogenicity cohort, would receive either Covishield or Oxford/AZ-ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, also in a ratio of 3:1 (the same vaccine, but the first produced by Serum and the second by AstraZeneca). After the second dose, blood samples will be taken up to six months to check for antibodies. These trials will be done at only four or five sites.

■ The volunteers at Pune so far are part of the safety cohort.

RACE AGAINST TIME

■ Three vaccine candidates, including two indigenous, are in development in the country.

■ Phase 1 trials of the indigenous Covaxin, by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with ICMR, and ZyCoV-D, by Zydus Cadila Ltd, are complete.

■ Zydus has started Phase 2 trials. Bharat Biotech will begin in September.

■ Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine is in the most advanced stage. In India, its Phase 2/3 trials commenced on August 25.

■ 172 countries are in talks to participate in COVAX, to ensure vaccines reach all equitably. It has 9 candidates under consideration, including Moderna, US (Phase 3).

■ Russia has cleared 'Sputnik V' for civilian use amid doubts; while China cleared CoronaVac developed by its Sinovac Biotech for emergency use in July.

IT WAS after exactly five months and four days that the 64-year-old former top official of a pharmaceutical firm in Pune was stepping out of his bungalow. On August 27, he dressed slowly, washed his hands before wearing gloves, put on an N95 mask and safety goggles, and then waited for his wife, 59, daughter, 40, to get dressed similarly and join him in the car. All three of them then headed for the Bharati Vidyapeeth Medical College and Hospital in Pune — to be part of trials for one of the most promising vaccine candidates against the coronavirus as yet.

"Oh my God, it had been so long," says the 64-year-old. "I had only been listening to tragic news — another healthcare worker I knew passed away due to Covid. In the car, we switched off the AC, sanitised the seats, disinfected the steering wheel and sat diagonally."

But while the virus might have kept him home all these days, he says he didn't hesitate on coming to know volunteers were needed for Phase 2/3 clinical trials of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine — or Covishield, as it is to be called in India. "There was absolutely no doubt in my mind that I would volunteer."

The 64-year-old has been closely monitoring the progress of the vaccine developed by Oxford University — including the advanced human trials that are already on in Brazil, South Africa and the United Kingdom. In India, the Phase 2/3 trials started on August 25.

As part of the pharmaceutical industry, he had seen such trials up close, he says, with his team being part of several research studies.

"I read the *Lancet* study (on the Oxford vaccine) and spoke to experts like doctors and policymakers. I found that all of them were optimistic about the vaccine... Also, after reading so much about the results of the safety trials abroad, I felt this vaccine has potential, and decided, why not take it?"

His wife and daughter were not hard to convince either. "Well, somebody has to volunteer and take a chance. If this is going to allow me to travel, so be it," says the 40-year-old who has been staying with her parents since the lockdown.

The RT-PCR and blood test results had come the day before, certifying that they didn't have antibodies and hence fit to volunteer. Their driver who has been with them for a while also offered to volunteer, but was rejected as he already had antibodies. On August 27, the family left home at 10.30 am. After they had received the shot, their vitals were monitored for half an hour and, with everything normal, were allowed to go home. The daughter, husband and wife were back home by 1 pm. "It was comfortable. The team was very professional," says the 59-year-old.

About 20 km from Pune, at the KEM Hospital and Research Centre at Vadu, which is also a site for the clinical trials, the screening of volunteers is underway.

The 64-year-old says it was a well-considered decision, and after they had approached Bharati Hospital, it sent them a consent form via e-mail. The form was nearly eight pages long, and included details on Covid-19, the vaccine, its possible side effects, the blood samples and other interventions needed, what the blood samples would be tested for, and the reimbursement amount to be paid for hospital visits. They were also told they would get two doses in all, on Day 1 and 29, and would be monitored over the next six months.

They were given detailed guidelines on what to watch out for — most importantly fever — and to immediately contact the doctors on the emergency numbers of the vaccine trial team in case of any issues. What was most important, the volunteers were told, is that they continue their daily routine.



A medical staff administers the Covishield to one of the volunteers at Bharati Hospital in Pune; (above) the hospital has been part of 50 such trials. Anurul Horizon

And that's what they have done, says the daughter. "I barely felt the needle prick (of the vaccine), came home and ate a simple meal of *dal*, rice and *methi*," she says.

"I need to go out and meet people," the 64-year-old adds. "It has just been too long."

The 32-year-old, who also has links to the drugs industry as a biostatistician, now holds the distinction of being the first in India to receive the Covishield shot. An employee at a private firm in Pune, the research student says he has been reading up on vaccine development, and joined when he heard that trials were being held in the city. "I decided to volunteer as there is increasing hope that we can find a solution soon to end this nightmare," he says. "The pandemic has taken a huge toll on our lives. So many people have lost jobs and as youngsters we can volunteer for such trials. This is the least I could do."

His felicity with data made his decision easier, according to the 32-year-old. "I studied the results of the Phase 2 study in the UK and, as a statistician, understood that there were few side effects."

Oxford University researchers had reported that the vaccine had triggered a dual immune response in Phase 1 and 2 human trials and had an "accepted safety profile".

He says he approached Bharati Hospital on his own, saying he was interested in volunteering for the trial. "They gave me information about the study being undertaken and told me to sign a consent form... The team took my blood pressure and checked other vitals and since the RT-PCR and antibody test results were negative for Covid, I got the first dose."

On August 26, he followed his normal routine and, after breakfast, headed for

"I read the *Lancet* study (on the Oxford vaccine) and spoke to experts such as doctors and policymakers. I found that all of them were optimistic about the vaccine... Also, after reading so much about the results of the safety trials abroad, I felt this vaccine has potential, and decided, why not take it?"

Bharati Hospital. His parents were waiting eagerly for him when he returned, the 32-year-old says — very proud of the fact that he was the first to get the Covishield dose in India.

A day later, the 32-year-old was back at work.

Of the first volunteers, the case of the 48-year-old gynaecologist is special. It is the second time he is part of a clinical trial, the first being when he and his daughter, then 11, signed up for H1N1 vaccine trials at Bharati Hospital in 2009. That year, India saw 981 deaths due to H1N1 as per the National Centre for Disease Control. In the decade since, over 1.58 lakh people have got swine flu in the country and more than 10,000 have died of it.

Around five years later, the daughter enrolled again for a trial, for a vaccine against cervical cancer, also at Bharati Hospital. The father says both times, their experience was reassuring, with experts regularly following up with them.

This time, the two again cleared tests for Covishield trials, while the 48-year-old's wife, also a gynaecologist, was rejected as she was found to have developed antibodies for Covid. He got his shot on August 26 (the second to receive the vaccine after the 32-year-old) and his daughter the next day.

While the 48-year-old finished his morning appointments at a private hospital where he works as a consultant before going to the hospital, the daughter, now 21 and in the final year of an engineering degree, went after her online classes for the day were over.

The family has been one on this issue always, the 21-year-old says. "I was in Class 4 or 5 when my parents decided to enrol me as a volunteer in the H1N1 vaccine trials. The second time, I volunteered for a vaccine against cervical cancer. I did not have any major side effects. For this trial too we decided unanimously to enrol as volunteers."

According to the 48-year-old, the decision wasn't difficult. His scientific bent of mind means he is exasperated at all the talk of immuno-boosters and other non-tested solutions for the coronavirus, he says. "Healthcare workers including doctors have got infected. I have seen some die due to this disease. A vaccine is the solution," he asserts.

His wife, disappointed at not being able to volunteer, teases that he and their daughter just wanted to be in the limelight.

At Pune trial site, a queue to sign up

THE CLINICAL trial unit is located on the ground floor of Pune's Bharati Vidyapeeth Medical College and Hospital, in its non-Covid section and near the ENT and paediatrics OPD. Notices pasted on a door in English and Marathi are the only sign that trials which the country is eagerly waiting for are on here.

The 831-bed Bharati Hospital (350 of these are now kept aside for Covid cases) has been a clinical site for more than 50 vaccine trials so far. Its trial team of 15-odd includes medical social workers, doctors and nurses, who between them handle everything from tests to answering calls, sending emails and counselling volunteers.

But while the hospital itself is not new to such attention, the anticipation has taken it by surprise. Dr Sanjay Lalwani, the hospital's Medical Director, says people from all walks of life have been making enquiries seeking to be volunteers.

A medical social worker at the hospital, Sameer Pawar, adds, "A 75-year-old man from Gururwar Peth nearby was among those waiting at the hospital at 9.30 am to get the dose." Enquiries are also coming from parents of patients in the hospital's paediatric ward.

This is unlike 2009, when trials were held for H1N1 at the hospital, when it was mainly healthcare workers and doctors who signed up as volunteers.

Dr Mandeep Chadha, former virologist with the National Institute of Virology, Pune, that has been at the forefront of the coronavirus efforts in India from the start, says the novelty and contagiousness of SARS-CoV-2 lend extra urgency to the efforts to find a vaccine. "There was a fair amount of panic during the H1N1 pandemic in 2009 as well, but antiviral drugs, in particular oseltamivir (Tamiflu), were soon available then."

It was last month that *The Lancet* published that an Oxford University vaccine candidate against the coronavirus, backed by AstraZeneca Plc, had shown positive results. The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine is essentially a weakened version of a common cold virus known as adenovirus. The scientists extracted genes from the spike

protein that grows on the surface of SARS-CoV-2 that causes Covid-19, planted them in adenovirus extracted from chimpanzees and modified the virus so that it cannot grow in humans.

On August 2, the Drug Controller General of India permitted the Pune-based Serum Institute of India, the world's largest manufacturer of vaccines, to conduct the Phase 2/3 human clinical trials of the vaccine in India. Officially, the study is described as "Observer-Blind, Randomized, Controlled Study to Determine the Safety and Immunogenicity of Covishield (COVID-19 Vaccine) in Healthy Indian Adults".

In a big gamble given that the trials are still on, the Serum Institute announced a tie-up with AstraZeneca to produce a billion doses of the vaccine for low-income countries. It is ramping up its facilities and production capacities to meet this target.

In all, there are 17 sites listed with the Clinical Trials Registry, India. A total of 14 or less may eventually participate in the Covishield trials. Initially, 100 volunteers are to be enrolled — with Pune's two sites, including KEM Hospital and Research Centre, the first off the block. Dr Ashish Bawdekar, principal investigator of the site at KEM Hospital, said they would be enrolling 30 volunteers in the initial phase of the safety cohort.

A total of 1,600 eligible people 18 years or older are to be selected as participants in the study.

Seven days after each of the 100 participants have received the dose, the data is to be presented to a Data Safety Monitoring Board, including physicians and statisticians. If there are no major concerns during a temporary halt, the trial would recommence.

As per the study design, 0.5 ml of Covishield is to be administered on Days 1 and 29, intramuscularly.

Once all the phases of the trial are completed, data is tabulated, results are obtained and submitted to the Drug Controller General of India for approval. Participants are informed about the results and those who have been given a placebo get the vaccine dose from the firm. The regulatory body also inspects the vaccine/factory production and other relevant details.



The vaccine trial team at Bharati is on call for emergencies. Anurul Horizon

Pavan Khengre



ARTS etc

'I am more of a listener'

Actor Fahadh Faasil on his new production, why he feels rooted in Malayalam cinema, and doubting himself



BOOKS

- Review of Isher Judge Ahluwalia's *Breaking Through: A Memoir*
- Review of Kunwar Narain's *The Play of Dolls: Stories*, translated into English by John Vater and Apurva Narain



COURTESY: YUMNAM RAJESHWOR SINGH

Several British and Japanese soldiers died in the hills of Manipur during WWII. They do not lie here forgotten. A team of 'battlefield diggers' has been scouring the terrain to find their remains — and bring closure to families seeking answers about their final days in a foreign land

Tora Agarwala

ON A full-moon night, atop a hill in Manipur, Yumnam Rajeshwor Singh reads the names of the dead. They may have been gone from this earth 76 years, but time is relative for Rajeshwor, a man with a plan — and dozens of maps.

"We are on this ridge," he says, tracing a finger on an A4 size copy of a map from 1944. "And there — there were the Japanese bunkers! From where they fired." He points a little further away, in the direction from where we had trekked in the morning — carrying pressure cookers, metal detectors, tents and canned fish. The nondescript hill, about 15 km from Imphal, was one of many battlefields of the Siege of Imphal, where the Allied and the Axis powers fought between March and July 1944, in some of the fiercest battles of World War II.

Rajeshwor gets back to reading his list of dead soldiers — aided by flashlights of three phones — before he stops at one. "Private Tod D," he says, "This is the guy we are looking for."

In early March, when Rajeshwor drives me to the hill to look for the remains of David Tod, a British soldier who died in the war, the skies are blue and the days are glorious. The newspapers have some news about the virus from China entering India but few in Manipur think of it as a threat. Rajeshwor, who works in a telecommunications company in Imphal, has his itinerary chalked out. "I will be on my tour from March 28 — UK, France, Belgium," says the 43-year-old.

For months, I have been persuading him to let me join his WWII excavation expeditions — where he travels the hilly Manipuri countryside with his friends, unearthing relics and remains, stories and memories from the twin World War II Battles of Imphal (Manipur) and Kohima (Nagaland). He is reluctant because the work is "secret" and done in the "complete absence of media." But earlier this year, when I send him my customary monthly WhatsApp message asking him if he has changed his mind, he relents, but with a caveat: "Please don't mention the exact location."

Ten minutes into the climb, I understand why Rajeshwor had asked me if I was fit enough. My running shoes are not equipped for the terrain, and I slip, stumble, fall, and, on certain portions, comically crawl up the hill. To think of men vying for each others' blood, with guns and bayonets in hand, seems a

ridiculous idea. But I am less amused when I see the 72-year-old member of the group, trotting up the hill, way ahead of me, with the support of one thin stick.

Rajeshwor hangs back to tell me his story. Like many others, he grew up in ignorance about the WWII battlegrounds. More than seven decades ago, this hill was one of the many sites in Imphal that the Japanese and the British skirmished in — the Japanese lost more than 30,000 men in a defeat so decisive that it ended their imperial pursuits in Asia. But it was only in 2013, when a vote by the National Army Museum of Britain termed them "Britain's Greatest Battle" that the Battles of Imphal and Kohima entered public consciousness.

Till then, the battles were buried in the hills of the Northeast, unknown, save for some literature by military experts, war veterans and historians. In 2005, Rajeshwor chanced upon one such book: *The Forgotten Army's Box of Lions: The True Story of the Defence and Evacuation of the Largest Supply Depot on the Imphal Plain* (2001) by Christopher D Johnson. "It was set in Manipur and focused on the battle of Kanglatongbi, I was surprised that I knew nothing about it. Growing up, we only knew what our grandparents told us... that there was a war... the Japan *laan* (war)," recalls Rajeshwor.

Over the years, he struck up an unlikely pen friendship with Johnson, whose father fought in the war. "Christopher started sending me books, war diaries — material I would devour late into the night," he says. Soon, with Johnson's cross-continental guidance and encouragement, Rajeshwor graduated from books to battlefields. "They were all around me... all these years, I had no idea," he says.

In time, many friends joined in. Before they knew it, weekends or holidays became sojourns into history. "We would go from battlefield to battlefield, spades and shovels in hand. Even years later, there were things to find: helmets, shrapnel, cartridges, personal artefacts such as buckles and combs and even bones," he says. In 2013, Rajeshwor and his friend, Arambam 'Bobby' Singh, founded the Second World War Imphal Campaign Foundation to formalise their weekend expeditions in digging up a forgotten battle. Since 2017, the Japan Association for Recovery and Repatriation of War Casualties has been collaborating with the foundation on missions to recover the remains of Japanese soldiers killed in the war. "But I am not allowed to talk about that," says Rajeshwor.

What he can talk about are the personal requests he gets. Through Johnson, Rajeshwor was introduced to descendants of a number of war veterans seeking information about the last days of their family members. "It started with someone wanting me to lay a wreath at



A CORNER OF A FOREIGN FIELD

(Clockwise from top) The members of the Second World War Imphal Campaign Foundation on an expedition in 2014; Rajeshwor Singh atop the 'Pimple'; a plaque laid down for a slain British soldier; and the relics recovered from the dig

their grandfather's grave in the Imphal Cemetery," says Rajeshwor. Over the years, the requests became more elaborate: someone from the UK enquiring about the location of a tank blast their grandfather died in ("Could you please find that spot and lay a wreath there?"); another 78-year-old from the UK whose dying wish was to locate his father's remains in Imphal. "I have done all that — climbed a hill, laid a wreath, put a poppy cross," says Rajeshwor, who does not charge any money for the work he does. When last June, Sharon Gibson, a 40-year-old nurse, reached out to him from Edinburgh, with a request to "find" her long-dead great-grandfather, with only a name (David Tod) and a photograph (black-and-white and faded), he told her: "No problem. This is a big thing for you, but a small thing for us. We will do it."

When we reach the top, Rajeshwor and his team get to work at once — the metal detectors and shovels are out, tents are being pitched, wood is being collected to cook lunch, and "toilets" are being "constructed" — unperturbed by the fact that it is raining, a bitter cold wind sweeping away the glorious summer day we left behind at the base of the hill. The British codenamed it the Pimple (because it

resembled one), and Rajeshwor and his friends refer to it by the same name.

It is a terrain he has studied for a year — first, through documents he sourced from the British Library, then through a drone he flew over it and by trekking to the spot last November. "We followed the exact route mentioned in the British war diary of the time. It maintained the events of the episode — who shot whom, the direction of the attack, etc," says Rajeshwor. According to records, 16 Allied soldiers had fallen at the Pimple. "According to protocol, they were buried with crosses. But when the Imperial War Graves Commission unit came two years later to collect the remains, the area was an overgrown jungle and the markers were gone," says Rajeshwor. "Of the 16 bodies, only 12 were recovered, and four were left behind."

One of them was of Tod, Gibson's great-grandfather. The family believed that he was "lost in the jungles of Burma (now Myanmar)", since these battles fell under the British's "Burma Campaign". "That the battlefields transcended the boundaries of Burma is something they have come to understand now," says Joseph Longjam, a Directorate of Information and Public Relation employee in Imphal, who works with Rajeshwor.

"We were really expecting a jungle in Burma and not a hill in Imphal," says Gibson later, over an email. Last year, she dreamt of a man, who she thinks was her great-grandfather, telling her: "Find me in Burma." Gibson got herself on a Facebook group, comprising families of war veterans, scholars and historians. Her queries led her not to Burma, but to a man in Imphal. That month, Rajeshwor pored over war diaries, got in touch with researchers in the UK and managed to track down Tod's regiment, and, finally, the location where he died, by painstakingly superimposing map references of the time to Google Earth to pinpoint the rough location of 25 yards. Finally, in November last year, they did their first trek.

"We just started digging anyway in the location we identified. Suddenly, we found the personal effects of soldiers in a pit. For us, it was a eureka moment because it meant that the four remaining bodies were around that area," he says. At Gibson's request, Rajeshwor had lugged up a memorial plaque and a remembrance poppy cross. In a small ceremony, the team laid the plaque at the spot where they believed Tod was killed, and livestreamed it to her in Edinburgh. "It was a very emotional sight. I was afraid to even blink in case I missed any of it," she recalls. "Rajeshwor dusted off the layers of time and brought a little-known part of history to light. It is amazing what he has done for me, a stranger from across the globe."

In recent years, Manipur has seen the beginnings of "war tourism" — initiatives to map the war through battlefield tourism tours, perhaps the first of its kind in the country. "WWII battlefields in Europe are mapped to the T; the Indian part of the war and the sites of fighting around Manipur and Nagaland have always been hazy," says researcher and author Hemant Singh Katoch, on the phone from Yangon. In 2013, he founded and conceptualised the "Battle of Imphal" tours, the first in the state. In the three years he spent in Imphal, Katoch led many tourists — often families of war veterans — on these tours. "It is a way to connect to their family's past. In some cases, it is not a grandfather or granduncle, but the father who has fought the war."

For example, Johnson has spent decades unravelling his father George Johnson's role in the war. He tracked down families of those who served with his father in Imphal. In time, he found out that George had to kill one of his wounded orderlies, Howard, in the war. "It was a case of mercy killing — my grandfather never spoke about it, but carried with him years after the war," says David Westgate, Johnson's nephew, over a video call Rajeshwor sets up for me that night from the hill. In 2017, Johnson managed to track down Howard's family. In April last year, during the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal, his great granddaughter, Ellie, flew down to Imphal. "We had a small ceremony. I walked up to Ellie and apologised. She said there was no need to. 'Your grandfather did what he had to do,'" recalls Westgate.

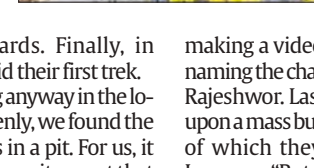
The next morning, the hill is abuzz with the beep-beep of metal detectors, and the scraping of shovels. "All these years, we have not recorded our work but I am thinking of making a video repository on YouTube and naming the channel 'Battlefield Diggers,'" says Rajeshwor. Last October, the team chanced upon a mass burial site, the recovered remains of which they have handed over to the Japanese. "But personal bone collection missions, like that of Sharon's great-grandfather, can take years too," says Rajeshwor.

At the end of the dig, they have shrapnel, a few buckles, a comb, parts of a bullet, tail fins of mortar shells, but no bones. Before the team starts their descent down the Pimple that afternoon — unaware that a pandemic will keep subsequent ones on hold for some time — Rajeshwor calls up Gibson, and informs her that the excavation was unsuccessful.

"That's okay," she says, "At least, we now know where great-grandfather Tod is. He is no longer lost."



TORA AGARWALA



DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

Pussycat, Where Have You Been?

Think what domesticating big cats does to their dignity and reputation

THE ONE thing I hate as much as croc wranglers showing off is people who keep big cats – tigers, lions, pumas and leopards – as pets. For all their “animal loving” ways, this, unfortunately, is allowed in many Western countries. In India, it’s against the law but who’s to say what goes on in the outlying farms of the rich and famous.

There are many videos and serials on this: inevitably they depict swaggering rednecks sauntering into enclosures and getting into loving clinches with a magnificent lion or tiger or a group of them, all of which with a single swipe of a paw can take their smug faces off. Probably, most of the animals must think it to be beneath their dignity – unless something sets them off and all hell breaks loose. But it’s really demeaning to see such gorgeous hunting animals, reduced to the state of overgrown pussycats. They ought to be out there in the wild, stalking, chasing and bringing down even five-ton beasts.

Most of these big cats, unfortunately, have usually been rescued as cubs and lovingly brought up in human homes, and, thus, been saved from an untimely end. And yes, it must take some courage to swagger into an enclosure with a 200kg lion and “wrestle” affectionately with it. But if the cameras are rolling, it’s all worth it. The ignoramuses, who keep these animals as pets, even allow their children into the enclosures with them – what an ego boost, even if it is the height of foolishness. In some national parks abroad, big cats have gotten so used to tourists vehicles that they even climb into them to have selfies taken with their petrified admirers. Merely letting loose a couple of deep-bass growls, these poor beasts have lost all sense of decency and self-respect.

In many cases where a cub has been orphaned and rescued, the intention is to eventually rehabilitate it in the wild again. But this is a notoriously difficult thing to do because the animal is accustomed to human beings and there’s no saying what it might do once free.

At Gir National Park, neither do the lions pay great attention to the villagers living in and around, nor do the latter bother the lions (though this is, sadly, changing as the lion population rises and preys on livestock). No



RANJIT LAL

FIFTY SHADES OF GRRR

The human desire to tame the wild is deplorable

gung-ho bravado – the villagers just acknowledge the presence of the animals and politely give way. And there have been reports dating back years (read Jim Corbett) of village women quietly walking past tigers on jungle paths and coming to no harm. This, too, is sadly changing as we become the hideously intolerant society we’re heading towards, and lynch animals.

Elephants, hippos and rhinos – also kept as “pets” or for working purposes – have usually been born and raised among us, and so are apparently used to us. Yet, an elephant, loyal to its mahout for decades may suddenly go berserk and attack him one day. The pachyderms really are best left to muse and sway in the jungles.

There’s also a fondness for keeping dangerous reptiles and creepy-crawlies. Some people (again, mostly abroad) get their kicks by keeping gigantic pythons as pets, until one morning they find the toddler missing. Then, it’s released in the nearest swamp (this happens with ‘pet’ alligators, too) – in Florida, this has become a major problem. Some full-grown, beefcakes prefer cuddling with hairy venomous tarantulas, and have them walk up and down their arms or the backs of their thick necks.

With some extremely rare bird species, there is no hope other than to take eggs, hatch them and raise the chicks in captivity. But keeping in mind that the chicks have to be released, the caretakers often don gloves which mimic the chick’s parents’ faces – so it is unaware that a human being is feeding it. In Israel, they recently had a military-specification drone drop pieces of meat to a rare vulture whose mother had died and father couldn’t keep up.

But yes, imagine the ego-kick you’d get if you had a Bengal tiger lying by your feet in the drawing room – or better still, at your side when you go for a walk in Delhi’s Lodi Gardens, while the strutters go about with their imported poodles and Pomeranians. That’s until your pussycat decides that the poodle or Pom and their owner might just make a handy snack!

I suppose it’s difficult to raise a yowling cub without falling for its baby charms. Like any parent, you will love it unconditionally even as it grows up and goes through its obnoxious adolescent phase. What could be more fulfilling than when it charges up to you and puts its massive paws around you and purrs like a lovesick diesel generator? And, heck, the cameras are rolling – so the whole world is watching this awestruck! But just pause and think what it does for the dignity and reputation of the animal – remember, big cats are not pussycats.



‘I’m here because I’ve nowhere else to go’

Actor Fahadh Faasil on his new production, why he feels rooted in Malayalam cinema, and suffering from self-doubts

Alaka Sahani

IN RECENT years, Kochi-based Fahadh Faasil has been making heads turn with his fine acting in much-discussed films such as *Maheshinte Prathikaaram* (2016), *Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum* (2017), *Kumbalangi Nights* and Tamil film *Super Deluxe*, in 2019, among others. Launched at age 19 by his filmmaker father Fazil in the romance drama *Kaiyethum Doorath* (2002), Faasil went to the US to study engineering after the film tanked. In his second innings as an actor, he has delivered a number of impressive performances. The 38-year-old will be seen next in *CU Soon*, a thriller shot in the lockdown, releasing on Amazon Prime Video on September 1. Excerpts:

You are famously media shy. What changed this time?

From the point I start shooting till I finish, my biggest concern is whether I’ve done justice to what I conceived. When I’m not sure, I don’t talk about the film. I want my audience to discover it in the theatres. I’m never ready to discuss my films, that’s the problem. This time, there are two reasons: one is to say that *CU Soon* is something fresh and new. And, it’s going to people unlike earlier when they went to watch movies. So, I thought I should talk about it as we are witnessing a change.

Could you talk about how *CU Soon* was

made during the lockdown?

Two years ago, (editor-director) Mahesh Narayanan had come across a confession video of a trafficked Malayali girl in Saudi Arabia where she was crying for help. It was disturbing and stayed with me for a long time. During the lockdown, Mahesh, who stays a block away from my building, and I started talking about new possibilities in cinema. One can play around, explore different techniques, and redesign a film on the edit table – go closer to a character or make another character more prominent. So, we collaborated on Mahesh’s idea. If I were to shoot this film when there’s no lockdown, I’d have done it in the same way. However, lockdown is the reason it got made, otherwise, none of us stays at home for so long. We were given a proper script, attended a three-day workshop, lived in one building and met in the evenings.

You produced the film with your actor-wife Nazriya Nazim. What professional dynamics do you share?

She’s the strength behind what I’m doing. If there is no support at home, I don’t think I can do any of these things. She gives me the push to go out and do it. There’s no constant checking on what the other person is doing but we are together in this. She interacts with Mahesh more than me. She asked us not to shoot in our bedroom, so I’ve shot in every other possible corner of my building.

Your production house Fahadh Faasil and



WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS

Malayalam actor Fahadh Faasil in a still from *CU Soon*; (top) in a still from *Super Deluxe*

Friends made *Kumbalangi Nights* and *CU Soon*. What’s the idea behind it?

The idea is to make money. An actor like me needs money and a back-up plan. I’ve produced films that were rejected by others. Anytime I had an issue convincing producers about a project, I bankrolled it. It was difficult to get someone to play Shammil’s role (a character with dark shades) in *Kumbalangi Nights*, we were in talks with a Tamil actor for it too, but it was going nowhere. So, (co-producer and writer) Syam (Pushkaran) and (co-producer) Dileesh (Pothen) asked me to do it.

Are the different looks for your roles in each film consciously done?

It helps if it doesn’t remind the audience of the previous characters I played. I play around with six reactions and I’m aware of my

limitations as an actor. So, it’s important that I don’t repeat the same look. More precisely, I want to look the character.

Speaking of limitations, how essential is it for great artistes to have self-doubts?

I have self-doubts and I don’t consider myself to be a great artiste. This is nothing to do with being unsure. But an actor needs to be flexible. I don’t believe that I can play any character that’s given to me. I’m here because I’ve nowhere else to go. I don’t know for how long I’ll be here. I’ve not promised anyone that I will be around for any given time.

How closely do you work with writers and how do you pick a script?

Writers are an integral part of my functioning. I spend a lot of time with them but I’m more of a listener. I meet Syam when he starts writing, when he’s midway and after he finishes. These three meetings give me a lot of details for the shoot. I keep discussing the script with my writer, director and cinematographer. I mainly work with people I have known for long. They are very aware of what I can do. There are very few roles that I’ve rejected. I’ve taken up almost 80 per cent of the work that has come my way. The films I’ve done, I’ve chosen in the fraction of a second.

On Irrfan’s death in April, you wrote how he in *Yun Hota Toh Kya Hota* (2006) inspired you during your US days.

Irrfan was so appealing because he seemed very original and real. That was so rare in cinema back then, when actors wanted to look extraordinary with six-packs. He essayed his characters as an ordinary man. There was a rootedness to the roles he played.

Does the Everyman hero of Malayalam cinema excite you? Do you observe life keenly to portray roles like the gold-chain-swallowing thief in *Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum*?

Characters don’t excite me, the narrative, the story, the film as a whole does. Once we decide on the idea and narrative, we think of actors for the roles, that includes me. The narrative chooses how your heroes are going to be.

When I came home for the holidays from the US, on a train ride, there was a family with a small boy who was making a lot of noise. He smiled at someone on the upper berth, who, as I looked up, was playing with the boy. Later, when the train stopped at a station, and the boy was sleeping, the policeman sitting next to me waved at the guy, who came down. That’s when I realised he had handcuffs. The episode stayed with me. I played the thief’s role with the belief that I didn’t steal the chain, until the climax. That’s the only way to play this character.

With your films on streaming platforms, do you think local idioms and nuances get lost in the subtitles?

Subtitling is the biggest revolution to have happened to Indian cinema in recent years. It might be a reference point. But films are going beyond it. The idea is to make the audience follow the emotion. Cinema has an emotion. That’s the most powerful thing in a narrative. Music, graphics, subtitling are techniques to increase the possibility of telling a story. It depends on what design you are choosing to tell a particular story.

What relationship do you share with the evolved Malayali audience? Are you open to Hindi and international projects?

They watched my movies before they came on the OTT platforms. I owe my career to them. It’s because of them that I’m attempting (these movies) and experimenting. Outside of Kerala, I don’t think I can do the kind of films that I do. None of my films are remade because they are very rooted. I absolutely enjoy it here and just want to be here for the time being.

In My Own Skin

Sheeba Chaddha, one of the first actors to transition to the OTTs, on her role in the web-series *Bandish Bandits* and the need for writing solid women characters

Ektaa Malik

FOR HER role as Mohini Rathod, a daughter-in-law of a musical family of Jodhpur in the web-series *Bandish Bandits* (streaming on Amazon Prime Video), Sheeba Chaddha had to briefly play the tanpura. It was a little challenging, a little nostalgic.

As a child, she had taken some lessons in playing the sitar. The show’s story, says the Mumbai-based actor, is not an “earth-shattering” one, “it has familiar tones, it worked because of the writing and the added twists and turns”. She doesn’t have very many dialogues, but her eyes and gait speak of her pain and acceptance of her constraints. The twist comes towards the end when her *ghoonghat*-clad character emerges from within the strict patriarchal world she inhabits – with silence and gravitas. “That, for me, was the most interesting part. And there is a rare sweetness to the show which we don’t see nowadays,” says Chaddha.

The heroine’s cousin in Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam* (1999), the modest producer’s wife in Zoya Akhtar’s *Luck by Chance* (2009) – the character actor brings more to her roles than what’s written. In a career spanning two decades, she’s cemented her reputation as a “dependable actor”. At a

young age, theatre drew Chaddha, who grew up in Delhi’s New Rajinder Nagar. “I was pretty active in inter-school theatre competitions. I got admission in Hansraj College (in Delhi University) through the dramatics quota. I was always a backbencher and not interested in academics. Hansraj had a pretty established theatre scene and we mounted full-fledged productions,” says Chaddha, 47, who was later associated with Delhi’s Chingari theatre group.

Following her marriage and two-year stay in the US, she returned and headed to Mumbai to try her luck in screen acting. Her first acting gig was Bhansali’s film, though Mani Ratnam’s *Dil Se...* (1998) released a year earlier. It was, however, on television, and later, web-series, where she would carve her niche.

“By the time I came back, it was the early Nineties and there was a big revolution in the TV space. In Delhi, you could only do theatre and it wasn’t sufficient to survive,” says Chaddha, who then moved to Mumbai and acted in TV shows like *Shri Krishna* and *Hip Hip Hurray* in the ‘90s, and *Hitler Didi* and *Pavitra Rishta* around the 2010s. “I’m glad that I was able to be a part of some good television shows,” she says.

“When I started, it was very formulaic. Films centred around the hero and heroine, everything was one-dimensional. With the



PHOTOS: COURTESY AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

NOT A NOTE OUT OF PLACE

(Above) A still from *Bandish Bandits*; Sheeba Chaddha

daily-soap boom, TV was ruined. The content was pathetic, but it paid your bills. After that, I only went on a TV set to make money. I hope TV is revived, because, as a medium, it’s still relevant. Sadly, the women characters – the movers and shakers of the TV enterprise – are either shown as the sari-sin-door-clad sweet *bahu* or the overtly made-up vamp,” she adds.

Even in her piecemeal roles as a mother or wife, she’s been making noteworthy swerves. As the mother who shields Shah Rukh Khan from being beaten by his angry father in *Zero* (2018), and the mother who slaps Alia Bhatt in *Gully Boy* (2019). Or, the “cool” mom in *Permanent Roommates* (2014), India’s first-ever web show that made her a household name among millennials. And later, in her comic sketches by short-audio-visual-content-creator Filter Copy.

She’s one of the first actors to successfully make the transition to the OTT space. “TVF (media producer The Viral Fever) came to me.

I liked the character that was written – cool and progressive. Actors can only shine if they have good writing to work with,” she says.

A “big jump” was needed, she adds, “in the way we were writing and portraying our women characters. Shouldn’t detailed, well-fleshed, reliable characters be the norm? Why do we look at good content through the lens of ‘women characters’? Even the OTT platforms have not taken cognisance of the fact that they actually have the space which allows for this type of exploratory writing, to create immersive stories. We still keep binding it into the same systems, of a famous name and big studio. I hope it doesn’t fall into the same trap.”

For now, Chaddha is happy playing Vasudha in the web-show *Mirzapur*, whose Season 2 will stream in October and a comedy *Pagglair* is in the works. But she’s most excited about playing Kabir’s mother in Mira Nair’s *A Suitable Boy*, which streams in September. “I’m there only for a scene and a half,” she says, “but it’s a lovely scene.”



IN THIS TOGETHER

A file photo of Montek Singh Ahluwalia and Isher Judge Ahluwalia at the Brihadisvara Temple in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

Omkar Goswami

AT ALMOST the end of her long innings, wracked by grade IV glioblastoma, among the toughest of all cancers, Isher Judge Ahluwalia — grace, charm and subtlety personified, and, with widespread connections — took it upon herself to write this book. Courageous as she is, Isher did so in the most trying circumstances, while she was losing the ability to read and write on her own, relying extensively on help from the family to put down her thoughts.

Yet, thank God that she has written this book, for it is a story of grit, love, care and commitment. Grit, because who would have bet that a daughter of simple, traditional Sikh parents — one of 11 siblings — living in a small, rented flat near Purna Cinema, not far from Calcutta's Kalighat, would reach where she did, entirely on the strength of her efforts and her intense determination to succeed?

Or, that she would in 1962, finish her West Bengal Higher Secondary Board examination from the highly-regarded Shri Shikshayatan Vidyalaya, coming eighth in the state? She writes, "My father had never shown any interest in our education but when I did well in the exams, he would often tell his friends with some pride that I had got the third rank among girls. While I approved of his new interest in education, I objected to the gender differentiation; I would correct him, saying I was eighth, not third."

Isher then went to Presidency College, Calcutta, to study economics with a scholarship of Rs 35 per month, which paid for her college fees and the tram ride from home and back. After Presidency, she joined the Delhi

School of Economics for her Master's degree. "My family would never have let me go to Delhi to live in a hostel. At this point, I had a lucky break. In 1964, my brother decided to move to the capital with his family to start a business and my parents agreed to my going to live with them, attending DSE as a day student."

As was the case with many of us, DSE was Isher's road to Damascus — a point of revelation when she was determined to study further and apply for a PhD. Armed with a high first division in a year when seven of the eight "first-divers" were women, Isher applied to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where she was accepted with a fellowship. Thus began her journey in Cambridge, Massachusetts, a passage that took a bit longer than necessary because of an interlude in Washington, DC.

In the summer of 1970, Isher applied to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a summer internship. Instead of the usual three months, she got a special six-month break from MIT. With that came love. Soon after moving to DC, she had a date with a su-



BREAKING THROUGH: A MEMOIR
ISHER JUDGE
AHLUWALIA
Rupa Publications
184 pages
₹395

per-bright young man, the clever, erudite English-speaking debater from St Stephen's and winner of a congratulatory first in philosophy, politics and economics from Oxford, one Montek Singh Ahluwalia, who had joined the World Bank as a part of its Young Professionals Program.

Montek impressed Isher sufficiently enough — lunch in the Bank's Executive Dining Room, films, dinners, walks and drives. "It was during one of those drives, while we were picnicking off some bread and cheese and a glass of wine, that I decided that Montek was the man for me." Soon, Isher secured a full-time job at the IMF; and, in 1971, she and Montek married in Washington.

Four years passed in setting up home in Georgetown, going with IMF delegations for Article IV consultations in the Caribbean, and working long hours at the Fund. Suddenly, it dawned upon her that she had left her PhD programme behind. So Isher applied for a fellowship at Brookings and completed her MIT thesis from there in 1976 — which was published in 1979 by Macmillan, titled *Behaviour*

of Prices and Outputs in India: A Macroeconomic Approach.

Then came care. Of parenting two boys — first Pavan, who was born in November 1977; and, then, Anan, in October 1979, after the three of them had returned to India for good. Of taking charge of what was an immaculate home and hearth; of looking after a growing family that eventually extended to daughters-in-law and grandchildren; of being a partner to Montek, who would return late at night with stacks of government files.

Then, there was commitment to her profession. "Being a mother is a full-time job. Being a working mother is two full-time jobs." Even so, Isher completed two major books: *Industrial Growth in India: Stagnation Since the Mid-Sixties* (1989, Oxford University Press) and *Productivity and Growth in Indian Manufacturing* (1991, OUP). She worked at the Centre for Policy Research, then took over as the head of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), an institution which she strengthened by attracting excellent full-time fellows and garnering some very serious grants from abroad and the Indian corporate world, that made ICRIER financially comfortable. If these were not enough, Isher got into urbanisation and published two books on the subject.

Breaking Through is a beautiful read because it is so honestly written, so touching in content — a wonderful *mélange* of the personal and the public. It is, in effect, a signing off. Of a great life. Of struggles. Of success. Of love and caring. Of building families, values and institutions. And, of Montek.

Thank you, Isher.

The author is the founder and chairperson of CERG Advisory Private Limited

A Life Apart

Amid a battle with an implacable disease, Isher Judge Ahluwalia has published an account of her extraordinary life and career

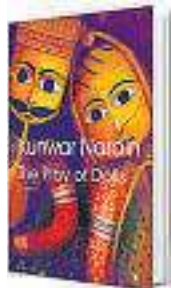
Beasts and Superbeasts

Through the stratagem of the inhuman, Kunwar Narain explored what it means to be human

Harish Trivedi

IN ONE of Kunwar Narain's stories, two men begin fighting in the middle of a street, calling each other the "son of a pig," "insect," "owl", etc. Gradually, all the creatures so invoked come and surround the two men to watch them fight. The ass asks (he would, wouldn't he?) why they are fighting, not knowing that to fight you don't need a reason, but only strength. When the two men have strangled each other to death, all the animals clap loud and long enough to make the skies resound. The lion declares ceremoniously that the fight ended in a tie, and orders an owl sitting on a tree to record the history of the fight for the edification of future generations of animals.

In another story, two rapacious and rival managers of an orphanage are prevented from killing each other by a woman tying them to stakes at opposite ends of a courtyard as they viciously



THE PLAY OF DOLLS: STORIES
KUNWAR NARAIN,
TRANSLATED
INTO ENGLISH BY
JOHN VATER AND
APURVA NARAIN
Penguin Modern
Classics
208 pages
₹399

snarl and growl. In yet another, a mysterious man comes riding a high horse and orders the narrator to take off all his clothes. And, in yet another, a terrifying insect appears and sits on top of the narrator's manuscript, glinting at him more and more terrifyingly. But no, unlike in Kafka, the minatory insect here is one entity and the human victim another; the one does not metamorphose into the other.

The humanity of men is stripped and threatened not only in relation to animals in these stories but also, of course, to other men. An ageing man renounces the world but is soon hauled back to a police station because they have found an old shirt of his with bloodstains on it. By the time the killer is found, this all-forsaking man has gone out of his mind and begun to claim that he has murdered not one person but "the whole world".

In a quieter and subtler story, a man feels his status as a human being diminished by



WORDS OF WISDOM

Kunwar Narain receiving the 41st Jnanpith award (for 2005) from then president Pratibha Patil in Parliament House, New Delhi, in 2009

the hour as he is made to sit all day, waiting to be called in by a government official he has come to see. Many of the first-person narrators in the other stories here are meek, mild and fairly faceless characters, created mainly to be sat upon, but this one shows high individuality.

Sitting idly but impatiently, he vaguely recalls Shakespeare: "I am tied to the stake...bear-like" (animal and stake again!). He then recalls more accurately Sahir Ludhianvi: "Meri raaton ke muqaddar mein sahar hai ki nahin? (Is it the fate of my nights to see the dawn or not?, as translated here)" When he is finally called in, the smug official, who has probably never heard of either poet, dismisses his plea at once with civil aplomb.

The few women in these stories are less than fully human to start with, for they are

invariably seen through male eyes. This is not the predatory male gaze so much as a quizzical but indulgent regard for the different quiddity of women. There are several sudden kisses, initiated by women as well as men. In an especially intricate story, a woman stands stark naked before a mirror, gazing at herself through the narrow gap between her fingers with which she covers her face. She is trying to see how she looks to others — with the male narrator watching her watching herself.

These stories are like no others written by any Hindi writer. As if conducting semi-scientific experiments, Narain brings a sceptical scalpel to all kinds of characters to peel off their put-on humanesque skins and expose their beastly nature. Through setting himself these ethical puzzles, Narain seems intent on figuring out what precisely it means to be human and to act human. Some of the stories seem to be ingeniously designed thought-experiments, and in some others, this persistent humanist concern becomes explicit, as with the strings in the puppeteer's hand occasionally showing in the title-story, 'The Play of Dolls'. The word "human" tolls through the book.

Kumar Narain was primarily a poet, in which capacity he won many plum awards and honours: the Sahitya Akademi, the Jnanpith, the Padma Bhushan and the lot. In a famous poem, he said he wished to be reborn as "human-er". This volume of short stories was the only one he put together in his lifetime. The two conscientious translators substantially enhance the 143 pages of the text here with 48 pages of informative and solicitous para-text. One can't wait for Narain's other (posthumous) collection of short stories to come out in English, for they are even more playfully inquisitive.

Harish Trivedi taught English at Delhi University



MEN AT WORK

(Right to left) Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Bhai Mahavir, Balraj Madhok and Jagannath Rao Joshi during a national executive meeting of the Jan Sangh in Ahmedabad, 1970

Democratic Dividends

Yogendra Yadav's essays cover India from Rajiv Gandhi to Narendra Modi, but without sufficient connect with sociopolitical history

Mahesh Rangarajan

FEW SCHOLARS and observers of the Indian political scene over the last three decades have been as prolific and wide in scope as Yogendra Yadav. His recent shift to party political work has seen a change of tone and timbre as he made the transition from being watcher to player in the political and even electoral arena.

The core of his work is the relation of ideas to political practice, nowhere more so than in the study of electoral trends and the changing social and economic makeup of the parties that are so vital to the process. This collection is like refined gold, as it puts the core of his essays in one place.

The demise of the Congress system and the rise of regional and Mandal and Dalit-led parties in north India was studied in his well-known essays. The titles say it all, though they do not appear in quite that direct, pithy form here. The rise of the third electoral system, 1989-2014, saw governing with no really dominant party at the centre of the web. Further, it was higher participation in politics, not just in election season, that saw the rise of figures like Mayawati, Lalu Prasad Yadav, Nitish Kumar and the Yadavs of UP. Finally, the Congress itself showed signs of reverting to a group of diverse state-level parties held together by a leader in New Delhi.

There is a fascinating essay on the "State Nation", not the nation-state, where Yadav detours into European history and shows how in India, the challenge of forging a sense of nationhood became more, not less, acute after Independence. The formation of linguistic states and efforts at positive discrimination are seen as progressive.

Yet, beyond these, this collection falls short. The reasons emerge in the introduction and more so in his essay written on the eve of the 2019 general election. He rightly sets aside simple anti-Modi sentiment and draws an uncanny parallel with the flop of 'Indira Hatao' as a slogan in 1971. But if her party raised its tally from 283 to 350-plus (very similar but not identical with Modi's own gains), the reasons do need more thought and care. Yadav begins well, but falters.

MAKING SENSE OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY
YOGENDRA YADAV
Permanent
Black/Ashoka
University
390 pages
₹995

or caste lines, or of party. And if this indeed was the case, the Jan Sangh should have romped home easily, much earlier.

The deeper issue is analytic. For someone so versed in political lore, there is scant engagement with serious sociopolitical history. This leads to a serious underestimation of why North and South (or West) are so very different as macro regions. The social and cultural transformations unleashed in the latter have yet to resonate fully in the Ganga basin and much of Hindi-speaking India. These works over the last quarter century would include Rajni Kothari's volume *Caste in Indian Politics* (1969). The result is that the volume is at its best in shedding light on the India between Rajiv's fall and Modi's rise. But in contrast to the late Professor Kothari, whose work on the Congress system Yadav analyses so well, the latter stops short of grappling with why the drama unfolded as it has.

Issues of gender and occupational mobility, of access to education and age of marriage were taken up far earlier, and systematically. Few in Hindi-speaking India know that the first Nadar School for Boys was founded in 1890, for girls in 1910 and a bank in 1920. This wider penumbra of changes never figured in the agenda of the north Indian OBC leaders, most of whom cut their teeth on Lohiaite socialism. This is not simply a political failing but a larger socio-cultural vacuum, and it is this that enabled a remaking of the Hindutva party under its first-ever OBC mass national-level leader. To know why this was so, maybe history and political economy need to be looked at afresh.

A fleeting thought is to get Yadav to write a full-length account of political change over the last two or three decades. But the present anthology is an aid to thinking through post-1989 India — a book to read, mull over and argue with.

Mahesh Rangarajan teaches history and environmental studies at Ashoka University

