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EXCLUSIVE

SOUTH KOREAN VICTIMS OF WARTIME SEXUAL SLAVERY SAY FIGHT NOT OVER

A Seoul court has ordered the Japanese government to pay 100 million won (\$91,340) to each victim of wartime sexual slavery as compensation. While the ruling may be welcome news, it is of little comfort to survivors.

TECH



LG WING: A SMALL EXTRA SCREEN THAT ADDS HUGE VALUE

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EXPLAINED



MOST COUNTRIES SUPPORT FARMERS. WHERE DOES INDIA STAND?

A look at the data.

EXPRESS AUDIO

A to Z of ghosts and monsters of India

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In the latest episode of the Sandip Roy Show, Rakesh Khanna talks about his new book which is an encyclopedia of ghosts, monsters and demons of India.

FROM PAGE ONE

All gears move

across its Employee's State Insurance network of hospitals and staff.

The Defence Ministry will help coordinate supply in inaccessible and security-sensitive areas and tap into its ex-servicemen network for mobilisation.

"The Civil Aviation Ministry has had several discussions with stakeholders including airlines, ground handling companies... Main requirement is temperature regulation," said an official.

The Ministry of Information and Technology has been asked to use its village-level Common Service Centres for vaccine registrations and get mobile service providers to send messages, caller tunes on vaccination and message on telephone bills.

In parallel, states are gearing up. Several state government units, including the PWD, Education and the police, have been assigned specific tasks. Common SOPs which include individual checklists have been issued, sources said.

State PWDs will support the identification of session sites and ensure logistics and drinking water; police departments are being roped in to provide security to vaccine consignments and help in site and crowd management.

The Education departments are being tapped for deployment at session sites, including for spreading awareness through school teachers and *shiksha mitra*, alongside educating parents on why children are not being vaccinated in the initial phase.

The Panchayati Raj apparatus will ensure registration of health care workers, identification and planning for the vaccination site and in organising sessions.

"There has been stockpiling by companies (that have received emergency use approval), and they have been in constant dialogue with the government," said the official. "Four-five days are more than enough (for the vaccines to be shipped to states)."

Hospital fire

authorities to let them take her home. "But a nurse said we would be doing it at our own risk."

While media was barred from entering the hospital, pictures emerging from inside showed the soot-covered walls and charred furniture of the SNCU. Health Minister Rajesh Tope, who visited the hospital, said that a short-circuit was the probable cause of the

fire and that three babies had died of burns and seven of asphyxiation. Eight of the dead were girls.

The parents are all labourers or farmers from nearby villages. One of the deceased was a three-day-old boy found abandoned at Lakhni town in the district.

All the babies who died were in the "out-born" section, where the babies born at other places but referred to the government hospital are kept. The rescued babies were all from the "in-born" section holding the children born at the District Hospital.

A senior doctor at the hospital said that while two nurses, a medical officer and a helper were in the ward, they may not have noticed the fire at first because "their view may have been blocked by glass partitions".

The four-storey hospital has 482 beds, with over 300 more added last year for Covid treatment. While its building was constructed in 1981, the SNCU was a relatively new construction, inaugurated in 2015.

Yogita Vikash Ghulse and husband Vikesh, both daily wagers, lost their son, born on January 6. While he was 1.75 kg at birth, it wasn't his being underweight that had led to the hospitalisation, said Yogita. "He was not able to breastfeed. So the Primary Health Centre asked us to bring him to the District Hospital. In less than 24 hours, he was dead," she cried.

Yogita, staying on the second-floor ward of the four-storey hospital, came to know about the fire at the SNCU, on the first floor, around 2 am, when she noticed the smoke. "But we came to know about the death of our child only around 9 am," she said.

Vandana Mohan Sidam's daughter had been a week old, brought to the SNCU being only 1.25 kg at birth. "They said I can take her home after she attains 1.75 kg." Like Yogita, Vandana was staying on the premises, to breastfeed her daughter.

She realised something was wrong when she noticed a smell of burning wires along with the smoke. Her forehead tired with a piece of cloth, the 28-year-old, unwell and admitted to a PHC, demanded that those responsible be punished. Her husband Mohan, a daily wage worker in Kalyan, is on his way back home.

"The fire broke out around 1.30 am. At that time, there were two nurses and a helper in the children's ward. They immediately raised an alarm. Before the fire brigade arrived, staffers tried

to rescue the children and managed to save seven," Bhandara Collector Sandeep Kadam told *The Sunday Express*, adding that rescue efforts were hampered by explosions inside the ward.

District Civil Surgeon Pramod Khandate claimed the fire extinguishers were in place and functioning. "The staff used them, but there was too much smoke." Crediting fire personnel and staff with helping rescue the babies, Khandate said the seven who had been rescued, apart from patients in the ICU ward, dialysis wing and the labour ward were shifted safely to other wards.

However, a full-scale attempt could be made to rescue the infants till the fire brigade arrived and broke the glass on the windows of the first-floor unit by putting a ladder from outside. By the time, they entered the unit, it was half-an-hour from the start of the fire. "Our hospital staffers also suffered inhalation injury and chest discomfort. The entire ward was engulfed in smoke," said a doctor from the Civil Surgeon's office.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said they were probing whether a fire audit of the SNCU had been carried out. Calling the deaths "heart-wrenching", he said the guilty shall not be spared. He also ordered a fire audit of hospitals across the state and announced Rs 5 lakh to families of the deceased infants.

The committee set up to probe the fire includes officials of power, health, engineering and maintenance departments. Headed by Dr Sadhana Tayade, Director of the Directorate of Health Services, it has been told to submit a report in three days.

Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said the cause of the fire would be investigated by experts from the National Fire Service College and the VINT in Nagpur. He said they were looking at whether there had been a short-circuit or the air-conditioner had malfunctioned.

Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Vijay Wadetiwar admitted that a proposal for fire safety equipment for the hospital had been pending since May last year and said they will find out what happened to it. However, he pointed out, the SNCU was inaugurated in 2016 by the then BJP government without requisite fire safety clearance.

Former Maharashtra energy minister Chandrashekar Bawankule of the BJP said the families of the children had complained to the authorities about the fluctuation in electric supply in the unit "but nobody took it seriously".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi were among those who offered their condolences.

WITH INPUTS FROM TABAS-SUMBARNAGARWALA

Neonatal unit

December 2020 order by Maharashtra National Health Mission Director N Ramaswamy to all districts to conduct such audits in government hospitals.

Sources at the hospital and in the district administration told *The Sunday Express* that it lacked a comprehensive fire system, and while the SNCU section did have an extinguisher, no training on its use had been given to staffers in the last two years.

The NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers) fire safety guidelines mandate a hospital to have a fire extinguisher, hose reel, wet riser, automatic or manual fire alarm system if it has more than two floors. The four-storey Bhandara hospital only had one fire extinguisher per floor, and no alarm system, sprinkler or hose reel. However, the SNCU section did have an exit door as per fire norms, and this aided in rescuing the babies on Saturday.

In May 2020, the Bhandara district authorities had sent the

proposal to the state government for a fire system at the hospital, with extinguishers, sprinklers, hose reel, and fire alarm. The proposal was approved by Deputy Director, Health, Nagpur, and forwarded to Dr Sadhana Tayade, Director, Directorate of Health Services (DHS). Tayade did not respond to calls or text messages over the delay in approval of the proposal.

Dr Nitin Ambadekar, in-charge of district hospitals, DHS, told *The Sunday Express*, "After technical corrections, it will be approved. We have sent it back with certain corrections."

State Health Minister Rajesh Tope said he didn't know about this proposal, but would get it approved now. He also sought to blame the previous BJP government, saying it had inaugurated the SNCU without a fire audit. "The civil surgeon wrote to the National Institute of Fire Safety Engineering in Nagpur twice for a fire audit. But the institute did not conduct it. The previous government should not have started the SNCU without complying with fire norms," he said.

A district-level official, requesting anonymity, said the hospital's wiring system also needed repairs, and they had written regarding this to the Public Works Department. "The request remains pending," the official said.

Being a new construction, the SNCU's wiring and fixtures, however, were in good condition — one of the requirements of National Health Mission. Dr Archana Patil, DHS Director of Family Planning, said this was why it was unclear how the fire had spread so quickly in the unit.

The last maintenance audit of the SNCU was conducted on

September 2, 2020, by a private company called Faber Sindoori Management Services. This audit does not cover fire safety. Patil said they had asked for the audit report to assess if there were any problems in equipment.

Against the state government norms of three nurses per 16 beds in an SNCU, the Bhandara hospital had two nurses on duty Saturday night attending to the 17 children in the 36-bed ward. The hospital has 35 posts for nurses, of which 28 positions are filled. Of the eight posts for SNCU doctors, five are vacant.

A senior district-level official said the problem had become more acute in the Covid-19 pandemic. "We added 300 isolation beds to the hospital but could not appoint enough staff."

Ramaswamy said, "I have directed state officials to submit a report. I cannot comment on whether there was shortage of nurses or lack of equipment maintenance."

Meanwhile, the state government's six-member com-

mittee to look into any lapses in the trials has also turned in an all-clear report.

The committee, led by Arun Kumar Shrivastav, head of pharmacology department at Gandhi Medical College, said: "The protocols laid down by Bharat Biotech and guidelines of ICMR were duly followed. The documents of the deceased volunteer (Deepak Marawi) were studied and no lapses have come to light."

Hospital authorities said that all participants received counselling and had given their consent. An audio-video consent of those above 60 years was recorded.

Marawi's relatives said that he had told only his youngest son that he had participated in a drug trial while the rest of them were unaware and his wife learned about it only after his death.

"My father got to know of the trial from his friends and

and, people's participation (Jan Bhagidari).

A district will be taken as a basic unit — and the District Magistrate will plan sessions to cover all priority groups located within the district. The DM, helped by the District Immunization Officer, will link sessions sites, vaccinators, supervisors and beneficiaries and decide the date and time for the vaccination session.

"Selection of session site will be at the discretion of the DC/DM, who would ensure that each session is planned for 100 beneficiaries per day," the Centre has told the states.

Also, a multi-level gover-

nance mechanism has been put in place for the back-end: the Block Task Force will check all proposed sites and the District Task Force will check a sample of the sites to ensure that required space, infrastructure, including security.

On logistics, according to the guidelines, the vaccine will be sent to every session site on the day of the vaccination along with one additional vaccine carrier with icepacks. Along with the vaccine, like in an election, each session site will be provided with three hard copies of the registered beneficiary list due for vaccination at that site.

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On Saturday, when The Indian Express visited People's Hospital, over two dozen people were being administered the second dose of Covaxin. None was aware of Marawi's death.

One of the volunteers was Pappu Manishkar, 55, a balloon seller, who said he was unaware that the trial was for a Covid vaccine.

"We were told it is like vaccines given to children and since many were coming, even I came in. We were given Rs 750 which is way more than the Rs 200 I make every day," said Manishkar, a resident of Shankar Nagar.

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named him.

The Special Judge ordered Para's release on furnishing a surety and personal bail bond of Rs 1 lakh each, with the direction that he not leave Jammu and Kashmir without written permission during his bail period and surrender his passport. Para was also specifically told not to approach any prosecution witness.

Considered instrumental in the revival of the PDP in South Kashmir, Para was arrested by the NIA on November 25, three days after he had filed nomination papers from Pulwama for the maiden District Development Council elections in J&K. He had won while in custody. Sources in the NIA said they will challenge the bail order in the High Court.

Judge Gupta noted, "The original chargesheet was filed on July 6, 2020, wherein Naveed Mushtaq and other three accused were chargesheeted, but there was not even a whisper about the involvement of present applicant/accused Waheed Para in the commission of offences, despite the fact that the statement of the accused Naveed Mushtaq allegedly implicating the present applicant... was already available with the investigating agency".

Noting the NIA's "deep slumber" in arresting Para only in November, the order added, "This kind of inaction on the part of the investigating agency clearly postulates the fact that they were not intending to array the present applicant as accused in the present case... I seriously doubt... whether during the course of further investigation, the investigating agency could have arrested Waheed Para on the basis of the old evidence which was collected by them during initial investigations."

Referring to the alleged statement by Naveed saying Para gave financial support to the Hizbul Mujahideen for terror activities, the judge said, even if he gave the money, "the purchase of AK-47 rifles out of Rs 10 lakh financed by Para was not the decision of the present applicant, but it was the decision of accused Naveed Mushtaq... Therefore, we cannot link the present applicant with the commission of offence of supporting the terrorist organization."

The court also noted that the NIA had earlier not thought it fit to act against Para despite claiming to have the call detail records of his conversations with former DySP Davinder Singh, who had been arrested on January 11, 2020, after he was found travelling with Naveed. It is probably because the agency found the said evidence insufficient to implicate him, the judge observed. Para was not even named among those accused not chargesheeted but being investigated, he said.

"Therefore, serious doubt has arisen on the action taken by the investigating agency with respect to the present applicant/accused," the judge said, adding that "nothing substantial has been made out" against him "even from the statement of one protected witness" recorded after his arrest.

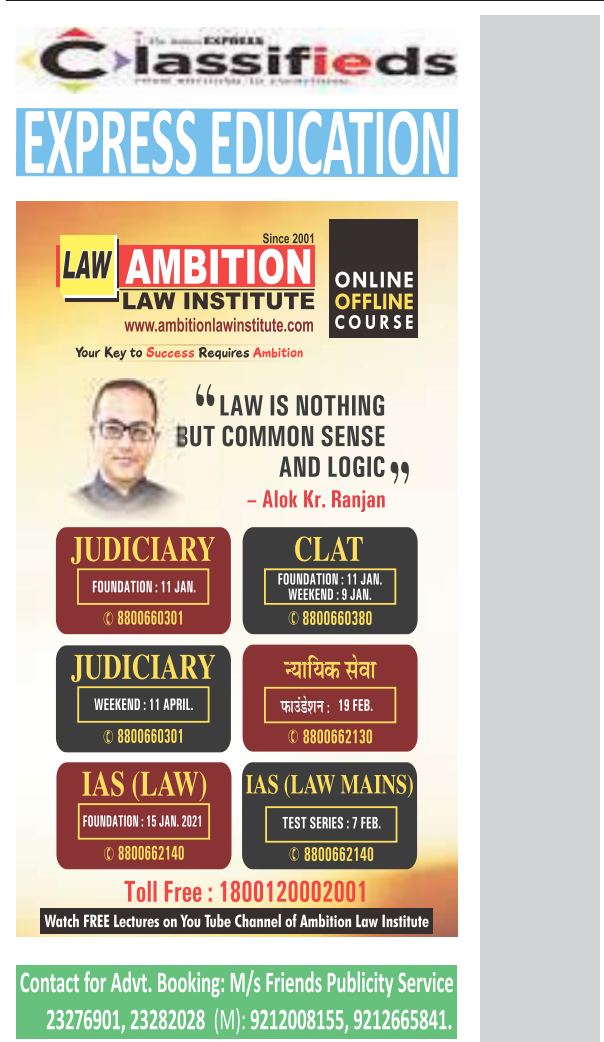
Para was represented by Senior Advocate P N Raina, accompanied by Alok Bamroo.

School murder

It was when the CBI took over that the Gurgaon police case fell apart. The agency eventually arrested a senior student at the school, who allegedly murdered the child as he wanted to delay a parent-teacher meeting.

In the supplementary chargesheet filed in a special court in Panchkula, the agency has accused then SHO of Bhondsi police station Narender Singh Khatana, sub-inspector Shamsher Singh, ASI Subhash Chand and ACP (Sohna) Bareem Singh of falsely implicating Kumar.

"A verdict against the officers might be some justice for him and the family," said Kumar's uncle Om Prakash Chopra.



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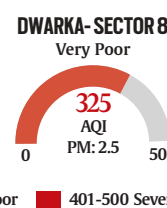
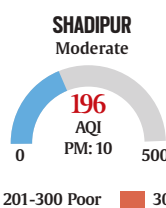
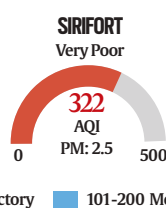
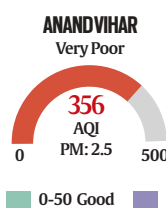
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COLLAPSED NEAR MAIN STAGE AT SINGHU

Fourth suicide at protest as farmer consumes poison

AMIL BHATNAGAR & RAAKHI JAGGA
NEW DELHI, LUDHIANA, JANUARY 9

A 39-YEAR-OLD farmer committed suicide at Singhu border on Saturday — the fourth person to take his own life at protests against the new farm laws. The man, Amrinder Singh, allegedly consumed poison at the protest and was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he died during treatment. His body will be handed over to the family, which hails from Machrai Kalan in Punjab's Fatehgarh Sahib.

"He consumed poison near the main stage. It happened when the stage was being wrapped up for the day. He collapsed in front of other farmers. We immediately took him to a hospital, where he passed away. The death occurred at 7:20 pm,"



Amrinder Singh hailed from Punjab's Fatehgarh Sahib

said Baljeet Singh, convenor of the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha's IT Cell. According to farmers, the man consumed sulphas tablets backstage, around 4:30 pm. Amrinder then walked to the front of the stage and collapsed. Panic soon spread among protesters and a mobile ambulance was summoned. Protesters cleared the way and he was taken to Frank Institute of Medical Sciences in Sonapat. Protesters said Amrinder had been at Singhu for a few days.

The village sarpanch, Jeet Singh, said, "He had about an acre of land in the village and that too not very fertile. About 2-3 years ago, he started living in the town area of Fatehgarh Sahib, while his widowed mother Nachtar Kaur was living in the village home. As he hardly had any farm income, he started working as a conductor with a private bus company. I'm not aware of what he was doing these days."

Amrinder is survived by his mother, wife and two teenage kids — a boy and a girl. His father was in the Army and died in the late 80s in a road accident. His uncle Darbara Singh will go to Sonapat with the sarpanch to collect Amrinder's body on Sunday. Said Jeet Singh: "I have also

been to Singhu and even now two trolleys from our village are permanently parked there. It has become an emotional matter in Punjab."

Jagmohan Singh Patiala, general secretary of BKU Dakaunda, said, "We are shocked. We repeatedly appeal to people to continue the struggle instead of committing suicide."

The suicide comes in the wake of three cases of suicide and one attempt since the protest started. Sant Baba Ram Singh (65), a religious leader from Haryana's Kamal district, shot himself near Kundli; Amarjit Singh Rai (63) from Punjab's Fazilka district consumed pesticide at the Tikri protest site; and Kashmir Singh Dass, a septuagenarian, hanged himself at the Ghazipur protest. Niranjn Singh from Punjab's Tam Taran district attempted suicide at the Singhu border by consuming pest control tablets.

BRIEFLY

Police chief reviews R-day security

New Delhi: Ahead of Republic Day, Delhi Police Commissioner SN Shrivastava reviewed the law and order situation in and around the city. In a meeting, the police chief discussed anti-terrorism measures, crime hotspots and arrangements at the Delhi borders. Non-functional CCTVs on the streets are being repaired and integrated complaint monitoring system is being promoted at all police stations to reduce paperwork and streamline multiple complaints on a single platform.

QCI's open defecation free tag to East MCD

New Delhi: The Quality Council of India (QCI) has certified East Delhi Municipal Corporation with the 'Open Defecation free plus' tag in its inspection. QCI conducted surveys between December 12 to 14 at 44 different sensitive spots in the area of East Delhi Municipal Corporation, said a senior official. Mayor of East Delhi Nirmal Jain said the corporation is making all-out efforts to improve cleanliness in its area, which has shown positive results.

AAP to hold mohalla sabhas 'to expose' BJP

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party said it held 267 mohalla sabhas across the capital on Saturday to "expose BJP's corruption" in the municipal corporations. The party plans to continue holding street meetings until January 15. "The people at the mohalla sabhas were curious to know how public money is being looted by the BJP," AAP leader Durgesh Pathak said.

Police review vaccine drive in Noida

Noida: Police reviewed the upcoming vaccination drive in a meeting held in Gautam Budh Nagar Saturday. Police said 75 centres have been identified for the vaccination programme. At each centre, one policeman and a health official will be posted during the day. The centres will be guarded akin to polling centres and entry will be allowed only after due verification. **ENS**

For farmers protesting at Tikri, a makeshift shelter with 800 beds, washrooms

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

KEEPING IN mind the rising demand for better sleeping arrangements amid the cold, UK-based NGO Khalsa Aid has constructed an 800-bed semi-permanent shelter at the Tikri border, with 60% beds for men and 40% for women.

Khalsa Aid India director Amarpreet Singh said a similar 600-bed shelter was first constructed at the Singhu border, made of tarpaulin and other waterproof material.

"At Tikri, we had earlier made a shelter for women but the space was not enough. The demand was rising... At Singhu, we had created a shelter by waterproofing normal tents but that was not very successful. There were issues of leakage when it rained so we felt the need for something more durable. So we've used Clearspan tents," he said.

The industrial tent technology uses aluminium frames to support tent material. The floor of the shelter has been covered with plywood.

"We constructed this keeping many things in mind. People from villages who come to visit the protest site, for example, had no place to stay. Hotels nearby cost a lot so that's not an option for everyone. There are many old people who are not able to climb onto trolleys because of joint pain, so that was also a concern," said Singh.

Covering an area of 300x100 feet, the shelter will also have 50 washrooms for women and 50 for men. "There will be a partition between the area for men and women. These areas are covered by 20 CCTV cameras too for safety. We have also arranged 10 washing machines and 30 desi geysers for everyone's convenience," he said.

The construction started about four days ago, and the shelter will become operational by Sunday.



(Top) The shelter at Tikri border will be operational from today; several singers and actors joined the farmers protesting at Tikri on Saturday. *Gajendra Yadav*

"It has cost us around Rs 10 lakh, which we spent from the donations we received. We had given the contract for construction to a local Delhi-based company, which took care of raw material and labourers," said Singh.

Meanwhile, several artists from the Punjabi and Hindi music and film industry including singers Harbhajan Mann and Jazzy B, and actors Swara Bhaskar and Aarya Babbar joined the protesting farmers at the Tikri border Saturday to lend their support.

At the 'Artists with Farmers' event, they expressed their solidarity with songs, poems and speeches and urged them to continue the struggle until their demands are met.

Popular singer Harbhajan Mann was among those who received the loudest cheers from the protesters. "Today the protest has reached such a stage that if someone doesn't write four lines about the protest and mark their attendance here, they feel they have committed a big crime," Mann said in Punjabi.

He also said, "It is the right of every artist to raise their voice in support of the farmers".

Group from Haryana defaces Aurangzeb lane signboards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

DELHI POLICE detained on Saturday 11 people who allegedly defaced two Aurangzeb lane signboards with stickers.

Police said the incident took place around 5:40 am when locals called them and told them there's a gathering at Aurangzeb lane.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi and PRO) Eish Singhal said, "Our staff went there and found 11 people defacing one New Delhi Municipal Council signboard of Aurangzeb lane. They had already pasted a poster on another signboard in the same

An FIR has been registered under sections of Delhi Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 2007 and Damage to Public Property Act

lane. The posters had Guru Tegh Bahadur lane written on them."

Police said they stopped the group and detained them. They were taken to Tughlak Road police station and released later in the afternoon.

The group had come from Kamal in Haryana and were led by an advocate named Anuradha Bahugra (30). An FIR has been registered under sections of Delhi Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 2007 and Damage to Public Property Act.

A complaint was filed by an engineer of the NDMC. "The Delhi police has asked NDMC for an assessment of the damage, which they said they shall impose on the accused people," said a source.

In 2019, Shiromani Akali Dal leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa had tried to deface the Aurangzeb lane signboard. In 2017 and 2018, some groups had vandalised Akbar Road signboards.

3 who robbed jeweller held in Gujarat

New Delhi: Delhi Police has arrested three men who allegedly robbed gold jewellery worth Rs 2 crore in Central Delhi's Karol Bagh. The accused were arrested from Ahmedabad on Friday.

DCP (central) Jasmeet Singh said, "We received a complaint from a jewellery shop owner that eight people robbed two of his employees when they were carrying jewellery."

Police said they received information that a gang from Gujarat was operating in Delhi. They conducted raids in Ahmedabad and detained the three men. The accused are members of the Charra gang in Ahmedabad. **ENS**

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दिनांक: 10.01.2021

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5 GOVT & POLITICS



Palaniswami and Panneerselvam after the AIADMK meeting in Chennai on Saturday. *PTI*

AIADMK council backs Palaniswami as CM candidate for TN polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, JANUARY 9

THE AIADMK on Saturday endorsed Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami as its CM candidate for this year's Assembly polls, where the party will take on arch rival DMK in a tough electoral battle.

AIADMK's top decision-making body also authorised O Panneerselvam and Palaniswami — the top leaders — to devise the party's strategy for the polls and endorsed the appointment of a steering committee, which is likely to play a key role in important matters.

The Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu are likely to be held in April-May.

The party's general council, besides the Executive, met at a marriage hall here under the leadership of AIADMK Coordinator Panneerselvam and joint coordinator Palaniswami.

In one of the 16 resolutions adopted at the meeting, the party members authorised the two leaders to devise AIADMK's electoral strategy, even as it eyes a hat trick of victories, after securing back to back wins in 2011 and 2016 under the late J Jayalalithaa.

"This general council authorises O Panneerselvam and Edapadi K Palaniswami to devise winning strategies to ensure a grand win in the 2021 polls, create an AIADMK-led victory alliance and decide seat-sharing with alliance parties," the members resolved.

The party has earned the public's praise for "good governance," it added.

Trust in political, social leadership of Indian-origin people growing: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

UNDERLINING THE strength of the country's diversity and the importance of the Indian diaspora abroad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Saturday said that "if there's any place in the world where democracy is most strong, vibrant and alive, it is India". Across the world, he said, there's a growing trust in the "social and political leadership" of Indian-origin people.

Modi made these remarks in his inaugural address to the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention, three days after a mob supporting US President Donald Trump's repeated attempts to overturn the outcome of the US elections stormed the Capitol. US Vice President-elect Kamala Harris is of Indian origin — her mother was from India and her father from Jamaica.

Hailing the significant contribution of the Indian diaspora, Modi praised Suriname President Chandrikapersad 'Chan' Santokhi, the chief guest at the function, for his "warm



PM Modi at inauguration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, via video conference, in Delhi. *PTI*

words and affection for India". He said Santokhi was a "shining example" of the trust reposed in people of Indian-origin.

He said at a time when India was moving to become atmanirbhar (self-reliant), the Indian diaspora had an important role in strengthening the identity of Brand India. He urged them to use Make-in-India products more and more, saying it will increase trust in these products. "It can be anything, from tea to textile to therapy. I am happy to see the attention khadi is getting across the

world. Not only will you be increasing the volume of Indian exports, but you will also be taking our rich diversity to the world. What is most important is that, as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign, you will be instrumental in reaching affordable and quality solutions to the poorest of the world," he said.

On the Covid vaccine, he said India is "ready to protect humanity with not one but two corona vaccines made in India". He said, "As the pharmacy of the world, India has delivered essential medicines to every needy person in the world in the past, and is still doing it. Today, the world is not only waiting for India's vaccine, but it is also keeping a watch on how India runs the world's largest vaccination programme."

In his address to the convention, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called for greater participation of the diaspora in building a self-reliant India. The experience of the pandemic, he said, has driven home the need for more trusted, resilient, reliable and redundant supply chains.

"Involving the diaspora in that endeavour is natural," Jaishankar said as they "have always been enthusiastic contributors to nation-building", "can bring to bear resources, technology, best practices and innovations" as "high achievers" and "help in giving this ambitious exercise a truly global footprint".

He said a "bold scheme of production-linked incentives in 13 key sectors offers the potential of transforming manufacturing in the country" and "it would have direct consequences for employment and inclusiveness".

Engagement with the world is fundamental to our beliefs and traditions, he said, adding that during the pandemic, "we not only brought back our own people home, but those of neighbours as well" and as "we now look at the supply of vaccines" India will "live up fully" to its international responsibilities.

Speaking at the session, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said that with its population of 1.3 billion, and one of the largest diaspora in the world, India can play an effective role in the post-Covid space.

Kovind points to Atmanirbhar Bharat goal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind Saturday invoked Mahatma Gandhi's call for self-reliance as he emphasised the role of the diaspora in fulfilling the aims of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Delivering the valedictory speech at the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, he said it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, "the greatest Pravasi Bhartiya", returned to the country.

"The Pravasi Bhartiya Divas is also an occasion to recall Gandhiji's ideals for individual and collective life. Gandhiji's emphasis on Indianness, non-violence, ethics, simplicity and sustainable development, remain our guiding principles," said the President.

The President also congratulated the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman awardees.

Jose K Mani resigns as RS member

Kochi: Kerala Congress(M) leader Jose K Mani has resigned as a member of Rajya Sabha, won with the support of Opposition UDF, amid strong indications that he would fight the coming Assembly polls as a candidate of the CPI(M)-led LDF.

Mani said on Saturday that he submitted the resignation to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Friday.

Talking to reporters in Palakkad,

Mani, son of late Kerala Congress stalwart and former minister K M Mani, said he quit the seat "for upholding morality in political life".

Biryani at farm protests conspiracy to spread bird flu, says BJP MLA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, JANUARY 9

RAJASTHAN BJP MLA and the party's state general secretary Madan Dilawar on Saturday hit out against the farmers' protests against the three farm laws saying "so-called farmers" were enjoying dry fruits and chicken biryani and other luxuries at protest sites and that it was a conspiracy to spread bird flu.

Dilawar's statement drew sharp criticism from the ruling Congress, which termed his statement as "shameful".

In a video statement appealing to the government to clear out the protest sites, Dilawar said, "The so-called farmers are not worried about the country or its people... They are eating chicken biryani there. They are eating dry cashews and almonds... People are coming



Tractor march by farmers in Haryana's Jind. *Manoj Dhaka*

there in various disguises. They could be terrorists, they could be thieves or dacoits, who may be a danger to the farmers. These people want to ruin the country. By my understanding, they are eating chicken biryani in conspiracy to spread bird flu..."

State Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra shared

Dilawar's statement on Twitter saying, "The use of words such as terrorists and looters for farmers by BJP MLA Madan Dilawar ji is shameful. The people who provided you with food, you are terming their movement as picnic, holding them responsible for bird flu? This statement of yours reflects the mentality of the BJP."

Farm laws will set farmers free, too late for Bengal to implement PM-KISAN: Nadda

ATRI MITRA
KATWA (EAST BURDWAN), JANUARY 9

BJP PRESIDENT J P Nadda on Saturday said the new farm laws "would set the farmers of the country free" as they would be able to decide their buyers and the prices of their produce.

Launching the BJP's 'Krishak Suraksha Abhiyan' and 'Ek Mutho Chal' campaigns at a village in East Burdwan district, Nadda mocked Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for agreeing to implement the PM-KISAN scheme, saying it was "too late".

"It is unfortunate that there are people who are misleading the farmers (on farm laws). Therefore,



BJP president J P Nadda at a village in West Bengal's East Burdwan district on Saturday. *PTI*

we have decided to launch week-long 'Krishak Bhoj' campaign from January 24 in 40,000 Gram Sabhas in West Bengal to make them un-

derstand the actual benefits of farmer's policies and schemes launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi... The farm laws

Twitter's Trump ban: BJP slams it, Congress says welcome signal

Tech firms new oligarchs: BJP IT cell head

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

IN AN unprecedented move, Twitter banned US President Donald Trump from the platform on Friday, stating that two of his tweets were "highly likely to encourage and inspire people to replicate the criminal acts that took place at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021."

Twitter stated that Trump's tweets — one about his voters having a "giant voice" in the future and another stating he will not attend the inauguration — "must be read in the context of broader events in the country", including the recent incident of a mob storming the US Capitol on January 6 as President-elect Joe Biden's election victory was being certified by Congress.

Trump attempted to circumvent the ban by tweeting on the @POTUS handle that Twitter "has gone further and further in banning free speech", but the company removed his posts almost immediately.

The decision brought a divergence of opinions in India, where political parties allege partisan decision-making by the social media giant.

Amit Malviya, BJP IT cell head, tweeted: "Deplatforming Donald Trump, a sitting US president, sets a dangerous precedent. It has less to do with his views and more to do with intolerance for a differing point. Ironically, those who claim to champion free speech are celebrating. Big tech firms are now the new oligarchs."

BJP MP from Karnataka Tejasvi Surya called it a threat to democracy. Tagging the Ministry of Electronics & IT's handle, Surya posted, "This must be wake up call for all who don't yet understand threat to our democracies by unregulated big tech companies. If they can do this to POTUS, they can do this to anyone. Sooner India reviews intermediaries regulations, better for our democracy... Freedom of Expression (FoE) is sacrosanct. It cannot be curtailed whimsically by pvt big tech com-



Trump tried to circumvent the ban by tweeting on the @POTUS handle. *Reuters/File*

panies without accountability..."

Praveen Chakravarty, who heads Congress's data analytics, told *The Indian Express*: "There is a saying 'no point in locking the stable after the horses have bolted.' I think social media, broadly speaking, has allowed this to go on for far too long. I welcome the decision not so much for what it does to President Trump but what it does as a signal that you cannot abuse and put an entire society at risk in the guise of free speech."

Asked how social media companies have acted in India, Chakravarty said: "Very irresponsibly. But Twitter doesn't matter here. What do you do about WhatsApp? It is being used with the guise of free speech and the guise of anonymity. It's even more dangerous than Twitter in India."

BJP MP and IT Parliamentary committee member Nishikant Dubey said: "They must think that the fight in society will fix this. They must have done this thinking that. But society cannot be seen by only one side."

Aman Taneja, a senior lawyer focused on intermediary liability at tech legal firm Ikegai, said that Twitter has been the company most willing to take these positions, demonstrating that platforms are beginning to realise the power they have to amplify voices. "As far as its meaning for India, with this debate here about what to do about platforms gaining more power in India, the lesson is that platforms need to be more consistent and transparent with how they make decisions," he said.

FULL REPORT ON
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A right-thinking legislator will never be party to disrupting House: Venkaiah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

THE GOVERNMENT "has been taking a series of reforms to unleash the growth potential since only a robust economic growth can help in meeting the aspirations of the people" and legislators "across the country have an important responsibility of seriously reflecting in respective legislatures on the challenging situation that the country is facing and mounting a national effort to come out of it at the earliest," Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said on Saturday.

Speaking at the occasions of Goa Legislators Day at Panaji, Naidu said that a "right-thinking legislator... will never be a party



M Venkaiah Naidu at the Goa Legislators Day event.

to the distressing scenario of disrupting the proceedings of the House" and would "most certainly like the House to discuss, debate and decide every issue so that he/she can make meaningful contribution, being equipped to do so".

Naidu asserted that it was "the difference that able legisla-

tors can make to the functioning of the legislatures, which is the need of the hour" and any legislator "has the option of either supporting the government or opposing it". He stated that in fact, "informed opposition to the government's proposals" does a "certain good but opposing for the sake of doing it does harm".

He mentioned that "law makers can make a difference to enhance the functioning of legislatures, and there by their legitimacy" through the 6 Cs of connecting with people, conduct, character, commitment, capacity and communication.

"Any legislature is as good as its members," he said, and added that "legitimacy of both of them are inter-dependent as each of them draw sustenance from the other".

Architect of KHAM coalition in Gujarat, 4-time CM dies at 93

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, VADODARA, JANUARY 9

THE GRAND old man of Gujarat Congress and four-term chief minister Madhavsinh Solanki, who was also the Union External Affairs minister in the P V Narasimha Rao government, died on Saturday in Gandhinagar.

He was 93.

Sources close to the family said Solanki died in his sleep at his residence.

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani declared a one-day state mourning and cancelled all his official events, including a public meeting in Mahisagar district. His last rites will be held with full state honours, Rupani said.

Best known for forging the Kshatriya-Harijan-Adivasi-

Muslim (KHAM) coalition in Gujarat politics, Solanki led the Congress to landslide victories in 1980, when it won 141 of 182 seats, and in 1985 when it won 149 seats, a record that is yet to be broken. The 'KHAM theory' reorganised communities other than the upper castes and became a winning formula for the Congress.

Solanki was a member of the Rajya Sabha from 1988 to 1994, and again from 1994 to 2000, during which time he held the portfolios of Planning (1988-89) and External Affairs (1991). His stint as the External Affairs Minister ended abruptly when he had to step down over a controversial "note" he had handed over to his Swiss counterpart, Rene Felber, allegedly seeking assistance in the investigation in the Bofors case, for which he faced a CBI probe.

As per CBI's report, Solanki

had sought an appointment with Felber during a visit to Davos in Switzerland between January and February 1992 for the Annual World Economic Conference to discuss the Bofors case. According to senior Congress leader Hasmukh Patel, "He (Solanki) never spoke to anybody about that interaction."

Solanki gave up his job as a journalist with leading Gujarati daily *Gujarat Samachar* to launch his political career in the 1950s at the behest of his father-in-law, late Ishwarsinh Chavda, who was a Congress legislator in Bombay state assembly until 1955 and went on to represent Anand constituency four times in Lok Sabha. Originally from Amod town of Bharuch, Solanki contested all his elections from Anand, where he first represented Bhadran constituency



MADHAVSINH SOLANKI
1927-2021

and later Borsad.

Later, Borsad was represented by his son, Bharatsinh, who also went on to become a Union minister. Incumbent Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee chairperson Amit Chavda is the grandson of

Ishwarsinh.

Solanki is known for having introduced reservations for socially and economically backward sections in Gujarat based on the recommendations of the Bakshi Commission, the midday meal scheme in government and municipal schools and subsidised education for women. "The reservation formula and the midday meal schemes went on to be replicated nationally," senior Congress leader and former education minister Hasmukh Patel said.

After launching his political career as a legislator in the Bombay state assembly in 1957, Solanki became a member of Gujarat Assembly from 1960-68. He became the Gujarat CM for the first time in 1976, and subsequently in 1980, 1985 and 1990, a turbulent period in Gujarat that

was not only marked by a split in the Congress nationally but also saw the anti-reservation riots in the state after reservation was announced for OBCs in 1981.

He was subsequently forced to resign, only to return to power in 1985, with the Congress getting an even larger mandate.

In a condolence letter to Bharatsinh, President Ram Nath Kovind said, "Madhavsinh Solanki was not only a political stalwart in his own right but also an exceptional administrator. In his demise the nation has lost an unmatched leader. He will be long remembered for his role in shaping modern Gujarat for its inimitable warmth, charm and love for literature."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: "Madhavsinh Solanki was a formidable leader, playing a key role in Gujarat pol-

itics for decades. He will be remembered for his rich service to society... Beyond politics, Madhavsinh Solanki enjoyed reading and was passionate about culture. Whenever I would meet him or speak to him, we would discuss books and he would tell me about a new book he recently read. I will always cherish the interactions we had."

In a condolence letter to Bharatsinh, Congress president Sonia Gandhi said, "Gujarat has lost a towering leader, who symbolised a golden era in the state. Madhavsinh Solanki played a key role in Gujarat's progress and development, and during his long tenure as Chief Minister, one of his many achievements was to foster social harmony and unite the different communities of Gujarat..."

Solanki is survived by three sons and two daughters.



Jagdeep Dhankhar

Bengal Governor meets Shah, shares security concerns in state ahead of polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

WEST BENGAL Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar expressed concerns about the security scenario in the state in light of the upcoming Assembly elections and raised questions over the state administration's role in maintaining law and order after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah here on Saturday.

The governor's interaction with Shah comes days after his meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the Raj Bhavan in Kolkata.

Dhankhar, who had been at loggerheads with the TMC government since taking charge as the Bengal governor, alleged on Saturday that the state has been "plagued with rampant violence".

"The law-and-order situation and the security environment in West Bengal is under threat... The position of the director general of police in Bengal is an open secret. That's why I say we have 'political police'. Everyday I am hearing news of bomb blasts or bombs being found," he claimed in a press briefing after meeting Shah in Delhi.



New Delhi



Classified

PERSONAL

I Davinder Singh S/o Sh. Pritam Singh R/o H.No.3033, Street No.5, Ranjit Nagar, Patel Nagar, Delhi-110008 have changed my name to Davinder Singh Babbar for all purposes.

0040559812-6

It is for general information that I Laishram Sophia D/O Smt. R.K. Sanayaima Devi R/O A-Block/801,S.B. Youth Apartment, Pocket-1 Sector-2,Dwarka New Delhi-110075 declare that my name has been wrongly written as L Sophia in my 10th class certificates.That the actual name of mine is Laishram Sophia.Which may be amended accordingly.

0040559846-3

I,SHIV PRAKASH,S/O-DASHRAHT PRASAD AGNIHOTRI,R/O-E-495 RATAN PUR COLONY,PANKABAHADUR NAGAR,KANPUR NAGAR,UTTAR PRADESH-208020,HAVE CHANGED NAME SHIV PRAKASH AGNIHOTRI.

0040559849-8

I,Rakesh S/o-Mahavir Prasad,H.No.310,Street.No.12,Y adav Nagar,Rewari (Haryana)-123401,have changed my name to Rakesh Sharma.

0040559849-2

I,RAMA,W/O-SHIV PRAKASH AGNIHOTRI,R/O-E-495 RATAN PUR COLONY,PANKABAHADUR NAGAR,KANPUR NAGAR,UTTAR PRADESH-208020, HAVE CHANGED NAME RMA AGNIHOTRI.

0040559849-9

I,Promilla W/o Devi Singh R/o 1973, Village Karala, Delhi-110081 have changed my name to Parmila

0040559846-1

I,Munish S/o-Faemr R/o 519, M.K. Wali Gali, Near-Mother Dairy,Tulsi Niketan,Bhopura, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad,UP have changed my name to Monish Khan.

0040559845-7

I,Kavita Singh W/o-Mr. Rajendra Pal Singh R/o A-164,MIG Flats, Block-9,Brij Vihar, Chander Nagar,Ghaziabad,Uttar Pradesh-201011,have changed my name to jagwati for all purpose.

0040559846-2

I,Fahim Khan S/o Shah Mohammad R/o-M-10,Gali No.23, Brhampur, Seelampur, North-East Delhi,Delhi have changed my name to Faemr.

0040559845-8

I,Darshan Kumar and Darshan Kumar Uppal S/o-Krishan Lal R/O B-4 2nd Floor Saraswati Garden Delhi-110015,have changed my name to Darshan Uppal.

0040559845-2

I, Ram Sagar S/O Guru Parshad R/O 333, Sri Nagar, Shakur Basti, North West, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Ram Sagar Sharma vide affidavit dated 25-June-2020.

0050173736-1

I,Chander Prakash alias Chandra Prakash Bhardwaj son of Shri Sohan Lal, Bhardwaj,Resident of House No. -53,Tagore Gali West,Babarpur, Shahdara,East Delhi-110032 have changed my name from Chander Prakash to Chandra Prakash Bhardwaj for all purposes.

0040559845-1

I,Birendra Pratap Singh Rathour S/o Late-Kameshwar Prasad Singh R/o VPO-Deohaliya, PS-Ramgarh, Kaimur(Bhabua), Bihar have changed my name to Birendra Pratap Singh.

0040559845-6

I,BALDEEP SINGH KHATRI R/O H.No.234/30,GALI NO.5,MAYUR VIHAR,SONI,PNAT-131001.HAVE CHANGED MY CHILD NAME ARPIT TO ARPIT KHATRI.

0040559849-1

I,Atul Suri,S/O-Late C L Suri,R/O-135 Venus-Apartments,Behind-Inder Enclave-Rohatk Road,New Delhi-110087,declare that my minor son NEIL NIRR BHAY SURI'S DOB is erroneously published as 10/08/2008 in my Service Records.My minor son's correct-DOB is 10/08/2009 Vide-Affidavit Before Notary Public-Delhi on 08/01/2021.

0040559849-4

I,Annie John Kochuparampil, W/o-Ravinder Kumar Chaujar,R/O 1206,J.M. Park Sapphire,Ramprastha Greens,Sector-9,Vaishali, Ghaziabad,Pin-201010,have changed my name to Anu Chaujar.I will be known by this name for all future purposes.

0040559849-10

I,Ankit S/O Naresh Kumar R/O,Plot.No-4, kh.No.766,2nd-Floor Lal Dora Shri Sidhi Vinayak,Appt Burari Delhi-110084,changed my nameto Ankit Gupta.

0040559849-3

I,Ankit Kumar S/o Gaya Prasad Rathore R/o C-63,Surya Nagar, Ghaziabad,UP have changed my name to Ranveer Rathore for all purposes.

0040559845-5

I, RAUNAK KUMAR AGNIHOTRI,S/O-SHIV PRAKASH AGNIHOTRI,R/O-405,GALI.NO-9,G-2,SAI ENCLAVE,MOHAN GARDEN,UTTAM NAGAR DELHI-110059 HAVE CHANGED NAME RAUNAK AGNIHOTRI.

0040559849-7

I, Karan Gulati D/o-Shri OM Prakash Gulati R/o-106/2, Second/Floor Shed.No.2, Govind Puri, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, have changed my name to Cherry Gulati for all future purposes

0040559833-1

PERSONAL

I, Sharda D/o Rukhadia, P-136/7 VRC Delhi Cantt. New Delhi hereby declare that my Name is Sharda in my school records but after marriage my name has changed from Sharda to Sharda Mavi, for all future purposes.

0040559373-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is given to the general public that my clients namely Aaz Khan S/o Late Shahzad Khan and Shamim Bano Khan W/o Aaz Khan R/o Khaza No. 8 Gali No-6, Near Aisha Masjid Sangam Vihar, Wazirabad, Delhi-110084, have severed their all relations with their son namely Rahman Khan S/o Aaz Khan and his wife namely Sadra Khan W/o Rehman Khan D/o Sajid Khan they have disowned them from all their movable and immovable properties and my clients shall not be held responsible for any act of them.

Sd/-

M. N. Khan Advocate Chamber No. 618 Westend Wing Tie Hazari Court Delhi-110054 Mob No. 9210804751

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under instructions of my clients namely VIJAY KUMAR THAKUR, S/O LATE GULANAND, and SMT. BABITA THAKUR, BOTH RESIDENTS OF RA-275, INDER ENCLAVE PHASE-I, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110086, DO HEREBY SEVERE ALL THEIR RELATIONS WITH THEIR ELDER SON NARESH KUMAR AGNIHOTRI ABOUT 25 YEARS, ALSO DISOWNED HER FROM ALL HER ESTATES, MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE BECAUSE OF HER DISOBEDIENCE AND ANY PERSON WHOSEVER DEALS WITH THE AFORESAID MS. VARSHA, SHALL DO SO AT HIS/HER OWN COSTS AND RISKS AND MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR HER ANY ACTS OR DEEDS ETC.

Sd/- (BUMESH GANDHI) ADVOCATE

G-184 (Basement), Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-28

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my clients Sh. Purn Chandra S/o Late Sh. Pali Ram and Smt. Rajash W/o Sh. Purn Chandra, both R/o B-2063, Ambekar Nagar, Harepur Village, North East, Delhi-110086 have disowned their sons namely Dinesh Kumar and Neeraj Kumar, both S/o Purn Chandra, both R/o B-2063, Ambekar Nagar, Harepur Village, North Delhi-110086, along with their wives and children, from all their movable and immovable properties, as they have become disobedient and further provoked/severed all kinds of relationship with them because they have threatened to implicate my clients along with family members in false cases. Anybody dealing with them shall do the same at his own risk, cost and consequences and my clients and other family members shall not be responsible for any act and deed of them whether made at any point in time.

S.P. GUPTA (ADVOCATE)

C/o No. 593, Western Wing, Tie Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054 Mob No. 9831208312

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Sri Krishna Kapoor Wife of Late Shri Ramesh Chandra Kapoor resident of House No. USB-253, North Block, Near Chander Vihar, Mandawali, New Delhi-110092 have debarred and disowned her son namely Chander Parakash Kapoor from her all movable/immovable properties, whatsoever due to his behavior towards by clients, my client have also severed all her relations with them, if anybody deals with her, he will do so at his own risk, cost and consequences. My clients, their other family members, and relatives shall not be responsible liable for any act of above named persons

Sd/- PRAKASH KAPOOR ADVOCATE

CHAMBER # 821, DWARKA COURTS COMPLEX, SECTOR-10, NEW DELHI-110075

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be informed that Ms. Navneeta Mittal D/o Late Devinder Kumar Mittal R/o 8503, East End Apts., Mayur Vihar Phase-I Extn., Delhi-110096 (Seller) has agreed to sell her Flat No. 8503, East End Apartments, COHS Ltd. Mayur Vihar Phase -1 Extn., Delhi-110096 to my client Mrs. Roopam Gupta W/o of Sh. Uttendra Gupta R/o 11101, East End Apts., Mayur Vihar Phase-I Extn., Delhi (purchaser) vide agreement to sell dated 07-12-2020. Said seller Ms. Navneeta Mittal unfortunately expired on 03.01.2021 and said sale transaction is binding on and enforceable against person(s) claiming against in the name/on behalf of said seller including her legal heirs/representative (s)/agent(s) attorney(s)/ executor(s)/ beneficiary(s) etc. and such person(s) can not deal with / alienate/sale/transfer / dispose/encumber/ create third party right qua the said flat No. 8503, East End Apartments, Mayur Vihar Phase -1 (Extn), Delhi, wholly or any part thereof, to any person(s) other than the purchaser Mrs. Roopam Gupta. All public at large and the authorities concerned are hereby cautioned and put to notice not to carry on or negotiate or enter into or deal with in any manner or execute/ register any document/deed of any nature in respect of the aforementioned property. If anyone deals in any manner of the aforementioned property, with any such person claiming as representative, assignee etc. of Ms. Navneeta Mittal then such transaction shall be void and illegal and such person(s) shall be disgorged so as to bear his own risks / responsibility/ consequences/ cost and expenses and my client shall, be at liberty to take all appropriate steps, legal recourse to protect/safeguard her right and interest qua the aforesaid property including specific performance of the Agreement to Sell dated 07.12.2020.

Sd/-

Mukul K. Gupta, Advocate 523, Lawyers Chamber, District Court, Sec-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75 Ph. no. 9810754300

OBITUARY

In loving memory of
Smt Vijaya Padmanabhan
a loving wife, mother
Grandmother

14 Oct. 1927 - 06 Jan. 2021
wife of Professor S.Padmanabhan
(Ex Principal NDA)
was taken back to her original abode at the feet of the Almighty on 06 January 2021.

UTTARAKHAND BID TO USE FOREST LAND FOR AIRPORT EXPANSION

HC stay on jumbo reserve denotification

ENS & PTI
NAINITAL, JANUARY 9

THE UTTARAKHAND High Court has put a stay on the denotification of the Shivalik Elephant Reserve—the state's only jumbo reserve.

The order by a division bench of the high court comprising Chief Justice R S Chauhan and Justice Lokpal Singh came on a PIL filed by environmental activist Reenu Phul on Friday. Earlier on January 4, another division bench of the court had issued notices to the Centre, the state government and the state wildlife board over the decision to denotify the elephant reserve. They were given four weeks' time to reply.

The stay order was granted on the first working day of the newly-appointed chief justice of the High Court.

Previously, around 80 people had written to acting Chief Justice Ravi Malimat, pleading to stop the denotification of the Shivalik Elephant Reserve by the government.

On Friday, a fresh Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed stating that the asiatic elephant is at its westernmost habitat in Uttarakhand and it would be cruel to destroy it.

The Shivalik Elephant reserve was notified in 2002 under

'Project Elephant', which was launched by the government of India in 1992.

The state wildlife board had in November 2020 decided to denotify the reserve, arguing that the move will pave the way for development work in an area spanning over 4,500 sq km, including expansion of Dehradun's Jolly Grant Airport.

Sources said the board had passed the proposal at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat as forest officials argued that the notification for elephant reserve was creating hurdles in development work in that area.

The officials said at the meeting that the elephant reserve has no legal sanctity and there is no provision for it in forest and wildlife Acts.

Chief Wildlife Warden J S Suhag had said that even after the notification is canceled, the area will remain a reserve forest and rules of the Forest Conservation Act will remain applicable there.

Another official said that an elephant reserve is unlike a tiger reserve where there are restrictions and punishments for violating them.

"Certain formalities of obtaining clearances for development work will get reduced after cancellation of the notification," the official said.

How state justified plan: Not identified elephant corridor

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, JANUARY 9

TWO MONTHS after the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change asked Uttarakhand government to consider avoiding sensitive areas of the Shivalik Elephant Reserve while exploring land suitable for expansion of Dehradun's Jolly Grant Airport, the state government, in its response, has stated that there is no viable alternative for the proposed activity.

In a letter in October, the ministry had sought information, documents and justification on 14 points regarding the project from the state Forest Department.

The state had sent a proposal seeking the Centre's approval for non-forest use of 87 hectares (ha) of forest land in Dehradun district for the airport expansion project.

In response, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and nodal officer, Uttarakhand, D J K Sharma's letter justifies the proposed activity by stating that Uttarakhand shares an international border with China and Nepal, and thus this airport is also of immense strategic importance, especially in view of its proximity to the LAC and the current situation on northern borders.

"The proposed alignment of forest land is the only option for carrying out extension of the runway. There is no other alternate option which is technically feasible, as the alignment of runway cannot be changed," reads the letter.

When contacted, Sharma said



The Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun.

reply has been sent to all queries from the Union ministry.

On the MoEF's query that the entire proposed forest area for diversion falls within the Shivalik Elephant Reserve and elephant corridors within its 1-km radius, the reply said, "While it is true that the area forms part of Shivalik Elephant Reserve, it is not an identified elephant corridor. Further it is not in close proximity to the core and critical elephant habitat of Rajaji Tiger Reserve. The Kansaro-Barkot elephant Corridor is also located at least 4 to 5 km away from the proposed site. However, occasionally elephants cross over the area through the Jakhna river...taking that into account, necessary wildlife mitigation is proposed for the diversion of the forest land."

In the letter, the stater government reiterated that the setting of a greenfield airport at any other location is not feasible, as availability of land is limited. It states that such an exercise would potentially inflict greater loss of natural resources such as standing trees, would incur huge costs and would render a large investment which is already in place at the ex-

EXPLAINED
Why runway needs to be extended

Dehradun airport plays a key role in rescue, relief and rehabilitation works during disasters in the state and large aircraft need to operate from this airfield during such emergencies. In view of increasing air passenger traffic, the Airports Authority of India has projected an urgent need to upgrade the runway and other existing amenities, the state had justified to MoEF.

isting facility as in fructuous. "As such, the alternate option does not exist in this case," the government stated.

On the query about the area being a High Conservation Value area, the state government stated that about 79 per cent of trees of various species that will be affected because of land transfer proposal comprise pole cork. So the number of trees to be felled is not a true indicator of losses to that area on account of the proposed expansion. With more such explanations, the state government stated that proposed area for the project is not a high value conservation area.

The letter stated that the proposed area includes about 30 hectares of compensatory afforestation plantation done in 2017-18.

IMA SCAM

Before transfer, IPS officer had flagged disparity in suspensions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, JANUARY 9

TWO DAYS before her transfer as Karnataka home secretary to the post of director of the Karnataka Handicrafts Development Corporation, senior IPS officer Roopa Moudgil raised questions over delay in the suspension of two IPS officers accused in the Rs 4,500 crore IMA scam probed by the CBI even as three non-IPS officers accused in the case were suspended in October.

Moudgil was transferred on December 31 in what was seen as a fallout of a spat with Hemanth Nimbalkar – an IPS officer accused in the IMA scam – over her alleged unauthorised interference last year in a tender for a Rs 620 crore Bengaluru safe city project. Nimbalkar, who headed the tendering committee of the Bengaluru city police in his capacity as the additional commissioner of police (administration), was also transferred on December 31 to the internal security division of the Karnataka police.

In a December 29, 2020 letter to Karnataka Chief Secretary T M Vijay Bhaskar (who retired



@D_Roopa_IPS

IPS officer Roopa Moudgil was transferred on December 31.

on December 31), then Home Secretary Moudgil wrote, "DPAR (Services) has specifically written to ACS to Government in Home Department to draft and submit the disciplinary proceedings against Shri Hemant Nimbalkar, IPS and other police officers as per recommendation of the CBI. However, for months, the Home Department has failed to submit the major disciplinary proceedings to the DPAR (Services)."

"While suspension and disciplinary action has been approved and issued for junior police officers, neither suspension nor disciplinary action has been taken by Home Department

against Shri Hemant Nimbalkar, IPS, and another IPS officer."

Both Moudgil and Nimbalkar are IG-rank officers of the Karnataka Police.

Nimbalkar and DIG-rank officer Ajay Hilori have been named by the CBI along with three junior officers – deputy superintendent E B Sridhar, police inspector M Ramesh and sub-inspector P Gowrishankar.

In October 2020, the government ordered the suspension of the junior police officers but no action has been taken against the IPS officers so far. The disparity has been a subject of concern in the police force.

"The suspension of IPS officers is not in the hands of the home department but it is with the DPAR (Services) who have to recommend to the Central government," Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Rajneesh Goel said when asked about Moudgil's letter accusing the home department of inaction.

"In the case of suspension of IPS officers, DPAR (Services) has to write to the central Ministry of Home Affairs for suspension on the basis of communication from the state home department," a former DPAR (Services) official said.

Nimbalkar has approached the Karnataka High Court challenging the CBI case against him on the grounds that his role in the CID Economic Offences Wing, which prepared the report on the schemes run by IMA, was to send the report prepared by junior officers to his seniors in the CID for approval.

The court has refused to stay the CBI investigation against the IPS officer but has directed the Karnataka government and the central probe agency not to resort to any coercive action against the official.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
Date: 07.01.2021
Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer (TR-D) North Central Railway, Prayagraj
Sr. Divisinal Electrical Engineer/TRD/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tender, the details of the tenders are as under:-
E-Tender Notice
Tender No. 230-Elect/TRD/PRY/J-E-Tender Notice/2021/456
Date: 07.01.2021
Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer (TR-D) North Central Railway, Prayagraj
Sr. Divisinal Electrical Engineer/TRD/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tender, the details of the tenders are as under:-

Tender No.	Description of work	Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Completion Period
230-TRD-WC-832-2021	Modification and electrification of 25 Kv OHE due to POL siding insidene BPCL terminal at Pankidham in Prayagraj Division.	Rs. 69,69,987.30	Rs. 1,39,400/-	06 Months

Bidding System: Single Packet Tender Closing Date & Time: 04.02.2021 & 14:00 hrs. Note: (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders shall be available on website www.ireps.gov.in 21 days prior to the date of opening of the tender. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate. (3) In case of any difficulty/helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 31/21 (P)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
Date: 08.01.2021
E-Tender No. PRYJ-Sig-21-2020-21
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Coordination/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite E-TENDER on prescribed form for the following works up to 12.00 hrs. on 02.02.2021. The details of the Tender is as under :-

Sr.	Tender No.	Name of work	Approx Cost of work	Earnest Money
1a	PRYJ-Sig-021-2020-21	Replacement of Quarters, Type II-76 and Type III-24 units [Rajapur Colony and Traffic colony] at Prayagraj of N C Railway.	₹ 48,03,944/-	₹ 96,100/-

Cost of Tender Form : ₹ 0/-, Completion Period : 06 months, Date of Closing of tender : 02.02.2021.

2	Availability of tender form	Tender forms are available on www.ireps.gov.in 21 days prior to date of opening of the tender.		
3	Time date & place of opening of tender	Tender will be opened through E-tender at office of Divisional Railway Manager, Prayagraj on or after pre determined date at 12.30 hours. In case tender opening date happens to be holiday, Tenders will be opened on the next working day.		36/21 (SP)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED
No.19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI - 600 008
Tender Notice No.4/F&R/T.No.9,10,11/2020-21 Dated: 07.01.2021
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE
For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, sealed tenders are invited for the auction sale of the following units taken possession U/S 29 of State Financial Corporations Act 1951, "AS IS WHERE IS" basis. Tenders will be received upto 3.00 p.m. on 27.01.2021 and the same will be opened on the same day at 4.30 p.m.

Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Amount due (Interest charged upto 31.12.2020) (Rs. in crores)	Description of the property	Upset Price (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in lakhs)	Minimum Incremental Amount (Rs.)
1. M/s. Vijay Crates & Containers Pvt. Ltd.	219.56	Land (2.08 acres) & Building at R.S.No.138/3A & 138/3B, Chittoor Road, Valakkannampudi Village, R.K. Pettai Taluk, Thiruvallur District.	Land-244.63 Building-35.90	70.13	25,000/-
2. M/s. Medtech Products Ltd.	213.36	Land (3.36 acres) & Building & Machinery at S.No.132/2a, etc., Mevalurkuppam Village Road, Kuthambakkam, Sriperambudur Taluk.	Land-604.80 Building-386.92 Machinery-0.30	248.00	25,000/-
3. M/s. Vastra Industries Silks Pvt. Ltd.	51.95	Machinery only at SIPCOT Industrial Complex, Gurmidiipondi, M.S.Rods (11510 kg)	Machinery-1.73	0.43	5,000/-

EMD in the form of DD in favour of SIPCOT Ltd., payable at Chennai (In the tenderer's Name only)
The tender Schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the following website www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.sipcot.in
DIPR/ 133 /TENDER/2021 GENERAL MANAGER (F), SIPCOT, Chennai-8.

 **DIRECTORATE OF INDIAN MEDICINE
AND HOMOEOPATHY, CHENNAI - 600 106**

NOTIFICATION

**ADMISSION TO ALL INDIA QUOTA SEATS OF
UNDER GRADUATE COURSES IN SIDDHA, AYURVEDA & HOMOEOPATHY AND
POST GRADUATE COURSE IN M.D. (HOMOEOPATHY) - 2020-21
[ONLY FOR PRIVATE I.M.&H MEDICAL COLLEGES]**

Applications are invited from candidates who have qualified in the
NEET (UG) - 2020 & AIAPGET - 2020 (HOMOEOPATHY) for
admissions to All India Quota seats of Under Graduate courses in
Siddha, Ayurveda & Homoeopathy (BSMS / BAMS / BHMS)
and P.G. courses in **M.D (HOMOEOPATHY)** available at
Self-Financing (Private) I.M.&H Colleges in the State of Tamil Nadu
respectively. Application Forms and Prospectus may be
downloaded from Health Department website:
www.tnhealth.tn.gov.in from 10.01.2021 to 29.01.2021
up to 5.00 P.M. Last date for receipt / Submission of filled in
Application Form at Selection Committee office, Indian
Medicine and Homoeopathy Department, Chennai-106 is
30.01.2021 upto 05.30 p.m. For further details please visit :
www.tnhealth.tn.gov.in

**Director,
Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy.**

DIPR/34/DIS/2021

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 UNDER RULES 6(2), 8(1) & 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank of respective branches will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is " E auction arranged by the service provider M/s CANBANK COMPUTER SERVICES LIMITED Contact: Mr. Pakhare DD (9480691777/8553643144). Email id: eauction@ccsl.co.in through the website www.indianbankseauction.com, www.canarabank.com, www.ibapi.in

Sr. No.	Branch Name/ name & Address of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Brief Description of Property/ies	Possession Type	Total Liabilities in Rs.	Reserve Price (Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (Lakh)	Bid Increase amount (Rs.)	Name of Authorised Officer & Contact Details	Earnest Money Collection A/c details along with IFSC Code of Branch	Date of E-Auction Date of EMD
1.	CANARA BANK, BALLABGARH BRANCH, CHAWLA COLONY, LOCATED ON AGRA DELHI HIGHWAY, BALLABGARH, HARYANA- 121004 (M/s K B Enterprises At 718, Hemkanti Chambers, 69 - Nehru Place, New Delhi – 110019. Guarantor:- A. Mr. Kabir Bhatt (Prop), Resident Of House No A-2678, Ground Floor, Green Fields Colony, Faridabad. C. Mrs. Jyoti Bhatt W/o Shri Kabir Bhatt/Resident Of House No A-2678, Ground Floor, Green Fields Colony, Faridabad.	All that piece & parcel of Flat on Second Floor admeasuring 2440. Sq.ft, Plot no 2678, Block A, part of Khosra No 61/4-5, Green Field residential Colony, Faridabad, Haryana – 121010 in the name of Shri Kabir Bhatt s/o Sh. A S Bhatt. Its outer four boundaries are as North: A-2678, South: A-2677, East : A-2680, West: Road	Physical	as on 14.10.2013 Rs. 1,13,03,865.37/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery ,if any)	Rs. 69.00 Lakhs	Rs. 8.90 Lakhs	Rs. 10000	Sh. SUNIL KUMAR Ph. 9739511744, 0129-2211710 Email id: eauction@ccsl.co.in	Canara Bank, Ballabgarh Branch, A/c No 8220302000017 IFSC Code SYNB0008220	30.01.2021 28.01.2021
2.	CANARA BANK, BALLABGARH BRANCH, CHAWLA COLONY, LOCATED ON AGRA DELHI HIGHWAY, BALLABGARH, HARYANA- 121004 (M/s A K Good Earth Pvt Ltd At 817, Hemkanti Chambers, 69 - Nehru Place, New Delhi – 110019. 2. Guarantor:- A. Mrs. Asha Kamei W/o Late Shri Subhash Chand Madan, Resident Of House No A-2676, Ground Floor, Green Fields Colony, Faridabad. B. Ma Kamal O/o Late Shri Subhash Chand Madan, Resident Of House No A-2676, Ground Floor, Green Fields Colony, Faridabad. C. Mrs. Jyoti Bhatt W/o Shri Kabir Bhatt/Resident Of House No A-2678, Ground Floor, Green Fields Colony, Faridabad	All that piece & parcel of Flat on Ground Floor admeasuring 2440. Sq.ft, Plot no 2678, Block A, part of Khosra No 61/4-5, Green Field residential Colony, Faridabad, Haryana – 121010 in the name of Mrs. Jyoti Bhatt W/o Mr. Kabir Bhatt. Its outer four boundaries are- North: Prop No. A-2678, South: Prop No. A-2577, East: Prop No. A-2693, West: Road	Physical	as on 12.01.2015 Rs. 83,67,314.70/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery ,if any)	Rs. 136.00 Lakhs	Rs. 13.60 Lakhs	Rs. 1000	Sh. SUNIL KUMAR GUPTA Ph. 9739511744, 0129-2211710 Email id: eauction@ccsl.co.in	Canara Bank, Ballabgarh branch A/c No 8220302000017 IFSC Code SYNB0008220	30.01.2021 28.01.2021
3.	CANARA BANK JAGADHARI BRANCH, JAGADHARI, DISTT YAMUNA NAGAR, HARYANA (M/s AK Mechanical Works Through Its Prop:- Amit Kumar, Address :- Old Shaharapur Road Fatehpur Yamunanagar, Haryana-135001 Guarantors:- Vinay Kumar S/o Late Sh. Ramesh Chand/o/o Village Fatehpur, Yamunanagar, Haryana	EMT of Single Storied Industrial building measuring 716 Sq Yards situated at Old Shanapur Road VPO Fatehpur, Yamunanagar, Haryana in the name Vinay Kumar S/o Late Sh. Ramesh Chand	Symbolic	as on 09.01.2020 Rs. 18,35,088.24/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery ,if any)	Rs. 15.57 Lakhs	Rs. 1.56 Lakhs	Rs. 1000	Sh. Amit Pathar Ph. 0172-2652678, 2651143, 9876072631. Mail ID: cb2802@canarabank.com,	Canara Bank Jagadhari Branch, Jagadhari, A/c No 208272434 IFSC Code CNRB0002802	30.01.2021 28.01.2021
4.	CANARA BANK SHOP NO SGF 04, 05, 10 & 11 PALAM TRIANGLE BLOCK PALAM VIHAR GURGAON HARYANA-122017. (M/s Beta buildwell Pvt. Ltd. CB-47 CB Naraina , Delhi Cantt, Delhi-110028, Smt Sheelawati w/o Late Shri Kuldip Singh, Plot No-330, Block –A, Palam Vihar, Gurgaon -122017, Haryana,	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot no 330 Block A Palam Vihar Extension near Gurgaon -122017 with in the registration Sub District Gurgaon, Haryana in the name of Smt Sheelawati w/o Late Shri Kuldip Singh. The property is bounded as under: North: Raj Mahal Garden, South: Old Plot No-2, Sushma Dool, East: Road, West Rasta 20	Symbolic	as on 29.05.2019 Rs. 4118949/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery ,if any)	Rs.165.66 Lakhs	Rs. 16.57 Lakh	Rs. 10000	Sh. Rajeev Verma Ph. 0124-2450020, 88267-22895 Mail ID: cb2895@canarabank.com	Canara Bank Gurgaon Palam Vihar branch, A/c No 8220302000017 IFSC Code CNRB0002396	30.01.2021 28.01.2021
5.	CANARA BANK FARIDABAD SEC-31 BRANCH, ADDRESS:- B-2, TIKONA PARK, FARIDABAD HARYANA (M/s Bhellar Ganets through its Prop. Maninder Singh Address:- H.No.657, Jawahar Colony, Gurdwara Road, Faridabad, Haryana, Maninder Singh Address :- H.No.657, Jawahar Colony, Gurdwara Road, Faridabad, Haryana, (Guarantor) Sander Singh Legal Heir Address :- H.No.657, Jawahar Colony, Gurdwara Road, Faridabad, Haryana, Prabhjit Kaur (Legal Heir) Address :- H.No.657, Jawahar Colony, Gurdwara Road, Faridabad, Haryana	H.No.457, Jawahar Colony, Gurdwara Road, Faridabad measuring 140 Sq Yds forming part of Khosra No-58, Kila No 14/11-17,1317/7-0 situated at Jawahar Colony Maaza, Saran Tahsil District, Faridabad, Haryana in the name of Maninder Singh.	Symbolic	as on 31.10.2019 Rs. 2468743.15/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery ,if any)	Rs.27.00 Lakh	Rs.27.00 Lakh	Rs. 1000	Sh. Shiv Kumar Ph. 8135913322, 9716803932 Mail ID: cb3322@canarabank.com	Canara Bank Faridabad Sec-31 Branch, Faridabad A/c No 208272434 IFSC Code CNRB0003322	30.01.2021 28.01.2021
6.	CANARA BANK, FARIDABAD MAIN BRANCH, #48, NEELAM BATA ROAD, NIT FARIDABAD, FARIDABAD, HARYANA- 121001 (M/s EZS Infrastrct Pvt Ltd At B1663,354, 355 2nd Floor, Nehru Ground, NIT Faridabad 121001, (Guarantor) Mr. Chandro Shekhar Kalraja, Resident Of House No 10, Panchayat Bhawan Road, Old Civil Lines, Jawahar Nagar, Palwal, Haryana, Mrs. Nisha Kalraja, Resident Of House No 10, Panchayat Bhawan Road, Old Civil Lines, Jawahar Nagar, Palwal, Haryana, Mr. Ashok Kumar Gandhi, Resident Of House No 1313, U/D, Housing Board Colony, Sector 18, Faridabad, Mr. Kunal Gandhi, Resident Of Plot No 112 L, New Colony, Palwal, Haryana Mr. Subhash Chand, Resident Of 1663/1-2, Ward No 10, Nisha Mukti Centre walgali, Aasati Road, Ramnagar, Palwal, Haryana.	1. All part & parcel of H.No. MC Unit no 1663/1-2, Forming out of Khosra No 3078/2558, Rect No 258, Kila no 8 (7-131,13115-7), Ward no 10, Nisha Mukti Centre Wali Gali, Brij Nagar, Aasati Road, Ram, Palwal, Haryana measuring 150 Sqyds in the name of Sh Subhash Chand S/o Nareyan Singh, 2. All part & parcel of H.No. 10 Panchayat Bhawan Road, Old Civil Lines, Jawahar Nagar , Palwal, Haryana . Measuring 173 Sqyds in the name of Sh Chander Shekhar Kalraja S/o Shree Chand Kalraja, Smt Nisha Kalraja W/o Sh Chander Shekhar Kalraja, Smt Kanta Kalraja W/o Sh Shree Chand Kalraja & Sh Shree Chand Kalraja.	Physical	as on 31.01.2020 Rs. 3,73,60,285 (plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery ,if any)	1. Rs. 37.60 Lakhs & 2. Rs. 65.00 Lakhs	1. Rs.3.76 Lakhs & 2. Rs.6.50 Lakhs	1. Rs. 1000 & 2. Rs. 10000	Sh. Anuj Prasthar Ph. 6906034461, 01262413642, 2416882 Mail ID: cb18214@canarabank.com	Canara Bank Faridabad Main Branch, Haryana A/c No 8214302000010 IFSC Code SYNB0008214	30.01.2021 28.01.2021
7.	CANARA BANK FARIDABAD MAIN BRANCH,ADDRESS:- PB. NO.12, SIKANHERU GROUNDS, NEW INDUSTRIAL TOWN BRANCH, FARIDABAD HARYANA – 121001 (M/s Gang Trading Company through its proprietor Sh. Bhupesh Gang, Plot No.-133, Ward No.-4, Purbiya Mahalla, Main Bazaar, Ballabgarh-121004	Residential Property at H.No.-133 Ward No.-4 Purbiya Mahalla, Ballabgarh measuring 58 Sq Yds in the name of Bhupesh Gang and is bounded as under: North: Street, South: Property of Sh. Dinesh Mangla, East: 1251 wide street, West: Property of Smt Umika	Symbolic	as on 30.09.2018 Rs. 47,75,380.00/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery ,if any)	Rs. 35.60 Lakhs	Rs.3.60 Lakhs	Rs. 1000	Sh. Shiv Kumar Prasad Ph. 0129-2430428, 78075-86950 Mail ID: cb3303@canarabank.com	Canara Bank PB. No.12, BIA, Nehru Grounds, New Industrial Town Branch, Faridabad A/c No 208272434 IFSC Code CNRB0000330	30.01.2021 28.01.2021
8.	CANARA BANK, RATIA BRANCH, AT AGGARWAL COLONY, TOHANA ROAD, RATIA - 125051 (1. M/s Sri Guru Gobind Singh Industries Prop. Shri Mahan Singh Sardolgarh Road, Ratia, Distt. Faridabad, 2. Shri Mahan Singh S/o, Shri. Arnie Singh V/B, Resident, The, Narwana Distt. Jind.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Commercial shop measuring 0 kanals 5 marlas as detailed below:- 1/0 kanals 4 marlas i.e. 1/8 share of 1 kanal 12 marlas comprised in khosra no. 652 khatori no. 841 bearing Khosra no. 252/11(1-12) & 2/0 kanals 1 marla i.e. 1/144 share of 7 kanal 4 marlas comprised in khosra no. 604 khatori no. 843 bearing Khosra no. 252/17-4) situated at Sardolgarh Road Ratia Opp. Panjab Marriage Palace, Ratia, District: Faridabad Bounded On the North by Road, On the South by Plot of Harinder Singh, On the East by Shop of Pothi Singh, On the West by Open Plot	Symbolic	as on 05.11.2019 Rs. 15.88, 113.44/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery ,if any)	Rs. 42.30 Lakhs	Rs.4.23 Lakhs	Rs. 1000	Sh. Rajesh Verma Ph. 01697-262603, 0572803895, 9205197770 Mail ID: cb3895@canarabank.com	Canara Bank Ratia, Branch A/c No 208272434 IFSC Code CNRB0003895	30.01.2021 28.01.2021
9.	CANARA BANK, SUMARIA CHOWK BRANCH, AT PLOT NO. 22, NEW JANATA COLONY CIRCULAR ROAD SUMARIA CHOWK, ROHTAK (HRY) – 124001 (1. Sh. Harish S/o Prem Parkash 124014 New Jarata Colony, Rohtak, 124001, 2. Smt. Roopa Devi 1250/4 Opp Sugar Mill, Sumaria Chowk, Rohtak, 124001)	A property/House no 124012 measuring 70 sq yards construction on Plot No 16 & 17 bearing part of Khosra No 100/4/23-1,612/11-14,611/0-819/7-191, Khosra Khatori No 1439/Mail/1640 Min situated at Kalpa Rakhia Village Darna Kolan (now known as Darna Berman Colony) near Salapur road, very near to ISK Hanuman Petrol Pump, Tell Thanaas, Distt Kurukshetra in the name of Mr. Suminder Kumar Mittal s/o Sh Chola Ram and Mrs. Ronu Bala w/o Suminder Kumar Mittal. The property is bounded as under:- North: Agri Land of ether, South: Open Plot no-15, East: Agri Land of other, West: Street/ Agri Land	Symbolic	as on 01.11.2017 Rs. 3,97,097.23/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery ,if any)	Rs. 7.15 Lakhs	Rs.0.71 Lakhs	Rs. 1000	Sh. Rajesh Verma Ph. 01262-270017, 9211895907, 9205197770, Mail ID: cb19569@canarabank.com	Canara Bank Sumaria Chowk Branch A/c No 170800900 IFSC Code SYNB0003666	30.01.2021 28.01.2021
10.	CANARA BANK, SIRSA MAIN BRANCH, SURKHAB CHOWK, HISSAR ROAD, SIRSA-125055. (Borrower :- 1. MS HARJEET SINGH, HARJEET SINGH SETHI, 113 BEHIND FIRE STATION, Phase 1 industrial area, Dobwal Road SIRSA Guarantor :- 1. Vijender Singh 16/494, Gali No. 1 Shastri Colony Sirsa, 2. Smt. Vinodini Kaur 16/494, Gali No. 1 Shastri Colony Sirsa, 3. Smt. Harsharan Kaur 16/494, Gali No. 1 Shastri Colony Sirsa	Property located on plot measuring 1.08 A 3 Sarsai i.e. 689.86 Sq. yards being 8813135 share of land measuring 52 K 580 comprised in Khosra Khatori No. 641/936 situated within revenue estate of Shamabad Tahsil & Distt – Sirsa standing in the name of Vijender Singh, Smt. Harsharan Kaur & Smt. Vinodini Kaur. Boundaries: East:-Property of Ashok Kumar, West :- Open street, North:-Property of Other South:-Property of Other.	Symbolic	as on 11/09/2019, Rs. 17,22,138.00 plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery ,if any)	Rs. 25,000.00	Rs.6,02,500.00	Rs. 1000	Sh. Sandeep Kumar Ph. 01698-22003, 8572801403 Mail ID: cb1403@canarabank.com	Canara Bank Sirsa, A/c No 208272434 IFSC Code CNRB0001403	30.01.2021 28.01.2021
11.	CANARA BANK, SUMARIA CHOWK BRANCH, AT PLOT NO. 22, NEW JANATA COLONY CIRCULAR ROAD SUMARIA CHOWK, ROHTAK (HRY) – 124001 (Shri. Jitender S/o Late Bir Singh H No 3117 W No 31/1 Raji Nagar Ekta Colony, Rohtak, 124001)	A property/house no 747/30 measuring 100 sqyard bearing MCD ID No 20829230/447 ward no 19 forming part of kila no 2022/21 map kharbel situated at Raji Nagar with in MC limit Bounded: On the North by 45'-0" house of Sh. Mahan, Self Wall, On the South by 45'-0" house of Smt. Prem Lata, Self Wall, On the East by 20'-0" house of other, Self wall, On the West by 20'-0" Rasta 20 ft wide	Symbolic	as on 01.09.2017 Rs. 4,99,528.61/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery ,if any)	Rs. 20.16 Lakhs	Rs.2.01 Lakhs	Rs. 1000	Sh. Rajesh Verma Ph. No. 9219599907 / 9205197770, Mail ID: cb19569@canarabank.com	Canara Bank , A/c No 170800900 IFSC Code SYNB0003666	30.01.2021 28.01.2021
12.	TOHANA BRANCH, ADDRESS – : 310, WARD NO-12, RATIA ROAD, TOHANA, FATEHABAD, 125120 HARYANA (Sh. Krishan S/o Sarop, H.No.101, Village Kanhai Tehana, Fatehabad 125120, Haryana, Suresh Sh. Saroj Singh, H.NO-582 Kanhai, The Tehana, Faridabad-125120, Haryana	One Plot measuring -165 Sq Yds i.e. 0K-6-112M, Which is 13/5302 share as per Sale Deed, but as per mutation 816561 Share out of total measuring 132K-7M comprising Khosra No-198/188 (01 038 0) 1007-181 118-01 129 01 131(1-16) 132/0-4 1816-0 199 01 201/0 01 238-0 238-01 241/0 01) 202/7-161 3/2/7-161 201/21-01 2116-0 208/117-11 211(1-7) 2/2115-21 311/8-91 situated at Morala Factory , Dewana Tehana, Distt Fatehabad within MC Limit of Tohana in the name of Sh. Krishan Kumar S/o Ravi Saroop. The Property is bounded as under: North: 10 Karan, Plot No 30, South: 10 Karan- Land of Kashmir Singh, East: -5/811 Land of Kashmir Singh, West: 5/811, Rasta 20 feet wide	Symbolic	as on 01.05.2019 Rs. 515115.32/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery ,if any).	Rs. 7.02 Lakhs	Rs. 0.70 Lakhs	Rs. 1000	Sh. Rajesh Verma Ph No. 9467429281 / 9205197770, Mail ID: cb9661@canarabank.com	CANARA BANK, TOHANA BRANCH A/C NO 170800900 IFSC CODE SYNB0006601	30.01.2021 28.01.2021
13.	CANARA BANK KURUKSHETRA BRANCH, RAILWAY ROAD, 130118, KURUKSHETRA HARYANA (Borrower :- M/s Mittal Enterprises Through Its Prop: Suminder Mittal S/o Sh. Chola Ram Mittal, Address :- Arun Road, Kurukshetra Haryana	All that piece & parcel of single story commercial property on Plot No 15 & 17 bearing part of Khosra No 100/4/23-1,612/11-14,611/0-819/7-191, Khosra Khatori No 1439/Mail/1640 Min situated at Kalpa Rakhia Village Darna Kolan (now known as Darna Berman Colony) near Salapur road, very near to ISK Hanuman Petrol Pump, Tell Thanaas, Distt Kurukshetra in the name of Mr. Suminder Kumar Mittal s/o Sh Chola Ram and Mrs. Ronu Bala w/o Suminder Kumar Mittal. The property is bounded as under:- North: Agri Land of ether, South: Open Plot no-15, East: Agri Land of other, West: Street/ Agri Land	Symbolic	as on 02.07.2019 Rs. 32,61,371.08/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery ,if any)	Rs. 18,00,000/-	Rs. 1,60,000/-	Rs. 1000	Sh. Poojai Dayal Meena Ph. No.01744-251912, Mail ID: cb2475@canarabank.com	CANARA BANK, KURUKSHETRA BRANCH, A/C NO 208272434 IFSC CODE CNRB0002475	30.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank (A Govt. of India Undertaking)			RECOVERY & LEGAL SECTION CIRCLE OFFICE, BAYSITE 17-18, SECTOR 12 KARNAL- 132001 HARYANA PHONE NO. 0184-4063589, 4063587, Email: rlcokar@canarabank.com					MEGA E-AUCTION OF PROPERTIES			
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 UNDER RULES 6(2), 8(1) & 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic /physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank of respective branches will be sold on "As is where is","As is what is", and " Whatever there is" E-auction arranged by the service provider M/s CANBANK COMPUTER SERVICES LIMITED Contact: Mr. Pankare Dd (9463631777/8553643144). Email id: eauction@ccsd.co.in through the website www.indiabankseuction.com, www.canarabank.com, www.bapi.in											
Sr. No.	Branch Name/ name & Address of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Brief Description of Property/ies	Possession Type	Total Liabilities in Rs.	Reserve Price (Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (Lakh)	Bid Increase amount (Rs.)	Name of Authorised Officer & Contact Details	Earnest Money Collection A/c details along with IFSC Code of Branch	Date of E-Auction Date of EMD	
24.	FATEHBAD BRANCH ADDRESS – I : G.T.ROAD -125050, FATEHBAD HARYANA M/s Patanjali Chikitsalya (Prop: Sh. Jyoti Kumar), Arya Saraj Mandir Road, Jawahar Chowk, Fatehabad 125050, Haryana , Guarantors: Sh. Naresh Kumar s/o Sh. Dwarka Prasad, Village Bhafia Khara, District: Fatehabad -125050, Haryana. Smt. Saman Rani w/o Sh. Ashok Kumar , Near Shiv Mandir , Shiv Nagar, Fatehabad 125050, Haryana no-429(3-13) situated Near Panjab Chowk in Village Bhafia Khara Tehsil and Distt Fatehabad Haryana. The property is in the name of Naresh Kumar and Jyoti Prakash and bounded as under: North: House of Ram Singh Khichad, South: House of Chhabil Das, East:- Plot of Harpal Singh, West:- Common Street.	Property No-1: Residential Property House measuring 1319/40 part of 8 Kanal D Marla, Khewat No 051, Khatori No-028, Khata No-148(1118) of admeasuring 3 Marla 2 Sarsai or 98 Sq Yards of Bosti Division situated at near Shiv Nagar Fatehabad within MC limit of Fatehabad, Haryana in the name of Saman Rani w/o Sh. Ashok Kumar. The property is bounded as under: North: House of others, South: House of Pooja Nanda East:- Common Street, West:- Plot of others. Property No-2: Residential Property admeasuring 0 Kanal 7 Marla detailed as under:- 0 Kanal 1 Marla i.e. 5185 share of 0 Kanal 13 Marla Comprised of Khewat no-502, Khatori no-608 bearing Khata no-429(3-13) situated Near Panjab Chowk in Village Bhafia Khara Tehsil and Distt Fatehabad Haryana, 0 Kanal 6 Marla i.e. 6113 Share of 0 Kanal 13 Marla Comprised of Khewat no-502, Khatori no-608 bearing Khata no-429(3-13) situated Near Panjab Chowk in Village Bhafia Khara Tehsil and Distt Fatehabad Haryana. The property is in the name of Naresh Kumar and Jyoti Prakash and bounded as under: North: House of Ram Singh Khichad, South: House of Chhabil Das, East:- Plot of Harpal Singh, West:- Common Street.	Symbolic	as on 15.07.2020 Rs. 4329300/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery if any).	Property No-1 Rs. 17.01 Lakh For Property No-2 Rs. 26.40 Lakh	Rs. 1.70 Lakh Rs. 2.64 Lakh	Rs. 1000 Rs. 1000	Sh. Rajesh Verma Contact : 9203305090, 8168343652/9205187770 Mail ID: cb2343@canarabank.com	Canara Bank, Fatehabad branch A/c No 209272434 IFSC Code CNRB0002343	30.01.2021 28.01.2021	
25.	CANARA BANK JAGADHARI BRANCH, JAGADHARI, DISTT YAMUNA NAGAR, HARYANA Hachina Gupta W/o Dharam Veer Rathi, H.No-3306 Saraswati Colony, Jagadhari 135003, Haryana.	EMT of Residential House H.No-306 E, measuring 192 Sq Yards i.e. 5 Marla Situated at Saraswati Colony Jagadhari District Yamuna Nagar-135003 vide Sale deed no 3986 dated 03.07.2015 with mutation no 10953 in the name of Radha Gupta Colony, Jagadhari 135003, Haryana. Sh. Dharam Veer Rathi, H.No-3306 Saraswati Colony, Jagadhari 135003, Haryana	Symbolic	as on 20.08.2019 Rs. 10,26,509.60/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery if any)	Rs. 17.28 Lakhs	Rs. 1.73 lakhs	Rs. 1000	Sh. Anil Pathak Ph. 0172-2562678, 2561143, 9970272831, Mail ID: cb2902@canarabank.com	Canara Bank Jagadhari Branch, A/c No 209272434 IFSC Code CNRB0002802	30.01.2021 28.01.2021	
26.	CANARA BANK, PANIPAT BRANCH , ADDRESS – MAJUL LAL CHAND PETROL PUMP COMPLEX, NEAR HOTEL GOLD G.T. ROAD, PANIPAT-132103, HARYANA Raj Khad Bhandar Through Its Proprietor Jyoti Singh S/o Sh. Prithvi Singh, Address : Near Bus Stand, Madhuda Distt Panipat-132103, Haryana, Guarantors: Prithvi S/o Sh. Parbhu Address: H.No.- 243 Ward 7 VPO Ureila, Panipat -132103, Haryana, Savitri Devi W/o Sh. Jyoti Singh, Address: H.No.- 289 Block No-1, VPO Ureila, Panipat-132103, Haryana	All part and parcel of Land/Property measuring 4 marlas, 8 Sarsai in (A) land measuring 1 marla 2 Sarsai being 23172 share out of land measuring 4 marlas comprised in Khewat no 522 Min Khatori no 558 Min Rect No 136 Killa No 71(110-4) in one Kitta (B) Land measuring 2 Marlas 8 Sarsai being 1/15 share out of land measuring 2 kanal D marla comprised in Khewat no 550, Khatori no 557 Rect No 136 Killa No 72(2-0) in one Kitta (C) land measuring 1 Marla 0 Sarsai being 1159 share out of land measuring 2 kanal 18 marlas comprising in Khewat no 519 Min Khatori No 555 Rect No 136 Killa No 41(2-18) in one Kitta situated within revenue estate of Madhuda, behind Petrol Pump Assand Road, Madhuda, Tehsil Madhuda, Distt Panipat vide registered sale deed no 2197 dated 18.12.2011 & Taima sale deed no 19 dated 05.04.2013 registered at SHD Madhuda Mutation no 11134. The Property is bounded as under: North: Plot of Rajesh, South: Other's vacant plot, East: Other's vacant plot, West: Gali, There are Nil encumbrances to the knowledge of bank	Physical	as on 28.09.2017 Rs. 2832038.52/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery if any)	Rs. 10.50 Lakh	Rs. 1.05 Lakh	Rs. 1000	Sh. Jagdev Singh Meena Ph. 0182-2655738, 7495918205, 9693469857 Mail ID: cb18202@canarabank.com	Canara Bank, Panipat branch A/c No 170800200 IFSC Code SYNB0008205	30.01.2021 28.01.2021	
27.	CANARA BANK, GUARD BHIWAN, NEAR KANWAI SAIN CHOWK, TDAHANA, DIST FATEHBAD-125120 Ram Sarup Sarai Kumar, Mosh Mand Road, Tehara, Inam S/o Sh. Sh. Chand H No 611, Ward No 21 Canal Colony, Tehara	Residential house situated at ward No. 21 Saini Basti behind Canal colony Tehara in the name of Smt. Sinder Saini W/O Inam Singh total area measuring 805 Sq. yards, DIK M, which is 20/1830 share out of Khewat No. 1483 Khata No. 1311/195-2/ 2018-0/ 223-0/ 1321/408-0/ 618-0/ 111-4/ 1718-0/ 2419-0/ 141/45-13/ 518-2/ 1421/102-13/ Kitta - 12 measuring 81K 18M, as per (probated year 2011-12 vide mutation no. 20129, Boundaries: East:- Plot of Jasbir Saini, West:- Plot of Balbir Saini, North :- Agriland of other, South: Rasta 20 wide	Physical	as on 31/08/2019 Rs. 2250638.74/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery if any)	Rs. 27.48 Lakh	Rs. 2.75 Lakh	Rs. 1000	Sh. Rajesh Verma Ph. 01092232055, 8572003165 Mail ID: cb1865@canarabank.com	Canara Bank, TDAHANA Branch A/c No 209272434 IFSC Code CNRB0003165	30.01.2021 28.01.2021	
28.	CANARA BANK FARIDABAD SME - FARIDABAD SME –III BRANCH, ADDRES:- 1F-20, NEW INDUSTRIAL TOWN FARIDABAD HARYANA M/s G G Engineering Works through its Prop: Mr. Prithvi Singh, Address:- New MCF no-244, H.No.-147, Gali No-17, Jawahar Colony, Ward no-2, Faridabad 121005, Haryana Mr. Prithvi Singh, Address:- New MCF no-244, H.No.-147, Gali No-17, Jawahar Colony, Ward no-2, Faridabad-121005, Haryana, Shri Nand Kishore s/o Sewak Ram R/o H.No- 147/1, Jawahar Colony Faridabad 5, Haryana, Guarantor:- Shri Nand Kishore s/o Sewak Ram R/o H.No-147/1, Jawahar Colony Faridabad 5, Haryana	Property of residential unit measuring 200 Sq Yards plot in gali after Hanuman Mandir Jawahar Colony Faridabad, House no- 147 New MCF no-244, Gali no-17, Ward no-2 Jawahar Colony NIT Faridabad, Haryana. The property is bounded as under: North: Another property, South: Gali, East: House Sh. Sat Pal West: House Sh. Narvita	Symbolic	as on 28.08.2018 Rs. 2833038.82/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery if any)	Rs. 51.30 Lakh	Rs. 5.13 Lakh	Rs. 10000	Sh. Vaibhav Porwal Mobile: 9655458608, Mail ID: cb18238@canarabank.com	Canara Bank FARIDABAD SME –III Branch, A/c No 8238302000014 IFSC Code SYNB0008238	30.01.2021 28.01.2021	
29.	CANARA BANK FARIDABAD SME - FARIDABAD SME –III BRANCH, ADDRESS:- 1F-20, NEW INDUSTRIAL TOWN FARIDABAD HARYANA Harinder Singh S/o Anwar Singh, Address:-129/2 East Guru Agard Nagar, Delhi-110092, Delhi, Guarantor : Mr Daljeet Singh S/o Harinder Singh, Address:-129/2 East Guru Agard Nagar, Delhi-110092, Delhi, Mr. Gurneet Singh s/o Anwar Singh, 129 2 East Guru Agard Nagar, Delhi-110092	All Part and Parcel of Plot no- 18 and Part of Plot 19 measuring 95 Sq Yrd. Forming part of Rect No 35, Killa No 11/2, 121/2, 201/1 situated at Rajiv Gandhi Enclave between Gorgan Canal and Goodyear, Mazda Ballabgarh, Tehsil Ballabgarh, District Faridabad Haryana in the name of Harinder Singh and Gurneet Singh, North: Other Property, South: Road 24 ft wide, East: Plot no-17, West: Remaining part of Plot no-19	Symbolic	as on 01.12.2019 Rs. 1694602.50/-/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery if any)	Rs. 45.00 Lakh	Rs. 4.50 Lakh	Rs. 1000	Sh. Vaibhav Porwal Mobile: 9655458608, Mail ID: cb18238@canarabank.com	Canara Bank FARIDABAD SME –III Branch, A/c No 8238302000014 IFSC Code SYNB0008238	30.01.2021 28.01.2021	
30.	CANARA BANK FARIDABAD SME - FARIDABAD SME –III BRANCH, ADDRESS:- 1F-20, NEW INDUSTRIAL TOWN FARIDABAD HARYANA M/s Kalra Industries through its Prop: Mr. Brijender Kalra Address:- Plot No 7, Gali No 3, Milestone Public School Street, Old Saran, Taluk Colony, Jawahar Colony, Saran Industrial Area, Faridabad (Haryana), Mr. Brijender Kalra Address:- House No 399, Sector 23, Faridabad (Hry): 121005, Guarantor : M/s. Pooja Kalra & Mr. Brijender Kalra, Address:- House No 399, Sector 23, Faridabad (Hry): 121005	All part & Parcels of immovable property at Plot no 7, measuring 200 Sq yds comprising in Khata no 78 situated at Gali no 3, Mile stone Public Street, Old Taluk Saran Colony at Jawahar Colony , Mazda Saran, The & Distt Faridabad, North: Other Street, South: Rasta, East: Scraywood, West: Other property	Physical	as on 28.01.2019 Rs. 90,25,638.53/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery if any)	Rs. 73 Lakhs	Rs. 7.30 Lakh	Rs. 10000	Sh. Vaibhav Porwal Mobile: 9655458608, Mail ID: cb18238@canarabank.com	Canara Bank FARIDABAD SME –III Branch, A/c No 8238302000014, IFSC Code SYNB0008238	30.01.2021 28.01.2021	
31.	CANARA BANK FARIDABAD SME –III BRANCH, ADDRESS:- 1F-20, NEW INDUSTRIAL TOWN FARIDABAD HARYANA. M/s Kirti Enterprises Through its Prop: Sh. Kishor Singh 1, Address :-Shop No 2, Gali No 2, near Holi Chowk, Rajiv Chowk, Sansarp Road, Sector 25, Distt Faridabad – 121001	All part & parcel of immovable property at Shop No 2 Measuring 115 sq yards forming part of Khata No 28, 23(7-14) situated at Gali No 1, Ward No 1, Holi Chowk, Sansarp Road, Rajiv Chowk, Sector 25, mazda Saran, The Ballabgarh District Faridabad	Symbolic	as on 30.10.2018: Rs. 8,05,569.88/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery if any)	Rs. 55.80 Lakh	Rs. 5.58 Lakh	Rs. 10000	Sh. Vaibhav Porwal Mobile: 9655458608, Mail ID: cb10230@canarabank.com	Canara Bank FARIDABAD SME –III Branch, A/c No 8238302000014, IFSC Code SYNB0008238	30.01.2021 28.01.2021	
32.	CANARA BANK FARIDABAD SME - FARIDABAD SME –III BRANCH, ADDRESS:- 1F-20, NEW INDUSTRIAL TOWN FARIDABAD HARYANA M/s Prakash Sharma through its Prop: Smt. Madhubala Sharma Address:- Plot No A/1168, Dabus Colony, NIT, Faridabad, Distt Faridabad (Hry):- 121001, Smt. Madhubala Sharma w/o Sh. Pradeep Sharma, Address:- House No 830, Sector 18 A, Distt Faridabad (Hry):- 121001	Plot no 1168/A1168 plot no 41 P1, admeasuring 160 sq yards, comprised in Khata no 31113, Maaja Dabus Now MCF 1168/A, Dabus Colony , Faridabad. The property is bounded as under:	Physical	as on 31.05.2015 Rs. 11,00,238.00/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery if any)	Rs. 24.20 Lakh	Rs. 2.42 Lakh	Rs. 1000	Sh. Vaibhav Porwal Mobile: 9655458608, Mail ID: cb18238@canarabank.com	Canara Bank FARIDABAD SME –III Branch, A/c No 8238302000014, IFSC Code SYNB0008238	30.01.2021 28.01.2021	
33.	CANARA BANK FARIDABAD SME –III BRANCH, ADDRESS:- 1F-20, NEW INDUSTRIAL TOWN FARIDABAD HARYANA M/s Raso Enterprises Through its Prop: Sh. Nateshwar Singh Wala, Address :-No 141/1/2, Sakri Pyla Ballabgarh, Distt Faridabad, 1 Name and Address of the Guarantor Mortgagee:- Sh. Nateshwar Singh Wala, R/o Plot No 101, Kaveri Apartments, Sector 21 D, Faridabad., Sh. Prince Rudra, R/o House No 5A/290, NIT Faridabad, Distt Faridabad., Smt. Richi Manoj, R/o Plot No 101, Kaveri Apartments, Sector 21 D, Faridabad.	All the part & parcel of immovable property at Plot measuring 546 Sq yds forming part of Khewat no 252(2)/16, Rect no 17, Killa no 24/2,25/112,25/2/2 rect no 01, Killa no 3,8,2,8/1, 13,4 situated at Mazda Sani , Tehsil Ballabgarh, District Faridabad owned and possessed by Mrs.Ruchi Manoj W/o Mr Nateshwar Singh Wala	Physical	as on 30.04.2018 Rs. 43,58,539.78/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery if any)	Rs. 84.60 Lakh	Rs. 8.48 Lakh	Rs. 10000	Sh. Vaibhav Porwal Mobile: 9655458608 Mail ID: cb18238@canarabank.com	Canara Bank FARIDABAD SME –III Branch, A/c No 8238302000014 IFSC Code SYNB0008238	30.01.2021 28.01.2021	
34.	CANARA BANK, ARM BRANCH, NOVELTY ROAD, KARNAL M/s DM Feeds (Borrower) through its Partners and Guarantors: Guarantor 1: Bross Road, Village Sambhi, District Karnal, Address 2: C/o Ram Kumar, House No 755, Lakshmi Colony, Ward no-5, Tarsori, District Karnal, 2: Sh. Manoj Kumar s/o Sh. Dharmraj (Partner and Guarantor), Address: House No 755, Lakshmi Colony, Ward no-5, Tarsori, District Karnal, 3: Smt. Sonia Rani w/o Sh. Manoj Kumar (Partner and Guarantor), Address: House No 755, Lakshmi Colony, Ward no-5, Tarsori, District Karnal	PROPERTY NO-1: 10 Miling Plant local consisting of paddy separator and dust blower, silky paddy cleaner (jomal), Grader, Rice Cleaner, Polisher, Elevators, 1 One Series Machine, 1) One Mini Compressor (without Plate and without Electric motor), 1) One Air compressor (without panel), VI One Dryer (without plate), VII One 180 KVA Sump Set fitted with control panel, VII) one transformer without panel, PROPERTY NO-2: Land measuring 8K 7M comprised in Khewat No-1024, Khatori No.1007, Murabba No-36, Killa No-7/15-13/31(12-4), 13/110-10, situated at Sambhi Bross Road, Village Bross, Tehsil Nising, Distt Karnal in the name of Smt Sonia Rani W/o Sh Manoj Kumar, Land measuring 3K 5M comprised in Khewat no. 1026, Khatori No. 1609, Murabba no 36, Killa no. 7/11(2-3) as per (probated 2014-15 & mutation no. 6477 dated 10-03-2017 as per Regd Sale Deed No. 1457/1 dated 28-02-2017 situated at Sambhi Bross Road, Village Bross, Tehsil Nising, Distt Karnal in the name of Smt. Sonia Rani W/o Sh Manoj Kumar. Property No-1 & Property No.-2 will be Sold as a Single lot	Physical	as on 20.12.2018 Rs. 1,38,28,871.32/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery if any)	Property No. 1 Rs. 38.72 Lakhs Property No. 2 Rs. 64.55 Lakhs	1: Rs. 3.67 Lakhs 2: Rs. 6.48 Lakhs	Rs. 50000	Sh. Sanjay Sarja Ph. 0184 - 2255382, 8572816290, Mail ID: cb6290@canarabank.com	Canara Bank, ARM Branch A/c No 209272434 IFSC Code CNRB0006290	30.01.2021 28.01.2021	
35.	CANARA BANK, ARM BRANCH, NOVELTY ROAD, KARNAL M/s Gool Rice Mills, Karnal Katthal Road, Village Nising, Distt Karnal, Haryana - (Borrower) 2: Sri Ashok Kumar S/o Sri Pal Ram R/o 3322, Ward No. 3, Anaj Mandi, Nising (Karnal) (Partner & Guarantor) 3: Smt. Kamlesh Kurnari W/o Sh. Sunit Kumar C/o Shop No. 8, Sadhu Ram Om Parkash, Janta Anaj Mandi, Nising (Karnal) (Partner & Guarantor) 4: Smt. Binla Devi W/o Sri Pal Ram R/o 3321, Ward No. 3, Anaj Mandi, Nising (Karnal) – (Guarantor) 5: Smt. Sunit Kumar S/o Sri Om Parkash, C/o Shop No. 8, Sadhu Ram Om Parkash, Janta Anaj Mandi, Nising (Karnal) – (Guarantor) 6: Smt. Minakshi W/o Sri Ashok Kumar R/o 3322, Ward No. 3, Anaj Mandi, Nising (Karnal) – (Guarantor) East: Gali, West: Gali, S: All that part and parcel of EMT of Plot No.7, measuring 200 sq yds situated near Reliance Petrol Pump, in the name of Smt. Maanash W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar vide sale deed no. 1747/1 dt. 01.01.2013 at Nising, Distt. Karnal which is bounded as under: North : Plot of other owner, South : Plot of other owner, East: Gali, West: Property of other owner. Property No-1 & Property No.-2 will be Sold as a Single lot	1: Plant and Machinery lying at the site in non functional condition. 2: All that part and parcel of EMT of Factory land and building measuring 18K 5M being 3693361 share of land area measuring 18K 01M comprised in Khewat No 968, Khatori No 1499, Rect No 233, Killa No 6123-3L, 15/113-18, 18/22-22, 17/113-18L, 24/214-8L, 25/111-18L total Kitta 8 situated at Nising, Tehsil Nising Distt. Karnal as per gift deed No. 794/1 dated 13.08.2010 and Jamsabandi for the year of 2007-2008 of village Nising Tehsil Nising Distt. Karnal read with mutation No 10565 in the name of Sh. Ashok Kumar S/o Sh. Pala Ram & Smt. Kamlesh Kurnari W/o Sunit Kumar or Nising, Distt. Karnal which is bounded as under: North : Road, South : Property of other owner, East : Property of other owner, West : Property of other owner. 3: All that part and parcel of EMT of Godown measuring 115.11 sq yds. Near Shiv Mandir in the name of Smt. Kamlesh Kurnari W/o Sh. Sunit Kumar vide Sale Deed No. 903 dt. 18.07.2005 at Nising, Distt. Karnal which is bounded as under: North : Gali, South : Property of Sander Singh, East : Godown of Pushpinder Kumar, West : House of Krishan, & All that part and parcel of EMT of House No 61-A, measuring 111.31 Sq Yards situated at behind Grain Market, in the name of Sh. Sunit Kumar S/o Sh. Din Prakash as per gift deed No 1133/1 dated 18.12.2003 at Nising, Distt. Karnal which is bounded as under: North : House of Pushpinder Kumar, South: House of Mittarsain, Distt. Karnal which is bounded as under: North : Plot of other owner, South : Plot of other owner, East: Gali, West: Property of other owner. Property No-1 & Property No.-2 will be Sold as a Single lot	Physical	as on 07.08.2018 Rs. 7,20,55,128/- plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery if any)	Property No. 1: Rs. 13.95 Lacs Property No. 2: Rs. 105.43 Lacs Property No. 3: Rs. 6.83 lakh Property No. 4: Rs. 14.30 Lacs Property No. 5: Rs. 6.30 lakh	Property No. 1: Rs. 1.42 Lacs Property No. 2: Rs. 16.55 Lacs. Property No. 3: Rs. 6.70 Lakh. Property No. 4: Rs. 1.43 Lakh. Property No. 5: Rs. 0.83 lakh.	Rs. 50000	Sh. Sanjay Sarja Ph. 0184 - 2255382, 8572816290, Mail ID: cb6290@canarabank.com	Canara Bank, ARM Branch, Karnal A/c No 209272434 IFSC Code CNRB0006290	30.01.2021 28.01.2021	
36.											

EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

ANDHRA PRADESH
Panchayat polls to be held from February 5

Hyderabad: Panchayat polls in Andhra Pradesh will be held in four phases — February 5, 9, 13 and 17 — the state election commission said on Saturday amid objections of the state government over the conduct of the elections due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chief Secretary Adityanath Das had already met state election commissioner N Ramesh Kumar and asked the election authority to postpone the elections by 2-3 months. However, Kumar rejected the government's appeal. In March last year, Kumar had postponed local body elections in the state citing Covid-19 protocol causing a row with the state government. **ENS**

UTTAR PRADESH
Triple murder on highway, teams formed to probe

Lucknow: Bodies of a truck driver, his helper and one more person were recovered from the Lucknow-Gorakhpur highway under Chhawani police station area of Basti district on Saturday morning. While the body of the helper was found near a roadside eatery on the highway, the other two bodies were found inside a truck parked around 2 km from that spot, police said. Police suspect that one of them was strangled to death, while the other two were killed using a sharp-edged weapon. Several police teams have been formed in the district to solve the case. "The reason behind the killing is yet to be identified as the accused left the truck, money and mobile phones," Superintendent of Police (Basti) Hemraj Meena said. **ENS**

BHANDARA HOSPITAL FIRE

Security guards, ambulance drivers, hospital staff helped rescue 7 babies

TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA
MUMBAI, JANUARY 9

TWO SECURITY guards, a hospital helper and two ambulance drivers rushed in to rescue the seven newborns trapped in the fire at the Bhandara Civil Hospital in the early hours of Saturday, after Fire Brigade officials broke glass windows of the Sick Newborn Care Unit (SNCU). Only seven of the 17 babies survived.

District Civil Surgeon Dr Pramod Khadate said the rescue of seven children was a joint effort by hospital staff and Fire Brigade. "All seven babies are stable. For now, we have kept them in a separate ward," he said.

Khadate added, "Some babies in the outborn section were taken out by the nurses before the Fire Brigade came, but they all succumbed to injuries later."

Ambulance driver Rajkumar



Gaurav Repade, Rajkumar Kishanji Dahekar



Kishanji Dahekar (37) was at home when he received a call about the fire. "I live close by. I thought an ambulance might be required to transport patients, so I rushed there," said Dahekar.

When he reached the hospital, he saw people, including several staffers, rushing out. Thick black smoke billowed out of the first floor. "There was no way we could go inside the ward at that point. When the Fire Brigade arrived, they put up a ladder till the

first floor and smashed the windows. A few of us volunteered to go inside," said Dahekar.

Two hospital security guards and two ambulance drivers, including Dahekar, and a hospital helper went up the ladder and entered the ward through the windows. They found seven children in cots in one section, where there was less smoke.

"I picked three babies from the cot with all machines beeping, and handed them to the nurses who

were waiting outside the door. They rushed down with the babies. Others also picked babies and handed them over," said Dahekar.

He said Fire Brigade officials put up a ladder till the first floor, broke the glass window, and few fire officials rushed to the SNCU section, where the smoke was the thickest, to douse the fire and check if any new born was left behind. A few people accompanied the security personnel and helper into the section where seven babies lay in their cots. A senior doctor from the hospital said staff were able to direct the Fire Brigade towards where the babies' cots were located.

Dahekar later saw that some babies had sustained burn injuries in the other section. "Two babies suffered bad burn injuries. But there was nothing we could do, they had died by then," he said.

Security guard Gaurav Repade said he was near the hospital gate when he received the alert, at around 1.40 am. "When another

guard I and went up, I saw the fire in the ward. I realised I can't go alone... so I rushed back to call for help. When I returned to the ward, the entire ward was filled with smoke," he said.

Repade said the Fire Brigade was able to reach within 15 minutes and break the windows on the first floor. "Once the windows were broken, it helped the smoke come out, and visibility improved to some extent. So, we went through the window and then via a backdoor into the ward," he says.

"We tried hard to enter the section where 10 babies were kept separately. But it was impossible for us to breathe. Most of the babies... died because of suffocation," Repade said.

While ambulance driver Dahekar said there was only one nurse and helper in the ward, district authorities have said there were two nurses, a helper and a doctor posted in SNCU at the time of the incident.

Man held for 'tearing' Gutka Sahib, dumping pages outside home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUDHIANA, JANUARY 9

POLICE ARRESTED a man for allegedly tearing the pages of holy text Gutka Sahib and dumping them outside his home in Marr Colony of Ludhiana Saturday.

Police said that the man, identified as Balwinder Singh (36), was a 'drug addict' and used to 'quarrel with his family often'.

The torn pages found outside his home were handed over to the nearby gurdwara and an FIR was registered against him.

Inspector Pavittar Singh, SHO of Daba police station, said that information was received around 8 am on Saturday that pages of the holy text were found torn outside the house of the accused.

"During interrogation, he revealed that he was under the influence of drugs and liquor when

he did this act. He tore the pages and threw them outside his house. Though he also had a minor spat with his parents following which his sister intervened and took the parents with her, he says the fight with parents wasn't any reason for provocation. He used to fight with his parents and wife often. The reason for why he committed this act is still unclear," the SHO said.

The accused is a street vendor and sells clothes on a handcart. The SHO said that the Gutka Sahib was present inside the home of the accused and he did not steal it from any gurdwara. "He is a Sikh but not turbaned," the SHO said.

An FIR under Section 295A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) of the IPC was registered at Daba police station.



BSF HANDS OVER 6 PAK YOUTHS

BSF personnel with Pakistan Rangers before handing over six Pakistani youths, who had "inadvertently crossed over" to the Indian side from along the international border in Punjab, in Attari on Saturday. A protest was lodged with the Pakistan Rangers over the incident, the border guarding force said. The six youths, in the age group of 14-25 years and residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, were nabbed by a BSF patrol from near the Pul Moran border post in Amritsar around 5 pm on Friday. PTI

'FAKE' DEGREE PROBE IN BIHAR

For 53,000 Bihar contract teachers, 'last chance' to prove degrees real

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JANUARY 9

THE BIHAR government will soon ask 53,000 teachers to prove the authenticity of their education degrees against which they secured contract jobs between 2007 and 2015, according to government sources.

The degrees of more than 1.10 lakh teachers have been under scrutiny of the Vigilance Investigation Bureau (VIB) since 2014 after a Patna High Court direction.

But with the High Court's deadline, January 12, approaching, a VIB source said, "As there has been little headway in getting degrees of all the teachers despite combined efforts of the bureau and the Education Department, we have now decided to put the onus on teachers to prove their degrees."

Earlier, district education officers had been asked to collect degree folders of the teachers in question.

An education department official said more than 53,000 teachers will soon be issued notices. "It

will be their last chance to prove their degrees or else they can lose their jobs," said the official.

Till last month, the Education Department had failed to provide details on the degrees of 1,10,410 teachers of a total of 3,52,818 teachers appointed on contract basis in the first phase of teachers' appointment after 2007.

Senior Counsel Dinu Kumar told *The Sunday Express*, "The HC in its order on January 31 this year has quoted the figures of pendency of teachers' folders. We wonder why the Education Department is not able to pro-

vide details to the court. Even though education degrees of over 1.10 lakh teachers are not scrutinised, they continue to serve and get their salaries. Let us see if these folders can be submitted to the HC by January 12."

On August 26, 2019, a division bench of Justices Shivaji Pandey and Partha Sarthy had said, "Let vigilance file a detailed counter affidavit, bring on record what period it would take to conclude the investigation and identify the teachers who are still continuing on the basis of fake certificates."

Pregnant, teen rape victim dies of septicemia: UP cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 9

A 17-YEAR-OLD mentally challenged girl, who was seven-month pregnant after being allegedly raped by her neighbour, died of septicemia at a hospital in Bareilly district on Friday.

The post-mortem report stated septicemia to be the cause of death.

Her viscera has been preserved for further examinations, said a police officer.

The girl fell unconscious on Thursday, following which she was taken to a nearby health centre. Doctors then referred her to a hospital in the district.

"The girl was not in a good condition and was unconscious when she was brought to the hospital. As her condition kept deteriorating, we referred her to the district hospital," said Dr Alka Sharma, Chief Medical Superintendent, the district women hospital.

Additional director and Superintendent-in-chief,

Bareilly district hospital, Subodh Sharma, said, "It was a case of septicemia. Her kidney, liver, lungs and other parts of the body were found to be affected. During treatment, the woman and her baby died."

The police officer said the girl's pregnancy was a result of "sexual assault".

According to police, in December last year, the girl's father took her to the hospital after she started vomiting frequently.

The doctors confirmed her pregnancy. The girl then told her father that the accused allegedly sexually abused her in the field, they said, adding that her mother is also mentally challenged.

Police said that on December 4, the girl's father got an FIR lodged against the accused on charges of rape and under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

The accused was arrested after two days.

On January 3, police filed the chargesheet against the accused who is currently lodged in jail.

Juvenile Board clears boy of rape charge, says he was less than 7 years old

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 9

THE Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) of Aligarh has ordered the discharge of a minor boy booked on rape charge last October last year, saying that his age was below seven years.

The boy was booked for allegedly raping a six-year-old girl.

"After the case was lodged, we moved the JJ Board and obtained interim bail of the boy. We then moved an application before the Board praying to acquit the boy on the ground that is below seven years of age... In the application, sections 82 and 83 of the IPC stating that boy has immature understanding were referred. Since the boy has no educational certificate to prove his age and is illiterate, so we requested the board to direct the Chief

Medical Officer (CMO) of Aligarh to determine his age and submit its report," said the boy's lawyer.

The boy's father works as a labourer.

While IPC Section 82 states that nothing is an offence which is done by a child under seven years of age, and section 83 deals with the act of a child above seven and under 12 of immature understanding.

"The CMO in its report stated that the boy's age was six years and 11 months. Considering the age, the Board disposed of the case," the lawyer said, adding that police had not filed a chargesheet in the case.

According to the local SHO, an FIR against the boy was lodged on October 12 by the girl's father. In his complaint, he had alleged that his daughter was playing outside the house and when she entered her neighbour's house to retrieve her ball, the boy caught her and sexually assaulted her.

The boy was booked for rape and under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act based on the complaint.

Badaun rape-murder case: two cops booked for dereliction of duty

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

TWO BADAUN police personnel have been booked for alleged dereliction of duty in the case of a 50-year-old woman's gangrape and murder. The woman was allegedly gang raped by three men, including a priest, in a Badaun temple, and later succumbed to her injuries.

The FIR was filed against the concerned police station's SHO and post-in-charge for allegedly not performing duties following the crime. They were earlier suspended over the allegation.

PM TO HEAD 85-MEMBER COMMITTEE

Amid BJP-TMC contest over Bengali icons, Centre forms panel to plan Netaji anniversary celebrations

DIVYAA & LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

THE CENTRE on Saturday announced a high-level committee, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to plan and decide on activities to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, starting January 23.

The 85-member committee, which has as many as 10 central ministers, seven chief ministers and several parliamentarians, also includes distinguished citizens, historians, authors, experts, family members of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, as well as eminent persons associated with Azad Hind Fauj (INA), according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Culture. It also features actors Kajol and Mithun Chakrabarty,

musician A R Rahman, cricketer Sourav Ganguly, and Medanta chairman Ravi Kasliwal. Raghvendra Singh, Secretary (Culture), is the convener of the panel. Chief Ministers Naveen Patnaik (Odisha), Neiphiu Rio (Nagaland), Biren Singh (Manipur), Zoramthanga (Mizoram), Biplab Kumar Deb (Tripura) and Conrad Sangma (Meghalaya) are also included.

With the BJP preparing for a tough battle in the upcoming Assembly elections in West Bengal, the committee assumes political significance too. It features several BJP leaders from Bengal, including those in the Centre, such as Babul Supriyo and Debasree Choudhury, BJP state chief Dilip Ghosh, and MPs Roopa Ganguly, Raju Bista, Sunil Mondol, Jagannath Sarkar, Jayanta Kumar Roy, Saumitra Khan, Khagen

Murmu and Jyotirmay Singh Mahato. With an overwhelming presence of BJP leaders, it also has Rajya Sabha members Swapna Dasgupta and Rajeev Chandrasekhar. Suwendu Adhikari, who resigned as TMC MLA to join the BJP, is also included.

While the ruling TMC in Bengal is represented by Sudip Bandhyopadhyay, apart from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury are included in the panel.

Ever since it started efforts to make inroads in West Bengal, where politics was once dominated by the Left and Congress, and later by the TMC, the BJP has been trying to appropriate Bose and his legacy. The party criticises the Congress for sidelining leaders like Bose and B R Ambedkar to

project the Nehru-Gandhi family. It is now in a contest with the TMC to appropriate the legacies of Bengali icons ahead of the Assembly polls in the state, with the BJP-led Centre and TMC-led West Bengal government vying with each other to mark Netaji's anniversary in a grand way.

Detailing the TMC government's plans, Mamata Banerjee had announced setting up of a national university in Bose's name, Azad Hind memorial, a body like the state planning commission to honour Netaji and books on his life. Banerjee also said that January 23 will be celebrated with a grand parade in Kolkata and the Independence Day parade in the city will be dedicated to Netaji. The CM said she has written to the Centre, demanding that January 23 be declared a national holiday and all records relating to Bose's

disappearance be made public.

The Centre had announced the constitution of this panel more than two weeks ago, initially planned to be headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. But sources say the delay in its formation happened as the BJP leadership has been busy tackling the farmer protests and planning the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine.

As per the Ministry's statement, the committee will lend guidance to the commemoration activities in Delhi, Kolkata and other places associated with Netaji and Azad Hind Fauj, in India and abroad. It is likely to meet soon.

Keen to not miss the bus ahead of the Assembly elections, the Ministry of Culture is finalising its own schedule of activities. Union Culture Minister Prahlad Patel — also part of the central panel — told

The Sunday Express, "The Ministry of Culture has planned several activities to mark this momentous occasion. Even as Kolkata will be a starting point on January 23, the year-long celebrations will spread across the entire country."

Patel has already chaired a meeting with senior officials from the ministry, besides family members of Bose and a section of historians and Army veterans. As per the deliberations, the Bose museum at Red Fort, inaugurated by PM Modi on Netaji's 122nd birth anniversary, will be expanded and a dedicated museum will come up in Kolkata. A calendar of important dates associated with Netaji will be drawn up and embassies will be involved in taking the commemoration beyond Indian shores. On January 23, a grand exhibition on Netaji will be held at Victoria Memorial, Kolkata.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Sabrina Singh

UNITED STATES
Indian-American named Dy Press Secretary in White House

Washington: Indian-American Sabrina Singh would serve as Deputy Press Secretary to the Vice President in the White House, according to an announcement made by the Biden-Harris Transition. Singh was Press Secretary to Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on the Biden-Harris campaign. Prior to her role on the campaign, she served as senior spokesperson for Mike Bloomberg's presidential campaign and National Press Secretary for Cory Booker's presidential campaign. She previously served as deputy communications director for the Democratic National Committee, spokesperson for American Bridge's Trump War Room and Regional Communications Director on Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign. **PTI**

PAKISTAN

Slain coalminers buried after protest

Quetta: Pakistani mourners buried on Saturday the bodies of 11 slain coalminers that had been put on a highway in the city of Quetta for six days in an anti-government protest. The miners, from the minority Shi'ite Hazara sect, were killed last Sunday by Islamic State militants in their shared residential room, after which mourners refused to bury them to demand better protection from sectarian attacks. **REUTERS**

UNITED KINGDOM
Queen and husband get Covid vaccine

London: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh have received Covid-19 vaccinations, Buckingham Palace said on Saturday. A royal source said the vaccinations were administered on Saturday by a household doctor at Windsor Castle. The source added the Queen decided to let it be known she had the vaccination to prevent further speculation. The Queen, 94, and Prince Philip, 99, are among around 1.5 million people in the UK to have had at least one dose of a Covid vaccine so far. **PTI**

Trump, muted and isolated, faces threat of impeachment next week

THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 9

AS SATURDAY dawned on a White House in turmoil, with President Donald Trump unable to communicate on Twitter and other platforms, momentum for impeaching him a second time was rapidly growing among rank-and-file Democrats and some Republicans.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Friday threatened to impeach Mr. Trump unless he resigned "immediately" for inciting the mob attack on the Capitol this week, and Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska became the first Republican senator to follow her lead.

"I want him out," Ms. Murkowski told *The Anchorage Daily News*. "He has caused enough damage."

The House is next scheduled to be in session on Monday, meaning that articles of impeachment cannot be introduced until then. The timing for an impeachment would be tight because Mr. Trump would have fewer than 10 days left in his term.

Yet the Constitution allows House lawmakers to introduce charges and proceed directly to a debate and floor vote in a matter of days, triggering a Senate trial that could take place even after Mr. Trump leaves office. If he were convicted, the Senate could vote to bar him from holding office again.

Already, Twitter's move to permanently suspend Mr. Trump "due to the risk of further incite-



Donald Trump at a rally in Washington on January 6. AP

EXPLAINED
Spinning towards a chaotic end

DEMOCRATS AGREE it's logistically possible to vote on articles of impeachment, but are weighing how to justify bypassing the usual deliberative process of collecting documents, witnesses and the president's defense. Others worry Trump's base would rally more forcefully around him if Democrats push forward with impeaching him again.

ment for violence" has effectively scuttled his favorite method of communicating with the public, even as he retains his authority as commander in chief. Facebook and other digital platforms have limited his access.

In one of his last Twitter posts before being banned, Mr. Trump said he would not attend the inauguration. He would be the first incumbent in 150 years to skip his successor's swearing-in.

At a meeting of the Republican National Committee in Florida on Friday, the chaos of the past week was a mere afterthought. While the R.N.C. chair, Ronna McDaniel, condemned the attack on the Capitol, neither she nor any other speaker publicly hinted at Mr. Trump's role

in inciting the violence.

Mr. Biden on Friday pressed ahead with his agenda, promising an accelerated response to an array of challenges. On Friday, the economy was said to have lost 140,000 jobs in December and officials across the US reported more than 300,000 new coronavirus cases in a day for the first time.

In a sharp break with the Trump administration, Mr. Biden intends to release nearly all available doses of coronavirus vaccines soon after he is inaugurated, rather than hold back millions of vials to guarantee second doses will be available. He has vowed to get "at least 100 million Covid vaccine shots into the arms of the American people" during his first 100 days in office.

Google suspends Parler app from Play Store; Apple gives 24-hr warning

REUTERS
LONDON, JANUARY 9

ALPHABET INC's Google on Friday suspended the Parler social networking service from its app store, citing posts inciting violence and demanding "robust" content moderation from the app favored by many supporters of US President Donald Trump.

Apple Inc on Friday gave the service 24 hours to submit a detailed moderation plan, pointing to participants using the service to coordinate Wednesday's siege of the US Capitol building.

The actions by the two Silicon Valley companies mean that the network seen as a haven for people expelled from Twitter could become unavailable for new downloads on the world's main mobile phone app stores within a day. It would still be available in mobile browsers.

Right-leaning social media users in the US have flocked to Parler, messaging app Telegram and hands-off social site Gab, citing the more aggressive policing of political comments on mainstream platforms such as Twitter Inc and Facebook Inc. Twitter permanently suspended President Trump's account on Friday.

Pak anti-terror court tells police to arrest Azhar by January 18

M ZULQERNAIN
LAHORE, JANUARY 9

UN DESIGNATED global terrorist Masood Azhar, chief of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), should be arrested by January 18 in connection with a terror financing case, an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan has asked the Punjab Police, a court official said on Saturday.

The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Gujranwala issued an arrest warrant against Azhar in the terror financing case instituted by the CTD in the previous hearing on Thursday.

"ATC Gujranwala judge Natasha Naseem Supra during the case hearing on Friday directed the CTD to arrest JeM chief Masood Azhar by January 18 and present him in the court. In case of failure (to arrest him), the court may begin proceedings to declare him a proclaimed offender," a court official said.

Azhar is facing charges of terror financing and selling jihadi literature.

Following the Pulwama terror attack in February 2019, Pakistan's Punjab police had launched a crackdown on terrorism financing and arrested six militants of the JeM in Gujranwala, some 130 kms from Lahore. Azhar is facing the trial in this case.

Following international pressure after the Pulwama attack, the Pakistan government arrested over 100 members of the banned militant outfits including Azhar's son and brother.

The government also took



JeM chief Masood Azhar

control of the JeM, Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed's Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) and Falahai Insanat Foundation (FIF) properties including seminaries and mosques across the country.

The JeM had claimed responsibility for the Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF soldiers were killed.

In May 2019, the United Nations designated Azhar as a "global terrorist" after China lifted its hold on a proposal to blacklist the Pakistan-based JeM chief, a decade after New Delhi approached the world body for the first time on the issue.

Azhar is a fugitive released by India in exchange of passengers of the hijacked Indian Airlines plane IC-814 in 1999. After his release, Azhar formed the JeM and scripted many terror attacks in India.

Paris-based global terror financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is instrumental in pushing Pakistan to take measures against terrorists roaming freely in Pakistan and using its territory to carry out attacks in India and elsewhere.

The FATF placed Pakistan on the Grey List in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action to curb money laundering and terror financing by the end of 2019 but the deadline was extended later on due to Covid-19 pandemic. **PTI**

Indonesian plane crashes into sea, 62 feared dead

REUTERS
JAKARTA, JANUARY 9

A SRIWIJAYA Air plane crashed into the sea on Saturday minutes after taking off from Indonesia's capital Jakarta on a domestic flight with 62 people on board, and their fate was not known.

The Boeing 737-500, en route to Pontianak in West Kalimantan, disappeared from radar screens after taking off just after 2.30 p.m. (0730 GMT) — 30 minutes after the scheduled time because of heavy rain.

Indonesian Transport Minister Budi Karya told a news conference that 62 people had been aboard Flight SJ 182, including 12 crew. The *detik.com* website quoted him as saying the plane crashed near Laki Island, some 20 km from the airport.

All those on board were Indonesian, Indonesia's transport safety committee said.

Indonesia's Navy pinpointed the site of the missing aircraft and ships had been sent there, a Navy official said. Authorities did not say whether they believed there were survivors.

Sriwijaya Air's chief executive, Jefferson Irwin Jauwena, told a news conference that the plane had been in good condition before the flight.

The nearly 27-year-old Boeing 737-500 was much older than Boeing's problem-plagued 737 MAX model, one of which crashed off Jakarta in late 2018,



(Above) Distraught family members of a passenger on Sriwijaya Air Flight SJ182; (left) A radar image showing the path of Flight 182 before it dropped off radar.

Reuters/Flightradar24.com via AP



killing all 189 people aboard the Lion Air flight. A Boeing spokeswoman said, "We are aware of media reports from Jakarta, and are closely monitoring the situation. We are working to gather more information."

Reliable tracking service Flightradar24 said the Boeing jet took off at 2:36 p.m. local time (0736 GMT) and climbed to reach 10,900 feet within four minutes. It then began a steep descent and stopped transmitting data 21 seconds later.

A transport ministry spokeswoman said air traffic control at Soekarno-Hatta International

Airport had asked the pilot why the plane was heading northwest instead of on its expected flight path just seconds before it disappeared.

There were no immediate clues on what may have caused the sudden descent and safety experts stress most air accidents are caused by a cocktail of factors that can take months to establish.

Indonesia's KNKT safety agency was expected to launch an immediate investigation. The US National Safety Transportation Board will automatically be part of the probe, since the plane was designed and built in the US.



Kim Jong Un

N Korea's Kim calls US 'our biggest enemy' in challenge to Joe Biden

SEOUL
REUTERS, JANUARY 9

NORTH KOREAN leader Kim Jong Un called for more advanced nuclear weapons and said the United States is "our biggest enemy," state media said on Saturday, presenting a stark challenge to President-elect Joe Biden just days before he takes office.

Washington's hostile policies would not change regardless of who occupies the White House but dropping those policies would be key to North Korea-US relations, Kim said, according to state news agency KCNA.

"Our foreign political activities should be focused and redirected on subduing the US, our biggest enemy and main obstacle to our innovated development," Kim said at a rare party congress in Pyongyang.

"No matter who is in power in the US, the true nature of the US and its fundamental policies towards North Korea never change," Kim said, vowing to expand ties with "anti-imperialist, independent forces."

North Korea would not "misuse" its nuclear weapons, Kim said but the country is expanding its nuclear arsenal, including "preemptive" and "retaliatory" strike capabilities and warheads of varying sizes. He called for developing equipment including hypersonic weapons, solid-fuel ICBMs, spy satellites, and drones.

North Korea is preparing for the test and production of various new weapons, including a "multi-warhead rocket" and "supersonic gliding flight warheads for new type ballistic rockets," while research on a nuclear submarine is nearly complete, he said.

There was no immediate comment from the US State Department. A spokesman for the Biden campaign declined to comment.

STORM FILOMENA HITS SPAIN, 4 KILLED

Heavy snowfall in Madrid on Saturday. A persistent blizzard blanketed large parts of Spain with 50-year record levels of snow, killing at least four people and leaving thousands trapped in cars or in train stations and airports. *Reuters*

Pakistan court remands 56 to police custody for vandalism of temple

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PESHAWAR, JANUARY 9

AN ANTI-TERRORISM court in Pakistan on Saturday sent the main accused, along with 55 others, arrested in the vandalism of a Hindu temple by a mob led by members of a radical Islamist party in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, to police custody for nine days.

The court also remanded another 56 accused in the case, in-

cluding Maulvi Sharif who is said to have incited the crowd, to judicial custody.

The temple in Terri village in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Karak district was attacked last week by the mob after members of the Hindu community received permission from local authorities to renovate its decades-old building. The mob had demolished the newly constructed work alongside the old structure.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police chief Sanaullah Abbasi said on

Friday that Faizullah, who was identified as the main accused, was arrested from Karak district. He is said to have instigated and facilitated the mob for attacking the temple.

The attack on the temple by members of radical Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam party (Fazal ur Rehman group) drew strong condemnation from human rights activists and the minority Hindu community leaders.

Police have filed complaint against 350 people in the case.

A week into full Brexit, the pain for UK businesses has arrived

ESHE NELSON
LONDON, JANUARY 9

BRITAIN STARTED 2021 in a new relationship with its biggest trade partner, and it has immediately brought a litany of headaches and lost business.

Within a week, implications of the Brexit trade deal with the European Union are being felt by businesses up and down the country as food deliveries are delayed for not having the right customs paperwork, logistics companies halt the shipment of goods, and retailers discover their supply chains might be obsolete.

After decades inside the European Union's customs union and single market, Britain's businesses have unearthed new challenges and

changes every day. For many businesses, this is what Brexit has quickly become: a logistical, regulatory and administrative burden for which they were unprepared. It will only add to the malaise in Britain, where the coronavirus pandemic is raging — last week one in 50 people in England had the virus, and the country is under its third national lockdown. And analysts say the economy is heading for a double-dip recession.

Some businesses had put aside efforts to plan for Brexit last year in favor of trying to keep their companies afloat during the pandemic. But even those that tried to prepare faced a fundamental obstacle: an agreement on the trade deal with the European Union wasn't reached until December 24, and the text

Police officers on horseback patrol London. *Reuters*

of the 1,246-page pact wasn't circulated until December 26.

Other documents, providing full details of how Britain's border would work, with illustrative examples and flow charts,

weren't published until December 31, the day before the new rules took effect.

"No wonder people are struggling," said Sally Jones, who leads the trade strategy and

Brexit team at EY, the consulting and accounting firm. For the first time since 1993, British businesses need to deal with customs checks, additional food safety forms, and myriad other paperwork to trade with the European Union.

On Friday, DFDS, a Danish logistics company that runs ferries from Dover to France, said a "high volume" of trucks were being refused or delayed for not having the correct paperwork.

DPD, the parcel delivery company, said it paused service to the European Union after up to 20 percent of parcels it handled had incorrect or incomplete data, and so would need to be returned to the sender.

"The things which are proving problematic are the things that we expected to be problem-

atic," Ms. Jones said. "So for goods, it's all about the speed and accuracy with which people are preparing the right paperwork."

Many U.K. businesses — at least 150,000, according to data from Britain's tax agency — have never traded beyond the European Union, and so have no experience dealing with the customs systems.

Some businesses anticipated cross-border problems with Europe, and filled warehouses with stockpiled goods — auto parts and pharmaceuticals, for example — before the end of the Brexit transition period. That has kept cross-border shipments at a fraction of their normal level so far. Over the next few weeks, as those stockpiles run down, business activity will pick up, exac-

erbating delays.

So far, there are few immediate tangible benefits of Brexit for businesses — beyond the fact that ending years of stormy debate and uncertainty may be counted as a benefit.

It will be hard to realize any substantial short-term gains from Britain's new trading arrangement with the European Union, especially since the pandemic continues to take a toll on the economy. Last year, the British economy experienced its deepest recession in more than 300 years, and the lockdowns continue as vaccines are slowly rolled out.

"A lot of the disruption that Brexit brings is going to be hidden by the pandemic," said Anand Menon, a professor of European politics and foreign affairs at King's College London. **NYT**

THE JOURNEY

1996: Bharat Biotech set up**1999:** First vaccine, for Hepatitis B, rolls out**2006:** Rabies vaccine is out**2007:** Influenza vaccine is developed**2015:** Rotavac, the rotavirus vaccine is launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi**2018:** Typhoid vaccine gets WHO approval**2020:** Work begins on Covid-19 vaccine

THE COVID19 VACCINES

Besides, Covaxin which has just been granted emergency use authorisation, Bharat Biotech is developing three other candidates for Covid-19 vaccine:

■ A single-dose intranasal vaccine with Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis

■ Another one with Thomas Jefferson University in which an inactivated rabies virus is being used as the vector

■ A candidate named CoroFlu being developed in collaboration with University of Wisconsin-Madison, and vaccine companies FluGen

EXPLAINED

Opening new doors

IN MANY ways, Bharat Biotech and its contemporaries reflect the changing and rising India that started to take a new course from the mid-1990s. They started out with low-hanging fruits, making generic versions of existing vaccines, and slowly gained confidence to produce world-class products. "These companies were innovative, but not really inventive," is how one scientist described these companies. "Inventiveness requires a good ecosystem that India still lacks. So it is to the credit of these companies for doing what they did," he said.

Needle in the haystack

When the Indian government looked for a partner to produce an indigenous coronavirus vaccine, Bharat Biotech was the natural contender. From Rotavirus to Hepatitis B vaccines and now Covaxin, AMITABH SINHA on how a small Hyderabad firm, dreaming big and risking large, has emerged as one of India's biggest biotech success stories

THE YEAR was 1999. Officials and scientists at the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) were a little unsure about what to do next. They had invited offers from Indian firms to become partners in the development of a vaccine for rotavirus. And the only company to have shown interest was an inexperienced three-year-old upstart from Hyderabad with little track record to boast of.

The lack of enthusiasm was not entirely unexpected. Earlier that year, the only existing vaccine for rotavirus, one produced by an American company, had to be withdrawn after some recipients reported a rare type of bowel obstruction. The vaccine had been introduced in the market the previous year.

Rotaviruses are the most common cause of diarrhoea in infants worldwide. According to WHO, they were responsible for deaths of about 215,000 children below five years of age in 2013, a majority of them in India.

Working at AIIMS in the mid-1980s, Dr M K Bhan, a paediatrician and researcher who later became the Secretary of the DBT, had succeeded in isolating an Indian strain of rotavirus that could be used to develop a vaccine. Another strain was isolated by Prof C Durga Rao, working independently at the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru. The government was very keen to have an affordable rotavirus vaccine, and was willing to handhold private firms in developing this.

After much deliberation, the DBT did accept the volunteering company as the partner in this effort and began working on a vaccine that would go on to become one of the biggest success stories of India's young biotechnology sector. For Bharat Biotech, the Hyderabad company that had shown courage to participate in this uncertain venture, the risk had paid off. The vaccine, called Rotavac, was licensed only in 2014, after a 15-year-long development process, and the first shots were given in 2015. But it was developed with a commitment that it would be priced not more than one dollar a dose. Two other rotavirus vaccines that had been commercialised internationally in the meantime, by pharma giants GSK and Merck in 2006, cost about US \$200 per dose.

"It was really a bold step for Krishna Ella (the promoter of Bharat Biotech) to come forward at that time. After that vaccine (in the US) was withdrawn, everyone thought that the rotavirus field was dead... Of course, Bharat Biotech received a lot of support... there was a lot of handholding through the process. A good part of the research happened in the US as well with the support and involvement of US institutions. But it was still a big achievement. That kind of research and development, and clinical research, had never been done in India before," says Gagandeep Kang, virologist and Professor of Microbiology at Christian Medical College, Vellore, who was one of the lead investigators of the clinical trials for that vaccine.

Rotavac was not the first vaccine to be made by Bharat Biotech. Shortly after that partnership with the DBT was inked, the company was able to ship out the first batch of vaccines it had ever developed — for Hepatitis B. It was the last week of 1999, between Christmas and New Year, that a truck loaded with Hepatitis B vaccine vials drove out of a rented three-storeyed building in the



Prime Minister Modi speaks to scientists during his visit to Bharat Biotech's Hyderabad facility last year; (below) Krishna Ella with his team. ANI/Bharat Biotech

residential area of Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad that housed laboratories of Bharat Biotech.

"Krishna Ella himself saw the truck off. There was jubilation, understandably. We were a small team then," says a former employee who asked not to be named.

Ella, who grew up in a reasonably well-off farmer's family in a Tamil Nadu village, studied agriculture in college and worked at a chemical and pharmaceutical multinational before receiving a fellowship to study in the US. He worked on the molecular biology of yeast, and obtained a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He had begun a research career in the US before, according to a story he has shared multiple times in public, he was persuaded by his mother to return to India with an assurance that till she was alive, he would never have to starve!

But around the same time that Ella returned from US, an Indian Hepatitis B vaccine came into the market, developed by another Hyderabad-based company, Shantha Biotechnics, whose story is not very different from that of Bharat Biotech. Like Ella, Shantha Biotechnics founder K Varaprasad Reddy was born in an agricultural family, studied science and engineering, worked in a private company, went abroad for higher studies, and returned to set up a successful company of his own. He even has a similar story of attending a conference where he is supposed to have heard snide remarks about India unable to develop a vaccine on its own.

Shantha Biotechnics was started in 1993 and is generally acknowledged as the first Indian biotechnology company with a real R&D base. By 1996, it had delivered a Hepatitis B vaccine, Shanvac-B, helped in no small measure by India's lenient patent regulations of the time which only allowed process patent and not product patent. That meant that a company could manufacture the same product by using a different process

— the reverse engineering that had helped so many other Indian pharmaceutical companies to produce generic drugs.

In an India that was still taking its first step towards creating the right environment for private enterprise, the indigenous development of a vaccine by a new company was a big deal, and for several years after that, till it was eventually bought over by Sanofi in 2009, Shantha Biotechnics was the poster child of India's biotechnology sector, regularly featuring even in government literature as one of the success stories from India. In a way,

"It was really a bold step for Krishna Ella to come forward at that time (in 1999). After that vaccine (in the US) was withdrawn, everyone thought that the rotavirus field was dead... There was a lot of handholding through the process... But it was still a big achievement"

Shantha Biotechnics also showed the way for companies like Bharat Biotech, though they would be close competitors.

Ella returned to a Hyderabad that was going through a political transition. N Chandrababu Naidu had just managed to grab power after revolting against his father-in-law, the immensely popular N T Rama Rao, and was selling the promise of making Hyderabad the new technology capital of the country. He built a lot of infrastructure to invite global multinationals, and was very encouraging to people wanting to start businesses in Hyderabad.

It was against this background that Bharat Biotech was set up in 1996, with the first goal of producing an indigenous Hepatitis B vaccine that was even cheaper than Shanvac-B.

"This was a huge milestone as Bharat became the first company in the world to produce a cesium-free Hepatitis B vaccine at an affordable price when a multinational was selling that vaccine for Rs 1,400 per dose," Ella told *The Sunday Express* in an interview.

The Telugu Desam Party administration, receptive to new ideas, also welcomed Ella with open arms. Many believe it was Ella who gave the idea of Genome Valley to CM Naidu. A technology park, it now houses more than 100 firms, research centres and manufacturing units, most of them working

in the biotechnology sector, from small incubators testing out new ideas to giant multinationals like Novartis, Bayer and Merck.

But others point to the role of two IAS officers of that time — Sheila Bhide and B P Acharya. Aiming to recreate an environment similar to Silicon Valley in the US, the two are said to have given shape to Genome Valley with the backing of their political bosses.

Bharat Biotech was one of the first companies to move into Genome Valley. "It is impressive... the physical infrastructure that Bharat Biotech has built. A biotechnology company is not easy to run. You need sensitive, sophisticated technology, advanced laboratories, and manufacturing units, none of it comes cheap. And there is a lot of risk as well. Vaccines are an uncertain business. To its credit, Bharat Biotech has built world-class facilities," says a senior scientist with a government laboratory.

As the company began to diversify its product portfolio, it produced vaccines for rabies, polio, Japanese encephalitis, H1N1 influenza, and also worked on a malaria vaccine which did not become successful. Today, the company has a basket of more than 15 vaccines in the market.

After the rotavirus vaccine, the biggest success came in the form of a typhoid vaccine, which was commercialised two years ago. Based on an innovative technology, it is the first and only typhoid vaccine in the world that can provide long-term immunity against the disease. This vaccine is approved by WHO as well for global use.

Meanwhile, Bharat Biotech has also forayed into the animal vaccine market, and set up a separate company, BioVet, which operates out of Bengaluru. It produces vaccines for the foot and mouth disease, one of the most common ailments in domestic animals. It is equipped with a BSL-3 (biosafety level 3) production unit, and BSL-3 animal facility, incorporating the highest level containment features. Then there is another sister company, Century Biologicals, that does food packaging. It has one of the biggest irradiators in the country to sanitise food packets.

Yet another company is engaged in carrying out pre-clinical toxicology studies and testing of vaccines and drugs on animals. The development of Covaxin, particularly the haste around it, has drawn Bharat Biotech into a row Ella has contested as unwarranted. If an impossible deadline of August 15, 2020, for an indigenous vaccine was the government's first announcement, the regulatory approval to Covaxin without efficacy data from Phase 3 trials — though to be used only in "clinical trial mode" — has brought the company that has largely worked in the background unwanted attention.

The coronavirus vaccine is most likely to be manufactured at its unit in Hyderabad, which too is BSL-3 certified. The company also recently bought a manufacturing facility near Mumbai, which was let go by another company. A new manufacturing facility is coming up in Hubaneswar to cater to volumes. Even the facility in Bengaluru can be converted quickly for human vaccines.

A retired scientist from a prominent government laboratory, who has occasionally advised Ella, said he sees these facilities as national assets. "Even in private conversations, he is fond of saying that he is doing all this for the country," he said.

INTERVIEW

DR KRISHNA ELLA, Founder & CMD, Bharat Biotech

'Want to combat challenging diseases, deliver solutions'

How did you get into the vaccine business?

When I began conceptualising a Hepatitis vaccine, I was working on yeast molecular biology in the US... During that period, there was a substantial demand for medicine in India. So, I set up a lab in Hyderabad with the medical equipment I had brought back with me from the US and started producing the Hepatitis B surface protein.

Bharat Biotech was started with Rs 12.5 crore. Within three years, we were able to launch our first Hepatitis vaccine. We went on to supply several million doses for the national immunisation programme at Rs 10 per dose. This was a milestone as we became the first company in the world to produce a cesium-free Hepatitis B vaccine at an affordable price when the vaccine was sold by a multinational at Rs 1,400 per dose.

You took a lot of risk with rotavirus vaccine. How sure were you of success?

Rotavac was a result of a unique social partnership that brought together the experience and expertise of Indian and international researchers as well as public and private sectors... That vaccine demonstrated that an Indian company was capable of conducting high-quality research in advanced sciences... Again, it cost only one dollar per dose.

What was the biggest difficulty you faced during that time?

Frankly, we received a lot of support from government and other institutions, and this project (rotavirus) would not have advanced without their help. We had set up an innovative manufacturing process which had enabled the reduction of manufacturing costs... When it was launched in 2015, the rotavirus vaccine was one of the first successful example of 'Make in India' initiative.

Which is a bigger success for the company, rotavirus or typhoid vaccine?

Both are significant scientific discoveries. Both these vaccines reinforced India's leadership in developing a world-class vaccine... Typhoid fever was a neglected tropical disease. The success of our vaccine is a true reflection of Bharat Biotech's ability to develop novel vaccines and sustain long-term product development against infectious diseases.

What is next?

We have several vaccine programmes underway, including the four Covid-19 vaccine development initiatives. Furthermore, we will continue our pursuit of identifying public health problems and work towards developing safe and affordable solutions. We want to target some of the most challenging diseases and deliver solutions to combat them. Our research laboratories have produced an impressive succession of innovative vaccines and bio-therapeutics.



Across
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

Website: pchidambaram.in
Twitter @Pchidambaram, IN

We should collectively hope that Covaxin will complete Phase III clinical trials by the end of January and the results will be evaluated by March. Thereafter, we can accelerate the roll-out with two vaccines — we may also export reasonable quantities to developing countries — and acquire a place among nations that were able to research, find, manufacture, distribute and use a vaccine in 12 months

THE PANDEMIC seems to be on its way out, but not yet gone. The vaccine seems to be on its way in, but has not yet reached households. The one thing that has remained unmoved throughout is controversy!

As I write this on January 9, the numbers are a grim reminder of the havoc wrought by Covid-19. The number of infections is 1,04,31,639 (second place after the United States); the number of deaths is 1,50,798 (third after the US and Brazil); and the number of active cases is 2,24,190. With a population of 138 crore, we can count ourselves lucky but certainly not a shining example of pandemic control and management.

There are six approved vaccines in the world. We know little about the Russian and Chinese vaccines although they are being distributed and administered extensively in the respective countries. As far as I know, no other acknowledged, long-standing regulator has approved for use the Russian or Chinese vaccine.

FOUR VACCINES,
GREAT OPPORTUNITY

That leaves four. The first is Pfizer's, approved by the US FDA which, in the scientific world and among the medical profession, is the gold standard. The vaccine's immunogenicity, safety and efficacy have been proven in the mandatory three phases of the trials. The drawback is the conditions of storage (-70 degrees C) and cost in India (undetermined). Pfizer ap-

plied for Emergency Use Approval (EUA) to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), but did not appear to present its case to the Expert Committee despite three opportunities. My hunch is Pfizer is not keen on marketing and distributing its vaccine in India because it has assumed that, in India, its cost will be unaffordable and the conditions of storage will not be met. Since Pfizer's vaccine has been approved by many countries/regulators and the demand is high worldwide, Pfizer may have placed India low in its order of priority.

The second is Oxford-AstraZeneca's, that is being manufactured under a licence by the Serum Institute of India (SII). We can be proud that an Indian research-cum-manufacturing company has qualified to test, manufacture and distribute a vaccine under the name Covishield.

The third is Moderna's. It has not yet applied in India for approval.

NEEDLESS
CONTROVERSY

The fourth is Bharat Biotech's Covaxin. While the company may have drawn on the work and knowledge of foreign researchers and scientists, Covaxin is a 100 per cent Indian product. It is a proud moment for India. The vaccine's approval was mired in an unnecessary controversy. The DCGI and the government's spokespersons (especially Dr VK Paul and Dr Balram Bhargava) should have, at the outset, made it clear that Covaxin's EUA

was for distribution-cum-Phase III clinical trials and the results — especially the results on efficacy — will determine its further distribution and use. It is true that reputed scientists, virologists, microbiologists and doctors have questioned the speed (or haste) in granting approval even when Phase III clinical trials are underway. Desperate situations may require desperate remedies. India's requirement of vaccines (by volume) is so huge that neither the SII's Covishield nor imports can meet the demand for a quick nationwide roll-out. It is wise to encourage a potential candidate (a life saver) to complete the testing process quickly and also to keep ready a vaccine as a back-up for emergency use. My personal view is that we should be charitable to the DCGI and the government.

There is no evidence that Covaxin is **harmful**. The trials, so far, have qualified the vaccine on immunogenicity and safety. No adverse reports on efficacy have been received. We should collectively hope that Covaxin will complete Phase III clinical trials by the end of January and the results will be evaluated by March. Thereafter, we can accelerate the roll-out with two vaccines — we may also export reasonable quantities to developing countries — and acquire a place among nations that were able to research, find, manufacture, distribute and use a vaccine in 12 months.

There was, I suspect, a tinge of businessness between the SII and Bharat Biotech. Happily, both Mr Adar Poonawalla and Mr Krishna Ella buried the hatchet in a

couple of days and promised to cooperate and work together. That is the way frontline companies, especially in research and development, should conduct their affairs, with a right mix of public good and private profit.

REAL TEST BEGINS
NOW

The real test begins now. How will the government vaccinate the bulk of the 138 crore population? Here are a few thoughts:

■ There must be an order of priority and no breaches of that order should be permitted under any circumstances.

■ The vaccine must be administered free of cost in government hospitals and vaccination centres. Levying a charge will encourage people to cut corners and, consequently, lead to corruption.

■ When supplies improve, private hospitals should be brought into the roll-out. If they wish to buy the vaccine and charge their customers, the government should fix the price and let those who can afford to pay, pay for the vaccination.

■ Just as we have allowed export of India-made vaccines, we should also allow import of approved vaccines. Protectionism is a discredited theory in world trade and has certainly no place when the world is facing a pandemic.

■ We must be prepared to face unknown consequences. We must keep faith in our scientists and researchers to find solutions. Ultimately, science will triumph.

Fifth
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter @tavleen_singh



The new
Indian

WHAT HAPPENED on Capitol Hill last week had a profound effect across the world. Leaders of other democratic countries watched in horror as did political commentators and even those with no interest in politics. Personally, I found myself really impressed with how America's judges, election officials and its media have stood up against Donald Trump's bullying and his lies. It was this that caused me to tweet that 'America may look really bad at the moment but let's remember that its democracy just passed its hardest test and won. Would we be able to say the same in India about our institutions if put through such a test?'

In the 'new India' that the Prime Minister boasts of having created, this tweet was seen as anti-national and it caused the BJP troll army to order me to 'leave India'. I am routinely attacked on social media, but this is the first time that I have been told that I have no right to live in India. It would not matter if the vicious, venomous tweets that filled my timeline came from ordinary twitters. It matters because they came from people whose handles proclaim their pride in being followed by Narendra Modi. This has inspired me to draw for you a portrait of the 'new Indian' who constitutes the base of today's BJP, which is as heavily stamped in Modi's image as the Republican Party came to be stamped in the image of Donald Trump.

The most distinctive feature of the 'new Indian' is that he believes that criticism of the Modi government amounts to an attack on India. They make this clear every time they tweet their support of the man they consider 'the best prime minister India has ever had'. They hope he continues to rule long after 2024 and that he then appoints Yogi Adityanath as his successor. In the eyes of many Modi supporters, Yogi is already more of a leader than he is because he is a 'stronger' Hindu. This leads me to the second defining feature of these new Indians.

They hate Muslims, Islam and Pakistan. So, they are delighted that Yogi has brought his 'love jihad' law and that this has inspired other BJP chief ministers to follow his lead. They gloat every time that a Muslim is dragged off to a police station in Uttar Pradesh for marrying a Hindu woman. They do not see this law as depriving women of their right to choose whom they love and marry because they think of women as property. A Bajrang Dal activist clarified this bluntly last week when he told a reporter that 'rescued' Hindu women are married off immediately to 'one of our men'.

Rage against Muslims is so important to the new Indians that justice and the rule of law do not matter. A Muslim man selling shoes on a Bulandshahr pavement was arrested last week because he sold shoes with 'Thakur' written on their soles. This hurt the 'religious sentiments' of the Bajrang Dal activist who had him arrested. New Indians are very thin-skinned and are easily hurt. They are also conspiracy theorists who see international plots to defame Hindus around every corner.

When it comes to conspiracy theories, they compete with Trump's supporters. If Trump's supporters blame Antifa for having conspired to 'steal' the election from Trump, Modi's supporters are as convinced that 'Leftists, libtards, and Lootyens' are behind every attempt to criticise Modi's government and his policies. In their book everyone who disagrees with them is anti-national. In their enthusiasm to paint protesting farmers with the same 'anti-national' brush used to paint protesters against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), they went too far. So, they were curbed and made to change their tune.

'New Indians' exist not just on social media but in real life. They can now be found in the drawing rooms of Lutyens Delhi, in think tanks of repute, on university campuses and in foreign cities. During the protests against the new citizenship law, I happened to be in New York in a taxi driven by a Gujarati who had lived in the United States for more than 20 years. When he discovered that I was an Indian from India, he launched into a tirade against 'these JNU types' who are protesting against the man he saw as the 'saviour of India'. They should be shot, he said at the end of his tirade, they should be shot because it is the only way that India will progress.

This point is made often these days by Modi's more violent supporters. They make it clear that there is no room in India for people who do not share their point of view. Dissent of any kind is for them exactly the same as sedition and they see it everywhere. In performances by Muslim comedians, in Bollywood films, in the media and in 'liberal' Western newspapers who they believe exist for the specific purpose of defaming Hindus and India. If you run into one of these 'new Indians', remember that it is useless getting into any sort of discussion with them. It will take you nowhere. This is because the other thing that defines them is certainty of such an extreme kind that there is not the smallest chink through which the smallest doubt can find its way. Have these new Indians made India better? You judge.

Chandrabhagabai, my
grandma and guide

Dalitality

SURAJYENGDE

Twitter @Surajyengde



THIS YEAR started with grief for me. Having just bid farewell to what was the most difficult year for all, I wanted to look at 2021 with optimism. However, it lasted only a short while. My grandmother Chandrabhagabai, the common thread of our family, passed away on January 4 at 9.15 pm in Nanded. She was suffering from asthma for the past quarter century, battling exhaustion and difficulty breathing. The day she left us, she suffered a lot.

My brother and uncle whose turn it was that night to attend to her sent me a photo of grandma from the ICU ward. She was lying on a torn, nylon government hospital bed with no sheets. The sight broke me. I was immediately drawn into depression.

Before going to hospital, she hugged my mother and wailed, and asked her to take care of us — her grandchildren. My dad passed away six years ago; my grandma was crestfallen to see her eldest son — 'baba' as she fondly addressed him — pass away in front of her eyes.

A week ago, my sister told me that *aai's* health was serious. I immediately made a video call to her. Her face was swollen but at least she could stare into the screen and communicate with my cousin's help. *Aai* had lost her ability to hear a few years ago.

Chandrabhagabai's children called her *aai* and the tradition continued with her grandchildren. Her ears grew accustomed to the melody of three boys addressing her as *aai* and later nine grandchildren adding chorus to that tune. *Aai* lived a satisfactory life. She was about four feet tall and when we hugged her, we had to bend to allow her enough space to expand her arms like a giant eagle and take us into her. Once in, you felt the safest.

I always wondered how she felt when she saw us, her grandchildren, who had grown into larger size beings. Seeing me at a noticeable height, she began to address me as "saheb". Earlier, she called me "balla". She would also address me with honorifics such as "tumhi" or "aap" in Hindi. This came to her naturally as someone who had grown to genuflect or act as

subordinate to a slightly educated, higher authority. My *aai's* story is emblematic of the lives of the elderly Dalit generation.

Our family is unsure of the year of Chandrabhagabai's birth, let alone date or month. The closest guess is 1940, if assessed through her children's ages. She was born to a family of landless labourers, Hanumante. She was disciplined into the caste codes early on. "We were taught not to touch the food and water pots of the higher castes", grandma reminisced. "We were never given water with respect. They would pour the water from top." Grandma worked as a child labourer in the fields of Maratha landowners. Her family would make 25 paise per day during the harvest season. She never went to school.

Chandrabhagabai was older than her two brothers and younger than her sister, and like many sisters she virtually brought her brothers up. Along with her husband, the handsome mill worker comrade who toiled in the Usman Shahi Mill in Nanded, she lived on the peripheries of semi-urban life in a ghetto of Dalit labourers. The couple had a makeshift room without a door.

Chandrabhagabai had three boys and worked odd jobs to raise her family. She worked in farms, in a shoe factory, as cook in a hostel for Dalit students. She did it for her children. Poverty was an inheritance for her but *aai* never compromised on wearing a clean sari (*ludga*). Her beauty was unsurmountable. Yet, she remained a victim of toxic patriarchy in which every Indian girl is married into.

Chandrabhagabai came from a community of great people yet the lowest-class outcasts, who dared to dream bigger than their immediate reach, time and life. For Dalits, our ancestors are our gods. It is upon their lives that we build on further. *Aai* has joined the pantheon of our ancestors to guide us and act as an example of faith, tolerance, integrity, and tight love.

To those who lost their loved ones in the recent past, I mourn with you. Our losses are irreplaceable, but we should always think about the good moments we had with the departed souls. After all, what remains is memory. We should acknowledge the fundamental truth of life — death. We should learn to embrace death that guides the Buddha's enlightenment.

My grandma was born an untouchable but she died a Buddhist.

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

history
HEADLINE

AMITAVA CHAKRABORTY



IT WAS in 1863 that Maharshi Debendranath Thakur, the father of Rabindranath Tagore, purchased 20 *bighas* of land at Bhubandanga in Bengal's Birbhum province. Over the next few years, he built there an *ashram* called Shantiniketan (the abode of peace), where anyone, irrespective of caste and creed, could meditate about the formless supreme god, a central tenet of the Brahma Samaj ideology that he followed.

In 1901, Tagore would set up on this land the Shantiniketan Brahmacharya Ashram, with five students. These included his eldest son Rathindranath Thakur and Khitimohan Sen, the maternal grandfather of Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, who now finds himself in a dispute over ownership of land there.

In the years that followed, the *ashram* area would grow manifold, with 1921 seeing the setting up of Visva-Bharati, for the study of different cultures, on its premises. Shantiniketan would gradually become a university town, drawing illustrious alumni from Indira Gandhi to Maharani Gayatri Devi, and get the formal stamp of a central university in 1951.

"Tagore wanted scholars and prominent people to reside in Shantiniketan to spread his ideology. The process of giving houses or leasing out land was started by him through the Shantiniketan Ashramic Trust. However, it was informal in nature. The formal leasing of land was started by Visva-Bharati in 1948 and continued until the 1960s," says Dhrubajyoti Nandi, an author based in Shantiniketan.

In *Towards Tagore*, a collection of essays, Abhijit Sen, a professor at Visva-Bharati University, says the poet wanted to provide an alternative to the colonial style of education through the *ashram*. "While he (Rabindranath) had not entirely shed his regard for the 'Great English'...", he was also caught up by the wave of nationalist/anti-colonialist ideology," Sen writes.

Tagore's love for nature shaped the way teaching was done at the *ashram*-school, as he himself underlined in an essay *My School* published in 1913. "I believe that children should be surrounded with the things of nature, which have their own educational value... But what happens in school is, that every day, at the same hour, the same book is brought and poured out for him," he wrote. Classes at Visva-Bharati continue to be held in the open on the campus, in line with that spirit.

Shantiniketan: Making
of a university town



A view of the area around Shantiniketan in the 1930s. Courtesy: Rabindra Bhavana

Barnali Ghoshdastidar, who was born and educated in Shantiniketan and is related to the Sinha family of Birbhum that owned the land which Tagore's father bought, says, "During my childhood, there were only few boundary walls. For *Gurudev* (Tagore), education was to be imparted in harmony with nature." Ghoshdastidar is a professor at Narasinha Dutt College in Howrah.

As Tagore's fame spread, with his writings winning him the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913, Shantiniketan drew scholars and prominent personalities from across the world, who came both to teach and experience the *ashram* life. "He turned Shantiniketan into a cosmopolitan university town. Renowned scholars visited Visva-Bharati regularly. He would often lease land to them in Shantiniketan so that they could help him develop the *ashram*," says Monisha Bannerjee, an alumna of Visva-Bharati.

Tagore also made the celebration of the annual Poush Mela, started by his father in 1894, a tradition. The fair is held over three days in December, concluding with *Christo Utsab* (celebration of Christ) on December 26. Says sculptor and painter Asis Ghosh, who has worked in Shantiniketan for nearly four decades, "The Mela was an assimilation ground for cultures. Bauls, Sufis, Santhals, all came together. This helped tribal artisans get the opportunity to promote their products."

Last month, the Poush Mela could not

be held. While the official reason was Covid-19, in the heated political battlefield of West Bengal ahead of the Assembly election, set to be a bitter contest between the ruling Trinamool and the BJP, both that and the land row are seen to be motivated.

On December 24, Visva-Bharati wrote to the West Bengal government alleging that 77 plots of land on the Shantiniketan premises over the years had been wrongly recorded in the name of private parties. One of the parties named was Amartya Sen, a critic of the BJP government whose family home Pratichi continues to be located on the university campus. Sen has said the long-term lease of the land is "nowhere near its expiry". Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has accused the BJP of "levelling baseless allegations", and written to Sen in solidarity, underlining his family's "deep bond with Shantiniketan".

Professor Ghoshdastidar sees the row as a product of the political tussle in the state. "*Gurudev* always visualised Visva-Bharati to be a family. What we are witnessing in Shantiniketan is an ugly fight between ideologies. This is not a problem of land encroachment. And if land ownership is the principal issue, the Maharshi did not acquire the amount of land that the institution owned even in its early days (the land deals mostly being informal). Would you then call Debendranath Thakur and Rabindranath Thakur to court?"

On the
LOOSE

LEHER KALA

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LAST YEAR, pre-Covid, I attended a wedding so extravagantly grand that I never ended up meeting the host. Lost between tonnes of imported flowers and a glittering sea of humanity, I commented on her Instagram post later to mark my presence. It seems almost incredible to think that was a mere 12 months ago when superfluities and blithe wastage, not to mention a humungous guest list, were entirely acceptable. If one must look to the proverbial silver lining in the corona cloud, it's that the pandemic has made a strong case for scaling down. Social isolation has brought difficult questions to the fore that in good times, we so easily avoid: how do we really want to live? Is it

possible that out of this chaos will emerge a very different, even a better world?

As the wedding industry reels from this disastrous year, I'm reluctant to criticise that statistically tiny number of Indians who feel compelled to invite a thousand people and organise the Cirque du Soleil for entertainment. The pressure to live the dream must be intense when you're the Richie Rich among your contemporaries. Besides, what good is their wealth doing for the rest of us if it's sitting unused in banks or tied up in trust funds? Far better they spend lavishly, and have some of it trickle down to the weaver toiling in obscurity in Benaras, or the *sumar* in Surat. What is offensive, however, is the stupidity on display by the 1 per cent which has unfortunately influenced the rest of India. They set the bar and now no wedding is complete without a bewildering

array of cuisines. Not only is the sight of so much food aesthetically displeasing, often, the aromas of Chinese, Italian and Indian spices collide, creating a sensory overload for guests. Surely, there are more imaginative (and subtle) ways to show off.

It's true that more and more, identity isn't defined by what one is, but by what one spends or owns. The Covid year has made people question these absurdities we normalised trying to fit into a societal ideal. Otherwise, our lives go by in a fog of automated behaviour and all the little stresses that pile up in the business of existence. Actually, our real problems run much deeper than inflation and recession. Like a lack of meaningful connections and loneliness, or a vague sense of dissatisfaction that despite having everything, life hasn't turned out as we wished. We replace a desire for

belonging with aspiration, and try to fill the void by copying our peers. It took a mysterious virus to think about all these perceived needs; really, must fashion change every season? So, it would be a real pity if the experience of 2020, of terror and enforced frugality, has no lasting impact.

Through the ages, the wisest souls to have inhabited earth have propagated a simple life as a route to contentment. Great sages like Ramana Maharishi and Jiddu Krishnamurti, clad permanently in white cotton, were practitioners of minimalism before the term existed. They knew that the things we own end up owning us instead. "My greatest skill has been to want but little," observed Henry David Thoreau in 1855, in the earliest critique of consumption culture, *Walden*. It speaks volumes about humanity that 150 years later, limiting acqui-

sitions is as radical an idea now as it was then. There is reason to hope that a year of living intentionally—with a mask, maintaining distance — has become a habit that may transcend Covid, and spill over into other aspects of life.

At the beginning of the lockdown, a friend complained bitterly about cancelling his son's meticulously planned wedding. After decades of handing out envelopes, he felt cheated he wouldn't be collecting any. But he sounded elated when I called to say congratulations, after his 10-guest celebration recently. Human beings adapt, that's why they can live like Bedouins in the desert and Eskimos in the Arctic Circle. It's been a weird year alright, yet, some have made the wonderful discovery that a life stripped down to bare essentials is ultimately freeing.

The writer is director, *Hutkay Films*

15 ECONOMY

90 DAYS TO ARRIVE AT AGREEMENT, 30 MORE DAYS FOR NCLT APPROVAL

Eyeing faster resolution, govt may amend IBC to bring in pre-packs

KARUNJITSINGH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

THE GOVERNMENT is likely to amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to introduce pre-packs as a resolution mechanism, according to a government official aware of the developments.

A pre-pack is an agreement for a distressed company's debt resolution between secured creditors and investors instead of a public bidding process, as under the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) of the IBC.

The Corporate Affairs Ministry, last year, formed a committee led by MS Sahoo, chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, to look into including pre-packs as a resolution mechanism under the IBC. Pre-packs may also offer an alternative for creditors to initiate insolvency proceedings as

the government has suspended initiation of fresh cases for any defaults occurring post-March 24. The government, in June, issued an Ordinance preventing initiation of insolvency proceedings against companies for defaults in the six-month period starting March 25 under the IBC and, subsequently, extended the suspension till March 24, 2021.

Non-adherence of prescribed timelines under the IBC is a key criticism that the government is seeking to address through the inclusion of pre-packs under the IBC, with 1,442 of a total 1,942 ongoing insolvency proceedings having passed the 270-day mark.

"The government may seek to introduce pre-packs under the IBC in the next session of Parliament," said the official. The mechanism that will need to be initiated after approval by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) will allow 90 days for creditors to arrive at an agreement with a potential bidder and

NON-ADHERENCE TO TIMELINES

■ Non-adherence of prescribed timelines under the IBC is a key criticism that the government is seeking to address through the inclusion of pre-packs under IBC, with 1,442 of a total 1,942 ongoing insolvency proceedings having passed the 270-day mark.

a further 30 days for approval by the NCLT.

Experts noted that the process is relatively opaque, compared to the CIRP - under which any eligible party is permitted to place a bid that is considered by a Committee of Creditors (CoC).

The Sahoo committee report

has recommended that all pre-pack agreements in which operational creditors are set to receive less than a full recovery be open to a swiss challenge, under which any eligible third party would be permitted to offer an improved bid. The initial bidder would, in such cases, have the option to match the improved bid to get approval for the pre-packaged agreement.

In cases where operational creditors are set to receive 100 per cent recovery, however, the decision on whether to open the agreement to a swiss challenge will be left to the CoC, which would comprise financial creditors as in the case of the CIRP.

"The inclusion of pre-packs should certainly help in expediting the insolvency resolution, which has significantly exceeded prescribed timelines in many cases under the CIRP," said Rajiv Chandak, partner at Deloitte India, adding the government should consider creating specific

Benchets to deal with pre-packs to ensure that such cases are not delayed due to the heavy case load of NCLTs. Chandak also noted that the inclusion of swiss challenge was likely aimed at preventing future litigation from operational creditors, who receive marginal recoveries under the insolvency resolution process.

Neeraj Dubey, partner at law firm Singh and Associates, said the pre-pack process would be more streamlined with lower involvement from the NCLT, but noted that "parties need to focus on good corporate governance and not try to circumvent any of the processes defined under pre-pack regulations" as this would bring increased scrutiny from NCLTs and defeat the purpose of pre-packs.

Dubey also noted that pre-packs may assume greater importance if the government decides to extend the suspension of insolvency initiation beyond March.

CRUDE WATCH

OIL LOGS WEEKLY GAIN ON SAUDI CUT

New York: Oil prices hit their highest level in nearly a year Friday, gaining 8 per cent on the week, supported by Saudi Arabia's pledge to cut output. Brent crude settled at \$55.99 a barrel, climbing \$1.61, or 3 per cent, on the day and 8.1 per cent on the week. **REUTERS**

What are H-1B visas and new wage-based rules?

AASHISHARYAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

THE US administration has once again amended the H-1B visa norms by changing the rules to give priority to higher wages and skills for selection of deserving candidates. The old lottery system of work visa selection will not be followed now.

What are H-1B work visas?

In 1952, after the US started expanding its presence in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines, it felt the need to hire quality workers who could help the country achieve innovation in these areas at reasonable costs. This need to hire workers paved way for the introduction of the H-1 work visa system.

This work visa system was further subdivided into H-1B, H-2B, L1, O1, and E1 visas, depending on the qualification required and the area for which workers were sought. Of these, the H-1B visa remains the most popular due to the relatively better wage chance it offers.

The arrival of internet and low-cost computers in homes and universities of developing nations such as India, China, and Pakistan saw a large number of students graduating in disciplines related to computer science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Lack of jobs in their home countries, on the other hand, meant that the STEM graduates were willing to work in the US at relatively low costs, which proved to

be a win-win situation for both the employer and the employee, thereby making the H-1B work visas the most popular.

The H-1B work visa system has since undergone many changes and revisions to allow or disallow certain categories of skilled workers in the US, depending on the economic situation of the country. Of late, however, it has also been often been criticised for sending low-cost workers to the US at the expense of domestic workers.

What was the lottery system for selection of H-1B and

CHANGES IN H-1B VISA REGIME OVER LAST 1 YEAR

APRIL 2020: US President Donald Trump signs executive order suspending approvals for immigrant and non-immigrant workers visas, including H-1B for 60 days

JUNE 2020: The Trump administration extends the 60 day suspension till the end of 2020

AUGUST 5, 2020: US President Trump signs another executive order barring federal agencies from hiring H-1B visa holders

AUGUST 15, 2020: US changes stance, allows some of the H-1B work visa holders to return to the US for continued

employment with the same employer

OCTOBER 2020: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) publishes interim final rule signaling lottery system for selection of H-1B work visas would be phased out

DECEMBER 31, 2020: The Trump administration again extends the suspension on immigrant and non-immigrant work visas till March 2021

JANUARY 8, 2021: The DHS releases final rules, says wages to be given priority from now, lottery system of work visa selection to be phased out

other work visas?

Currently, every year the US administration issues 85,000 H-1B work permits. Of these, 65,000 are for people with speciality occupations, while the rest are reserved for foreign workers who have earned a Master's or a higher university degree in the US.

Each employer who seeks to employ a worker on H-1B visa must fill out a registration form on behalf of the employee who they wish to employ. The form contains all the details of the employee, such as the nature of work they will undertake in the US, the wage being offered to them, the level of education of these workers and so on.

Since the number of applications for H-1B visas filed each year exceeded the 65,000 cap in the speciality occupations and 20,000 for the higher education category, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services then employed a random lottery selection of the eligible applicants to fill the 65,000 vacancies, and then moved on the fill the next 20,000. This lottery system was completely randomised and did not

EXPLAINED

GoAir sacks pilot for derogatory tweets about PM

The senior pilot has deleted the tweet and locked his account. He also tweeted an apology

personal views," he posted. A GoAir spokesperson, confirming the sacking of the pilot, said: "GoAir has zero tolerance policy and it is mandatory for all GoAir employees to comply with the company's employment rules, regulations and policies, including social media behaviour. The airline does not associate itself with personal views expressed by any individual or an employee. GoAir has terminated the services of the captain with immediate effect."

'Aatmanirbhar must not be taken as India's move towards isolating itself'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

INDIA'S SELF-RELIANCE campaign must not by any stretch of imagination be taken as a move "towards isolating itself", but to be a part of the global value chain, it must improve standards, skill levels, consistency and service levels to consumers, Hero Enterprise Chairman Sunil Kant Munjal said. Speaking at the 25th Wharton India Economic Forum, he said India has to become a significant exporter if it has to become a key player in global trade. He said, "One is for India to become better at what it does is absolutely essential but Aatmanirbhar must not by any stretch of imagination be taken as India's move towards isolating itself."

'FY22: Rising mobility to help toll collection grow up to 15%

Toll collections are likely to grow 14-15 per cent in 2021-22, rating agency Icra said, maintaining stable outlook for the domestic road sector



FACTORS

Increased movement of both passenger and commercial vehicles

FY22 PROJECTION

The traffic is expected to increase by 5 per cent and toll rates (WPI linked) by 3-4 per cent resulting in an overall increase in toll collections by 14-15 per cent on a low base in FY2021 (given the impact of toll suspension in first 20 days of April 2020)

13% Execution per day to 27.7 km/day in 8M FY2021 from 24.4 km/day in 8M FY2020, while adjusting for the first 20 days of April wherein no construction activity was allowed

Strong liquidity buffers and quick recovery in traffic have

6,207 km

Execution during April-November (BM), 4 per cent higher than 5,958 km in year-ago period

arrested major slippages in the credit profile of toll road assets

13% The rise in toll mop-up in September-November on an average, implying growth of 8-9 per cent in traffic in terms of passenger car units (PCUs); one-third of this growth is contributed by the passenger vehicle category and the remaining from commercial vehicles

Few state annuity projects with weaker counterparty credit profile suffered due to elongation in annuity payment cycle

Relief measures like shift from milestone-based billing to monthly billing and release of retention money/performance security in proportion to the work already executed among others, which has immensely supported the road contractors

Source: Icra/PTI

Fuel demand touches 11-month high, but stays below pre-Covid levels

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

INDIA'S TOTAL fuel demand hit an 11-month high in December, but still remained 2 per cent below pre-Covid levels.

The total demand for fuel products in December was 18.60 million tonnes, down from 18.95 million tonnes in the year-ago period, but up 4 per cent, compared to November, according to data released by the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell.

Fuel demand fell sharply in March after the government imposed a nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of Covid-19. The recovery of demand for fuels has also been hit by periodic lockdowns in various states which have set up containment zones and maintained localised lockdowns to curb the spread of Covid. Demand for petrol was up 9.3

TOTAL DEMAND

18.60 MT

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per cent at 2.47 million tonnes in December, while demand for diesel remained 2.7 per cent below pre-Covid levels at 7.18 million tonnes in the same period. Petrol demand has consistently posted growth since September while diesel demand has only posted growth of 7.4 per cent in October.

Chidambaram airs concerns over crony capitalism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

EXPRESSING CONCERN of crony capitalism, Congress leader and former Finance Minister P Chidambaram on Saturday said the government needs to create an atmosphere where everybody is treated equally and ensure that not just five but 500 business houses are expanding.

"Today we have crony capitalism. That cannot be denied. I can give examples of crony capitalism, you know it as well as I do. As long as you have crony capitalism those who are not your cronies will hesitate to start business, said Chidambaram.

The government has to create a climate where everybody must believe that he or she would be treated equally and will have an

"Today we have crony capitalism ... As long as you have crony capitalism those who are not your cronies will hesitate to start business"

P CHIDAMBARAM
FORMER FINANCE MINISTER

equal opportunity, he said while addressing the 25th Wharton India Economic Forum. "It's not enough to have five business houses expanding, we need 500 business houses to expand and we need new businesses and entrepreneurs like Infosys, Wipro and the guy who started Flipkart. We need new but the new people are afraid that unless they play the game which the government wants them to play, they will be squeezed out," he said.

Airbus keeps top spot in Covid-hit jet market amid Boeing's troubles

REUTERS
PARIS, JANUARY 9

EUROPE'S AIRBUS posted stronger-than-expected deliveries of 566 jets in 2020, remaining the world's largest planemaker as a year of pandemic-induced upheaval for air travel coincided with a grounding crisis at US rival Boeing. Deliveries fell by 34 per cent from a record posted a year earlier, when travel demand was riding high on the increasing mobility of consumers in fast-growing markets across Asia.

Airbus said it had delivered



An Airbus A380 outside the factory of Stelia Aerospace, an arm of Airbus, in France. *File*

566 aircraft in 2020, exceeding estimates earlier in the year when the coronavirus crisis led to a lockdown of major travel markets.

AUTOMAKERS ARE FACING SHORTAGE AS DEMAND HAS BEEN BOUNCING BACK AMID MANUFACTURING DELAYS

Chip shortage forces Ford, Toyota, Nissan, FCA to cut production

REUTERS
TOKYO/DETROIT, JANUARY 9

FORD MOTOR Co, Toyota Motor Corp, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and Nissan Motor Co Ltd said on Friday they would cut vehicle production this month due to a shortage of semiconductors, becoming the latest automakers hit by a chip crunch as demand rebounds from the coronavirus crisis.

Honda Motor Co also said Friday its output in Japan could be affected by a shortage of semiconductors. Automakers and electronic makers are facing a global shortage of chips as con-

sumer demand has been bouncing back from the coronavirus pandemic, causing manufacturing delays.

Major auto chip suppliers such as NXP Semiconductor said auto production rebounded faster than expected from the pandemic, leaving them struggling to catch up.

Meantime, chip manufacturing capacity has been stretched thin globally as laptops fly off shelves for working from home, and PCs and gaming consoles sell heavily, leading chip firms such as Nvidia Corp to warn of supply constraints. And a move by US regulators to blacklist China's Semiconductor Manufacturing

STRUGGLING TO CATCH UP

■ Major auto chip suppliers such as NXP Semiconductor said auto production rebounded faster than expected from the pandemic, leaving them struggling to catch up. ■ Meantime, chip

manufacturing capacity has been stretched thin globally as laptops fly off shelves for working from home, and PCs and gaming consoles sell heavily, leading chip firms such as Nvidia Corp to warn of supply constraints.

International Corp, that country's largest contract chipmaker, has sent chip firms around the world scrambling to find new partners.

Ford said it would idle its Louisville, Kentucky, assembly plant, which builds the Ford

Escape and Lincoln Corsair SUVs, pulling ahead a scheduled week-off from later in the year.

Fiat Chrysler said it will delay the restart of production at its Toluca, Mexico plant, where it builds the Jeep Compass, and idle

its Brampton, Ontario plant that builds the Chrysler 300, Dodge Charger and Dodge Challenger cars. The Mexican plant had been due to restart production next week, but now both plants will be shut through the end of the month, FCA said.

Toyota will cut production of its Tundra full-size pickup truck at its San Antonio, Texas, plant, but spokesman Scott Vazin did not immediately know how many units would be lost. "We'll throttle back production," he said, adding no other US vehicles were affected.

Ford declined to identify the chip supplier and spokeswoman Kelli Felker said the company

hopes to have the plant operating again the following week.

Nissan said it planned to reduce production of the Note, a hybrid electric car, at its Oppama Plant in Kanagawa prefecture, Japan but did not give details of the scale of the output cut.

Germany's Volkswagen said last month it faced a shortage in the supply of semiconductors and would adjust production at facilities in China, North America and Europe. Honda has also begun "seeing some impact in the parts supply," a spokesman said.

General Motors Co and BMW AG said they have not been affected yet but are monitoring the situation closely.



New Delhi



THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

eye



POINT OF VIEW

Rise in Love

Mississippi Masala and why prejudice can't hold love back



SPOTLIGHT

Deadly Deception

As a film on a case that shocked Kerala and a killer who was never caught is announced, former investigators recount a murder most foul



A HOT BOWL OF COMFORT

In times of unusual stress, such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we often seek solace in food that is familiar and nourishing. What is it that makes certain kinds of food more appealing than others in times of unease?

Pooja Pillai

JULIA CARMEN Desa has just made soup for lunch. The soup is made of winter vegetables like *bathua* (*Chenopodium album*), spinach, radish and carrots; there's some cheese in it, as well as coconut milk, coriander roots and a pinch of Madras curry powder. Desa will serve it for lunch to her family, along with some garlic bread. "If I had added chicken, it would have been better, but it's quite good even without it. It's simple, warm and comforting," Desa says.

At TRES, the modern European restaurant in Delhi's tony Lodhi Colony, where she is chef and co-owner, the food is a lot more finessed: sweet potato with caramelised yogurt; grilled smoked paprika garlic tiger prawns with potato leek foam. While she needs to taste everything that is made in her professional kitchen, besides eating at competitors' restaurants, Desa assures that at the end of the day all she wants is some hot rice and fish curry. "That's the Goan in me," she says.

Desa isn't alone in looking at the familiar and comfortable to tide over stress. Over the last 10 months, as pandemic-related anxieties gripped us all, many of us sought solace in food. As we tracked the R-number of the coronavirus, grappled with news of pay cuts and layoffs, we longed for the simple dals and khichdis of our mothers and grandmothers. When it became clear that we might not be able to meet our families for a while, we sought to fill our houses with the aroma of fresh rotis and breads, reminders of what it meant to have a full stomach and a happy heart. We Googled recipes for no-churn ice creams and pressure-cooker cakes to satiate our sugar cravings and lull us through anxiety-filled nights. The recipes we looked up online are, in fact, a good indicator of what was on our minds in 2020: according to Google's "Year in Search 2020", nine of the top 10 searches for recipes last year was for carb-heavy and deeply satisfying food, such as sourdough bread, naan and the Greek pastry, *ekmek*.

In their satiety value, their familiar textures and flavours and their unfailing ability to calm our hearts and minds, these are what we would broadly call "comfort food". The term itself, according to Michael Owen Jones and Lucy M Long in *Comfort Food: Meanings and Memories* (2017, University of Mississippi Press), may have first appeared in print on November 6, 1966, in the *Des Moines Register*. There is some dispute about this history, but the origin of the term is undeniably American, as the Oxford English Dictionary stated when it added a definition in 1997: "food that comforts or affords solace; hence, any food (frequently with high sugar or carbohydrate content) that is associated with childhood or home cooking".

But does comfort food, indeed, comfort? Research has revealed the physiological and psychological effects of consuming carb- and/or sugar-heavy food, often described as "comfort food". According to a 2008 paper



PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

by American psychologists Joyce A Corsica and Bonnie J Spring, a two-week study they conducted "supports the existence of a carbohydrate-craving syndrome in which carbohydrate self-administration improves mildly dysphoric mood". A 1997 study by American psychologist Larry Christensen had put it more bluntly: "...it is apparent that carbohydrate consumption is relevant for individuals experiencing symptoms of emotional distress, particularly symptoms indicative of depression, and that the individuals with depressive symptoms show a preference for sweet simple carbohydrates." This happens because carbohydrates increase the availability of the amino acid tryptophan, which creates niacin (vitamin B3). Niacin is essential



for the creation of the neurotransmitter serotonin, which besides helping to regulate sleep and digestion, is also a natural mood stabiliser. In a nutshell, carbohydrates do help in improving mood.

Not surprisingly, then, emotional distress — as has been widely experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic — is a natural trigger for many people to seek solace in food. This is what studies conducted last year revealed: a lot more people resorted to "emotional eating" to cope with the stress of losing a job, worrying over loved ones or the boredom of staying cooped up indoors. A study by a group of Italian researchers, led by clinical nutritionist Laura Di Renzo, said that 86 per cent of the people they surveyed had reported that isolation, lack of stimuli, boredom and change

SOUL CURRY

The most interesting thing about comfort food is that it's a concept that's recognised widely enough that one never needs to explain what it is, and yet, it manages to encompass a stunning variety of foods

of food routine led them to abandon any previous inclination to control their diets. Similarly, a Canadian study, led by neuroscientist Melissa J Chee, on the "pandemic baking" phenomenon revealed that one of the preferred strategies for coping with reduced hours and being laid off was to eat.

Most research that links mood to food approaches the subject from the perspective of obesity or cardiovascular health. But this is just one way of understanding comfort eating. As Sangeeta Khanna, food consultant and author of *Pakodas: The Snack for All Seasons* (2019, Westland) points out, "Food is not the only component of 'comfort food'. It's also about the particular time and place or situation that you associate that food with." In Khanna's case, roasted baby potatoes and peas remind her of her childhood with her grandmother who, during winter, would roast these foods on a *bhursi*, a small earthen heater, and would hand them out to the children who gathered around her to listen to stories.

It's not just a happy childhood that gilds certain memories and makes us reach for the food associated with them. "I know people who are self-made and for whom comfort food recalls the simple meals that they would eat during their struggling days," says Khanna. Here, the comfort derived from a hard-earned meal is thrown into sharp relief by the desperation of hunger — and the memory becomes a source of future comfort. "When I was about 16 years old, I heard about a neighbour's father who could only afford to eat rice with

chilli-garlic chutney when he was younger and poorer. Years later, even after he was very well-off, it was his comfort meal," she says.

That it's not just the food by itself which elevates mood is backed by research. In a 2005 article, 'Comfort Foods: An Exploratory Journey into the Social and Emotional Significance of Food', published in the journal *Food and Foodways*, medical sociologist Julie L. Locher wrote about a survey which had led her and her colleagues to establish four categories of comfort food based on the emotional and social needs they fulfilled: nostalgic foods, which are identified with a particular time and place in one's history; indulgence foods, which are defined in terms of how expensive they are or how rich in calories; convenience foods, which give effortless gratification by how conveniently available they are; and physical comfort foods, which offer comfort through their physical attributes or how they physically affect the consumer.

Of these four, the category that is most relevant for understanding what drove comfort eating in 2020 is the first one. Locher's study showed that nostalgic foods were strongly associated with memories of being cared for, sharing food with significant others during special occasions or preparing food with others. This is borne out by the results of a consumer trends study (*The State of Snacking Report*) by the global snacks manufacturer Mondelez International in India in 2020. According to this study, conducted

from October 6 to 20 and released in December, 88 per cent of 555 Indian adults surveyed said that they snacked more during the pandemic than in 2019, with comfort being the No. 1 driver. About 81 per cent said that buying and eating snacks brought back good memories, while 95 per cent saw snack time as a time for connecting with others, either by making a snack together (55 per cent) or eating a snack to celebrate a special occasion (54 per cent). "The interesting thing was how snack time became a ritual for comfort," says Anil Viswanathan, senior director, marketing (chocolates), Mondelez India, "People would set aside time for it, as a break from work, so that they can sit with the family and eat. This was also the case for those who would snack by themselves: they would find comfort in eating during their break."

But, perhaps, the most interesting thing about comfort food is that it's a concept that's recognised widely enough that one never needs to explain what it is, and yet, it manages to encompass a stunning variety of foods — from soups, stews and hearty meat dishes, to chips, cookies and cakes. Even as we seem to instinctively understand why a friend describes chocolate ice cream as her "comfort food", we might ourselves find succour in something as completely different as rice and mutton curry. It comes down to individual and cultural context. "Every society has its equivalent of chicken soup for the soul," says food historian Pushpesh Pant. "For me 'comfort food' means a simple, no frills wholesome meal that not only nourishes the body but also revives the spirits evoking nostalgia of happy times spent with family."

While comfort food is supposed to provide a personal anchor in a chaotic world, as a broad concept it is constantly shifting and changing. Pant points to the example of a one-dish meal like *jaula/chhansia* (rice cooked with curds or buttermilk with just a pinch of turmeric and salt), which was traditionally prepared in the hills of Uttarakhand for the infirm or convalescent. "I don't think comfort foods can remain static. With changing lifestyles, convenience cooking and — more important than anything else — the breaking up of joint families, few in the younger generation have memories of consuming food prepared for them to cheer them up. Aspirational foods like soups from sachets, momos, two-minute noodles etc. have pushed traditional comfort foods off-stage," he says, over email.

It has been pointed out that our present world is such that we now resort to comfort eating more than ever in the past. In her essay on comfort food for the *Encyclopedia of Food and Culture* (2003, Charles Scribner's Sons), Locher wrote, "Conditions of post-modern societies present individuals with stressors that are often beyond their control. At the same time, societies have become consumer-oriented, and individuals have become more defined by the objects they consume...eating comfort food may be a means of maintaining control over the self when all else seems out of control." The bad news is that, at present, with news of fresh lockdowns and mutant coronavirus strains, it doesn't seem like things will be under control any time soon. The good news? We can always eat some freshly baked bread to comfort ourselves.



New Delhi



EYE SPY
EVERY FORTNIGHT, WE PICK, YOU WATCH

Rise in Love



Mississippi Masala and why prejudice can't hold love back

Shubhra Gupta

ONE OF the many pleasures of running into a film one has watched, and liked, many years ago is discovering how it has travelled: I'm pleased to report that Mira Nair's 1991 *Mississippi Masala*, which I caught at the recent I View Festival, has legs. Watching it today compels you to revisit the past, and to realise how pertinent it is even today. A family of third-generation Indians in Kampala, Uganda, relocates to the US in the early '70s, Jay and Kinnu, played by Roshan Seth and Sharmila Tagore, fetch up in Mississippi, a town many of their compatriots have made home. On a recce, Nair had discovered that many of the motels in the region were run by the Asians who had fled Idi Amin's Uganda, and her film shines a light on the bigotry and racism rampant at the time. One of the most telling elements on display is the complex dissemination of racism, and how it is experienced. Jay's discomfort with his straitened circumstances is shown in his constant yearning to return to his comfortable, prosperous life as a lawyer in Kampala. His best friend, whom he grew up with as a child, is Black. But his daughter Mina (Sarita Choudhury, vital, glowing) gravitating romantically towards Demetrius (Denzel Washington), a Black man born in the US, is not acceptable, neither to him, nor to the extended Indian community. Finally, it all comes down to the colour of your skin. The African-American Demetrius who, along with his father, runs a modest carpet-cleaning operation, is looked down upon by the Indian community. The self-same bunch, in its hypocritical turn, is snarky about Mina's dark complexion: which good "*desi* boy" (and said boy's mother), will look upon Mina with favour? The local Whites are, of course, on top of the totem pole, then and now. It's not just the conservative *desi* community which closes ranks against "outsiders". Ranjit Chowdhry and Mohan Agashe play familiar types: the former coming down heavy on those whom he employs, whether they are kin or not, and the latter a street-smart fellow who sweet-talks his pals out of trouble. And Nair herself comes on in a delightful cameo in which she is shown gossiping, and called, in the credits, "Gossip 1". Kinnu is pleased when a suitable *desi* boy wants to date Mina, but what can you do when your daughter wants to behave like Americans? Kinnu, like so many confused immigrants, forgets that her daughter, to all intents and purposes, is American. Then there is Demetrius's family, discomfited by Mina's "differentness". The only way out is out: the two taking off, leaving behind their baggage of corrugated identities, provide the film an upbeat end. But also leave us wondering about how the pair fared, down the road. Look around, in today's India, and see the unspeakable difficulties young people of different faiths are experiencing in getting together. Is running away the only answer? And how far can you run? Nair is hoping to re-release the film this year, and it cannot come at a better time.

Postcards from the Past

From a chaotic medley to a unified system, the post office was important for intelligence gathering and services of mail and money



Jagannath Srinivasan

EVEN THE most avid students of history may not have heard of Munshi Abdulla Khan, Babu WC Chakravarty, L Amarnath and Mathra Das. To allow these gentlemen to shimmer through the mists of time, one must step back to the Viceregal Lodge, Shimla, in 1904. On July 24, 2014, the then President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated a new post office in the President's Estate, and tweeted: "The Rashtrapati Bhawan Post Office started as the Viceroys Camp Post Office in Shimla on 10.6.1904 and has historical records." This statement was accompanied by a photograph of a note by the Postmaster, Shimla, in the Order Book of the Viceroys Camp Post Office (VCPO). It noted that the office was in good order, and that the first two letters received and stamped were for Lady Ampthill, wife of Lord Ampthill, Governor of Madras and acting Viceroy, and Major Strachey, Comptroller of the Household.



It is in this Order Book that those four gentlemen appear, as sub-postmasters and clerks of the VCPO. Since this was a touring post office, they travelled with all the paraphernalia between Calcutta, Shimla and Delhi, catering to the communication needs of the Viceroys. They came in for praise from the inspecting officers for the "good order" of the post office. An entry from 1932 records, "This office opened in 1904, has had a good career, free from any fraud and with but few irregularities." In 1927, the inspecting officer states, "I have no doubt that Babu Woomacharan Chakravati Sub Postmaster, takes a keen interest in his work, and appears to be the correct man in the correct place, as he has an abundance of common sense and intelligence." In his reply, the sub-postmaster writes, "I feel thankful to note that, at your first visit of my office, you have been able to carry a happy impression with you, and I am glad to mention that my co-partner, Babu Mathra Das, can be a co-sharer in the credit that you may give for this office working." Apart from Chakravarty's work ethics, what these records also reveal is the impor-



PHOTOS COURTESY: RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

YOU'VE GOT MAIL
(From top) The Rashtrapati Bhawan Post Office in 1979, and now

tance of the post office for the Viceroy. Until 1854, postal service was a chaotic medley, with varying rules and postage rates in different provinces. Regular mails were available between a few important centres, and the district collectors were responsible for their local post-offices, with a senior military officer being postmaster for cantonments. The postal reforms in Britain, with the introduction of the "Penny Post" (uniform postage across the country), hadn't been replicated in India. Lord Bentinck made initial attempts, but it was Lord Dalhousie who in 1854, established the Imperial Postal Department under a Director General. In the midst of the Anglo-Sikh War in 1848, he had written from

Ambala to the Governor of the North-Western Provinces (NWP) to replicate the English system of a unified post office. The expansion of the railway network also made the task easier. The strategic importance of the post office was made apparent in 1857. The British army in India was then deficient in two key areas, intelligence and transport. But the postmasters were able to provide information on the spread of the revolt, especially where there were no telegraph lines. A highly organised horse transport and bullock trains, part of the postal network, aided the army in troop movements and evacuation of the wounded and the refugees, including the successful transport of ladies and children of Lucknow to Calcutta, after the siege was broken by Sir Colin Campbell. The VCPO was so important for the viceroys that the military secretary in 1920 ruled that only the best officials with at least 10 years of service be posted there. The Record Book in its early days attests the importance of the Viceroy's mail. An order of 1910 directed the "Town Inspector of Post Offices to convey the foreign mails of the Viceroy to the VCPO by hired rickshaw (kept ready beforehand for that purpose) and to convey his outward mails under receipt to the Overseer on the Kalka Shimla Train." Multiple entries recording the inspector's receipt of the "Viceroy's Secret Bags" appear in the Order Book. The importance of efficient delivery of mails within the Viceroy's Camp is attested in Babu WC Chakravarty's request for efficient postmen in view of the irregularities committed by the temporary postmen attached from the local post office when he was on tour. The telegraph, proven indispensable in 1857, continued to gain importance. A 1909 order gave preference in promotion to officials trained to operate the telegraph. The VCPO had a telephone and the Record Book notes an exchange about whether the police could use it free of cost. The post office did not renounce its peripatetic nature even on shifting with the Viceroy to Delhi. In 1935, for example, it was in Calcutta in January, Delhi in March and Shimla in May. Finally it settled in the Viceroy's Estate, and services beyond the mail and money orders started appearing. The Deputy Postmaster General, Panjab and NWP, in 1937 educated the staff on life insurance and asked them to ensure availability of "*Bijoya*" telegram forms. As Indians started opening savings bank accounts, there are references to translating addresses from the "vernacular". In 1947, it was rechristened the Governor General's Camp PO, and soon reflected new realities. An inspection report mentions Mohammad Alam, sub-postmaster, who opted for Pakistan and was relieved on August 9. Even during the chaos of Partition, it continued to provide "exemplary" services, and the private secretary to the Governor General expressed pleasure on the neatness of the office. After a brief appearance as the President's Camp PO, in 1950 it became the Rashtrapati Bhawan Post Office, and ceased annual pilgrimages to Shimla. The RBPO is now a service provider for the head of state of democratic India, and the residents of the President's Estate. Jagannath Srinivasan is Officer on Special Duty in the President's Secretariat

A Year of Possibilities

No matter how invulnerable we may feel, as individuals or nations, we all need periodic reality checks

LATE ONE night in 2007, a call from Jean-Luc Naret, publisher of the esteemed *The Michelin Guide New York City*, changed the fate of my restaurant and my professional life as a chef and restaurateur. My chef-partner, Hemant Mathur, and I had already been the recipients of wonderfully kind, generous and laudatory reviews across newspapers, magazines, journals and websites. The who's who of the food world and beyond had either dined at Devi or had it on their must-visit list. But with the first Michelin star given to an Indian restaurant in North America came more recognition and celebrityhood, more influence and notoriety. I found myself even more engaged in speaking and teaching and most happily so. While my business partners enjoyed the teeming crowds pouring in to savour our cuisine, I was out sharing my knowledge and inspiring — at least, I hoped I was — and returning home with just enough time to create new menu items and freshen up the old, while being a spouse, dog- and cat-daddy, and keeping all entertained. Some months, I would find myself on the road for 20 days, at the restaurant for a week, and at home for only a night or two. I felt as invincible and powerful as the US army. It was a rush that was intoxicating. It was a high that fed itself and kept me happily removed from the realities of life, from grasping the wear and tear that my body and soul were enduring. A decade of feeling invulnerable and scaling many summits was a thrill that came with a feeling of being wanted, respected, admired and loved. I never paused to worry about my body. Of course, the travels brought lucrative success which kept our farm in upstate New York all natural and organic and a place for family and friends to retreat. I thought that to

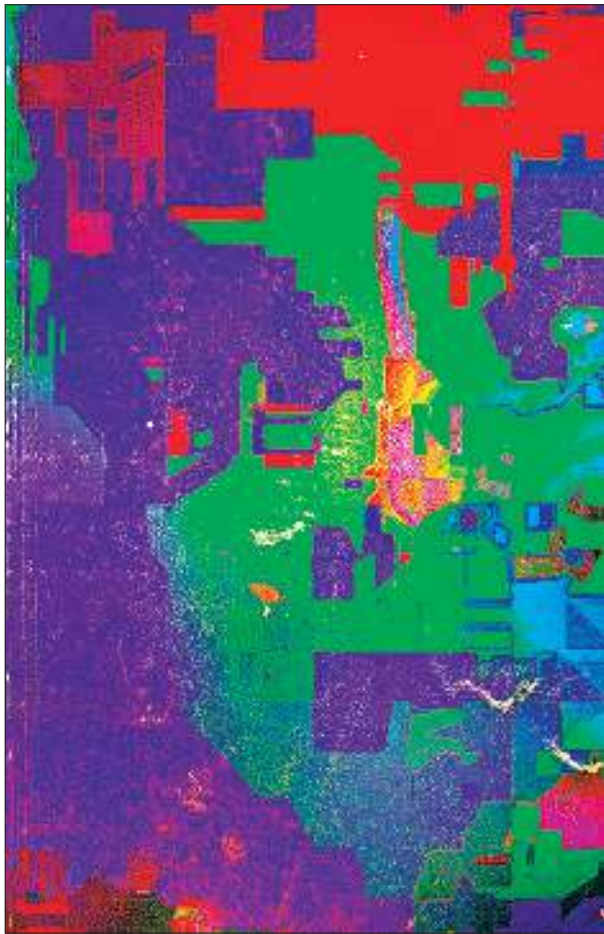


Suvir Saran

Suvir Saran is a chef, author, educator and world traveller

be worth my running ragged and burning the candle at both ends. But life had other plans. It all ended with me suffering concussions owing to falls, and a mini-stroke in 2018. Poor health served me the ultimate ultimatum — to change my ways or lose my life. The year 2020 has shown how none of us, no matter our colour, race, gender, class, nationality or celebrity status are immune to a ruthless pandemic. Nowhere has the pandemic shown its might more mercilessly than in the US. The most powerful nation in the world, the richest and most dangerously armed, whose citizens have for centuries seen

the rest of the world as below par, was brought to its knees and broken into pieces which will take decades to put back together. The patriarchal, invincible nation talking down to other countries, with a "my way or the highway" approach to diplomacy, using money and military might to buy allies, was exposed as under-prepared and worse. A nation investing in its own demise, where the 1 per cent is busy finding ways to save money on taxes as the poor go without access to food, clothing, roof over their heads, healthcare and education. Returning to my beloved motherland after 27 years in New York, I see what ails India. The world sees it, too. If we didn't recognise our follies, the Western media would rub them in our faces. I am grateful the world reminds us of our challenges, of how broken we are. We need reminders. All of us do. Certainly I was terrified by the sight of migrant labourers walking for miles on the highways in the scorching summer heat, but I understood they were headed home, to rural hamlets, to be with family. In the US, the rich were escaping the cities for the Hamptons, leaving the poor and middle class behind in the eye of the storm, with no infrastructure to serve them, and worse, no familial help either. The nuclear-family construct had stolen that possibility decades ago. With people of colour in the US dying of COVID-19 at three times the rate of White people, the virus has shown how the American narrative has failed itself and all that it stands for. The pandemic demands from us to question Big Daddy and whether it ought to, at least, spend some time in self-examination. The American media is at the epicentre of the tragedy that has become the American story. Is there anyone tackling how to end the pervasiveness of the spectator sport that is Black and



SUVIR SARAN

WE ARE THE WORLD

For 2021 to be different and 2020 to not be a wasted year, we must acknowledge our dependence on one another

Brown suffering? How many more Black deaths will it take for America to make amends to how it polices its streets? Who will expose the systemic failure that brought Donald Trump to power with a substantial mandate and understand how people he most despises became his vote bank? Social media and the pandemic have exposed the rot. With America broken, the world has lost a leader. Many are looking to the Joe Biden-Kamala Harris ticket to revive America. But it will not be enough that the new administra-

tion comes cloaked in blue liberal garb. It will need to liberate the US from the shackles of policies of the past and create a new world order, a disruptive way of thinking, where geopolitics is turned upside down and life is reassessed as an equitable journey for all. I had my aha moment with the stroke. For 2021 to be a year truly different from 2019 or years past, and for 2020 to be a year which isn't altogether wasted, the US — and we — must have a similar aha moment. We must acknowledge our vulnerability and dependence on one another. We cannot allow the world to remain in the status quo where a few wealthy nations or individuals dictate the majority. We must demand that the media go back to sharing news and facts, not commentary and opinions that support the lobbyists and corporations paying for its existence. I yearn to see an American newspaper admit the poverty, abuse, rape, pillage and plunder in and by the US instead of carving self-serving headlines out of similar incidents in the developing nations. Let's begin 2021 with a pledge to think beyond ourselves. To see our life as a connection to our familial unit, our family as a link to a larger community, our community as a piece of the clearly defined yet forever growing and evolving puzzle that is our country, a small but interconnected and interdependent part of the world of nations. These nations, however different their make-up, are all together affecting the life of the planet Earth. When we understand this, that moment, that day, will be our aha moment when we realise what it really means to live in a global village, no matter where we house our bodies, what flag we salute, what language we speak and which dialect of that we favour, or what God(s) we may or may not worship. The new year will be a happy one if our human collective can rise above our comforting isms of sameness and reach out to those others we never noticed before, in our own communities, states and nations, and across the world. In seeing faces, lives, loves and souls in others, we will finally connect with our fellow beings, and in that communion find the cure which might keep us safe from future pandemics.

Deadly Deception

Nearly four decades ago, a quick-fix murder and its daredevil perpetrator stunned Kerala. With a new film coming up on the criminal mastermind who was never apprehended, former police officers recount a murder most foul

Vishnu Varma

ON A FOGGY morning, around 4 am on January 22, 1984, a man burst into the Mavelikkara police station in Kerala's Alappuzha, startling the head constable on duty. A black Ambassador with the licence plate KL-Q-7831 was going up in flames in a paddy field with an almost-charred body in the driving seat, he blurted out. After filing an FIR when officers rushed to the spot, a crowd had already gathered. There were whispers that the car might have veered off the road and onto the field, catching fire in the process. Murali Vrindavanam, then a 20-year-old local political worker, says, "When the blaze was partially put out, we saw that there was a person inside who seemed to be tied to the seat. Some locals, on their way home after watching a play, recalled seeing some people driving away from the spot."

It was after the team of then deputy superintendent of police (DSP) PM Haridas reached the spot around 5.30 am that tiny clues pointed to the incident being more than a mere accident. Officers found a matchbox, a pair of footwear, a rubber glove with a strand of hair in it and some footprints in the mud. There was also a whiff of petrol in the air. The post-mortem confirmed the police's suspicions — the person had been killed before being placed in the driver's seat. There were no traces of charcoal or ash in his respiratory tract and the presence of liquor and ethyl alcohol in the digestive tract added to the mystery.

By then, word had spread that the deceased was Sukumara Kurup, a 30-something native of nearby Cheriyanad, who had arrived from the Gulf recently. Though the face had been charred beyond recognition, a close relative, Bhaskara Pillai, testified it was him, based on the height and build of the body and the fact that Kurup hadn't returned home after he drove to Ambalapuzha, a nearby town, the previous day in that car.

While the remains were handed over to Kurup's family on the condition that it be buried and not cremated, unknown to the police, Kurup was alive and in hiding in Aluva, 115 km away. The body in the car was that of Alappuzha-native Chacko, a film representative who became the victim of a diabolical get-rich-quick plot by Kurup, Pillai and two others.

It's been 37 years since that January morning when DSP Haridas had arrived at the site of the burning car. He had no clue then that he would be drawn into a murder case that would define his career and go on to become one of the most sensational cases in the criminal history of Kerala.

Sukumara Kurup wasn't the name he was given at birth. It was Gopalakrishna Kurup. Born into a middle-class, upper-caste household in Cheriyanad, Kurup was drawn to adventure from an early age. After completing his pre-degree course (the equivalent of today's higher-secondary education), he joined the Indian Air Force as an airman. But after he failed to return to his unit following a prolonged leave, he was branded a "deserter".

It was at this juncture that Kurup's crookedness first manifest itself. He bribed a head constable in the special branch of the police to forge a report stating that Gopalakrishna Kurup had died and sent it to the IAF to clear his name. He also took on a new name — Sukumara Pillai — when he applied for a passport to move to the Gulf. Pillai and Kurup are sub-castes of the Nair community in Kerala.

Kurup displayed the same intrepid behaviour in love. He met Sarasamma, the daughter of the woman who worked as a help at his residence, at a relative's home in Mumbai, when he was still in the IAF. Sarasamma was studying nursing in the city. When his parents got wind of it, they were furious. But Kurup was adamant. Shortly after he left the IAF and prepared to move to Abu Dhabi, he married Sarasamma in a secret ceremony at a temple.

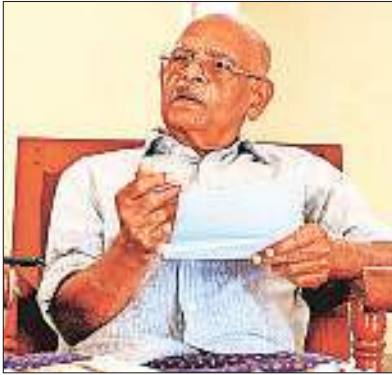
The next chapter of his life in Abu Dhabi as an operator with the Abu Dhabi Marine Operating Company was largely peaceful. The job brought in a steady income and Kurup, an extrovert, quickly gathered a band of close friends around him. Suku, as he was fondly called, spent lavishly on parties; he also helped his friends out in crises. One such friend was Shahu, a native of Chavakkad in Thrissur district, who worked as an office boy in Kurup's firm. He would go on to play a significant role in his future. On vacations to Kerala, Kurup brought suitcases full of goodies for his friends and family. During his stay, he would insist on picking up their liquor tab. He also bought a plot of land in Ambalapuzha to build a house and purchased an Ambassador car.

The result of such opulence was shoddy financial management. Despite the combined salaries of Kurup and his wife — a nurse in a private hospital — touching Rs 60,000 a month, their savings were negligible. It was around this time that Kurup began to hear strong rumours of companies in the Gulf, including his own, planning to shed their existing workforce to hire new workers at lower wages. With his house under construction and his friends encouraging him to start a business in Kerala, money was crucial.

What's the quickest way to get rich? The answer presented itself in a story in an English detective magazine Kurup read one night. To anyone else, it may have been unthinkable,



ILLUSTRATION: SUVAJIT DEY



VYSAKH VENUGOPAL

but to him, it seemed just right.



VISHNU VARMA

IN COLD BLOOD

An artist's impression of Kurup; debris of the engine of the car in which Chacko was burnt still remains at the Mavelikkara police station compound; PM Haridas, who was in charge of the probe, at his residence in Kollam

film representative returning home after assessing ticket collections at the theatre. As the car sped towards Alappuzha, Pillai made the first move — he offered Chacko a glass of brandy laced with ether. But Chacko declined. When he said no to yet another offer of a drink, it was a cue for Ponnappan to swerve out of the highway into a side road. Chacko was forced to consume the alcohol; the ether in it knocked him out almost immediately.

According to the chargesheet, it was Pillai and Shahu who strangled Chacko to death. The group then headed to Sarasamma's native place where they scorched Chacko's face and replaced his clothes, ring and watch with Kurup's. Later, the two cars proceeded to the paddy field at Thannimukkam, where they placed Chacko in the driving seat, pushed the car on to the paddy field and set it on fire.

Haridas, 81, still remembers the case vividly, especially the observations he'd made in the aftermath of the accident that aroused his suspicion that it wasn't Kurup who had died. "I could gauge that there was no real grief in the house. They had even prepared chicken curry for lunch on the day of the accident. In those days, chicken was cooked on special occasions. It was certainly not on the menu when there was a death in the family," he recalls.

Another strong indicator was the burn marks on Pillai's forehead and hand, incurred when he had set the car on fire. When questioned, Pillai first said he got burnt while lighting a fire; in a matter of minutes, he said he got it while carrying hot water. When his testimonies got contradictory, the police knew they were on the right track.

It was the then Mavelikkara circle inspector KJ Devasia who apprehended Shahu late in the night. "When I knocked at his home, he was about to leave to catch a bus to Kochi, from where he planned to escape to the Gulf. Had I

DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

The Small and Mighty

Fear not just the big and the fierce. Sometimes, the smaller the creatures, the deadlier they are

RIGHT FROM our childhood we are told big animals are dangerous. At the top of the most-feared list are the carnivores — lions, tigers, leopards, hyenas and bears on land, and crocodiles and sharks in the water. The growls and snarls of the big carnivores are warning enough, not to mention their fearsome four-inch canines with which they'll crunch your bones and muscles. The submarine attackers rear up in a heart-stopping moment of sheer violence, or slink up from beneath to chomp you clean in half.

Generations have been brought up on such horror stories as well as stirring tales of brave hunters setting forth to rid us of these scourges. People in villages and small towns around which these man-eating predators hunted, lived in a thrall of fear, locking themselves indoors at dusk — though, sometimes, even this was not enough. And then, with an unerring shot, the hunter took down the menace and celebrations were in order and the beast was paraded through the village to assure everyone that it was indeed dead. These days, with our new love for lynching, often the entire male population of the village will hysterically hunt down the predator, and beat it to a pulp. We've hunted down more than 90 per cent of tigers, so the chances of you meeting one and becoming lunch while on a walk in the jungle are minuscule.

Old jungle hands might tell you that more than the carnivores, the big vegans need to be feared. In most Indian forests, wild elephants are considered to be the most dangerous: silent as smoke, intelligent and merciless. Worse, gangs will not hesitate to invade villages and lay waste — snarfing up food grain, sugarcane and vegetables — and guzzling down the homemade moonshine at the local bar. Other notorious vegans include rhinos and wild buffalo, who are famously short-tempered and likely to charge on sight. Out in Africa, the hippo is considered the most dangerous, killing more people than the big cats. Even the portly wild boar can prove to be an unpredictable foe, ready to lacerate you



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

TINY TORMENTORS

Poison dart frogs

with its tusks. It's telling that these guys don't even eat you, just mash you into the dirt and leave with a triumphant toss of their heads.

Then there is the almost universally-hated (and -feared) kingdom of reptiles. All snakes as well as lizards — from the giant Komodo dragon to the smiling wall gecko — are considered to be venomous. Besides, we have seen what crocodiles and alligators can do. The psychedelic arrow-poison frogs of Central and South America can take down 20 men by mere touch, and so, the native Indians tipped their hunting arrows with the poison. In the seas and oceans, strange monstrous-looking fish and beautiful mollusks are loaded with venom. Touch them and you'll writhe in agony. Get stung by the lacy jellyfish trailing yards of silken strands and you are nearly done for.

Above water, birds are taught to be feared, too. Eagles carry babies and small children away; owls pluck your eyes out or cast spells on you and crows mob you mercilessly if you take potshots at them. Then, there is the mind-boggling diversity of insects and arachnids: experienced jungle hands are more afraid of these than of big game. The smaller the creatures get the deadlier they become. Mosquitoes, rat fleas, flies *en masse* create havoc among us. Spiders have accounted for more of us than all the big carnivores put together. But we can still see and hear them — and zap, if necessary, or simply swat.

There's a multitude of life forms — mortal enemies, many of them — which we can neither see nor hear nor smell, but just feel the terrible effects of, once they attack us. Microbes, bacteria and viruses — the smallest and most diverse — are the most dangerous.

Seen through microscopes, they're no less frightening than a snarling tiger, as they ruthlessly get to work invading and destroying our cells and devastating our health. We may have developed weapons of mass destruction against many of them, but they develop immunities as fast as we up the ante. Many are evilly ingenious: the terrible rabies virus knows it has doomed its host and so leaves the party as soon as it can — by deliberately causing its host to go berserk and bite someone, so it can be transferred through saliva to a new host — and continue the good work there. Others take over the brains of their hosts to ensure they get the best facilities for the propagation of their species.

Since small size matters more, if you really want to be deadly, be small, invisible, odourless and silent and come up trumps.

With inputs by Deborah Thambi

BRIDGE

Dealer: West, Vulnerable: None

At times, it pays to be an optimist on bridge table. When you a certain layout for your contract to succeed, just assume it is there and plan your play accordingly.

Dir: North; Vul: N-S; IMPs

NORTH

♠ Q8

♥ Q3

♦ A J 8 7 6 3

♣ Q 6 3

WEST NORTH

Pass

Pass

1♣

♦ bl

EAST SOUTH

1♣

♦ bl

3NT

All Pass

SOUTH

♠ A 9 3 2

♥ A 10 7 6 4

♦ K Q

♣ K 7

WEST SOUTH

Pass

2♦

Pass

3NT

West leads the ten of clubs. The lead comes to South's king. If diamonds divide there will be nine top tricks, making South's bidding look very good. On the king of diamonds both opponents follow but on the queen of diamonds West shows out. Ugly!

Is there a way to make this now that the diamonds are not running and given that East has all of the missing high card points for his opening bid?

The West Hand: S-J10 7 4 H-J9 5 2 D-5 C-10 9 4

The East Hand: S-K 5 H-K 8 D-10 9 4 2 C-A J 8 5 2

It is easy to make 3NT once you see the plan. Lead the queen of diamonds and overtake it with the ace. Play the jack of diamonds and give East the lead with the fourth diamond.

What is East to do? He is marked with the king of spades and the king of hearts and the ace of clubs. Whichever of these suits East leads will give you an entry to dummy. East chooses the ace of clubs and another club, West following on all of these. It can never hurt to be greedy. Can you make more than nine tricks now?

Poor East. Play the rest of the diamonds. You can see that East has a doubleton king in both majors. If he comes down to a singleton king you can play that suit for two tricks. If he keeps both his doubleton kings (he has to discard some clubs to do this) you can play the ace of one major and put him in with his king and he will have to lead away from his other king.

Dealer: South, Vulnerable: North South

NORTH

♠ J 4 2

♥ A Q 10

♦ K 7 6 5 3

♣ 6 4

WEST

♠ K 6 5

♥ 9 6 3

♦ Q J 9

♣ Q 7 5 2

WEST

pass

3NT

Pass

NORTH

3NT

Pass

Pass

EAST

1NT

Pass

Pass

SOUTH

Pass

Pass

Pass

The opponents bid 1NT - P - 3NT and you make an uninformed lead of the two of clubs. This does not work out at all well as South tops East's eight with the jack. South has eight points in clubs. Not your best lead ever.

South now goes after diamonds, leading to the king and back to his ace. East plays the two of diamonds and discards the four of hearts. This play tells you that South has four diamonds to the ace. The information you have tells you that he has eight points in clubs and four in diamonds, twelve that you know about. South gives you your diamond trick and East discards the five of hearts. What do you know at this point?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2303

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

1. Negligent (6)

4. European sea (6)

8. Condition of a river system when overflowing (2,5)

9. Speech (7)

11. Defamatory (10)

12. Scandinavian (4)

13. Snow leopard (5)

14. Pertinent (8)

16. Vindictive (8)

18. Snappish (5)

20. East European (4)

21. Aired (10)

23. Circumstance (7)

24. 1920s art style (3,4)

25. Firmly placed (6)

26. Yarn (6)

DOWN

1. Of the kidneys (5)

2. Hair pigment (7)

3. Absolutely hard of hearing ? (5,4)

5. After in Alsace (5)

6. Gossips or chatters (7)

7. Mumbai's most famous beach ? (9)

10. Adding up or amounting to (9)

13. Fails to observe or decides to ignore (9)

15. Male head of a family (9)

17. Old French dance (7)

19. Wrap with bandages (7)

21. Irritated (5)

22. Spanish warrior hero (2,3)

18. Black and blue Roman figures (5)

20. Girl in short trousers? (4)

21. It takes the father and mother of a mind to produce it ! (5-5)

23. Get a number round the vessel during the day (7)

24. Vital loose thread on jumper? (3,4)

25. Uncouth person may go a lot astray (6)

26. Hunting even buckled railway (6)

Chopin ? (9)

17. No breeding displayed in public among relatively rich people (7)

19. A medium for transportation (7)

21. Bar salvo or every other word of congratulation ! (5)

22. The boy who has the French right on railways (5)

Solutions to 2302

Quick Clues Across: 6 Drama, 7 Scramble, 10 Brought, 11 Heloty, 12 Raiment, 13 Awesome, 14 Springfield, 19 Tariffs, 21 Leafage, 23 Mocking, 25 Abscess, 26 Warhorses, 27 Rides.

Down: 1 Calories, 2 Huggle, 3 As it stands, 4 Arch, 5 Blotto, 6 Debars, 8 Maltese, 9 Lyres, 13 Affiliated, 15 Raffish, 16 Dead ends, 17 Stomp, 18 Beasts, 20 Racial, 22 Assure, 24 Gore.

Cryptic Clues Across: 6 Booze, 7 Drabbed, 10 Roe deer, 11 Neutral, 12 Fondant, 13 Dailies, 14 Dragonflies, 19 Equator, 21 Enfolded, 23 Jambies, 25 Equator, 26 Athletic, 27 Herod.

Down: 1 Governed, 2 Seneca, 3 Adorations, 4 Dawn, 5 Henry I, 6 Bereft, 8 Bouill, 9 Blush, 13 Difference, 15 Ant hill, 16 Salutory, 17 Squat, 18 Astrid, 20 Ignite, 22 Fought, 24 Sett.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

Lord, grant that I might not so much seek to be ___ as to __ - Francis of Assisi (5, 4)

LPEEO

■

■

■

■

■

EORTDL

■

■

■

■

■

■

BWYLO

■

■

■

■

■

RIYVV

■

■

■

■

■

■

SOLUTION: ELOPE, BLOWY, RETOLD, VIVIFY

Answer: Lord, grant that I might not so much seek to be loved as to love - Francis of Assisi

SUDOKU 4348

Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

3

9

7

5

5

6

4

7

6

1

3

8

8

4

5

2

8

4

3

7

9

1

1

7

3

9

1

6

2

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4347

If it's your Birthday

Sunday January 10

Just because your ideas are the best, that's no excuse to preach. The secret of success is to be discreet. In love, your confidence is growing.

Monday January 11

Your circumstances will show an improvement. If you are very brave and face challenges head on, you'll triumph over adversity and give your confidence a massive boost.

Tuesday January 12

You will be able to make the best of your important ambitions, most of what you touch will work out in your favour. You have to face up to a past failures.

Wednesday January 13

You could be one of society's movers and shakers over the coming year. Your thoughts, dreams and actions could still have an effect way beyond your immediate circle.

Thursday January 14

It's a fine time to put in a little extra effort. You might be working quite hard at the moment. Even those of you not officially at work will be undertaking serious responsibilities. You'll gain great pleasure from mature behaviour and sober activities.

Friday January 15

From today, remember that partners, colleagues, loved ones will put up a fight. You may not accept that you have had it all your own way recently, but this is how others see it. It's good for you to face a challenge.

Saturday January 16

Just to look ahead for a moment, there'll be times in the coming when your confidence will be high. Listen carefully to others' opinions, but don't feel you have to take them seriously. Do what is best for you.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Get off to a fresh and businesslike start. You'll soon be in a position to spread the good news and share your ideas with others - and all welcome domestic improvements should be completed by the end of the week. Bringing somebody else round to your way of thinking will require the usual hard work.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

The Moon begins the week sympathetically aligned with your sign, so you can afford to be thoroughly optimistic about everyone and everything. You can use any friendly conditions mid-week to make up for an unfortunate tiff, you just cannot afford emotional rifts with things as they are.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Venus, planet of love and affection, is moving on, so you'll soon be passing from one personal cycle to another. If I were you, I'd make sure that all family relationships were on firm ground, and that no misunderstandings remain. Your feelings have changed, but partners' expectations will remain the same.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You're building up to a series of planetary clashes and confrontations. In plain language this means that personally, professionally and emotionally you're about to embark on a whole new voyage of discovery and adventure. Sit back, relax and enjoy it.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

The major planet in your chart is still Mercury, which just happens to be the ruler of illusions and confidence tricks. Joking aside, there is no situation you can't get out of with some deft footwork and perhaps by pulling the wool over somebody's eyes.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Remember that, if you want to get on in the world at large, it's your personal relationships that count. This won't be the case next week, so exploit your undoubted charms while you still have time. You'll be entering an intriguing and secretive phase by the end of the week.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The rapidly approaching alignment between the Sun and the Moon will trigger a number of welcome improvements in your circumstances, suggesting that you're heading for great things. Hopefully, you'll be pleasantly surprised when partners at last appreciate all the effort you've put in on their behalf.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

Mercury will be completing a thoroughly indecisive and awkward series of planetary patterns. Please take my advice and refuse to rise to provocation, especially from employers or from people who think they know you better than you know yourself. Be charming as only a Scorpio can.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Your chance to deal with financial questions may not come until the very end of the week. In the meantime, how about making personal relationships the key to a truly satisfying and contented week? Be sure to keep family differences in proportion.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

I'm not going to pretend that life isn't tiring at the moment, because it is. On the other hand, there is a great deal that you can do to help yourself and transform emotionally challenging situations into opportunities for great happiness. Don't let anyone hold you back.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

As the Sun and the Moon perform their celestial motions, it's time to sit up and make your physical well-being the number one priority. Don't get fanatical, but do clean up your diet and see that you're getting all the correct and appropriate exercise. And, also, of course get rid of lingering resentments.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Wednesday and Thursday look best for family fun and home entertaining, which may not, I guess, be totally convenient. However, by the weekend, when you should have more spare time, your stars will be superb for cultural pursuits, passionate endeavours and relations with children.

NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY

APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS

INAUGURATION - BIS

P Goyal, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution & Minister of Comm & Industry & Railways inaugurated toy testing facilities of BIS & announced launch of certificate courses on "assaying & hallmarking" & "quality control personnel".

OFFERING - INDIANOIL

IndianOil has provided the complete energy solution to 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica. After about 22 years, yet again, the Antarctica expedition is procuring fuel from India.

MOU - NBCC

NBCC signed Annual MoU for the FY 2020-21 with MoHUA, outlining the performance targets for the Company. The MoU has been signed by DS Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA, and PK Gupta, CMD, NBCC.

DONATION - SBI

SBI donated INR 25 lakhs to Sheela Sharma Memorial Charitable Trust for setting up operation theatre for cancer patients at Shankar Institute of Cancer Therapy & Research Centre, Mathura.

CEREMONY - INDIANOIL

Dharmendra Pradhan, MoPNG & Steel flagged-off a consignment of critical equipment from Hazira to Paradip for IndianOil's MEG Plant. SM Vaidya, Chairman, IndianOil, & other senior officials were present on the occasion.

TRANSFER - INDIAN BANK

Indian Bank recently transferred Rs 65.54 Crores to 16300 beneficiaries under UP Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana under Direct Benefit Transfer. Yogi Adityanath, CM of UP participated in the function and lauded the initiative of Indian Bank.

DONATION - SBI

SBI donated RTPCR COVID-19 testing machine to GB Pant Hospital and X-Ray machine and two patient monitors to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Hospital, New Delhi, under the guidance of V Ronjan, CGM, SBI, New Delhi circle.

SSFB announced the receipt of a license from RBI to carry on banking business as a Small Finance Bank (SFB) in India. This marks the successful completion of the last major step in the transition of Shivalki Mercantile Co-operative Bank (SMCB) to a SFB. SMCB is the first Urban Cooperative Bank (UCB) in India to transition to a Small Finance Bank under the voluntary transition scheme.

TRIFED More than 35 new, attractive, immunity-boosting tribal products have found a new home in Tribes India outlets and website in the 8th edition of "From Our Home to your Home" campaign. Key among the products are the natural, fresh, organic produce from the Malayali tribes of Tamil Nadu, such as Giant Rock Bee Honey, honey, variants of millet rice, tamarind and black pepper.

LAUNCH - LIC

LIC Chairman MR Kumar, in presence of MDs, TC Suseel Kumar, V Anand, M Gupta and R Kumar, introduced the feature of Online proposal Deposit collection in ANANDA.

AWARD - RAILTEL

P Chawla, CMD/RailTel, received the Eminent Engineers Award by Institution of Engineers (India) for his contribution to the field of engineering from SS Dhote, MoS for Education, Communications, Electronics & IT, Gol.

APPOINTMENTS

SAIL Soma Mondal has taken over as Chairman of SAIL w.e.f. 01.01.2021. Prior to this, she was the Director (Commercial) of SAIL. Before joining SAIL as a Director, Mondal was the Director (Commercial) at NALCO. Mondal was instrumental in introducing new marketing strategies and products at SAIL enriching the company's product basket. Under her able leadership, the company launched niche branded products like NEX (Structural) and SAIL SeQR (TMT bars). She joined SAIL in 2017 as the Director (Commercial) and has, subsequently, become the Chairman of SAIL.

WCL Manoj Kumar has assumed the charge of CMD of Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL). Earlier, he was holding the charge of Director Technical of WCL. He started his career in the mining industry from WCL/SECL. He has been serving the Coal Industry for more than three decades. During that period, he served in WCL, SECL & ECL in various capacities. He is known for his expertise in difficult underground mining methods and Continuous Miner Technology. He has been instrumental in growth & sustainability of production at the places he has worked.

PNB announced the extension of its popular 'PNB Festival Bonanza Offer-2020', till 31st March 2021, rechristened now as PNB NEW YEAR BONANZA - 2021. The extension has been undertaken to amplify the successful momentum created by the PNB Festival Bonanza Offer 2020. Under the PNB New Year Bonanza 2021 (during the offer period from 1st January 2021 to 31st March 2021), PNB will offer full waiver of upfront/ processing fees and documentation charges on all fresh housing Loans, takeover housing loans, car loans and myProperty loans.

LIC Following the overwhelming response received for ANANDA, LIC of India has introduced the feature of Online proposal Deposit collection in ANANDA, where the customer can pay the Online proposal deposit through Payment Gateway using various options like Credit Card / Debit Card/ Netbanking / Wallets / UPI, etc at his own convenience. This feature was launched at the hands of LIC Chairman MR Kumar in the presence of Managing Directors, TC Suseel Kumar, Vipin Anand, Mukesh Gupta and Raj Kumar recently.

IIIT-NR ranked 6th in the just released list of India's Best 100 Tech-Enabled Engineering Institutes by Dataquest magazine, leaving behind several other much older, well-established technical institutes of its type. The institute also bagged fifth position in the Top Government Institutes in the survey. Vice Chancellor & Director of IIIT-NR, Dr. PK Sinha attributed this achievement of IIIT-NR to the relentless support offered by the State Government as well as the hard work put in by the faculty, staff, students and all other members associated directly or indirectly with this institute.

BHEL has bagged significant orders, valued at Rs.3,200 Crore, for Electro-Mechanical (E&M) works for a Hydro Electric Project (HEP) in Andhra Pradesh and E&M works of Pump-Motor sets for Lift Irrigation Schemes (LIS) in Telangana.

TRIFED In addition to its weekly endeavour of enhancing its range through the "From Our Homes to Your Home" campaign, TRIBES India will now become an excellent one-stop gifting destination. A webinar was organized recently to launch Tribes India as a one-stop destination for all gifting requirements. Attractive and customisable gift packs from a unique range of products which will be available in all the 126 Tribes India outlets and online platforms were also unveiled on this occasion. The webinar was attended by renowned designers Rina Dhaka, Masooma Rizvi, Winky Singh, several tribal artisans and suppliers from across the country besides TRIFED officials.

Russian Embassy in India Russian President Vladimir Putin extended his greetings on the New Year 2021 to President of the Republic of India Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi. He noted that Russia and India were connected by relations of privileged strategic partnership, which, despite this year's difficulties and problems, including the coronavirus pandemic, are developing confidently. Vladimir Putin stressed that the two countries maintain a substantive political dialogue and carry out promising joint projects in various spheres, while cooperation within the SCO and BRICS yields good results.

BHEL Amidst stiff competitive bidding, BHEL has won a prestigious order for the supply of 32 Reactor Header Assemblies from the NPCIL. The order has been won under NPCIL's Fleet mode procurement for India's highest rated indigenously developed 700 MWe Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) to be set up at four different locations in the country. Notably, BHEL has the distinction of being associated with all the three stages of the Indian Nuclear Power Programme and has been the primary supplier for Reactor Headers, Steam Turbines, Steam Generators, Motors, etc., to NPCIL.

Canara Bank has raised capital by issuing Additional Tier I bonds to the tune of Rs. 1635 Crore at 8.50% Coupon on 31.12.2020. This will help the Bank to increase its Capital Adequacy ratio.

Shankar Sanskriti Pratishthan On the occasion of the 83rd Birth Anniversary of noted Parliamentarian and Laureate Dr. Shankar Dayal Singh, the Shankar Sanskriti Pratishthan hosted a webinar on the topic of "Education, Culture and Samskara" in his memory. The program's Chief Guest, Manish Sisodia, Dy. CM of Delhi stressed on the need for policy measures that inculcate emotional capabilities of students in the initial years and create an entrepreneurial mindset in high school. He stressed that just the skilling of students was not enough for nation building, and that the model in Delhi built around the Happiness Curriculum, the Entrepreneurial Mindset Curriculum and the Deshbhakti Curriculum needs to be studied and adopted on a greater scale for the nation's students to reach unto their true potential in building their own career and in building the nation.

PNB has now successfully completed the IT integration of all branches of erstwhile United Bank of India. This is in continuation to the IT integration of all branches of erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce, undertaken in November 2020. With this PNB has concluded the integration and migration of databases of both Banks.

NR Keeping in view of the preparedness of fog arrangements, GM NR, A Gangal briefed the media persons at New Delhi Railway Station recently. The various initiatives in this regard include – Informing Passengers through SMS on registered mobile about train running late status if the train is more than one hour late; Provision of opening of Catering Stalls on the platforms beyond the normal sale hours; Cold weather patrolling of rail lines to timely detect rail fractures especially during the night hours, etc.

Aavas Housing Aavas Foundation, the CSR arm of Aavas Financiers Ltd., has partnered with International Financial Corporation to carry out a two-year-long feasibility research on the profitability of green loans and the prospect of involving housing finance institutions in accelerating transition towards green buildings. The goal is to draw up a blueprint for lending products which incentivize green housing in the Indian subcontinent. The said arrangement has been executed in the form of a tripartite agreement between IFC, Aavas Foundation and Aavas Financiers.

EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, LAUNCHES, CSR INITIATIVES, APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

New Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SYDNEY, JANUARY 9

"BCCI lodged a formal complaint with ICC

It is learnt that a long discussion was held between the senior players of the visiting contingent, including captain Ajinkya Rahane, the umpires and security officers at the end of the day's play. The abuses were directed at the Indian duo while they were fielding during the Australian second innings.

"Ravindra Jadeja has suffered a dislocation and fracture on his left thumb. It will be very difficult for him to wear those gloves and bat,"

a senior BCCI source told *PTI* on Saturday. "In any case, he will be out of action for at least two to three weeks which rules him out of the final Test. Pant will be able to bat as his injury isn't that serious."

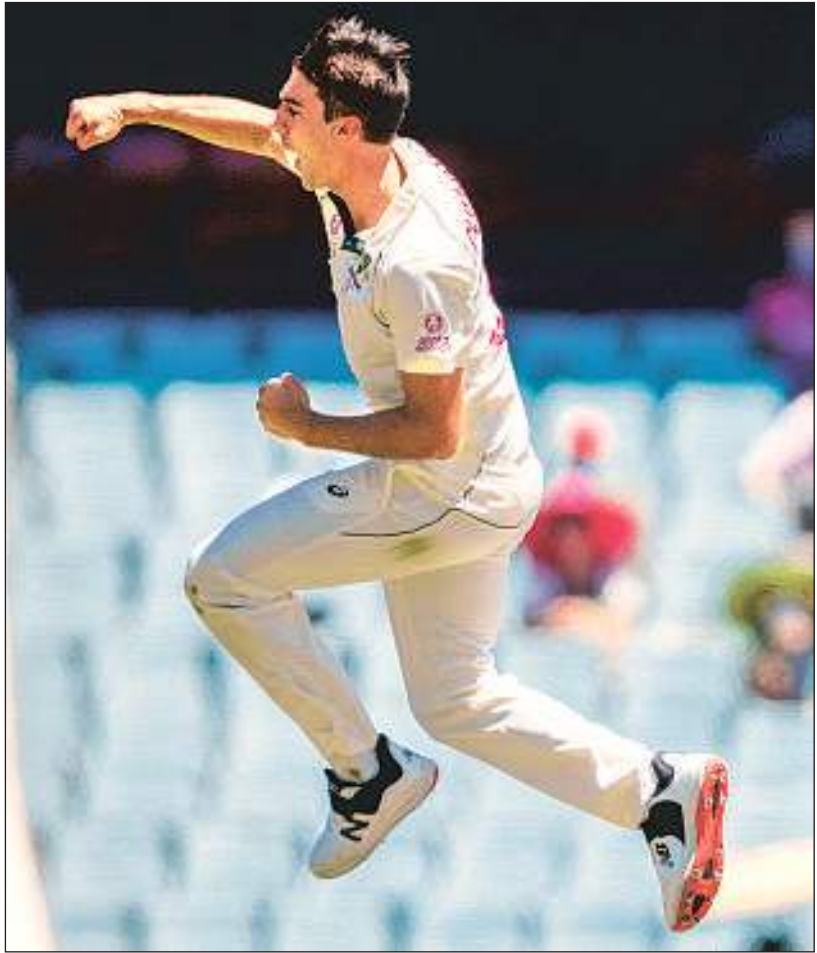
apse
ts take charge at SCG

Ivo Karlovic became the oldest player to win an ATP Tour match in a quarter-century, beating No. 7-seeded Pablo Andujar 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 in the first round of the Delray Beach Open. Karlovic, 41, is the oldest to win on the top men's tour since Jimmy Connors at age 42 in 1995.

Jadeja was in pain and once the team was back on the field for the second innings, his left thumb looked pretty swollen and the physio applied taping on it. He threw a few balls but then it was decided that it won't be possible for him to continue.

Cummins, showing a friendly demeanour, puts the skids under India as hosts take charge at SCG

It was Pujara's turn next. He was rapped viciously on the upper arm, the bat shivering in his hand at the impact of the hit. Cummins, after all, is no stranger to breaking bones. In Adelaide, he had shattered Mohammed Shami's arm; during the 2019 World Cup, he broke Shaun Marsh's arm in the nets.



Pat Cummins took four Indian wickets to turn the match in Australia's favour. AP

Speed, to him, is an instinct. He combines it with smarts. Cummins knew he needed something more to deceive Pujara. So he changed to a more short-of-length plan, coaxing him to come forward gradually and defend on the front foot. Then he pushed in the effort ball, that pitched short of length, but exploded like a hand grenade into the shoulder of the

The short-ball strategy directly fetched Australia just the wicket of No. 9 Navdeep Saini, but it was central to their third-day

<div>SCORECARD</div> <div>AUSTRALIA vs INDIA</div>	
<div>SYDNEY CRICKET GROUND</div> <div>Toss: Australia, chose to bat</div>	
AUSTRALIA (1ST INNINGS)	338
INDIA (1ST INNINGS) 244 (O/N: 96/2)	
C Pujara c Paine b Cummins	50 (176b, 5x4)
A Rahane b Cummins	22 (70b, 1x4, 1x6)
H Vihari run out (Hazlewood)	4 (38b)
R Pant c Warner b Hazlewood	36 (67b, 4x4)
R Jadeja not out	28 (37b, 5x4)
R Ashwin run out (Cummins/Labuschagne)	10 (15b, 2x4)
N Saini c Wade b Starc	3 (13b)
J Bumrah run out (Labuschagne)	0 (2b)
M Siraj c Paine b Cummins	6 (10b, 1x4)
■ Extras (nb 2, w 5, lb 2)	9
■ FoW: 3-117 (Rahane, 54.4 ov), 4-142 (Vihari, 67.2 ov), 5-195 (Pant, 87.4 ov), 6-195 (Pujara, 88.2 ov), 7-206 (Ashwin, 92.2 ov), 8-210 (Saini, 94.5 ov), 9-216 (Bumrah, 96.3 ov), 10-244 (Siraj, 100.4 ov)	
■ Bowling: M Starc 19-7-61-1, J Hazlewood 21-10-43-2, P Cummins 21-4-10-29-4, N Lyon 31-8-87-0, M Labuschagne 3-0-11-0, C Green 5-2-11-0	
AUSTRALIA (2ST INNINGS)	103/2
D Warner lbw Ashwin	13 (29b, 1x4)
W Pucovski c sub (Saha) b Siraj	10 (16b, 2x4)
M Labuschagne batting	47 (69b, 6x4)
S Smith batting	29 (63b, 3x4)
■ Extras (nb 3, lb 1)	4
■ FoW: 1-16 (Pucovski, 5.5 ov), 2-35 (Warner, 9.2 ov)	
■ Bowling: J Bumrah 8-1-26-0, M Siraj 8-2-20-1, N Saini 7-1-28-0, R Ashwin 6-0-28-1	

Day 4: Live on Sony Sports Network, 5am

Indian bowlers should have taken lessons from Cummins and friends. They could not on Saturday evening, as Labuschagne and Steve Smith tucked into some insipid bowling. In short, India need a Cummins, he of an ever-smiling visage, twinkling eyes and unrelenting hostility, the man who set the slow-burning day on fire.

Jasprit Bumrah was the third Indian batsman to get run out on Saturday. *AP*

This hurt more in theory as this wasn't a surprise. Vihari's run out was not preventable. This was bad. Ashwin knows he isn't a good runner. Jadeja should know. The world knows for sure. Certainly, the Australians did as they had repeatedly targeted Ashwin on the field, running

AGENCIES

Abu Dhabi: Third seed Karolina Pliskova was eliminated in straight sets by a qualifier. Third-seeded Pliskova was beaten 6-2, 6-4 by Russian Anastasia Gasanova, who was ranked 292nd in her first tour main draw.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah's communiqué to all affiliated units stipulated five rounds of Covid tests during the tournament. To start with, Elite Group A, B, C, D and E have six teams each with Bangalore, Kolkata, Baroda, Indore and Mumbai



Arjun Tendulkar has been included in the 22-member Mumbai squad. *File*

as their respective venues for group league. Eight Plate Group teams will play in Chennai. After the teams assembled at their respective venues on January 2, three rounds of Covid tests have been conducted. The group phase ends on January 19 followed by two more rounds of Covid tests before the knockouts are played in Ahmedabad from January 26. Only IPL talent scouts, selectors and staging association members have been allowed at match venues.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who hasn't played international cricket for more than a year, suffered a thigh muscle injury suffered during the IPL. He is now ready for a comeback for Uttar Pradesh in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. It is learnt that Kumar, doing his rehab at the National Cricket Academy in Bangalore, has informed the Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association about playing a few matches during the latter half of the tournament.

“...He stopped my practice showing his Dada Giri. He (Pandya) is trying to pull me down all the time in the field. He is threatening me ‘how you will play for Baroda, I will see you,’” Hooda wrote.