



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

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



INDIAN
EXPRESS
GROUP

3,352 SESSIONS HELD, UPLOADING DELAY IN SOME

COVISHIELD GIVEN IN ALL STATES, UTs, COVAXIN IN 12

UP VACCINATES 21,291; PUNJAB THE LEAST AT 1,319

Injecting Hope

1.91 lakh get shots across nation, no post-vaccine complication

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

ON DAY 1 of the world's largest immunisation exercise against the coronavirus, 1.91 lakh people were inoculated across the country. Calling it a success, the Union Health Ministry said "no case of post-vaccination hospitalisation has been reported so far", indicating there was no known incident of severe adverse reaction.

In phase one of the immunisation exercise, 3 crore people in the priority group of healthcare and frontline workers are to be vaccinated. On Saturday, 3,352 sessions were held, with the target of vaccinating at least 100 people each.

On the break-up of Covishield and Covaxin, the Ministry data showed that while the first vaccine, developed by Oxford-AstraZeneca and manufactured by Pune's Serum Institute, had been supplied to all states and Union territories, the indigenously developed Covaxin was administered in



Saroj Bala, 40, a safai karamchari for the past 20 years, after receiving the Covid vaccine at a centre in Panchkula. Jaipal Singh



PAGES 3, 4, 6, 13

PM hails scientists for 'hope in despair', says must stay vigilant

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

HAILING THE work of healthcare, frontline workers and scientists who, at great personal risk during the pandemic, "brought hope in an atmosphere of dejection", Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the world's largest Covid-19 immunisation drive Saturday as the



PM Modi at launch of the vaccine drive, Saturday. PIB

country began vaccinating an estimated 3-crore priority group with "two Made-in-India vaccines" in the first phase of an exercise that aims to eventually vaccinate 30 crore people.

In a televised address during the launch, in which he made fervent appeals and turned emotional while recalling the "nation's debt" to "those who never returned home" and "sacrificed



AIIMS Director and member of Covid task force Randeep Guleria gets a shot. Amit Mehra

First in line at AIIMS, safai karamchari says feel good

SUKRITA BARUAH & ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

IN A blizzard of popping flashbulbs, with Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan looking on, 34-year Manish Kumar took his arm out of the sleeve of his grey sanitation worker's uniform to become the first person to receive the vaccine against the novel coronavirus at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the capital on Saturday.

Around noon, emerging from the observation room half an hour after being administered the shot, Manish announced that

Reconstitute panel with 'neutral' people: Farm union tells SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

A FARMERS' organisation has approached the Supreme Court urging it to reconstitute the four-member committee appointed by the court to interact with representatives of farmers and government for an amicable resolution of the differences over the new farm laws.

The Bharatiya Kisan Union (Lok Shakti) in its plea pointed out that one of the four members, Bhupinder Singh Mann,

has backed out of the committee, and the others — Ashok Gulati, Pramod Kumar Joshi and Anil Ghanwat — have already taken positions in support of the farm laws.

The farmers' body wondered how these three members could submit a report without bias when they had already backed the laws "made and passed by the Central government without enough discussion with farmers".

The farmers' body requested the court to reconstitute the panel by including "neutral and

No policy changes till May, WhatsApp says will clear the doubts

AASHISH ARYAN & PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16


INSTANT MESSAGING platform WhatsApp announced late on Friday that it was delaying the implementation of its recent privacy policy changes, which triggered a global backlash, to May 15, instead of the scheduled February 8.

The updated policy terms were first announced via an in-app notification to users by WhatsApp, owned by Facebook, asking them to agree to the new terms by February 8 or lose access to their accounts. As both users and privacy activists raised

EXPLAINED
The Facebook factor

THE UPDATED policy terms informed users that WhatsApp receives information from, and shares information with, the Facebook family of companies. These changes were focused on introducing new options for businesses using WhatsApp Business.

the alarm, WhatsApp clarified that the changes were necessary



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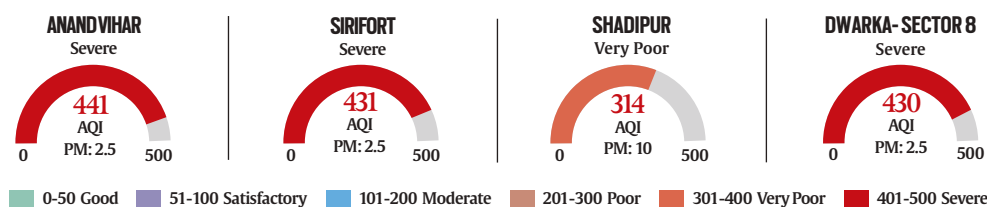
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SKY WATCH
FORECAST: Jan 17
 Mainly clear sky.
 Dense to very dense fog in the morning

MAX: 20 | **MIN: 7**
 0.2°C Above normal | 0.1°C Below normal

32 VACCINATED AT LOK NAYAK, DELHI GOVT'S LARGEST COVID FACILITY

CM underlines: Experts have assured vaccine safe, don't believe rumours



The Chief Minister was at Lok Nayak hospital when the vaccination drive kicked off on Saturday. *Praveen Khanna*

ASTHA SAXENA
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

THE FIRST shots of Covid-19 vaccine were administered to 4,319 healthcare workers at 81 sites in Delhi as the country kicked off a mass immunisation programme.

During the inoculation drive, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal visited Delhi government's Lok Nayak hospital — which has been the largest Covid facility and at the forefront of the pandemic fight. "Today marks the beginning of the mass vaccination drive for Covid-19 that has kicked off in the entire country. In Delhi, the vaccination drive has started in 81 sites and we will increase it to 1,000 in coming days. I have inspected and met healthcare workers who have been administered the vaccine and they are feeling fine. Don't believe in any rumour — experts have suggested that the vaccine is completely safe."

Atmaja Priyadarshini Nayak, nursing officer at the hospital,

was administered the vaccine shot in the presence of the CM. Health Minister Satyendar Jain tweeted, "Our frontline workers received the first dose. I appreciate their endless efforts and dedication. Kudos to our scientists for their tireless work. Honour to have witnessed the historical vaccine rollout in capital."

At 10.30 am, 48-year-old nurse Biji Tommy from Lok Nayak's department of ENT entered the vaccination centre amid cheers and claps. Located on the first floor of the hospital, the centre was decorated with marigold garlands and balloons in a hall that has over the past year witnessed stories of emotional distress of Covid patients. "Bohot acha lag raha hai laga kar (It feels good after getting vaccinated)," she said as she exited. Staff waiting outside handed a rose to her, a display of encouragement for taking the first step.

For almost five months, she had to spend time away from her husband and two sons. "I could not even celebrate Easter

MASS IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME: DAY 1

81 session sites	4,319 healthcare workers administered the first shot	3,500 staff involved
42 private hospitals	33 Delhi govt/civic hospitals	6 Central govt hospitals

UNDER FIRST PHASE

District	Healthcare workers	Frontline workers	Aged above 50	Below 50 with ailments	Vaccination sites planned	Teams required
Central	34,653	69,306	3.94 lakh	4.98 lakh	103	114
East	11,532	23,064	3.43 lakh	3.78 lakh	78	86
New Delhi	14,582	29,164	3.10 lakh	3.54 lakh	73	81
North	7,100	14,200	5.09 lakh	5.31 lakh	110	121
Northeast	4,737	9,474	2.97 lakh	3.11 lakh	65	71
Northwest	23,158	46,316	4.41 lakh	5.11 lakh	106	117
Shahdara	14,191	28,382	3.07 lakh	3.49 lakh	72	80
South	17,552	35,104	2.71 lakh	3.23 lakh	67	74
Southeast	21,017	42,034	3.93 lakh	4.56 lakh	95	104
Southwest	17,634	35,268	5.38 lakh	5.91 lakh	123	135
West	23,603	47,206	4.48 lakh	5.18 lakh	108	118

with them. In July, I missed my elder son's birthday. Fear used to creep in every time I got myself tested for Covid-19. Those hours of wait felt like an era. I have broken down several times as I waited to see my family," she said at the observation area of the hospital.

With some apprehensions regarding the vaccine among the general population and even healthcare workers, leaving for the hospital on Saturday morning was not easy, she said. "My family was tense. Though none of them were against me getting the shot, I could see nervousness on their faces. It was tough for

me to step out of the house. My husband has been taking care of the family through the time I was away," she said.

At the hospital, where 100 healthcare workers were expected to get vaccinated, a total of 32 turned up. Each time someone headed from the vaccination centre to the observation area, cheers and applause could be heard.

Dr Suresh Kumar, medical director of the hospital, said: "We will get rid of Covid-19 after this vaccine drive. There is a festive mood across the country among all healthcare workers. We have treated around 11,000 Covid pa-

tients since the beginning, and while treating them, many of our staff members also got infected."

According to data shared by the Delhi government, a total of 51 vaccinated persons developed minor complications such as headaches, irritation and giddiness. South and southeast districts registered 11 minor cases each.

A 22-year-old security guard developed an allergy after being administered Covaxin at AIIMS. He remains admitted but is stable, sources at the medical institute said. His case has been categorised as 'severe' in Delhi government's records.

BRIEFLY

7 arrested for burglary at jewellery store

New Delhi: Two days after the burglary at a Reliance Jewels store in Maurya Enclave, Delhi Police has arrested seven persons in the case. Police said the accused had fled with 6.9 kg of gold jewellery from the store Thursday. "The burglars led us to those who received the stolen property. We have arrested them and recovered 3-4 kg jewellery from them," said the police.

Dense fog leads to delay in 40 flights

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality was severe for a third day in a row on Saturday aided by poor weather conditions, which are forecast to improve Sunday onwards. The city also witnessed very dense fog in the early morning hours, during which visibility dropped up to 0 metres, as per the IMD. Poor visibility led to delay of over 40 flights at the Delhi airport and also 24 trains, officials said. AQI of NCR towns Ghaziabad, Faridabad and Noida were also in the severe category on Saturday, while that of Gurgaon was very poor.

BJP MCD councillor joins AAP

New Delhi: Aarti Yadav, a sitting BJP MCD councillor, Saturday joined the AAP. Former councillor Anil Yadav also joined the party. The party also held 99 mohalla sabhas across 56 assembly constituencies as part of its ongoing campaign against the BJP misrule in the MCDs. The Delhi municipal polls are slated to be held in 2022. **ENS**

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First bird flu death at Delhi zoo

New Delhi: A brown fish owl kept in captivity at the Delhi zoo died earlier this week and tested positive for bird flu on Friday, director of the National Zoological Park (NZP) Ramesh Pandey said. Sanitisation and surveillance drills have been intensified at the zoo and preventive measures are being taken to stop further

spread of the avian influenza virus, Pandey said.

The owl had died following a serological survey that was carried out by a team of officials from the zoo and Delhi's animal husbandry department on January 11.

The director said the zoo houses captive and free ranging

birds, including local migratory waterfowls and waders.

He said the NZP was following avian influenza-related protocol and guidelines issued by the Central Zoo Authority, the environment ministry and animal husbandry department, which have now been intensified. **ENS**

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7. Accountant	8. Office Assistant	4. Computer Science - BCA, MCA
9. Counsellor (F)	10. Receptionist (F)	5. Education, Physical Education, Law
11. Assessor & Trainer (Certified) All Sector Skill Council of India : Agriculture, Apparels, Automotive, Beauty & Wellness, BFSI, Capital Goods, Construction, Electronics, Food Processing, Green Jobs, Handicraft & Carpet, Healthcare, IT/ITES, Logistic, Media & Entertainment, Mining, Power, Retail, Security, Sports, Telecom, Textile, Tourism & Hospitality and other		6. Yoga, GYM & Swimming
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THE SUNDAY EXPRESS, JANUARY 17, 2021

4 VACCINE DAY ONE THE CITY

COVID VACCINATION DRIVE KICKS OFF AT 81 SITES

Delhi rolls up its sleeve

After months of hardship, healthcare, frontline workers breathe sigh of relief as national capital vaccinates over 4,000 people on first day

At RML, spirits high: 'Worked hard, glad to get the benefit first'

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

ENTHUSIASM was high at the Centre-run Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, among the few hospitals in the national capital to administer Covaxin on Saturday. While Covishield was given at 75 centres, six centres gave Covaxin to recipients.

On Day 1 of the massive exercise, 31 health workers and staff were given the Bharat-Biotech produced vaccine. "We have around 6,500 staff/healthcare workers in the hospital who shall be vaccinated in the coming weeks, with a target of 300 per day," said Dr Neelam Roy, the nodal official in-charge.

Dr A K Rana, medical superintendent of the hospital, who also got the shot Saturday, said doubts and suspicions over the vaccines were unfounded and that they were based on "rock-solid science".

The first individual to be vaccinated was Ramakant Singh (40), a security guard at the hospital, who said: "I feel good — no side effects at all. This is good for us." Jitender Singh Chauhan (36), also a security guard, was also in queue: "We worked quite hard during the lockdown and continue to do so even now; I'm glad we are getting the benefit first."

Many nursing officials who have spent the past several months under Covid's shadow also got the vaccine. R K Boyala (55), the superintendent nursing officer, said, "I feel good, hopeful. I did not really feel scared, nor did I get any side effects. I was infected with Covid in May and had recovered. We deal with so many people on a daily basis and have to go home to our families, so the vaccination is welcome."

Urmil Jaiswal (55), assistant superintendent nursing officer, said, "Life will become smoother now — we suffered a lot this past year. People lost a lot — their incomes, education, and livelihoods. Hopefully life will finally come back on track. We tend to take a lot of precautions, but with this our families are safer."

HOW MANY RECEIVED SHOT AT TOP HOSPITALS

95 at AIIMS
32 at Lok Nayak
31 at GTB
31 at RML
26 at Lady Hardinge
45 at Rajiv Gandhi

People who got Covaxin were asked to sign a consent form and provided with a fact sheet issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with information on the make of the vaccine, its possible side effects and allergic reactions. The individuals were kept under observation for 30 minutes and asked to report back if they had any adverse effects over the next week. They were told to come back in 28 days for the second shot.

The fact sheet also stated that clinical efficacy of the vaccine has not been established as it is currently under phase 3 trial. It stated that the patients shall be followed up for three months, and in case of any adverse effects causally related to the vaccine, they shall be provided healthcare at government hospitals, and be given compensation as decided by the ICMR Central Ethics Committee.

Leela Batkar (60), a deputy nursing officer said, "We are getting vaccines so it encourages others to come forward and get vaccinated as well. If we get scared, what will happen to the public?"

Dr Ramesh Chand Keshav, a faculty from the anaesthesia department, said: "We may not have had a choice when it came to the vaccine, yet it is important and shall provide immunity. This is the only way maximum people can be protected."

Also at the hospital was Ashwini Kumar Choubey, MoS in the Health Ministry, who gave flowers to many healthcare workers. "As one can see, so many people are getting vaccinated, there is no need for any fear," he said.

Meanwhile, its RDA seeks vaccine switch

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

THE RESIDENT Doctors' Association (RDA) of Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital Saturday requested the medical superintendent to vaccinate them with Covishield, developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca and manufactured by Serum Institute of India. The hospital is among six institutes in the capital that are administering Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.

In a letter to the medical superintendent, the association said: "Resident doctors are a bit apprehensive about the lack of complete trial in case of Covaxin and might not participate in huge numbers, thus defeating the purpose of vaccination. We request you to vaccinate us with Covishield which has completed all stages of trial before its rollout."

On Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Covid vaccination drive and asserted that the made-in-India vaccine being rolled out will ensure a "decisive victory" for the country over the pandemic.

Covaxin, jointly made by Bharat Biotech, in collaboration with ICMR and National Institute of Virology, has been given restricted approval "in emergency situation in public interest as an abundant precaution, in clinical

trial mode, to have more options for vaccinations, especially in case of infection by mutant strains".

Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, who visited the hospital to take stock of the vaccination drive, said: "We can only tell you our view point and from our view point, both vaccines are equally good and safe. The whole country has welcomed the move very happily. Time and again, we are trying to tell everybody to believe in what experts are saying. Experts have done good quality research and put their heart and soul in bringing out the vaccine."

In the capital, six central government hospitals — AIIMS, Safdarjung, RML, Kalawati Saran Children Hospital and two ESI hospitals — have been chosen as sites for Covaxin, while 75 are giving Covishield.

Said Dr Nirmalya Mohapatra, the RDA vice-president, "We don't want to be treated like guinea pigs under clinical trials. Residents in the hospital had voluntarily registered for the vaccination programme but as they came to know about the vaccine being used in the institute, many of them expressed apprehensions."

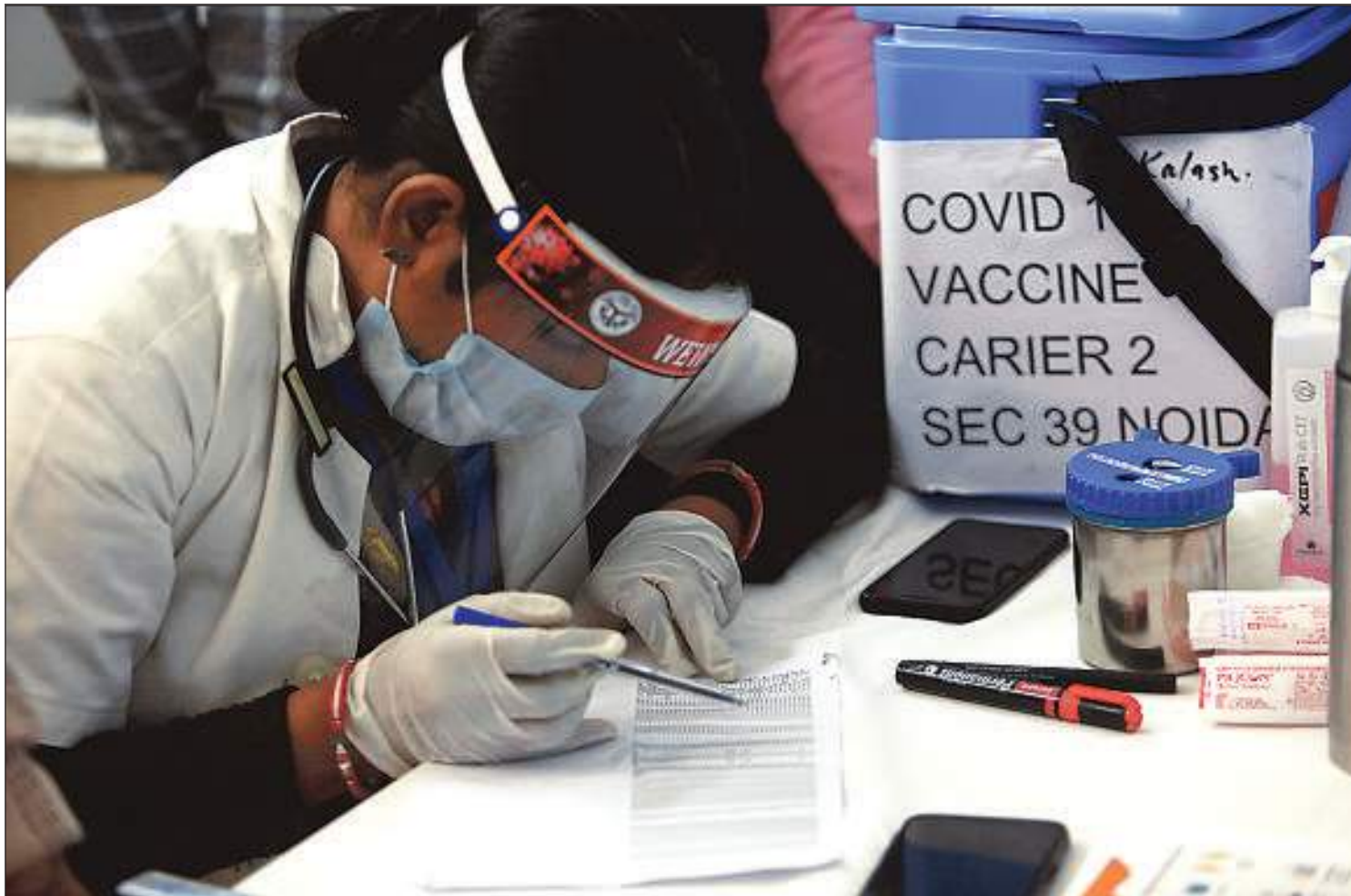
Dr AK Rana, medical superintendent, said: "I will try to speak to the residents on Monday. The decision to change the vaccine is to be taken by top authorities."



(from left); Sheetal Bharadwaj works in the accounts dept at an East Delhi hospital; nurses at RML; Adeethi K, a nurse at Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya



(from left) Radha Chaudhary, a sanitation worker in Gurgaon; Poonam Sharma, an anganwadi worker; Abhinav, an orthopaedic surgeon at Max Saket



Gajendra Yadav



Gajendra Yadav



(Top) During the Covid-19 vaccination drive at Noida's Kailash Hospital (Above) Ambuj Pandey, a 47-year-old Asha worker in Gurgaon (left) Health workers at a Noida government hospital

Anganwadi, ASHA workers first in Gurgaon queue: 'Didn't think twice, trust authorities'

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, JANUARY 16

AS THE Prime Minister's speech, being broadcast live at the Government Girls Primary School in Gurgaon, came to an end, Radha Chaudhary (47), a sanitation worker at Wazirabad's Primary Health Centre, got up from her seat and walked to "Vaccination Officer — I".

After providing documentation and getting details cross-checked in the list of beneficiaries, she walked into a second classroom, where her details were uploaded on the Covid

portal. Once this was done, she crossed a green curtain and emerged moments later as the first person in Gurgaon to have been administered the Covid vaccine.

Said the mother of three: "My work is such that I am constantly in high footfall areas. I did not think twice when I heard I was eligible — I trust the authorities and believe only the vaccination can help."

For Poonam Sharma, an anganwadi worker, the decision to get vaccinated was preceded by long discussions with relatives. "I was in two minds because of some of the things I had read, but I decided to take the chance.

These are chances we take with every other medicine or vaccine as well," she said. "I have been living very carefully, in the same house as my husband, two children, and father-in-law. They keep a bucket of water and a mug for me to bathe when I get home. I will continue to follow precautions, but mentally I will be more at ease now."

Ambuj Pandey, a 47-year-old Asha worker, reiterated this: "We have to go from neighbourhood to neighbourhood, meet people face-to-face. We have been involved in Covid duty. So when this vaccine came, there was no doubt I had to take it. I will come back next

month for the second shot."

As per data shared by officials, 608 people were vaccinated on Day 1 at 6 sites — none reported any adverse events following immunisation (AEFI).

Gurgaon Civil Surgeon Dr Virender Yadav, the second beneficiary of the vaccine, said he decided to get vaccinated in the hope of "removing doubts of people and instilling confidence in the vaccine". He said "no person had any problem because of the vaccine".

At Medanta - The Medicity, another centre for vaccination, among the first to get the shot was cardiologist Dr Naresh Trehan. "It is crucial for every-

one to get this vaccine to protect their relatives and society. In terms of safety, it does not seem there will be any difficulty. If there is anything such as pain or light fever, it is natural. It shows that the vaccine is working," he said.

As Dr Trehan was being administered the vaccine at Medanta, at the vaccination centre in Wazirabad, Radha Chaudhary walked out of the observation room, half-an-hour after being administered the shot. Immediately, others waiting in line called out to her, asking how she felt. Chaudhary lifted both her hands and gave them a double thumbs up.

Some app delays but process smooth

ARANYA SHANKAR
& ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

WELCOMED WITH balloons, all 100 people listed as beneficiaries at Max Super Specialty Hospital, Saket, were administered the Covid vaccine on Saturday.

While the immunisation drive was to begin at 10.30 am, simultaneously with the PM's speech, it started an hour later due to an issue with the CoWin app server. "We completed our entire list by around 5.30 pm," said medical superintendent Sahar Qureshi.

Once it began, the process was smooth. The list of beneficiaries was alphabetical, and they were asked to come by 9-9.30 am. Some received SMSes from the Centre, others got calls from the hospital to arrive on time and bring their Aadhaar card.

First in line to get the shot was Ashutosh Chaturvedi (31), a nurse in-charge in the Emergency department: "For 8-9 months, I could not meet my family; I sent them to Rajasthan. I was given the Covishield vaccine — it was painless and comfortable."

Also on the list was Dr Abhinav (30), an orthopaedic surgeon who recovered from Covid: "My brother and I got the virus last September; he had to be admitted to the ICU. My parents are above 60 years of age, so getting the vaccine will definitely give me more confidence to meet them."

Abhimanyu Singh (30), a doctor who worked in the Covid ICU since June, was on the list too. "I didn't have any side effects but was told there may be slight fever or myalgia (muscle pain), which happens with any vaccine."

On average, it took around 45 minutes to vaccinate one person.

Meanwhile in East Delhi, Nitin Dhama (28), a lab technician at Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, was excited about the prospect of seeing his mother, grandmother, wife and three-year-old son again. For the past 10 months, he has been living at the hospital's hostel. "After my second dose, I will go meet them more often."

Nitin was among 100 healthcare workers at the centre who received the Covid vaccine.

Adeethi K (34), a nurse, was the first beneficiary. She said, "My husband is also a nurse. We contracted Covid last May and sent our children, aged two and five, to our hometown in Kerala. They have come back now so we do not want them to get exposed. I am glad to be among the first to get vaccinated."

While some were confident, others were hesitant. Three staffers discussed the pros and cons of getting the vaccine. Sheetal Bharadwaj (28), who works in the accounts department, said, "It is ironic that we were all waiting for the vaccine for so long but now that it is here, we are scared. I think it is safe and once I get it, I will encourage my family and friends to do so too."

By 5 pm, 49 beneficiaries had been vaccinated. Hospital officials said there was a slight delay initially as the Co-WIN app was down for a short while.

Medical Superintendent Dr Mamta Jajoo said, "The process was quite smooth. We had sent the Delhi government details of all our healthcare workers a few days earlier. On Friday evening, we received a list of 100 healthcare workers. We then sent them messages regarding timings."

"Of the 49 beneficiaries, only one or two had mild symptoms like headaches for 5-7 minutes." All beneficiaries were kept in observation post the shot," she said.

At Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, by 5 pm, 33 beneficiaries had got the shot. Among them was Rampal Gurjar (36), who was also on duty as a vaccination officer. "It is our duty as healthcare workers to go first," he said.



In association with



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In conversation with

Shubhra Gupta

Film Critic, The Indian Express

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Ban on shay synthetic/nylon kite flying thread including popularly known "Chinese Manjha"

This is for the information of the general public that in order to prevent the adverse effects on human beings, cattle population, birds, soil and ecology and in exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) read with Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs' Notification No. SO 667 (E), dated 10th September, 1992, a Notification was issued on 10.01.2017 by order and in the name of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of the NCT of Delhi with the following directions:-

1. There shall be complete ban on the sale, production, storage, supply, import, and use of kite flying thread made out of nylon, plastic or any other synthetic material including popularly known as "Chinese manja" and any other kite-flying thread that is sharp or made sharp such as by being laced with glass, metal or any other sharp materials in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
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3.	The Chief Wildlife Warden, GNCTD	ccfgnctd@gmail.com	1800118600
4.	The Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation	commr-northdmc@mcd.nic.in	155304
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The above said NOTIFICATION is available at: www.environment.delhigovt.nic.in

Sd/-

Dr. K. S. Jayachandran
Special Secretary (Env.)

DIP/Shabdarth/0544/20-21

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DIP/SHABDARTH/0544/20-21

6 VACCINE DAY ONE NATION

Ladakh to Kerala, rollout begins

The Indian Express looks at the Covid-19 immunisation exercise in states and UTs

MAHARASHTRA
Of the 28,500 health workers who had been listed to get the vaccine on the inaugural day, Maharashtra recorded a turnout of 64.3 per cent. Of the 18,328 people vaccinated in Maharashtra on Saturday, 10 recipients suffered mild reactions including nausea, vomiting, and anxiety. Hingoli recorded the highest turnout—100 per cent—while Mumbai had the least at 48.5 per cent. Owing to technical glitches in the CoWIN App platform in Mumbai, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation suspended the vaccination drive for two days on Sunday and Monday, until the wrinkles in the system are ironed out. The problem was experienced across the state, and details of those who got the shot had to be entered manually. State Health Secretary Pradip Vyas said that the problem was triggered due to a bug in the Co-WIN app on Friday. “But now it has been resolved.”

JHARKHAND
Jharkhand conducted the vaccination drive across 48 sites among 3,200 health workers. The state has 1.5 lakh health care workers. It faced several challenges in preparing for the vaccination process. Prem Kamal, state head of the UN Development Program, which provided some tech support, said data of health care workers was not available as a whole with government. “Every PHC, block level gave the data to us of all ANMs, nursing homes, students, and hospitals. It was an example of extraordinary teamwork.” He added that during uploading of the data there was a problem as the CoWIN platform is based on pin codes.

WEST BENGAL
Several TMC leaders, including two MLAs, were among those who received a Covid-19 vaccine in Purba Bardhaman district, while many healthcare workers alleged that they could not get inoculated though they were asked to visit a vaccination centre. According to officials, 20,700 workers were scheduled to be inoculated by the end of the day in 207 centres, but 25 per cent of those eligible did not turn up. Glitches in the Centre’s CoWIN vaccine registration app since Friday impeded many immunisation centres’ efforts. TMC MLA Rabindranath Chatterjee was seen receiving a shot. With questions raised, a district official said he is the chairperson of the patient welfare association of Katwa Sub-Divisional Hospital. TMC MLA from Bhatar Subhash Mondal, former TMC MLA Banamali Hazra and Zilla Parishad executive member Jahar Bagdi also received the vaccine. All are associated with patient welfare committees of government hospitals.

ODISHA
Odisha Saturday inoculated 13,292 people including frontline workers. Health officials said 81 per cent of the targeted frontline workers were given the vaccine dose. And till 6 pm, 100 per cent of the vaccination target was achieved in 5 districts.

HARYANA
Haryana’s vaccine roll-out began Saturday at 77 sites which will attempt to inoculate 1.3 lakh frontline workers over five days. Haryana has received 2,41,500 doses of Covishield and 20,000 doses of Bharat Biotech’s Covaxin. While Covishield was administered at 71 sites, the remaining six sites used Covaxin. “Depending upon supplies, we can keep enhancing our vaccination capabilities. As of today, we have over 5,000 vaccinators and Haryana has a capacity of vaccinating at least 5 lakh people on a daily basis,” said the state’s Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Rajeev Arora.

BIHAR
Patna: Bihar Health Minister Mangal Pandey Saturday said 18,122 people were vaccinated at 301 centres. The centres will carry out vac-

EXPERTS ON THE VACCINATION DRIVE

‘Like expecting a baby, seeing it being born’

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

WITH PRIME Minister Narendra Modi rolling out the world’s largest vaccination drive against the pandemic that has caused 1,52,093 deaths and upended millions of lives in the country, experts—who have been spending hours ironing out creases ahead of the launch of the inoculation campaign—said they were ecstatic and relieved to execute the herculean task much ahead of time. Dr Randeep Guleria, Director of AIIMS and a member of the Covid task force was among the first ones to take a shot of Bharat Biotech’s Covaxin at AIIMS on Saturday. Calling the vaccination programme “a game changer”, he said, “Before this, we did not have any definite treatment strategy. We were giving a lot of drugs but we didn’t have a good antiviral drug. This is one strategy which is going towards finding an end to the pandemic. The vaccination programme is something which has happened early. When the discussions were going on, people were

even thinking of March for getting the vaccine. People have worked extra hard, both in terms of the manufacturers, trials and rolling out the whole process because there was a huge upscaling that was required.” In August, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) had constituted the National Expert Group on Vaccine administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC) to provide vaccine guidance and mechanism for the delivery. Dr Samiran Panda, Indian Council of Medical Research, Scientist and Head of Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases Division and a member of NEGVAC, told The Sunday Express “It’s almost like expecting a baby and then seeing the baby being born, but then all the worries are not yet over because the newborn now requires a different kind of care and protection. The vaccine has come into being within 10-11 months of knowing the whole genome sequence of the virus. It is a phenomenal achievement for India. It’s not over yet. Now is the time for us to remain more cautious and see how things go further.”

SHOT BY SHOT

Hope and cheer prevailed at hospitals and healthcare centres across the country



A cardiologist at Hero DMC Heart Institute in Ludhiana gets the first dose.



A frontline worker at Victoria Hospital in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.



A medic administers a dose of Covishield vaccine to Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla in Pune.



Health workers after receiving the first dose at Govt Ayurveda Hospital in Kozhikode, Kerala.



A doctor gets inoculated at an urban primary health centre in Kolkata.



PM Narendra Modi monitors the vaccination process from his office in New Delhi



Dr Shashank Joshi, Dean of Indian College of Physicians and member of Maharashtra's Covid task force, at BKC Covid Centre, Mumbai



Vaccination at a government hospital in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla. Shuaib Masoodi

cination on four days in a week—Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The minister said there had been adequate preparations for bio-waste management after vaccination as colour-coded bags would be used to take it to cold chain point. Of 18,122 people vaccinated, 17,857 people got Covishield and the rest got Covaxin.

RAJASTHAN
According to the Rajasthan Health Department, around 17,000 people were selected for vaccination on Saturday and around 9,279 were vaccinated till 4.30pm. The department said the vaccination will take place on four days every week, except Thursdays, Sundays and government holidays. The state has received around 5.63 lakh doses for the first phase of vaccination.

UTTARAKHAND
Seventy-two per cent—or 2,276 of the total 3,182—beneficiaries listed to be inoculated on Saturday turned up on the first day of the vaccination drive in Uttarakhand at the 34 vaccination sites across 13 districts. Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said the state has requested the Centre to provide additional 20,000 doses of the vaccine for Haridwar in view of the Kumbh Mela.

GUJARAT
Of more than 16,000 health workers targeted to be covered, 11,800 received vaccines on

the first day of the vaccination drive on Saturday. “While the target was getting 100 vaccinated per centre, it is not practically possible because some sites did not have as many health workers itself...,” said state immunisation officer Nayan Jani.

KERALA
As many as 8,062 health workers were given the Covishield vaccine in Kerala on the first day as against the target of 11,138, according to Health Minister K K Shailaja. Palakkad district reported the highest number of vaccinated health workers (857), while Malappuram reported the lowest (155). Kerala had got the first consignment of 4, 33,500 doses of Covishield vaccine earlier this week.

MADHYA PRADESH
A total of 9,584 people, amounting to 64 per cent of the targeted 15,000 healthcare workers, were administered the first dose of the vaccine on Saturday. Indore, which has the highest caseload of nearly 57,000 positive cases, saw about 76 per cent vaccination. In Bhopal, 51 per cent received the first shot. A total of 4,16 lakh health workers are to be vaccinated, of which 57,000 are scheduled to get the vaccine in the first week.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR
The vaccination drive has been started at 20 locations each in Kashmir and Jammu divisions

with 100 people being vaccinated at each place. Around 1.6 lakh health workers will be covered in the first phase. They will be followed by nearly seven lakh frontline workers including security forces, paramilitary forces and police personnel, besides municipality workers and revenue department officials.

LADAKH
In Ladakh, around 100 medical staff at high risk were given the vaccine on Saturday. Skalzang Chodon, a sanitation worker, got the first jab at Heart Foundation Hospital in Leh in the presence of the Lt Governor R K Mathur and MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal.

ASSAM
Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the vaccination drive began at 65 centres across Assam, including seven medical colleges and 24 district hospitals. The state has received 2.21 lakh (2 lakh doses of doses of Covishield and 20,000 doses of Covaxin) vaccines. Each site will administer vaccine to 100 persons in a day. Nearly 1.9 lakh frontline workers will be covered in the first phase.

MEGHALAYA
In Meghalaya, CM Conrad Sangma launched the vaccination drive in the state from the NEIGRIMS Hospital, Shillong which is one of the 10 sites in Meghalaya that will conduct the vaccination drive. “Over 832 healthcare workers will be administered the #Covishield

vaccine in our State,” Sangma tweeted.

KARNATAKA
Nearly 62 per cent of the beneficiaries received the vaccine on the first day in Karnataka as the immunisation programme was rolled out at 243 government and private centres. “As many as 21,658 people were identified...of these, 13,408 availed the vaccine. There were no adverse effects but there were instances of swelling in some cases after the injection,” Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar. A total of 7.43 lakh health workers have been identified in the state for vaccination and eight lakh doses have been sent by the Centre, the minister said.

UTTAR PRADESH
More than 20,000 health workers were vaccinated at 317 centres with nearly 35 per cent missing their doses on the first day. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited hospitals in Lucknow to inspect the process. Of the 317 centres, 306 places administered the Covishield vaccine while the others gave doses of Bharat Biotech’s Covaxin.

PUNJAB
On the day one, a total of 1,327 beneficiaries turned up for taking Covishield shot, as against the target of 5,853 in 22 districts. This translates to merely 22.67 per cent of the target. -WITH PTI INPUTS

CoWIN glitches in remote areas of Palghar, officials say lessons learnt

TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA
PALGHAR, JANUARY 16

FROM 8 am on Saturday, Nilesh Rawal’s eyes were trained onto his laptop, two mobile phones in his hands, as he made rapid calls to district level officials. The CoWIN page refused to load onto his screen. By 10.30 am, when PM Narendra Modi began his speech, Rawal, the administrative officer in Palghar’s sub-district hospital, was surrounded by staff in panic. An internet operator and a technician from Jawhar village were summoned and, eventually, at 12.35 pm, the vaccination drive started. It was, however, without CoWIN as the software glitch could not be set right. By then, Dr Anand Adsul, the first beneficiary, had already waited for four-and-a-half hours. Local MLA Sunil Bhusara could not wait any longer and posed for a photograph with a nurse, who pretended to inject Adsul. The sub-district hospital in Jawhar, located in the tribal hilly terrain of Palghar, is one of the few remote hospitals demonstrating challenges in rural and tribal areas as India takes to



For hours, officials at Jawhar village's vaccination centre tried to resolve software glitches. Deepak Joshi

a digital platform for the first time for a countrywide immunisation drive. CoWIN, an online software, will require all data of health beneficiaries to be uploaded in real time when they get the shot. This software is also supposed to create and send automated messages scheduling appointment for vaccination. But in Jawhar hospital, the superintendent personally informed all 100 beneficiaries when the software did not work on Friday. In

Dahanu sub-district hospital, 70 km from Palghar, the CoWIN software stopped working after the first beneficiary was registered. Even at the Palghar rural hospital, where the internet signal is comparatively better, the software was slow. Officials said while internet was one problem, too much traffic on the software could be another. “We were trained to use it, but it looks like the software has been updated and I am learning to navigate it now,” said Rawal, who sat at the registration desk in Jawhar. The Jawhar hospital has installed a 10 Mbps Wi-Fi router and asked a technician to remain on standby for the next few days. Taluka health officer Dr Kiran Patil said for rural and tribal areas, digital technology will be the biggest impediment to the vaccination programme. “But we are learning,” he said. Keeping in mind the next phase, Palghar immunisation officer Dr Milind Chavan said they planned to select schools, primary health centres with good network. “These centres will be in proximity to specialised hospitals to manage adverse events. Today was like a trial for us and we learnt lessons.”

WHAT THEY SAID

A cautious sense of relief was palpable through the day—be it among ministers, health professionals or those getting vaccinated



These vaccines are the ‘sanjivani’ in our fight against this pandemic. We have won the battles against polio and small pox. Now, we have reached the decisive phase of winning the war against coronavirus.

HARSH VARDHAN,
UNION HEALTH MINISTER



I am very happy to receive the dose. From today we see a new beginning

DR ACHYUT BAISHYA,
PRINCIPAL, GAUhati MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL

Everyone should for sure get vaccinated. You and I have to get vaccinated. Those from your and my family too should get the vaccine.

EDAPPADI K PALANISWAMI,
TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER



It is a revolutionary step we are taking today. I salute the corona warriors who selflessly treated the Covid-19 patients when there was no remedy available.

UDDHAV THACKERAY,
MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER



The pandemic is not going to end after this vaccine. We still need to make sure that we follow the health protocol, including the use of masks, hand wash and social distancing. Immunity will be developed slowly.

K K SHAILAJA,
KERALA HEALTH MINISTER



We got the supply of Covishield. It doesn't matter if it is Covishield or Covaxin. All are well-tested and scientifically planned vaccines.

SUDHIR BHADRAL,
PRINCIPAL, SMS HOSPITAL, JAIPUR



Some ASHAs are refusing to get vaccinated due to myths. Hence, I came forward to get myself vaccinated first.

ANJU BALA,
'ASHA' FROM PUNJAB'S FAZILKA



Benefit of vaccination clearly outweighs the risk of disease.... I have taken the vaccine to give a message that it is safe.

M K SUDARSHAN,
CHAIRPERSON, KARNATAKA'S COVID-19 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



The antibodies begin to form two weeks after the second dose, which is administered on the 28th day after the first dose. You must show patience and wait for at least one-and-a-half months.

TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT,
UTTARAKHAND CHIEF MINISTER



I believe that this is a great vaccine. I have taken Covaxin. Embrace the vaccine.

V K PAUL,
NITI AAYOG MEMBER

There was always fear in the mind because of close proximity to coronavirus patients. But now I am feeling much safer.

ABDUL QAYOUM,
SECURITY GUARD AT ERA MEDICAL COLLEGE IN UTTAR PRADESH

Ahead of Bengal polls, BJP plans Rath yatras

EXPLAINED **E** Leaving no stone unturned

WITH THE West Bengal polls being a high-stake election for the BJP, the party seems determined to mount an aggressive campaign, with top leaders deciding to organise massive outreach programmes. In a state where the issue of immigration is a major poll plank, the saffron party is also hoping to cash in on the new citizenship law and its image to consolidate Hindu votes, while it is trying to strike a balance on the issue in Assam.

A group of people, including a man in a red shawl, are celebrating with garlands. The man in the center is wearing a red shawl and a white shirt, and is making a peace sign. He is surrounded by other people, some of whom are also wearing red shawls. They are all holding up garlands made of red and green flowers. The background is dark, suggesting it might be nighttime.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa in Bengaluru on Saturday. PTI

‘Made in India vaccine shows determination of self-reliant India’

When will poor get vaccine, will it be free for them, asks Akhilesh

He added, "I am happy... And about the vaccine, it was not just me who was worried... I have no complaint from doctors, scientists and volunteers. The question is that when will the poor get the vaccine? And will it be free for them?..."

At panel meet, Rahul, others question govt's foreign policy

S Jaishankar; Rahul Gandhi

process be restored.

All the members, it is learnt, complemented the MEA for its prompt response during the lockdown, especially for evacuating Indian citizens and students from abroad.

Congress members also asked the government to be mindful that some of its policies and internal developments are getting negative comments globally. Some domestic politics also had an adverse fallout in some neighbouring countries, they pointed out. Both Sharma and Tharoor were Ministers of State for External Affairs in the UPA government. Sharma was also Commerce Minister.

Earlier this month, several British MPs across party lines had urged Prime Minister Boris Johnson to take up the farmers' protest in India with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Sharma said the protesting farmers cannot just be labelled "Khalistanis" and pointed out that given the presence of a large Indian diaspora in many countries, questions are bound to be asked.

In 2019, the US Congress had held a hearing on India's removal of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370. Earlier, the US House Foreign Affairs committee, a powerful bipartisan committee in the US Congress, made critical observations about the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

In Saturday's meeting, some Congress members are learnt to have asked the government about its plans to engage with the incoming Joe Biden administration in the US, and pointed out that New Delhi should balance its ties between the US and Russia.

BJP picks Shahnawaz as MLC candidate

BJP NATIONAL spokesperson and former Union minister Syed Shahnawaz Hussain was on Saturday declared the saffron party's candidate for the bypoll to Bihar's Legislative Council.

His nomination to the state's Upper House is near certain with the ruling NDA having sufficient numbers in the Legislative Assembly — 125 seats in a House of 243.

Hussain was a Union minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.




Syed Shahnawaz Hussain

His candidature was confirmed by BJP national general secretary and party headquarters in-charge Arun Singh. This is Hussain's first attempt in electoral politics after he unsuccessfully contested the Bhagalpur seat in the 2014 general elections.


He lost by a narrow margin to RJD's Shailesh Kumar. In the 2019 general elections, the BJP decided to give the Bhagalpur seat to the JD (U) as part of the seat-sharing arrangement.

Since then, Hussain has been working as one of the BJP's national spokespersons. While Hussain was not available for comment, Bihar BJP spokesperson Nikhil Anand told *The Indian Express*: "We welcome the decision of the Central leadership. Hussain's vast Parliamentary experience would be useful in Bihar Upper House and the level of debate would rise with his presence."



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- Rewa-Kevadiya Express
- Chennai-Kevadiya Express
- Pratapnagar-Kevadiya MEMU
- Kevadiya-Pratapnagar MEMU

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by

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

(Through Video Conferencing)

Sunday, 17th January, 2021 at 11:00 Hrs.

In the August Presence of

Acharya Devvrat

Governor,
Gujarat

Vijaybhai Rupani

Chief Minister,
Gujarat

Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

Minister of External Affairs,
Govt. of India


Piyush Goyal

Minister of Railways,
Commerce & Industry,
Consumer Affairs,
Food & Public Distribution,
Govt. of India

Nitinbhai Patel

Dy. Chief Minister,
Gujarat





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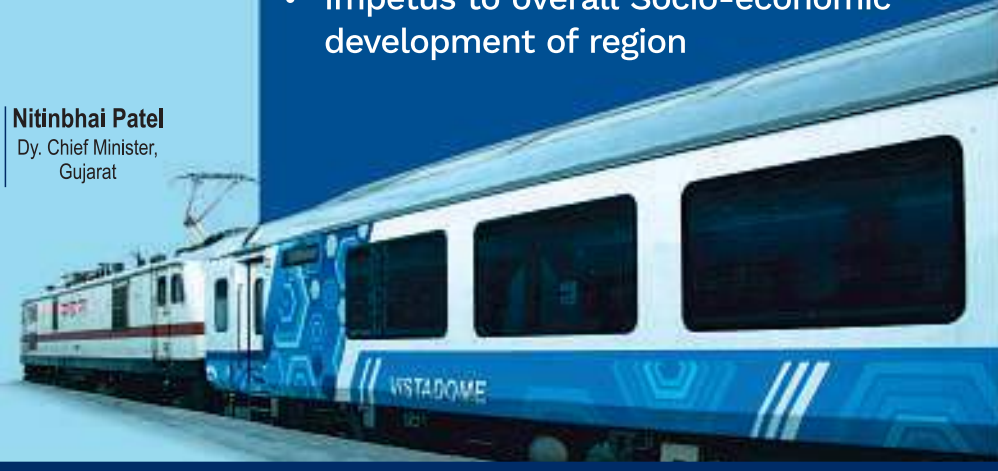


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CBI suspends two personnel for taking bribes

New Delhi: The CBI has suspended an inspector and a stenographer for allegedly taking bribes in exchange for information on probes and compromise on investigations into two cases of bank fraud totalling Rs 4,300 crore, days after it booked them and two officers. Identifying the suspended per-

sonnel as inspector Kapil Dhankad and stenographer Sameer Kumar Singh, officials said on Saturday that the agency has recommended to the DoPT to initiate administrative action against the two officers — deputy superintendents of police R K Rishi and R K Sangwan.

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा/ सामान्य निविदा तिथि विस्तार सूचना निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु कार्य/ आपूर्ति हेतु ई-निविदायें दो भागों में (जी.एस.टी.) में पंजीकृत, प्रतिष्ठित एवं अनुभवी ठेकेदारों/ फर्मों से ऑनलाइन ई-निविदा पोर्टल वेबसाईट 'http://etender.up.nic.in' पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त ई-निविदा को स्वीकार/ निरस्त करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी को बिना कोई कारण बताये सुरक्षित रहेगा। अन्य नियम/ शर्तें विभाग के फार्म ए/बी के अनुसार होंगी जिन्हें किसी भी कार्यदिवस में अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में देखा जा सकता है। निर्धारित तिथि के विस्तार तथा शुद्धि पत्र से संबंधित सूचना यदि कोई होगी तो केवल वेबसाइट पर डाली जाएगी। अतः स्वयं को अपडेट रखने के लिए उपरोक्त वेबसाइट को नियमित देखते रहना चाहिए। अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या- 123/ ई.टी.सी.एम./ 2020-21 खुलने की तिथि: 02.02.2021- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-रामपुर के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र बिलापुर पर मैसेर्स जी.पी.एल. फीडरों के ओपन एसेस के अन्तर्गत एबीटी मीटर और सी.टी.- पी.टी. लगाने से सम्बन्धित कार्य। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत रु. 1,99,000.00, धरोहर राशि रु. 2000/-, निविदा प्रपत्र का जीएसटी सहित मूल्य रु. 590/-, तिथि विस्तार सूचना सामान्य निविदा संख्या- 109/ ई.टी.सी.एम./ 2020-21- इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक- 3094 दिनांक 16.12.2020 द्वारा आमंत्रित एवं इंडियन एक्सप्रेस, नई दिल्ली एवं दैनिक जागरण, मुरादाबाद में दिनांक 17.12.2020 को प्रकाशित इस कार्यालय की सामान्य निविदा संख्या- 109/ ई.टी.सी.एम./ 2020-21 को, जो दिनांक 16.01.2021 को खोली जानी थी, के खुलने की तिथि अपरिहार्य कारणवश 27.01.2021 तक विस्तारित की जाती है। हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल- प्रथम, मुरादाबाद। 'राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें', पत्रांक 189/ वि.पा.म.मु./ ई-निविदा/ 2020-21, दिनांक 16/01/2021

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PROVINCIAL DIVISION, P.W.D KASGANJ
Short Term Notice inviting E-Tender

The Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, U.P.P.W.D. Kasganj on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP, PWD, Road work. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No.	District	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Document (in Rs.)	Time of Completion	Category of Contractor
1	Kasganj	Special Repair with C.C. And P.C. of Kudhar to Ikhnora Road to Tili District Border Road	30.00	3.00	500+300+144= 944	3 Month	A B C D
2	Kasganj	Special Repair with C.C. And P.C. of Khediya Pul to Siyapur Road	24.50	2.45	500+300+144= 944	3 Month	A B C D
3	Kasganj	Special Repair with P.C. of Kudhar to Dhokeli Road	13.50	1.35	500+225+131= 856	3 Month	A B C D
4	Kasganj	Special Repair of Garhi Pachgai Bhupalgarhi Road	38.40	3.84	500+300+144= 944	3 Month	A B C D
5	Kasganj	Special Repair with C. C. of Garhi Pachgai Bhupalgarhi Road to Mahewakalan Road	27.90	2.79	500+300+144= 944	3 Month	A B C D
6	Kasganj	Special Repair with C.C. And P.C. of Kasganj Garhi Dholana Road to Nagla Bhupal Road	22.00	2.20	500+300+144= 944	3 Month	A B C D
7	Kasganj	Special Repair with P.C. of Ishepur to Hariyadher Road	30.50	3.05	500+300+144= 944	3 Month	A B C D
8	Kasganj	Renovation work of old Treasury Building to Convert into Registry Office in Kasganj Tehsil Compound	5.00	0.50	500+150+117= 767	3 Month	A B C D E

Bids can be downloaded online from date 18.01.2021 at 10:00 Noon to 24.01.2021 at 05:00 PM and bid can be submitted online on or before 24.01.2021 at 05:00 PM. The technical bids will be opened online on date 25.01.2021 at 03:00 PM. Technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prarthi Software, the details of which are available in NIT enclosed with Bid Document. All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://etender.up.nic.co.in>

Sd/-
(Sudhir Kumar)
Executive Engineer
Provincial Division, P.W.D., Kasganj

UPID No-158910 Dt. 14.01.2021
www.upgov.nic.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Open Tender Notice Number: CM-1/ATM/PRYG/2020 Dated: 11.01.2021

Tender Notice

Following open tenders in sealed covers on prescribed tender forms are invited by the Sr. Divl. Commercial Manager or Divisional Railway Manager's/ Commercial, North Central Railway, Prayagraj on behalf of President of India.

Tender No.	Details of work including place	Approximate Cost	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money to be deposited
76-2020 to 95-2020 and 111-2020 to 122-2020	Installation of ATM at Stations/location, Details as Annexure-'A'	₹ 00	₹ 1180.00	₹ 10,000.00

ANNEXURE-'A'

Tender No.	Name of Station	Location Code	Location of ATM site	Size	Reserve price for each ATM for 1st year	EMD for each ATM ₹ 10,000/- per ATM location
76-2020	CAR	CAR-01	Near Booking office (Existing ATM site).	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
77-2020	MZP	MZP-01	Near PF 01 Entrance hall (Existing ATM site).	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
78-2020	MZP	MZP-02	Besides Deluxe Toilet in Circulating area.	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
79-2020	BDL	BDL-01	Near GOL Ghar in Circulating area.	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
80-2020	PCOI	PCOI-01	Beside of Electrical equipment room & Train lighting office (Circulating Area).	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
81-2020	MKP	MKP-01	Between GRP Thana & Pay office.	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
82-2020	ALD-01	At Entry gate of reservation hall. (Existing ATM site).	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-	
83-2020	ALD-02	Beside ALD-01	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-	
84-2020	ALD-03	Entry gate of UTS hall. (Existing ATM site).	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-	
85-2020	ALD-04	Entry gate of UTS hall. (Existing ATM site).	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-	
86-2020	ALD-05	Beside May I Help You booth. (Existing ATM site).	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-	
87-2020	ALD-06	In civil lines side waiting hall. (Existing ATM site).	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-	
88-2020	ALD-07	In booking hall beneath FOB-1 at Smith road.	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-	
89-2020	SFG-01	Near CGS office.	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-	
90-2020	SFG-02	Between Shiv Mandir & station building	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-	
91-2020	SFG-03	Beside Railway quarter No-163 B	7.5 Sqm	01.00	10,000/-	
92-2020	SFG-04	Beside Railway quarter No-42A	7.5 Sqm	01.00	10,000/-	
93-2020	BMU	BMU-01	Entry gate of station building (Existing ATM site).	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
94-2020	FTP	FTP-01	In front of station building (Existing ATM site).	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
95-2020	FTP	FTP-02	In front of station building (beside FTP-01)	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
111-2020	PHD	PHD-01	At Entry gate of Booking Office in circulating area	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
112-2020	ETW	ETW-01	In lind. class waiting hall. (Existing ATM site).	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
113-2020	ETW	ETW-02	Beside ETW-01 site.	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
114-2020	FZD	FZD-01	Beside coolie shed.	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
115-2020	SKB	SKB-01	Beside Pay & use toilet.	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
116-2020	TDL	TDL-01	Near ramp of PF-05 (Existing ATM site).	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
117-2020	HRS	HRS-01	In ticket booking hall.	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
118-2020	ALJN	ALJN-01	In lind. class waiting hall. (Existing ATM site).	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
119-2020	ALJN	ALJN-02	Beside ALJN-01	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
120-2020	SOM	SOM-01	Station building (Existing ATM site).	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
121-2020	KRJ	KRJ-01	Beside park gate in circulating area.	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-
122-2020	DER	DER-01	Near Booking & PRS hall.	6'x6'	01.00	10,000/-

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता, लो.नि.वि. राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परिक्षेत्र, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र	विज्ञप्ति क्र	तिथि अंतिम	कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत	निविदा की जाने वाली तिथि
1.	26CEN/HTC 44-05/2021 (1st Call) Dt. 14-01-2021	2021, 08/08/21	Up-gradation of Jhainala - Shepar from Km. 20+600 to Km. 67+800 (Package - II) of NH 508 to Two lane with paved shoulders in the state of Chhattisgarh on Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Basis Contract	Rs. 198.04 Crore	28-02-2021
2.			उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों को निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्रालय (MORTH&H's) के ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।		हस्ता/- मुख्य अभियंता लो.नि.वि. राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परिक्षेत्र, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

86365

CASE AGAINST SFJ

NIA summons Deep Sidhu, actor says govt threatening protesters

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, JANUARY 16

THE NATIONAL Investigative Agency (NIA) Saturday issued summons to Punjabi actor Deep Singh Sidhu, who campaigned for BJP's Sunny Deol in 2019 Lok Sabha elections and is associated with the ongoing farmers' agitation, in connection with a case filed against the outlawed group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ). The agency had earlier issued notice to Sidhu's brother Mandeep Singh. They have been asked to appear at the NIA headquarters in New Delhi on January 17 for questioning in a case linked to SFJ's Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, a designated terrorist, for conspiring to create an "atmosphere of fear and lawlessness and to cause disaffection in people and to incite them towards rising in rebellion against Government of India". Sidhu denied any connection with SFJ and termed the NIA summons as a move by the Centre to threaten those protesting against the three farm laws. "This (NIA summons) is nothing to be surprised about. The government is doing all it can to threaten protesters. I



Deep Singh Sidhu

am not affected by these notices. I never had any contact with the SFJ. There is no reason I should be in touch with them. I don't know who they are. Such notices are part of our fight for farmers," Sidhu told *The Indian Express*. The actor received the summons a day after a similar notice was issued to Baldev Singh Sirsa, the president of Lok Bhalai Insaf Welfare Society (LBIWS) which is one of the unions participating in talks with the Centre. Sirsa, who was in Amritsar, said he will decide on appearing before the NIA only after consulting the leaders of the other farmer unions protesting in Delhi. "These notices are part of the ongoing attempts of Central government to defame the farmers' agitation," Sirsa said while talking to *The Indian Express*. Sources said the NIA has summoned around 40 people — under Section 160 CrPC — in connection with the case

against the US-based pro-Khalistan outfit. Those issued notices in Punjab include a group of three businessmen who had been running a daily bus service for farmers from Ludhiana to Delhi borders and a journalist who has been vocal on social media against the farm laws. The recipients also include Sikh youth, who were summoned last year by the Punjab Police's de-radicalisation cells established at sub-divisional level. Amid questions being raised on the timing of the summons, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) president Bibi Jagir Kaur condemned the Union government's "tactics for stifling the voice of farmers protesting against the black agriculture laws meant to destroy the peasantry". "The issuance of notices to the farmers and those involved in the agitation is a manifestation of the dictatorial policy of the government by misusing the UAPA (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act) to suppress the people associated with the agitation. The farmers are fighting for their existence but the government is misusing its machinery to suppress the voice of truth and justice, which is not tolerable," said Jagir Kaur.

IFFI: Biswajit Chatterjee awarded 'Indian Personality of the Year'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, JANUARY 16

INAUGURATING THE 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI) here on Saturday, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Prakash Javadekar, announced a new 'Indian Personality of the Year' award, which he announced was being conferred upon veteran actor, director and singer Biswajit Chatterjee. During his address, Javadekar also made a strong pitch for the film industry as well as other private companies to start participating in the annual festival from its next edition. Javadekar said Chatterjee will be presented the award in March, along with winners of the National Film Awards. Chatterjee had contested the 2014 general elections from a Delhi seat on a Trinamool Congress ticket but had joined the BJP in February 2019. IFFI also chose Bangladesh as the country in focus for this year. During his address, Javadekar said that to mark the 100th birth anniversary of Bangladesh's first president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, India and Bangladesh will be co-producing a film titled 'Bangabandhu'. The 'Lifetime Achievement' this year was given to Italian cinematographer



Union Minister Prakash Javadekar (second from left) and Goa CM Pramod Sawant (left) at the IFFI inauguration in Panaji. DD screengrab

Vittorio Storaro. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's festival — being held at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium — is a combination of virtual and physical screenings of films. It usually takes place in November every year but was delayed due to the pandemic. The festival this year received 600 international entries and 190 Indian entries. Speaking at the event, Javadekar also said, "Every year, IFFI is organised by the Central government and Goa government. Why?," he said, adding that "there should be participation from the film industry and other industries." "Just because it's the government's responsibility to ensure a thriving atmosphere and promotion of arts and culture, doesn't mean the government should do everything," he added.

WESTERN RAILWAY - BHAVNAGAR DIVISION

VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS

Sr. No.1: E-Tender No. 51-2020-21-R2 Name of Work: ADEN Porbandar sub division: Supply of potable drinking water on various locations such as Stations, Gang Huts, Gate lodges, Level crossings and Railway colonies etc. with contractor's own all arrangement for the period of 02 (Two) year. Tender Value: ₹ 1,97,08,973.26 EMD: ₹ 2,48,600/-, Sr. No.2: E-Tender No. 52-2020-21. Name of Work: Kanalus-Porbandar Section: BTTR 899 Nos on Girder bridges. Tender Value: ₹ 2,02,87,316.61 EMD: ₹ 2,51,400.00. For All Tenders: Date of Bidding Start Date: 26-01-2021. Date of Bidding Closing: 09-02-2021. The NIT has been uploaded on Railway Website www.ireps.gov.in on 11-01-2021 BVP-053

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REPAIRING WORKS AT MALJODAN

E-Tender Notice No. 51 of 2021 Dated: 11-01-2021. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No. MLG-01-2021. Name of work & Location: (a) At Malgaon - Special repairs to CPD block, CC works, administrative block of Central Hospital, Malgaon & miscellaneous repairs to Kamshyia Railway Junction (b) At Malgaon - Special repairs to CPO office, Accounts office, PGI, office, CMM office of H.G. Complex including miscellaneous repairs of Rang Bhawan & NFRSA stadium. Tender Value: ₹ 1,47,56,510.23. Earnest Money: ₹ 2,21,800/-. Date & Time of closing of tender: 13.00 hrs of 02-02-2021. For details please visit www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Engineer (Co-ord. & Malgaon

NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE

पूर्णिमा कॉलेज, पूर्णिमा

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

रूस सरकार (RUSA) द्वारा मास्को स्थित को ज्ञात 1,23,00,00,000/- (एक करोड़ तेस लाख करोड़ मात्र) से उपकरण और एवं विमान प्रोत्साहन को के लिए उपकरण और हेतु विदेशी, उड्डयन पत्र अग्रणी अधिष्ठान प्रोत्साहन से सुपरिमित विमानों में निम्न लिखित शर्तों के साथ निविदा आमंत्रित किया जा रहा है। 1. निविदा रखने के नाम एवं पत्र-प्रधानमंत्री, पूर्णिमा मास्को, पूर्णिमा 2. निविदा पत्र को ऑफिस तिथि 3.1.2021, 3. निविदा पत्र को नाम, प्रधानमंत्री, पूर्णिमा मास्को, पूर्णिमा, 4. कार्य विवरण-1. मौखिक विवरण के लिए उपकरण और स्वीकृत राशि 21,65,700/- 2. प्रमाणित विमान विभाग के लिए उपकरण और स्वीकृत राशि 21,60,700/- 3. प्रमाणित विमान विभाग के लिए उपकरण और स्वीकृत राशि 21,60,700/- 4. प्रमाणित विमान विभाग के लिए उपकरण और स्वीकृत राशि 21,60,700/- 5. प्रमाणित विमान विभाग के लिए उपकरण और स्वीकृत राशि 21,60,700/- 6. प्रमाणित विमान विभाग के लिए उपकरण और स्वीकृत राशि 21,60,700/- 7. प्रमाणित विमान विभाग के लिए उपकरण और स्वीकृत राशि 21,60,700/- 8. प्रमाणित विमान विभाग के लिए उपकरण और स्वीकृत राशि 21,60,700/- 9. प्रमाणित विमान 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21,60,700/- 100. प्रमाणित विमान विभाग के लिए उपकरण और स्वीकृत राशि 21,60,700/-

Office OF Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, HARIDWAR

PH: 01334-227006 Email: nagarnigamharidwar@gmail.com

Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)

Office of Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, HARIDWAR on behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand" invites following short term re-tender under two bid system through E-tendering Process.

Detailed eligibility criteria, EMD, ITB, and other terms & conditions of the tender document can be seen at <https://uktenders.gov.in>. Any amendment in future against the tender shall be uploaded on <https://uktenders.gov.in>

Time schedule	Supplying Vehicles and machinery for collection & transportation of solid waste at Haridwar during Maha Kumbh 2021.
Document Download Start Date	17.01.2021 at 1000 hrs
Proposal Due Date	25.01.2021 up to 1500 hrs
Opening of Technical Bids	25.01.2021 at 1600 hrs
Cost of Tender Document	INR 5900/-

Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam Haridwar

democratic rights of people to protest," it said. "If the government has evidence of secessionist elements then it should be brought to the public notice and legally proceeded against. Without doing that, government sending notices to farmers' leaders and misguiding the Supreme Court is not acceptable. It needs to be condemned by all, including the political parties."

The AIKS is the farmers wing of the CPI(M) and is among the unions holding protests demanding repeal of the three farm laws. The AIKS also

1984 ANTI-SIKH RIOTS

SIT: Evidence of murder, arson collected from house in Kanpur

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 16

A SPECIAL Investigation Team (SIT) set up by the Yogi Adityanath government to probe cases related to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Kanpur has claimed to have collected evidence of murder and arson from a house in the district's Naubasta area where two people were killed and set ablaze.

Sardul Singh was murdered in his house in Naubasta's Kidwai Nagar area in November 1984 along with his relative Guruday Singh, according to the SIT. After that, their families reportedly fled to Punjab and settled down in Jalandhar. The eight accused in the case were released after the local police filed a closure report, citing lack of evidence.

After taking over the investigation, the SIT visited Jalandhar and contacted the families of the deceased. They told the investigators that the room in which the murders occurred had remained locked since the attack, and the floor had also not been cleaned.

"Since the crime scene was not disturbed...a Forensic Science Laboratory team visited the spot and collected blood samples from

The room in which murders had occurred had reportedly remained locked since the attack, and floor had not been cleaned

the floor and evidence of arson from the walls. The FSL report will establish the incident, said Superintendent of Police and SIT member Balendu Bhushan.

The victims' families told the SIT that after the riots started, Sardul's brother Purushotam began shifting family members to neighbouring houses, fearing an attack. Rioters arrived when Sardul and Gurudayal were trying to flee. They assaulted them with sticks and iron rods, killing them on the spot, said Bhushan. The rioters then burnt their bodies and escaped, he added.

Purushotam lodged a case against eight people at the Naubasta police station, according to Bhushan. After taking over the case, the SIT contacted the victims' families and wrote to Kanpur's chief medical officer, the senior superintendent of police

and district magistrate, seeking records of the double murder. All three told the SIT they do not have records of the case, Bhushan said.

"Two members of the family – Purushotam and one Gurumukh Singh – claimed to have witnessed the incident. If needed, we will get their statements recorded before the magistrate," added Bhushan.

Sources said the SIT found that five of the eight accused named in the FIR were still alive, and was likely to question them soon.

The anti-Sikh riots in Kanpur erupted following the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. At least 127 people were killed in the violence in the district. In 2019, the BJP government ordered the formation of the SIT to examine all 1,251 cases filed in Kanpur linked to the riots.

After it was formed, the SIT shortlisted 40 of the 1,251 cases. Kanpur police had filed chargesheets in 11 of those cases and submitted closure reports in the rest. The SIT has sought the state's permission to appeal against a lower court's judgements in five of the 11 cases. Of the 29 that were closed, the investigators did not find evidence in nine cases.

Former BARC CEO admitted to hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 16

FORMER BROADCAST Audience Research Council (BARC) CEO Partho Dasgupta (55), who is in judicial custody at Taloja Jail for his alleged role in the TRP case, has been admitted to JJ Hospital after a bout of breathlessness.

Dasgupta was admitted to the ICU on Friday afternoon and put on oxygen support, confirmed JJ Hospital Dean Dr Ranjit Mankeshwar. An officer with the Crime Intelligence Unit probing the TRP case said Dasgupta had been diagnosed with a sudden spike in his blood sugar levels.

Dasgupta was taken to hospital hours after WhatsApps between him and Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami, included in the Mumbai Police's supplementary chargesheet against the Dasgupta in the TRP case, became public.

In an open letter to PM Narendra Modi posted on social media on Saturday, Dasgupta's



Partho Dasgupta

daughter Pratyusha alleged the family was informed nearly 14 hours after his hospitalisation.

Her post said her mother received a call to reach JJ Hospital at 3am on Saturday, "since my father was brought in there. The doctors asked us why no one from the family had come there since he had been brought to the hospital in an unconscious state at 1pm." She added that when asked why the family was not informed for 14 hours, authorities said, "They did not have our phone numbers... This, in spite of several mails we have sent to jail authorities requesting permission to reach my father, with my phone number mentioned..."

Apolice officer said, "Doctors at Taloja were monitoring his health... He may not have taken the medication, which led to his sugar levels shooting up".

Palghar lynching: 89 accused granted bail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 16

A SPECIAL court in Thane district, on Saturday, granted bail to 89 accused persons in the Palghar mob lynching case, in which two sadhus and their driver were killed.

District judge S B Bahalkar, in his order, granted bail to the 89 accused and will next hear the matter on February 15.

Satish Maneshinde, the special public prosecutor in the case, said, "The ones granted bail on

Saturday were arrested subsequently and have not been chargesheeted as yet." The chargesheet was filed against 126 people, of which 75 persons – who are currently in prison – allegedly had a major role to play in the crime.

Appearing for the accused, advocates Amrut Adhikari and Atul Patil submitted that the applicants had no role to play in the attack and police had arrested them on mere suspicion. The accused also questioned the validity of three FIRs registered in the

case. A total of 201 persons had been arrested in the case that was initially investigated by Palghar police before it was transferred to the CID.

On April 16, 2020, a mob lynched two sadhus – Chikne Maharaj Kalpavrukshagiri (70) and Sushilgiri Maharaj (35) – and their driver Nilesh Telgade (30) at Gadchinchale in Palghar district, 140 km north of Mumbai. The attack took place amid rumours that child-lifers were roaming in the area during the lockdown

PT. B. D. SHARMA UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, ROHTAK
No. UHSR/Acad./A-II/2021/ Dated:

Revised Notification

Fresh applications are invited for admission to MPT courses in Govt./Pvt. Aided/Unaided Physiotherapy Educational Institutions of Haryana for academic session 2020 **on the basis of aggregate marks of BPT course as per Govt. Notification No. 16/22/2018-6HB-IV dated 04.12.2020.** Application form can be downloaded from the University Website www.uhsr.ac.in. Application form along with relevant documents and prescribed fee must reach in the office of the Controller of Examinations, Pt. B.D. Sharma UHS, Rohtak on or before 01.02.2021 up to 5:00 PM. For more details, the applicants are advised to visit the University website www.uhsr.ac.in

**Dean Academic Affairs –cum–
Chairman Admission Committee**

1436/HRY

KITTUR RANI CHANNAMMA RESIDENTIAL SAINIK SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS, KITTUR -591 115, KARNATAKA [INDIA] Std VI-XII
[Member IPSC, Affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education New Delhi]
School Code No. 45438, Affiliation No.830488

NOTIFICATION

All India Entrance Examination for Class VI-2021-22 will be conducted on 14th February 2021. Date for Sale of Application cum Prospectus is extended up to 31st January 2021. Cost of Application cum Prospectus is Rs. 2500/- for General Category and Rs. 2100/- for SC/ST (applicable for Karnataka candidates only). Last date for submission of filled Application forms is 5th February , 2021. For further details please visit school website : www.kittursainikschool.in

Sd/- Col R.S. Khatri [Retd]
Principal K.R.C.R.S.S.G., KITTUR.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of passengers that Railways have decided to run the Train No. 04727/04728 between Sri Ganga Nagar-Delhi-Sri Ganga Nagar instead of Sri Ganga Nagar-Tilak Bridge-Sri Ganga Nagar with revised timings as per following details:-

Revised Timings of 04727/04728 Sri Ganga Nagar Jn.-Delhi Jn.-Sri Ganga Nagar Jn. Special Express (Daily)					
Train No. 04727	STATIONS		Train No. 04728		
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.	
----	20:30	SRI GANGA NAGAR JN.	05:50	----	----
20:50	20:51	FATEH SINGHWALA	----	----	----
20:58	21:00	SADUL SHAHAR	04:49	04:51	----
21:10	21:11	BUDHSINGHWALA	----	----	----
21:17	21:18	BUGLANWALI	----	----	----
21:29	21:30	HIRNAWALI	----	----	----
21:37	21:38	JORKIAN	----	----	----
21:55	22:20	HANUMAN GARH JN.	03:55	04:20	----
22:28	22:30	HANUMANGARH TOWN	03:20	03:22	----
22:51	22:53	TIBI	03:00	03:02	----
23:11	23:13	ELLENABAD	02:39	02:41	----
23:42	23:44	NOHAR	02:07	02:09	----
00:08	00:10	GOGAMERI	01:40	01:42	----
00:22	00:24	TAHSIL BHADRA	01:26	01:28	----
01:20	01:45	SADULPUR JN.	00:15	00:40	----
01:57	01:58	HARPALU	23:46	23:47	----
02:14	02:15	RAMPURA BERI	23:29	23:31	----
03:12	03:17	LOHARU JN.	23:10	23:15	----
03:31	03:32	SATNALI	22:21	22:23	----
03:37	03:38	NANWAN	22:15	22:16	----
03:45	03:46	NANGAL DEGROTA	22:08	22:09	----
04:01	04:03	MAHENDER GARH	21:53	21:55	----
04:11	04:12	BOJAWAS	21:46	21:47	----
04:17	04:18	GURHA KEMLA	21:40	21:41	----
04:22	04:24	KANINA KHAS	21:34	21:35	----
04:33	04:35	DAHINA ZAINABAD	21:21	21:23	----
05:35	06:12	REWARI JN.	20:45	21:00	----
06:20	06:21	KUMBHAWAS MUNDHALIA D	20:18	20:19	----
06:26	06:27	KHALIL PUR	20:11	20:12	----
06:34	06:35	INCHHAPURI	20:03	20:04	----
06:41	06:42	PATAUDI ROAD	19:56	19:57	----
06:48	06:49	JATAULA JAURI SAMPKA	19:49	19:50	----
06:54	06:55	TAJ NAGAR	19:44	19:45	----
06:59	07:00	PATLI	19:38	19:39	----
07:08	07:09	GARHI HARSARU JN.	19:29	19:30	----
07:15	07:16	BASAI DHANKOT	19:23	19:24	----
07:21	07:22	GURGAON	19:16	19:17	----
07:29	07:30	BIJWASAN	19:07	19:08	----
07:35	07:36	SHAHABAD MD PUR	19:01	19:02	----
07:40	07:41	PALAM	18:55	18:56	----
07:49	07:50	DELHI CANTT	18:48	18:49	----
08:03	08:04	PATEL NAGAR	18:35	18:36	----
08:08	08:09	DAYA BASTI	18:28	18:29	----
08:13	08:14	VIVEKANAND PURI HALT	18:23	18:24	----
08:18	08:19	DELHI KISHAN GANJ	18:17	18:18	----
08:45	----	DELHI JN.	----	18:00	----

DAYS OF RUN: 04727 Ex Shri Ganganagar Jn. Daily from 18.01.2021 to till further advice and **04728 Ex Delhi Jn.** Daily from 19.01.2021 to till further advice.

ACCOMMODATION: AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Note :- The above Special Train will run with full reserved Accommodation.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., must be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

Security Helpline No. 182 **Integrated Helpline No. 139**

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
क्षेत्रीय व्यवसाय कार्यालय, गया-823001
आम नीलामी की सूचना

आप सभी को सूचित किया जाता है कि भारतीय स्टेट बैंक क्षेत्रीय व्यवसाय कार्यालय, गया के द्वारा वाहन की सार्वजनिक नीलामी हेतु "जैसा है, जहाँ है, के आधार पर" आवेदन दिनांक 30.01.2021 तक आमंत्रित करता है, आवेदन के साथ निर्धारित मूल्य का 10% जमा राशि का बैंकर्स चेक/डिमांड ड्राफ्ट जो भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, गया शाखा पर मगलेश हो, संलग्न रहना चाहिए किसी कारणवश कोई वाहन का नीलामी नहीं होने की स्थिति में, उस वाहन की सार्वजनिक नीलामी 10.02.2021 एवं 18.02.2021 को पुनः की जाएगी, जिसकी अग्रिम राशि का आवेदन 08.02.2021 एवं 16.02.2021 तक स्वीकार की जायेगी, वाहन का विवरण निम्नांकित है-

01. Model-Honda BR V 1.5 VMT, Reg.No-JH02AR2810, Colour-Taffeta white, Engine No-N15A11707210 Chassis No-MAKDG278JG4003045 Reserve Price- Rs. 3,80,000/- + 18%GST Earnest Money-Rs. 38000/- +18%GST Claim Amount Rs. 11,33,558/- +Int+other Legal charges. Name of Borrower-Manuar Usmani, Car Loan A/c-36385790264 Address of Borrower-S/o-Hazi Manzoor Alam, At-Nagmatiya Road, Near Dr. Q.H Khan, Gaya-823001 Name of Branch-Purani Godam, Gaya Br.Code-09007

उपरोक्त वाहन की सार्वजनिक नीलामी भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, क्षेत्रीय व्यवसायिक कार्यालय, गया में दिनांक 02-02-2021 को अपराह्न 01.00 बजे निम्नलिखित नियमों/ शर्तों के तहत की जायेगी.

- प्रत्येक वाहन का अर्नेस्ट मनी अराबित मूल्य का 10% + 18% GST के साथ निश्चित किया गया है
- आवेदन के साथ वाहन का अर्नेस्ट मनी का बैंकर्स चेक/ डिमांड ड्राफ्ट **SBI, R.B.O. Gaya के पक्ष में, गया शाखा पर देय, संलग्न होना चाहिए** अन्यथा आवेदन अस्वीकृत कर दिये जायेंगे और आवेदक को नीलामी में भाग नहीं लेने दिया जायेगा
- नीलामी समाप्ति के बाद सबसे ऊँची बोली लगाने वाले को बोली की रकम का 25 प्रतिशत तत्काल जमा करना होगा एवं शेष रकम नीलामी तिथि से 15 दिनों के अंदर भुगतान करना होगा
- सबसे ऊँची बोली लगाने वाले को नीलामी तिथि से 15 दिनों के अंदर पूरी रकम का भुगतान कर नीलामी किये गये वाहन को अपने स्वामित्व में ले लेना होगा, अन्यथा उनके पक्ष में हुई नीलामी को निरस्त करते हुए उनके द्वारा जमा की गई पूरी रकम को जब्त कर लिया जायेगा
- नोट- भारत सरकार के नियमों के अनुसार 18% GST लागू होगा
- अन्य नियमों एवं शर्तों का विवरण कार्यालय सूचना पट पर उपलब्ध है.

नोट :- प्रकाशन में किसी भी प्रकार की त्रुटि की स्थिति में मौलिक निरीक्षण ही मान्य होगा.

क्षेत्रीय प्रबंधक,गया

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI, 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001
Notice under Section 195 of the Recovery of Debts and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993.

In the matter of
O.A. No. 4562019
ICICI BANK LTD. Vs **CAPITAL BUS SERVICE PVT. LTD. & ANR.**
Applicant Respondents

Dt: 15.01.2021
Place: Chandigarh

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001.
O.A. No. 4062019
(ICICI) Bank Ltd. VERSUS Applicant
Mr. Anil Kumar Chaturvedi & Ors Respondents

To: M/s. JKG Construction Pvt. Ltd. (Respondent No. 03) Having its Corporate Office At D-64, Kausambi, (Near Kaushambi Metro Station) Ghaziabad-201010 Uttar Pradesh ALSO AT M/s. JKG Construction Pvt. Ltd. Having its Corporate Office At JKG Heights, Plot No. C-9, Sector-18, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad-201012 Uttar Pradesh ALSO AT M/s. JKG Construction Pvt. Ltd. Having its Office At JKG Palm Court, Plot No. GH-12, Sector-16C, Greater Noida West-201307 Uttar Pradesh Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 38,75,838/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lacs Seventy Five Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Six Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal **20.01.2021 at 10.30 A.M.** Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:
(i) All the Applicants/ Litigants shall download the Cisco Webex application on their device.
(ii) Meeting ID and Passcode for the next date of hearing case cases to be taken by Registrar Recovery Officer and Recovery Officer shall be available on day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal (i.e. drt.gov.in) under the Public Notice Head.
(iii) In any emergency case that, the Applicants/ Litigants can contact the concerned official of PN No. 3274469.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal this 13th day of Nov., 2020.
By order of the Tribunal
Assistant Registrar, DRT-I, New Delhi

SML ISUZU LIMITED
CIN : L50101PB1993PLC005516
Regd. Office: Village Asran, Dist. Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar (Nawanshahr), Punjab-144333. Phone : 01831-270255, Fax : 01831-270223
Email id : investors@smlisuzu.com Website address : www.smlisuzu.com

NOTICE

Notice under Section 201 of the Companies Act, 2013 is hereby given that an application under Section 195 read with Schedule V and other applicable provisions, if any, is being made to the Central Government seeking its approval for the re-appointment of Mr. Tadanao Yamamoto (DIN 08291307) as Whole-time Director designated as Director-Quality Assurance, approved by Board of Directors of the Company at its meeting held on 6th November, 2020 subject to approval of Shareholders in the General Meeting.

For SML ISUZU LIMITED
(PARVESH MADAN)
Company Secretary
ACS-31265

Date: 15.01.2021
Place: Chandigarh

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CENTRAL GOODS & SERVICES TAX, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BLOCK 'C' & 'D', NEW C.G.O., COMPLEX, NH IV, FARIDABAD (HR)

"PENSION ADALAT"

Central GST Commissionerate Faridabad, Government of India will hold "Pension Adalat" on 29.01.2021 (Friday) at 12.00 P.M for redressal of grievances of pensioners of erstwhile Central Excise & Service Tax Commissionerate, Faridabad - I & II (Now Central GST Commissionerate, Faridabad) if any.

Venue : Conference Hall, Block - 'C' New CGO Complex, NH-IV, NIT Faridabad.

It is requested that all visitors provide co-operation to ensure compliance of the Covid-19 related guidelines.

-SD/-
COMMISSIONER
(Central Goods & Services Tax, Faridabad)

SML ISUZU LIMITED
(Formerly known as Swaraj Mazda Limited)

Regd. Office: Village Asran, Dist. Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar (Nawanshahr), Punjab-144333
Phone: 01831-270255, Fax: 01831-270223, CIN : L50101PB1993PLC005516.
Email : investors@smlisuzu.com Website address : www.smlisuzu.com


NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on 5th February, 2021 (Friday) to consider and approve the un-audited Financial Results for the third quarter and nine months ended on 31st December, 2020.

The information is also available on the Company's website www.smlisuzu.com and also on the website of the Stock Exchanges viz. BSE Limited- www.bseindia.com and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited- www.nseindia.com

For SML ISUZU LIMITED
(PARVESH MADAN)
Company Secretary

Dated: 16.01.2021
Place: Chandigarh

		सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Central Bank of India				
Regional Office, Mauryalok Complex, Patna-1						
POSSESSION NOTICE [UNDER RULE 8 (1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002]						
Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of (Security) Interest Act. 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of the power conferred under sub-section (12) of section 13 read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002. The Authorized Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against account as mentioned herein after, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sec. 13(4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned against account. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Central Bank of India for the amount and interest thereon mentioned against account herein below. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section (13) of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.						
Name of the Branch	Name of the Accounts/ Borrowers	Name of the owner & Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice Affixed	Amount outstanding as on date of Demand Notice	Amount outstanding as on date of Possession Notice
Boring Road Branch	Borrower: Smt. Rita Devi (Mortgagor) W/o Devendra Prasad Yadav and Co-Borrower: Shri Sonu Kumar S/o Devendra Prasad Yadav Both the borrowers are residing at Tripolia Pathari Ghat, P.O-Gulzarbagh, P.S-Alamganj, Dist.- Patna-800007	Name of the Mortgagor: Smt. Rita Devi W/o Devendra Prasad Yadav, Address of the Mortgagors: Tripolia Pathari Ghat, PO-Gulzarbagh, P.S. Alamganj, Dist.-Patna-800007. Full particulars of Mortgaged Property: All that part and parcel of following property: Deed No. 1335 Dtd. 26.04.2001, Area-07 Dhur & 10 Dhurki of land including house building with all improvements thereon, Location-Muhalla-Pathari Ghat, Tripolia, Thana-Alamganj, Patna City, Dist.-Patna, Registration, Dist.-Patna, Property details: Thana No.-11, Circle No.-62, Municipal Survey Plot No.-264(Part), Sheet No.-138, Ward No.-17/23, Town & Dist.-Patna. Boundary: North-Jagadish Prasad Yadav, Suresh Yadav & Others, South-Nij, Sona Devi, East-Smt. Neelam Sinha, West-Gali, P.M.C.	06.11.2020	12.01.2021	₹27,94,032/- (Rupees Twenty seven lac ninety four thousand thirty two only) with future Interest and incidental charges and cost w.e.f 06.11.2020	₹27,94,032/- (Rupees Twenty seven lac ninety four thousand thirty two only) and interest thereon.
Barh Branch	Borrower: Mr. Santosh Kumar S/o Arjun Prasad Co-Borrower: Shri Arjun Prasad S/o Late Madho Mahito (Guarantor/ Mortgagor)	Name of the Mortgagor: Arjun Prasad S/o Late Madho Mahito, Address of the Mortgagors: At Salempur, Ward no.-3 at present Ward No.-12, Barh, Patna-803213. Full particulars of Mortgaged Property: Gift Deed No.10920 dated 17.09.1985, Area-01 Kaththa, 12 dhur, Mauza-Salempur, P.S. & Anchal-Barh, Patna, Ward No.3, at present Ward No.-12, Holding No.-262/168/285. Boundary: North-Nasrullah, South-Nij after than Kabristan, East-Rajendra Dhoib, West-Road Nagar Parishad.	05.10.2020	13.01.2021	₹10,17,464/- (Rupees Ten lac seventeen thousand four hundred sixty four only) with future Interest and incidental charges and cost w.e.f 05.10.2020	₹10,17,464/- (Rupees Ten lac seventeen thousand four hundred sixty four only) and interest thereon.
Budh Marg Branch	Borrower: Mrs. Pragya Singh & Mr. Shashi Kumar	All that part and parcel of House Property (Land & Building) in the name of Smt. Pragya Singh W/o Shashi Kumar, Details of property: Deed No.24887, Khata No.686, Cadastral Survey Plot No.1634, Flat No.201, 2nd floor, Super built up area- 1325, Patna. Boundaries: North-Flat No.202 & 203, South-Setback of Apartment, East-Setback of Apartment then 12 ft road, West-Setback of Apartment then Dayanand.	25.09.2020	15.01.2021	₹18,22,273.93/- (Rs. Eighteen lac twenty two thousand two hundred seventy three and ninety three paisa only) with future Interest and incidental charges w.e.f 25.09.2019	₹17,80,961/- (Rs. Seventeen lac eighty thousand nine hundred sixty one only) with future Interest and incidental charges w.e.f 15.01.2021
Saguna More Branch	Borrower: Metro Super Bazar Partner: Mrs. Sabia Khatun, Md. Shamim Ahmed, Miss Shabana Praveen, Md. Nashib Shah, Guarantor: Mr. Om Prakash S/o Jagram Prasad	Name of the Mortgagor: Mr. Om Prakash S/o Mr. Jagram Prasad, Full particulars of Property: Deed No.9148 dated 20.10.2001, Area-3500 sqft, Mauza-Mohammadpur, P.S.-Phulwarisharif, Patna, Survey Plot No.-1318, Tauji No.-5070, Khata No.2, Thana No.-41, Society Plot No.-18/18, Block No.-C, Boundary: North-Society Road, South-Society Plot No.18/16, East-Society Road, West-Society Plot No.18/25.	06.12.2019	15.01.2021	₹50,56,364/- (Rs. Fifty lac fifty six thousand three hundred sixty four only) with future Interest and incidental charges	₹50,56,364/- (Rs. Fifty lac fifty six thousand three hundred sixty four only) with future Interest and incidental charges
Arwal Branch	Borrower: Mr. Arjun Prasad S/o Late Bajju Ram and Mrs. Kusum Devi W/o Mr. Arjun Prasad	All that part and parcel of Immovable Property (Land/Building) in the name of Mrs. Kusum Devi W/o Mr. Arjun Prasad, VIII+PO-Akbarpur, P.S.-Palliganj, Block-Palliganj, Dist.-Patna, Pin-801110, Sale Deed No.-2209 Dtd. 26.06.1998, Area-4.625 Decimal, Mauza-Makhdumpur, P.S. Arwal, Sub-registry-Arwal, Distt.-Arwal, Thana No.-21, Khata No.-80/113, Plot No.-378, Chak Khata-223, Chak Plot -351. Boundary: North-Niz Mokir, South-Nahar, East-Niz Mokir Rasta 3 feet, West-Khaldia Khatnoon.	17.01.2020	16.01.2021	₹21,01,308.97 (Rs. Twenty one lac one thousand three hundred eight and paise ninety seven) with future Interest and incidental charges w.e.f 17.01.2020	₹21,01,308.97 (Rs. Twenty one lac one thousand three hundred eight and paise ninety seven) with future Interest and incidental charges
Date : 16.01.2021 Place : Patna			Authorised officer CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA			

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,have changed my name from Sharda Sarup to Sharda Bhat Sarup,W/o Sanjay Sarup R/o-D-243,Gaur Green Avenue, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad forever
0040560457-5

I,Tara Somani W/o Dinesh Chander Jagetiya R/o CD -185 Pitampura Delhi-110034 changed my name to Tara Devi Jagetiya.
0040560469-1

I,Rifat Bano,D/o Mr.Mohd.Akhtar Hussain R/o-House F-202,Shaheen Bagh,Abdul-Fazal Enclave part-II, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025,have changed my name to Rifat Akhtar,for all,future purpose.
0040560467-2

I,Ravindra Singh S/O-Raj Karan Singh R/O-H No-73,Riwan Barabanki Uttar-Pradesh-225305 Have Changed My Name To Ravindra Kumar Singh.
0040560401-1

I,Rajesh Kumar,S/o Sh.Mohan Lal,R/o-F-297,Sahyog-Vihar,Uttam-Nagar,New Delhi-110059,have changed my Minor Daughter's name,From Bhavna to Laxmi,for all future purposes.
0040560469-6

I,Raghav S/O Shri Tek Chand R/O B-4/174-C,Keshav Puram, Delhi-110035, have changed my name from Raghav to Raghav Kumar.
0040560469-5

I,Pramod Kumar Gupta alias Pramod Gupta S/o Sughan Chand Gupta R/o G-7/316,Sector-16,Rohini,Delhi-110089,have changed my name to Parmod Kumar Gupta.
0040560401-4

I,Nabab Singh S/o Braham Singh R/o-31, Ganga Enclave, Loni Dehat, Ghaziabad, UP-201102, have changed my name to Nabab Singh.
0040560457-4

I,Tarun S/o-Rakesh Kumar R/O-G-1/274,First-Floor,Uttam Nagar,Delhi 110059 have changed my name to Tarun Harjai.
0040560469-9

I,Mahendra Sethia S/o Suraj Mai Sethia R/o-S-30A, Block-S, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Mahendra Kumar Sethia.
0040560469-2

I,Kuljeet Kaur W/o Jitender Oberoi R/o-17/75,First Floor,Subhash Nagar New-Delhi-110027 have changed my name to Kuljeet Oberoi.
0040560467-8

I,Lakshman Shah S/o Late Sh. Jagannath Shah,R/o-F-153,Phase-2, Vijay Vihar,Delhi-110086,have changed my name to Lakshman Sah
0040560469-9

I,HARIPRIYO DAS,S/O,DAS KAILASH,ADD-C-33,BLOCK-A, VIPIN-GARDEN NORTH-BLOCK, D.K.MOHAN GARDEN, DWARKA,DELHI-110059,changed my name to HARIPRIYA DAS,permanently.
0040560467-6

I,Deepak Kumar Singhal S/o Satish Kumar Singhal R/o-House no.316,Vijay Pardhan Wali Gali, Siraspur,Delhi-110042,have changed my name to Deepak Singal.
0040560401-3

I,Ashok kumar Singh,S/o Sunil Kumar Singh,R/o B-62A,gali.no.9, new modern Shahadra, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Ashok Singh.
0040560467-1

I,Ashlima Arora,W/o Sh.Yogesh Sabharwal R/o-288,AGCR-Enclave Karkardooma Laxmi-Nagar,New Delhi-110092,have changed my name to Ashima Sabharwal(after-marriage),for all purposes.
0040560467-7

I,Amina,W/O-Rafiq Ahmed Khan Add-B-160,2nd-floor,Zakir-bagh apartments Okhla,New Friends-colony, Delhi-110025,CHANGED my name to Amina Khan.
0040560467-5

I,AHMED SAYEED HAYYAN,S/o ANIS AHMAD,R/o-D-202 Abul Fazal Enclave, jamia Nagar,N,Delhi-110025,Declare that the name of my parents is wrongly-written as ANIS AHMED and SHAGUFTA in my CBSE Marksheets.The actual-name of my parents are ANIS AHMAD and SHAGUFA.
0040560467-3

I,Surbhi Dhawan D/O Anil Handa,W/O Sourabh Dhawan R/o H.No-102, Holy City Paradise Amritsar Amritsar-I Amritsar G.P.O Amritsar Punjab-143001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Surbhi Handa Dhawan.
0070727513-1

I,Shrimati Devi, W/O Ramesh Chaubey R/o Ward no- 13, Thana Shikarpur, Kehunia, Narkatiaganj, West Champaran, Bihar - 845453, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Shaillee Jauhari.
0070727518-1

I,Shally Jauhari alias Shaillee S Jauharri D/O Shikhar Jauhari, R/o K- 121, Poultry Farm, Andheria Mor, Mehrauli, South Delhi- 110030, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Shaillee Jauhari.
0070727501-1

I, Laxmipat Jain S/o Late Hanumant Bengani R/o-B-231, 2ndFloor,B-Block,Lok Vihar,Pitampura,Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Laxmipat Bengani.
0040560469-4

I, Sanat Bhardwaz S/O Shyamnandan Prasad Sinha, R/o Eden Flora 2, Block- 2 Flat No-3b 3rd Floor 2950 Nayabad Panchasayar Circus Avenue Kolkata West Bengal- 700094, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Sanat Kumar Bhardwaj.
0070727509-1

I, Ruchhika Ghosh D/O Shyamal Ghosh,R/o 28C/104 Sankalp Siddhi New Mhada Colony Near Mantri Park Mumbai Malad East Mumbai Maharashtra-400097, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Ruchhika Dasgupta.
0070727523-1

I, Raj Rani W/o Navab Singh R/o-31,Ganga Enclave, Loni-Dehat, Ghaziabad, UP-201102,have changed my name to Rani.
0040560457-3

I, Raju Sah S/o Sh. Nathun Sah R/O-B-573, DDA Flats Bindapur, Uttam Nagar,New Delhi-110059 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that in my Policy number 117223781, 124412872 issued by LIC of India my name is mentioned as Suresh Kumar Sah which is not correct. Raju Sah and Suresh Kumar Sah is the one and the same person and my correct name is Raju Sah.
0040560431-1

I, Priya Polanayakanpalayam Somaundaram, W/O Srinivasan Velusamy R/o Villa No. 22 Surakshaa Fair View Ville Belathur kadugodi, Bengaluru Pin- 560067, Karnataka, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Priya Srinivasan.
0070727524-1

I, Pranshu S/o Krishan Gopal R/o House.No.F-15, Bhim-Colony, Aali Vihar,Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076,have changed my name to Pranshu Dadhich
0040560457-1

I, Nitin Bisaria S/O Narendra Kumar Bisaria,R/o House No-06, C-2 Building, Laxmi Vrindavan Society, Shiv Sai Road Lotus Hospital Pimple Saudagar Pune City Aundh Camp, Pune, Maharashtra-411027 have changed the name of my minor Son Arnab Bisaria aged about 2 Years and He shall hereafter be known as Aditya Bisaria.
0070727528-1

I, Nishitosh Solanki d/o Kishan Chand R/o H.No.-C-222, JJ Colony, Budh Nagar, Inderpuri, New Delhi-110012 have changed my name to Nishi Tosh.
0040560429-2

I, Nawab Singh S/o Braham Singh R/o-31, Ganga Enclave, Loni-Dehat, Ghaziabad, UP-201102,have changed my name to Nawab Singh.
0040560457-2

I, Mukesh Malhotra S/O Balkishan Malhotra, R/o House Number 367/32, Chawlia Colony,Rohtak, Haryana, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Mukesh Krishan Malhotra.
0070727536-1

I, Monica Chandwani D/O Balmram Chandwani, W/O Sanjay Khilnani R/o F- 104 Prakash Avenue 28/41 Veer Savarkar Nagar, Indore Pin-452001, Madhya Pradesh, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Tanishqa Khilnani.
0070727511-1

I, Madhu Bala Solanki w/o Kishan Chand R/o H.No.-C-222, JJ Colony, Budh Nagar, Inderpuri, New Delhi-110012 have changed my name to Madhu Bala.
0040560429-1

I, MASTER VIKRANT, resident of Plot No. 170, Prem Nagar, Backside of Bharat School, Digari Kallan, Jodhpur, Rajasthan have changed my Name from MASTER VIKRANT to VIKRANT CHOUDHARY vide Affidavit dated 16/01/21 at New Delhi.
0070727557-1

I, Kripal Singh S/O Dan Singh, R/o B- 96, Gali No- 2, Mukti Ashram, Keshav Nagar, Ibrahim Pur, North West Delhi-110036. Declare that Name of Mine and My Father has been wrongly written as Kripal Singh Bhandari and Arjun Bhandari in my Pan Card No- ASWPB4257C. The actual name of Mine and My Father are Kripal Singh and Dan Singh, which may be amended accordingly.
0070727532-1

I, KM Jyoti Devi , W/O Sunil Kumar Dubey R/o 329/4 3rd Main Road 20TH Street Ashtalakshmi Nagar Alapakkam Porur Ambattur Tiruvallur Tamil Nadu- 600116, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Jyothi Dubey.
0070727530-1

I Anik Suri S/o Sh.Krishan Kumar Suri R/o B-111, Kalkaji Ali, Delhi-110019 declares that my name Anik Sur S/o Sh. Krishan Kumar Sur is mentioned in my Property documents of Conveyance Deed dated 20.09.2003 of above property. Anik Sur and Anik Suri is the same and one person.
0040560419-1

I Rajesh Pandey R/O C-1/113 Welcome Seelampur-3 Delhi-15, states that in my Service Record my Father's name have been wrongly written as Harish Chandra Pandey whereas the correct name is Harsh Chander Panday.
0050174160-1

I, Jogendra Kumar S/o Ram Sharan born on 07.07.1982 residing at F-232/E, Aya Nagar, Arjanagarh, South West Delhi-110047, have changed my name to Joginder Kumar vide affidavit E-Stamp Certificate No.IN-DL31398244971273T, dated 15.01.2021 Notarized by Notary Public Mahesh Narayan.
0050174207-1

I, Jatan Jain W/o Laxmipat Bengani R/o-B-231, 2ndFloor, B-Block, Lok Vihar,Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Jatan Bengani.
0040560469-3

I, Hardick Chauhan S/O Shalinder Chauhan, R/o Shimritu Bhawan, Dhali Bi Pass, Shimla, Dhalli, Shimla Urban, Dhalli, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh- 171012, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Hardik Chauhan.
0070727539-1

I, Geetala Praveen S/O Geetala Sankaraiah, R/o Gonupalli, Gonupalli, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh- 524414, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Geethala Munishwara Reddy.
0070727541-1

I, Divya Sarin D/O Raja Sethi, R/o 1407, Vikas Kunj, Vikasipuri, Tilak Nagar S/O West Delhi-110018, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Dvya Sarin.
0070727546-1

I, Dinesh Singh Sajwan S/O Mahipal Singh, R/O D- 1205, RG Residency, Sector- 120, NoIDA, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh- 201301 have changed the name of my minor Daughter Saanvi aged about 5 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Saanvi Sajwan.
0070727549-1

I, Chaudhary Pappu S/O Dalchand, R/o Nogawan, Bhopalgarh, Nogawan, Bhilwara, Rajasthan- 311802. Declare that Name of Mine and My Father has been wrongly written as Pappu Dalchand Chaudhary and Dalu Lal Jat in my Pan Card No- BWKPC3317H. The actual name of Mine and My Father are Chaudhary Pappu and Dalchand, which may be amended accordingly.
0070727527-1

I, Asif Shekh S/O Samad Shekh, R/o HNo- 23, Anupdanga, Vill Emerald Heights Ramprastha Greens, Sec-7, Vasthali Gaziabad U.P. Intends to provide self declaration in respect of immovable property D-117, Gali No-6,Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092. This house is in a condition like falling due to old construction so our client want to build after breaking it, but his mother (Urmila Garg) who is also a part of owner is not ready to build and repair it and still staying the same, if there is any accident or loss happening in the future due to this condition of the house, then our client will not be responsible for it.
0070727550-1

I, Ashwin Mukundan S/O Managot Parayil Mukundan, R/O-B-504, Rajdoot CHS Ltd Yari Road, Versova, Andheri West, Mumbai, Vesava, Mumbai, Maharashtra- 400061, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Ashwini Mukundan.
0070727552-1

I, AMREESH S/O Sh. Sant Singh R/O 23A/14A, Third Floor, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110 018 have changed my name to AMREESH PRADHAN for all Purposes.
0040560443-1

I, RAJJAN PRASAD S/O GORE LAL TIWARI (LATE) Employed as Scientist-E in Aerial Delivery Research & Development Establishment (ADRDE) of Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO), Department of Defence R&D, GOVT. OF INDIA, Ministry of Defence , Post Box no 51 Station Road Agra Cantt Agra- 282001 and HQrs at DRDO Bhawan, GOVT. OF INDIA, Ministry of Defence, Rajaji Marg, New Delhi- 110011, Resident of 114/1 Vigyan Vihar Takkar Road, Vibhav Nagar Agra, Uttar Pradesh-282001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as RAJJAN PRASAD TIWARI.
0070727503-1

I Vivek Suri S/o Sh.Krishan Kumar Suri R/o B-111, Kalkaji Ali, Delhi-110019 declares that my name Vivek Sur S/o Sh. Krishan Kumar Suri is mentioned in my Property documents of Conveyance Deed dated 20.09.2003 of above property. Vivek Sur and Vivek Suri is the same and one person.
0040560419-2

I, RIYAZUDDIN AHMED,S/O SULTAN KHAN R/O, H.No.1022,P-1-BLOCK, SULTANPURI, DELHI-86, have changed my name to RIAZUDDIN.
0040560467-4

I Rajnish Kumar S/o Sh. Sadalu Sharma R/o R/0 848/3, Nyay Khand-3, Indirapuram, Shipra Sun City, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014 have changed my name to Sumit Sharma for all purposes.
0040560419-3

I MANISH KUMAR SAINI S/O- ASHOK KUMAR R/O-H.NO-1104 GALI NO-72 DEVA RAM PARK TRI NAGAR DELHI-110035 CHANGED MY NAME TO MANISH SAINI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.
0070727506-1

I Manish Kumar alias Manish Tonk S/o Sh.Rajesh Kumar R/o F-41, Aruna Nagar, Majnu ka Tila, Civil Lines,Delhi-110054 have changed my name to Manish Tonk for all purposes.
0040560419-5

I Kamlesh Dhamunya S/o Late Baboolal Dhamunya R/O Q.No.DS-509, Ground Floor, Sector-7, M.B.Road, Malviya Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110017 have changed my name to Rajesh Kumar for all purposes.
0040560419-4

I, Kailash S/o Sudeshi Ravidas R/o 343, Akbarpur, Nawada, Bihar-805121, have changed my name to Kailash Ravidas for all purposes.
0040560401-2

LOST & FOUND

I Subhash Chander Malhotra (Prop.Mandeep Paints) S/o Late Buti Shah Malhotra R/O 192, Kalyan Vihar, Delhi-110009 have lost Original Forms-38, Serial No. are (1.)2869761, (2) 3987610, (3) 4372395, (4) A00933692, (5) A00933693, (6) A00933694, (7) EE1954310. Finders may contact at above address or Mobile No.9212200080.
0040560419-6

It is notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificates and Marks Sheet of Main, Secondary Examination of Year 2015, Roll No.8153882 and Senior Secondary Examination of Year 2017, Roll No.9160514 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Rohan Bagai S/O Vineet Bagai R/O G-23/2A, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027, Mobile:-9711814215
0040560427-1

EDUCATIONAL

National Central council of Vocational Training invited application for start Training and Study Centre
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Mob.7499647774/ 9823647194
0090280356-1

POULTRY

COB 400Y, Kadaknath, Kaveri, D.P.Cross, Gिरिराज, Bater, chicks available, eggs will be hatched and given, Rehma Hatchery: 906757721 (Pune)
0090280397-1

MATRIMONIAL



Christin tamil MBA smart 36 years tall well employed boy own house expects Christian educated employed decent gori
9326580597
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SIKH/PUNJABI

Sm&P PB Boy 39/5'11 EDU Groomed Never Married Well Read Bt Own Office Home 15 Lac per Annum Seeks Cultural Never Married Bride Cast No Bar # 9999774597 ij.labs@outlook.com
0040560267-1



SIKH/PUNJABI

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0020416418-1

Punjabi 84 born educated Bank employed healthy girl expects Punjabi educated well settled well employed bachelor phone- 9970288949
0090280468-2

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Deepak Ajmani S/o Madan Lal Ajmani residing K-56, Pratap Nagar, Near Pratap Nagar Metro Station, Sadar Bazar, Delhi-110007 declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as DEEPAK KUMAR and MADAN LAL in education documents. The actual name of mine and my father DEEPAK AJMANI and MADAN LAL AJMANI are respectively which may be amended accordingly.
0040560419-2

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large that Shri. P.B.A. Srinivasan & Smt. K. Sreedevi Title Holder(s), in Possession of entire Ground Floor of Built up Residential Plot No. 6, Block B-1, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016, hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Plot", vide Sale Deed dated 22.01.2013 registered as Doc No.280, Book No.01, Vol No.184, pages 49 to 109 on 22.01.2013 with Sub-Registerar-Hauz Khas New Delhi. That the original Sale Deed dated 22.01.2013, Special Certificate of Death D/O.06.05.1981, Mutation Letter dated 20.06.1984 collaboration agreement dated 16.04.1980 Supplementary Collaboration Agreement dated 29.06.1980 and General Power of Attorney (registered) dated 20.06.1980 w.r.t. the scheduled Plot are untraceable as on date and unavailable for verification in original. Therefore, any person company, authority, society, organization, financial, Institute/Bank etc. Have any knowledge of the above mentioned lost document or having any claim right title interest possession etc in the schedule property, by way of ownership succession inheritance, sale, mortgage, exchange, charge, lien, Gift, Trust, encumbrance, etc. may come forward with supporting document to be delivered to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this publication, post expiration of which any claim or objection if raised or received, shall be treated as null and void and shall be treated as waived and the Title Holder(s) shall proceed with the balance transaction of availing loan on the schedule property from the State Bank of India.
Ranjana Kumar Jha(Advocate)
Chamber: 231, Western wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054, Mobile: 9990647903/9311417693

Public Notice
This is to certify that I have changed my name from "AKSHIT GARG" to "SARTHAK GARG" S/o Sh. Pradeep Garg, R/O 6 Todar Mal Lane, Near Bengali Market, New Delhi – 110001, for all practical purposes, including Bank Accounts, PPF accounts etc.

Public Notice
This is to certify that I have changed my name from "NIYATI GARG" to "NITYA GARG" D/o Sh. Pradeep Garg, R/O 6 Todar Mal Lane, Near Bengali Market, New Delhi – 110001, for all practical purposes, including Bank Accounts, PPF accounts etc.

PUBLIC NOTICE
For & on behalf of my client Sh.Ram Dinesh Mishra s/o Late Bhola Mishra, R/o Ward No 06, P.S.Arer Hat, Village-Navkarni, District Madhubani, Bihar-847222, I serve this Public Notice that my client sever his relations and Debar his Son Raushan Kumar Mishra and Ms.Amita Mishra W/o Sh.Raushan Kumar Mishra and their family from his properties both movable & immovable for all intents and purposes. Anyone deals with them shall do at his own risks.
Subodhi Kumar Jha (Advocate)
Enrl.No.D/16911202
Mob : 9971817545

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed to the public at large that my clients, Sh. Bhushan Chander S/o Late Sh. Mitthan Lal Goel and his wife Smt. Santosh Goel both R/O 11001, 1st Floor, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007 hereby declaring/declaring & disowning their son Shubham Goel and his wife Smt. Yogita Goel from their lives, properties, and state, movable or immovable situated in Delhi or outside of Delhi and severed all their relations with them because they are not loyal and under the control of my clients and their nature towards my client are not cordial but farsening since their marriage. My clients and their family will not be responsible for any act, deed and thing done by the above named persons from today.
Sd/- Gaur & Associates (Advocates)
Court Add:- 120 & 140, Gajanan Block, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public hereby informed that our client Shri Sachin Garg S/O Lt. Shri Balkishan Garg R/O 601, Millenia Emerald Heights Ramprastha Greens, Sec-7, Vasthali Gaziabad U.P. Intends to provide self declaration in respect of immovable property D-117, Gali No-6,Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092. This house is in a condition like falling due to old construction so our client want to build after breaking it, but his mother (Urmila Garg) who is also a part of owner is not ready to build and repair it and still staying the same, if there is any accident or loss happening in the future due to this condition of the house, then our client will not be responsible for it.
The Legal Tado (Law Firm)
Chamber No-326, Civil Side, Tis Hazari Court Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE
That my client Mrs. Kamlesh Singh, W/o Late Devender Kumar Singh, R/o H.No.A-85, Durga Vihar, Bandh Road, East Sainik Farm, New Delhi, hereby debar/disown her son namely Sh. Kuldeep Singh & Sonu and his wife Smt. Seema Singh, hold after breaking it, but his mother (Urmila Garg) who is also a part of owner is not ready to build and repair it and still staying the same, if there is any accident or loss happening in the future due to this condition of the house, then our client will not be responsible for it.
Sd/- (Y.S. TOMAR) ADVOCATE
Ch. No. 708, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi
Mob: 9873422228

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clientless Smt. Krishna Parashar W/o Sh. Mahesh Kumar Parashar R/o H.No.J-44, Third Floor, Vijay Chowk, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 has severed her relations and debarred her son Tarun Kumar Parashar & his legal heirs from all her movable-immovable properties due to their misbehavior and misconduct. My clientless and her family members shall not be responsible for their act(s)/deed(s)/transaction(s).
Sd/- Mohit Bhardwaj (Advocate)
Ch. No.G-513, Kid Court, Shahdara, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
That under instructions from my Client Rouchyka Belani, it is brought to the General Notice of the Public at large, that Ms. Kamal Monga has relinquished all her rights and titles pursuant to her share in the property bearing no. A-315, Defence Colony, New Delhi, in favour of her sister Rouchyka Belani i.e. my Client, vide a Relinquishment Deed dated 25/09/2018 duly registered with the Office of the Sub-Registrar-V (1), Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi, bearing Registration No. 5252 in Book No. 1, Volume No. 735, from Page No. 93 to 100, registered on 26/09/2018. That the aforesaid Relinquishment Deed has been misplaced/lost and is not traceable, and w.r.t. which an F.I.R. dated 21/08/2020 has been registered with P.S.: Crime Branch, New Delhi bearing LR No. 503993 of 2020. That if the aforesaid Relinquishment Deed is found within 10 (Ten) Days from the publication of this Public Notice, it is requested that the same be returned to the undersigned at his below mentioned address:
PUSHKAR KARNI SINHA (ADVOCATE)
Chamber No. 206, C.K. Daphtary Block, Lawyers' Chambers, Tilak Lane, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi - 110001. Ph.: +91-8800711940; +91-11-23383400.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Sh. Harnam Das S/o Late Hukam Singh R/o S-618, Mangolpuri, Delhi- 110083 has severed his all relations with Son Gaurav Kumar, daughter-in-law Shivani @ Kajal, due to their quarrelsome attitude, misbehaviour and misconduct and debarment from his movable and immovable properties. Anybody deals with them shall do so at his/her own risk and they shall not be responsible for any positive complaint and court case in any manner whatsoever.
Sd/- SATISH K. SANSI (ADVOCATE)
CH. NO. 226, 2nd Floor, Lawyer Chamber Block, Rohini court, Delhi-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the Public at large that Sh. Sunil Bhatia S/o Late Sh. Pankaj Bhatia and Smt. Swati Srivastava W/o Sh. Sunil Bhatia are presently the Title Holder(s) in possession of Entire First Floor of Freehold Built Up Property Bearing Plot No. 209, Vibha Puri, Lajpat Nagar - I, New Delhi - 110024, hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Plot" and the Plot referred to as the "Schedule Plot", vide Sale Deed dated 30th July 2016, registered as Registration No. 415, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 365, pg. 11-12 on 31.07.2016 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar - (V1), Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi. That the Originals of Lease Deed dated 07.02.1989, Substitution Letter dated 15.03.1977, Supplementary Conveyance Deed dated 12.02.1982 and Conveyance Deed dated 30.01.1995 w.r.t. the Schedule Plot, are untraceable as on date and unavailable for verification in original. Therefore, any Person(s), Company(ies), Financial Institution(s), Bank(s), etc., having any knowledge, custody or possession of the untraceable Schedule Plot related documents as mentioned herein above or otherwise having any claim, right, life, interest, possession either in the Schedule Plot or Schedule Property, by way of Ownership, Succession, Inheritance, Sale, Mortgage, Exchange, Charge, Lien, Gift, Trust, Encumbrance etc. may come forward with supporting documents, to be delivered to the undersigned within 14 days from the date of this Publication, post expiration of which, any claim(s) or objection(s) w.r.t. both the Schedule Plot and the Schedule Property, if raised or received either with respect to any charge created or rights acknowledged/inflicted etc. shall be treated as null and void and shall be treated as waived, and the Title Holder(s) shall proceed with the balance transaction of their existing loan on the State Bank of India.
Ranjana Kumar Jha(Advocate)
Chamber: 231, Western wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054, Mobile: 9990647903/9311417693

"IMPORTANT"
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E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE
Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. IV, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Govt. of Delhi, L.M. Bund Office Complex, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-31 invites on behalf of the President of India invites online tenders/bids on percentage rate from eligible firms/ contractors from approved and eligible contractors of Irrigation and Flood Control Deptt

THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas

WEST ASIA Palestinians announce first polls in 15 yrs

PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT Mahmoud Abbas announced parliamentary and presidential elections on Friday, the first in 15 years, in an effort to heal long-standing internal divisions. The move is widely seen as a response to criticism of the democratic legitimacy of Palestinian political institutions, including Abbas's presidency. It also comes days before the inauguration of US President-elect Joe Biden, with whom the Palestinians want to re-set relations after they reached a low under Donald Trump. According to a decree issued by Abbas's office, the Palestinian Authority, which has limited self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, will hold legislative elections on May 22 and a presidential vote on July 31. **REUTERS**

PAKISTAN PM aide removed as PTV chairman after court order

THE PAKISTAN Cabinet has removed Naem Bukhari, a close associate of Prime Minister Imran Khan, as chairman of Pakistan Television (PTV), after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) barred him from working as the head of the state-run channel, according to media reports. Bukhari was appointed as chief of the state broadcaster in November, inviting allegations that he benefitted from his closeness to Khan. The IHC on Thursday restrained Bukhari from holding the post, citing a violation of a 2018 Supreme Court order in a similar case. The court remarked that the Cabinet did not make a clear decision on relaxing the age limit for 65-year-old Bukhari. **PTI**

CHINA HK activist's lawyer loses licence

A CHINESE lawyer who represented a Hong Kong pro-democracy activist was stripped of his licence amid efforts by Beijing to crush opposition to its tighter control over the territory. Lu Siwei, who represented one of 12 Hong Kong activists who tried to flee to Taiwan, had his licence revoked by the Sichuan Provincial Justice Department in a notice given Friday. Ten activists caught at sea in August were sentenced by a court in Dec to prison terms ranging from 7 months to 3 years. **AP**

UK DECIDED IN MARCH TO BEGIN SEQUENCING VIRUS SAMPLES EN MASSE, HELPING SCIENTISTS FIND THE NEW STRAIN

How UK scientists found the more infectious coronavirus variant

BENJAMIN MUELLER LONDON, JANUARY 16

ALL AT once, the coronavirus seemed to change.

For months, Dr Steven Kemp, an infectious disease expert, had been scanning a global library of coronavirus genomes. He was studying how the virus had mutated in the lungs of a patient struggling to shake a raging infection in a nearby Cambridge hospital, and wanted to know if those changes would turn up in other people.

Then in late November,

Kemp made a startling match: Some of the same mutations detected in the patient, along with other changes, were appearing again and again in newly infected people, mostly in Britain.

Worse, the changes were concentrated in the spike protein the virus uses to latch onto human cells, suggesting that a virus already wreaking havoc around the world was evolving in a way that could make it even more contagious. "There's a load of mutations that occur together at the same frequency," he wrote on Dec 2 to Dr Ravindra Gupta, a Cambridge virologist. Listing the most trou-



Prof Ravi Gupta and Dr Steven Kemp played a key role in identifying the more infectious coronavirus variant. **NYT**

bling changes, he added: "ALL of these sequences have the following spike mutants."

The two researchers did not yet know it, but they had found a new, highly contagious coron-

avirus variant that has since stampeded across Britain, shaken scientists' understanding of the virus and threatened to set back the global recovery from the pandemic.

Word raced through a consortium of British disease scientists, longtime torchbearers in genomics who had helped to track the Ebola and Zika epidemics. They gathered on Slack and on video calls, comparing notes as they chased down clues, among them a tip from scientists in South Africa about yet another new variant there. Still others have since emerged in Brazil.

For nearly a year, scientists had observed only incremental changes in the coronavirus, and expected more of the same. The new variants forced them to change their thinking, portending a new phase in the pandemic in which the virus could evolve enough in time to undermine vaccines' effectiveness.

British MPs announced the news on Dec 14, warning that the variant was spreading faster than previous ones. But the road to its discovery was laid down to little acclaim in March, when Britain decided to begin sequencing coronavirus samples en masse. The

US National Rifle Association files for bankruptcy

JAN WOLFE & JONATHAN STEMPER JANUARY 16

THE NATIONAL Rifle Association on Friday filed for bankruptcy, a sudden development that could help the gun rights group escape a lawsuit by New York's attorney general seeking its dissolution.

The NRA filed for Chapter 11 protection in federal bankruptcy court in Dallas, and said it plans to reincorporate in Texas to escape "a corrupt political and regulatory environment" in New York, where it is now incorporated.

"Texas values the contributions of the NRA, celebrates our law-abiding members, and joins us as a partner in upholding constitutional freedom," Chief Executive Wayne LaPierre said in a letter to members. "We seek protection from New York officials who illegally abused and weaponised the powers they wield against the NRA and its members."

The NRA was sued in August by New York Attorney General Letitia James, who accused

EXPLAINED Diminishing influence

THE POWERFUL gun lobby's attempt to escape legal proceedings in New York comes at a time when it has seen its vast political influence at least slightly diminished. This was most glaring in the reduced role that it played in the 2020 elections. The NRA has been weakened by infighting, resignations of top officials, and a host of legal and financial woes.

LaPierre and other senior leaders of mismanagement, and said the group's activities violated state laws governing nonprofits.

"The NRA's claimed financial status has finally met its moral status: bankrupt," James said on Friday. "We will not allow the NRA to use this or any other tactic to evade accountability and my office's oversight." **REUTERS**

Trump admin carries out 13th and final execution

ASSOCIATED PRESS TERRE HAUTE, JANUARY 16

THE TRUMP administration early Saturday carried out its 13th federal execution since July, an unprecedented run that concluded just five days before the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden — an opponent of the federal death penalty.

Dustin Higgs, convicted of ordering the killings of three women in Maryland in 1996, was the third to receive a lethal injection this week at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana.

President Donald Trump's Justice Department resumed fed-



Dustin Higgs in federal prison in 2015. **AP**

eral executions last year following a 17-year hiatus. No president in more than 120 years had overseen as many federal executions.

Higgs, 48, was pronounced dead at 1.23 am. Asked if he had any last words, Higgs named each of the women prosecutors said he ordered killed. "I'd like to say I am an innocent man... I am not responsible for the deaths," he said. "I did not order the murders."



Armin Laschet

Pragmatic governor Laschet elected to lead Merkel's party

GEIR MOULSON BERLIN, JANUARY 16

CHANCELLOR ANGELA Merkel's center-right party on Saturday chose Armin Laschet, the pragmatic governor of Germany's most populous state, as its new leader — sending a signal of continuity months before an election in which voters will decide who becomes the new chancellor.

Laschet defeated Friedrich Merz, a conservative and one-time Merkel rival, at an online convention of the Christian Democratic Union. Laschet won 521 votes to Merz's 466. A third candidate, prominent lawmaker Norbert Roettgen, was eliminated in a first round of voting.

Saturday's vote isn't the final word on who will run as the center-right candidate for chancellor in Germany's Sept. 26 election, but Laschet will either run for chancellor or will have a big say in who does.

Merkel, who has been chancellor since 2005, announced in late 2018 that she wouldn't seek a fifth term. She also stepped down from the CDU leadership.

The decision ends an 11-month leadership limbo in Germany's strongest party after outgoing leader Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, who had failed to impose her authority on the party, announced her resignation. A vote on her successor was delayed twice because of the pandemic. There had been no clear favourite going into Saturday's convention, but the election of Merz would have marked at least a symbolic break with the Merkel era. Laschet will now have to work to secure party unity. **AP**



New Delhi



12 ECONOMY

‘BANKS, NON-BANKS SHOULD ALSO HAVE APPROPRIATE COMPLIANCE CULTURE’

RBI open to bad bank proposal: Das

At Nani Palkhivala Memorial Lecture, Reserve Bank Governor advises lenders to identify risks early

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 16

RBI GOVERNOR Shaktikanta Das on Saturday indicated that the central bank can consider the idea of a bad bank to tackle non-performing assets (NPAs) and advised banks and non-banks to adopt appropriate compliance culture and identify risks early.

“If there’s a proposal to set up a bad bank, the RBI will look at it. We have regulatory guidelines for asset reconstruction companies,” Das said while delivering the Nani Palkhivala Memorial Lecture.

NPAs of the banking sector are expected to shoot up to 13.5 per cent of advances by September 2021 from 7.5 per cent in September 2020 under the baseline scenario, the Financial Stability Report of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said earlier this week. “We are open to look at any proposal to set up a bad bank,” he said.

A bad bank buys the bad loans and other illiquid holdings of other banks and financial institutions, which clears their balance sheet. Banks, led by the Indian Banks’ Association (IBA), had last May had submitted a proposal to set up a bad bank to the Finance Ministry and the RBI, proposing equity contribution from the government and the banks.

According to Das, banks and



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das delivers the Nani Palkhivala Memorial Lecture, on Saturday. *Screengrab via @RBI Twitter*

non-bank financial companies (NBFCs) need to identify risks early, monitor them closely and manage them effectively.

The risk management function in banks and NBFCs should evolve with changing times as technology becomes all pervasive and should be in sync with best international practices, he added.

“In this context, instilling an appropriate risk culture in the organisation is important. This needs to be driven by the board and senior management with effective accountability at all levels,” Das said. Recent events in our rapidly evolving financial landscape have led to increasing scrutiny of the role of promoters, major

shareholders and senior management vis-à-vis the role of the board, the RBI Governor added.

With the Union Budget just two weeks away, Das advised the government to define the fiscal roadmap in terms of the quality of the expenditure.

“Going forward, it becomes imperative that fiscal roadmaps are defined not only in terms of quantitative parameters like fiscal balance to GDP ratio or debt to GDP ratio, but also in terms of measurable parameters relating to quality of expenditure, both for Centre and states,” Das said.

“While the conventional parameters of fiscal discipline will ensure medium and long-term

EXPLAINED
Redefining fiscal roadmap

WITH REFERENCE to the Budget, Das said the government should define the fiscal roadmap not only in terms of quantitative parameters, but those relating to quality of expenditure too. This, he said, would ensure continued welfarism as well as sustainable growth.

sustainability of public finances, measurable parameters of quality of expenditure would ensure that welfarism carries significant productive outcomes and multiplier effects,” Das said.

Maintaining and improving the quality of expenditure would help address the objectives of fiscal sustainability while supporting growth, he added.

The RBI Governor noted that the current Covid-19 pandemic related shock will place greater pressure on the balance sheets of banks in terms of NPAs, leading to erosion of capital.

“Building buffers and raising capital by banks — both in the public and private sector — will be

crucial not only to ensure credit flow but also to build resilience in the financial system,” Das said.

“We have advised all banks, large non-deposit taking NBFCs and all deposit-taking NBFCs to assess the impact of Covid on their balance sheet, asset quality, liquidity, profitability and capital adequacy, and work out possible mitigation measures including capital planning, capital raising, and contingency liquidity planning, among others,” Das said.

In addition to a strong risk culture, banks and non-banks should also have appropriate compliance culture. Cost of compliance to rules and regulations should be perceived as an investment as any inadequacy in this regard will prove to be detrimental, he said.

Das said a robust assurance mechanism by way of internal audit function is another important component of sound corporate governance and risk management. “It provides independent evaluation and assurance to the board that the operations of the entity are being performed in accordance with the set policies and procedures,” he stated.

The internal audit function should assess and contribute to improvement of the organisation’s governance, risk management and control processes using a systematic, disciplined, and risk-based approach, Das said.

PM ANNOUNCES ₹1,000-CRORE STARTUP INDIA SEED FUND

‘Our startups should be global giants in their service areas’

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

THE GOVERNMENT will launch a Rs 1,000-crore seed fund for startups, called Startup India Seed Fund, which will help startups with the initial capital for growth and operations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday.

“Going ahead, the government will provide guarantees to help startups raise debt-capital. We are trying to build a startup ecosystem which functions on the ‘of the youth, by the youth, for the youth’ mantra,” the Prime Minister said, speaking at the Prarambh Startup India International Summit in an online address.

During the address, Modi said the target for India’s startups over the next five years should be to become global giants in their respective service areas.

“Our startups should lead in futuristic technologies. If all BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries push for this, a large population would benefit from this,” the Prime Minister added.

During the event, Modi also interacted with the founders of startups from BIMSTEC nations, which include Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

“In the 2018 BIMSTEC summit, I had said that all these countries



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the Prarambh Startup India International Summit via video link. *ANI*

will come together in the field of technology and innovation. All BIMSTEC are working to improve their connectivity and business,” Modi said.

The new seed fund for startups comes after the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had earlier last year initiated a similar fund to identify startups and give them financial help. In August, the ministry had launched a fund to identify 300 startups which would be provided seed fund of up to Rs 25 lakh and other facilities as well. A budget of Rs 95.03 crore has been earmarked for the programme named ‘Chunauti’, to be spent over a period of three years.

The IT Ministry’s programme seeks to award startups in the fields of edu-tech, agri-tech, supply chain, logistics, and transport management, as well as medical healthcare, diagnostics, preven-

tive and psychological care among other areas.

Apart from these seed funds, the ministry has over the last year also conducted several other competitions to award startups working in several areas, such as video-conferencing, artificial intelligence among others.

Last July, the ministry had launched a challenge inviting Indian developers to come up with apps in a range of segments such as office productivity, social networking, e-learning, news, games, health and wellness, agri-tech, fintech and entertainment, and speech translation, among others.

A different challenge launched in April last year, which sought a world class video-conference solution, which could be an alternative to global apps such as Zoom, saw Kerala-based Techgentsia Software Technologies win a prize money of Rs 1 crore.

COVID-19 IMPACT

‘56% fewer passengers flew domestically in 2020’

A total of 6.3 crore domestic passengers travelled by air last year, 56.29% lower than 2019, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said



PASSENGERS FLOWN DOMESTICALLY BY AIRLINES LAST YEAR:

- IndiGo: 3.25 crore
- SpiceJet: 93.9 lakh
- Air India: 69.32 lakh
- GoAir: 54.38 lakh
- AirAsia India: 43.87 lakh
- Vistara: 39.39 lakh

73.27 lakh: People who travelled by air domestically in December 2020, 43.72% lower than in the corresponding period a year ago

65.1-78%: Range of load factor of six major Indian airlines in December 2020

51.7%: Share of total domestic air passenger market in 2020 accounted for by IndiGo

78%: Occupancy rate at SpiceJet last month, highest among all Indian carriers

94.9%: On-time performance of IndiGo in December; best at four metro airports — Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai

LOW PASSENGER LOAD FACTOR IN DECEMBER: The passenger load factor in December 2020 has shown declining trend compared to the previous month primarily due to the end of tourist season, according to the aviation regulator

COST-CUTTING ACROSS THE BOARD: All airlines in the country have adopted cost-cutting measures such as pay cuts, leave without pay and firing of employees in order to tide over the crisis

Source: DGCA/PTI

Why is it important: Even as domestic flights resumed after a two-month hiatus on May 25, the aviation sector has been hit significantly due to the travel curbs imposed in India and other countries

UKIBC seeks parity in corporate tax rates for Indian, foreign cos

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

THE UK-INDIA Business Council (UKIBC) has urged the government here to bring parity between corporate tax rates for domestic and foreign companies as part of its pre-Budget recommendations submitted to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

“Globally, the general practice is to have a tax rate parity across all kinds of companies within the same industry. Examples are all BRIC countries except India and a majority of OECD countries (UK, Japan, etc.) as well as important financial centres like Hong Kong & Singapore where the tax structures for domestic and overseas companies are identical,” said Jayant Krishna, group CEO, UKIBC.

The reduction in the corporate tax rate for domestic companies coupled with the abolition of dividend distribution tax (DDT) creates a significant disparity between the effective tax rates

As part of pre-Budget consultations with the Finance Minister, the UK-India Business Council also recommended raising the FDI limit in defence and insurance sectors

applicable to foreign companies and domestic companies at 43.68 per cent and 25.17 per cent, respectively. The Union Budget for 2021-22 will be presented in Parliament on February 1.

Foreign banks generally operate in India as a branch due to regulatory and commercial reasons and a reduction in the corporate tax rate for such branches will provide a level playing field as compared to branches of domestic banks and encourage investment by foreign entities that are keen to invest in India through a branch

route, Krishna said.

UKIBC’s group chair Richard Heald, OBE, has urged the government to further accelerate the pace of economic reforms through Budget announcements which would eventually lead to enhanced investment and trade footprint of UK’s businesses in India.

Apart from this, UKIBC also suggested the government to increase allocations for the defence sector to over 2.5 per cent of the GDP and raise foreign direct investment (FDI) limit through automatic route in the sector to 100 per cent from 74 per cent.

It has also recommended raising the FDI limit for the insurance sector to 100 per cent from 49 per cent along with asking for mutual recognition of degrees between India and major countries, including the UK, and removal of retrospective taxation, fast-tracking disinvestment of public sector undertakings, customs duty reduction for import of alcoholic spirits, and a regulatory regime for online gaming and sports betting.

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

THE COUNTRY’S foreign exchange reserves rose by \$758 million to reach a record high of \$586.082 billion in the week ended January 8, data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed on Friday.

In the previous week ended January 1, the reserves had increased by \$4.483 billion to \$585.324 billion.

In the reporting week, foreign currency assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves, rose by \$150 million to \$541.791 billion.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation

HDFC Bank Q3 net profit rises 18.1%

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 16

DESPITE THE contraction in the economy triggered by the pandemic, HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a net profit of Rs 8,758.3 crore for the third quarter ended December 2020, a rise of 18.1 per cent from Rs 7,416.48 crore in the quarter ended December 2019.

The bank’s net revenues (net interest income plus other income) grew to Rs 23,760.8 crore for the quarter from Rs 20,842.2 crore in the same quarter a year ago. While advances growth was at 15.6 per cent, core net interest margin for the quarter was 4.2 per cent. “The bank’s persistent focus on deposits helped in the maintenance of a healthy liquidity coverage ratio at 146 per cent, well above the regulatory requirement,” the bank said.

Gross and net non-performing assets were at 0.81 per cent of gross advances and 0.09 per cent of net advances as of December

2020, respectively. The restructuring under the RBI resolution framework for Covid-19 was approximately 0.5 per cent of advances, it said.

Provisions and contingencies for the December quarter were Rs 3,414.1 crore (consisting of specific loan loss provisions of Rs 691.2 crore and general and other provisions of Rs 2,722.9 crore) as against Rs 3,043.6 crore (specific loan loss provisions of Rs 2,883.6 crore and general and other provisions of Rs 159.9 crore) for the quarter ended December 2019.

As of last December, total balance sheet size was Rs 16,54,228 crore as against Rs 13,95,336 crore, a growth of 18.6 per cent.

Total advances as of December 2020 were Rs 10,82,324 crore, an increase of 15.6 per cent over December 2019. Domestic advances grew by 14.9 per cent over December 2019. As per regulatory segment classification, domestic retail loans grew by 5.2 per cent and domestic wholesale loans grew by 25.5 per cent.

BRIEFLY

ATF price up 3%; no change in petrol, diesel

New Delhi: Jet fuel, or ATF, price on Saturday was hiked by 3 per cent, the fourth hike in two months, while petrol and diesel rates remained unchanged after hitting new highs. ATF price was up by Rs 1,512.38 per kilolitre, or 2.96 per cent, to Rs 52,491.16 per kl. In Delhi, a notification of state-run fuel retailers said.

Wipro: Buyback worth ₹9,500 cr completed

New Delhi: Wipro said Saturday it has completed its Rs 9,500-crore share buyback programme. The buyback saw Azim Premji-affiliated entities tendering 22.89 crore shares of about Rs 9,156 crore, a filing said. **PTI**

To go public in coming years: BigBasket CEO

New Delhi: BigBasket aims to go public in the coming years, co-founder and CEO Hari Menon said at the Prarambh Startup India International Summit on Saturday, without mentioning a specific timeline. **FE**

Placed on Notorious Markets List, Snapdeal calls USTR report ‘ill-informed, incorrect’

LALIT K JHA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

SNAPDEAL, ONE of India’s largest e-commerce platforms, has contested a US Trade Representative (USTR) report that placed it on the Notorious Markets List for counterfeiting and piracy, and termed it ill-informed and incorrect.

Snapdeal and four Indian shopping complexes have figured in the latest 2020 Review of Notorious Markets for Counterfeiting and Piracy issued by the Office of the USTR. “The report released by the USTR tarnishes the image of the world’s leading marketplaces, including Amazon, Mercado Libre,

Snapdeal and four Indian shopping complexes have figured in the latest 2020 Review of Notorious Markets for Counterfeiting and Piracy issued by the Office of the US Trade Representative

Pinduoduo, Shopee, Snapdeal, Taobao, Tokopedia and many others, based on incorrect understanding of practices and laws applicable to various markets,” said a Snapdeal spokesperson Friday.

“The report reflects a poor understanding of the governing law in various jurisdictions, including India. While courts in India continue to uphold and assert the distinction between marketplaces

and sellers, the USTR report willfully blurs this distinction to further a flawed point of view.

“In doing so, it ignores clear and well-established regulatory and legal frameworks under which marketplaces operate,” the company said. The spokesperson said the comments made about Snapdeal were factually incorrect and repeated the falsehoods contained in a 2019 report, which it

had also strongly rebutted.

The lack of diligence is evident in including reference to related sites that have ceased to operate four years ago, the company said.

The USTR report said Snapdeal remains a concern for right holders who report that the volume of counterfeit products on this platform has risen over the past year. “According to a November 2018 survey, 37 per cent of purchasers reported that they had received a counterfeit product from Snapdeal. In July 2019, Snapdeal’s founders were accused of criminal conduct in India for selling counterfeit products there. Right holders have also sued Snapdeal for selling counterfeit goods,” it said. **PTI**

Fiat Chrysler, Peugeot seal \$52-bn merger to become Stellantis

GIULIO PIOVACCARI
MILAN, JANUARY 16

FIAT CHRYSLER and PSA sealed their long-awaited merger on Saturday to create Stellantis, the world’s fourth-largest auto group with deep enough pockets to fund the shift to electric driving and take on bigger rivals Toyota and Volkswagen.

It took over a year for the Italian-American and French automakers to finalise the \$52 billion deal, during which the global economy was upended by the Covid-19 pandemic.

They first announced plans to merge in October 2019, to create a group with annual sales of around 8.1 million vehicles.

“The merger between Peugeot S.A. and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles N.V. that will lead the path to the creation of Stellantis N.V. became effective today,” the two automakers said in a statement.

Shares in Stellantis, which will be headed by current PSA chief executive Carlos Tavares, will start trading in Milan and Paris on Monday, and in New York on Tuesday.

Now analysts and investors are turning their focus to how



Reuters

TO BE HEADED BY CURRENT PSA CEO TAVARES

■ Shares in Stellantis, which will be headed by current PSA chief executive Carlos Tavares, will start trading in Milan and Paris on Monday, and in New York on Tuesday

■ FCA and PSA said Stellantis can cut annual costs by over \$6.1 billion without plant closures, and investors will be keen for more details on how it will do this

Tavares plans to address the huge challenges facing the group — from excess production capacity to a woeful performance in China.

Tavares will hold his first press conference as Stellantis CEO on Tuesday, after ringing NYSE’s bell with Chairman John Elkann.

FCA and PSA have said Stellantis can cut annual costs by over 5 billion euros (\$6.1 billion) without plant closures, and investors will be keen for more details on how it will do this.

Marco Santino, a partner at consultants Oliver Wyman, said he expected Tavares to disclose the outlines of his action plan

soon, but without divulging too many details at first.

“He has proven to be the kind of person who prefers action to words, so I don’t think he will make loud statements or try to over-sell targets,” he said.

Like all global automakers, Stellantis needs to invest billions in the years ahead to transform its vehicle range for the electric era. But other pressing tasks loom, including reviving the group’s lagging fortunes in China, rationalising its huge global empire and addressing massive overcapacity.

“It will be a step by step process, also to allow the market

to better appreciate every single move. I don’t think we will have all the details before one year,” Santino said.

FCA chief executive officer Mike Manley — who will head Stellantis’ key operations for North America — has said 40 per cent of the carmaker’s expected synergies would come from convergence of platforms and powertrains and from optimising research & development investments, 35 per cent from savings on purchases, and another 7 per cent from savings on sales operations and general expenses. **REUTERS**

13 VACCINE DAY ONE NATION

Nurse in Kerala, surgeon in Kashmir

A year into a pandemic that upended lives and livelihoods, an entire nation saw the first signs of hope as frontline workers signed up for the inaugural session of a nationwide vaccination programme against Covid-19. THE SUNDAY EXPRESS meets some of the first recipients of the Covaxin and Covishield vaccines — from a health officer in a remote Arunachal district to a community worker in Naxal-hit Dantewada

BHILWARA, RAJASTHAN
MUSTAK KHAN, 46
 CHIEF MEDICAL &
 HEALTH OFFICER

HAMZA KHAN

IN MARCH last year, when a private hospital in Bhilwara became the epicentre of a Covid-19 outbreak in Rajasthan, the district administration and health officials led by Mustak Khan, the district's Chief Medical and Health Officer, launched a "ruthless containment" strategy.

Over the next several days, Khan and his team conducted an exhaustive survey, zeroed in on suspected Covid cases and traced their contacts. Soon, the 'Bhilwara containment model' came to be known as a success story.

On Saturday, Khan again led from the front, signing up for the first dose of the Covishield vaccine against Covid-19. "By getting vaccinated first, I hope to build confidence among health workers. It is good that health workers are being vaccinated first, since they are at high risk. We will aim for 100 per cent vaccination in the district.



5,286
 Active cases in Rajasthan
3.14 lakh
 Total cases
2,746
 Total deaths
 * As on Jan 16

Over the last one year, while Khan witnessed several Covid cases and fatalities, the fear got real when his father tested positive late last year. "First, my father, who is 75 years old and diabetic, tested positive, and then I too tested positive. When you have the virus in your own home, you grow very fearful. I was very worried for my father since he was already immunocompromised," he says.

After 15 days in hospital, Khan's father recovered. "For me, the biggest lesson from this was that we can't approach it like just another disease. Its behaviour is unpredictable.

WHY THE VACCINE: "The vaccine is being launched after good results during trials. I believe there shouldn't be any doubts regarding the vaccine."



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA
NISHA HAMEED, 41, NURSE

SHAJU PHILIP

"NOW, I feel like a soldier who has worn an armour," smiles Nisha Hameed, as she emerges from the Government Women and Children's Hospital, moments after getting a Covishield vaccine shot.

Nisha, who has been working as a nurse since 2001, received a message on Friday about being selected for Day 1 of the vaccination drive. "Some in my family circle tried to dissuade me... They wondered if getting vaccinated on the first day was a good idea. They thought that since there was n't enough data on the vaccines, I should wait," she says.

But Nisha, who has been a government nurse since 2001, saw no reason to wait. "As health workers, we should show the way to others. When health workers get the vaccine first, it not only protects the frontline

Covid-19 warriors, but also gives confidence to people to get vaccinated," she says.

In the last four months, Kerala has recorded more than 7 lakh coronavirus infections, more than any other state in India. The state now has the highest number of active cases, comprising almost 30 per cent of India's total.

Recalling her duty in Covid wards, Nisha says, "I have been on duty for five months. The early days were very difficult. Every day, I would leave home for work and it felt as if the virus was stalking me. The fear grew when some of my colleagues got infected. I always felt it would be my turn next."

She has so far not tested positive for Covid-19.

"While on duty in Covid wards, it's difficult to take water and toilet breaks. On days that I had my periods, I thought I would collapse inside the PPE kit," she says. With her husband, S S Hameed, also a

government nurse, Nisha would return home after long shifts to care for her children. "While most of my colleagues stayed back in the hospital or in hostels after their night shifts, I had to come back home," says the mother of two children, aged 17 and 15.

On some occasions, says Nisha, her job created tension in her neighbourhood, with some residents fearing that she would bring the virus home. "But I had no time to pay attention to such anxieties. Doing my duty with all precautions was the main concern then," she says.

But all that is in the past now, says Nisha. "Now, I have got the vaccine shot, all my fears and also of people around me have been put to rest. It will also encourage others to turn up at vaccination centres," she says.

WHY THE VACCINE: "I can now take on Covid-19 duty without fear," says Nisha. "I will continue taking precautions and maintain social distance, but during an emergency, when a PPE kit or face shield is not immediately available, I can confidently venture out to save a life."

EXPLAINED

E.

Leading from the front

AN ESTIMATED three lakh frontline workers have chosen to lead from the front by volunteering for the first dose, hoping to put to rest any doubts some may have on the efficacy and safety of the vaccine. The rollout date comes two weeks after India's drug regulator granted accelerated approval for two vaccines — Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield and Covaxin by Bharat Biotech-ICMR, the latter vaccine in a controlled "clinical trial mode" given that its efficacy data is pending.



PALGHAR, MAHARASHTRA
JAYSHREE SHINDE, 38
 CLEANING STAFF AT
 JAWAHAR SUB DISTRICT
 HOSPITAL

TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA

HAVING FINISHED her night duty in the sick newborn care unit, Shinde was asleep when a hospital nurse rang her up at 11 am. "We are going to start vaccination. Come soon."

Shinde, a Class IV worker, walked the 10-minute distance from her house to Jawahar sub district hospital for the injection. Standing outside the vaccination centre and fighting off her sleep, she smiles, "I am excited. I have spent all of last year in fear."

When the pandemic began, Shinde, a mother of two, was worried about whether her work would expose her to the virus. As a Class 4 employee earning Rs 7,000 a month, she had to clean Covid wards.

Maharashtra accounts for around 18 per cent of India's Covid burden. Till September,

the state's high case load was solely responsible for India's daily high numbers.

With her job putting her in direct contact with Covid patients, Shinde ensured she took all precautions.

"At the end of my shift, I would change my clothes at hospital, go home and bathe before going near my children," she says.

Yet, four months ago, her nightmare came true. Her husband, a security guard in a private firm, got infected. "He has joined work now," she says, adding, "Everyone in the village knew I worked as a helper in the hospital. So they stayed away."

The stigma hurt, but on Saturday, Shinde had put much of that behind her. "I don't understand much about the vaccine. My hospital told me that a vaccine is available, and I thought I must take it to save my family from infection," she says.

WHY THE VACCINE: "I am not scared. It's like the polio vaccine we give to children. That is what the nurses said."

52,152

Active cases in Maharashtra
19.84 LAKH
 Total cases
50,336
 Total deaths
 * As on Jan 15



BARAMULLA, KASHMIR
DR MOHSIN MUSHTAQ, 40

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT GOVT MEDICAL COLLEGE

BASHAARAT MASOOD

INSIDE THE vaccination ward of Government Medical College, a designated Covid hospital in J&K's Baramulla district, there is a sense of unease. The doctors and paramedics chosen for the inaugural session of the nationwide vaccination programme discuss possible adverse reactions to the Covishield vaccine that is scheduled to be administered to them.

But one among them walks up and takes the chair meant for the vaccine beneficiaries — Dr Mohsin Mushtaq, Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at the medical college.

"We have to create trust among people about this vaccine. If the doctors are hesitant, how can you convince others to get vaccinated," says the 40-year-old, after the nurse has dabbed some cotton on his arm.

But some of his colleagues are still not convinced. They start to leave.

"We have seen pharma companies coming up with vaccines for children...

we never questioned them. There are several cancer drugs that we prescribe to patients. So why should we fear this vaccine? I would encourage everyone to get vaccinated whenever they get an opportunity. That is the only way to fight this disease and live a mask-free life," Mushtaq adds.

He would know. Over the last 10 months, the doctor has spent several days in the hospital, operating on Covid-positive patients.

"Operating on Covid-positive patients takes its toll, both physical and mental," he says. "Some of these surgeries last several hours. Doing it in a PPE is gruelling. It's stressful even at home since you are always hoping that you haven't carried the virus home."

He believes it's luck, along with some basic protocol, that helped him keep the virus at bay for close to a year. Now, with a vaccine finally here, he doesn't want to take any chances for himself and people around him.

WHY THE VACCINE: "We need to fight this disease. Don't we need a life without fear and face masks?"

1,280
 Active cases in J&K
1,23,217
 Total cases
1921
 Total deaths
 * As on Jan 16

DANTEWADA, CHHATTISGARH
CHURRI, 50,
 A COMMUNITY HEALTH VOLUNTEER (MITANIN)
 IN JAWANGA VILLAGE

GARGIVERMA

"I AM fed up of wearing a mask. I trust the vaccine," says Churri, as she prepares for the journey to the children's hospital in her village, where she will join other healthcare workers to get the Covishield shot on the first day of the vaccination drive.

While the state had begun registration for vaccination in November, Churri says she did not expect to be called on the first day. "I got a call on Friday. I thought they would start with people in the cities," she says, adding, "My son was scared and told me not to go on the first day, but I still came."

Since the Covid-19 outbreak, *mitanins* or community health workers such as Churri have served as a crucial link between villagers and medical staff in remote areas of the country. The mother of three, and grandmother of five, was assigned 30 houses in her village and went door-to-door, telling families about Covid-19 precautions, among other things. "Washing hands, social distancing, we told

people about all measures. We also have to ensure that children get immunised and lactating mothers got their vitamins," says Churri, who has been a *mitanin* for over 10 years now.

The biggest challenge, she says, was to ensure that people visiting the village quarantined themselves. "I made sure that people, even extended family members, were allowed into the village only after the quarantine period," she recounts.

Halfway through her journey to the vaccination centre, Churri halts at the Geedam-Dantewada road, looking confused. "We were told to come to the malnutrition hospital for children, but no one on the road seems to know where it is," she says.

District administration officials said that since the list of people who would be vacci-



nated came late on Friday, they couldn't alert everyone about directions. "We are now trying to reach out to as many people as possible and guide them to the centres," said a district official overseeing the immunisation drive.

Around noon on Saturday, after traveling for an hour and covering over 25 km, Churri arrives at the vaccination centre. As she waits her turn, the 50-year-old reminisces about the time a barrier made of cloth and tree logs was put outside her village to stop the entry of those returning from outside. "All of 2020 has been about Covid-19. Our village had a couple of cases. The barrier was set up in March and we kept adding to it, with wires and wood," she smiles.

WHY THE VACCINE: "Everyone is scared of needles a little, and I won't say I am not scared. But I don't think there will be any severe side effects of the vaccine. They wouldn't have launched it if it wasn't safe, would they have?" she asks.

6,923
 Active cases in Chhattisgarh
2,92,612
 Total cases
3,544
 Total deaths
 * As on Jan 15



NAMSAI DISTRICT, ARUNACHAL PRADESH
DR TOPE YOMCHA, 53

DISTRICT REPRODUCTIVE AND CHILD HEALTH OFFICER

ABHISHEK SAHA

DR TOPE YOMCHA has had to quarantine himself at a government facility in Namsai twice — in August and September last year — after coming into contact with Covid patients. But the worst phase of the pandemic was when his 19-year-old son tested positive a few days after returning home from his college in Guwahati.

"My son tested positive as did four of my college-going nephews, including two who live with me. Even now, my wife remains in constant fear because I stand a risk of contracting the virus," says Dr Yomcha over the phone from Namsai, one of the easternmost districts of the country, talking of a virus that spread across geographies and spared none.

"So, the vaccine means that all this suffering will come to an end soon," he says.

It was this hope and optimism that got him to sign up for the vaccination programme that kicked off across the nation on Saturday.

Yomcha, who got his Covishield dose, has been at the forefront of the battle against Covid in Namsai, a small district with a pop-

ulation of 95,950 persons, according to the 2011 Census. While the district has so far only seen around 430 Covid cases, Yomcha says the actual numbers are much higher.

Over 1,000 people, mostly belonging to other districts of Arunachal or the neighbouring state of Assam, tested positive in Namsai, which acts as a getaway to other districts of the state such as Lohit and Dibang Valley.

Arunachal Pradesh has so far reported over 16,000 cases and 56 deaths. In the first phase, the state is vaccinating 900 people.

District administration officials said that during the pandemic, Yomcha played a key role in planning, executing and monitoring the testing and screening process.

"Our team in Namsai worked very hard during the pandemic. On several occasions, we have had to trek to remote locations of the district, sometimes early in the morning or late at night. Many of us have had to isolate ourselves several times," he said.

WHY THE VACCINE: "This vaccine signifies that an alternative way to protect ourselves and our loved ones from the Covid virus is beginning."

64
 Active cases in Arunachal
16,682
 Total cases
56
 Total deaths
 * As on Jan 16

Across
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

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The farmers want the laws to be repealed, the government justified the laws and asked the farmers’ representatives to discuss the Acts clause-by-clause! Please notice the irony: the government that rammed the Bills through the Rajya Sabha without a clause-by-clause discussion or vote should offer a clause-by-clause discussion on the streets of Singhu!

“CURIUSER AND curiouser!” cried Alice (she was so much surprised, that for the moment she quite forgot how to speak good English);”

That’s what I almost said when I read the statement of Ms Nirmala Sitharaman, the Finance Minister (FM), that she will draft a Budget “which is a Budget like never before”. It is also what many people said when they read the names of the four members of the Committee (all pro-farm laws) appointed by the Supreme Court to hold discussions with everyone concerned on the disputed laws.

CONTEMPTUOUS
ATTITUDE

This land, where we live, is becoming stranger and stranger by the day. Is it not strange that a democratically elected government will remain stubborn even as the protest by farmers in the bitter cold of Delhi enters its 55th day (when you read this column)? Is it not strange that the government will call the protesting farmers for talks even while its Ministers and party leaders, and the Attorney General, call them Khalistanis (meaning secessionists)?

Strange facts are tumbling out of the closet. Ms Anjali Bhardwaj, an enthusiastic Right to Information Act (RTI) activist, applied under the RTI to various departments of the government for information on the farm laws; in particular, on the ‘dates of all consultations to discuss the

proposed laws’ and the ‘minutes of all such meetings/consultations’. Every CPIO (Central Public Information Officer) reported that “this CPIO does not hold any record in this matter” and tossed her questions to another department. Yet, the government in its affidavit before the Supreme Court swore that the affidavit was being filed “for the purpose of dispelling the erroneous notion that the protesters have peddled that the Central government and Parliament never had any consultative process or examination of any issues.....”. Note the words “protesters have peddled” spat out contemptuously in a solemn affidavit.

After newspapers exposed the ‘nil’ RTI response, the Ministry of Agriculture hurriedly ‘clarified’ that the information could not be given because the matter was *sub judice* in several courts! As Alice would say, it gets ‘curiouser and curiouser’.

No CONSULTATIONS

The fact is that there was no consultation on the *proposed farm Bills* with the farmers or agricultural economists before the ordinances were promulgated on June 5, 2020.

Besides, the Bills were passed by so-called voice votes brushing aside demands for a full discussion (or a reference to a Parliamentary Select Committee) *and* voting by division. A large section of the farmers do not want the offending laws. They point to Bihar where the Nitish Kumar-led

government removed the APMC Act a few years ago. The result: the Bihar farmer sells paddy at Rs 800 per quintal while the MSP is Rs 1,850.

The farmers want the laws to be repealed, the government justified the laws and asked the farmers’ representatives to discuss the Acts clause-by-clause! Please notice the irony: the government that rammed the Bills through the Rajya Sabha without a *clause-by-clause* discussion or vote should offer a *clause-by-clause* discussion on the streets of Singhu!

MUST DO, BUT WON’T

Meanwhile, we have the intriguing announcement of the FM. What she must do is very different from what she can or will do. Every economist of repute is agreed that many things ought to have been done in 2020-21, but were not done out of fear or timidity or a lack of knowledge:

■ *Cash transfers* to the poorest families were not done;

■ *Indirect Tax rates*, especially GST rates, were not cut;

■ *Government capital expenditure* was not stepped up;

■ *MSME rescue plan* was not formulated to save the enterprises and jobs.

Many economists — among them Dr Arvind Panagariya, Dr C Rangarajan and Dr Jahangir Aziz — have reiterated that these measures should be taken at least now to revive growth. Recall that the GDP, at constant prices in the three years pre-

ceding the pandemic was 2017-18: **131.75**; 2018-19: **139.81**; and 2019-20: **145.65** lakh crore rupees. According to the First Advanced Estimates, the GDP in 2020-21 will be Rs **134.40** lakh crore. That means, just to return to the GDP level of 2019-20, the economy has to grow at 8.37 per cent in 2021-22. A growth rate of anything less will mean that the economy that will lose Rs 11 lakh crore (at constant prices) in 2020-21 will suffer a further loss in 2021-22. At current prices, which will be better understood by lay people, the loss in 2020-21 will be Rs 9 lakh crore (USD 120 billion).

What can the FM do to push the growth rate to 8.37 per cent in 2021-22? With revenues under stress (because not enough was done to stem the rate of decline), I doubt if she will make cash transfers or cut tax rates. She could step up total government expenditure and (1) implement a rescue plan for MSMEs and (2) invest more in infrastructure. On the other hand, there will be *more strident* claims for increase in (3) Defence expenditure and (4) Health infrastructure. Something has to give, and I fear it will be the MSME rescue plan and health infrastructure.

The FM is right if her statement had alluded to the **context** of Budget 2021-22. In terms of **content**, however, I just hope she does not disappoint the people as she has done during the pandemic year.

(The Oxford English Dictionary says ‘curiouser and curiouser’ means ‘more confounded’)

Fifth
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter: @tavleen_singh



A Covid
blessing

WITH HIS flair for melodrama, Narendra Modi personally launched the nationwide vaccination drive against Covid last week. The vaccines have been produced by private companies, but decades of socialism have trained us to allow political leaders to take credit for everything. Having spent many years watching fine, upstanding Indians kowtow to the Dynasty, I had hoped that Modi would govern in a manner that would demand less servility. Especially after he announced from the ramparts of the Red Fort, early in his first term, that he saw himself as the ‘*pradhan sevak*’ of the people.

As inexplicable is Modi’s neglect of the two areas in which decades of rule by the Dynasty produced dismal results: education and healthcare. If the pandemic has brought one blessing, it is that it has forced Narendra Modi to notice the abysmal state of health services even in states governed by his own chief ministers. The blame for India having the worst public hospitals, and despite having some of the best private hospitals in the world, lies squarely on the Congress party rule. What makes this criminal neglect unforgivable is that the party’s ruling Dynasty was founded by a man who tried to spread modern, scientific ideas in the hope that they would dispel India’s ancient superstitions.

Modi’s tent includes people filled with not just ancient superstitions but obscurantism and blind faith in the medicinal properties of cow dung and cow urine. He could have brought ‘*parivartan*’ by showing as much passion for improving public health services as he did for Swachh Bharat. He chose to allow obscurantism to prevail until the pandemic made it impossible. Remember how when inaugurating an Ambani hospital in Mumbai he said ancient Indians knew about plastic surgery and proof was that Ganesha was given the head of an elephant? How did he forget Sushruta, considered the world’s first plastic surgeon, and whose method for surgery on noses has been modernised but is still valid today? In the initial days of the pandemic, Modi ordered a nationwide beating of ‘*thalis*’ and lighting of candles, so how could he reprimand those who bathed in cow dung and said cow urine was the ultimate cure? Instead of a Ministry of Cows in Delhi, would it not have been better to have a ministry that took charge of really improving our dismal health services?

The pandemic has forced us to turn our gaze to another area that was shamefully neglected under decades of Congress rule. Schools. *The Economist* had a piece last week that talked of how millions of Mumbai’s slum children attending cheap private schools were no longer in school because their parents could not afford smartphones for online lessons. It was a sad, shameful story about how desperately India needs to pay attention to school education, and the most shameful statistic it quoted was the World Bank saying that only 55% of Indian children can read or understand a simple story.

This dreadful state of affairs has not come to happen in the past seven years. It has taken decades of criminal negligence for things to come to this pass. Decades in which schools for ‘the people’ were treated with contempt by the officials who built them because they knew that they need never have to send their own children to them. So, this is something that cannot be blamed on Modi. What can be blamed on him is that he has done almost nothing in the past seven years to make things better.

Most Indian states with the worst schools are governed by BJP chief ministers. So had the Prime Minister shown as much interest in improving schools as he did in sanitation, there is no question that schools would have improved. There is still time. Some of the most primitive schools I have visited exist in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. If Modi wants to ensure that our vaunted ‘demographic dividend’ does not end in the waste basket, he needs to concentrate on school education with the passion he showed for Swachh Bharat.

The pandemic has brought with it almost no blessings anywhere in the world. It has brought death and horror and terrible suffering. But, in India it has brought with it a blessing or two. The first is that it has killed fewer people per million than in almost any other country and it has made us notice those areas of governance that have been horribly neglected for much too long. If they had not been, we would not face the possibility that millions of India’s most vulnerable children will not learn to read or write ever. It has made us notice that most government hospitals lack basic facilities like modern systems to get rid of medical waste. Like fire safety. Ten newborn babies died in their cribs in a government hospital in Maharashtra last week simply because of obsolete fire equipment.

This news would have made headlines in a country with real public healthcare. It disappeared within hours in India because when it is poor children who die, nobody really cares. It is a shameful, ugly attitude that has developed over decades of callous ‘socialism’, but Modi could have brought the change that he promised. And he still can. It is no longer acceptable that India should have the best private schools and hospitals in the world and the very worst.

inside
TRACK

COOMIKAPOOR



PMO FOR
PATCH-UP

THE RIVALRY between the Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech became open knowledge after the heads of both took veiled digs at each other publicly. The PMO immediately intervened, directing the two vaccine manufacturers to issue a joint letter that they were coordinating in the fight against the pandemic. It is unclear who was responsible for influencing the expert committee on vaccine approval to grant immediate clearance to Covaxin on January 2. Earlier, the minutes of the expert committee meeting reveal that Bharat Biotech was asked to first submit additional research data as the company had not completed its Phase III trials. Within a day, the panel re-convened to okay the vaccine. While Bharat Biotech has the Prime Minister’s blessings, the move to give its vaccine instantaneous clearance seems to have stemmed partly because of Subramanian Swamy’s embarrassing tweet that an Indian product was being accorded step-motherly treatment and ran counter to the RSS’s and Modi’s Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign.

No CONDOLENCE
MEET

It is over a month since Ahmed Patel’s death and excuses as to why the party has still not held a full condolence meeting at the national level sound lame. Rahul Gandhi’s prolonged stay out of India is cited as a reason, but there was no love lost between the Gandhi scion and Patel. Besides, the meeting could have easily been organised before he went abroad. The Congress, incidentally, is still to sort out its financial affairs after the death of its treasurer. Rahul’s deep suspicion of the old guard was evident at the meeting meant to humour the G-23 letter-writers. While Sonia and Priyanka were polite hosts, Rahul was offhand. He snubbed Kamal Nath by suggesting that he was not in control of his state as Chief Minister, and that Ashok Gehlot is equally unable to control the RSS-influenced bureaucrats who rule the roost in Rajasthan.

SOME CABINET
CARPENTRY

Home Minister Amit Shah’s recent

She
SAID

EKTAA MALIK



“HAIR IS everything. ...” states a visibly affronted Fleabag to Anthony, a hairdresser, in the award-winning series *Fleabag* (2019). This scene has been playing in my mind on a loop for the past few weeks, ever since I shaved my head. 2020 was a year that took a toll on my health, with multiple hospitalisations and countless medications. To top it, I contracted Covid-19 as the year drew to a close. After the initial hysteria subsided and it became apparent that mine was a ‘mild’ case, other worrying symptoms flared up. The floor of my home bore testimony to the fact that I was losing my hair in chunks.

history
HEADLINE

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THE YEAR 1995-96 was the Republic’s year of *ghotalas*. Coinciding with PV Narasimha Rao’s last year in office, the period saw a number of scams and dubious deals: the sugar import scam which led to food minister Kalpnath Rai’s resignation (November 1995), the telecom scandal that prompted the ouster of minister Sukh Ram (December 1995), godman Chandraswami’s revelations (September 1995), the Jain Hawala chargesheet (January 1996), the Rs 3 crore hawala charge against Rao (January 1996), and the bribery charge against JMM MP Suraj Mandal. However, after Rao’s defeat, most of these cases lost political relevance.

On January 16, 1996, in a defining moment for the Indian political class, the CBI chargesheeted L K Advani, Arjun Singh, Yashwant Sinha, Devi Lal and Arif Mohammad Khan (now Kerala Governor) in the infamous hawala bribery case. The agency also sought sanction to prosecute then Union ministers Balram Jakhar, V C Shukla and Madhavrao Scindia. Advani resigned as MP the same day. A Rs 53.3 crore scam involving three dozen politicians of all shades — except the Left — was exposed. Western agencies put the figure at \$18 million. On February 11, more people were charge-sheeted. There was no actionable evidence against 23 others.

Parliament was not in session the day the CBI filed the chargesheet. After a parliamentary panel meeting, veteran politician Somnath Chatterjee told us: “I am both happy and sad. Happy because finally the guilty have been brought to book. Sad because for five years the establishment avoided action against the country’s high and mighty. Finally, the Supreme Court had to act on a PIL.” Chatterjee was right.

But just when the investigation into India’s biggest political bribery scandal seemed to be making a breakthrough, the caged parrot was stifled and officers transferred. There was a conspiracy of silence. No one wanted to expose the Jain brothers — S K Jain, N K Jain and B R Jain — because they knew too much about the cloak-and-dagger operation. They double-crossed the intelligence establishment and their foreign contacts while allegedly using the funds to bribe Indian politicians for personal gains.

The investigators had got their first clue in 1991 when they had seized a diary from a Kashmiri terrorist. Further raids yielded one more diary and two notebooks from the Jain brothers. These contained initials of politicians to whom payments were allegedly made between 1988 and 1991. Arif Mohammed Khan topped the list as per conclusions made from the diaries, with Rs

Notes from 25 years
ago, a ‘ghotala’ year



Chandraswami, who died in 2017, pays tribute to former prime minister Narasimha Rao on his 91st birth anniversary in New Delhi in 2011. Anil Sharma

7.5 crore, followed by Arjun Singh (Rs 10 lakh), Devi Lal (Rs 50 lakh), Yashwant Sinha (Rs 21 lakh), L K Advani (Rs 60 lakh), Madhavrao Scindia (Rs 75 lakh), V C Shukla (Rs 65.8 lakh) and Balram Jakhar (Rs 61 lakh). The initials were also alleged to refer to Rajiv Gandhi, Giani Zail Singh, Bhajan Lal, N D Tiwari and Pranab Mukherjee. On January 23, 1996, Atal Bihari Vajpayee alleged that Narasimha Rao was also paid Rs 3 crore hawala money.

The politicians tried to wriggle out by claiming that the initials in the diary were wrongly interpreted. But on January 18, 1996, Sharad Yadav broke ranks to admit that he took Rs 3 lakh from the Jains in the presence of Congress leader Chimanbhai Patel, but did not help the Jains. Four days later, he resigned from the Lok Sabha. Other names in the diary were said to be R K Dhawan, Kamal Nath, Arvind Netam and SR Bommai. After protracted litigations, the Delhi High Court let off the politicians on the premise that the diary’s notings were ‘not admissible evidence’. Many were acquitted in 1997. On March 2, 1998, the Supreme Court reversed the Delhi High Court’s verdict but let off charge-sheeted Advani and V C Shukla as the prosecution failed to present corroborative evidence.

The Chandraswami phenomenon was the other murky facet of the *ghotala* year. No godman had ever exerted such a vice-like hold on South Block. PM Rao removed his internal security minister Rajesh Pilot on September 13, 1995, hours after the latter ordered a CBI inquiry against the godman. On October 8, Chandraswami appeared before the Jain Commission inquiring into Rajiv Gandhi’s assassination,

and said that he had asked the PM to withdraw cases against underworld don Bablu Srivastava and *Blitz* editor R K Karanjia.

He told the officials that he had presented a precious *neelam*-studded gold ring to then chief election commissioner T N Seshan as ‘a mark of blessing’. On April 3, 1996, the Supreme Court admonished the CBI for the tardy investigation into cases against the godman. On May 3, he was sent to Tihar Jail in connection with the ‘NRI duping case’. On May 27, 2017, Nemichand Jain alias Chandraswami died in obscurity.

The third ‘*ghotala*’ pertained to the mysterious air dropping of several caches of AK-47 and other ammunition in Purulia on December 17, 1995, from an AN-26 plane. The aircraft was intercepted two days later and the five crew members — all Latvians — were rounded up. Investigations revealed that two days before the air dropping, the plane was intercepted between Bombay and Madras, and had refuelled at Varanasi airport on the day of the incident. The whole episode revealed a serious security breach, but who plotted the airdrop and what were the arms for? Initially, investigators concentrated on the controversial Ananda Marga group. Later Kim Davy, one of the crew members, claimed the R&AW knew about the airdropping, and that the arms were meant to help elements opposed to the Left government in West Bengal to create disquiet and pave the way for President’s rule.

Years later, all five crew members were freed under diplomatic pressure from Russia.

P Raman is a senior journalist and author of Post-Truth Media



ARTS etc

Views from a Lockdown

Artist Sudhir Patwardhan's ongoing body of work emerging from the pandemic focusses on confinement, memory and migrants



BOOKS

- Review of Shekhar Pathak's *The Chipko Movement: A People's History*
- Review of Ram Sewak Sharma's *The Making of Aadhaar: The World's Largest Identity Platform*

THE PLOWMAN'S TALE

There was a time when farmers and their struggles had a pride of place in Hindi cinema. But just when did the farmer become invisible on screen?

Shubhra Gupta

Kaun hai wahaan?

Naya hoon, gaon se aaya hoon. Pyaas lagi hai.

Gaon ke kuaan, taalaab sookh gayein hain kya, jo yahan chala aaya? Chal bhaag, yahaan se.

THE CLASSIC *Jagte Raho* (1956) opens with these lines. At the receiving end of the harsh inquisition is a poor villager newly arrived in the city, seeking a better life. We never know what the man, wearing a worn coat, dhoti and a petrified expression, has left behind. What we can surmise is this: if his village was adequate to his needs, would the peasant have come to the city, filled with heartless gatekeepers?

If I were to be fanciful, I could be tempted to draw comparisons between that lone peasant of the '50s, whose story we are still powerfully drawn to, and the present-day protesting farmer at the Singhu-Tikri-Ghaziपुर borders: both being kept at bay, both voices blowing in the wind. Some of these new-age farmers have moved far ahead from that long-ago comically-attired figure who spent an endless night in the Sombhu Mitra and Amit Maitra-directed film, searching for water to quench his thirst. In 2021, smartly-tailored jeans and jackets, not a badly-fitted coat and dhoti, and pizza along with roti, is on display in a few quarters of the protest sites. And what some of this vocal, demanding-their-rights lot has done is to bring back the "farmer" to the fore, a figure Bollywood sadly forgot, erasing it from popular imagination.

If you were to draw an agrarian map of post-independence Hindi cinema, a memorable clutch of '50s films would go straight to the top. Apart from *Jagte Raho*, starring Raj Kapoor in the lead with a wonderful Chaplinesque air — exaggerated eyebrows, shabby clothes-growing-progressively-more worn, fear building with each inimical interlude — there was Bimal Roy's *Do Bigha Zamin* (1953) and Mehboob Khan's *Mother India* (1957).

The conflict between the *sheher* and the *gaon* played out in these films through the easily relatable figures of the poor villager, the evil *zamindar* and the wily moneylender who acted as an ungodly bridge between the two: the illiterate farmer could easily be fooled into

giving up his small parcel of land through the machinations of the *sahukar*, which would benefit the man whose greed always outstripped his needs.

These films were doused with poverty and deprivation and precious little cheer. Balraj Sahni's Shambhu is forced to undergo unspeakable horrors in the city to earn the paltry sum that would wrest back his *do bigha zameen*. Nargis was only 26 years old when she played the iconic Radha in *Mother India*, wife to a despairing farmer and mother to two grown sons. But we looked past her prosthetic wrinkles to admire her grit and determination to hold on to her land. Suffering, famine, drought, hunger was the hapless villager's fate, and Hindi cinema, through countless iterations, cemented the connection of the poor farmer, the moneylender, and the *zamindar*, and this troika became, in and of itself, a trope.

Most candyfloss musicals, the dominant genre of the '60s, had no place for sad survival tales. In the real world, a strong push in the late '50s and '60s towards a "green revolution" had created higher, more productive yields, and, at least in some parts of north India, farmers had begun prospering. This should have ideally lent itself to a shift in the portrayal of rural areas. But by this time the gap between the *gaon* and the *sheher* had become vast and cities had become magnets for migrants from all over the country.

Colourful plots sent *shehri* babus to the picturesque *gaon* in order to romance *ghagra*-clad belles, managing to leach out all socio-political nuance in the process. It was Manoj Kumar who turned into a saviour, following through on Lal Bahadur Shastri's famous "jai jawaan, jai kisaan" slogan, when he directed and acted in *Upkar* (1967), in which he plays a farmer and a soldier. In short, a complete patriot: farmers had a duty to feed the nation, and soldiers to protect it. "Mere desh ki dharti sona ugle, ugle heere moti," sang Bharat Manoj Kumar, hoisting a *hal* on his shoulder, just like Mother Radha India had done. And the film broke box office records.

Mainstream Hindi cinema in the '70s was marked by the coming of the all-purpose Amitabh Bachchan, who could do everything, action, romance, comedy. If it hadn't been for Shyam Benegal and Ketan Mehta, the village would have disappeared. Benegal's *Ankur* (1974)-*Nishant* (1975)-*Manthan* (1976), and Mehta's *Mirch Masala* (1987)-*Bhavni Bhavai* (1980) gave us grim stories of rural oppression filmed on real locations, which got brief theatrical stints, in total contrast to the houseful



COLD COMFORT FARM

(Clockwise from left) Stills from *Jagte Raho*, *Mother India* and *Do Bigha Zamin*



Bachchan-fuelled song-and-dance filled dramas, which did not stop running.

And, with that receded the *khet-khatiyaan ki kahaani*, coming up only occasionally, when the leading pair had to prance in mustard fields. The farmer was gone, as was the soldier, neither an aspirational figure for post-liberalised India, moving rapidly towards malls and multiplexes, MBAs and million-dollar salaries. Rural areas, seen as backward, where progress went to die, were of no interest to the Indian

who wished to acquire the Non-Resident tag as speedily as her foreign degree.

It took Ashutosh Gowariker to bring back the *gaon* with a bang with his 2001 period saga *Lagaan*. Keeping in tune with changing times, though, the director was smart enough to create characters that were no pushovers. Led by Aamir Khan's canny Bhuvan, the feisty farmers showed the British their place, good and proper, and escaped paying the punitive *lagaan* (taxes).

But *Lagaan*'s massive success did not translate into an *en masse* return to rural tales. Gowariker himself followed up with his contemporary *Swades* (2004), but this time his focus was firmly on NASA engineer Mohan Bhargava (Shah Rukh Khan) who travels to a village, ensconced in a swish caravan stocked with mineral water, in search of a loved figure. The villagers stay in the background: the story is not about them, it is about the earnest, well-meaning Mohan, and his learnings.

In 2010, Anusha Rizvi's *Peepli [Live]* took a huge leap and caught up with the farmers of India, where the numbers of suicide were growing at an alarming rate. (It wasn't the first; just a year before, the Marathi language *Gabhricha Paus* had waded into similar territory). Failed crops, running out of cash, rising loans, all the things that Bollywood had ignored for so many years, came leaping out in the village of Peepli. As the brothers Natha and Budhia, played brilliantly by Omkar Das Manikpuri and Raghubir Yadav, talk about how suicide is the only way out of grinding poverty, tossing the who-will-do-the-deed coin among themselves, we are in black comic territory, where being dead can provide life.

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That They May Face The Rising Sun

Four artists on what drew them to the farmers' protests and why the agrarian crisis needs immediate addressal

Vandana Kalra

JITEN THUKRAL AND SUMIR TAGRA

ON DECEMBER 18, as the farmers' protest entered its 23rd day, came the first issue of *Trolley Times* — a bi-weekly, bilingual newsletter meant for and by the protestors. On its masthead was a turbanned farmer carrying a flag. In the subsequent editions, the illustrations on the masthead have been dedicated to different subjects, from women participants at the protest to marginalised labour to, most recently, a youngster jumping up to lock the police's water cannon. "The aim was to turn it into a world-class newspaper as a voice of the *kisan* protest 2020. Since the first issue, the front page has been seen as a 'work of art'. Keeping in focus the true nature of this brave endeavour, we are cognisant of the message and the impact it has," state artists Sumir Tagra and Jiten Thukral, who work with the core team behind the newsletter.

Belonging to middle-class families in Punjab, the two have also been associated with Akal Academy Baru Sahib in Himachal



Pradesh that works with farmers. They have been visiting villages across Haryana and Punjab and amplifying urgent issues of agrarian crisis worldwide. "We have seen the movement expand at different levels. It is important to understand the concerns and come up with relevant solutions," they say.

The Gurugram-based duo has been designing and packaging the newsletter since its in-

ception. They are also behind *kisanekta.in*, an open-source document of the protests that allows people to share images, videos, poetry, illustrations and other relevant material. "This protest is unlike any other. There is deep compassion. There are different *jathas* (groups), and pillars that have now emerged as tiny villages. One can witness the sheer dedication of the elderly involved and the shifting nature of gen-

der roles. These are people who are scared that their lives will be completely altered after the laws are executed," they say. Working together since 2003 and counted among renowned contemporary artists from South Asia, the duo is known for their pop-kitsch works, addressing issues ranging from consumerism to migration.

Closely following the farming crisis for over a decade, they have been frequently visiting the protest sites. "It's an extremely one-sided law. There are critical concerns regarding issues such as Agricultural Produce Market Committee, corporate stocking, essential commodities," they say. Their documentation of the movement and interviews with the farmers will comprise the second edition of the 2018 film *Kisan Mukti March*, which was part of the 2018-19 travelling exhibition. That, too, was focussed on the tribulations of farmers — from failed promises of loan waivers to higher cost of commodities due to GST.

ARUNKUMAR HG

Artist Arunkumar HG has turned to mythology to emphasise the role played by farmers in society. "Like we worship Annapurna as the goddess of food and nourishment, farmers are our *annadata* (providers of food), they should



be respected as food providers. Food has become another commodity, we don't really care about *prakruti* (nature) anymore," says the Gurugram-based artist.

In recent weeks, he has interacted with several farmers protesting at Delhi's Singhu border. Some of them feature in his digital poster that brings together aspects of the agrarian crisis. "Farmers have been protesting for years and it is high time the nation thought about these agrarian issues. This bill is contentious and needs to be discussed properly," he says.

Growing up in a farmer's family in Karnataka's Shimoga district, Arunkumar, 52, speaks of the harmonious relationship that once existed between man and nature, and, how, over the years, he saw that being corroded. He has discussed several of their predicaments — from the impact of genetically modified seeds to agricultural monopolies — in his work. Individual stories have been shared through portraits of those whom he calls "Vulnerable Guardians" — small-scale farmers affected by the current crisis, who have been his protagonists over the years. In the last month, several photographs have been added to the archive. "It's a large, organised, peaceful protest. I would call it historic. It is not shallow or politically-motivated. The kind of warmth is amazing and there is so much to learn," says Arunkumar.

» CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

Top Picks: Wild Favourites

A list of the best creatures from the animal kingdom, the ones who make the cut and why

I'M OFTEN asked who my favourite author is and I always fumble before saying that it keeps changing depending on the best book I've read most recently. With regards to the animal kingdom, this list seems to stay relatively constant, spanning the myriad families the creatures (tiny tots and moving up) hail from.

The first on the list has to be Toxoplasma — a single-cell protozoan which has the most diabolical love life possible. It honeymoons in the guts of cats and the next-gen Toxo are evacuated via normal channels. Here, the baby Toxo lies doggo (and may even die) in the litter box or ground until a mouse or rat happens along and snuffles it up. In the rat gut, the Toxo gets to work: it migrates to the brain (the amygdala) and cuts the rat's fear circuits in relation to cats: the rat is now unafraid of cats — though it has all the other usual rat phobias in place. Worse, the Toxo now helps release dopamine — the feel-good chemical that makes the rat develop feelings for the cat! So, off it goes in search of its new love and promptly gets eaten. Back in the honeymoon suite, the Toxo begins the whole romance again. This must be the most Machiavellian love story ever devised!

Among the vast insect world, top of the list would be dungbeetles, those portly beetles eating, breeding, raising its families in dung — and turning it into useful soil. If there were no dungbeetles, we'd be drowning in bovine dung and, no matter how exalted we make dung out to be, we'd be very sick, indeed, waist-deep in the muck.

For the second and third places in the insect world, it is a toss up between hoverflies and dragonflies. The former because of their unparalleled control of flight: they hover, stock still and zip in every direction. The latter not only because they are superb flyers, but also expert hunters on the wing. They also come in a kaleidoscope of colours and patterns. They are the fighter aircraft of the insect kingdom! A close fourth is the praying mantis: that chinless monster with gin-trap arms, beseeching, begging manner and appetite for its husbands. Usually green and slim, certain species can also beautifully mimic flowers and or-



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KILLER MACHINE
Mantis shrimp

chids snapping their barbed traps on any insect which happens by.

Spiders and scorpions don't have too many admirers but I love the little jumping spiders, with their bright obsidian eyes and boxer-like feinting postures as they fiercely track flyby insects on the wall.

Among amphibians, there's the psychedelic poison-arrow (or poison-dart) frogs of South and Central America, tiny bejewelled and deadly enough to take down 20 men by a mere touch!

Most snakes, though not vastly popular, are truly gorgeous with their polished, varnished scales. Under water, the multicoloured mantis shrimp, which also has superb vision, packs the most diabolical punch imaginable: a blow delivered so fast that it causes explosive cavitation bubbles to form with its arms to stun its prey — before the killer blow follows. It can break the glass of an aquarium with a single blow! As for the giants, my vote goes to the orca or killer whale: clad in patent-leather tuxedos, and sporting wide smiles, gangs of these are really water wolves on the hunt, like those ruthless multinational executives as they rip their prey to shreds.

Among around 10,000 species of birds, to pick winners is a tough call. But I choose the raptors — not so much the huge heavy eagles as the lithe lightning-fast falcons. I've a soft spot for the clan of owls. With their enormous gold or amber eyes and strangely human way of bobbing their heads, they are irresistible. Among "ordinary" birds like songbirds, I vote for the magpie robin for its wonder flute concerts first thing in the morning and parakeets, wacky, gossipy and brainy, who can hold coaching classes in romance! For sheer glamour, there's the monal pheasant.

Amid the carnivores, it's the tiger — bit of a cliché but really there's nothing to match it. A leopard comes very close as does the snow leopard — and then there's that consummate high-jumper, the caracal.

As for the big vegans, the winner is the rhino — irascible, unpredictable, and yet, baby-faced — able to turn 360 degrees as lightly as a ballerina. Elephants, too, are sagacious and mostly gentle, except when in musth, when they are rampaging terrors.

Finally, our close relatives, the apes: a tie for top place between gorillas (for their dignity and gravity) and orangutans (sheer charm) followed by the exuberant long-armed singers — gibbons. The chimpanzees come in last because they're just a bit too much like us to make the cut! Of course, there are creatures that get the thumbs down, but we'll meet them next week.

Views from a Lockdown

Confinement, memory and migrants — artist Sudhir Patwardhan on an ongoing body of work emerging from the pandemic

Benita Fernando

LIKE LOVERS or foes, the home and the street have coexisted in artist Sudhir Patwardhan's illustrious career. Thane-based Patwardhan, 72, is renowned for his interior works and urbanscapes, such that his art has been evoked in the same vein as New York's Edward Hopper in 2020, as a way of talking about the pandemic lockdowns.

The artist has been busy responding to the pandemic in his own ways, too. In an ongoing series, from which selections have been presented online by Mumbai's The Guild and Delhi's Vadehra Art Gallery, Patwardhan contemplates an unpredictable year. Like lockdowns, 2020 came in phases, and his art has responded to each — starting with the relief of being homebound to the unease of the migrant exodus to the nation's inconclusive political crises, until returning home. Excerpts:

The year 2020 has possibly been one of the most dramatic years in our lives. What has the experience been like for you?

At the beginning of the year, my retrospective was on at (Mumbai's) National Gallery of Modern Art, which went on till February. I had been extremely busy, coming into town every day and meeting people. When the pandemic happened, it wasn't too bad because it was a break from the running around. It was good to be confined and not give any excuses for not going anywhere.

That feeling changed over the months. In April and May, the migrant crisis slowly seeped into one's consciousness. One started to feel uncomfortable and restless. That has mostly been the sense through the last six months. Slowly, in the last two months, one started to ease and settle down into a new mode of everyday life.

Did being indoors for days transform the way you approach your studio work?

Yes, absolutely. As an artist, it has been essential for me to be out, looking at the world around. So this was a different feeling, though I have been painting home, interiors and studio for many years now.

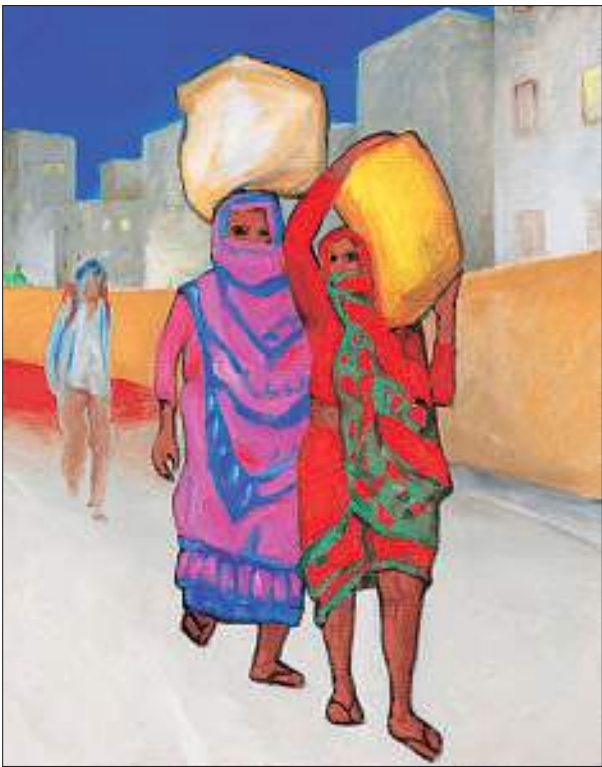
My initial response to the pandemic was actually *Morning Rush*, done early on. When you are not allowed to go out, you imagine what it was, what it would be like.

When you are confined to home, your imagination turns inwards. There is a layered experience of the past, where one home mutates into another, one room mutates into another room. I was reliving many kinds of thoughts and feelings from the past, and sometimes celebrating the very minor things that you do at home, like in *Breadcrumbs* or *Music Lesson*. So it's also a celebration of everyday minor things, which are not important socially, but make small statements.

In 2020, people found the time to think about the past, to reflect. Did the year change the way you approach nostalgia



PHOTOS COURTESY: SUDHIR PATWARDHAN



COURTESY: THE GUILD

LOOKING IN, LOOKING OUT

(Clockwise from top) *Lockdown Couple*; Patwardhan; *Leaving the City*

and memory?

I don't know if it's changed. Nostalgia has been important for me. I've not seen it in a negative way. I've seen it as daydreaming, reliving moments about the past. I have done paintings about that feeling. I think this period has allowed that much more. Earlier,

even if you spent time in the studio alone, in the evening you had to go for someone's opening or something and that impinged on your thinking. Both of them got mixed somewhat. Here, it is allowed to live with a certain kind of mood and space for an extended period without a break as such.

» FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE

THAT THEY MAY FACE THE RISING SUN

UMESH SINGH

A DECADE ago, his father left cultivation in Bihar's Kummuri village to earn his living as a security guard in Hyderabad, but artist Umesh Singh says the pull of the soil remains strong as ever for them. Singh, who is based in Varanasi, sees similarities between the ongoing protests against Farm Laws and the 1917 Champaran Satyagraha, launched to protest against the forced indigo cultivation by the British. "Exactly 103 years later, Punjab farmers protesting at Singhu border and across India are not getting justice. Neither are they being offered any solution by the government," says Singh, a postgraduate from SN School of Arts and Communication, University of Hyderabad. Drawing a comparison between the two protests are Singh's recent indigo-blue sketches titled *Poora Neel*. In the series *Farmer Protest*, he depicts how the farmers stand united in the present precarious situation, facing multiple challenges, from hostile weather to unfriendly policies. "In freezing weather, when everyone is resting and working from home, the feeders of our country are grappling for their rights," adds Singh, 27, who had earlier showcased the plight of farmers at the Students' Biennale segment of the 2018-19 Kochi-Muziris Biennale with the installation *Uncomfortable Tools*, featuring over 50 farming tools of erstwhile farmers from across Bhojpur.

On his way to Delhi to join the protesting farmers, Singh says he's one of them. "Like many, my father gave it up because he found it difficult to make ends meet. If the situation becomes graver, who'll produce food?" he asks.

SHWETA BHATTAD

On National Farmers Day (December 28) last year, artist Shweta Bhattad was seated with cotton farmers in her Paradsinga village near Nagpur, discussing how the Farm Bill "will create new countless coffins for farmers". "The new laws will only add to the existing problems. Corporatisation of agriculture will lead



CROP OUT

(left) Singh's *Farmer Protest IV*; (below) a performance art by Bhattad, involving farmers lying in crop coffins

to further helplessness, unfair pricing for the produce and smaller farmers might even lose their lands," says Bhattad, 35.

Bhattad became familiar with farmers' hardships in her childhood, during vacations and visits to her maternal grandfather, an Ayurveda specialist in Paradsinga. Those memories led her to initiate the Gram Art Project in 2013 to discuss agrarian concerns. From land art to yarn artefacts made from the non-GM, IPR-free non-hybrid indigenous cotton to performances, the Gram Art Project has taken different forms to express the artist's opinions on agricultural issues. Over the years, the collective, which includes artists, farmers and village women, has designed and produced seed crackers, seed *rakhis* and calendars made from biodegradable, recyclable paper embedded with seeds.

Bhattad, who has a postgraduate degree in art from IMS University, Baroda, initiated another project, "I Have a Dream", at the Vancouver Biennale in 2014. Under it, artists and farmers across the globe, including Italy, Japan, Mexico and Pakistan, were encouraged to sow messages for the decision-making powers. Back in India, she urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "Grow in India" through his land portrait in 2016. Now, she again stands firmly behind the farmers in their protests against the new farm laws, which, she says, need to be repealed.

Even though she has been unable to travel to the protest site, discussions on the latest situation are held daily and performances (for instance, farmers lying in crop coffins) are also being organised. As more crop coffins gets added, she says, "we don't want these to turn into coffins for farmers."

Lockdown Couple is a telling painting about the situation at home, in India. Could you lead us through the work?

How does one respond to news about love/jihad laws? One is always thinking about it but one is basically painting people inside the house. So how does one bring that in?

The figure of the woman was an old sketch. I have tried to work that sketch into a painting but never completely done it. But the figure has been important to me for many years.

When I was looking at my sketchbooks again, the figure came up. Then the bookshelf and the other things started to fall in place. The partner, the man. This situation was created — someone reading, a bookshelf and a person who is just sitting and looking blankly. They are sharing the room but there is a disconnect between them.

I painted the carpet next to refer to Kashmir. We went into lockdown but Kashmir has been in lockdown for a much longer period. Then, the colours of what they are wearing took shape. For a moment, I thought it was too upfront — the green and the orange and the white. But once I put it down, I couldn't get away from it. It made complete sense to me. That these two people who are together for a life but in some senses they have been torn apart. Is he Muslim? Is she Hindu? What are they thinking of the love/jihad laws?

Next came this strange object lying on the carpet. It helps create some discord in that somewhat pretty carpet. The last thing I put was the reproduction of the Amrita Sher-Gil painting in the corner. That was where the nation started, what kind of promises and aspirations it started with. Sher-Gil wasn't a political painter but, in many senses, for painters, she represents the beginning of modern Indian art.

You have often evoked India's working classes in your art. Likewise, the image of the migrants' exodus in the pandemic has come up in this present body of work. Could you tell us more about them?

The images of migrants were disturbing, so I did some works around April. I was sitting in front of the television, drawing these figures, making multiple sketches. It was difficult to decide to do them because ultimately you are nowhere near experiencing what they are experiencing. You fear that it might just exploit the feeling but you also have a particular need to say something about it.

It is inevitable that if you make an image, you want to make it beautiful. There is no sense in trying to make art if you don't want to make it beautiful...that's my belief. Even the most disturbing thing ultimately has to be contained in a container that does not allow for overspill. If I am going to shout, 'My God, look at these people and look at their condition', that is overspill. That can be good journalism, that can move people to donate, but that is not what art is about. Art is about looking at something and feeling that feeling within you and not being pushed towards anything else. It's self-contained.



BLACK HUMOUR
A still from *Peepili [Live]*

The Plowman's Tale

THERE'S NO doubt that Bollywood has failed the farmers, like it has so many other deserving constituencies. One of the reasons could be that almost none of the filmmakers have any stake left back where they came from. Or, even if they do, they are fragile and can be snapped without any personal cost. In that sense, we have all abandoned our roots: we are all aliens in our own land the moment we cross the borders from our pampered cities to our left-to-fend-for-themselves villages.

Dev Singh Dhillion, in Anurag Kashyap's 2009 *Dev.D*, returns after studying in London to his village of prosperous sugarcane mills. We see the *ganne ke khet*, tubewells, godowns, the markers of rural spaces. The fields become the site of young romance and rebellion, and that's where the story of the modern-day Dev, Paro and Chanda starts. It's the kind of place where the urban and rural collide, becoming "rurban", a real place with real people, instead of the faux small towns that flashy Bollywood has been invested in for the past two decades.

Why has this space — so distinctive, so full of weight — been so hard to imagine and explore? Why has it not been mined by sharp, aware filmmakers to showcase tales of those who grow the food we eat, who've acquired the mobility and the education to go where they will, and demand that they be heard? Farmers wearing jeans, and eating pizza? Why not? Aren't the movies meant to be full of sugar and spice that make everything nice?

SHELF LIFE



THE MAKING OF AADHAAR: WORLD'S LARGEST IDENTITY PLATFORM
BY RAM SEWAK SHARMA
Rupa Publications
249 pages; ₹595

BIG LITTLE IDEA

An insightful, if sometimes defensive, book on India’s unique identity platform

Pranav Mukul

THE STORY of Aadhaar, as narrated in *The Making of Aadhaar: World's Largest Identity Platform*, sounds like the story of the average startup — a radical idea executed by like-minded people coming together to resolve a problem. Whether this particular startup, which was conceived in 2009, was a failure or a success is debatable.

For the author of this book Ram Sewak Sharma, the first director general of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) — the body that designed, implemented and manages Aadhaar — the “proof of the pudding” came after May 2014, when the use of Aadhaar under the Narendra Modi government exploded. This, after the BJP, in its manifesto, had promised to review the Aadhaar programme “with implicit intent to shut it down altogether during the whirlwind election campaign”.

Sharma begins by summing up his experiences during various bureaucratic postings in Jharkhand, ranging from streamlining personnel records and digitising public grievances to managing election logistics — all using innovative digital means. The learnings from these episodes proved to be the building blocks of the Aadhaar project.

Sharma recounts how he came on board, his early interactions with UIDAI’s then chairman Nandan Nilekani and the groundwork for the project. He recalls how the venture moved forward despite setbacks, either in terms of the technologies that it wanted to implement or in the form of political opposition.

The next section addresses the main concern about Aadhaar — privacy. Sharma elucidates critics’ concerns but is mostly rhetorical in his response. The chapter “Civil Society’s Punching Bag” is a prime example. He also invokes George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949) to counter the fear of Aadhaar being used as a tool for surveillance, writing, “It’s a thought-provoking and deeply disturbing view of the world that we could invite upon ourselves. But Orwell’s novel is about as relevant to understanding Aadhaar as his equally brilliant parable *Animal Farm* (1945) is insightful about the lives of pigs.”

The book tends to get defensive in places, notwithstanding the author’s disclaimer at the beginning, “This book isn’t written to defend Aadhaar. It isn’t an autobiographical account of my days at the UIDAI either.” Still, it manages to provide insight into the building of one of the most significant tools of digital governance in the last decade, from various perspectives, including those of technology, law, society and governance — which is exactly what one would expect from the coin of vantage the author enjoyed.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Notes from the Hills

Historian Shekhar Pathak’s book connects the Chipko movement to 19th century colonial environmental laws and modern regional politics

Stephen Alter

WHEN MOST people think of the Chipko movement, the primary image that comes to mind is of a group of village women in the Himalaya, hugging trees to protect them from felling by forest contractors. While that was the key moment when Chipko ignited, eminent historian Shekhar Pathak successfully unravels many other tangled threads of a story that is much more complicated, with far-reaching consequences for the people and forests of Uttarakhand, as well as conservation movements around the world. This carefully researched history draws upon official documents, published works, press reports, lyrics of protest songs and hundreds of personal interviews with all of the main protagonists. Translated by Manisha Chaudhry and edited by Ramachandra Guha, it is a condensation of Pathak’s *Hari Bhari Umeed*, the original Hindi edition published in 2019 by Vani Prakashan.

This environmental epic begins long before the events in Reni village on March 26, 1973, when Gaura Devi and a group of women held off agents of the Symonds sporting goods company who had been given a permit to cut a grove of ash trees that were destined to be turned into hockey sticks. The roots of Chipko stretch back to the mid-19th century, when the renegade timber baron, Frederick “Pahari” Wilson, clear-felled virgin forests in the Bhagirathi Valley and floated logs down the Ganga. Colonial forest policies placed a high commercial value on Himalayan species of trees like *deodar* and pine, as well as *sal* and *shisham*, at lower altitudes. One of the primary reasons for deforestation in the 19th and early 20th century was the expansion of the Indian Railways, which required thousands of miles of new tracks, all of which were laid upon wooden sleepers. In one of the largest land grabs in history, the Indian Forest Act of 1878 usurped vast tracts of uncultivated land throughout the subcontinent. Suddenly, forest dwellers were dispossessed of their ancestral rights and livelihood while pastoral and agricultural communities faced restrictions on gathering firewood and fodder as well as felling trees to construct farm implements and homes.

In Uttarakhand, deforestation has severe consequences since trees in the mountains



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/RAGHUBIR SINGH

are critical to stopping erosion and nurturing springs and wetlands. Realising the quick profits to be gained by cutting Himalayan jungles, the Maharajah of Tehri began to exert control over forests in his kingdom. This led to a number of protests or “*dhandaks*”, which ended in violent reprisals. Perhaps, the most famous and oppressive of these was in Rawain, where Pathak estimates as many as 100 villagers were shot by the forces of Tehri in 1930. This resulted in further protests organised by the Gandhian leader Sri Dev Suman and other political activists.

Following India’s independence and the absorption of princely states like Tehri, the Uttar Pradesh forest department continued to manage forest resources on the colonial pattern, with an eye to generating revenue for the state. The Himalayan foothills contained the largest tracts of trees and these were auctioned off for timber and resin extraction, as well as pulp wood for manufacturing paper. One of the points Pathak emphasises is that forests remain essential resources for the people who live in and around them. Agriculture, animal husbandry and forest-based crafts are all dependent on the presence of trees as well as other plants and grasses.

Just as he paints a detailed picture of the decades of forest-rights agitation that preceded the pivotal protest in Reni, Pathak recounts and analyses the many events that followed in different parts of Uttarakhand. Organisations like the Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangh, under the leadership of Sarvodaya activist Chandni Prasad Bhatt, were energised by the early successes of Chipko and took the movement forward. Gandhian environmentalists Sunderlal and Vimla Bahugana also fought to keep ecological issues at the forefront. These celebrated lead-

TREE-HUGGERS
(From top) Chipko was a grassroots movement that spread throughout Uttarakhand; Gandhian environmentalist Sunderlal Bahugana fought to keep ecological issues at the forefront



THE CHIPKO MOVEMENT: A PEOPLE’S HISTORY
BY SHEKHAR PATHAK
Permanent Black
371 pages
₹895

ers represent what Pathak calls two “streams” of Chipko but there were many others as well. Numerous protests were organised by women in different parts of Uttarakhand, resisting state-sanctioned deforestation, such as harvesting wood from the Bhyundar Valley to make charcoal for the Badrinath temple.

The book does an excellent job of showing how a variety of agitations merged together in Uttarakhand, much like the many tributaries of the Ganga. Venerable Gandhians like Sarla Behn were pushing for alcohol prohibition as well as forest rights, while students were demanding the establishment of universities in Kumaon and Garhwal. Pathak himself was one of the leaders of an influential *padyatra* (foot pilgrimage) campaign from Askot to Arakot, which studied first-hand the social and environmental needs of mountain communities. Meanwhile, construction of the Tehri Dam aroused considerable opposition and helped focus environmental concerns. All of these movements fed into an underlying demand for separate statehood voiced by political groups like the Uttarakhand Kranti Dal.

Though politics and policy lie at the core of this book, there are many poignant, human stories that Pathak relates such as a non-violent agitation in Nainital in which the poet Girish Tiwari “Girda” led a procession in song to stop a forest auction. The book contains anecdotal accounts of wives turning against their husbands who supported the felling of trees and one boy who refused to eat at home until his father gave up a job with a forest contractor. There is also an episode from 1979, when Chandni Prasad Bhatt visits Sunderlal Bahugana, who has taken a vow of silence while fasting in protest at Dehradun Jail. Setting aside ideological differences, the two leaders greet each other with affection and acknowledge that they share the same struggle despite differing visions of Chipko.

The subtitle of this book is “A People’s History”, which is one of its strengths. It documents a grassroots movement that spread throughout Uttarakhand and captured the imagination of people of all ages and regions. The validation of that struggle lies in the Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980, which bans the felling of trees anywhere above an altitude of 1,000 m. The other important outcome was the creation of Uttarakhand state on November 9, 2000. Pathak argues convincingly that the Chipko Andolan played a central role in both of these seminal achievements but he cautions that many threats still remain, including complacency, corruption and climate change.

Stephen Alter is the author of *Wild Himalaya: A Natural History of the Greatest Mountain Range on Earth*

Darkness Visible

A bare-all memoir about how the body and mind can come together to wreak havoc when trauma remains unaddressed

Sukrita Baruah

IN HER memoir, *It’s All in Your Head*, M. Manjiri Indurkar recalls the reaction of one of her therapists when she was explaining how Alain Resnais’ iconic film *Hiroshima Mon Amour* (1959) struck a chord with her: “...he paused, and, with a pained expression he asked me, ‘So, now you feel like you were in the Hiroshima bombing?’”

Writing about your inner world is terrifying. You dissect yourself, your experiences and your thoughts, laying them out for the world to scrutinise, study, discuss, and weigh in on. You open yourself up to being misunderstood, judged, accused of self-absorption, or even dismissed. In her memoir, Indurkar lays it all out — her prolonged sexual abuse as a child, her thorny relationship with her grandmother, her insecurities, her obsession with illness and her body, along with descriptions of the many trips to the toilet during the time her bowels gave in.

Indurkar’s book is personal to the extent that it very rarely strays out of her close personal spaces. Most of it is set in the Delhi flat she shared with a former partner, and her childhood home in Jabalpur — both are spaces in which she fought personal battles, and which she found were not as comfortable and secure as she had imagined.

Because of the very intimacy with which Indurkar shares her story, it can be an uncomfortable read. The force of her honesty isn’t in the fact that she recounts difficult episodes from her life, but in how little she holds back when sharing what she felt and thought during those times.

In her book, Indurkar tells us about how she began to be regularly sexually abused at the age of six by someone known to her family, and of the trauma that has carried since then. This trauma expressed itself in myriad ways, including an all-consuming fear of falling ill which unhinged her life for a whole year, obsessive hair plucking, and a collapse of her physical health.

Indurkar’s honesty in recalling how she felt about her abuser as a six-year-old can be unnerving. “...you see, I was in love with Ajit. To my mind, what Ajit and I had was special. We were in love and would marry each other, I assumed. Just like lovers did in the movies. When he wasn’t sexually abusing me, he was just very nice to me.”

She shares with us her frayed feelings towards her grandmother, who remained silent after having full knowledge of her abuse. She walks us through the year in which all her attention zeroed in solely on her own body, looking out for the slightest aches, obsessing over every physical feeling she experienced.

A story that runs through the book is of her relationship with her former partner, whom she calls Avi. Here is where I felt ill at ease as she shared intimate details about how their relationship came to be, how it developed and deteriorated. We hear about all the ways he was wonderful, but also about all the ways he wasn’t. Being privy to a one-sided telling of a complicated relationship is uncomfortable. But that’s just the nature of personal story-telling.

Several times in the book, Indurkar treads on why she wrote this book. Once she writes, “This book will be my awakening”. Elsewhere, she explains why she writes at all: “I never wanted to become a writer but I only became one so that another story of trauma does not get lost, so that through my story I can tell the stories of all the children who suffered the way I did, or worse.” At the end of the book, she tells us of her experience of writing it: “Today, I am a different person than I was when I started writing this book. Today I am able to demand my space better because I am able to understand and empathise with my struggles better.”

This book is a deeply personal work which has obviously been a part of the author’s process of gathering herself. It is also an unsettling portrayal of how the mind and the body can work together so destructively in the face of unaddressed trauma. It doesn’t have an ending as such — the young author leaves us in a much better place in her life than when she begins. The book is just a station in her much longer journey.



IT’S ALL IN YOUR HEAD, M
BY MANJIRI INDURKAR
Tranquebar
232 pages
₹399

History’s Witnesses

A photographic journey through Rajasthan’s many proud, battle-scarred forts and the architectural traditions they represent

Parveen Talha

THE FORTS of Rajasthan surprises the reader with the canvas of its detail and generous spread of striking pictures in an easy-to-carry hardcover format. What drew this reviewer was the rhythm of the text and its harmony with the camera. The author-couple, Rita and Vijai Sharma, have made the pen and photographs work as one for capturing the forts in their landscape of history and architecture.

The book goes beyond expectations. While recognising Chittorgarh as “an amphitheatre of history”, it also includes *garhis* on Jaisalmer’s bulge on the Tanot-Longewala international desert frontier. Among the forts is Siwana on the road to Barmer, Jalore with its long history of combating sieges and Nagaur with its restored interiors. Mewar, Marwar, Hadoti and the Dhundhar regions are well covered, including Gagraon, a formidable fort, built be-

tween two rivers in Jhalawar, which, over the centuries, hosted Alauddin Khilji, Rana Kumbha, Rana Sanga, Humayun and Akbar.

The need to connect the dots of history has led to highlighting some sequences in the book. For instance, Bayana fort was the staging point for the decisive Battle of Khanwa between Sanga and Babur that led to the consolidation of the Mughals in north India. The book’s postscript explains what had prevented the epochal battle of Khanwa from going the Rajput way and becoming a turning point. After Khanwa, as Sanga was on his way to Chanderi to strengthen the forces against Babur, he was poisoned. The postscript notes that Sanga’s last days ought to be of interest in view of Khanwa’s 500th anniversary in 2027.

The book captures the scale of fortifications in Rajasthan, a region on the crossroads of invasions. Much earlier than the Rajputs, the Bhils and other indigenous communities made enclosures of mud and early bricks for



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/VARADA PHADKAY

STANDING TALL
Kumbhalgarh Fort

safety from marauders and wild animals. As time passed, they built sturdier defences. The Meenas also had a strong presence in the region. Central to the book are the Rajputs who traced themselves to the sun, moon and fire gods. Their presence is from the end of Harshavardhana’s reign in the seventh century AD. The Jat kingdoms came later, a highlight of their history being the humiliation of General Gerard Lake, a veteran of several campaigns overseas, at Bharatpur (1805).

The sweep of the book’s pictures includes the Haldighati pass, a lamp marking Akbar’s camp during his siege of Chittorgarh, a *dargah* (shrine) in hill-top Ajmer fort and an irrigation stepwell in Kumbhalgarh. The topography is captured well. Watch towers and

forts were built according to the terrain. Ajmer, Alwar, Amber and Bundi had hill forts. Jaisalmer is a desert fort on the caravan route to Multan and Afghanistan. Bayana fort, originally of the Jadaun Rajputs, stands on a gran-

ite hill, its ruins dominated by an incomplete *minar* going back to the Lodis (1451-1526). Mehrangarh in Jodhpur was built on a gigantic rock. The spread of Mewar’s Chittorgarh and Kumbhalgarh forts on running hills is a reminder of school history with the battle sagas of Kumbha, Sanga and Pratap, and figures like Rani Padmini, Panna dai and Patta.

The book refers to the *mazaar* (tomb) at Haldighati of Hakim Khan Suri, the artillery chief of Rana Pratap. Mewar had steadfastly resisted the Khiljis but they bonded with the Afghans and Mewatis to combat the fury of the early Mughals. Amber stood for Rajput-Mughal understanding while Mewar’s Chittorgarh was for resistance. Akbar married a princess of Amber, who became the mother of Jehangir. Shah Jahan was the son of a Rajput princess from Jodhpur. The book, in this light, looks at aspects that enabled the sustenance of ruling dynasties. There’s also the story of Marwar’s Maldeo in Jodhpur who

emerged as the Rajput voice after Sanga.

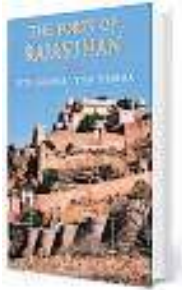
The story of the forts in the book is not about harems and *shikaar*. It uses the bastions and ramparts to recount tales of valour and stubborn bravery. There is another side,

too — about *gharokhas* and *chhajjas*, wall paintings, the craft of glass decorations, the workmanship of decorative motifs, lattice work and floral carvings. There were corridors and courtyards to be negotiated for reaching the living areas of the women, children and their retainers who lived in the palaces in a fascinating balance of life within the forts.

The preface and postscript in the book, along with the introduction, provide a useful synopsis. The chapters comprehensively cover Rajasthan’s charismatic forts with their turrets and terraces, ramparts and bastions, silhouettes and never-to-submit imprint. The book is a valuable contribution towards addressing the evolving de-

mand for knowledge about how the past influences the present. It is a must-read book for anyone interested in Rajasthan and India’s heritage.

Parveen Talha is a writer and a former member of the Union Public Service Commission



THE FORTS OF RAJASTHAN
BY RITA SHARMA AND VIJAI SHARMA
Rupa Publications
192 pages
₹995



SHASHI THAROOR
CONGRESS LEADER & MP

Do you think it's not a decline of the West, but the rise of the rest.

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



DINESH TRIVEDI
MP, RAJYA SABHA

Would you agree that the spirit of democracy has disappeared today?

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



AJIT GULABCHAND
CHAIRMAN, HCC LTD

Why did you leave India?

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



PALLAVA BAGLA
SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR

We have seen America turned into a banana republic...

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

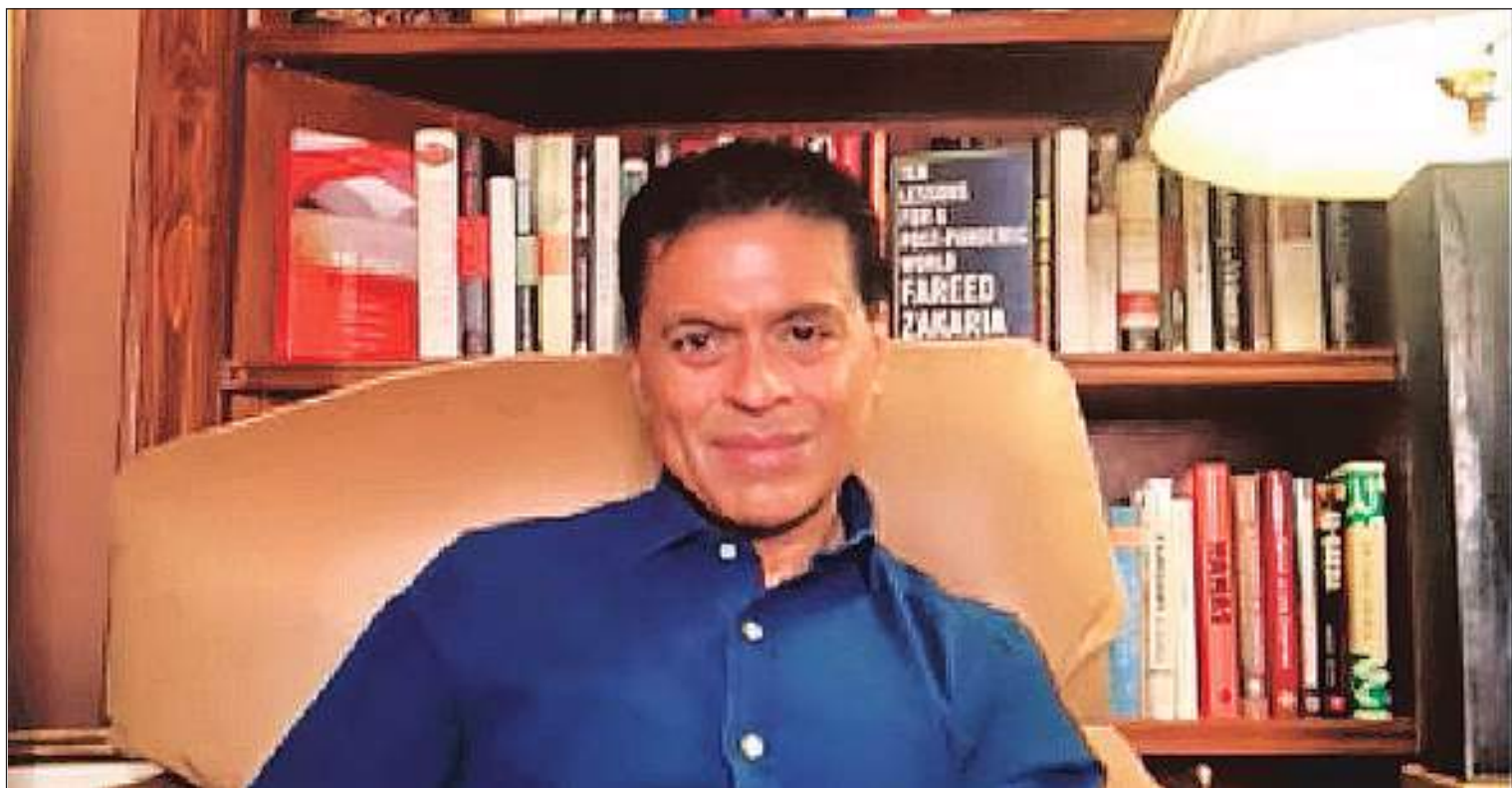


ASHOK KHEMKA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

Do you think the farmers agitation is an expression of corporate mistrust or misgovernance?

It is both. Agriculture in India has been mismanaged from the start. That agriculture is protected in the Constitution is obviously a mis-

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



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

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

On whether the Trump era is over

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

On the dangers of illiberal democracy

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

On India's strategic choices

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

On the link between political fanaticism and the pandemic

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



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



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

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

On the growing divide in society

There is a particularly dangerous trend,

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

On the one lesson one can learn from Trump

Probably the one lesson would be, to remember sometimes what people forget more than anything else — that human be-

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

On the challenge for journalism

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

On political parties and populism

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

On whether any government is big enough to regulate big tech

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

For longer version, go to www.indianexpress.com



SACHCHIDANAND SHUKLA
CHIEF ECONOMIST, MAHINDRA GROUP

After Capitol Hill, does the US have the moral authority to lecture others on improving democracies?

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



JEETU PANJABI
CEO, EM CAPITAL ADVISORS

Do you see any rising stars among world leaders?

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



JAMAL MECKLAI
CEO, MECKLAI FINANCIAL

Can the social and economic structure of Europe be the future?

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



SANJAY PUGALIA
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR, THE QUINT

How should Trump be dealt with?

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



VN DALMIA
DIRECTOR & FORMER CHAIRMAN, DALMIA CONTINENTAL PVT LTD

Is it time for the US to reinvent itself?

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

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

BRIDGE

Dealer: South, Vulnerable: North South

NORTH

♠ J42

♥ AQ10

♦ K7653

♣ 64

SOUTH

♠ 963

♦ QJ9

♣ Q752

WEST

INT

Pass

Pass

NORTH

3NT

Pass

Pass

EAST

Pass

Pass

Pass

SOUTH

Pass

Pass

Pass

The opponents bid INT - P - 3NT and you make an uninformed lead of the two clubs. This does not work out at all 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?

The East hand: S-A Q10 3 H-8 7 5 4 D-2 C-10 9 8 3
The South hand: S-9 8 7 H-K J 2 D-A 10 8 4 C-A K J

You have seen twelve of South's points and you have seen your partner play two little hearts. This is a good hint that South has the king of hearts and perhaps the jack too. What now?

If South has the hand you think he has, he has three heart tricks, four diamond tricks, and three club tricks due to your precise opening lead. You won't beat this if you return a neutral suit. What suit gives you a chance?

Lead your little spade and hope. You are positive that East has the ace of spades and hopeful that he has the queen too. It is possible. If he has both of these, all you need is for him to have four spades. Give it a try. East wins the ten of spades and returns the suit to your king. When you continue the suit, East takes two more tricks for down one. Count those points. Count dealer's tricks. Think.

NORTH

♠ 875

♥ A76

♦ Q96

♣ QJ96

EAST

♠ AK102

♥ 84

♦ 853

♣ A543

WEST

Pass

dbl

3D

Pass

NORTH

Pass

2D

Pass

Pass

EAST

Pass

2S

Pass

Pass

SOUTH

1D

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

West leads the queen of spades. You need five tricks. Where might they come from?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2304

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

1. Disbands (6)

4. Merchant of Venice lawyer (6)

9. Slay (4)

10. Praise-worthy (10)

11. Owns up or confesses (6)

12. Underground cells (8)

13. Reserves or keeps for a particular purpose ? (4,5)

15. Underside of hand (4)

16. Extremely (4)

17. Commenting, declaring or noting (9)

21. Suave (8)

22. Reason for action (6)

24. Homogeneous (10)

25. Perry's creator (4)

26. Aria (6)

27. Spain in Spain (6)

DOWN

1. Diminish (7)

2. Many (prefix) (5)

3. ____ to the hilt : gives full support ? (5,2)

5. The East (6)

6. Logo (9)

7. Pen name (7)

8. Sympathetic (13)

14. Pertaining to tailors (9)

16. Country in SE Asia (7)

18. Purposeless (7)

19. Short work of fiction (7)

20. Intoxicated (6)

23. Greek letter (5)

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

1. Hit by a second lorry (6)

4. Row at the end over America (6)

9. Not straight road holding a few ? (4)

10. Always a lofty London newspaper (2,3,5)

11. Two pence in beer only confuses us (6)

12. False starts at Newmarket (8)

13. Under best Cajun treatment (9)

15. Following ten who came back about ten (4)

16. Year to find the colour one's lost (4)

17. Soldiers possibly armed with guns (9)

21. Architect of the theatre (8)

22. Vindictiveness shown by married woman (6)

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

25. Move slowly forwards and sniff about (4)

26. Extremely clever somewhat in part (4,2)

27. Expected to be among the last to be supplied (6)

DOWN

1. Pop stars' ballet for prison (7)

2. Awfully lairy money in Yemen (5)

3. Great work in Derby, perhaps (7)

5. Warning a French minor (6)

6. Funny one's not told the cost! (9)

7. Sort letters to find where the caviare came from (7)

8. Islam nurse had attacked fatwa target (6,7)

14. Nude jiber arranged participant for nuptials (4,5)

16. It is plain that this oyster is an egg ! (7)

18. Having entered Mum and Dad mostly raced fast (7)

19. Cad seen to be boxed in (7)

20. Copper's turned up copper's supplying juice (6)

23. Abominable naughtiness is too much for this romantic German poet who went mad (5)

Solutions to 2303

QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Remiss, 4 Baltic, 8 In flood, 9 Orator, 11 Slanderous, 12 Lapp, 13 Ounce, 14 Apposite, 16 Vengeful, 18 Testy, 20 Slav, 21 Ventilated, 23 Context, 24 Art deco, 25 Steady, 26 Thread. Down: 1 Renal, 2 Melanin, 3 Stone deaf, 5 Acres, 6 Tattles, 7 Chowpatty, 10 Tallying, 13 Overlooks, 15 Patriarch, 17 Gavotte, 19 Swaddle, 21 Vexed, 22 Cold. CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 1 Alarms, 4 Billow, 8 Dadaist, 9 Ebonite, 11 High-handed, 12 Ther, 13 Bosch, 14 Japanese, 16 Atom-bomb, 18 Livid, 20 Jean, 21 Brain-child, 23 Dismal, 24 Rip cord, 25 Galoot, 26 Vener, Down: 1 Abaci, 2 Apaches, 3 Mustachio, 5 In bed, 6 Long tan, 7 Witnessed, 10 Odd-job man, 13 Bothering, 15 Polonaise, 17 Mongrel, 19 Vehicle, 21 Bravo, 22 Larry.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday January 17

Your mood is generally optimistic and, if you believe in yourself, then you're bound to be successful. Your best plan over is to cultivate the relationships that matter.

Monday January 18

There's an energetic buzz in the background. Tap into it and you'll begin to move into the fast track, where the successful people live.

Tuesday January 19

You will expect speedy results if you're hoping to get major improvements under way. This is a fabulously favourable moment to get romantic plans and ideas into shape, and to raise financial support.

Wednesday January 20

All your hard work is set to be rewarded. If you want more, there'll be plenty on offer. This is your time to take responsibility, and that you will achieve praise and prestige.

Thursday January 21

The Sun kicks off a fresh phase in your personal affairs. Super social stars are spurred by Venus' delicate transits, yet a friend may have something rather awkward to say late in the week.

Friday January 22

You'll be moving into a restless social phase. You're meeting new people but, on a deeper level, you're also facing a positive change in your attitudes to partnership.

Saturday January 23

Your planetary picture is awesome. An absolutely perfect combination of 'easy' and 'difficult' alignments sets the scene for one hundred percent success. Just remember that the final choices lie with you.

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.
Pain is inevitable; ____ is optional (9)

EYEIR

ILNRGU

EOYNS

ACEEFF

Answer: Pain is inevitable; suffering is optional
SOLUTION: EYRIE, NOSEY, RUINING/LUINING, EFFACE

SUDOKU 4355

Difficulty Level 3s

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4354

4	7			3				
	9							
1				2	8	3		
		8	2	9				1
	3				9			
9				6	4	7		
	8	1	6					9
						7		
				8		6	2	

Principal, Women's ITI Indranagar, Government of Tripura, Agartala, Tripura (West) invite online e- tender against Press Notice Inviting e-Tender No. F.No.1(22)/WITI/STORE/TEND/MITI/2020/469-99 Dated 15/01/2021, Tender ID- 2021_TIDC_15622_1

For Supply of tools, equipment's and furniture for different trades at Women's ITI Indranagar, Agartala under the Scheme of Model ITI (NleT No: 01/WITI/INR/2020-21)

Time of completion- 60 days, Period of issue of tender- 15/01/2021 to 05/02/2021 up to 5.00 PM, Date of Pre Bid Meeting - 21/01/2021 at 4.00 P.M, Last date of submission - 05/02/2021 up to 5.00 PM and Opening date - 08/02/2021 at 4.00 P.M (if possible).

For details please visit for details- www.tripuratenders.gov.in

Sd/-

(Debas is Barman)

Principal

Women's ITI Indranagar Agartala

ICA-C- 2819 -21

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely** : **Sheelu D/o** : Santosh Kumar has been missing since 24.12.2020 from the jurisdiction of P.S. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 33-A dated 25.12.2020 has been lodged at PS New Ashok Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age : 18 Years & 3 Months, **Height** : 5', **Complexion** : Fair, **Built** : Medium, **Face** :

Round, **Wearing** : Blue colour jeans, Red colour kurti, Chocolate colour jacket and Red colour chappal in feet.

Any person having any information/clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO

P.S. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi

East Distt., Delhi

Ph. No. 011-24368638, 24368641

P.S. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi

East Distt., Delhi

Ph. No. 011-25268394, 25280979

CCS HARYAYA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, HISAR

(Established by Parliament Act 16 of 1970)

TENDER NOTICE

CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar is inviting Tender for following equipments/items:

1. Supply of Subscription of Foreign Journals for the years 2021, 2022 & 2023 for University Librarian.

2. Supply & Installation of Dry Fermentation Biogas Plant for Paddy Straw for Department of Renewable & Bio-Energy Engineering.

3. Purchase of Thermal Properties Analyzer for Department of Physics.

4. Purchase of Gas Sensor Set Up for Department of Physics.

5. Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Robotics, Automation & Artificial Intelligence Lab. Equipments for COAE&T.

For detail information and e-tendering schedule, please visit the website <http://etenders.hryu.nic.in> and University website <http://hau.ac.in>.

Date of start of bid preparation and submission for Sr. No. 1 to 4 on 19.01.2021 (09.00 hours) and Closing on 08.02.2021 upto 17.00 hours. Opening of Technical Bid on 09.02.2021 at 11.00 A.M. Opening of Financial Bid on 10.02.2021 at 11.00 A.M. and Date of start of bid preparation and submission for Sr. No. 5 on 19.01.2021 (09.00 hours) and Closing on 17.02.2021 upto 17.00 hours. Opening of Technical Bid on 18.02.2021 at 11.00 A.M. Opening of Financial Bid on 19.02.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

NOTE:

1. All updates, amendments, Corrigenda etc. (if any) will be posted only on the CCS HAU Website/Tender website. There will not be any publication of the same through Newspapers or any other media.

2. Interested bidders are advised to deposit bid security/EMD on or before 48.00 hrs of expiring date and time of bid online so as to get the payment verified.

Sd/-

Director (Store & Purchase)

CCSHAU, Hisar.

HAU-16

SUSPECTED PERSON

General public is hereby informed that one male person (depicted in the photo) **Namely**: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age: about 20-25 years, Height: about 5'8" Feet, Complexion: Whealish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Hair: Black, Wearing: Shirt and Pant, is wanted in a Case vide FIR No. 31/2020 u/s 420/34 IPC, Dated 06.08.2020, lodged at P.S. North Avenue, New Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about that person, but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information/clue about these persons, may inform SHO, North Avenue, New Delhi the following telephone numbers.

S.H.O

P.S. North Avenue, New Delhi

Ph.: 011-23093040, 23093294

DP/190/ND/2021.

DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE, ASSAM

KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI-22

No. Agri/Engg/4873/Mini Truck/2020-21/ 51

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Director of Agriculture, Assam is hereby invites bids in two bid system for procurement of Mini Truck under 'CMSGUY' from the manufacturers of Mini Truck through e-Procurement Portal of Govt. of Assam: <https://assamtenders.gov.in>.

To participate, interested manufacturers possessing a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) have to register in the e-Procurement portal: <https://assamtenders.gov.in>. The BID document is made available on the said Portal from **10:00AM on 14/01/2021 up to 1:00 PM on 04/02/2021**. The online submission of Bids through e-Procurement Portal will open from **10:00AM on 25/01/2021** and will close at **1:00 PM on 04/02/2021**. The authority will not be liable for any delay/failure in submission of Bids and system errors (if any).

Sd/-

Director of Agriculture, Assam

Khanapara, Guwahati-22

JANASANYOG NO.3921/20

WESTERN RAILWAY - RATLAM DIVISION

E-TENDER NOTICE

W/623/5/1/NIT Date : 07.01.2021

Divisional Railway Manager (WA) RATLAM for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open Tender through e-tender on website www.ireps.gov.in the details are as under :

Sr. No., E-tender No. & Name of Work	Approx. Value	EMD (RS)	Completion Period
1. RTM/2020-21/134. Godhra-Meghnagar Section:- Reconditioning of CMS crossings by RW-20 Translamic Robotic Welding Technology complete work under jurisdiction of ADEN(SOUTH) Dahod Section.	37,57,170.06	75,200/-	12 Months
2. RTM/2020-21/135 Godhra-Nagda Section:-Widening of cutting with provision of drain in connection with raising the speed to 160 kmph on existing NDLS-MMCT route.	11,96,96,704.53	7,48,500/-	18 Months
3. RTM/2020-21/93 R Godhra - Nagda Section:- Improvement to road surface by asphaltting work with speed breaker and painting of height gauge on LC gates.	91,16,189.36	1,82,400/-	09 Months

Approx Quantity for Sr. No. 1 to 3 : As per tender schedule. Cost of Tender Document for Sr. No. 1 to 3 : Nil. Similar type of work Sr. No. 1 : Not Applicable. Similar type of work Sr. No. 2 & 3 : Any Civil Engineering Work. Date of uploading on website Sr. No. 1 to 3 : 07.01.2021. Date of opening & time at Sr. No. 1 to 3 : 01.02.2021. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions are available at Website www.ireps.gov.in

DRM (WA)

Western Railway, Ratlam

AK/S/1/292

Like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

04 Oct 1974 - 17 Jan 2004

This historic day fills our hearts with pride and sorrow alike when in the highest traditions of the Indian Army, you laid down your life in the line of duty. World is a lesser place without you but you will always remain in our hearts and your deeds will keep inspiring generations to come.

Fondly remembered by

CO and All Ranks of 3 RAJPUT

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Telefax: 0194-2496089, E-mail ID: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)

GIST OF E-TENDER

NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/245/e-tendering Dated: 15.01.2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the Registered , reputed & experienced firms as detailed in the NIT for below mentioned works:

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs.)	Time of Completion (In Days)	Position of AAA/Funds
1	2	3	4	5
Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 02 No's Dumbwaiters for Govt. 500 Bedded Paediatric Hospital, Bemina, Srinagar.	17.50	1000	30	Available

AAA Accorded Vide No.: HME/ACctts/LP/14/2019, Dated: 19.08.2020

Technical Sanction accorded vide No: 38 of 01/2021

1. Downloading of Bids: The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 15.01.2021 (18.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 15.01.2021 (18.00 hrs).

2. Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 16.01.2021 (10.00 hrs) to 01.02.2021 (16.00 hrs) in two (02) covers.

3. Opening of Bids: The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 02.02.2021 at 14.00 hrs or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,

MHCHD, Srinagar

No: MHCHD/TS/8640-44

Date: 15.01.2021

DIKP-11805

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency,

First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun

Ref. No. 2383/11-02(xix)/ITCO/URRDA/20 Dated : 15.01.2021

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice-15(Rebid)/2020-21

The Government of India has received a loan/credit number "LN 8864 IN" from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/International Development Association towards the cost of Rural Roads Project (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works as detailed in NIT. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the bidding document.

The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of Chamoli, Nainital & Tehri for 03 number of Package with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 21.99 Crore including their maintenance for two years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent".

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement : 18.01.2021.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission : The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with the CONCERNED/RESPECTIVE CIRCLE OFFICES, only up to or before the time and date of the submission of the Bids (for World Bank funded works) and on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid (for Regular PMGSY Works), either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.

Last Date / Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement : 08.02.2021 01:00 PM.

For further details please log on to www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in

Chief Engineer,

URRDA, Dehradun.

* Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Note : For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2608125 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You're getting mixed messages, that's for sure. Partners, employers and people in authority will be in an odd mood, midweek. Family affairs are taking an interesting turn. Could a long-lost family member turn up? Or will news arrive about something which happened long ago? I hope so.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

A threatened financial crisis may fail to materialise, much to everyone's relief. Midweek favours domestic routine and family gatherings, but you may be too busy to appreciate what's on offer. Romantic tendencies are already improving, and love is on the way.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The week's stars may not be a hundred percent perfect, but I'd give them a good nine out of ten. The foolish Gemini will stick to his, or her, routine. The wise Gemini will throw caution to the wind and take a few well-calculated risks. But remember, a good gambler always works out the odds first — and goes on to win.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The Moon, your planetary ruler, smiles loftily on your efforts early in the week, so you will cope with domestic battles and lingering family disputes with your usual skill. The odds are firmly stacked in your favour, but you will throw everything away if you fail to check certain fundamental details.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Venus, goddess of love, is completing its excursion through sensitive regions of your chart, so you will soon have one last chance to complete a whole series of emotional, social and romantic ambitions. Go for it! The same stars also indicate that a financial gamble may finally pay off — hopefully.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You should by now be feeling the first ripples of optimism as Jupiter's benevolent presence permeates your chart. Yet it does seem that vital monetary questions must still be answered. You have a reputation for being shy but you are shortly to defy and abandon other people's misleading images of you.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

A number of lively planets are jostling for attention this week and you may expect a welcome surprise. One ood of warning: don't insist on punctuality, efficiency or reliability. The whole point about the current personal situation is that your willingness to compromise will win friends.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Ask yourself why you are so reluctant to come clean over a number of important plans. Perhaps, though, it's for the best that partners are kept in the dark for just a little while longer. At work an employer or other authority figure will have to be placated by the middle of the week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

Your social stars are fine, mainly if you're in a mood to do something different - radically different. Time is moving on, and the same old pattern is no longer enough for you. Try spending your way to happiness. A lasting romantic relationship must be based around a new shared activity.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

The Sun and Mercury, Uranus and Neptune are all planets to be considered this week, and what an inspired foursome they are. By the end of the week, you should have cried 'Eureka' as you suddenly realise what life's all about. If you do stumble across any cosmic secrets, be sure to write them down before they're forgotten.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Venus maintains its warm glow and secure identity, encouraging you to take emotional risks. Isn't it about time you told someone else just exactly how you feel about them? And if you're still cautious, try talking to a trusted friend or ally first.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

A financial stroke of luck is on the cards, but if you expect the worst you might lose out. The fact is that you could do with a little more confidence, and the secret is always to keep something in reserve and never to be panicked. Family matters will be very much smoother in the near future.

WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION

SUPPLY OF SIGNALING MATERIAL IN CONNECTION WITH VARIOUS TRACK CIRCUIT & POINT WORK

DRM/S & T acting for and behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. DRM-SNT-ADI-Sig 16 of 2020-21 closing date 09-02-2021, 15:00. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Tender No. DRM-SNT-ADI-Sig 16 of 2020-21 (1) Name of Work: Part Supply of signaling material, installation, testing and commissioning in connection with various track circuit and point work in section of Ahmedabad-Khodiya-Palanpur, Mahesana-Patan-Bhildi, Mahesana-Virangam, Khodiyar-Gandhinagar-Kalol, Ahmedabad-Himatnagar, Mahesana-Taranga Hill and various other locations of Ahmedabad Division. (2) Estimated Cost of Work: ₹ 1,59,99,358.00/- (Rs. One Crore Fifty Nine Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Eight Rupees only) (3) EMD: ₹ 2,30,000.00/- (Rupees Two Lakh Thirty Thousand only) (4) Date & Time of closing of tender and opening of tender: Not later than 15:00 hrs. of 09-02-2021 and Opening on 09-02-2021 at 15:30 hrs. (5) Website of E-Tendering: www.ireps.gov.in ADI-192

Follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/WesternRly) at WesternRly

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on www.scrindianrailways.gov.in

Website : www.scrindianrailways.gov.in

e-procurement Tender Notice

No. 180 dt. 15.01.2021

The following tenders and corrigendum notice have been floated through e-Procurement. Tenderers are requested to visit the web-site www.ireps.gov.in and submit their offers. It may be noted that the offers submitted manually or on paper will not be accepted. Offers sent by post are not entertained:

Tender No: TMC2020016

Description: Supply of Hydraulic Pressure Hoses and Pneumatic Hoses for the use of Track Machines.

Due Date: 11.02.2021

Corrigendum No.1 to the following Tender (e-Procurement Tender Notice).

Tender No: TMC2020011

Description: Acceptable Makes are modified and due date of Tender opening is changed from 11.01.2021 to 21.01.2021.

For complete details please refer www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Engineer/TMM/HQ/

A0040

Secunderabad

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

New Delhi

Star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan is set to return to international cricket after serving a year-long ban for not reporting a corrupt approach as he was included in Bangladesh's 18-member squad for the upcoming ODI series against the West Indies beginning here next week. *PTI*

BRIEFLY

Syed Mushtaq Ali T20: Punjab inch closer to knock-out berth

New Delhi: Punjab inched closer to a knockout berth with a 10-wicket rout of Jammu and Kashmir in a Group A game of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Saturday, their fourth win in a row. Shubham Pundir top-scored with 42 to take J&K to 139 for eight in 20 overs. Punjab made short of the target, cantering to victory in 14.3 overs with openers Simran Singh (59 not out off 42) and Abhishek Sharma (73 not out off 46) sharing an unbeaten 140-run stand. Sharma smashed half a dozen sixes and his opening partner hit four of them. Senior pacer Siddarth Kaul was the pick of the Punjab bowlers with four wicket for 33 runs in four overs.

Meanwhile, Baroda continued their winning run in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy by claiming a 60-run victory over Maharashtra in an Elite 'C' Group game here on Saturday. This is Baroda's fourth win on the trot in the league stage after having defeated Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in their first three outings.

BRIEF SCORES: Jammu and Kashmir 139/8 (Shubham Pundir 42, Qamran Iqbal 27; Siddarth Kaul 4/33) lost to Punjab 140/0 (Abhishek Sharma 73 not out, Smiran Singh 59 not out; Ram Dayal 0/22) by 10 wickets.

Argentina tour will be a good indicator of where we stand: Rani

New Delhi: The Indian women's hockey team skipper Rani Rampal feels the tour of Argentina will help her side "understand where they stand", nearly a year after the COVID-19 pandemic abruptly halted all competitions around the world. The women's side will become the first of India's hockey teams to resume international matches as it plays the first of the eight games during the tour of Argentina, starting Sunday. "It has been a strange period for sports people around the world, but to be resuming doing what we love the most, it is the best feeling," Rani was quoted as saying in a Hockey India media release. "We are looking forward to testing ourselves against some strong teams, and also understanding where we stand at the moment," she added.

Lahiri shoots 65 to make cut in Sony Open

Honolulu: Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri produced his best card at the Waialae Country Club, firing a superb five-under 65 in the second round to easily make the cut at Sony Open here. With eight birdies against three bogeys, Lahiri, who shot 69 in the opening round, is now six-under for 36 holes and made a smart move to T-35 up from T-72. "I was aware that I needed to make a lot of birdies and my intent is there. I'm happy that I caught a couple of shots on the lead," said Lahiri, whose previous best at this course was 66 in the final round of the 2019 edition. It was the only time he managed to make the cut in three previous starts at the Sony Open. Nick Taylor (62) was in sole lead at 12-under with a two-shot lead over five players at 10-under. The five included 2009 British Open winner Stewart Cink (63), who along with his cancer-survivor wife had recently recovered from COVID-19. **AGENCIES**

15 chartered flights land, 47 players grounded in bumpy start to Oz Open build-up

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 16

LIKE CLOCKWORK, 15 chartered flights transporting players for the Australian Open landed in Melbourne, within the 36-hour period dedicated for their arrival. Tennis Australia had spent months haggling and fine-tuning their COVID-19 safety protocols with the Victorian Government to ensure the tournament indeed takes place. One of the measures they had to have in place was to deal with individuals testing positive after they landed in the country.

As flight QR7493 from Los Angeles arrived in Melbourne, two travellers returned positive tests, and the protocols kicked in. A few hours later, there was another positive test after flight EY8004 from Abu Dhabi landed. There were 79 people on board the flight from the US, including 24 players, and 64 passengers on the plane from Abu Dhabi, including 23 players.

The Australian Open subsequently put out

similar statements, confirming that none of the three positive tests belonged to a player. "The two positive tests have been returned by a member of the flight crew and a passenger who is not a player, who returned a negative test within 72 hours prior to boarding the flight," read the statement after the Los Angeles flight landed. But by being on flights that lasted over 13 hours each, everyone on board became a 'close contact.'

Hard quarantine

Since the Victorian Government made it clear that a 14-day quarantine period for international passengers was mandatory, Tennis Australia managed to arrange a provision that players would be allowed outside their hotel rooms for no more than five hours a day in order to practise and/or train. That relaxation, however, will not be extended to the players who were aboard QR7493 and EY8004.

"Unfortunately, we have been informed by the health authorities that two people on your



Rafael Nadal arrives in Adelaide for the Australian Open. AP

flight QR7493 from LAX that arrived at 5.15am on Friday 15 January have returned positive COVID-19 PCR tests on arrival in Melbourne," read a letter sent to the people on the flight

Self-destruct mode

Rohit was in great touch and looked in total control before he engineered his own downfall

SANDIP G
JANUARY 16

THERE COMES a point when a Rohit Sharma Test innings starts to feel like Rohit Sharma's Test career: rich in promise, low on substance. The signature Sharma Test innings looks otherworldly when it starts. It feels exciting, even ethereal, as if something special or significant is about to unfold. Then incomprehensibly, he contrives to self-destruct. There is no better word to describe it — not indiscretion or misjudgement or even brain-fade.

Some of the strokes he essayed on Saturday at the Gabba left the audience speechless, once again. In their splendorous beauty. The stroke he got out to also left the audience speechless. In its splendorous banality. It was the best Sharma has looked in this series, yet it was also the worst. Till the 73rd ball of his 44, he was batting like a dream. Expressive, efficient and elegant. Every minute element of his batting — judgement, stroke-selection, reflexes, response, foot movement — had synchronised to produce a delectable melody. Before he struck one falsetto note that destroyed the building crescendo. It left India 62/2 in reply to Australia's 369 before heavy rain wiped out the final session of Day 2. The inexperienced Indian bowling attack had earlier snared the final five wickets for 58 runs after breaking the 98-run stand between skipper Tim Paine and Cameron Green. Shardul Thakur, T Natarajan and Washington Sundar got three wickets apiece. The hosts would have been bowled out for a much lower total had their last two wickets not added 54 runs.

Banal expression

To find a reason, or rhyme, for the stroke is a futile exercise. His own explanations went like this: "I like to put pressure on the bowler once I am in and that is my role in this team, to keep putting pressure on the bowlers. Run-scoring has been slightly difficult for both the teams so someone needs to put their hand up and think about how to put pressure on the bowlers." In embracing such an approach, Sharma was resigned to the risk it entailed. "In doing that, there is a chance of making mistakes but you should be ready to accept that. It was a plan so I actually have no regrets about playing that shot," he said. But wait, is it not a five-day game? The first innings, when he had done enough of wrestling the initiative from the bowlers. Now was the time to knuckle down.

How it happened

Instead, he jumped out of the crease to Nathan Lyon. For no reason. There were no roughs or cracks anywhere in his vicinity to necessitate such a response. The ball was not turning, nor was it bouncing awkwardly. Lyon was not fighting the ball or make it drift. So insipid was the Aussie off-spinner that Cheteshwar Pujara was grinding him for singles without fuss.



Rohit Sharma cuts a forlorn figure after getting dismissed by Nathan Lyon. AP

Sharma himself had cut him for a boundary in the same over. Maybe, he wanted to unsettle Lyon, before he got into rhythm. Maybe, it was just a rush of dopamine. Maybe, it was a feeling of infallibility. Maybe, it was just his ego. Sharma likes to dictate matters and doesn't like being dictated to. But in the fear of being dictated to, he invited self-destruction.

Having jumped out of the crease, he could not reach the pitch of the ball. Alright, his wonderful hands could still propel the ball into the trademark confetti seats of the Gabba. But with the trajectory of the ball being towards the leg-side, he couldn't quite free his arms. Could he have changed the stroke and looked to defend? It would have looked tame, but he could have protected his wicket. Even if he had missed the ball, it would have hit his body. It was flattish and body-bound. But Sharma is not someone to recede from a challenge.

Maybe he was so deluded with his own sublime touch that he thought he could get adequate connection and elevation to elude the fielders lurking at deep mid-wicket and mid-on, an expanse vast enough for Marnus Labuschagne to accomplish an all-run four on Friday. He also discounted the well-worn convention of shutting shop before an interval. The tea break was near, and the billowing dark clouds were not too far away from tearing down.

Repent at leisure

But for that shot, Sharma might have a more peaceful cup of tea or a sounder sleep. Instead, he is plagued to rue and pine over the momentary lapse, destruction entirely of his own design. He was equally inconsiderate to the delicate balance of the match as well as the series. It came just at the moment the Australian bowlers were getting a trifle anxious and fidgety. Their

best-laid plans seemed to hit a dead end, and their best bowler, Pat Cummins was being systematically defused by Sharma. Two checked-drives — one apiece of Cummins and Cameron Green — were the most graceful strokes one would ever cast eyes on a cricket field. Just a faint twirl of the wrists at the micro-second the ball touches the blade. Every sinew un-flexed, the impact almost soundless. Sharma always makes batting look easy, but never this easy.

Then to get out attempting a horrendous stroke befuddles as much as it boggles the head. It made even his pull shot in the second innings in Sydney look more excusable, even dignified. At least, it was an instinctive stroke, he found decent connection and was just unfortunate that he holed out to the lone prowler at deep square leg. What's more frustrating than a technical glitch - all batsmen at some point in time have to address one flaw or the other, or a mental vulnerability - is a batsman gift-wrapping his wicket. Wasting talent is inexcusable than having no talent at all. Not once or twice in his career, but repeatedly, as if he cannot take the hurt of a bowler anymore. Sharma seems to tell the bowler: 'Boss, I can choose my own weapon of dismissal, you don't need to bother.'

Not the first time

But Sharma's overseas expeditions are fast becoming an unending reel of such self-destructive moments. When he was the master of his own fate, but humbly surrendered the blessing. It's perhaps the difference between a batsman who plays like a great and a batsman who is great. It's plainly the difference between Sharma and Virat Kohli. The power of discretion, the awareness of not just one's own game but the situation, and beyond it the unquenchable thirst to score big runs. Not just drive and desire, but the

from Los Angeles, posted on Instagram by doubles World No. 48 Santiago Gonzalez.

"The Chief Health Officer has reviewed the flight and has determined that everyone on board needs to isolate and will be confined to their rooms for the 14-day quarantine. We know this is not how you imagined your preparations for the AO would start, but our entire team is here to support you and do everything that we can to get you through this." A similar letter was sent to individuals on board the Abu Dhabi flight.

Players involved

In the Los Angeles-origin flight, along with Gonzalez were (but not limited to) two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka, 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens, former World No. 4 men's singles player Kei Nishikori (who missed the US Open last year after testing positive for COVID-19), and former World No. 18 Alison Riske. American player Tennys Sandgren, who

had tested positive before boarding the plane in Los Angeles but was allowed to travel after his case was determined as "viral shedding," was also on board. On the flight from Abu Dhabi was former World No. 1 Angelique Kerber, 2019 US Open champion Bianca Andreescu, two-time Grand Slam champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, and former World No. 4 Belinda Bencic of Switzerland. None of them will be allowed to leave their hotel rooms for 14 days - ending on January 29. They will be provided exercise bikes in their rooms to stay in shape.

Charter flights

One of the ways Tennis Australia hoped to reduce the risk of players contracting the virus during their journeys to Melbourne was to organise charter flights. These flights from Doha, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Singapore and Los Angeles, carrying no more than 25 per cent of passenger capacity, were available only for qualified players who had cleared the PCR test before the day of travel.

GALLE TEST

Thirimanne helps Lanka cut England lead to 130

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GALLE, JANUARY 16

LAHIRU THIRIMANNE led Sri Lanka's gallant fightback to cut England's lead to 130 after captain Joe Root hit his fourth double test century on the third day of the first cricket test on Saturday. Root's 228 had provided England a strong total of 421 and a meaningful first innings lead of 286, but Thirimanne stood firm for two sessions to remain unbeaten on 76 off 189 balls and carried Sri Lanka to 156-2 at stumps.

Thirimanne's patient knock which included six boundaries was in sharp contrast to Sri Lanka's first innings effort when the whole team was rattled for 135 in two sessions on the first day.

England had an opportunity to remove Thirimanne soon after the left-hander had completed his half century, but Dom Sibley spilled a two-handed catch at gully. England also wasted one of its three reviews as it unsuccessfully went for an lbw decision against Thirimanne when he was on 61.

Thirimanne and Kusal Perera started a steady fightback with their 101-run opening wicket stand as they thwarted the spin threat of Jack Leach and Dom Bess on a turning wicket. Perera shelved his stroke-making in scoring 62 off 109 balls and even batted with a strapped hand after he was struck by Mark Wood's short pitch delivery in the middle session before England struck twice after tea. Perera threw away his wicket early in the last session when he played a rash shot off Sam Curran's wayward delivery and holed out in the deep. Kusal Mendis, who had failed to score in his previous four test innings, labored for 65 deliveries in scoring 15 runs, but added 54 runs with Thirimanne to defy England's hopes of making inroads.

Leach finally struck in the penultimate over of the day when he found the thin edge of Mendis' bat to provide England some relief. Earlier, Root hit 18 fours and a six in his well-composed double century off 321 balls before England was bowled out just before lunch. Dilruwan Perera ended Root's long vigil, which began in the last session on the first day, when he had England's skipper caught at deep mid-wicket off an extravagant shot as the offspinner finished with 4-109.

BRIEF SCORES: Sri Lanka 135 and 156 for 2 (Thirimanne 76*, Perera 62) trail England 421 (Root 228, Lawrence 73) by 130 runs.

VISA DENIED

SA's Indian performance analyst 'working from home' during Pakistan series

SRIRAM VEERA
MUMBAI, JANUARY 16

WHEN THE South African cricket team takes on Pakistan in the first Test in Karachi on January 26, one important member of their think tank, much-respected performance analyst of 11 years, Prasanna Agoram will be "working from home" in Bangalore. He has been unable to join his team which landed in Pakistan on Saturday as he has an Indian passport, and the South African team management told him that despite their efforts, he can't travel to the country due to "security protocols".

Clad in a South African team jersey, wearing his official training shoes, Agoram will be in his dining room at home, amidst a trail of wires, two laptops, a UPS for uninterrupted power supply and with a bowl of *murukku*, the crunchy-savoury snack, and filter coffee.

"I am like a dead man walking," Agoram tells *The Indian Express*, unable to hide his disappointment at missing his first series ever since he

joined South Africa. "I will do my best from here but yes, this is a big blow for me and for the players in the team who depend on me for the detailed analysis that's best done from the ground. But we need to understand the protocols in place. I have been told that Lalchand Rajput, former India player who coaches Zimbabwe, couldn't travel to Pakistan, umpire Aleem Dar is unable to come for work to India and such. So, I am not the only person."

Agoram won't be able to transmit instant analysis and technical and tactical feedback as security protocols during match time prevent telecommunication from outside the dressing room. Only the manager of the team is allowed to have a phone during match time, and even that is restricted to logistical purposes. Usually, Prasanna is most active on match days, transferring his inputs at drinks breaks or with the coaches through the game.

Feedback after play

He has his plans to work around the situation though. At the end of the day's play, by the time



Prasanna Agoram at his residence in Bengaluru.

the players get back to their hotel rooms, they would be sent individual digital documents which would give them details on what they did right, what they did wrong, and how they can improve. The coaches will have data avail-

able for them to work on.

"Players who need face-to-face chats - the medium that they prefer- will have Zoom calls and such. Where I can take them through slides, if needed. Or just talk and share. I have a UPS with one hour back-up. I am all set to do ball-by-ball analysis," Prasanna says. As ever, he has been hard at work in recent days, culling data - numbers and video footage - from Pakistan domestic matches, analysing the home team including their new players, and preparing tactical methods to tackle their spinners and bowl at their batsmen.

Not the same feeling

However, all this can't replicate the feel of being at the ground. "What I would miss most is the week before the Test match, actually. That's when the real prep work gets done." He gives an example to make his case.

"Let's say, the sweep shot. The best player of the sweep there has ever been is Younis Khan. What I do is have his technique on a split frame on the left-hand side." He then takes the footage

he shoots of the South African batsmen and places it on the right frame. "I then compare and tell the batsmen what more they can do. They don't have to do it like Younis, of course, as his method and physical traits are different but to give an idea about how low they can get. What's the ideal height and length to go for?"

That ideal height has to take in the bounce and turn in the pitches. "That's best seen live at the nets. Then we can tweak accordingly. And there are several sweep shots - the flat sweep, the paddle, the reverse, the slog, and all that is also best worked out on the ground and tailored according to the spinner they will be facing. That can be communicated from here, but again nothing like being there. Someone like Temba Bavuma likes to see analysis and video footage from nets and tailor it. One good thing is that these players are highly professional and good; so, they will adjust but still I feel I could have added more if I were there."

Hopeful of good result

Agoram is upbeat about South Africa's

chances in the series. "We just beat Sri Lanka and also in Galle (2014), a place where even India hasn't been able to (win of late). In Keshav Maharaj, we have one of the best finger spinners in the world. How many bowlers have taken nine wickets in an innings? Tabraiz Shamsi is coming along very nicely and George Linde, the left-arm spinner, is very talented. Our fast bowlers are known to the world; so are our batsmen who just did it again in Sri Lanka."

One thing the players will miss is smearing the cake on Prasanna's birthday on January 23. "I am the one who creates the most mess on players' birthdays, smearing cake on their faces. Their revenge is on my birthday. That they will miss now!" he says. "I have been with them for 11 years; the bonding is something out of this world."

As ever, once the umpire says, 'let's play' and the bowler runs in to bowl for the first ball of the match, Agoram says an internal monologue will run in his mind. "I visualise Amitabh Bachchan about to start 'fastest fingers first' in *Kaun Banega Crorepati*. "*Aap ka time shuru hota hai ab!*" (Your time starts now!).

