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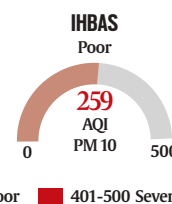
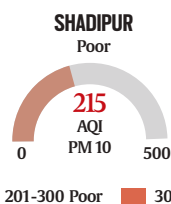
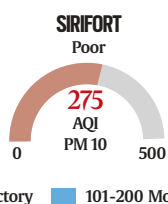
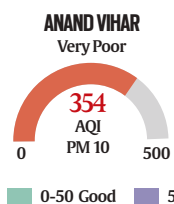
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MAX: 13
7°C below normal

MIN: 7
0.4°C below normal

PUSH TO MAKE AGGREGATOR INDUSTRY ECO FRIENDLY

Govt plan: Cab, delivery firms to induct EVs going forward

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

A DRAFT policy has been prepared by the Delhi government to make the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) mandatory for ride aggregators and delivery services in newly inducted vehicles.

Going by the policy, aggregators and delivery services will have to ensure 10% of all newly inducted two-wheelers and 5% of new four-wheelers are electric within three months of the date of notification. And, a total of 50% of all new two-wheelers

and 25% of all new four-wheelers will have to be electric by March 2023.

A draft notification is likely to be released by the Environment Department soon and public comments will be invited for 60 days. The notification is being issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The Delhi government is also likely to write to the Commission for Air Quality Management requesting it to direct other states in the national capital region to adopt an aggregator policy for electric vehicles to deal with vehicular emissions.

According to Environment

Minister Gopal Rai, the policy will provide a necessary push to the aggregator industry to become environment friendly.

For the shift to EVs, a supportive framework is already in place under the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy, including incentives and charging infrastructure, and additional protocol for implementation will fall under the new aggregator policy, according to a Delhi government source.

The Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy, which was notified in 2020, includes the aim of "providing accessible public charging facilities within 3 km travel

from anywhere in Delhi".

The EV policy had also stated that "an appropriate 'congestion fee' shall be levied on all trips originating or terminating within the NCT of Delhi and taken using cab aggregator and ride-hailing services. This tax shall be waived for rides taken in e-two wheeler, e-auto or e-cab".

Reena Gupta, advisor to the Environment Minister, said "the essence of the proposed policy by the GNCTD is to ensure the entire spectrum of vehicles used by aggregators and delivery service providers are brought into the fold of a sustainable, clean and electric mobility".

Leopards to lone striped hyena: Cameras catch 20 mammals in Asola Bhatti sanctuary

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

THE CAMERA traps at the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary have shown the presence of around 20 mammals, while a bird survey conducted on Saturday counted around 45 species of birds.

The mammals at the sanctuary include five leopards that have been found to mostly use streams and forests of dhau trees within the sanctuary for movement, said Sohail Madan, who heads the Conservation Education Centre of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) at the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary. There are two adult males, two adult females, and one sub-adult — the fifth leopard that was recently spotted on the camera traps.

In a three-year-long study, the BNHS and the Delhi Forest Department are attempting to gauge the habitat preferences of these animals. "We are trying to do a census of how many animals there are and mapping them to see what areas they are using," Madan said. The study began in July last year and around 22 camera traps have been set out so far.

Only a single striped hyena



The mammals at the sanctuary include five leopards. A spotted deer was seen on camera as well

movement, Madan added. The common palm civet and the small Indian civet have been spotted at the sanctuary. The langur, jackal, ruddy mongoose and grey mongoose are among the other animals that are at the sanctuary, along with populations of breeding pairs of porcupines.

This is the first time that a study is being undertaken to document the mammals at the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, and some findings were surprising, according to Madan. The hog

deer, for instance, was a rare and unexpected find.

The bird species that were found as part of the survey on Saturday include the Booted Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Steppe Eagle, Egyptian Vulture, and Black-Winged Kite. The Egyptian Vulture has been listed as endangered by the IUCN. The Booted Eagle and the Steppe Eagle are winter migrant species at the sanctuary. "Lots of raptors come in the winter. There are birds of prey that migrate to Delhi in addition to the water birds. The small birds and rodents at the sanctuary provide a good prey base for migratory raptors," Madan said. 18 species of raptors have been recorded at the sanctuary in winter raptor surveys held between 2017 and 2020.

"We knew that the sanctuary was rich in avian diversity, but we had no clue about the mammalian diversity. It has gone from being a heavily mined area which was highly disturbed, to what we have today... which points to the resilience of the forest to bounce back," Madan said.

UP polls: 2nd list of 7 RLD-SP candidates announced

ENS/PTI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

THE ALLIANCE of the Rashtriya Lok Dal and Samajwadi Party Saturday announced its second list of seven candidates for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh assembly elections.

All candidates are members of the Jayant Chaudhary-led RLD, according to the list shared by the party on social media.

All the seven seats were won by BJP nominees in the 2017 polls. The seats will go to polls on February 10 during the first phase of elections in the state.

The tie-up had on Thursday announced its first list of 29 candidates of which 10 belonged to the SP and 19 to the RLD.

Meanwhile, in the first list released by BJP, the party retained all its candidates in Noida and Ghaziabad. Both districts will be covered in the first phase of elections.

In the Jewar region, Dhirendra Singh has been given the ticket. As a member of the Congress party, he held various posts and was part of the farmer protests in Bhatta Parsaul.

He lost assembly elections in 2012 and quit the party to join BJP ahead of the 2017 polls. His poll plank has been the development of Jewar against the backdrop of an international airport being built by the government.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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Soochna Bhawan, C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL / TENDER NOTICE

Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting invites Bids for engagement of agency for production of Animated Video Series for celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The detailed Request for Proposal document is available on BOC's website www.davp.nic.in and can be accessed online at the Link - <http://davp.nic.in/writereaddata/announce/Adv14201412022.pdf>

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Assistant Director,
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2. DQ candidates must note that they have to submit DQ certificate issued by only authorised Centres / Institutes on prescribed proforma as per para-3.6.3 (Annexure-5, 6, 7) of the prospectus of UGMAC-2021 at the time of counselling / document verification. For this, after filling and downloading the hard copy of online application form, candidates must consult any concerned authorised Medical College / Centre / Institute with the downloaded online application form for disability test for obtaining disability certificate.

Certificate issued from any other Institutes / Centres except above **will not be entertained**, for which the candidate will himself be responsible.

3. The online Registration and submission of Application Form will start from 16.01.2022 and close on 22.01.2022 (10.00 PM).

4. Eligibility criteria for counselling / admission Fee payment procedure, instructions and other details for filling up online applications are available in the prospectus of UGMAC-2021 and the **related Advertisement No.-BCECEB(UGMAC)-2021/01 dated 15.01.2022 which can be seen / downloaded from the Board's website: bceceboard.bihar.gov.in**.

Controller of Examination

IED found in Ghazipur 'military grade, points to external elements'

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

A DAY after an improvised explosive device (IED) was discovered inside an unattended bag at East Delhi's Ghazipur flower market, police said preliminary forensic examination has revealed that it was a military-grade explosive, which is not easily available and has been used in the past by "external elements" for making bombs.

Security agencies had a scare on Friday as the IED, set to go off at 11.40 am, was discovered a little over an hour earlier. It was destroyed via a controlled explosion by the National Security Guard's (NSG) bomb detection and disposal team, which first created an eight-foot-deep ditch in an open area. An FIR has been registered at the Special Cell police station.

"Officials suspect the involvement of external elements after finding it was a military-grade explosive. Experts found 3 kg of explosives, including RDX and ammonium nitrate, in a rectangular iron box but said the quantity of ammonium nitrate was higher than RDX. They also found a table clock-timer device,



Security personnel at Ghazipur flower market a day after an IED was found inside a bag. PTI

a 9-volt battery, an electric detonator packed inside the box with a significant amount of shrapnel — indicating the intention to cause significant damage and loss of life," a police source said, adding that the Indian Mujahideen often uses ammonium nitrate as explosive in its bombs.

The Delhi Police Special Cell, which is coordinating with several intelligence agencies on the case, has been informed that RDX was used in a blast inside a washroom at the Ludhiana district court complex last month. Experts informed police that it was a timer bomb set to 11.40 am. During investigation, police

found a CCTV camera installed at the market's entry gate but it wasn't pointed towards the spot where the explosives-laden bag was kept, an official said.

According to Delhi Police, they first received a PCR call at 10.19 am from a man identified as Anupam Kumar, who came to the flower market on his two-wheeler and later found a bag lying near it.

"Security has been tightened in the market. The fruit and vegetable market is open as it comes under the exempted category. People are requested to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour," Additional DCP (east) Vinit Kumar said on Saturday.

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"PENSION ADALAT"

Central GST Commissionerate Faridabad, Government of India will hold "Pension Adalat" on 31.01.2022 (Monday) at 03:30 PM 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, O/o Commissioner CGST Commissionerate Faridabad, Block - 'D' New CGO Complex, NH-IV, NIT, Faridabad.

All visitors are requested to please provide co-operation to ensure compliance of the Covid-19 related guidelines

COMMISSIONER
(Central Goods & Services Tax, Faridabad)

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EC ban on poll rallies to continue till Jan 22

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

THE BAN on physical rallies and roadshows for upcoming assembly elections in five states has been extended till January 22, but political parties can conduct indoor meetings with up to 300 people, or 50% capacity of the venue, the Election Commission announced on Saturday.

The ban on rallies and roadshows was earlier enforced till January 15 as states across the country grapple with a third wave of Covid-19 infections.

"No road show, Pad-yatra, cycle/bike/vehicle rally and procession shall be allowed till 22 January, 2022. Commission shall subsequently review the situation and issue further instructions accordingly. No physical rally of Political parties or candidates (including probable) or any other group related to election shall be allowed till 22 January,

RESPONSE SOUGHT WITHIN 24 HOURS

EC notice to SP for model code breach

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

THE ELECTION Commission of India on Saturday issued a notice to the Samajwadi Party, saying that "prima facie" it appeared the party had violated the Model Code of Conduct and Covid-19 protocols in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh and sought a response within 24 hours.

The failure to give an explanation within this period will prompt the EC to take "appropriate decision" in the matter, it said.

The poll panel's notice refers to an alleged public gathering - including thousands in attendance - at the SP's office in Lucknow on Friday. "...certain media reported violation of extant Covid guidelines of the Commission in a public gathering in office compound of Samajwadi Party at 19-

2022," the EC said in a statement.

"However, the Commission has granted relaxation for political parties to the extent that indoor meetings of maximum of 300 persons or 50% of capacity of the hall or the prescribed limit set by State Disaster Management Authority will be allowed," it said.

The EC statement came on the day it held a series of virtual meetings with Union Health Ministry officials, and the chief secretaries, health secretaries and chief electoral officers of the five election-bound states.

Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra, election commissioners Rajiv Kumar and Anup Chandra Pandey and other EC officials also held a separate review meeting on the Covid-19 pandemic. "Vaccination status and action plan for expeditiously completing vaccination for 1st, 2nd and booster dose for eligible persons amongst Frontline workers and polling personnel was also reviewed," the EC statement said.



People are fined outside the SP office Saturday. File

Vikramaditya Marg under Gautampalli Police Station, Lucknow," the EC said in a letter to SP general secretary on Saturday.

The EC has also sought a report from state Chief Electoral Officer Ajay Kumar Shukla, and said the commission has been informed by the CEC that a public gathering was organized at the SP's Lucknow office.

AKHILESH GOVT TOOK CARE OF ONLY YADAVS, SAYS BSP CHIEF

BSP first list out, Maya slams SP

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 15

A DAY after former Uttar Pradesh cabinet minister Swami Prasad Maurya said the Samajwadi Party (SP) was working to bring together Samjawadis and Ambedkarwadis, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Saturday rejected the claim saying the party led by Akhilesh Yadav took care of only his community between 2012 and 2017. She also hinted she was unlikely to contest the assembly polls.

Speaking to reporters at BSP headquarters on her birthday, Mayawati wondered how the SP could be pro-Dalit when it had opposed a Bill related to reservation for SC/ST community in promotions. "The SP always opposed renaming districts and welfare schemes after gurus and great personalities born in the Dalit community," Mayawati said, adding the previous Akhilesh Yadav government had scrapped the SC/ST reservation in government contracts, stopped a scheme of sending SC/ST students to abroad for studies, and changed the name of Panchsheel



Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati

Nagar to Hapur, Sant Ravidas Nagar to Bhadohi and Bhim Nagar to Sambhal.

The BSP chief said the previous SP government was concerned only about Yadavs not the backward class.

She released the first list of 53 candidates for the first phase of the UP polls scheduled on February 10. The party has changed candidates on at least 50 seats compared to those in 2017, and retained nominees for Ghaziabad, Govardhan and Mant constituencies. The list has 14 Muslims, two fewer than in 2017.

Accusing the SP of ignoring Muslims in its first list of candidates, Mayawati alleged her rival party was disturbing communal harmony between Hindus and Muslims. She claimed the BSP had always stood by Muslims and protected their religion and life after coming to power.

Won't induct any more BJP legislators: Akhilesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 15

A DAY after two former UP ministers and five BJP MLAs shared stage with him, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday said his party would not induct any more legislators or ministers from the saffron party.

"I would tell the BJP that I am no longer going to take BJP MLAs or ministers (into SP), you can cut their tickets," he told mediapersons at the SP headquarters here. Without revealing the name, he, however, said another BJP leader would soon switch to the SP.

On former UP minister Dara Singh Chauhan, who had left the BJP on Thursday, Akhilesh said he and a few others would be inducted into the party on Sunday.

Former UP cabinet minister and prominent OBC leader Swami Prasad Maurya on Friday joined the SP along with another rebel minister Dharam Singh Saini. Five BJP MLAs and Apna



Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav

Dal (Sonela) legislator Amar Singh Chaudhary also joined the SP in the presence of Akhilesh.

Reacting to Yogi Adityanath's candidature from Gorakhpur, Akhilesh said the BJP had already sent the chief minister to his home. "He is not even member of the BJP and has been sent to his home by his party. There was the talk of him contesting from Mathura, Ayodhya or Prayagraj before the BJP sent him back to his home, Gorakhpur," he added. The SP chief, however, evaded the question if the party would field any candidate against Adityanath.

On Congress's decision to give 40 per cent of its tickets to women, Akhilesh said the SP would choose its women candidates on their winnability.

Channi to EC: Delay elections by six days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 15

A MONTH before Punjab votes to elect its new government, Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi has urged the Election Commission of India to postpone the February 14 Assembly polls by six days in view of Guru Ravidas Jayanti.

In a letter to Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra, Channi wrote that it was brought to his notice by some representatives of the Scheduled Castes community, which comprises around 32 per cent of the state's population, that the birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas falls on February 16.

"On this occasion, a large number of SC devotees (about 20 lakh) from the state are likely to visit Banaras in Uttar Pradesh from February 10 to 16," Channi wrote.

"In such a situation, many people from this community would not be able to cast their votes for the state assembly, which is otherwise their consti-



Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi

tutional right," he stated in the letter written on January 13.

"They have requested that the voting date may be extended in such a way that they are able to visit Banaras from February 10 to February 16 as also participate in the Assembly elections," he said.

Channi said, "It is considered fair and appropriate that the voting for Punjab assembly elections 2022, may be postponed for at least six days, enabling about 20 lakh people to utilise their right to vote for the state legislative assembly."

Earlier, Bahujan Samaj Party's Punjab chief Jasvir Singh Garhi had demanded from the EC to reschedule polls from February 14 to February 20.

Voting for Punjab's 117 Assembly seats will be held on February 14 and the counting of votes will then take place on March 10.

Azam son released from jail; likely to contest polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 15

ABDULLAH AZAM Khan, son of senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader and Rampur MP Azam Khan, was on Saturday released from Sitapur jail on bail. Abdullah was lodged in jail since February, 2020, on several charges, including cheating.

According to sources, Abdullah is likely to contest the upcoming Assembly election on an SP ticket from Rampur.

"Abdullah was facing charges in 43 cases and he obtained bail in all the cases. He was released from jail on Saturday after the release order was received," said Superintendent, of Sitapur jail, Suresh Singh.


Abdullah had contested the 2017 Assembly election from

Swar constituency in Rampur on an SP ticket and won. In December 2019, the Allahabad High Court declared the election of Abdullah null and void on the grounds that he was below 25 years old when he filed his nomination.

On February 26, 2020, Azam Khan, his wife Tazeem Fatima, who is the local MLA, and their son Abdullah Azam Khan surrendered before a local court in Rampur in connection with a case related to alleged forgery of Abdullah's birth certificate.

In December 2020, Fatima obtained bail and was released from jail. Azam Khan, who is facing several charges is still lodged in jail.


As per police records, a total of 81 cases are registered against Azam Khan and 32 against Fatima.



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Mr. Dheeraj Kumar
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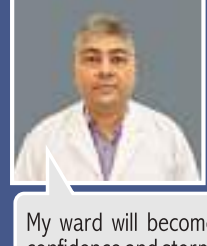
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Joint Director & Incharge, Centre for Arboviral & Zoonotic Diseases National Centre For Disease Control, Delhi

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NAHID HASAN
SP candidate,
Kairana

TOTAL ASSETS:

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MOVABLE ASSETS:

₹3,04,00,000

Self: ₹2,27,80,716

Family inheritance: ₹76,19,284

IMMOVABLE ASSETS:

₹58,00,000

LIABILITIES: NIL

CRIMINAL CASES

Pending cases: 16 in Kairana, 1 in NCR
Convicted: NIL

SP leader files nomination, held

Meerut: The sitting Samajwadi Party MLA from Kairana, Nahid Hasan, who had filed his nomination papers on Friday for the upcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, was arrested on Saturday and sent to judicial custody by a local court for two weeks in connection with a case from February last year under the Gangsters Act. Nahid Hasan and his mother, Tabassum Hasan, who is a former MP from Kairana, were named as accused in the case along with 38 others. Tabassum Hasan had got an anticipatory bail in the case. Police said that Nahid, who was “absconding”, had reached the Kairana court to surrender on Saturday afternoon, and the court sent him to 14 days in judicial custody. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said on Twitter: “FIRs on SP and allied partners, arrest of candidates and threats to the leaders of these parties are clear indications that the BJP has lost all hopes of winning in the upcoming elections.” **ENS**

BALLOTIN

Don't mix my 2 professions, says actor named UP Cong candidate



Archana Gautam. ANI

Hindi films, including the 2015 adult comedy *Great Grand Masti*. “To people who are abusing me and making vulgar statements about me, I want to say that I have two professional lives and they are both different from each other. I would like to not mix the two because I represented India on an international platform. I have made my country proud,” Gautam said. **PTI**

Lucknow: Actor-model Archana Gautam is at the centre of a growing controversy after the Congress picked her as its candidate from Uttar Pradesh's Hastinapur seat, with the BJP accusing the party of indulging in “cheap publicity”. The Congress has defended its decision to field her, saying it was shameful to hear demeaning remarks against her. Gautam had won the ‘Miss Bikini India’ contest in 2018 and has also featured in some

Kejriwal signals openness to bringing Utpal Parrikar to AAP

Panaji: Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday answered in the affirmative when asked whether his party would welcome Utpal Parrikar, son of former defence minister Manohar Parrikar, if he was denied an election ticket by the BJP. “Zaroor hoga (definitely),” was Kejriwal's reply to the question.

Utpal, who wants to contest the Panaji seat that his father won five times, is not assured a ticket by the BJP. BJP Goa election in-charge Devendra Fadnis said the party did not give tickets to anyone just because they are sons of leaders. Utpal had earlier said that while he was hopeful of getting a BJP ticket, he may have to take “tough decisions”. **MAYURA JANWALKAR**



DOOR-TO-DOOR IN GOA

Arvind Kejriwal, Aam Aadmi Party national convener and Delhi Chief Minister, campaigning in Goa's St Andre Assembly constituency on Saturday. **ANI**

Friends to sparring foes: Why AAP and SSM are at odds

SUKHBIR SIWACH & KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
CHANDIGARH, AMRITSAR,
JANUARY 15

WEEKS AFTER its talks with the Samyukt Samaj Morcha (SSM) failed, the Aam Aadmi Party has begun to train its guns on the fledgling party floated by farmer unions, accusing it of being in cahoots with the BJP and trying to lure away its candidates.

Last week, party chief Arvind Kejriwal said they were in talks with SSM president Balbir Singh Rajewal for an alliance, but it hadn't worked out because the latter was demanding more tickets than AAP could give. He also admitted that the SSM's decision to go it alone would hit AAP the hardest.

The extent of the hurt has been obvious since AAP's Punjab co-in-charge Raghu Chadha called a press conference to accuse the Election Commission of giving concessions in registration to help a “morcha”, and said this was part of BJP conspiracy to keep

VOTING ON FEBRUARY 14

AAP at bay. While Chadha didn't name anyone, it was obvious that he meant the SSM, which started its process to register with the EC just days before the announcement of the elections.

Following AAP's claims, the EC put out a clarification saying similar provisions had been made in earlier polls in 2019, 2020 and 2021. On Friday, it issued a notification saying the notice period for registration of new political parties in the five poll-going states was being reduced from 30 days to 7 days, keeping in view difficulties caused by Covid-19-induced curbs, and that it had done the same earlier for previous elections held during the pandemic period.

SSM leaders said AAP was showing its desperation as it's “losing ground in Punjab”. Rajewal associates pointed out that the EC was not making an exception for the SSM.

The quick collapse of ties be-

tween AAP and the SSM, floated by farmer unions which had participated in the year-long farmer protests, has been surprising. AAP had lent its support to the protesting farmers, and the unions were seen as favourably disposed towards it.

AAP MLA Meet Hayer blames the rift on the SSM, accusing it of trying to wean away AAP leaders. “It is promising to bear all their election expenses.”

With the SSM a greenhorn, AAP leaders say, such offers could only be explained by the fact that BJP is behind it. Hayer says this is one of many ways the BJP is trying to stop AAP from forming the next government in Punjab. “It is making many clandestine alliances and is funding its aligned leaders and parties to stand for elections.”

Denying such claims, BKU (Rajewal) general secretary Onkar Singh Agaul asks how they could join hands with the BJP “when we fought against it and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the issue of the three farm laws for over a year”.

AMIL BHATNAGAR, AMIT SHARMA & LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, MEERUT,
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 15

IN ITS first list of 107 candidates for the first and second phases of the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, which involves western UP, the BJP has denied tickets to 20 sitting MLAs, bringing in new faces, such as Dalit leader and former Uttarakhnd governor Baby Rani Maurya and an orthopaedic doctor, in their constituencies.

According to the list released on Saturday, the BJP is fielding a total of 23 new faces for the February 10 and 14 polls, which include nominees to replace three incumbent party legislators who passed away in recent months.

The ruling party has made maximum changes in Agra district, dropping its sitting MLAs in

five seats. Then comes Bulandshahr district where it has replaced four incumbent legislators with new faces.

The saffron party had swept 6 of the 11 districts in western UP in the 2017 Assembly polls, winning 27 of the total 29 seats in Meerut, Bulandshahr, Baghpat, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli and Hapur districts. For the February polls, it has denied tickets to almost one fourth of the 27 sitting legislators in these 6 districts.

BJP sources said that the party has denied tickets to its sitting candidates due to the “anti-incumbency factor” against them in their respective constituencies.

In Agra Rural, the BJP has replaced sitting MLA Hemlata Diwakar with party national vice president Baby Rani Maurya, who had last year resigned from the post of Uttarakhnd governor. She had lost the Assembly election from Etmadpur in 2007 as BJP candidate.

UTTAR PRADESH PHASE 3 VOTING ON FEBRUARY 20

Test for SP reunion, Akhilesh outreach to non-Yadav OBC voters

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 15

NEARLY FIVE years after their family feud for control of the Samajwadi Party (SP) split the party, SP president Akhilesh Yadav and his estranged uncle Shival Singh Yadav decided last month to patch up and join hands for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections in what was a clear move to consolidate their Yadav vote base.

The reunion of the SP family will be on test in at least 22 of the 59 Assembly constituencies going to the polls in the third phase of the UP elections scheduled for Feb 20.

This phase, which involves the SP's traditional Yadav bastions, will also test Akhilesh's outreach for non-Yadav OBC voters. In the run-up to the elec-

tions, Akhilesh has forged alliances with a number of smaller non-Yadav OBC's parties including the Suheldeo Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP), Mahan Dal and Janwadi Socialist Party.

The ruling BJP had swept the 2017 Assembly polls in the region, winning 49 of 59 seats. The SP had then managed to win just 8, with the BSP and the Congress getting one seat each.

In the 2012 Assembly elections, the SP had won 37 seats in the region and virtually swept its strongholds in Etah, Mainpuri, Kannauj and Etawah districts. This had led to the party storming to power in the state.

In the 2019 general elections, of the 12 Lok Sabha constituencies in the region, the BJP had bagged 11 seats. The SP's seniormost leader Mulayam Singh Yadav was the only Opposition leader who



Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan, along with BJP leaders Arun Singh (left) and Anil Baluni, release the BJP's first list of candidates for the UP elections, at a press conference in New Delhi on Saturday. **Prem Nath Pandey**

The BJP's prominent Dalit face, Rani Maurya, 65, had become Agra's first woman mayor in 1995. She had later also served as a member of the National Commission for Women (NCW) for three years.

In Fatehpur Sikri, the BJP has replaced Chaudhary Udhaybhan Singh with former MP Chaudhary

Babul who had been denied the Lok Sabha ticket in 2019.

The anti-incumbency was given as the reason for change in Etmadpur where sitting MLAs Ram Pratap Singh has been replaced with Dharampal Singh who had lost election from this seat on 2017 as BSP candidate and joined the BJP subsequently. The party has

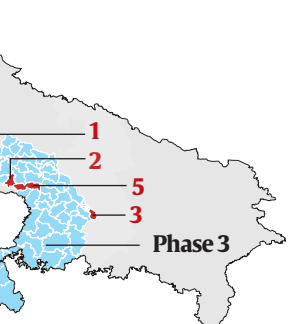
KEY SEATS

THE CONTEST IN 2017

1. FIROZABAD: BJP's **Manish Asija**, votes- 1.02 lakh (runner-up SP's Azim Bhai, votes- 60927)

2. SIRSAGANJ: SP's **Hariom Yadav**, votes- 90193 (BJP's Jaiveer Singh, votes- 79605)

3. MAHARAJPUR: BJP's **Satish Mahana**, votes- 1.32 lakh (BSP's Manoj Kumar Shukla, votes- 40568)



4. SADABAD: BSP's **Ramveer Upadhyay**, votes- 91365 (RLD's Anil Chaudhary, votes- 64775)

5. JASWANTNAGAR: SP's **Shival Singh Yadav**, votes- 1.26 lakh (BJP's Manish Yadav Patre, votes- 74218)

Azad slams SP, rules out alliance; but doors shutting on him

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

ACCUSING AKHILESH Yadav of “insulting” him and sidelining the Scheduled Castes, Dalit leader Chandrashekhar Azad announced on Saturday that his Azad Samaj Party (ASP) won't be forming an alliance with the Samajwadi Party for the coming Assembly elections. At a press conference soon after, Akhilesh claimed there was a “conspiracy” behind how the talks had failed.

Addressing a press conference in Lucknow, Azad said talks with Akhilesh had gone on for more than a month. “At the end of one month and 10 days of discussions, I realised that Akhilesh Yadav

doesn't need Dalits. In this alliance, he doesn't have space for Dalit leadership. He just wants Dalits to vote for them,” Azad said.

In return, Akhilesh said that he had held talks with SP ally RLD to ensure that two seats, Rampur Maniharan and Ghaziabad, were set aside for the ASP, in Azad's presence. “Both seats were given. After that, he (Azad) called someone and then told me that he will not fight the elections. He said his *sangathan* (organisation) was against it.. We don't know who the person on the phone was. This is a conspiracy,” the SP chief said, adding that this is why the party had decided not to take in any more leaders from other parties.

Several leaders from the BJP and other parties have joined the



Chandrashekhar Azad in Lucknow on Saturday. **Vishal Srivastav**

SP in the past few days, and it is now facing the prospect of multiple contenders for seats.

Calling himself a disciple of Kashi Ram, “who made Netaji (SP supremo Mulayam Singh Yadav) a leader”, Azad said they had always been apprehensive about

whether an SP government would exploit the Dalits. “In the last two days (since he met Akhilesh), Bahujan society has been insulted,” he said. “Dalits, Pasmandas and all other marginalised and backward classes are supporting Akhilesh because they believe that social justice will be done. I now feel that Akhilesh has not yet understood the meaning of social justice.”

Azad claimed Akhilesh had refused to give concrete answers on issues raised by the ASP, including ending the deadlock over reservation in promotion for Dalits and backward classes.

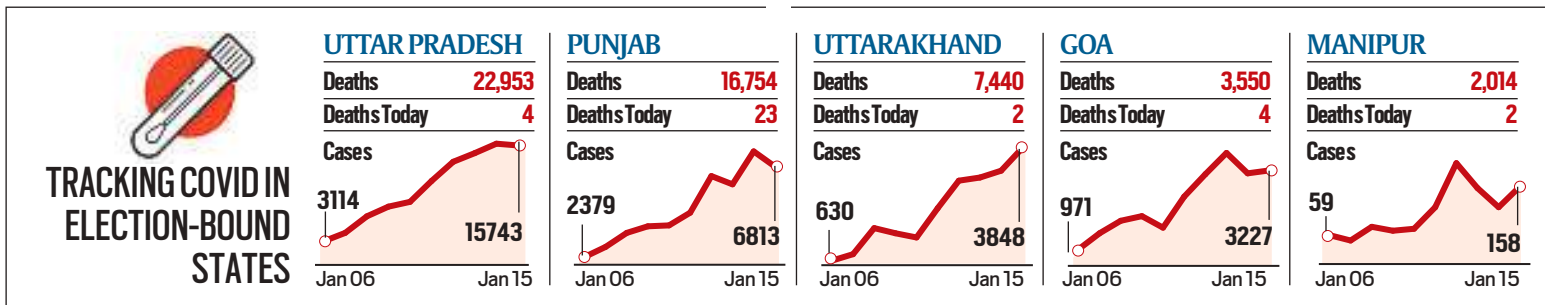
Azad also said the ASP would contest on its own if the “divided” Opposition did not get united.

Azad has a strong base in the

Saharanpur area of Western UP, where the Bhim Army led by him has been long working for Dalits. He first made national news in 2017, leading Dalit protests over violence between the community and Thakurs in Saharanpur. His participation in the anti-CAA protests and his long incarceration by the UP government further cemented his position as a youth leader of the Dalit community.

For two years now, Azad has been trying to convert that into a leap into politics. While his natural partner was considered to be the BSP, Mayawati is seen to be wary of Azad's appeal.

With the Congress, BSP and SP releasing their first list of candidates, it seems all doors might be shut on Azad.



HISTORY & POLITICS

OBC upheaval fallout: What caste was King Ashoka?

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JANUARY 15

BY THE BJP's calculation, this year will see the 2,327th birth anniversary of Emperor Ashoka. As good a time as any, it appears, to find out his “caste”.

With defections setting the caste cauldron of Uttar Pradesh again on the boil ahead of the Assembly polls, the focus is on the Mauryan king who ruled over most of what is now called India between 268 BCE and 232 BCE. On two sides of the battlefield are rallied parties in neighbouring Bihar, the state which claims the king as its own.

The BJP, which has an eye for icons covered in the cobwebs of

history, was one of the first to recognise the political value of the Great Ashoka. In 2015, the Bihar BJP marked his 2320th birth anniversary, and the party's government at the Centre issued a postal stamp on him.

Soon after, there were others claiming him as their own, particularly the OBC Kushwaha community, as well as backward class leaders across parties — the BJP, JD(U) and RJD. A senior Bihar leader from a party with a socialist background who does not want to be named says Ashoka, the descendant of the dynasty founded by his grandfather Chandragupta Maurya, was “a grand OBC face and voice of the subaltern”.

The latest tussle to appropri-

ate Ashoka was kicked off when Sahitya Akademi Award winner, former IAS officer and a BJP worker, Daya Prakash Sinha, said in an interview to *Navbharat Times*: “While doing research on Samrat Ashok, I was greatly surprised at several similarities between him and Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb. Both had committed many sins in their early days and later resorted to over-religiosity to hide their sins so that people were digressed towards religion and their sins are overlooked.” Sinha got the Sahitya Akademi Award for his play *Samrat Ashoka*.

He also remarked on Ashoka's looks, saying several Buddhist works called him “very ugly”.

Three Kushwaha leaders, from three different parties —

Panchayati Raj Minister Samrat Choudhary of the BJP, JD(U) leader Upendra Kushwaha, and RJD national spokesperson Subodh Mehta — were the first to jump to the Emperor's defence. The present-day Maurya community are Kushwahas.

Soon, most top Bihar leaders were rallied behind him — from the BJP's Sushil Kumar Modi, a former deputy CM and Rajya Sabha MP, to Sanjay Jaiswal, the BJP's state president, and former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi.

The BJP went on to file an FIR against Sinha “for hurting people's sentiments”, while Manjhi, the BJP's ally JD(U), and the RJD demanded that his awards be taken back.

The BJP insisted Sinha had

nothing to do with the party.

Jaiswal said: “We are surprised that Sinha describes himself as the national convener of the BJP's cultural cell. In fact, he is not even a primary member of our party.”

The Kushwahas, at 8 per cent of Bihar's population, are an essential part of the JD(U)'s OBC base. The BJP and RJD too have a good number of Kushwaha leaders.

However, there is a more immediate reason, as a JD(U) leader points out. “With the BJP losing some OBC leaders to the Samajwadi Party (particularly one of the biggest, Swami Prasad Maurya) in Uttar Pradesh, it doesn't want to be party to any issue that might affront the Dalits or OBCs further.”

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,Jyoti Anand W/o Shri Sunil Anand Resident of T09/0003, Tower-9, Shri Radha Sky Garden, Greater Noida West, UP-201306 have changed my name From Jyoti Anand to Jyoti Sharma for all purposes.

0040599472-1

I,Parveen Singh Chauhan S/o Sh. Inderjeet Singh Chauhan, R/o- 864, Sector-9, Gurgaon, Haryana 122001 have changed my minor Son's name, from Kavya Chauhan to Gyanav Chauhan.

0040599496-4

I, BHAVYA D/O RAJEEV TYAGI, R/o G-601, VVIP Addresses, Raj-Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad, UP-201017, have changed my name to BHAVYA TYAGI.

0040599496-2

I, Vanshika D/o Mohan Saini R/o-A-176 Jhilmil Colony, Shahdara Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Vanshika Saini.

0040599496-8

I, Suman Kumari D/o-671748 EX-SGT late Ramadhar Prasad R/O-RZ-57D, Gali No-14A/5, Sadh Nagar Colony, New Delhi-45 have changed my name from Suman Kumari to Suman Prasad for future reference.

0040599458-2

I, Ramesh Pandey S/o Shri Nath Pandey R/O-D-11/414, 3rd Floor, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi, have changed my name to Ramesh Kumar Pandey.

0040599496-3

I, Rakesh, s/o-Radha Krishan, r/o-Floor no EF-47, second floor, TDI Espania, Sonipat have changed my name to Rakesh Chandna, for all purposes.

0040599496-6

I, Kanti Kumari W/o-671748 EX-SGT late Ramadhar Prasad R/O-RZ-57D, Gali No-14A/5, Sadh Nagar Colony, New Delhi-45 have changed my name from Kanti Kumari to Kanti Devi for future reference.

40599458-1

I, Suraj Yadav S/o Jamuna Prasad Yadav residing at P007 B1 Tower SRS Royal Hills, Sec-87 Faridabad, permanent address 505/62 Joshi Tola Daliganj Lucknow have changed my name to Sooraj Yadav vide affidavit dated 11-Jan-22 at Delhi.

50190456-1

I, Sazid Khan, S/o Mohammad Sabir R/O-500/19-3B, Gali.No.10, Bhikam Singh Colony, Vishwas-Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Sazid, for all purposes

0040599496-5

I, SIRAJUDEEN SIDDIQUI S/O ABDUL HAMID, R/O 267, Mirjapur, Sector-12, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, UP-201001 have changed my name to SIRAJUDEEN.

0040599496-1

I, SHARAD KUMAR, S/o Late Sh. Ramesh Chander Ratna, R/o E17, TOP FLOOR, PHASE I, ASHOK VIHAR, DELHI-110052, have changed my name to SHARAD RATRA.

70768826-1

I, Vishal Kundu, S/o Ajit Singh, R/o Pillukhara (17), Jind, Haryana-126113, have changed my name to Vishal.

70768872-1

I, Lovish Kumar Guru, S/o Sunil Kumar Guru, R/o 9/1, Street-4, Krishan Kunj Part-1, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Lovish Guru.

0070768827-1

I, Kiran, w/o-Rakesh Chandna, r/o-Floor no EF-47, second floor, TDI Espania, Sonipat have changed my name to Kiran Chandna, for all purposes.

0040599496-7

I, Jitendra Kumar Srivastava, F/o Pranshav Shaur R/o I-1, 1st Floor, Nanakpura, New Delhi-21 have addt 'Srivastava' surname to my son's name and he will be known as 'Pranshav Shaur Srivastava' for all purposes.

0050190465-1

I, Hem Raj, S/o Thana Prasad, R/o 120, Second Floor, Near SLF Mall, Indraprastha Colony, Faridabad-121003, have changed my name to Hemraj Sharma.

0070768828-1

It is for general information that I, Dhruv Dagur, S/o-Ravi Chaudhary residing at H-68, Gali, No.17, Jagatpuri, Krishna-Nagar, Delhi-110051, declare that name of my father and my mother has been wrongly-written as Ravi Choudhary and Roshni Choudhary in my X-Class Pass Gradesheet-cum-Certificate CBSE, Delhi. The actual-name of my father and my mother are Ravi Chaudhary and Roshni Chaudhary respectively which may be amended accordingly.

0040599496-9

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Suchismita Dhar, W/o, Parimal Chandra Dhar, R/o, Flat no. F703, Rajasthan Apartment, Sector-4, Plot No.36, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078, have lost all original property documents of my son's (Aditya Dhar) ie Original Will's of father and mother, G.P.A of my son (Aditya Dhar), etc of Plot No.H-3/3, Mahavir enclave, Village Palam, New Delhi-110045 F703, finders may contact at above address, Suchismita Dhar, W/o, Parimal Chandra Dhar, R/o, Flat no. F703, Rajasthan apartment, Sector-4, Plot No.36, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078, Mob.no.9818782274

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sh. Bhupendra Singh S/o Sh. Dilbagh Singh and his wife Smt. Sunita Tomar R/O H.No.457, Sector-23, Sonipat, Haryana-131001, have debarred, disowned their son Namely Sh. Ankur Tomar and his wife Namely Smt. Ojasvi Singh from his all movable and immovable properties and dissolved their social and family relations with them due to their disobedience and misbehaviour, if any person deals with them shall be accountable at his/her own, my clients shall not be responsible for their acts in future any more.

Ravinder Kumar (Advocate)
Ch. No.819, Rohini Courts, New Delhi-85



OTHERS

Muslim, Retired Man, Delhi Resident, Own House, Pension 21000/-, Wanted Bride No Bar Write with photo-Email: gulshan2212@yahoo.com

0120013643-1

E - TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No.V, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Near Paryavaran Complex, Saidulajab New Delhi 110030 invites on behalf of President of India, on line percentage rate tender from approved and eligible contractors registered with Irrigation and Flood Control Department up to 3.00 PM on dates mentioned as below.

- NIT 91/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214496_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of road / streets in PulI pehladpur colony (Part-I) Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52 (Regn No. 908). E.C.Rs. 3,13,54,267/- Earnest Money Rs 6,27,085/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 92/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214485_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of road and drain in Tekhnad village Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52 (Regn No. 58 ELD). E.C.Rs. 1,47,29,589/- Earnest Money Rs 2,94,592/- Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 93/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214484_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of roads / streets PulI pehladpur colony (GC, E, B & ARZ) (part-2) in Tughlakabad AC-52 (Regd. No. 908). E.C.Rs. 3,64,15,080/- Earnest Money Rs 7,28,302/- Period of Completion 240 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 94/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214482_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of roads / streets in Vishwakarma Colony (Part-2) in Tughlakabad AC-52 (Regd. No. 1246A). E.C.Rs. 3,43,96,013/- Earnest Money Rs 6,87,920/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 95/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214490_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of roads / streets in Vishwakarma Colony (Part-3) in Tughlakabad AC-52 (Regd. No. 1246 A). E.C.Rs. 3,20,14,967/- Earnest Money Rs 6,40,299/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 96/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214492_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of roads / streets in Pulpehladpur Colony (Part-3) in Tughlakabad Constituency (Regn No. 908). E.C.Rs. 4,15,46,394/- Earnest Money Rs 8,30,928/- Period of Completion 240 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 97/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214493_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of roads / streets in Khirki Extension Colony (Part-2) at Greater Kailash Constituency AC-50 (Regn No. 897). E.C.Rs. 4,08,60,775/- Earnest Money Rs 8,16,015/- Period of Completion 240 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 98/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214495_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of roads / streets in Khirki Extension Colony (Part-1) at Greater Kailash Constituency AC-50 (Regn No. 897). E.C.Rs. 3,63,16,453/- Earnest Money Rs 7,26,329/- Period of Completion 240 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 99/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214496_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of roads / streets in Shiv Park (Part-I) Khanpur in Ambedkar Nagar Constituency AC-48 (Regn No. 832). E.C.Rs. 2,73,90,544/- Earnest Money Rs 5,47,811/- Period of Completion 240 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 100/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214481_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Improvement of streets of Jahanpanah Colony Unauthorized colony (Regn No. 1347) in Malviya Nagar Assembly Constituency. E.C.Rs. 1,10,35,842/- Earnest Money Rs 2,20,717/- Period of Completion 180 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 101/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214503_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of road and Gully Traps in Okhla Village in Okhla Constituency AC-54 (Regn No. 155). E.C.Rs. 3,81,00,944/- Earnest Money Rs 7,62,019/- Period of Completion 240 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 102/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214505_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of road and drain in streets of Zakir Nagar Block - I & R Unauthorized colony (Regn No. 1424) in Okhla Constituency AC-54. E.C.Rs. 2,85,92,462/- Earnest Money Rs 5,71,849/- Period of Completion 300 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 103/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214506_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of road and drain in streets of Zakir Nagar colony West Jamia Nagar, Okhla (Regn No. 1527) in Okhla Constituency AC-54. E.C.Rs. 1,27,87,116/- Earnest Money Rs 2,55,742/- Period of Completion 180 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 104/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214508_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of road and Gully Traps in Gafar Manzil Extn-II Jamia Nagar in Okhla Constituency AC-54 (Regn No. 265). E.C.Rs. 1,55,03,945/- Earnest Money Rs 3,10,0791/- Period of Completion 300 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 105/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214521_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of road and drain in balance streets of Zakir Nagar Unauthorized Colony (Regn No. 1424) in Okhla Constituency AC-54. E.C.Rs. 2,55,55,364/- Earnest Money Rs 5,07,107/- Period of Completion 240 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 106/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214524_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Improvement of streets and drain in Old Jasola village (Regn No. 910) in Okhla Constituency AC-54. E.C.Rs. 1,92,18,910/- Earnest Money Rs 3,84,378/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 107/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214526_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of road and drain in streets of Batia house Block S, M, N & P Unauthorized colony Okhla (Regd. No. 1424) in Okhla Constituency AC-54. E.C.Rs. 3,95,25,472/- Earnest Money Rs 7,90,509/- Period of Completion 240 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 108/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214529_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of road and drain in streets of Batia House Block I, O & N Unauthorized Colony Okhla (Regn No. 1424) in Okhla Constituency AC-54. E.C.Rs. 45,015 RDB. 2,16,56,517/- Earnest Money Rs 4,33,130/- Period of Completion 180 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 109/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214533_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of road and drain in streets of Batia House Block- G, H, I, J & K Unauthorized Colony Okhla (Regn No. 1424) in Okhla Constituency AC-54. E.C.Rs. 3,76,75,919/- Earnest Money Rs 7,53,518/- Period of Completion 240 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 110/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214539_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Improvement of streets and drain in Noor Nagar Extension Phase-I, Jamia Nagar (Regn. No. 479) in Okhla AC-54. E.C.Rs. 2,01,33,091/- Earnest Money Rs 4,02,662/- Period of Completion 300 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 111/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214543_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4217 Unauthorized Colonies. N.O.W:- Construction of road and drain in Streets of Zakir Nagar H-Block Unauthorized Colony (Regn No. 1601) in Okhla constituency AC-54. E.C.Rs. 2,50,89,117/- Earnest Money Rs 5,01,782/- Period of Completion 270 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 112/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214510_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- MLALAD. N.O.W:- Construction of main entry gates at different locations in Chhattarpur AC-46. E.C.Rs. 19,54,534/- Earnest Money Rs 39,091/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 113/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214593_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4515 RDB. N.O.W:- Renovation of Kabristan of Chandian Holiya near Punjab National Bank in Chhattarpur A.S.S. Constituency. E.C.Rs. 92,46,505/- Earnest Money Rs 1,84,930/- Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 114/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214594_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- MLALAD. N.O.W:- Improvement of boundary wall of park in front of Saint Paul School in Malviya nagar Constituency. E.C.Rs. 8,70,297/- Earnest Money Rs 13,406/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 115/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214595_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- MLALAD. N.O.W:- Improvement of streets of Asola Fatehpur Beni at different locations in Chhattarpur AC-46. E.C.Rs. 46,38,096/- Earnest Money Rs 96,762/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 116/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214610_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4515 RDB. N.O.W:- Demolishing and reconstruction of Nai Chhapal at village Fatehpur Beni in Mehrauli Block. E.C.Rs. 28,41,103/- Earnest Money Rs 56,822/- Period of Completion 180 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 117/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214597_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- MLALAD. N.O.W:- Improvement of streets of Dera village at different locations in Chhattarpur AC-46. E.C.Rs. 34,53,359/- Earnest Money Rs 69,067/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 118/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214600_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- MLALAD. N.O.W:- Improvement of streets near Asola water body of Fatehpur Beni village in Chhattarpur AC-46. E.C.Rs. 31,37,613/- Earnest Money Rs 62,752/- Period of Completion 45 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 79/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_JEC_214580_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- MLALAD. N.O.W:- Renovation of balmiki Chhapal No. 2 of ward No. 2 in Mehrauli Assembly Constituency. E.C.Rs. 13,28,219/- Earnest Money Rs 26,564/- Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 80/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214549_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- MLALAD. N.O.W:- Providing and fixing 5 security gates at Sector D-7 & 8 in Vasant Kunj ward 69-S of the Mehrauli AC-45. E.C.Rs. 12,40,910/- Earnest Money Rs 24,818/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 81/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214551_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- MLALAD. N.O.W:- Providing and fixing 5 Boom barriers at Sector-D 7 & 8 in Vasant Kunj ward 69-S of the Mehrauli AC-45. E.C.Rs. 8,63,460/- Earnest Money Rs 17,269/- Period of Completion 60 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 82/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214582_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- MLALAD. N.O.W:- Improvement of boundary wall at different locations in Mehrauli AC-45. E.C.Rs. 78,42,294/- Earnest Money Rs 1,56,846/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 83/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214555_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- MLALAD. N.O.W:- Improvement of remaining streets of Sector-A pocket B & C in Vasant kunj ward 69-S of Mehrauli AC-45. E.C.Rs. 5,18,076/- Earnest Money Rs 10,362/- Period of Completion 60 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 119/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214612_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- MLALAD. N.O.W:- Providing and fixing 155 Nos. of security gates at different locations in Sangam Vihar Constituency AC-49. E.C.Rs. 77,72,035/- Earnest Money Rs 1,55,441/- Period of Completion 210 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 120/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214608_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4515 DVB. N.O.W:- Improvement of road from village Maidan Garhi (Bus Stand) to IGNOU gate. E.C.Rs. 90,18,559/- Earnest Money Rs 1,80,371/- Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 121/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214621_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- MLALAD. N.O.W:- Providing and fixing 150 Nos. of security gates at different location in Sangam Vihar Assembly Constituency AC-49. E.C.Rs. 75,29,964/- Earnest Money Rs 1,50,479/- Period of Completion 210 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 122/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214629_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- MLALAD. N.O.W:- Providing and fixing Porta Cabins at Sector-1, Sector-2, Sector-3, Sector-4, Sector-5, Sector-6, Sector-7 for senior Citizens in the R.K. Puram Constituency AC-44. E.C.Rs. 61,57,327/- Earnest Money Rs 1,23,147/- Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).
- NIT 123/2021-22/EE/CD-V/AsCs(ID No. 2021_IFC_214686_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- MLALAD. N.O.W:- Improvement of remaining streets of Sector-A Chhattarpur in Chhattarpur Constituency AC-46. E.C.Rs. 54,03,154/- Earnest Money Rs 1,08,063/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 24.01.2022).

Note:-

- The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case the last date of opening of tender is extended the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.
- Earnest Money in the shape of FDR/ Banker Cheque/Demand Draft of schedule bank issued in favour of Executive Engineer, Civil Division-V, I&FC department should be uploaded. Further after declaration of L-1 position, L-1 bidder will submit EMD (which was uploaded) in physical mode within 3 days of L-1 declaration.
- Details of above mentioned work can be seen and downloaded from website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
- Tender submitted through e-procurement portal shall be accepted only.
- Corrigendum, if any will be published on e-procurement web side only.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CD.V.

DIP/Shadabhatt/0577/21-22

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client SMT. SAROJ W/O SH. LATE JAGBIR SINGH DAHIYA, R/O- RZ-7A/15, Gali No-4, Purnan Nagar, Palam Colony, Palam Village South West Delhi-110045, have severed all relations with their son SH. RAHUL DAHIYA & his wife SMT. HEMA Have disowned & disinherited them from all their movable and immovable properties due to their untoward behavior & conduct. Whoever deals with them in any manner, shall do so at hisher own risk & consequences.

Sd/- SANJAY SINGH
Enrl. No. D/3596/17 Advocate
Chamber No. 605, Saket Courts Complex, N.D.-17

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under the Instructions of my client Mohan Kumar Sharma and his wife Renu Sharma, I, Mohan Kumar Sharma S/o Suraj Prakash Sharma and my wife Renu Sharma R/o D-120A, South Ganesh Nagar, Delhi-110092, declare that hereby debarred my son namely Shashank Sharma and daughter-in-law Jyoti Sharma from all moveable and Immoveable Properties, and broken all ties and relations with them due to disobedience and ill behaviour. Anybody deals with them shall be responsible him/herself.

Anmol Malhotra (Advocate)

Woman held for trafficking at Ranchi airport; 'bought child' for Rs 22k: cops

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, JANUARY 15

A MUMBAI-BASED woman has been arrested at Ranchi airport on way to taking a flight back home for allegedly trafficking a newborn child, police said on Saturday.

According to police, the accused, Nikhat Parween, 36, came to Ranchi on January 11 and allegedly "bought" a three-day-old boy from a family there.

Parween, who is from

Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district and currently lives in Mumbai, allegedly gave the family Rs 22,000, police said.

An FIR has been registered against her under IPC Section 370 (trafficking), among others. The incident was reported on Thursday.

Airport police station in-charge Anand Prakash said the woman was supposed to board the flight on Thursday afternoon when CISF personnel saw the infant crying and stopped her at the check-in terminal of Ranchi airport on suspicion.

She was then sent to Kotwali police station in the city and was later arrested. "We have sent the child to a home in consultation with the Child Welfare Committee (CWC),... Nikhat Parween had bought the child from a family in Ranchi, who seem to be very poor...

We are investigating the issue and will get the statement of the (biological) mother as well," Kotwali police station officer in-charge Shailendra Singh told *The Indian Express* on Saturday.

Bihar: Six dead after drinking spurious alcohol

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, JANUARY 15

SIX PERSONS died in Nalanda district of Bihar on Saturday, police said, in what is suspected to be the latest hooch tragedy in the state where sale and consumption of liquor is banned.

Four of the victims were residents of Chhoti Pahadi and Pahad Talli areas under the Soharsai police station and two were from Mahgawa village under the Manpur police station. While the families of the de-

ceased claimed they fell sick and died after drinking country-made liquor late on Friday, the district administration has not yet confirmed the cause of the deaths.

"We are yet to ascertain the cause of death. In one case, paralysis attack is said to be the reason. In another case, relatives talked about liquor drinking habit of the deceased. The third case is not clear," Soharsai police station in-charge Suresh Prasad said. Nalanda Sadar DSP S Nomanani said police had taken feedback from relatives.

Day after revocation of registration, faction fights in Kashmir Press Club

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 15

A DAY after the Registrar of Societies of Kashmir put in abeyance the registration of Kashmir Press Club (KPC), citing a report from J&K Police's CID wing, a factional fight broke out on Saturday over management of the Club.

A group of journalists took over its management, stating that the present panel is "illegally occupying office" after its term ended last year, while members of the present association called it a "takeover" with "open support from the local administration".

In a joint statement, KPC and eight journalists' organisations said, "We appeal to press bodies across the country, including Press Council of India, Press Club of India, Federation of Press Clubs and Editors Guild of India, to take a strong note of how the local administration is supporting lawlessness and throttling a democratic media body. If such incidents are allowed to happen with a Press Club in Kashmir this can be precedent for future."

On Saturday afternoon, the group that took over the reins as interim management selected Saleem Pandit as KPC president.

Claiming to have the backing of one-third KPC members, Pandit told *The Sunday Express*, "Their (current panel's) term ended last year. They were illegally occupying office. I don't want to keep the Club as my fiefdom. Whenever the situation allows, we will hold elections of the Club."

Sajad Ahmad, manager of KPC, said, "Around a dozen people came (into the Club) and said they are the interim body; they asked us to hand over office computers and stationery. When I asked how they could declare themselves as the interim body, they had no answer."

While the Club was registered as a society, it had been asked to apply for re-registration after change of rules in the societies Act following J&K Reorganization Act. The Club had been granted re-registration a fortnight ago.

Sources said while KPC was granted registration after a clearance certificate from the CID wing, the Registrar of Societies was subsequently asked to "put the registration in abeyance".

NC leader Omar Abdullah in a tweet called Saturday's development a "state sponsored coup". PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti stated, "...Deliberately delaying KPCs registration is an attempt to throttle real issues flagged by local journalists here..."

PARTY SAYS 'FALSE' CASE SP leader booked for defacing hoarding with PM, CM face

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 15

THE POLICE in Uttar Pradesh have booked a former Samajwadi Party MLA and others for allegedly defacing the faces of the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister on a hoarding in Bareilly district and writing derogatory remarks on it.

Ataur Rehman, a possible SP candidate from Baheri seat in Bareilly, and his fellow accused have been charged with "provoking riots", among other sections of the IPC.

The SP said the case was false and that Rehman wasn't even present at the spot as he had been in Lucknow since January 10.

Baheri Circle Officer Ajay Kumar said the authorities are investigating. The hoarding has been removed from the area, he said, adding that no one has been arrested.

According to the police, a local resident, Satish Rathor, complained to them that SP workers led by Rehman defaced and damaged the hoarding installed at Narayan Nagla crossing in Baheri on Friday. Rathor, according to the police, also said the SP members threatened the local residents when they tried to intervene.

Based on the complaint, the police have registered an FIR against Rehman, Narayan Nagla village Pradhan Nabi Ahmed, his son Nafees, as well as around 10 unidentified persons. Bareilly district's SP chief Agam Maurya said the case was "falsely lodged" to damage reputation of the party.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR
(Telefax: 0194-2496089, E-mail ID: xenmhchchk@yahoo.in)
(Short Term)

Gist of e-NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2021-22/283/e-tendering Dated:-13.01.2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K State e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost. (In Rs)	Cost of T.Doc. (In Rupees)	AAA	Position of Funds	Time of Completion (Days)	TS No.	Earnest Money (In Rs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Annual Maintenance Contract of one (01) No. 13 Passenger ThyssenKrupp make Lift at Govt. LD Hospital, Srinagar	75,000/-	200	09 AH of 2021 Dt: 22.03.21				

9 SUNDAY STORY

ON FEBRUARY 19, 2017, at a meeting in Kochi's Durbar Hall grounds, some of Kerala cinema's biggest names gathered to protest the abduction and sexual assault of a woman actor. Among those present that day were superstars Mammooty and Dileep, high-profile directors Kamaal and Lal and many others.

With Dileep watching, his ex-wife Manju Warrier, often hailed as Kerala cinema's "only woman superstar", spoke, expressing her solidarity with the victim, her friend. "It's very difficult to express through words what I feel. I met her after I heard about the incident. I am proud of her as she is fighting back," Manju said, before going on to allege a conspiracy. "Whoever is behind this criminal conspiracy should be brought to light," she said. The same day, the victim filed a complaint.

Five months later, Dileep was arrested in the case, accused of having got Pulsar Suni, a history sheeter known to be close to many in the film industry, to molest the actor in a moving car and record the act. While conspiracy theories abound in Kerala's deeply partisan film industry, the motive, according to the prosecution, was revenge, with Dileep allegedly holding the victim responsible for wrecking his marriage with Manju. After 85 days in Aluva jail, Dileep walked out on bail.

Now, four years later, as the trial in the assault case enters its final stretch, Dileep, 54, has landed in fresh trouble.

On December 25, after Balachandrakumar, a film director and Dileep's estranged friend, submitted audio clips, in which voices, including ostensibly of Dileep, are heard discussing a plan to cause physical harm to the investigating officers in the case, police filed a fresh FIR against him and raided the actor's home in Aluva. The team also raided the home of Dileep's brother Anoop and the office of their production company.

ADGP (Crime Branch) S Sreejith said the raids were held with permission of the court. "Details cannot be revealed as the matter is still in early stages of investigation," he said.

In a film industry dominated by its ageless superstars Mammooty and Mohanlal, Dileep's biggest achievement was that he more than held his own, churning out a series of hits — from the 2002 comedy *Meesha Madhavan* to *Vellaripravinte Changathi*, which won him a state award.

With neither Mammooty's simmering looks nor Mohanlal's screen presence, Dileep pushed the envelope with his guy-next-door acts, many of which, like *Kunjikoonan*, where he is a hunchback, or *Chanthupottu*, in which he plays a man with fluid masculinity, were runaway hits. He even went on to start his production house, Graand Production.

But Dileep didn't start off as Dileep. Son of Padmanabhan Pillai and Sarojam from Aluva, he was Gopalakrishnan Padmanabhan, a mimicry artist at Kalabhavan, a centre for performing arts in Kochi that has served as the nursery for several Malayalam actors and filmmakers.

By the late 1980s, Gopalakrishnan and his team — including Nadirshah, his friend who also joined the film industry — were household names, having featured in Asianet's comedy series *Comicola* and later, *Cinemala*. But it was his act mimicking Suresh Gopi — actor and now a BJP Rajya Sabha MP from Kerala —

THE SUNDAY PROFILE Hero in trouble

Malayalam actor Dileep, accused in a sexual assault case, is now in fresh trouble over allegations that he allegedly conspired to attack the police officers probing the case. **SHAJU PHILIP** on the impressionist and his journey to becoming a superstar, until the script went awry



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

that made him a household sensation.

In 1991, with the backing of actor Jayaram, another impressionist-turned-top actor, Gopalakrishnan joined the sets of the Mohanlal starrer *Vishnulokam* as assistant to director Kamal, where his assignment was to use the clapperboard for Mohanlal.

After a string of nondescript roles even while he was assistant director, Gopalakrishnan finally made his debut with

the 1994 comedy *Manathe Kottaram*, in which he played a character called Dileep. The name stayed. However, it was *Sallapam* (1996) that was to be a turning point.

The movie went on to become a hit and Dileep ended up marrying his co-star Manju Warrier, who took a break from her successful career post their marriage.

Dileep, meanwhile, went on to become a successful producer, exhibitor and busi-

nessman. Besides D-Cinemaas, a multiplex chain, Dileep owns Dhe Puttu, a restaurant chain with branches in Kerala and the Middle East.

In a film industry that's heavily unionised — with associations representing everyone from crane operators to scriptwriters and directors — and where being with the right as-

sociation can often make or break careers, Dileep had a knack of playing it right.

In November 2008, Dileep is said to have walked out of a movie, asking for its director Tulasidas, whose earlier movie had flopped, to be replaced. As the Malayalam Cine Technicians Associations (MACTA), a body representing directors, threatened to boycott Dileep, he allegedly engineered a split of the MACTA to help form the rival Film Employers' Federation of Kerala. Several top directors then sided with Dileep and accused then MACTA general secretary Vinayan, a top director, of being autocratic.

After Dileep's arrest in 2017, Vinayan, bitter from that experience, told television channels, "He is a person capable of manipulating actors and cutting down rivals. He is a master manipulator. My films contributed to his career graph, but he reciprocated with cruelty."

The Sunday Express reached out to director and long-time Dileep associate Nadirshah, director Arun Gopi, and actors Siddique, Harisree Ashokan and Edavela Babu for this story, but they refused to comment citing the ongoing trial.

Industry watchers point to a similar incident from January 2017. Then, as the Kerala Film Exhibitors' Federation went on a prolonged strike over a dispute with distributors, Dileep, whose cinema halls too bore the brunt, ended the stir by splitting the exhibitors' body and forming a parallel body. "Hereafter, theatres will never be shut down, whatever the reason," declared Dileep, after being elected president of FEUOK, a position that meant he now controlled the way movies were made and distributed in the state.

His clout also meant that he had the backing of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA), a powerful film body of which he was treasurer and which has often been accused of being controlled by powerful cliques within the industry.

Those in film circles also talk about a public spat between the late Thilakan, a senior National Award-winning actor, and AMMA, at the end of which Thilakan accused Dileep of being manipulative and "cunning".

In 2014, 16 years after their marriage, Dileep and Manju split. Their divorce and Dileep's alleged relationship with Kavya Madhavan, his co-star in several of his hit movies, whom he married two years later, were the subject of breathless speculation.

The 2017 sexual assault case again brought the estranged Dileep-Manju relationship in the public eye with Dileep allegedly suspecting the victim of divulging details of his alleged relationship with Kavya to Manju.

The Women's Collective in Cinema (WCC), a forum that is led by a vocal group of actors including Parvathy Thiruvothu, Revathy, Rima Kallingal and Padmapriya Janakiraman, who have taken up the cause of the victim in the sexual assault case, has often accused Dileep of using his clout to influence the case and get some of the biggest names in Malayalam cinema to back him.

The WCC also took on AMMA, forcing the outfit that now has Mohanlal as president to expel Dileep. Mohanlal later said that AMMA had informally moved to reinstate Dileep, but that the actor himself said he would stay out till his 'innocence' was proved.

Now, amid fresh allegations, claims and counterclaims, this is a Dileep story that isn't ending anytime soon.

== TAKE 5 == CM NAME SURVEY

AAP VOTERS,
M.AJHA REGION, PUNJAB



Kejriwal with front-runner Mann announcing the survey

‘AAP creating confusion. Should have named a CM face directly’

Facing the impossible task of picking a CM face for Punjab and yet keeping everyone happy, AAP has left the decision to a "telephone survey", asking people to name their choice. AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal announced this with Bhagwant Mann, the topmost contender, by his side. On Friday, the party claimed that in 24 hours since the phone lines went active, they had received more than three lakh WhatsApp messages, above four lakh phone calls, over 50,000 text messages and more than one lakh voice messages on who should be AAP's CM. Five AAP voters on what they think of this:

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR

1 Jagroop Singh, 45, Gurdaspur
I expect AAP to win 55-60 seats (of 117, short or just over a majority). I don't think it needs to join hands with anybody as AAP has a following of its own. Some farmer leaders are in hidden alliance with the BJP. However, I am not happy with the ticket distribution. Deserving workers were ignored; like in Majithia, a Congressman was picked. I do not back the decision to ask for CM through phone calls either, it is confusing people. The candidate should have been announced directly.

2 Anil Mahajan, 35, Amritsar
AAP will do much better than suggested by TV surveys because people of Punjab have seen the development in Delhi. It doesn't matter who gets the tickets as people want change; it's the BJP that is trying to stir up a controversy over the failed talks with farm unions. We need to understand the BJP's politics of divide and rule. The call to survey people for a CM candidate is unique, it is happening for the first time in the country.

3 Harpreet Singh, 30, Tarn Taran
AAP will get more than 80 seats. It would have been good if it had formed an alliance with the farm unions, but their demand for 60 seats was too much, the intention was not right. The BJP is acting from behind the scenes. The party has given tickets to all deserving candidates, such as doctors, lawyers and educated people. Even asking people to choose the CM candidate is good. Most callers want Bhagwant Mann. The people want Mann to become the CM of Punjab.

4 Varun Rana, 50, Pathankot
AAP will perform better than last time, get absolute majority. It doesn't need any alliance; the farmer movement has now become political. Yes, some AAP tickets have gone to leaders from other parties, but they are all deserving. It is good that the party is giving the people a chance to choose their CM.

5 Gulab Singh, 65, Batala
We can get 60 to 70 seats, but the candidates need to put in their best effort. Not all deserving candidates have got tickets, and the BJP is set to benefit from the farm unions entering the poll race. And while the idea to seek people's opinion on CM is good, the views expressed by them should be made public.

india 75
NUMBER PLATE
3,99,942
kilometres

The length of the road network in India in 1950-51. That was up to 62,15,797 km in 2020-21. According to the annual report of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, India has the second largest road network in the world. Only the US is ahead of India with a road network of 66.45 lakh km

19,811 km

The length of the National Highways in 1950-51, which was up to 1,36,440 km by 2020-21. State highways in 2020-21 total 1,76,818 km in length

1,73,723 km

The length of district roads during 1950-51. By 2019, that had gone up to 6,32,154 km

2,06,408 km

The length of rural roads during 1950-51, which went up to 45,35,511 km in 2019

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

The 600 metres in the poll race

Shops and villages around the Punjab flyover where PM Narendra Modi was stuck for 20 minutes due to a farmers' protest remember three things about that day: it was raining, the dharna was "sudden", and a *langar* that sprung up around it

RAAKHI JAGGA

THE MOST famous flyover in Punjab now, the Piareana overpass in Ferozepur district came up just six months ago. It is unimpressive by the standards of its city counterparts, all of 600 metres and built at a cost of Rs 4 crore by the National Highways Authority of India. But it was here that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was stuck for over 20 minutes on January 5, placing the small stretch on the Ludhiana-Ferozepur road, with 10-12 shops on one side and the Piareana village lining it, plonk at the heart of the BJP's poll discourse.

The most action this area expected to see was at the PGI Satellite Centre, about 9 km away, which was where the PM was to go that day after paying homage at the National Martyrs' Memorial in Hussainiwalla. One of the reasons the flyover came up was to cater to the expected traffic increase following the unveiling of the PGI centre.

Shuminder Pal Singh Matharu, who runs a workshop for repair of agriculture equipment on one side of the flyover, says he didn't open his shop that day. "I live in the nearby village Saide-ke-Hasham. That day, the shops were closed as it was raining. We didn't expect any business either due to the PM's rally (to be held after the PGI centre inauguration)."

Reports of a *dharna* stalling the PM came as a surprise, Matharu says, though he doesn't entirely mind the attention. "*Pehlan kadi*



flyover te dharna nahi lagda si. Pehli var lagya si. Hun sab Piareana hi Google karde ne (There was no dharna at this spot earlier. It was the first time. Now, everyone Googles Piareana)."

The *dharna* was organised by the BKU (Krantikari) farmers' union. Jatinder Singh, from another nearby village, Wazirpur, and a member of the BKU (Krantikari), says: "That day, a few of our members had come from Zira (about 40 km away). I was not at the protest site." Singh says the union had given a call for protest at the district headquarters and were marching there. "But police didn't allow them to move ahead, so they staged a



The flyover came up months ago, mainly expecting rush for new PGI centre. *Express*

dharna where they were stopped. The same thing happened at various other spots," he adds, noting, "So far, as I know, no police action has been taken against anyone."

Gurmeet Singh Mehma, another farmer leader, seconds Singh. "Farmers wanted to go to the District Commissioner's office. A decision was taken that if we were stopped, we would hold a *dharna* at the same spot. Hence the *dharna* started on the flyover."

Mehma says that in their year of protests against the farm laws, the flyover never figured. "We held *pakka dharnas* on Zira road, at the Reliance petrol pump, another outside

the godown of a corporate house near Sappanwali village, and the third one on the Faridkot-Ferozepur road. During Bharat Bandh or Punjab Bandh calls, we blocked the road at the No. 7 octroi post near the Ferozepur cantonment area. But we never thought of this flyover."

Piareana, a small village of about 2,500 people, just about 1,200-1,300 voters and medium and marginal farmers, is getting used to its 20 minutes of fame. "None from the village had either gone to the protest site or for the rally, but the village name is getting known," says Balbir Singh, from Badhni

Jaimal Singh village, adjoining Piareana.

A few elderly of nearby villages remember a time about five decades ago when Piareana had its biggest tryst with infamy. A fake currency bust led officials to the stunning discovery of a machine printing those in the village — remarkable enough to become a story passed down generations.

As accusations of a Khalistani plot are thrown about, Jatinder Singh remembers the cost the village paid for terrorism. "Before then, we had Mahajans and Pandits in a majority, but they gradually shifted out from here to cities or out of Punjab. Now there is a mixed Sikh-Hindu population," says Jatinder, adding, "It is a quiet village."

Shuminder Pal interjects: "Villagers are peace-loving, but women at times question politicians too for distributing liquor to voters. So though not rich, they are aware."

And he doesn't welcome what is being said regarding the flyover. "I wish no *dharna* is organised here again. Even on January 5, it wasn't planned at the site. But when the *dharna* started, a *chai-pakoda langar* was organised by someone in no time, and everyone came to eat. A *langar* is for everyone," Pal reasons.

Pappu Mistri, who runs a puncture shop near the flyover, says vehicles are again rushing down the flyover. More vehicles means he can hope for greater than his usual number of 15-20 clients a day. Life has almost returned to "normal" now, he says. Almost. "I keep hearing the name Piareana on television."

Across
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

Website: pchidambaram.in
Twitter: @Pchidambaram, IN

There is no merit in the boast that India is, or will be, the fastest growing economy in the world. The GDP fell steeply, therefore the climb looks spectacular. If the GDP had fallen more steeply, the climb would have looked more spectacular! In the two years that India's economy will record (-)7.3 per cent and (+)9.2 per cent, China is estimated to have recorded rates of +2.3 per cent and +8.5 per cent. So, which economy has grown and which is indulging in boasts?

IT WAS intended to be a shining star on the North sky to illuminate Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh and to be admired from far away Goa and Manipur, all states going to elections soon. However, it turned out to be a shooting star, dazzled for a few hours on January 7-8, and vanished before the day was over.

The NSO's First Advance Estimates (FAE) of National Income, 2021-22, were released on January 7. The centrepiece of the press release was the number 9.2 per cent. The NSO underlined that the estimated GDP growth at constant prices of 2021-22 (9.2 per cent) was against the contraction in 2020-21 (-7.3 per cent). According to the government's spokespersons, we will wipe out the decline in 2020-21 and record a growth of approximately 1.9 per cent over 2019-20. If that were proved to be true, I shall be the happiest person. (The World Bank's estimate is 8.3 per cent.)

Alas, the celebration will be premature. GDP at constant prices in 2019-20 was Rs 145,69,268 crore. In 2020-21, owing to the pandemic, the GDP had declined to Rs 135,12,740 crore. It is only when the GDP crosses the number of 2019-20 can we say that the decline has been wiped out and we are back to where we were at the end of 2019-20. According to the NSO, that outcome is likely in 2021-22; according to many observers it is not likely. The scepticism has

deepened after the resurgence of Covid-19 and its new variant.

RUNNING TO STAY

Let's look more closely at the FAE. According to NSO, the GDP will exceed Rs 145,69,268 crore by a small amount of Rs 1,84,267 crore, or by 1.26 per cent. That is, statistically, an insignificant amount. If any one thing goes wrong, the projected excess output will vanish. For example, if private consumption dips marginally or exports to a few markets are disrupted or investment lags slightly, the 'excess' will vanish. The best we can hope for is that, in 2021-22, the GDP at constant prices will equal — and not fall short of — Rs 145,69,268 crore. Achieving that number will mean the level of output of India's economy will, after two years, be the **same** as it was in 2019-20 — thanks to the pandemic and incompetent management of the economy.

There is no merit in the boast that India is, or will be, the fastest growing economy in the world. The GDP fell steeply, therefore the climb looks spectacular. If the GDP had fallen more steeply, the climb would have looked more spectacular! In the two years that India's economy will record (-)7.3 per cent and (+)9.2 per cent, leaving the GDP flat, China is estimated to have recorded rates of +2.3 per cent and +8.5 per cent. So, which country's economy has grown

and which country is indulging in vain boasts?

AVERAGE INDIAN
POORER

The NSO's numbers also show that the average Indian was **poorer** in 2020-21, and will be poorer in 2021-22 too, as compared to 2019-20. Also, he/ she spent and will spend **less** in the two years than he/ she spent in 2019-20. The *per capita* income and *per capita* consumption expenditure at constant prices in the three years are:

	Per capita income	Per capita expenditure
2019-20:	₹1,08,645	₹62,056
2020-21:	₹99,694	₹55,783
2021-22:	₹1,07,801	₹59,043

There are also other worrying indicators. Despite appeals to augment substantially government expenditure, the Government Final Capital Expenditure (GFCE) was only Rs 45,003 crore more in 2020-21 than in the previous year. Similarly, it will be only Rs 1,20,562 crore more in 2021-22 than in the previous year.

Investments are also limping. Gross Fixed Capital Formation in 2021-22 will move up a tad (Rs 1,21,266 crore) over the level achieved in 2019-20, totally insufficient in a pandemic-hit economy.

REALITY CHECK

Among the people, however, there is more conversation about prices of gas, diesel and petrol than about the GDP. There is concern about *unemployment*. According to the CMIE, the urban unemployment rate is 8.51 per cent and the rural unemployment rate is 6.74 per cent. The reality is grimmer: many persons who hold a 'job' are disguising their unemployment. There is concern about *prices* of essentials like pulses, milk and cooking oil. There is concern about the *education* of children: in rural India and poor neighbourhoods of urban India, children have received no teaching during the last two years. There is concern about *security*: most mixed communities in the states of north and central India are like a tinderbox fearing the spark that will start a conflagration. There is concern about *hate speech*, digital abuse, trolls and crime, especially crimes against women and children. There is concern about the *pandemic* and the new variants.

The rulers do not care about the real concerns of the people. They have taken the high road to fight election battles. On the road, they are laying foundation stones, opening unfinished bridges, inaugurating empty hospitals, claiming that '80 per cent will fight 20 per cent', and coining a slogan a day. It is surreal. The boast that India is the fastest growing economy is also surreal.

Fifth
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter: @tavleen_singh



Sycophancy
on social
media

LAST WEEK an SMS from the COWIN portal informed me that I was eligible for my booster shot. Why it is called a 'precautionary' shot only in India beats me. Anyway, off I went and got my precautionary whatever and can report that everything went off perfectly. Within minutes of the needle being removed from my arm, I got a message telling me that the COWIN app had recorded the new jab. I have to say that I was impressed by both the efficiency and speed. And, admit to being impressed with the mature way the Prime Minister is handling the Omicron wave. It is reassuring that he appears regularly on TV to advise people not to panic.

He has come a long way from that time two years ago when he thoughtlessly ordered the most brutal lockdown in the world. And fuelled the innate superstitions of Indians by asking us to beat *thalis* and light *diyas* to drive Covid away. Those were bad ideas. They encouraged voodoo doctors and covidiot who believed that bathing in cow dung would save them. He is doing much better this time. May he now desist from plastering public places with 'thank you Modi' posters.

My booster shot caused a robust reaction from my immune system and laid me low and it is that has put me in a reflective mood. It is in said reflective mood laced with strong paracetamol that I write this week's column. Indulge me as I reflect on Indian democracy. I have said more than once in this column that I believe that the greatest advantage we have over our old enemy China is democracy. But I also agree with Winston Churchill that, 'The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.' It is my misfortune to need to have conversations with the 'average voter' daily on Twitter. They are usually unpleasant exchanges, but I am obliged to have them because in these isolated times I need to hear virtual chatter from the public square.

So, I dedicate some amount of time every day to trawling through the tweets of tweeters who appear to believe that it is their primary purpose in life to attack those who write in the much reviled 'mainstream media'. The tweets I read every day range from vicious, abusive and ugly, to idiotic, ignorant and insane. They come from both sides of the divide in these politically polarized times.

Let me say here that the Gandhi Dynasty's more passionate supporters sound as uninged in their tweets as Modi *bhaktis* and the point they both make most often is that I 'hate' Modi or that I 'hate' Sonia Gandhi. As a veteran political analyst, I feel it is my duty to educate them while I am in current reflective mood. A political columnist has no choice but to critique what politicians say and do, just as a film critic's job is to critique films and a book reviewer's job is to review books. Only the clinically insane would accuse film critics or book reviewers of hatred being their prime motivation. So why should political analysts be charged with hatred?

The other point made often in the attacks on me is that I criticise Modi because I am a 'leftie' and a 'libtard'. I am certainly a liberal. I despise autocrats and autocracies. But leftie I am not. I blame Nehruvian socialism for most of our economic problems and have in this column always opposed the licence raj. It might surprise Modi's devotees to know that I believe he is nearly as socialist and statist as Nehru and this worries me. When I supported him in the first couple of years of his first tenure, it was in the hope that he would move away from welfarism towards free markets. When demonetisation happened, I realised that he had not outgrown the RSS school of economic thought. It is not one that produces economic thinkers or economists. So, seven years on, we are still on the statist path laid out by Nehru, and this means it will take a very, very long time for India to become an economic superpower.

From the political chatter I pick up daily in the public square of social media, I gather that Hindutva is extremely popular. Expressing hatred of Muslims is now absolutely acceptable. And religiosity is celebrated. Every time Modi allows TV cameras to follow him into the sanctum sanctorum of temples to record every moment of the ceremonies he performs, there are ecstatic tweets about how he has made us 'proud to be Hindus for the first time'.

There is no question that he has changed the political discourse and made religion more important than anything else. And he is being faithfully emulated by formerly 'secular' political leaders. They also make sure that cameras record their visits to temples. The one thing that unites devotees of Modi and the Dynasty is a deep hatred for criticism of their political heroes.

The Congress party has, since Nehruvian times, done its best to crush critics but where they were once circumpect, they no longer are. In my reflective, paracetamol-induced mood I find myself reflecting on why our revered political leaders have not yet noticed the damage their followers are doing them on social media. They do more harm to their political heroes than any critic could.

inside
TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR



STAR PAVILION?

THE SUDDEN stepping down of Dilip Chenoy as Secretary General of FICCI in October last year appears to have been due to differences between him and the Commerce Ministry over the Indian pavilion at the Dubai Expo 2021. FICCI was in charge of the Indian display. Although the pavilion had in fact one of the highest foot-falls at the Expo — probably because of the large Indian population in Dubai — it lacked the sophistication, high tech and imagination of some of the other countries' pavilions. The Indian enclosure showcased its themes, Ayodhya, Yoga and Ayurvedic medicine, in a humdrum conventional fashion. Chenoy's defence that FICCI's hands were tied since it had to refer every small decision to the PMO — even formulating the logo took months — hardly helped his case. His deputy Arun Chawla was appointed Secretary General with immediate effect.

FAST BACK-TRACK

Within 10 days of refusing to renew the FCRA licence of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity because of "adverse inputs", the Home Ministry restored the same. "We never thought it would happen so fast," an MoC staffer admitted. Prominent NGOs such as Commonwealth Human Rights Watch and Oxfam appear to have been permanently denied access to foreign funding, while even organisations like the Tirupati Tirumala Devasthanam, Shirdi Saibaba Sansthan and Ramakrishna Mission, are still waiting for their clearances. The speed with which the MoC matter was overturned appears to be linked to Pope Francis's visit to India. During his meeting with Prime Minister Modi at the Vatican in November, the Pope expressed a desire to visit India soon. (The last time a pope visited India was in 1999.) The government hoped it could squeeze in the Pope's visit before the Goa Assembly elections in February. Unfortunately, the upsurge in Covid cases in Goa makes an early papal visit unlikely.

MEETING DEADLINE

Despite the scepticism, the first phase of the Central Vista Project, the re-modelling of the India Gate lawns, will meet the January 26 deadline. The grass has been replanted,

even if the lush carpet effect will be visible only after winter end. Bridges have been constructed over the water channels. The jungle of wires which obtrude at every Republic Day parade will move underground through special manholes. The new light poles will have CCTV cameras, flags and other paraphernalia unobtrusively clamped on. Collapsible bleachers will replace the old wooden stands for onlookers.

JOINT COLLABORATION

It is an unusual partnership. BJP politician and Central minister Bhupendra Yadav has co-authored his book *The Rise of the BJP* with Ila Patnaik, an economist and academic in the social sciences. Patnaik, who worked earlier for the Finance Ministry, says she came in touch with Yadav initially when he was on the parliamentary standing committee which cleared the draft of the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, and she has remained in regular touch ever since. After the 2019 electoral win, both felt it was a great idea to explore the possibility of collaborating on a book on the BJP. For Patnaik, a big bonus was that she had access to the party's extensive archival sources. For a younger generation, it may come as a revelation that politics was not as sharply polarised in the last century as it is today. Several founders of the Hindutva movement were originally from the Congress stock. The founder of the RSS, Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, was a member of the Congress Seva Dal. The second Jana Sangh president, Mauli Chandra Sharma, also started his career in the Congress and embarrassed his new party by switching back to his old one when Pandit Nehru offered him a plum post. The third Jana Sangh president, Raghu Vira, was a Congress Rajya Sabha member earlier.

UNDIPLOMATIC TWEET

Did veteran diplomat Atul Keshap quit the US Foreign Service because he had an inkling he would be appointed president of the US India Business Council (USIBC) or had he earlier fallen out of favour with Washington? In September last year, Keshap, as stop-gap US ambassador to India, had tweeted that he had met RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat to discuss its social welfare schemes. Within days, Keshap was transferred back to Washington and another charge d'affairs appointed. He was not involved in preparations for Prime Minister Modi's visit to the US later that month. As earlier US envoys have met RSS sarsangchalaks without any censure, the Biden government's displeasure could have been because Keshap did not maintain a discrete silence, but felt it necessary to tweet the news.

history
HEADLINE

ROSALIND O'HANLON



THE MONTH of January is a particularly special time in the long history of popular struggle for education in India. On January 3, we celebrate the birth anniversary of Savitribai Phule, the lion-hearted pioneer of education for women and the socially marginalised, whose name now graces one of Maharashtra's premier universities, Savitribai Phule University in Pune. On January 9, we salute what tradition marks as the birth anniversary of Savitribai's fellow pioneer teacher in Pune, Fatima Sheikh.

Much of their history — particularly that of Savitribai — is now familiar to us. But it is still difficult to think of this pair without a thrill of wonder at their courage and breadth of vision. For, when the power of colonial rule was at its mid-19th century height, and the hold of conservative attitudes amongst many communities was yet to be seriously challenged, these two women stood forth to argue the case for education as a right that all should enjoy, not only the privileged few. And they did so not in one of the great cosmopolitan centres of colonial India, but in the city of Pune, the old headquarters of the 18th century regime of Maharashtra's Brahman Peshwa rulers, and still in the mid-19th century, very much a bastion of social conservatism.

Many elements of their stories are now well known to historians. As the wife of Jotirao Phule, the great social reformer and campaigner against casteism, the young Savitribai joined her husband in establishing schools in Pune for girls, Dalits and other disadvantaged communities. Jotirao's friend, Mian Usman Sheikh, a fellow resident in the city's busy trading quarter of Ganjpath, made space in his own home for the first such school, established in 1848. Savitribai and Usman Sheikh's sister, Fatima, took on the work of teaching a small group of girls there, with the help of an American missionary based in Ahmednagar.

Other schools for Dalit and Bahujan children followed. The two women worked tirelessly, not only in the classroom, but going house to house in the city to promote the work of their schools, and to persuade reluctant families that they might safely send their children there. Such a stunning challenge to the conservative social norms of the city naturally drew opposition. The women faced a barrage of stones, mud and name-calling as they went about their work. Faced with such public disapproval, Phule's father felt

What a photograph tells
us about Fatima Sheikh



Fatima, Savitribai, and what they stood for and against

he had to ask the couple to leave the family home. Once again, Usman Sheikh came to their rescue. He offered them a place to stay in his own house, where the pair lived until 1856, when a temporary illness forced Savitribai to return to her own family home in Naygaon near Satara.

Owing to the labour of many researchers in the field, we know much about Savitribai's subsequent life and career. But Fatima Sheikh remains a much more elusive figure. She did not leave any writings that have survived, and as a Muslim woman, she did not benefit from the energy of generations of Dalit and Bahujan scholars seeking to preserve her memory. Her name is now rightly celebrated, and a brief mention of her life features in Maharashtra's Urdu school textbook, and in the textbooks of Bal Bharati. But much of the direct evidence of her life has been lost.

Fortunately, though, we do have a contemporary photograph of her, reproduced in this column. Although it is widely available on the Internet, most images that circulate of Fatima — and indeed of Savitribai herself — are modern artists' impressions. But the photograph does deserve closer examination, and in fact can tell us quite a lot about Fatima, her circumstances and her role as a teacher. We can date it to the 1850s, when the technology of the daguerreotype was just beginning to make photography more widely avail-

able in India. We know that Phule himself and his progressive co-workers were familiar with the possibilities of early photography, since early images of a young Jotirao still survive.

The photograph here shows Savitribai and Fatima sitting side by side. Savitribai looks directly into the camera, while Fatima — possibly a little less comfortable with the technology — is looking away. The two women are dressed in strikingly similar saris, plain in colour, with simple and strong borders. This suggests that they wished to present themselves as professional teachers, clad in the same simple but dignified uniform. Their saris are tied in the 'modern' nivi style, popularised during the colonial era as women ventured more into public life and required a modest style of sari drape to cover arms and legs. Their pose is very much that of professional partners and co-workers, accustomed to working as a team and with a quiet poise in their presence.

Standing behind them is another very interesting presence, giving us further clues to the life of the household. Watching the two women, but also herself gazing directly into the camera is what looks like an older female figure. She is dressed in a traditional white *khimar hijab*, designed to cover the upper body of a Muslim woman. It may be that this photograph was taken during the Phule family's stay in the house of Sheikh, and that the older woman was a senior family member — but one who nonetheless also wished to appear as a member of this group of early professional educators.

Perhaps — and here one speculates — she may have been another member of the Usman household, who helped make it a welcoming refuge for Savitribai and her husband. Two little girls sit at the two women's feet. From the marking on her forehead, the child on the left seems to be from a Hindu background. The little girl to the right, on the other hand, looks to be wearing a child's version of the *khimar hijab*. These two children clearly echo the main message of the photograph, of solidarity in the cause of women's education that reached across the boundaries of age, social background and religion.

The photograph brings us just a little closer to Fatima, and her friendship with Savitribai. We salute both.

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she
SAID

POOJA PILLAI

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EARLY INTO the New Year, Pope Francis took a swipe at those who prefer to raise pets instead of children: "Today... we see a form of selfishness. We see that some people do not want to have a child. Sometimes they have one, and that's it, but they have dogs and cats that take the place of children." To be fair, the Holy Father isn't the first to lob the word "selfish" at the child-free. The S-word is the most-hurled epithet at those who choose not to have children, even when they are physically capable of birthing and/ or nurturing them. This is especially so if the person making that choice is a woman — because how can she deprive her partner of the joys of fatherhood and her parents and in-laws of the delights of grandparenthood? That the decision to be child-free, due to the complex burden of

Motherhood question: No, I'd rather not

internalised social expectations, may weigh heavy on a woman even when she is convinced of her decision is, apparently, not deserving of sympathy.

It's much easier for a woman these days to make that decision, though: she has greater financial — and, therefore, real — independence, there is little stigma attached to putting off marriage till later (but not to choosing to stay unmarried), she is recognised for achievements beyond the maternal, and it's accepted that she will find meaning in things that have nothing to do with the raising of small humans (all of this, of course, only applies to women from the privileged sections of society).

And, yet, the motherhood question looms large, primarily because a child-free woman over a certain age remains an object of curiosity in our society. Everyone and their uncle thinks nothing of asking such a woman why she doesn't have a



The Pope recently called people who don't want children "selfish". He is not the first, or will be the last

child, the implication being that she would better have another almost-as-good justification for her existence. How many men have had to answer this question, one wonders (I suspect we can all make a reasonable guess).

In fact, there are many reasons why

women, including myself, decide — sooner or later — not to have kids. Yes, some of these reasons would traditionally be considered "selfish": we value our independence and the ability to just up and leave when we want to, we don't want to spend a good chunk of our hard-earned money on childcare for a minimum of 18 years, we don't want to bear the awful pain of childbirth and the still greater pain of navigating a world that is simply not designed for women with children (can we talk about free childcare and creches at the office, liberal maternity benefits including legal protection from employers who prefer to lay off pregnant women than having to sanction maternity leave?).

Then there are the reasons that, because they are transmitted from the moral high ground, are deemed more acceptable: we're already feeling the effects of a planet that is hurtling towards ecological disaster, so do we really want our chil-

dren to suffer the very near future of regular heat and cold waves, forest fires and devastating floods?

Or, coming at the same climate and environmental anxiety from a different angle — having a child adds massively to one's carbon footprint, so isn't it a bad idea to have one? And a new one: The Covid-19 pandemic has shown that we could be just one pathogen away from annihilation — is that the kind of world into which we want to bring children?

Personally, though, I believe women shouldn't even attempt to explain. What we choose to do with our bodies, our time and our resources is nobody's business but our own. In this, I take as my model the central character in Herman Melville's story *Bartleby, the Scrivener*, and tell anyone who asks, "I would prefer not to".

National Editor Shalini Langer curates the 'She Said' column

ECONOMY

POLICY WATCH AUTOMOBILES

Minimum 6 airbags in cars: In line with safety practices, but may drive up prices



Model airbags in an SUV. No specific timeline has been mentioned by the government.

ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

THE GOVERNMENT has approved a draft notification to make a minimum of 6 airbags compulsory for vehicles carrying up to 8 passengers. "In order to enhance the safety of the occupants in motor vehicles carrying up to 8 passengers, I have now approved a Draft GSR Notification to make a minimum of 6 Airbags compulsory," Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari tweeted Thursday.

While no specific timeline has been mentioned, Gadkari had last August urged all automakers in India to offer at least six airbags as standard on all variants of each model they produce. Incidentally, dual airbags became mandatory on all vehicles this January while a driver airbag was made compulsory for all passenger vehicles from July 1, 2019.

What vehicles are covered?

The proposal for additional airbags is to be mandated in the 'M1' vehicle category, with the aim of minimising the impact of "frontal and lateral collisions" to the occupants seated in both front and rear compartments. As per the proposal, airbags will be made mandatory for two side or side torso airbags and two side curtain or tube airbags, covering all outboard passengers.

Under the government's Homologation rules, vehicles are bucketed into broad categories. 'Category M' covers motor vehicles with at least four wheels used for the carrying passengers, with the sub-category 'M1' defining "a motor vehicle used for the carriage of passengers, comprising not more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat". This category effectively subsumes the bulk of the PVs used mostly for private use alongside some commercial use as well by fleet operators.

Why more airbags?

Airbags soften the impact of collisions by keeping occupants from coming into contact with the steering wheel, dashboard, front glass and other parts of the automobile. From 1987 to 2017, the US National Highway Traffic

Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that just frontal airbags saved 50,457 lives in that country.

While India's record on road security is among the poorest globally, Indian cars are famously behind the curve in terms of safety features.

What could be the implementation challenges?

One of the key challenges is pricing: more airbags being offered as standard will inevitably drive up the cost of vehicles, including those on the budget end of the market. A frontal airbag in an entry-level

car typically costs between Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000, and side and curtain airbags could cost more than double that. Most car-makers in India that do offer six airbags only do so in top end models and variants that cost upward of Rs 10 lakh.

Another concern flagged by manufacturers is that a number of entry-level models are specifically designed for markets such as India and that installing additional airbags will involve considerable reengineering, including modifications to the body shell and the inside compartment.

The other issue flagged by manufacturers pertains to timing: The Indian auto industry is currently transitioning to stricter BS6 emission norms and implementing new Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) norms, both of which have cost implications.

However, safety experts differ and say that safety features such as twin airbags, ABS (anti-lock brake system) and rear wipers would only add up to Rs 25,000 to the cost of a car.

What are the rules on airbags on other markets

In the US, front airbags are required by law on all cars. But most carmakers offer between 6-10 airbags, depending on the models, primarily to score higher in crash test results from agencies like the government's NHTSA and the private Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. No vehicle without head-protecting side airbags has ever earned a top rating in the Insurance Institute's side crash test.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

INSURER DIDN'T PAY PART OF PROFITS TO CENTRE IN FY21, FY20

Eyeing more capital before IPO, LIC withheld dividend to govt

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, JANUARY 15

IN A bid to conserve capital, IPO bound Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), has not paid any shareholder dividend to its owner, the Government of India, in the last two years — 2019-20 and 2020-21. The total profit reported by the state-run insurer during FY21 was Rs 2,901 crore as against Rs 2,713 crore in the previous year. It paid a dividend of Rs 2,611 crore in FY19.

Sources at LIC said the Corporation has already accumulated Rs 6,300 crore of capital by not paying any dividend to the government in the last two years and it's planning to raise more.

For decades, LIC has followed a well laid out ratio of 95:5, where five per cent of its profit — called surplus — goes to the government as dividend, while 95 per cent is distributed among its participatory policy holders.

Whether the payment of large dividend by LIC to the Centre will continue or not in the future, is not known yet. The insurer will have a huge base of retail and other institutions as new shareholders once it gets listed after the IPO. The profits which were distributed be-



The Life Insurance Corporation headquarters, Mumbai. File

smaller capital base of Rs 100 crore and a small reserve, though it controls assets worth Rs 38 lakh crore and services over 30 crore policies. Though the government raised the authorised capital base of the Corporation to Rs 24,900 crore in the Budget 2021-22 in view of its planned mega initial public offering (IPO), it is not known when this capital will be infused into the Corporation.

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tween the government and policy holders will have to be shared with new shareholders every year.

LIC had an investment income (policyholder's and shareholder's), including capital gains, and its other income was Rs 2.79 lakh crore in 2020-21 (Rs 2.37 lakh crore in 2019-20). Its claim settlement ratio was 98.62 per cent as at March 31, 2021, compared to 96.69 per cent as at March 31, 2020, and the proportion of its claims repudiated/rejected fell to 1.0 per cent in 2020-21 from 1.09 per cent in the previous year.

The claim settlement ratio of private insurers was 97.02 per cent during FY21 (97.18 per cent during FY20) and the proportion of

repudiations came down to 2.0 per cent in the year 2020-21 from 2.50 per cent in previous year.

During the pandemic, when insurers have been saddled with a large number of claims, the life insurance industry's settlement ratio increased to 98.39 per cent in 2020-21 from 96.76 per cent in 2019-20, and the repudiation/rejection ratio decreased to 1.14 per cent from 1.28 per cent in FY20.

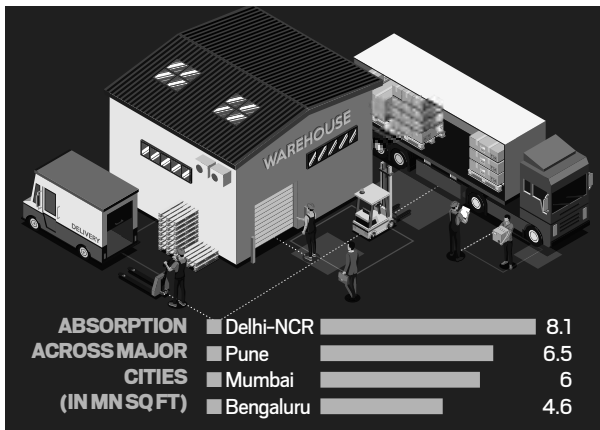
LIC paid benefits of Rs 2.86 lakh crore in 2020-21, constituting 70.85 per cent of the premium underwritten (Rs 2.53 lakh crore in 2019-20, 66.62 per cent of the premium underwritten).

The benefits paid on account of surrenders/withdrawals of the life insurance industry increased to Rs 1.29 lakh crore in 2020-21 (Rs 1.17 lakh crore in 2019-20), of which LIC accounted for 61.89 per cent and the remaining 38.11 per cent was by the private sector.

As of March 31, 2021, LIC has offices in 669 districts, i.e. 91 per cent of the 735 districts in the country, whereas private insurers have offices in 596 districts, covering 81 per cent of all districts.

'Industrial, warehousing space leasing up 35% in 2021'

Leasing of industrial and warehousing spaces across eight major cities rose 35% last year to 35.1 million square feet, driven by higher demand, according to Savills India



New projects were delivered with improved specifications and of high quality environmental, health and safety (EHS) standards

26 mn sq ft

LEASING OF INDUSTRIAL & WAREHOUSING SPACE IN CALENDAR YEAR 2020

FRESH SUPPLY rose 64% to 36 mn sq ft from 22 mn sq ft

WAREHOUSING demand was driven by third-party logistics (3PL) players and e-commerce companies, accounting for 62% of total absorption in 2021, followed by manufacturing sector at 14%

VACANCY LEVELS in tier I cities have increased from 8.4% in 2020 to 9.4% in 2021

IN TIER II, III CITIES:
■ Leasing stood at 8.6 mn sq ft
■ New supply was at 8.9 mn sq ft
Source: Savills India/PITI

Rental values remained stable in 2021 across major cities

Maruti hikes vehicle prices by up to 4.3%

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

MARUTI SUZUKI India (MSI) said Saturday it has raised prices of its models by up to 4.3 per cent with immediate effect to partially offset the impact of the rise in input costs. The company has enhanced prices across its models from 0.1 per cent to 4.3 per cent owing to rise in various input costs.

"The weighted average price increase in ex-showroom Prices (Delhi) across models is 1.7 per cent. The new prices are effective from today," the auto major said in a regulatory filing.

MSI sells a range of cars, from the Alto to a S-Cross priced between Rs 3.15 lakh and Rs 12.56 lakh, respectively. WITHPTI

Q3: HDFC Bank profit up 18% on higher loan growth, NPAs ease

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 15

RIDING ON the back of better loan growth and asset quality, HDFC Bank posted an 18.1 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 10,342.20 crore for the quarter ended December 2021 as against Rs 8,758.29 crore in the same period a year ago.

The private lender's gross non-performing assets (NPAs) were at 1.26 per cent of gross advances as of December 2021, against 1.35 per cent in September 2021 and 1.38 per cent (proforma approach) as of December 2020.

Net revenues (net interest income plus other income) increased by 12.1 per cent to Rs 26,627.0 crore for the third quarter from Rs 23,760.8 crore a year ago. Net interest income (interest earned less interest expended) for Q3FY22 grew by 13.0 per cent to Rs 18,443.5 crore from Rs 16,317.6

The private bank posted a profit of ₹10,342.2 crore for the quarter ended December 2021

crore during the year-ago quarter.

Driven by relationship management, digital offering and breadth of products, advances grew by 16.5 per cent. Core net interest margin was at 4.1 per cent. "New liability relationships added during the quarter remained at an all-time high. This continued focus on deposits helped in the maintenance of a healthy liquidity coverage ratio at 123 per cent, well above the regulatory requirement, which positions the bank favourably to capitalise on growth opportunities," the bank said.

Provisions and contingencies for the latest quarter were Rs 2,994 crore (consisting of specific

loan loss provisions of Rs 1,820.6 crore and general and other provisions of Rs 1,173.4 crore), as against total provisions of Rs 3,414.1 crore for the quarter ended December 2020.

According to the bank, total advances were Rs 12,60,863 crore, an increase of 16.5 per cent. Retail loans grew by 13.3 per cent, commercial and rural banking loans grew by 29.4 per cent, and corporate and other wholesale loans grew by 7.5 per cent. Overseas advances constituted 3.4 per cent of total advances, it said. Total deposits as of December 2021 were Rs 14,45,918 crore, a rise of 13.8 per cent from last year.

The bank's shares closed at Rs 1545.25, up 1.11 per cent, on the BSE on Friday. "The bank added 294 branches and 16,852 people over the last twelve months and made other investments to position ourselves and capitalise on the growth opportunity," it said.

Power Min revises norms to set up EV charging infra

New Delhi: The Power Ministry has unveiled revised norms to support creation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, with an aim to enable a faster adoption of EVs in the country by ensuring safe, reliable ecosystem.

The revised guidelines include allowing EV owners to charge them at their residence/offices using their existing electricity connections and de-licensing the setting up of EV charging infra.

"The Union Ministry of Power has promulgated the revised consolidated Guidelines & Standards for Charging Infrastructure for Electric Vehicles (EV) on 14th January 2022," the ministry said in a statement Saturday. "The objective is to enable a faster adoption of electric vehicles in India by ensuring safe, reliable, accessible and affordable charging infrastructure and ecosystem," it added. PTI

CRUDE WATCH

OIL RISES ON SUPPLY CONSTRAINTS

New York: Amid supply constraints and Russia-Ukraine tensions, oil futures rose to their fourth weekly gain, even as sources said China is set to release crude reserves. Brent rose to \$86.06, up 5.4% on the week, while US WTI rose to \$83.82, up 6.3% on the week. REUTERS

JANUARY 16 TO BE NATIONAL STARTUP DAY

Startups backbone of country's development: PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacting with startups via video conference on Saturday. PITI

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday called on Indian startups to tackle challenges facing the country, urging them to move towards villages, as he announced that January 16 would be celebrated as National Startup Day to spread the culture of startups across India.

During a virtual interaction with startups, Modi recounted various steps taken by the government to improve ease of doing business for such units, calling them the "backbone of the country's development".

"I urge the startups of India to move towards the village as well. This is both an opportunity and a challenge," he said, noting that rural and semi-urban areas were looking for a new wave of expansion, and improvement in last mile delivery of goods and services to such areas had led to growth in the talent pool in rural markets.

The Prime Minister noted that there were three key aspects to government efforts to strengthen the innovation, entrepreneurship and the startup ecosystem in India.

"First, to liberate entrepreneurship, innovation from the trap of government processes and bureaucratic silos. Second, to build institutional mechanisms to promote innovation. And third, to do the handholding of young innovators and young enterprises," he said.

Modi noted that measures like removing problems of 'angel tax', simplification of tax procedures, permitting self-certification for certain labour and environment compliances and

removal of over 25,000 compliances had helped strengthen the startup ecosystem.

He also highlighted that government efforts to boost the startup ecosystem had yielded results in terms of an increase in patent, trademark and copyright registrations.

"While 4,000 patents were sanctioned in the year 2013-14, last year more than 28,000 patents were granted. While in the year 2013-14, about 70,000 trademarks were registered, in 2021, more than 2.5 lakh trademarks have been registered," the Prime Minister said, adding that the number of copyrights registered had increased to over 16,000 from 4,000 during the same period.

Government officials noted that Indian startups were witnessing greater investment interest. "The kind of interest which is being taken in the startup investment climate... In the last one year, annual investments into the startups have increased from USD 11 billion to USD 36 billion," Anurag Jain, Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), said at the National Startup Awards event.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal called on startups to reach out to the government on how it could ease the regulatory burden on them further by making processes simpler.

Speaking at the National Startup Awards, he urged startups to develop content in Indic languages, encourage products and solutions with greater social and economic impact, promote startups in every district, create innovation zones and adopt best practices from across the globe.

GSK rejects £50-bn Unilever offer for consumer assets

REUTERS
LONDON, JANUARY 15

GLAXOSMITHKLINE ON Saturday said it had rejected a 50-billion-pound offer from Unilever for its consumer goods arm, saying it "fundamentally undervalued" the business and its future prospects and that it would stick to its plan of spinning off the unit.

Unilever confirmed the approach earlier on Saturday, saying the Glaxo unit would be a "strong strategic fit" as it continues to reshape its portfolio spanning food, beauty and home care brands.

A deal of this size would be the biggest globally since the start of the pandemic, if it goes through. It could also transform Unilever into a formidable beauty

and personal care purveyor, taking on the likes of Estee Lauder and L'Oreal, while for GSK, it could bring much needed relief from investor pressure that has been building over the past year.

GSK said it had received three bids from Unilever, the latest on December 20 comprising 41.7 billion pounds in cash and 8.3 billion pounds in Unilever shares, which failed to reflect the intrinsic value of the business and its potential.

"The Board of GSK therefore remains focused on executing its proposed demerger of the Consumer Healthcare business ... on track to be achieved in mid-2022," the statement said, adding that it was confident the business would beat global market growth rates in the medium term.

BRIEFLY

Tata Steel UK

London: A new £4 million investment at a major facility in north-west England will allow for more efficient and sustainable supply of critical steelmaking material to the Port Talbot steelworks in Wales, Tata Steel UK has said.

ONDC council

New Delhi: The Confederation of All India Traders said Saturday its secretary general Praveen Khandelwal has resigned as a member of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) Advisory Council. The council has been set up to advise the on measures needed to accelerate adoption of ONDC. PTI

5G in US: AT&T leads bidders in \$22.5-bn spectrum auction

DAVID SHEPARDSON
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 15

AT&T INC led bidders in the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) 5G spectrum auction of 3.45 GHz band spectrum, winning \$9 billion in bids, the US regulator said on Friday.

The auction generated proceeds of \$22.5 billion in total, the FCC said. T-Mobile won \$2.9 billion while Weminuche LLC won \$7.3 billion, which some analysts and FCC documents suggest bid on behalf of Dish.

Dish, which did not immediately comment Friday, confirmed in November it had filed to participate in the

auction. AT&T declined to comment. US Cellular won \$580 million in bids.

The Commission said over one-third of the top 100 markets have at least four winning bidders, a broader range than a prior auction. The broader range and distribution of winning bidders "will increase competition by providing a diversity of wireless carriers with the midband spectrum resources needed to maintain American leadership in 5G," it said.

"Enabling commercial use of this spectrum is important to America's continuing economic recovery and 5G leadership," FCC Chair Jessica Rosenworcel said. REUTERS

Boeing 787 landings: US FAA sets rules

Washington: Officials of the United States Federal Aviation Administration (US FAA) are directing operators of some Boeing 787 airplanes to adopt extra procedures when landing on wet or snowy runways near impending 5G service because, they say, interference from the wireless networks could mean that the planes need more room to land.

ALLEGED CO USED 'MARKET POWER TO CRUSH COMPETITION' Reinstates FB lawsuit: States to US court

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 15

DOZENS OF states led by New York asked a US federal appeals court Friday to reinstate an antitrust lawsuit filed against Facebook.

"Facebook is a monopolist that has exploited its immense market power to crush competition. Through an ongoing course of conduct to 'buy or bury' nascent competitors, Facebook has maintained a monopoly that harms its users and the public at large," wrote lawyers for New York and other states in a filing to the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Facebook owner Meta



Meta Platforms said the states were wrong to ask for the district court dismissal to be reversed. Reuters file

Platforms Inc said the states were wrong to ask for the district court dismissal to be reversed. "There are no grounds for overturning that decision in the court of appeals," a Meta spokesperson said.

deference that others are not because of their role in protecting the public interest. Boasberg had also thrown out a related Federal Trade Commission (FTC) complaint against Facebook in June but allowed the agency to refile the case. It did so, and Boasberg said this week the case would be allowed to go forward.

Both the FTC and the states had asked the court in 2020 to order Facebook to sell Instagram, which it bought for \$1 billion in 2012, and WhatsApp, which it bought for \$19 billion in 2014.

The lawsuits followed years of investigation of the four biggest US tech giants, as well as lawsuits against Facebook and Google.

12 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Philippine Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana. *Reuters*

PHILIPPINES

Govt to acquire \$375mn missile system from India

Manila: The Philippines has finalised a deal to acquire a shore-based anti-ship missile system from India for nearly \$375 million to beef up its navy, the Southeast Asian nation's defence minister said. The Philippines is in the late stages of a five-year, 300 billion pesos (\$5.85 billion) project to modernise its military's outdated hardware that includes warships from World War Two and helicopters used by the US in the Vietnam War. Under the deal negotiated with India, Brahmos Aerospace Private Ltd will deliver three batteries, train operators and maintainers, and provide logistics support, Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said in a Facebook post late on Friday. **REUTERS**

UNITED STATES

Sikh man attack: One arrested

New York: Authorities in the US have arrested and charged with hate crime a man, who attacked an Indian-origin Sikh taxi driver at JFK International Airport, knocked off his turban and yelled at him "turbaned people, go back to your country". Mohamed Hassanain was arrested on Thursday for the January 3 attack on the driver, who is being identified only as Singh out of respect for his request for privacy. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department (PAPD) confirmed on Friday that Hassanain was arrested for the attack. **PTI**

UNITED STATES

Six shot outside Oregon concert

Eugene: Six people were shot during a concert at an event hall in Oregon on Friday night, and the suspected shooter was not yet in custody, police said. Officers responded to the WOW Hall in Eugene after reports of a shooting around 9.30 pm, police said in a statement. "What law enforcement found when they came on scene is what you would exactly expect when six people just got shot," Eugene Police Chief Chris Skinner said at a news conference. Six people were taken to the hospital, and at least one of them was in critical condition, Skinner said. **AP**

CHARLES MCDERMID

PHNOM PENH, JANUARY 15

THE DAY Kea Sokun was arrested in Cambodia, four men in plain clothes showed up at his photography shop near Angkor Wat and carted him off to the police station. Kea Sokun, who is also a popular rapper, had released two songs on YouTube, and the men said they needed to know why he'd written them.

"They kept asking me: 'Who is behind you? What party do you vote for?'" Sokun said. "I told them, 'I have never even voted, and no one controls me.'"

The 23-year-old artist, who says his songs are about everyday

Disaster ahead? US, Russia harden stands over Ukraine

MATTHEW LEE & VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 15

THE FAILURE of last week's high-stakes diplomatic meetings to resolve escalating tensions over Ukraine has put Russia, the United States and its European allies in uncharted post-Cold War territory, posing significant challenges for the main players to avoid an outright and potentially disastrous confrontation.

Unlike previous disagreements that have arisen since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the current Ukraine crisis and seemingly insurmountable differences between Washington and Moscow carry real risks of debilitating economic warfare and military conflict that are exacerbated by the dangers of miscalculation and overreaction.

For the US and its NATO and other European allies, nothing less than a vast pullback of the roughly 100,000 Russian troops now deployed near the Ukrainian border will prove that Russian President Vladimir Putin has any intention of negotiating in good faith. For the Russians, the West's absolute refusal to consider a ban on NATO expansion



A Russian tank T-72B3 fires as troops take part in drills at the Kadamovskiy firing range in the Rostov region in southern Russia, on Wednesday. *AP*

sion and the withdrawal of troops from Eastern Europe is proof of its perfidy.

Potential concessions are complicated by the fact neither Putin nor President Joe Biden wants to be seen as backing down before either domestic or foreign audiences.

The refusal thus far by each side to climb down from what the other regards as unrealistic and maximalist demands has left the prospects for diplomacy in limbo, with the US and its allies accus-

ing Russia of stoking tensions for no legitimate reason and the Russians complaining again that the Americans are the aggressors.

Some believe the situation will have to become even more dire before the impasse can be broken. "The gap in perceptions is so broad that a new and dangerous escalation could be necessary to make the parties open up their imagination and search for agreements," Fyodor Lukyanov, the head of the Moscow-based Council for

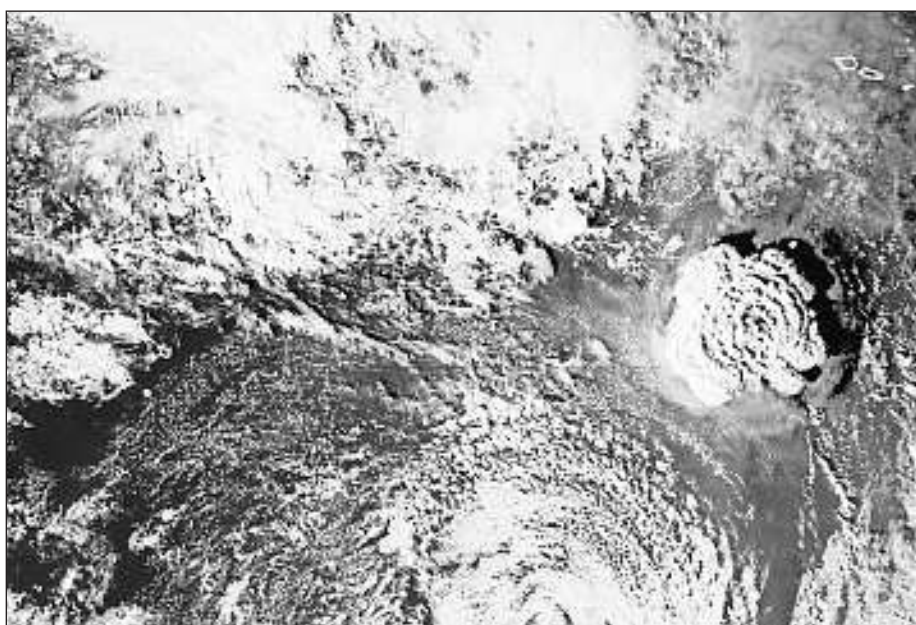
Foreign and Defense Policies, observed in a commentary.

For Western analysts, it seems a situation in which Putin will have to compromise if conflict is to be avoided. Some think Putin's focus on NATO, which has struggled for years with questions about its relevance, may have given the alliance a new lease on life.

"This is an extremely uncertain and tense period without an obvious way out unless Putin backs down," said Jeff Rathke, a Europe expert and former US diplomat who is currently president of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

US officials from Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and national security adviser Jake Sullivan to chief negotiator Wendy Sherman have said it is Russia that faces a "stark choice." De-escalate or face punishing sanctions and the opposite of what it wants: an increased NATO presence in Eastern Europe and a more well-armed Ukraine.

Yet in Russia, officials say the shoe is on the other foot. They have cast their demands as an "absolute imperative" and have argued that the Western failure to meet them makes talks on other issues irrelevant. **AP**



VOLCANO ERUPTION SEEN FROM SPACE

In this satellite image taken by Himawari-8, a Japanese weather satellite, shows an undersea volcano eruption at the Pacific nation of Tonga on Saturday, sending large tsunami waves crashing across the shore and people rushing to higher ground. A tsunami advisory was in effect for Hawaii, Alaska and the US Pacific coast, with reports of waves pushing boats up in the docks in Hawaii. There were no immediate reports of injuries or the extent of the damage. New Zealand's military said it was monitoring the situation and remained on standby, ready to assist if asked. *AP*

To boost economy, Pak to offer permanent residency scheme for rich foreigners

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, JANUARY 15

PAKISTAN HAS decided to offer a permanent residency scheme for wealthy foreign nationals, including Sikhs living in the US and Canada, Afghans and Chinese, to attract investment and boost its flagging economy and national growth, it emerged on Saturday.

Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry through an overnight tweet announced that the new scheme was in line with the new National Security Policy, which

was formally launched by Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday.

The *Express Tribune* reported that while sharing the background of the scheme, a key federal minister said that one of the purposes of opening the PR scheme was to attract rich Afghans, who were moving to Turkey, Malaysia and some other countries following the fall of Kabul last August.

In addition, the minister said, the scheme targets the Sikhs living in Canada and the US, who were willing to invest in religious sites, especially in Kartarpur Corridor but had no option to do so. **PTI**

Martin Shkreli barred from drug industry

Washington: A US judge on Friday barred Martin Shkreli from the pharmaceutical industry for life and ordered him to pay \$64.6 million after he famously raised the price of the drug Daraprim and fought to block generic competitors. US District Judge Denise Cote in Manhattan ruled after a trial where the US Federal Trade Commission and seven states had accused Shkreli, the founder of Vyeera Pharmaceuticals, of using illegal tactics to keep Daraprim rivals out of the market. Shkreli drew notoriety in 2015 after hiking Daraprim's price overnight to \$750 per tablet from \$17.50. **REUTERS**

MEANWHILE

#BETTYWHITECHALLENGE RAISES MONEY FOR ANIMALS

The late Betty White was a tireless lifetime advocate for animals, from caring for those without homes to launching her own weekly TV show, "The Pet Set," dedicated to her celebrity friends and their pets. Her most far-reaching contribution, though, may be yet to come: On Monday, fans of White will be poised to donate to animal welfare charities and shelters as part of what's been dubbed the #BettyWhiteChallenge.



Canadian minister to visit Ukraine, vows to deter Russian aggression

DAVID LJUNGREN
OTTAWA, JANUARY 15

CANADIAN FOREIGN Minister Melanie Joly will visit Kyiv next week to reaffirm support for Ukrainian sovereignty and reinforce efforts to deter "aggressive actions" by Russia, Ottawa said on Saturday.

Moscow has stationed more than 100,000 troops near the border with Ukraine and the United States said on Friday it feared Russia was preparing a pretext to invade if diplomacy failed to meet its objectives.

Canada, with a sizeable and politically influential population of Ukrainian ethnic descent, has taken a hard line with Moscow since the annexation of Crimea in 2014.

"The amassing of Russian troops and equipment in and around Ukraine jeopardises security in the entire region. These aggressive actions must be deterred," Joly said in a statement.

"Canada will work with its partners to uphold the rules-based international order," Joly will meet Ukrainian PM Denys Shmygal and travel to the west of the country to speak to a 200-strong Canadian training mission that has been there since 2015. Joly will also meet NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in Brussels during her trip starting Sunday. **REUTERS**

India's position on Nepal boundary consistent: Embassy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

THE INDIAN embassy in Kathmandu said on Saturday that India's position on its boundary with Nepal is well-known, consistent and unambiguous amid discontent within the Opposition parties over reports claiming that the Indian government is undertaking construction activities in areas that Nepal has included in its map.

This comes days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent announcement to expand the road across the Lipulekh area, which Nepal claims its own.

Addressing an election rally organised by the BJP at Haldwani in Uttarakhand on December 30, Modi had announced that his government is further widening the road built in the Nepali territory of Lipulekh.

Nepal has already protested the Indian government's ongoing construction of roads in the Lipulekh and Kalapani areas.

The statement of the Indian Embassy came days after Nepal's main Opposition Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML) urged Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba to speak up on the boundary issue and make its position clear on Lipulekh.

sition clear on Lipulekh.

"The UML unwaveringly believes that construction of roads and other structures should be stopped. The issue should be resolved through dialogue and no structure should be built at the state-level until a resolution is reached," read the statement by Rajan Bhattarai, the UML's foreign department head.

In response to media queries over the recent reports and statements in Nepal on the question of the India-Nepal boundary, the spokesperson of the Indian Embassy said, "The Government of India's position on the India-Nepal boundary is consistent and unambiguous. It has been communicated to the Government of Nepal".

In November last year, Rajnath Singh said in Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand that there was an attempt to create misapprehensions in Nepal about a road from Lipulekh Pass to Mansarovar through Dharchula that was inaugurated by him recently.

The Lipulekh pass is a far western point near Kalapani, a border area between Nepal and India. Both India and Nepal claim Kalapani as an integral part of their territory — India as part of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district and Nepal as part of Dharchula district.

Cloth masks not as effective as others, clarifies U.S. CDC

THE NEW YORK TIMES
JANUARY 15

THE CENTERS for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday clarified its stance on various kinds of masks, acknowledging that the cloth masks frequently worn by Americans do not offer as much protection as surgical masks or respirators.

While this disparity is widely known to the general public, the update marks the first time the CDC has explicitly addressed the differences. The agency's website also no longer refers to a shortage of respirators.

The change comes as infections with the highly contagious Omicron variant continue to soar. Some experts have said that cloth masks are inadequate to protect from the variant, and have urged the CDC to recommend respirators for ordinary citizens.

The agency did not go that far. Its updated language now says that "a respirator may be considered in certain situations and by certain people when greater protection is needed or desired."

The previous version of the recommendations said individuals may choose to use a disposable N95 respirator instead of a mask "when supplies are available."

The CDC, also said regular surgical masks were "an acceptable alternative" for doctors and nurses when interacting with a patient infected with the coronavirus — a move that angered medical personnel.

Critics charged that the recommendations were based not on what would best protect Americans, and were instead prompted by a shortage of N95 respirators.

When the CDC finally recommended masks for ordinary Americans, it emphasised cloth

EXPLAINED

Changing advice

THE ADVICE on masking by global health agencies such as the CDC and WHO has evolved with the pandemic, and has reflected the agencies' understanding of the nature of the threat from the virus at those particular times. In the beginning of 2020, most agencies said people who were not already sick did not need to wear masks. The CDC then said cloth "face coverings" were enough, and subsequently said ordinary people could wear N95 masks when available. At that time the concern in the US and elsewhere in the world was that a rush for these masks would create a shortage for the doctors and healthcare professionals who really needed them.

face coverings. It took months more for the CDC and the WHO to concede that the coronavirus can be carried by tiny droplets called aerosols, which can linger indoors for hours.

According to the CDC's new description of masks, loosely woven cloth products provide the least protection and layered finely woven products offer more. Well-fitting disposable surgical masks and KN95s — another type of respirator mask — are more protective than all cloth masks, and well-fitting respirators, including N95s, offer the highest level of protection.

The agency urged Americans to "wear the most protective mask you can that fits well and that you will wear consistently."

BIDEN TEAM REGROUPS AFTER COURT LOSS ON COVID SHOTS-OR-TEST

Washington: Concerned but not giving up, President Joe Biden is anxiously pushing ahead to prod people to get Covid-19 shots after the Supreme Court put a halt to the administration's sweeping vaccinate-or-test plan for large employers. The administration hopes states and companies will order their own vaccinate-or-test requirements. Meanwhile, the White House announced on Friday that the federal website where Americans can request their own free Covid tests will begin accepting orders next Wednesday. Those tests could provide motivation for some people to seek vaccination, and the administration is looking to address nationwide shortages. **AP**

OMICRON DETECTED IN BEIJING, JUST WEEKS BEFORE OLYMPICS

Beijing: Officials in Beijing on Saturday reported the city's first case of the Omicron variant, prompting authorities to order an immediate lockdown and mass testing in one neighborhood just three weeks before the opening of the Winter Olympics. An official from Haidian District in western Beijing said the authorities had temporarily cordoned off the infected person's residential compound and workplace. Health officials collected 2,430 samples for testing from people linked to the locations. **NYT**

UNDER A NEW DECREE, ALL WEB TRAFFIC WILL BE ROUTED THROUGH A GOVERNMENT PORTAL, CRACKDOWN LIKELY TO GET WORSE

Cambodia's internet scrutiny may soon be like China's — state-controlled

CHARLES MCDERMID
PHNOM PENH, JANUARY 15

THE DAY Kea Sokun was arrested in Cambodia, four men in plain clothes showed up at his photography shop near Angkor Wat and carted him off to the police station. Kea Sokun, who is also a popular rapper, had released two songs on YouTube, and the men said they needed to know why he'd written them.

"They kept asking me: 'Who is behind you? What party do you vote for?'" Sokun said. "I told them, 'I have never even voted, and no one controls me.'"

The 23-year-old artist, who says his songs are about everyday

struggles in Cambodia, was sentenced to 18 months in an overcrowded prison after a judge found him guilty of inciting social unrest with his lyrics. His case is part of a crackdown in which dozens have been sent to jail for posting jokes, poems, pictures, private messages and songs on the internet.

The ramped-up scrutiny reflects an increasingly restrictive digital environment in Cambodia, where a new law will allow the authorities to monitor all web traffic in the country. Critics say that the decree puts Cambodia on a growing list of countries that have embraced China's authoritarian model of internet surveillance, from Vietnam to Turkey, and that

it will deepen the clash over the future of the web.

Cambodia's National Internet Gateway, set to begin operating on February 16, will send all internet traffic, including from abroad, through a government-run portal. The gateway, which is mandatory for all service providers, gives state regulators the means to "prevent and disconnect all network connections that affect national income, security, social order, morality, culture, traditions and customs."

But rights groups say that the new law will make it even easier for the authorities to monitor and punish online content, and that the recent arrests are meant to further intimidate citizens into self-cen-



Kak Sovann Chhay, son of an opposition politician, was released from a Cambodian prison in November after being jailed for comments he made in a Telegram chat group. *NYT*

sorship in a country where free speech is enshrined in the Constitution. "The authorities are

emboldened by China as an example of an authoritarian state that gives Cambodia political cover and

financial resources," said Sopha Ear, a dean at the Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University.

The Cambodian authorities have defended the decree as essential for peace and security, dismissing allegations of censorship or any notion that freedom of speech is under threat. "There is a free press in Cambodia and freedom on the internet," said Phay Siphon, the chief government spokesman. "We encourage people to use the internet, up until it becomes incitement."

Prime Minister Hun Sen, who has been in power since 1985 and shown great zeal when publicly condemning his political rivals, ap-

pears eager to transfer his opprobrium to the digital era.

When a former monk and activist posted a disparaging poem about the loss of the nation's forests on the PM's Facebook page, Hun Sen described the act as "extremist" and ordered police to hunt the monk down.

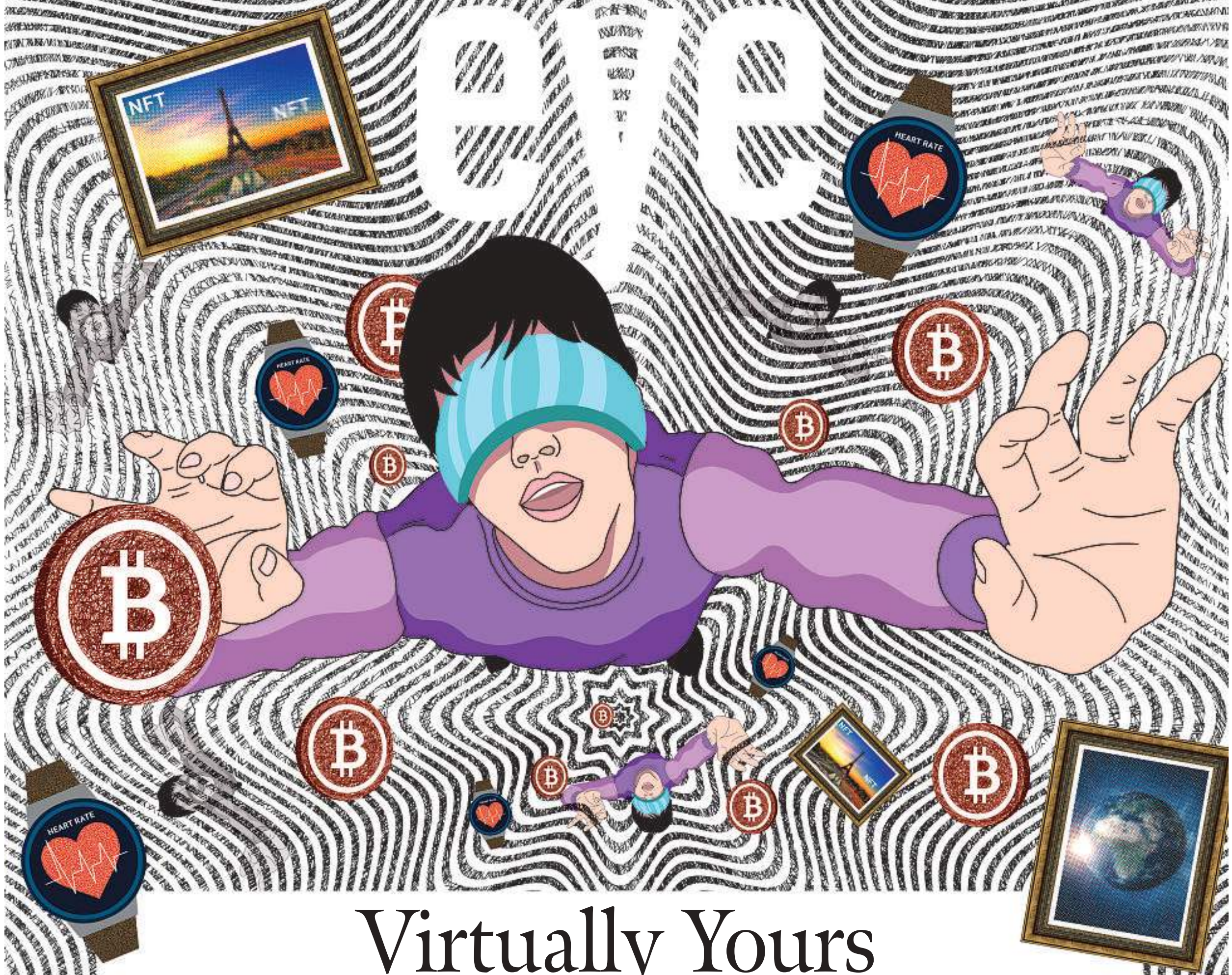
Of more than 30 arrests made over digital content since 2020, the most publicised one involved an autistic 16-year-old who was released in November. The teenager, Kak Sovann Chhay, had been jailed for comments he made in a chat group on Telegram, the private messaging app. His father, a senior member of the opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party,

which has been outlawed, was in prison at the same time. He had been jailed in 2020 for criticising Hun Sen on Facebook, where the PM has over 13 million followers.

Last week, three local journalists were charged and detained for incitement over a report on land dispute that they posted on Facebook.

Kea Sokun was released in October after serving 12 months in prison. "Khmer Land," one of the songs that got him arrested, now has more than 4.4 million views on YouTube, and Kea Sokun is already working on his next album. "I'm not angry, but I know what happened to me is unfair," he said. "I won't say I'm sorry," Kea Sokun said, "and I never will." **NYT**

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE



Virtually Yours

Are we letting mixed reality ruin our sense of balance and connect in the real world?

Rinku Ghosh

METAKOVAN, THE NEW czar of the virtual metropolis Origin City, with a purple crown, held a grand party last year to celebrate his most prized art acquisition, a series of images worth \$2.2 million (more than Rs 16 crore approx.) by American digital artist Beeple (real name, Mike Winkelmann). Guests danced on the floor of his new gallery or floated above it through gravity-defying abilities. Not only did he show off his collection, he sold tokens, giving buyers a stake in his art pieces.

MetaKovan is the digital avatar of the real-life cryptocurrency investor Vignesh Sundaresan, who operates and lives in the metaverse, an inter-connected three-dimensional (3D) virtual world, where people can network socially and commercially with one another. In this digital universe, he is building his own art gallery and has enough worth to bid \$69 million for another Beeple piece at British auction house Christie's. It was the first time a major auction house sold a digital artwork in the form of a new crypto asset called a Non-Fungible Token (NFT), a non-transferable, digital certificate of ownership. But Singapore-based Sundaresan is not the only one living a dual life. Multiverse-living, where you juggle between the real world and an alternate reality, is taking over humankind.

South Korea officially has a "Metaverse Seoul" complete with cultural events, tourist sites, parks where you can run with Nike's digital sneakers and even have avatar (a digital self) officials solving governance issues. A couple from the US got married, late last year, in metaverse, where they were physically absent, but digitally present. People are buying yachts and real estate in a virtual dream life, while big corporations are creating their avatar subsidiaries.

The problem with creating another sphere of reality is just that — it is created. It's a man-made extension of wish fulfillment, where things are valued according to mutually-agreed-upon covenants and assessment over actual utility and purpose. Simply put, what you can't get in the here and now, you can get in a parallel universe by willfully surrendering to a myth of your own making.

Psychologists and social scientists across the world are now worried if the human mind can process conflicting binaries and retain its balance. With a headset, will there be a willing suspension of disbelief?

Psychiatrists and behavioural scientists are already predicting a loss of our emotional quotient (EQ), a loss of individuality, and a dulling of our sensitivities. Socialising through holograms, implanted chips that monitor everything from health to our whereabouts, downloading of brain waves on computers for simulating our real-life thought patterns and robot companions (humanoids) are a reality today.

For the first time, the human brain is not enough to respond and adapt to the pace of the digital invasion. Will we become super-humans or humanoid robots? And most importantly, what happens to the present, real moment, and what will be the psychological impact of this dual reality?



Arianna Chaudhuri and Disha Sharma, 13-year-olds from Gurugram, have been childhood friends, given to sleepovers at each other's homes. But the pandemic pushed them to engage with devices. With limited physical interaction, they bonded and shared notes online, signed up for games where they joined another community of players their age. Their parents did not realise the absorptive web they had been drawn into until they met physically for the first time when the lockdown ended last year. "For the two, who earlier went out cycling and swimming together, there was no enthusiasm to go out or even have a normal conversation. They sat awkwardly till I told them they could play games online. I saw them retreat into a corner with their devices and have animated conversations over it. They even practised teen-makeup with an online group. It troubled me that they needed devices to connect with each other," says Radhika Chaudhuri, Arianna's mother, a single parent, who works in an MNC.

But such cases are piling up on the desk of Sandeep Vohra, digital mental health specialist at Apollo Hospitals, Delhi. "Digitalisation has changed the way we react and behave. Since meeting on a social platform is easier than in person, our language of communication has changed, so have our responses to intimacy," he says. He also warns of how this new socialisation is widening the generation gap as most seniors are digitally averse and still rely on one-on-one interaction.

Vohra adds that the pressures of a dual life are already changing the brain patterns in people. "There is an emotional numbing,

especially among young people. Everything is click-based. Emojis, particularly in a metaverse situation, are the accepted ways of expression today. This over-dependence on living in an artificially formatted universe reduces one's evolutionary capacity in the real world. I have had cases where the digitally addicted have great difficulty in performing their roles and duties in the real world. This manifests as anxiety disorders and depression, simply because you don't like the present reality. This is because gamification leads to predictable formats of problem-solving," says Vohra.

Currently, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) cases are on the rise, attributable to the addition to gadgets, porn and gaming. It's not uncommon to hear people complain of physical disorientation, hallucinations, erratic sleep cycles and personality disorders.

Chennai-based psychiatrist Mohan Raj has young patients, who are so involved in

mental disorders. It will also upend social structures by creating a new division of digital haves and have-nots. "In the digital sphere, everything is perceived visually, there's no touch and feel. This dulls empathy and emotions anyway," says Raj. So, while you could live in isolationist bubbles in the real world, the very nature of metaverse means that you are part of a group behaviour and are subject to peer pressure. Psychologists see this as subservience to technology but creators and innovators see this as a technology that can enhance our lives.

A metaverse also breeds its own elitism. For example, one might not be able to afford an entry to a big-ticket concert in real life but can do the same as a digital avatar. Like Sundaresan, you could live the millionaire's dream, betting big on cryptocurrencies, building huge stacks of notional money, collecting NFTs, socialising with diverse online communities, making up for all that is lacking in the present moment. And the best part of this tradeable life is that there is no timeline to our digital avatars, they are timeless, ageless and forever happy. Many consider this escapist matrix as a coping mechanism and for some, it's a form of empowerment. They would rather be defined by their digital avatars as it allows them their El Dorado moment without an expiry date.

"People who are in it will increasingly use it to boost their offline self-worth," says Awdesh Saxena, a Noida-based techie, who ventures into metaverse regularly and says people haven't seen its full potential yet. "The alternative world enhances your power of choice and allows a democracy that doesn't exist. If you are an avatar citizen, it is very difficult to engage with non-avatars and convince them about what innovation can do. This knowledge gap obviously has an impact on people around you in the real world," he adds. Simply put, if you have not uploaded your life, you have not arrived yet. Could this, then, mean yet another consumerist society in the making?



The metaverse is the latest hunting ground for brands. With almost 16 per cent of worldwide gamers, India's user base is a captive market. Some leading brands already have their metaverse collections, with Adidas selling about 30,000 NFTs for 0.2 Ethereum (equivalent to \$800 or Rs 59,000)

Psychologists across the world are now worried if the human mind can process conflicting binaries and retain its balance. With a headset, will there be a willing suspension of disbelief?

role-playing in the gaming world that hyper reality has swamped their real lives. "People tend to underestimate the damaging impact of 3D images and how violent games can desensitise people. An avid gamer who came in for a consultation had begun to dream about the games, fantasise, ruminate and talk about them all the time. He had become prone to road rage, as well," says Raj.

Vohra sees metaverse radically impacting brain development, blunting creative thinking and higher intelligence as it tends to encourage homogeneity. "For younger children, the AR/VR (Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality) scenario could impact language development. Worst, it could trap their individuality and turn them into mimics, under pressure to conform to a 'cool' image," says Vohra.



This paradigm shift in human responses is not just a precursor of multidimensional

each and gaining \$22 million worth of cryptocurrency. It has also bought up "meta" lands for its many avatar outlets.

This new gold rush is being used by global celebrities to extend their influencer ability, as well. So, while the likes of footballer Lionel Messi and socialite Paris Hilton are busy launching their NFTs, in India, it is actor Amitabh Bachchan's NFT collection that has been sold for \$9.66,000.

Bachchan's NFT collectible series includes his voice rendition of his father Hariwansh Rai Bachchan's famous poem *Madhushala* (1935), and autographed vintage posters of himself. Blockchain technology almost blocks out piracy, making celebrities feel confident about connecting with their fans that much more intimately while monetising their existing brand worth in crypto terms. Not only that, every transaction and sale automatically gives them royalty too. For the user, picking up celebrity memorabilia, which is almost impossible in the real world, celebrity and brand NFTs catapult him/her to an exclusive club of ownership and a celebrityhood of one's own.

As in all things in the metaverse, the fluidity of lifeline experiences blurs boundaries of who controls whom. Does this then mean that humans have lost their power of agency? "The definition of insanity is a break from reality. Aren't we just escaping our present reality, becoming unhinged in the process? We must reclaim our right to exit a world of make-believe," says Vohra. He believes that metaverse developers, creators and innovators should interact with doctors and scientists to harness technology in a manner that leads to human progress rather than degeneration.

Already, the growing financial muscle of cryptocurrency, NFTs and their exchange value in the real world have a pervasive acceptability, one which has spurred talks of a legal regulatory framework that the Indian government is carefully mulling over.

Raj, who has come across many cases of Alexa (Amazon's cloud-based voice service), eavesdropping on conversations with unpleasant consequences, feels that Artificial Intelligence (AI) needs to be access-controlled and deployed selectively in a manner that it doesn't impinge upon human consciousness, emotional stability or relationships. It is for this reason that we need to develop digital literacy and hygiene early on, something that scientists are now saying should be introduced in the school syllabi, to define the limits of engagement. Imagined reality in the end is just that, imagined. Take the headsets off and it vaporises. That's when the human touch seems comforting. The one real thing.

ILLUSTRATION: BHUSHARA



New Delhi



DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

A Cat and Dog Tale

Who’s the strongest, wisest and warmest of them all?

EVER SINCE they separated from their common ancestor, some 43 million years ago, cats and dogs have been at each other’s throats. It is said that there have been cat people and dog people ever since the Stone Age. Down In Jungleland (DIJ) asks representatives of the two species about their opinion of each other:

DIJ: Why do you both think that you are the superior species? After all, you have the same common ancestor.

Cat: We are superior! We are cleaner, more independent, more intelligent, better-looking and more of us are kept as pets than old bow-wow here, and his ilk!

Dog: More intelligent? Bah! How many of you track down criminals, sniff out drugs and bombs or help rescue humans buried under rubble or lead the blind? We’re much warmer, more affectionate, and sensitive and take our owners for walks three times a day so they keep fit! We know how to make ourselves and them, happy. You are cold, calculating and selfish! If more people keep cats as pets than dogs, it’s only because people no longer care too much about anyone apart from themselves, which is why the world is in such a hostile place today.

Cat: The only reason why you fawn over humans is because they have control over the supply of biscuits!

Dog: FYI, my owner made chicken soup the other day and all the cats in the colony landed up on his doorstep loudly mewling away.

DIJ: The first reaction of any dog on seeing a cat is to chase it. Why do you do that?

Dog: It’s in our genes: if it runs, chase it! And the first reaction of Kitty-Galore here on seeing us is to run! By the way, pussy, there are so many more breeds of ours than of yours, so, don’t talk to me about good looks.

Cat: Yeah, from those that resemble hairless rats to those that look like hairless elephants and those that have run headfirst into locomotives!

DIJ: It is true that when a cat owner gets back home from work in the evening, his or her cat is quite likely to walk out of the door with its head held up, with nary a greeting, while dogs greet you like a long-lost friend.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

FIFTY SHADES OF LOVE

Can cats and dogs live happily ever after?

Cat: So needy both of you are, no? Always wanting to be petted and cosseted. We don’t mind being left home alone all day but yes, once you get back, it’s our turn to go about and paint the town red.

Dog: Go out so you can kill birds. Do you know you are the biggest threat to avian life?

Cat: We hunt. And often we will bring back our kills for our human owners who are incapable of doing so.

Dog: Yeah, like everyone appreciates a butchered rat on their pillow! Like an after-dinner mint!

Cat: And what do foxhounds do to the poor fox?

Dog: Fox hunting has been mostly banned now. Besides, they’re only obeying orders, which is more than what you are capable of doing.

Cat: We are beholden to no one!

Dog: Except chicken soup.

Cat: We have been held in high esteem by humankind since forever. The Egyptians, poets and writers — Charles Baudelaire, Pablo Neruda, Ted Hughes, Mark Twain, Doris Lessing, Charles Dickens... So many writers can only write if there’s a cat on their lap. We are the original lap-tops! Our purring soothes nerves! Your bark shatters Gorilla Glass!

Dog: High esteem? Bah! Why do people cross the road when they see a black cat coming their way?

Cat: Out of respect! There are so many famous cats: Puss in Boots; Tom, the Cheshire Cat; the Chief Mouser at No.10; Garfield...Who do you have: White Fang?

Dog: Too many to name, actually, and I’m not into name-dropping. So many have got bravery awards from the armed forces and police... There was Hachiko, the Japanese Akita, who waited outside a railway station for nine years for his dead master to return.

Cat: What a dumb-ass!

Dog (growling): Hey, who are you calling a dumb-ass?

Cat (yowling): Who do you think, bow-wow?

Dog: Ever noticed how in the films, all the evil bosses usually hold and stroke cats, while plotting the end of the world? They know a kindred spirit!

Cat (spits and snarls): Buster, your world is going to end pretty soon if you don’t shut up.

DIJ: Hey, cool your jets, guys. Next week, we will talk about your wild relatives: tigers, wolves and so on. But you know, there are so many YouTube videos showing cats and dogs living together happily in the same home. It’s so wonderful to see! What do you think of those?

Cat and Dog (together): Fake news or they have been lobotomised!



PHOTOS COURTESY THE CSMVS COLLECTION

Benita Fernando

AFTER MORE than a decade’s wait, a museum was set to be inaugurated in 1921 as a memorial to the Prince of Wales. Built in the Indo-Saracenic style, the memorial would have art, archaeology and science sections, and represent the Bombay Presidency and Sind, and the “Oriental region”.

However, when Edward VIII, the Prince of Wales, landed in Bombay in November 1921, he was greeted by non-cooperationists and riots that lasted three days. To the great disappointment of the museum trustees, the royal inauguration did not materialise. Then on January 10, 1922, the memorial was inaugurated by the collector of Bombay, JP Brander, and the wife of the governor, Lady Lloyd. With no prince in attendance, the memorial fulfilled its destiny as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India.

The museum, renamed Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), Kala Ghoda, is currently home to 70,000 objects, 26 galleries, and exhibition spaces that match international standards — all of which are managed by a staff of 220. The much sought-after destination attracted a footfall of 10 lakh annually pre-pandemic — tourists, picnickers, school students, art historians, painters and zoologists. It celebrates its centenary this year.

In the pandemic, CSMVS was shut for 16 months, and has survived solely on patronage. It’s a strong reminder of its tumultuous origins. Soon after it was completed in 1914, it let go of its intended purpose and operated as Lady Hardinge Hospital for Indian soldiers in World War I. It did the same during the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918–20. During World War II, the main building, of the otherwise functional museum, was closed for five years to allow the Red Cross to function.

“The history of CSMVS is the history of Mumbai,” says Sabyasachi Mukherjee, its 57-year-old director. “It was largely people who contributed to the making of the museum. It’s a history that has fortunately continued in today’s Mumbai,” he says.

Mukherjee often describes CSMVS as “by the people, for the people”. To start with, the museum opened with a bequest. Ratanji Tata, son of industrialist Jamsetji Tata, had a significant art collection with noteworthy objects, such as *The Sword of Damocles* (1804) painting by Antoine Dubost, Mughal emperor

100 WAYS TO SEE THE WORLD

As Mumbai’s Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya celebrates its centenary, a look at how it tells us stories of our shared humanity



Akbar’s armour and shield, and folios from an illustrated manuscript of *Nala-Damayanti* from 1699. TR Doongaji, a trustee of the museum and former managing director of Tata Services Ltd, writes in the Tata Central Archives newsletter in 2021 that of the 5,700 objects at the time of the museum’s opening, over 70 per cent came from this bequest. A decade later, another bequest followed — Dorabji Tata’s, Ratanji’s elder brother. It had rare pieces from the Ming dynasty, European paintings, and personal memorabilia. These together form the Tata Collection, which celebrates its centenary alongside the museum.

“In some parts of India, museums are referred to as *ajayab ghar*, a place for curios. We have to move with the times, otherwise youngsters think it’s a dead space,” says



FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE

(Clockwise from top) A painting of the military procession of the Golconda court of Abdullah Qutb Shah from the mid-17th century; the Ashokan Edict No 9 from about 250 BC, discovered in Nala Sopara, Thane; the CSMVS building in Kala Ghoda, Mumbai

Manisha Nene, director of galleries and general administration at CSMVS.

She cites the instance of CSMVS’s Himalayan Art Gallery, which had great examples of the region’s culture, but once saw few footfalls. Visitors had curiosity but lacked context. To solve the problem, the team spent time in Ladakh and nearby regions, and introduced prayer wheels, audio-visual guides and even a *gompa* in the gallery. Footfalls rose gradually.

CSMVS was the first Indian museum to introduce audio guides, an idea devised by Kalpana Desai, who became its director in 1996. She recalls, “The museum was centred only around scholars, researchers and curators. We tried to make it a more public-oriented institution.” Now based out of Vadodara, Desai says, much of her time as the director

‘When I make a work, I tap into the things that I don’t see’

Bharti Kher, 52, on her latest exhibition, the inherited histories of objects and being a chronicler of the future

Vandana Kalra

The title of your exhibition ‘Strange Attractors’ (at Nature Morte gallery, New Delhi, till February 6) refers to a mathematical concept within the Chaos Theory. Is it also influenced by the chaos around?

In the past 20 years or so, there has been a more sustained and accessible crossover between physics, other sciences, say astronomy, creative thinking and the arts. As an artist, I have always been keen to talk about the ephemeral. When I make a work, I am trying to tap into the things that I don’t see. When I was around eight, my art teacher taught me how to see the space around an object and how this defines the very object itself. That fundamentally changed my way of looking at the world. My work is about the unity of opposites and its inherent contradiction.

You have often used the technique of body casting. This exhibition has *Pieta* (2018), which is a cast of your mother. In *Six Women* (2013–15) you cast sex workers from Sonagachi, Kolkata.

Can a body carry many narratives, even the ones that don’t belong to it, like that of your ancestors? When I was casting the sex workers, I was aware of the difference between empathy and exploitation. The women said exactly the same thing that my mother said after seeing their own cast — ‘It’s just a body’. We are often so critical of our bodies as women but in the cast, we are more forgiving.

I believe the mannequins you use are similar to what your mother had at her textile store in the UK.

My father was a textile merchant and my mother had her own textile shop, so I grew up with an understanding and love of textiles. Some years ago, I saw mannequins at a studio



ABHINAV SAHA

of an artist friend in Bengaluru and asked him for them. They reminded me of the mannequins my mother used at her shop in the ’70s, fantastically painted, voluptuous with small waists. The body has changed a lot now. It is interesting that the perspective of how the body is supposed to look also changes with time.

You also work a lot with found objects.

If you want to know a new place, walk the streets! Old Delhi was and is still my favourite. I used to go to Chor Bazar a lot and still have much of what I bought from there. My first *bindi* supplier is also in Sadar Bazar.

I feel objects are animate like us. They have inherited histories. I like to think when I change an object, I sometimes rid it of its past. In this exhibition, *Cloak for MM* is a homage to my friend Mrinalini Mukherjee. She was a great artist and a collector and wearer of the most fantastic textiles, and these are her saris that I have used. The sense here is that the body is cloaked, she could become invisible and also reappear at will. It’s also a shroud.

In 2010, you started a 30-year project called ‘The Virus Series’, where you

INSIDE OUT

(Above) Bharti Kher; *A Natural Unity of Opposites*, 2021, mixed media — an installation from her latest show, ‘Strange Attractors’



PHOTO COURTESY THE ARTIST AND NATURE MORTE

decided to make one *bindi* work each year with a text. What prompted this?

The series is an amalgamation of many interests. At first, I had envisioned it as a single piece in 2008. I realised that the work had

potential as a vortex, a space to enter my world. I started developing the work further and writing the text, which changes every year. It performs like a timeline that marks events and possibilities for Earth. It refers to space research, science, current affairs, politics, and events that mark our lives and at the end of each paragraph, I add my age to mark the work in time. I’ve shown 11 works so far.

I started when I was 40, and thought 30 years is a good span, until I’m 70. Part of the text for *Virus XII*, 2021, says, “Male birth control pills will be made available, making this the most significant contraceptive for men since the condom. New hybrid fully autonomous flying cars will be seen in the skies, avoiding traffic congestion on the roads.” Some of my predictions have been absurdly wrong and some are quite accurate. *Virus 2022* will be shown at the Arnolfini gallery in Bristol, the UK.

Over the years, the *bindi* has emerged as your pigment.

The *bindi* has evolved as a code, a language I have invented. It is a symbol of consciousness which can be a physical representation of a person’s third, inner eye, and it also carries feminist readings. I continue to develop this further.

If you could talk about the origins of the ‘Intermediaries series’ of hybrid sculptures made with *golu* dolls.

Hybridity in my works have been a part of my language since my early years in college, where my paintings were all about hybrid beings, half man-half horse, and so on. In 2003, I started making a series of works called the “Hybrid Series”, right after my daughter was born. I got these clay dolls from south India. They came to my studio in a massive crate after a year of collecting, but most were broken on the way. At first, I thought it was a terrible waste but suddenly it seemed fantastic. I started reattaching parts to each other and then breaking them in halves and joining them together, creating possibilities of half and half. I made hundreds of them over a few years. Now, I am making the most ambitious piece: an 18-ft bronze work that will be outside Central Park, New York, in September. It’s called *Ancestor*.

Longer interview on www.indianexpress.com

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, चाईबासा

शुद्धि पत्र

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित अल्पकालीन ई० निविदा सूचना संख्या – DWSD/Chaibasa 13/ MVS/Lisimoti WSS / 2021-22, दिनांक 04.01.2022 तथा जिसका PR संख्या PR 261073 West Singhbhum(21-22)#D है, में परिहार्य कारणवश निम्नलिखित संशोधन किया जाता है, शेष शर्त यथावत् रहेगी।

क्रमांक	Clause	पूर्व में प्रकाशित	संशोधित
8	बीड प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 24.01.2022, समय 4.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।	दिनांक 01.02.2022, समय 4.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
9	बैंक गारंटी एवं परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य जमा करने की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	दिनांक 25.01.2022, समय 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक। कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, चाईबासा / अधीक्षण अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता अंचल, चाईबासा / क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, राँची प्रक्षेत्र राँची	दिनांक 02.02.2022, समय 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक। कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, चाईबासा / अधीक्षण अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता अंचल, चाईबासा / क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, राँची
10	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 27.01.2022, समय 4.00 बजे अपराह्न।	दिनांक 04.02.2022, समय 4.00 बजे अपराह्न।

PR 261737 West Singhbhum(21-22)D

Rajasthan Council of School Education

S, Radhakrishnan Shiksha Sankul, Block No. 5, IInd Floor, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur

No. RCSCE/Jpr/CT/Training/2021/6911 Dated: 5/1/2022
Corrigendum (NIB: 08/2021-22)
Request for Proposal (RFP) for EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PROVISION FOR EMPANELMENT AS TRAINING PARTNERS FOR PROVIDING COMPUTER TRAINING TO TEACHERS IN THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS OF RAJASTHAN is amended and invited up to 05:00 PM of dated 17.01.2022. Other details may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state; and "www.rajssma.nic.in" Department website.
UBN- RSE2122SLOB00295
राज.सं.द.व./सी/ 10492 / 2021-2022 State Project Director

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, झुमरीतिलैया

शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय के निविदा संख्या **34/JMT/ 2021-22**, पीआर नं० **261634** के द्वारा प्रकाशित अल्पकालीन ई –निविदा (द्वितीय आमंत्रण) को अल्पकालीन ई– निविदा (प्रथम आमंत्रण) समझा जाय।

शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेगी। (ई० चन्द्रशेखर)
कार्यपालक अभियंता,
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल,
झुमरीतिलैया।
PR.NO.261712 Drinking Water and Sanitation(21-22):D

REGISTRATION OF VENDORS DATABASE FOR SUPPLY OF DENTAL/MEDICAL STORES FOR FY 2022 23 AT COMMAND MILITARY DENTAL CENTRE (NC), C/O 56 APO

1. Vendors/Firms are invited to get themselves registered with Command Military Dental Centre (NC), C/O 56 APO for the supply of General medicines, Surgical and non surgical items, Disposables/Consumables/ Expendable/ Non Expendable Dental Stores to be purchased by this Dental Centre for the FY 2022-23.

2. Log in ID & registration details on Defense Procurement Portal for e-procurement will only be considered.

Interested vendors/firm/companies should forward their application with all required connecting documents by registered post to:-
Commandant, CMDC (NC) C/O 56 APO, PIN - 903617

Last Date for submission of application is 10 Feb 2022

REGISTRATION OF VENDORS DATABASE FOR SUPPLY OF DENTAL/MEDICAL STORES FOR FY 2022-23 AT 16 CORPS DENTAL UNIT, C/O 56 APO

1. Vendors/Firms are invited to get themselves registered with 16 CDU, C/O 56 APO for the supply of General medicines, Surgical items, Disposables/ Consumables/ Expendable/ Non Expendable Dental Stores to be purchased by this Dental Unit for the FY 2022-23.

2. Vendors/firms so interested may apply with submission of valid Drug License, GST Registration certificate, PAN No., Income Tax Returns/Annual turnover certificate for last 3 years, Ownership/ Address proof, ECS Mandate form and Cancelled cheque, Certificate of dealership of various companies in original Proof of previous registration with Defense/Central/State Govt. hospital (if any), Mobile No email ID and Photograph of applicant.

3. Log in ID & registration details on Defense Procurement Portal for e-procurement will only be considered.

Interested vendors/firm/companies should forward their application with above documents on respective letter heads by registered post to:- CO, 16 CDU C/O 56 APO, Pin - 903516
Last Date for submission of application is 15 Feb 2022

Office of the Executive Engineer Road Construction Department, Road Division, Garhwa.

e-Procurement Notice
For National Competitive Bidding, (Very Short Tender)
e-Tender Reference No. : RCD/GARHWA/33/2021-22 Date:-11.01.2022

1.	Name of the work	Construction of H.L. Bridge over Puregarha River at Ch. 9th Km. of Ranka-Ramkanda Road under Road Division, Garhwa
2a.	Approximate Value of Work	Rs. 3,82,41,332.00 (Rupees Three crore Eighty Two Lac Forty One thousand Three hundred Thirty Two) only.
b.	Bid Security*	Rs. 3,83,000.00 (Rupees Three Lac Eighty Three Thousand) only.
3.	Time of Completion	15 (Fifteen) Months.
4.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids	28-01-2022, 12.00 Noon
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	19-01-2022, 10.30 A.M
6.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Garhwa Pin Code - 822114
7.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	06561-295161
8.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Note:- The Bid Amount & Bid security will be decrease or increase.
Further details can be seen on website <http://jarkhand tenders.gov.in>

UCAN registration is mandatory for the bidders who are already registered in appropriate class with road construction department Govt. of Jharkhand.
Executive Engineer,
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Garhwa.
PR 261742 Road(21-22)#D

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE
NO. ECR-CAO-C-N-ETN-34-21-22
E-TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDER MENTIONED WORK.

S.N. : 1. Name of work with it's location : Construction of station building at Pipra, Kuria halt and Bangari halt, construction of retaining wall development of circulating area, renovation of Dy. CE/Con/HJP-1 & PWIC/TD office at HJP, Raising of Platform No. 1 at Sarai and other allied misc. works between Mehshi (excluding) to Jiwadhara (including) section in connection with MFP-SGL doubling project. 2. Approx. cost of the work : Rs. 24,72,57,709.06. 3. Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 13,86,300.00, 4. Date and time for closing of tender : 08.02.2022 at 14.30 hrs. 5. Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and addressed of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc. : The above E-Tender, E-tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.irops.gov.in>. Note: In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.irops.gov.in> at least 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc. in response to this E-tender.

CAO/Con/North
EC Rly, MMX, Patna
PR/01509/CON/ENGG/T21-22/40

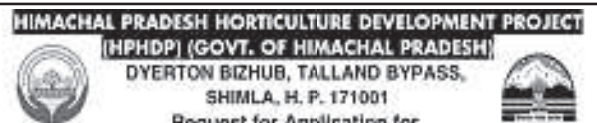
SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one lady namely **Seema with her girl 06 years old named Sangeeta W/o Amar Singh R/o H.No. 1213, Baba Haridass Colony Tikri Kalan, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 20.11.2014 from the area of P.S. Mundka Delhi. In this regard a case vides **FIR No. 569 dated 21.11.2014** has been registered at PS, Mundka, Delhi. The description of missing/ kidnapped lady is as under,

Name : Seema, Husband's Name : Amar Singh, Age : 30 years, Height : 5'1", Face : Round, Complexion : Shallow, Wearing : Yellow Colour Shari and Blouse.
If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in> **SHO**
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in **P.S., Mundka, Delhi**
Fax : 011-24368639 **Ph.: 011-28352010,**
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641 **28352011, 8586932309**
DP/1444/OD/2021



Matching Grant Scheme from eligible applicants/entrepreneurs
Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Development Project (HPHDP) is inviting applications for Matching Grant Scheme from eligible applicants/ entrepreneurs Interested to invest in horticulture value chain in Himachal Pradesh.

The grant (30% of the eligible project cost for male applicant and 35% in case of female applicant or specially abled applicant, with max. grant amount capped at INR 60 Lakhs for all categories) will be provided on competitive basis with mandatory equity contribution by the applicant/ entrepreneur. The Request for Application (RFA) i.e. application form, eligibility criteria and other necessary information are available on the Project website (www.hds.hp.gov.in). The duly completed application may be submitted via email (hdp-pd-hp@gov.in) or can be procured from and submitted at HPHDP Office, Shimla (Ph-8894497175) or office of Deputy Director of Horticulture (DDH), Kangra (Ph- 7781004578) or DDH, Mandi (Ph-9811185010) or DDH, Solan (Ph-9311018839) during office hours on or before 01/02/2022.

Project Director
Himachal Pradesh Horticulture
Development Project (HPHDP)
0653/HP

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, दत्तेवाडा

(ई-मेल-eedan-phe-cg@nic.in)
निविदा सू.क्र./116-120/ले.सा./का.अ./ले.स्वा.च/2021 दत्तेवाडा, दिनांक:-11/01/2022

//प्रथम निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना//

एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से प्रपत्र 'प' प्रतियोगिता पर पर निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है।

कार्य का नाम:- जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत सिंगल विलेज का कार्य।

निविदा क्रमांक	सिस्टम टेण्डर क्रमांक	ग्राम/विकासखण्ड	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
116/11.01.2022	90539	गौदम/गुमलनार	80.92
117/11.01.2022	90540	गौदम/मडसे	122.15
118/11.01.2022	90541	गौदम/मासोडी	52.65
119/11.01.2022	90542	गौदम/नागुल	94.17
120/11.01.2022	90543	गौदम/नेलगोडा	48.36

निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें एवं अन्य जानकारी वेबसाइट पोर्टल <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दर्शित है।

टिप:- निविदा डाऊनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 25.01.2022 है।

हस्ता/-
कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड
दत्तेवाडा

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER Batch No. 103/21 dated : 14.01.2022
E-Tender Notice for supply of materials-"Participation in through" web portal of IREPS- www.irops.gov.in offers are invited for supply of the following materials. The closing time for all tenders is at 14.00 hr.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Published on/ time	Closing on
1	14211526A	Brushless sensorless	3957 Nos.	06.01.22/14:12:41	14.02.22
2	03200088	IOH kit for N-32 tap changer	16 sets.	06.01.22/14:19:32	14.02.22
3	04210209	Secondary vertical damper for NAC coaches	661 Nos.	09.01.22/23:25:04	14.02.22
4	04210555C	Flex ball cable for LHB power type coach	54 Nos.	09.01.22/23:20:59	14.02.22
5	04210556C	Flex ball cable short for LHB power car type coaches	63 Nos.	09.01.22/23:23:34	14.02.22
6	14215008	Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of 750 volt	88 sets.	05.01.22/22:56:02	07.02.22
7	04214736	Door check spring for BOXN HL wagon	6648 Nos.	08.01.22/22:15:56	14.02.22
8	04210358	EMU/MEMU motor coaches, ELGI make air compressor type	20 set	11.01.22/14:52:00	14.02.22
9	03193785B	Aluminium expansion	24 Nos.	13.01.22/13:11:25	14.02.22
10	14220059	Set of VRLA battery	331 sets	12.01.22/21:16:00	14.02.22
11	14213331	Battery for TRD-Led acid	9 sets	13.01.22/12:58:17	14.02.22
12	06211001	Battery operated LED based torch light	4749 Nos.	14.01.22/12:02:57	14.02.22
13	06215122	Relay plug in type AC LED	2586 Nos.	13.01.22/16:24:51	14.02.22

Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web portal of IREPS- www.irops.gov.in before the closing date and time. Other details regarding Consignee and detailed description of stores are available in tender document in tender notice on the above portal.

PR/001508/HQ/STORE/T21-22/96 SMM-cum-Secy. to PCMM

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.PC.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ashok Kumar Mishra S/o Vashishth Mishra, R/o 1. Deepak ka Makan, Mata Wali Gali, Brahram Kumari Ashram, Vishkarma Road, Narela, Delhi, 2. Permanent Address: Village Barakar, Old Post Office, Para, PS Kultli, West Bengal** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 663/15, dated 31.05.15 U/s 420 IPC, P.S. Narela, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ashok Kumar Mishra** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ashok Kumar Mishra** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ashok Kumar Mishra** accused of **FIR No. 663/15, dated 31.05.15 U/s 420 IPC, P.S. Narela, Delhi** required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **28.02.2022**.

By Order
Ms. Divya Malhotra
Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate,
DP/1458/ON/2021 North Court No. 116, Rohini Courts, Delhi

कार्यालय परिवहन आयुक्त, छत्तीसगढ़

परिवहन विभाग अंतर्गत स्मार्ट कार्ड आधारित ड्रायविंग लायसेंस, वाहन पंजीकरण एवं अन्य आईटी संबंधी कार्यों के संबंध में

निविदा सूचना

TD/03/TC/2021 नवा रायपूर-अटल नगर, दिनांक: 14.01.2022

कार्य: परिवहन विभाग अंतर्गत स्मार्ट कार्ड आधारित ड्रायविंग लायसेंस, वाहन पंजीकरण प्रमाणपत्र एवं अन्य आईटी संबंधी कार्यों के संबंध में निविदा जारी किया जाता है।

निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि: में परिवर्तन कर दिनांक 21/01/2022 को दोपहर 03.00 बजे तक किया गया है।

निविदा की टेक्निकल बिड खोलने की तिथि 22/01/2022 समय 11.30 बजे

वित्तीय निविदा खोलने की तिथि पृथक से जारी की जावेगी।

उपरोक्त निविदा सूचना की पूरी जानकारी विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://cgtransport.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

66891

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

BUXAR BRANCH

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS & ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

DEMAND NOTICE

Sl. No.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan / Limit	Sanction Amt. (in lakh)	Total Liability + Interest thereon
1.	74239840000019	Canara Rent	Rs. 80.00	Rs. 66.10 Lakh
2.	74239830000066	Mortgage loan	Rs. 20.00	Rs. 6.43 Lakh

The above said loan / credit facilities are duly secured by way of mortgage of the assets more specifically discribed in the schedule hereunder, by virtue of the relevant document executed by you in our favour. Since you had failed to discharge your liabilities as per the terms and conditions stipulated, the Bank has classified the debt as **NPA on 31.12.2021**. Hence, we hereby issue this notice to you under section 13(2) of the subject Act calling upon you to discharge the entire liability of **Rs. 72,53,000/-** with accrued and upto date interest and other expenses, within sixty days from the date of the notice, failing which we shall exercise all or any of the rights under section 13(4) of the subject Act.

Further, you are hereby restrained from dealing with any of the secured assets mentioned in the schedule in any manner whatsoever, without our prior consent. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the subject Act and / or any other law in force.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act., in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The demand notice has also been issued to you by registered Post Ack. due to your last known address available in the Branch record.

Details of Security assets :-

S.No.	Movable / Immovable	Title holder
1.	Situated at Vill - Amathua, P.S. -196, Krishna Brahram, Anchal Dumraon, Buxar, Khata No. - 146, Plot No. - 148, Area : 0.67/Decimal. Boundary : North - Sahu, South - Niz after that Nand Kishore Mahto, East - Ram Unchit & Dular Mahto, West - Hari Nrayan Singh.	Shyam Lal Singh S/o Late Ram Deo Singh
2.	Situated at Vill - Buxar Kila, P.S No. - 332, Anchal - Buxar, Dist. - Buxar, Khata No. - 216, 475, 311 Plot No. - Old - 643, 644, 645 New - 909, Area - 02 Katha. Boundary as per Sale Deed - North - Rasta and Raj Kumar Singh, South - Rasta, East - Meena Singh and Raj Kumar Singh, West - Ram Janam Badhai.	Shyam Lal Singh S/o Late Ram Deo Singh
3.	Situated at Vill - Buxar Kila, P.S No. - 332, Anchal - Buxar, Dist. - Buxar, Khata No. - Old - 216, 311, 475 New - 86, 128, Plot No. - Old - 643, 644, 645 New - 909, 910, Area - 02 Katha. Boundary as per Sale Deed - North - Gyanwati Devi, South - Rasta, East - Balkrishna Kejriwal, West - Sunil Kumar Kejriwal.	Meena Singh W/o Raj Kumar Singh
4.	Situated at Vill - Buxar Kila, P.S No. - 332, Anchal - Buxar, Dist. - Buxar, Khata No. - Old - 216, 311, 475 New - 128, Plot No. - Old - 643, 644, 645 New - 909, 910, Area - 08 Dhur, 11 Dhurki. Boundary as per Sale Deed - North - Rasta, South - Shyam Lal Singh, East - Meena Singh, West - Shyam Lal Singh.	Raj Kumar Singh S/o Late Bharat Prasad Singh

Date - 14.01.2022 **Authorised Officer**
Canara Bank

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/ Guarantor	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
Hanuman Nagar Branch	Borrowers: M/s Fashion Style. Prop.: Anil Choudhary Guarantor: Mrs. Mamta Devi	Description of the Immovable Property (Land): Name of the Mortgagor: Mr. Anil Chaudhary S/o Late Babu Lal Chaudhary. Address of the Mortgagors: Shivshakti Nagar, Bazar Samiti, Sandalpur, Patna-6. Full particulars of Property: Sale Deed No.- 4310 Dated 28/07/2010 Area-5 Dhur Or 0.78125 Decimal, Thana No.-11, Khata No.269/370, Kheshra No.-206(P)/207(P), Ward No.15/21/36/47, Sheet No.-112, Municipal Survey Plot No.-3072(P), Mauza-Sandalpur, Thana-Sultanganj, Present Thana-Bahadurpur, Survey Thana-Patna City, Pergana-Agimabad, Distt.-Patna. Boundary: North-Niz lekhyakarigan Kamlesh Kumar Sahu & Deepak Kumar Sahu S/o Perneswar Sah, South-Plot of Niz lekhyakari Mukesh Kumar S/O Om Prakash Sao, East-8' wide Sahayak Rasta, West-Prakash Mehta.	04.05.2019	11.01.2022	₹15,82,548/- (Rupees Fifteen lac eighty two thousand five hundred forty eight only) with future Interest and incidental charges w.e.f 04.05.2019	₹15,82,548/- (Rupees Fifteen lac eighty two thousand five hundred forty eight only) and interest thereon.
Rajendra Nagar Branch	Borrowers: Rajni Kant Srivastava S/o Late Nilamber Prasad & Co-borrower: Mrs. Smita Srivastava W/o Mr. Rajni Kant Srivastava	Description of the Immovable Property (Land & Building): All that part and parcel of Immovable Property (Flat) in the name of Mrs. Smita Srivastava W/O Mr. Rajni Kant Srivastava, Radhe Shyam Palace, Flat No.203, 2nd Floor, Chanakya Nagar, Kumhrar, Patna-800026. Sale Deed No.8412 dated 09.09.2015, Area-Flat with Carpet Area-1050 Sq.Ft., Location: Mauza-Kumhrar, PS-Agamkuan, Patna, Property details: Khata No.331, Tazui No.189, Thana No.5 M.S. Plot No.535(P), Boundary of Flat: North-Open Space, South-Open Space, East-Flat No.204 and Corridor, West-Flat No.-202. Boundary of Building: North-Niz Land Owner, South-Ram Raghuber Prasad, East-Survey Plot No.537, West-Rasta.	05.07.2021	13.01.2022	₹26,39,975/- (Rupees Twenty six lac thirty nine thousand nine hundred seventy five only) with future Interest and incidental charges w.e.f 05.07.2021	₹26,39,975/- (Rupees Twenty six lac thirty nine thousand nine hundred seventy five only) and interest thereon.
Rajendra Nagar Branch	Borrowers: Rupesh Nahar S/o Sri Satish Chandra Nahar & Co-borrower/ Guarantor: Mrs. Krishna Nahar W/o Mr. Satish Chandra Nahar	Description of the Immovable Property (Land & Building): Name of the Mortgagor: Mrs. Krishna Nahar W/O Mr. Satish Chandra Nahar. All that part and parcel of Immovable Property (Land/Building) in the name of Mrs. Krishna Nahar W/O Mr. Satish Chandra Nahar. Details/Description of the property/ies: Sale Deed No.6515 dated 27.06.2003, Area-Single storied building in 2401 sq.ft. area, Location: Mauza-Sheikhpura, Adarsh Colony Road No.03, Patna-27. Property details: Khata No.37, Tazui No.28, Thana No.111, M.S. Plot No.687(P), Boundary: North-14 Feet wide Rasta, South-Survey Plot No.687(P) Pattidari Sri Chandrika Rai & Others, East-Survey Plot No.687(P) Pattidari & Others, West-Survey Plot No.687(P) Smt. Manju Kumar Singh.	05.07.2021	13.01.2022	₹15,74,047/- (Rupees Fifteen lac seventy four thousand forty seven only) with future Interest and incidental charges w.e.f 05.07.2021	₹15,74,047/- (Rupees Fifteen lac seventy four thousand forty seven only) and interest thereon.
Rajendra Nagar Branch	Borrowers: Mrs. Ekta Sinha W/O Mr. Girijesh Kumar & Co-borrower: Mr. Girijesh Kumar S/o Late Mr. Lalal Prasad Singh	Description of the Immovable Property (Land & Building): All that part and parcel of Immovable Property (Flat) in the name of Mrs. Ekta Sinha W/O Mr. Girijesh Kumar, Kehav Savita Apartment, Flat No.105, 1st Floor, Jhun Jhun Mahal Road, Gardanibagh, Patna-800001. Sale Deed No.6934 dated. 31.07.2015, Area-Flat with Carpet Area 1005 Sq.Ft., Location: Mauza-Jhun Jhun Mahal, PS-Gardanibagh, Patna. Property details: Khata No.588, Tazui No.377, Thana No.18, M.S. Plot No.467 & 469. Boundary of Flat: North-Open Space of the Building, South-Common Passage and Stair, East-Open Space of the Building, West-Open Space of the Building. Boundary of Building: North-Sri Shishir Ambastha, South-Smt. Pramila Devi and Sri Rajeshwari Prasad, East-Branch Road, West-Sri Arbind Kumar Sinha.	06.07.2021	13.01.2022	₹20,58,417.06 (Rupees Twenty lac fifty eight thousand four hundred seventeen and paise six only) with future Interest and incidental charges w.e.f 06.07.2021	₹20,58,417.06 (Rupees Twenty lac fifty eight thousand four hundred seventeen and paise six only) and interest thereon.
Rajendra Nagar Branch	Borrowers: Anuj Yadav S/o Ram Bilas Prasad Singh & Co-borrower: Mrs. Meenakshi Singh W/o Mr. Anuj Yadav	Description of the Immovable Property (Land & Building): Mortgaged land and building in the name of Smt. Meenakshi Singh, Flat No.38/B, in "Raghubansh Apartment", Situated at Mauza-Sheikhpura, Mohalla-Shastri Nagar (Behind J.D. Women's College), Thana No.09, Tazui No.5609, Khata No.59, Survey Plot No.1442, Area-1125 Sq.Ft., vide Sale Deed No.12318 dated 06.04.2011. Boundary of Property/ies Mortgage as per Deed: North-Flat No.37/B, South-Setback of Building, East-Entrance Lobby thereafter Flat No.36/B, West-Setback of the Building.	25.11.2020	13.01.2022	₹44,96,375/- (Rupees Forty four lac ninety six thousand three hundred seventy five only) with future Interest and incidental charges w.e.f 25.11.2020	₹44,96,375/- (Rupees Forty four lac ninety six thousand three hundred seventy five only) and interest thereon.

11th-hour court hearing to decide Novak’s Aus Open fate

REUTERS
MELBOURNE, JANUARY 15

TENNIS STAR Novak Djokovic faces a court hearing on Sunday that will decide if he can defend his Australian Open title or must leave the country - the climax to days of drama over COVID-19 entry requirements and his unvaccinated status.

The build-up to the tournament, which starts on Monday and which Djokovic has won nine times previously, has been virtually eclipsed by the roller-coaster controversy over Djokovic's visa, his treatment by immigration officials, and the government's handling of the case.

Justice David O'Callaghan set a Federal Court hearing for 9:30 a.m. Sunday (2230 GMT Saturday). Three judges will hear the appeal and their decision will be final, the court said.

Djokovic, who is the men's top ranked player and is chasing a record 21st Grand Slam win, spent Saturday night at Melbourne's Park Hotel, according to a Reuters witness, returning to the same immigration detention hotel where he was held for four nights last week.

A judge freed him on Monday after finding the decision to cancel his visa on arrival had been unreasonable. Djokovic has declined to be vaccinated against coronavirus and had sought to enter the country with a medical exemption from rules mandating all visitors to be vaccinated, read more

Immigration Minister Alex Hawke cancelled Djokovic's visa again on Friday night, prompting the appeal by his lawyers that will be heard on Sunday.

Court documents released after an initial Federal Court hearing on Saturday showed Hawke had justified his decision on the grounds that Djokovic's presence could whip up more anti-vaccination sentiment in Australia at a time that the country is in the midst of its worst outbreak of the virus.

"Although I ... accept that Mr Djokovic poses a negligible individual risk of transmitting COVID-19 to other persons, I nonetheless consider that his presence may be a risk to the health of the Australian community," Hawke said in a letter to Djokovic and his legal team.

This explanation in Djokovic's affidavit was more detailed than the brief statement Hawke released on Friday, saying his decision was based on "health and good order grounds". Djokovic's lawyers said they would argue that deportation would only further fan anti-vaccine sentiment and would be as much a threat to disorder and public health as letting him stay.

Now playing: Succession

At India Open, Sen sets up final vs Loh, Katethong beats Sindhu to show Next Gen of badminton singles is here

SHIVANI NAIK
JANUARY 15

WHO KNEW that the Next Gen of badminton singles wasn't twiddling their thumbs and toes through the pandemic, waiting, but instead were welting in the wings. Ready to hammer. At the first chance they could grab. Who knew ahead of the winter World Championships that Singaporean Loh Kean Yew could grow limbs that could strike down like lightning. Or that Lakshya Sen could soak up all the attacking shuttles flying around him, and work up the momentum to channel that lightning speed - as he well might - into his Mjolnir arms, as the two head into a tantalising final of the India Open.

Not many had guessed that Supanida Katethong could prance around with a hat-tip to Carolina Marin's southpaw sallying offensive. And in the process dislodge PV Sindhu from her backyard coronation.

The theme will reach its culmination should Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty take control of the net against Indonesian Hendra Setiawan and Mohamad Ahsan in the doubles final and outwit the Daddies, badminton's smartest seniors of all time. And if Satwiksairaj, the baby amongst big-hitting Bulldozers, rouses his mind and rotates the shoulder raucously to impose his class on a title contest.

Against French Delrue-Villeger in the 21-10, 21-18 semis win, Chirag pottered around pugnaciously as the Indians' 4 match points went a begging, before Satwik left his net perch, moved back and sent down an unreturnable kill - one almighty swing to spool them all, who were resisting.

That the Sunday Finals of the Covid-ravaged Super 500 has still managed to pick out two finalists - both of whom were on the Huelva World's podium a month ago, is a testament to that aforementioned subversion of established names that's happened in the wings.

Lakshya Sen is rampaging. He's not dominating his opponents - Malaysian NG Tze Yong had the strokes, strength, strategy and first set shelter, to pack off the Indian. But such has been Sen's singular ability to shrug off the past - even the immediate past like the opening set - and go frantically chasing the next point that no leads are safe with opponents. He is insistent, he is defending like a dream, and on Saturday, summoned win-



Lakshya Sen bagged a 19-21, 21-16, 21-12 win over Malaysia's NG Tze Yong. BAI

ners at will - the variety of kills being breath-taking. Tze Yong wasn't giving him an inch, but Sen couldn't stop pulling wild angles out the hat, winning 19-21, 21-16, 21-12.

Sen literally chomped into Tze Yong's assured game, deflated his confidence as the match wore on, and strangled his opponent's near-errorless game, to win. Against Loh Kean Yew, known for his relentless speed, Sen can let loose some lawlessness, because, with his inscrutable face and merciless retrievals, Sen is spooking opponents into hopelessness currently.

The World Champion is far from brittle even when pushed, but Sen is not letting go of matches, and such persistence can rattle those expected to win. It's not that Sen doesn't believe he can't lose. It's just that his mind is conjuring ways every minute to win.

PV Sindhu, the original non-give-upper,

found her match in Thai Supanida Katethong, a leftie who, not unlike Sen, refused to bow down or retreat, and won 21-14, 13-21, 21-10. The Thai blitz has an accomplished southpaw game, and though deception is never far away from the Ratchanok school of elegant stroke-making, Katethong relied on an incessant attack to bully the Indian biggie.

Unlike Sen who's enjoying a no-pressure freshman season under arclights, Sindhu looks a tad under pressure. She can still bombard with her big game, but Supanida, who looked wholly confident of her own armoury, pushed the pace and negated the power, a little as Marin does.

The big names of badminton are hibernating alright. But a succession could be underway, as an early 20s young brigade finds its feet.

ISL: Bio bubble failure, mental fatigue force players to speak up

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JANUARY 15

IN ITS carefully-crafted image over the last eight years, there haven't been many open voices of dissent in the Indian Super League (ISL). Hence, when a player called the competition 'adulterated', claimed that 'players are losing interest and desire' to compete and are just waiting for the 'league to end', the focus shifted. It went from on the field - where the matches have been severely affected by Covid - to life inside the ISL bubble in Goa, which India captain Sunil Chhetri said was 'hard' and 'frustrating'.

FC Goa talisman Edu Bedia, who has made close to 100 appearances for the club, took to social media to vent out his frustration after the league called off Saturday's match between ATK Mohun Bagan and Bengaluru FC owing to an outbreak of Covid-19 cases within the teams.

Bedia was incensed that Goa were forced to play their match against NorthEast United on Friday, despite nine Covid-19 cases in their camp. In fact, the team had learnt of four new cases in the 24 hours leading up to Friday's game, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

So when the ISL organisers postponed the match between ATK Mohun Bagan and Bengaluru, it created confusion over the league's rules for dealing with this issue. "(sic) Yesterday we played with 9 casualties due to covid. Today, for the second consecutive match, another team suspended its game for the same reason. Can someone explain this to me? Adulterated competition," Bedia wrote on his Instagram story.

The confusion stems from the lack of clarity as to what happens if there are multiple Covid-19 cases in a team. Like Goa, Odisha FC, too, had been notified about three positive cases, including goalkeeper Kamaljit Singh on the day of their match against Kerala Blasters, which they lost 2-0. Kerala, meanwhile, have not trained for three days after an outbreak in their ranks. No decision has been made yet regarding their match against Mumbai City on Sunday.

Saturday's match was only the second time that an ISL game this season has been postponed because of Covid-19. Incidentally, the first instance also involved ATK Mohun Bagan, when their match against Odisha FC had to be rescheduled.

The league said in a statement that 'each match is assessed on a number of factors including the ability of the clubs to field a team; the severity of Covid-19 breakout at the club(s); and the ability of the club personnel to safely prepare for and play the match.'

But with some matches postponed and others not, and with the number of cases in the ISL bubble rising each day, Bedia said the players are going about their job without any ambition. "Players are losing interest and the desire to continue to compete. They continue



FC Goa's Edu Bedia was furious after his side was forced to play on Friday despite nine Covid cases in their camp.

to play to collect their contracts without any ambition. This is what has been achieved with this year's rules. Whether you like it or not, all the people inside the bio-bubble just want March to come and the league to end, whatever the outcome," the Spanish midfielder wrote.

It is learnt that the sudden spike in the number of cases has forced the organisers to make an already-strict ISL bubble stricter. Consequently, most players can't even leave the floor of their hotels and are allowed to step out only for meals.

India captain and Bengaluru forward Sunil Chhetri said only those inside the bubble will 'know how hard and how frustrating this is.' "Only if you're in the bubble, will you know how hard and frustrating this is. You're away from family for half a year, cooped up in a room, anything outdoors is a luxury, there's no change in setting to help you shake off a bad result - I could go on," Chhetri wrote on his social media page. "To get through this is not something you can train for. It has nothing to do with skill, talent or experience. This is up there on the list of sacrifices we're making, to be able to play the game we love. It's a battle we're all fighting in our ways."

His lengthy post struck a chord with many players, with Chennaiyin Polish striker Lukasz Gikiewicz saying they 'don't feel a normal life.' "We have to bring it together to finish the season to the end," Gikiewicz wrote.

Owing to a tight calendar, the league hasn't made any decisions yet on whether it'll be temporarily suspended or if some more matches will be rescheduled.

Chhetri, meanwhile, offered a helping hand to those in need. "To any ISL player, across clubs, nationalities and experience - I'm up for a chat if you need one. We don't have to talk football. Drop me a message if you feel like it, and we'll make it happen. The season, table, wins and losses will take care of themselves when they have to," the India captain wrote.

BRIDGE

Dealer: North Vulnerable: East West

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠ K Q 8 2		♠ 3	
♥ 10 5		♥ A K Q J 9 8	
♦ 8 2		♦ J 7 5 4	
♣ A K 7 6 2		♣ Q 4	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2D ♦	1C ♠	pass	1H ♥
pass	pass	pass	3H ♥
pass	4H ♥	pass	pass
pass			

West leads the seven of hearts. Study both hands a moment. Suppose you consider that you have an opportunity to eliminate the spade loser by discarding it on a club. Also, suppose you decide that you do not want to remove trumps immediately so that you have the possibility of ruffing a diamond in dummy and gaining a trick. Result: Six heart tricks with the hearts in your hand, one diamond ruff with a heart in dummy, and three club tricks. Ten tricks and the contract. Do you like this plan? The West Hand: S-A 10 9 7 H-7 6 4 D-A Q 10 3 C-10 9 The East Hand: S-J 6 5 4 H-3 2 D-K 9 6 C-J 8 5 3 You shouldn't like the above mentioned plan. What is wrong with this particular modus operandi? You are dependent on a 3-3 club split. A 3-3 split is 36%. You are also dependent on the defenders being nice and not leading trumps or two rounds of clubs while you are giving up the two diamond losers prior to executing the diamond ruff. The defenders will not let you do what you want (clearly they aren't very nice). There is a better way. Win the opening lead in your hand. Then immediately play your spade toward dummy's king-queen. If the defenders refuse to take the ace of spades during play of the second trick, you will have gained a spade trick. You can then safely try for overtricks by ruffing a spade high and leading to dummy's trump ten. If the trumps are not 5-0, ruff another spade (if the ace drops, your queen will be good), draw trumps and try to run the clubs. If, instead of holding up, East wins the spade ace and returns a club, win that trick in your hand, cash a second trump ending in dummy. There is still one trump left. Try to cash dummy's king and queen of spades first, but if dummy's second high spade is ruffed, you can still survive after regaining the lead by leading a club to dummy's ace and playing the high club. Result: Six hearts, at least one spade, and three clubs for at least ten tricks and your contract. Note that if the defenders win the second trick with the ace of spades, they can win only two diamond tricks if they attack diamonds because you will still have a high heart in dummy to ruff a further diamond lead. CLUE TO WINNING BRIDGE: A red flag should go up when you have a doubler in a side suit and four cards in your hand not to draw trumps immediately.

Dealer: South Vulnerable: East West

NORTH		EAST	
♠ K Q 4		♠ 7 6 2	
♥ K Q J 9 4		♥ 2	
♦ 4 2		♦ A 9 8 7 5	
♣ A 7 4		♣ K J 5 3	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	2NT	pass	2S
pass	4S	pass	3D
pass			pass

West leads the queen of diamonds and you take it with the ace. South follows with a little diamond. What is your best hope to set 4S?

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 quip.

A man is what he _____ all day long. - Ralph Waldo Emerson (6,5)

GMAIO	CEKHNU
█ █ █ █ █ █	█ █ █ █ █ █
NUSTT	AESTBK
█ █ █ █ █ █	█ █ █ █ █ █

SOLUTION: IMAGO/MIMCO, STUNT, KUCHEN, BASKET Answer: A man is what he thinks about all day long. - Ralph Waldo Emerson

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2356

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- Prove to be false (6)
- Long time (3)
- Flight paths (4)
- Weaken (10)
- Match (4)
- Menuhin: famous U.S. violin virtuoso? (6)
- Ancient language of India (8)
- Rate for mail? (7)
- Conscience-stricken (7)
- Fourth parts (8)
- Found out (6)
- Sharp-edged (4)
- Articulates precisely (10)
- Stubborn one (4)
- Large tart (3)
- Satisfies thirst (6)

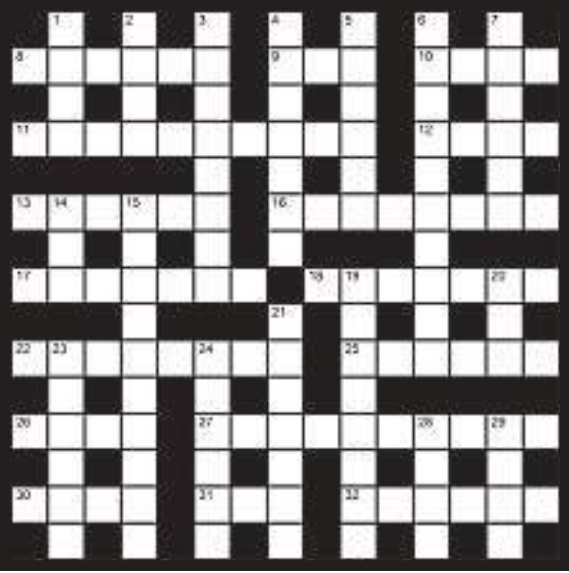
DOWN

- Very little (4)
- Japanese mountain (4)
- Evolving, deducing or eliciting (8)
- Deteriorate (7)
- Hospital doctor (6)
- Former Sri Lankan wicket keeper (10)
- Large prawns (6)
- Sense of self (3)
- Voiced expressions (10)
- Breach of syntax (8)
- Even, poetically contracted (3)
- Made certain? (7)
- Advantageous (6)
- Free from liability (6)
- Middle-Easterner (4)
- Supplements with difficulty (4)

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- Tell tales about a silly little girl (6)
- Husband withdraws from broken affair for a political body (3)
- Debt instruments possessed by pious folks (4)
- Profound colour group (4,6)
- Spoken in anger or alarm (4)
- Lines for writing notes on (6)
- Trackwear, or something more formal? (8)
- The ways in which setters vary (7)
- Fleet, maybe? The devil it is! (3,4)
- Waller's back crossing the town (8)
- Person objecting to baby-sitter (6)



- Have a try and gain not one dress (4)
- Bandits ran madly from militia groups (10)
- Such a keen summer to have got inside! (4)
- Compete with life in Paris (3)
- A bit of trouble about the last piece of sophisticated equipment (2-4)

DOWN:

- Cost of travelling to get food? (4)
- Letters demanding an answer? (4)
- Rise from bed ready to become disquieted (3,5)
- Fetch up around the pot for something to eat (7)
- Bones smell, Elizabeth Tudor (6)
- Not one of the big guns of the church, one hears (5,5)
- Country fellow providing a couple of articles (6)
- Explosive doctrine, unacceptable to the Orientals (3)
- Does it help a camera-man to get nice scenery to shoot? (4-6)
- Priest joins New Church near a Quixotic home (2,6)
- Signal to hit a billiard ball? (3)

Solutions to 2355

QUICK CLUES ACROSS: 8 Rita, 9 Undue, 10 Rourt, 11 Cipher, 12 Emerging, 13 Utilized, 15 Vanish, 17 Burrows, 19 Adjourn, 22 Shiver, 24 Industry, 26 Hoarding, 28 Raffie, 30 Olla, 31 Rooks, 32 Exit. DOWN: 1 Hi-fi, 2 Bachelor, 3 Quartz, 4 Addenda, 5 Deceived, 6 Dragon, 7 Yuan, 14 Tough, 16 Surer, 18 Warriors, 20 Ossified, 21 Kingdom, 23 Verbal, 25 Dunes, 27 Oily, 29 Leis. CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS: 8 Door, 9 Oxbow, 10 Away, 11 Voodoo, 12 Off-fired, 13 Off-stage, 15 Infamy, 17 Receive, 19 Egg pans, 22 Cappel, 24 Untested, 26 Bird bath, 28 On foot, 30 Pull, 31 East's, 32 Edit. DOWN: 1 Coco, 2 Indesce, 3 Corona, 4 Abdomen, 5 Swilling, 6 Tariff, 7 Mane, 14 Freda, 16 Manse, 18 Villages, 20 Post free, 21 Duchess, 23 Paddle, 25 Tootsy, 27 IOUs, 29 Ohio.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday January 16

You might be one hundred per cent happy with everything you hear over the next few weeks and there'll be pleasant surprises too. You'll have a valuable chance to make up for an old mistake.

Monday January 17

This could be one of those weeks when you show us exactly how compassionate you can be. Over the next year you have a chance to develop your better qualities.

Tuesday January 18

You'll realise that there's more to life than getting your way, and long-term satisfaction comes from playing your full part in making the world a better place.

Wednesday January 19

Emotionally, you're a little secretive and sensitive, but elsewhere you're totally confident and on top of the world.

Thursday January 20

There are no less than two intense undercurrents this week. One is cool, calculating and secretive. The other is volatile, impatient and inclined to explode.

Friday January 21

There should be no new major pressures today. Second, you'll be much freer to make your own choices. And you can carve out an individual path.

Saturday January 22

You've been keeping your feelings hidden in recent times, but a romantic secret is about to come into the open, so you'd better get your story ready. If you've been testing the water in a new relationship, you can soon take the next step.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The Moon is giving you a head start. Now is the time for a personal clean-out, making a break with the people and places of the past to prepare for a bright future. You can now begin to look forward to the next month with optimism and increased confidence.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

There's a belligerent mood in the air, with people disturbingly willing to blow their tops. You should escape unscathed but must allow partners to voice their feelings. You may have a hard job establishing the facts. The truth will emerge in its own time.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Social commitments are likely to prove costly. What can you have done to incur such large expenses? All that can be achieved now is damage-limitation to salvage what you can out of a financial mess. Mercury will enable you to stay the course, but only because it encourages you to face the real facts of the situation.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You really ought to press ahead with professional activities if that is what concerns you at the moment. Many Cancerians will be rooting on behalf of a partner or loved one who is aiming for promotion. You may still be facing some opposition over a vital personal matter, but don't let it bother you.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

If you know what's good for you, you'll start planning a break now, whether it's a short trip or a long-distance journey. There is no need to worry about all those extra commitments here at home, as these should easily be taken care of by other responsible people, at least, in theory. On the whole, this is still a positive period of change and growth.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

In many ways it's a mysterious week. Someone may be encouraging you to take a risk, but you must be warned that this is not the ideal time to gamble. If you do decide to go for a get-rich-quick scheme, then you must keep something in reserve. In fact, if you plan for the future now, you will thank yourself that you were so far-seeing.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Social trends are looking better, the only drawback being that some of your wildest hopes may remain unfulfilled. Be realistic, otherwise someone may let you down. Venus, planet of love, maintains a good romantic and social outlook and you may soon meet one individual who will have a major impact on your life.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

Your two planetary rulers, energetic Mars and obstinate Pluto, are still in a challenging relationship. They will be like the irreversible force meeting the immovable object, so be prepared. Overall, this is a time for independence and for striking out on a new course. Yet, if you require more freedom, you must offer the same to partners.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

The planets are very well positioned. The only word of caution is to avoid conspiracies and, if you are feeling resentful, not to direct your anger against the wrong target. A generally adventurous air suits you down to the ground, and I can see you taking the initiative across the board.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Everything should go according to plan, just as long as you get your family relationships and domestic affairs in order. This is why you should do everything in your power to reach early agreement with relatives. Swift action will guarantee your future security, at least in the short-term.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You can now begin to push ahead with a very private goal, one which seems to have romantic overtones. Travel is very strongly figured in your solar horoscope, encouraging you to take a short break. It is more likely that you will go somewhere nearby than far afield. Make final plans soon.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You should now be feeling much more prosperous, perhaps due to a recent windfall or possibly just because you are more optimistic about the future. Your romantic stars favour discretion. Your business plans are to be put into practice, although you may have to spend a little now to get more back next month.

“EVERYTHING HAS TO COME TO A HALT AT SOME STAGE AND FOR ME AS TEST CAPTAIN OF INDIA, IT’S NOW”

VIRAT KOHLI

Kohli, former India captain

India’s most successful Test captain will be remembered for passion and intensity, even though he lacked empathy at times

SRIRAM VEERA
MUMBAI, JANUARY 15

ONE REMEMBERS a room by the sea in Dominica in 2011, where the final Test of a series was being played, and Kohli was in midst of a horror initiation to Test cricket. When one left the room with Harbhajan Singh, who suddenly turned around at the door, pointed out to Kohli and said that boy will be the next captain. The next day when one brought up that remark, Kohli’s eyes lit up in happiness but fascinatingly, there was no surprise in them.

Ambition screamed in everything Kohli did as a player. During his reign, the team rode on its pacers to climb from No. 7 to No. 1, was competitive around the world, respected by the opposition, admired by pundits for his passion for Test cricket - a legacy that will stand the test of time.

In the last couple or so years, there haven’t been many decisions on the field that one could question his tactical nous. With him, though, Kohli off the field was what made him and unmade him in the eyes of others.

Here is where it gets interesting. At one point, it seemed he was using insecurity as a performance-enhancing drug, a point that Ravi Shastri didn’t deny but he saw it as Kohli having to take tough decisions to meet his high standards.

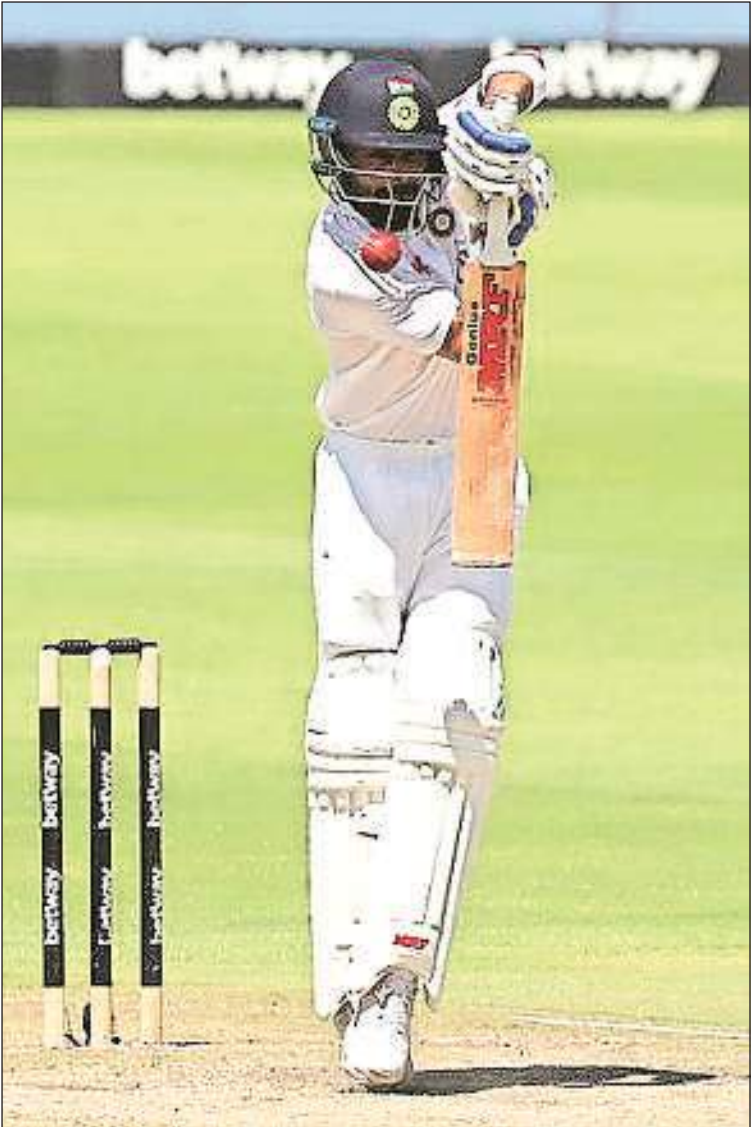
What did he want from Cheteshwar Pujara, for example? More intent. He would murmur about intent in the press conferences, later term his own comments as ‘out-side noise’, and would offer support. Surely, he could have been more supportive of the methods of one of his foremost batsmen who has sparkled overseas. But here is the interesting rub: the support might have been lacking in generosity but the criticism wasn’t as off the mark as it was seen.

What transpired with Pujara in recent times? He has himself realised the need to bat with more intent, and when push came to shove with his spot under pressure, interestingly, he adopted the Kohli way.

What did Kohli want from Ajinkya Rahane? Runs under pressure. Rahane was dropped from the Test team in South Africa in 2018, and one can see that from then on, he slowly became a batsman without trust in his defence, and someone who started to score quick runs, but sporadically. Was it the result of Kohli or a batsman who struggled against quality spin in home conditions and who didn’t have much trust in his own defence overseas? On the evidence of the last few years, it has to be said that Rahane’s own game caught up with him. Would he, a man who has always seemed a touch short of self-confidence, have done better had he found a more supporting captain? The honest answer is that it would be purely hypothetical conjecture. No one can say for sure. The main letdown and fault, if one could call it, was in Rahane’s own game, in his own mind. Again, as with Pujara, the support at the start of the personal crisis could have been stronger and more empathetic. But that’s about it.

Who made Rohit Sharma open in Tests? It was primarily Shastri’s idea but Kohli bought the idea wholeheartedly, especially after he found M Vijay fading out. Vijay is an interesting case in itself. In 2018, he was dropped mid-series in England but it wasn’t as if his career was buried there. Kohli got him back for the Australia tour and it was Vijay’s own batting that let him down.

By his own admission, KL Rahul thought he might never play Test cricket again a year



STANDING UP BEFORE STEPPING DOWN

Virat Kohli rises on his toes to meet a snorter of a delivery on Day 3 of the Newlands Test. His battling 29 off 143 at a strike rate of 20.27 would be his last innings as Test skipper.

MOST RUNS AS TEST CAPTAIN

Captain	Inns	Runs	100s	50s	Ave
Graeme Smith	193	8659	25	36	47.83
Allan Border	154	6623	15	36	50.94
Ricky Ponting	140	6542	19	35	51.50
Virat Kohli	113	5864	20	18	54.80
Clive Lloyd	111	5233	14	27	51.30

MOST WINS AS TEST CAPTAIN

CAPTAIN	M	W	L	D
Graeme Smith	109	53	29	27
Ricky Ponting	77	48	16	13
Steve Waugh	57	41	9	7
Virat Kohli	68	40	17	11
Clive Floyd	74	36	12	26

or so ago. In 2018, Shastri had told this newspaper that Rahul was the batsman that Kohli wanted to partner with Sharma. Even as runs didn’t come in as consistently as he would have liked that made him doubt himself, Kohli has stood by him.

Before the start of the epochal series in Australia that India won under Rahane’s captaincy, Kohli had picked out Hanuma Vihari as

the batsman to watch out for. For that to materialise, though, Kohli’s “outside noise” pressure on Rahane or Pujara had to take effect.

Another contentious handling has been that of Ravichandran Ashwin, who in a recent interview, talked about how he felt targeted when he was injured or felt “crushed” when Kuldeep Yadav was raved about by the management. Even that game in Sydney in

2019, where Kuldeep performed, it was Ashwin who pulled out in the morning of the game due to injury. And by 2018, it was clear that his body wasn’t allowing him to play a full series. His performance was a reason that India lost that 2018 Southampton Test which derailed the England series. The injury was preventing him from finishing the action properly. But at the end of the day, it was his body betraying him; not the management.

One can accuse him of lacking in emotional quotient, but that’s about all. The crick-eting logic wasn’t too off. Both Kohli and Shastri have been gung-ho about having a left-hander in the middle order and have backed Jadeja overseas since the 2018 summer. Not just Jadeja, he backed Rishabh Pant too after Dinesh Karthik’s horror run in that 2018 series in England. Ahead of the Oval Test in that series, when Pant wasn’t scoring much, Kohli called him to the room. “He said that it’s not compulsory that you have to play 30 matches or something to get experience. It can come in even two matches. Jo koi nahi kiya, tu kar saktha hai. Kuch likha thodi hai (what nobody has done, you can, it’s not written anywhere) if you are young, you can’t do it in Tests. That talk helped me a lot. For him to sit me down and make me understand things, was a very big thing for me,” Pant told this newspaper.

There is not much to be said about his vision, backing and passion for a five-bowlers attack primarily dominated by pacers that isn’t known. It would have been silly to do anything else but that when you have Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, a resurgent Ishant Sharma, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, and a young line-up of back-up pacers who have since burst through as well.

Sore points

So what criticisms are we left with in the end as a Test captain? A lack of soft empathetic approach with a few players (not with everyone but with a few) but which seemed to make sense to him in his hard-boiled wonderland. If Pujara could score quicker, if Rahane could be more consistent, and if Ashwin can remain injury-free and deliver as a lower-order batsman everywhere... Else he was finding options. In Jadeja, in Pant, in Hardik Pandya, in Vihari.

Another criticism is the manic intensity that spilled over to unpleasantness as it did in the final Test against South Africa with his unsavoury remarks on stump mike. But how did he himself see it? Fascinatingly, he said this when asked if he had gone over the top. “If we’d have gotten all charged up and picked three wickets, that would’ve been the moment that changed the game,” he said. Kohli loves being the victim even when he isn’t but in his own mind, he likes to be pushed in a corner because it stirs him to greater things. And he thinks by extension, it would do the same to the team as well.

All this crossing of lines doesn’t bother him. Even 10 years ago, when he was just 22, Kohli had this worldview: “You know how teams speak with Indian teams on the field. And all the youngsters in the Indian team now like to give it back, and the other team is in shock. And that’s been one reason for the success of the Indian team...”

Nothing since has changed that view. For seven years, especially for the last five years with Shastri by his side, Kohli did what he wished, almost, before the inevitable comeuppance arrived. There was never a debate on his batting and history would be kinder to his captaincy. It won’t be a surprise now if he quits the T20 format next.

There were no tired riffs, just an explosion of raw, ceaseless energy. To watch Kohli on the field was a transcendental experience.

one to the field.

That energy was a blend of ambition and attitude. Under him, India not just wanted to win, but win at any and all costs. Under him, it was an obsession, or even more, a fixation. It was invariable, thus, that he moulded the team around him in his stencil, embodying his best and worst traits. It was a team, at its peak, that never gave up till the last ball, seized the big moments, punched, counter-punched, and delivered the knockout blows. Even in his absence, the virtues he instilled in the team stood out.

No better instance than India’s comeback from 36 all out for the series win in Australia last year. Kohli was not there, yet he was there. That’s when the legacy of a true leader

Era of ‘The Rahuls’ might be upon us

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

AT THE start of this week when Virat Kohli was asked about the future of his fellow 30-plus batsmen - Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane - in the Test team, he had given a cryptic quote. It now seems like a hint of things to come. “I can’t pinpoint when we’ll have a transition in the team... I feel transitions do happen, but they happen naturally, you can’t force them,” he had said. Within days, that much-anticipated transition in Indian cricket happened and it wasn’t forced.

With Kohli stepping down as Test captain, the team that had very recently welcomed a new coach in Rahul Dravid looks very different. The picture of an animated Kohli sitting next to an indulgent Ravi Shastri, a perpetual dressing room frame that India got so used to watching, is now part of history. That glorious chapter has ended, Indian cricket has moved on.

Who will now sit next to Dravid? Being the white-ball captain makes Rohit Sharma the most obvious heir apparent. But that would be downright simple. Transitions are never that boring in the high-stakes game of cricket leadership in India. Adding intrigue to the captaincy debate is the Test series defeat at Newlands. The loss of odds-on favourites India to a relatively weak South Africa has turned the whispers of change into a loud chorus. The aged and unfit are now being seen with suspicion. The era of ‘The Rahuls’ might be upon us.

KL Rahul, the designated vice-captain, might win the race to be Test captain. Rohit’s long history of injuries might go against him. India, in times of transition, can’t afford to have a captain taking long sick leaves. There’s also Ravichandran Ashwin, a once-in-a-lifetime bowler who might be India’s highest wicket-taker ever, but Indian cricket has a known bowler prejudice when it comes to captaincy.

What about the team’s experienced batsmen? Pujara and Rahane have chosen the worst period of their career to lose form. Had they been among runs, Rahane, commander-in-chief of India’s Greatest Test win ever in Brisbane last year, would have been the natural successor. There wouldn’t have been any debate. Like Anil Kumble, before MS Dhoni, he would have been the perfect interim captain. Dhoni’s internship under Kumble worked out well for Indian cricket. Even Pujara would have fancied his chances, had he converted those many 30s and 40 into a few 100s.

Now, in the season of fault-finding and low patience, the two stare at the end of a tunnel. If the important voices in the BCCI are to be believed, it is unlikely that they will even retain their places for next month’s home Test series against Sri Lanka. The Indian middle order is expected to have a new look. Kohli’s surroundings are well and truly changing, both on and off the field. India’s regular No.4 might no longer be in the company of his old associates -



KL Rahul, the designated vice-captain, might win the race to be Test captain. Rohit’s long history of injuries might go against him.

Pujara at No.3 and Rahane at No.5.

That’s nothing new for Kohli, he has been dealing with transformation for the last few years now. He was the all-powerful leader for most of his captaincy tenure. He towered over Indian cricket like Imran Khan did in Pakistan. He got what he wanted. The BCCI, run by the Committee of Administrators (CoA) then, obliged. Kohli wanted Shastri, instead of Kumble, as coach. So be it.

Winds of change

When the CoA left, Sourav Ganguly became BCCI president and Jay Shah the secretary. Kohli now had to deal with a seasoned cricketer aware about the ins and outs of the Indian cricket system and an administrator who was well versed with BCCI functioning. Unlike in the past, in the new regime Kohli was now being questioned and his performances minutely audited. Ganguly would start his tenure with a very loaded question about India’s abysmal record at ICC events under the Kohli-Shastri leadership.

Kohli’s untimely resignation as T20 skipper, BCCI’s snatching ODI captaincy from him, the subsequent name-calling - all pointed to a changing ecosystem. This wasn’t the world the man, who once rode roughshod over all matters concerning cricket in India, was used to.

Since the time Dravid took the head coach’s seat, the processes and systems in the Indian dressing room too were seeing a sea change. Those in the know say that Dravid’s working style did not even remotely resemble Shastri’s approach. This isn’t about ‘good and bad’, it’s about the two coaches belonging to different schools of thought. Under Shastri, the power was concentrated with a few. The coach and captain were essentially one unit, now that wasn’t the case. Dravid is a man of few words, has a mind of his own and is more guarded in expressing his feelings. Unlike in the past, meetings these days have more voices, it is being said.

In the middle of the worst slump of his career, Kohli might have found it difficult to adjust to the changes around him. The captain would have felt stifled, maybe even suffocated. By giving up captaincy, he would hope to be liberated. But it will take some time to see the natural born leader, the aggressive hustler, the indomitable instigator as a former India captain when he walks in to bat or fields in the slips.

ENERGY AND FIRE

Captain who moulded the team in his own image, became India’s best

SANDIP G
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

VIRAT KOHLI’S last Test as captain, in Cape Town, had moments that both endeared and repulsed him as a leader. He was vociferous, expressive, combative, animated, and at times, loud and brash. But, how much one likes or dislikes him, deifies or defies him, one can’t miss his energy, the unstoppable flow of a contagious electric force. Behind India’s most prosperous era in Test cricket was this relentless, often ruthless, energy. It’s this uncluttered energy that embodied his reign as India’s Test captain and will be his lasting legacy.

Kohli, the captain, was a firebrand like few other Indian skippers. Sourav Ganguly had a fiery streak, but not relentlessly so. He was a mellowed figure in the latter years. MS Dhoni’s fire remained inside him, seldom spilled over. But Kohli’s fire was as bright as daylight, seething and scorching. His aggression was more direct, more in-your-face, at times more abrasive. He made no pretence to hide it either, for it was his driving force, and by extension the driving force of his

team. Indian cricket might have had wiser and smarter captains, nerdier and more intuitive leaders, but few as energetic on the field as him. Every skipper has lent an identity to his team, but not as pronounced as that of Kohli. So much in his mould that at times they spotted similar beards and listened to similar music. And largely played a similar brand of aggressive cricket.

The energy mattered. It was the fuel. When the shoulders drooped, when the game drifted, when the match withered away, when fortune disowned, there was always Kohli, urging, exhorting, applauding, admonishing. The fielders, bowlers, and the wicketkeeper, all of them felt as if they were duty-bound to sustain their own energy fields. He was more like the leading vocalist in a heavy-metal band than the conductor of an orchestra.

There were no tired riffs, just an explosion of raw, ceaseless energy. To watch Kohli on the field was a transcendental experience. One could touch his energy, feel like leaping or appealing with him, snarling and sniggering like him. One could experience his anger and agony, joy and delight. Kohli transported



ALWAYS IN BATTLE ARMOUR: Virat Kohli never took a step back when he felt he or his team was wronged.

is truly felt — when he is not around, but one sees his shadow lurking.

Indelible stamp

So, even if Kohli is no longer the captain, X or Y might have distinct dispositions, but the Kohli-ness of the team would remain. So would the ambition, steel and determination he had instilled in this team. For, it largely remains a team that Kohli built. He picked a team in shambles, without direction, and transformed it into a world-beating side, often by putting out himself as an example. He wanted a fit team, he became super-fit; he wanted his batsmen to be adaptable; he showed them how by taming the English conditions where he had struggled on the previous tour; he wanted his pacers and fielders to ooze energy, so he oozed energy himself.

Once testified Ravichandran Ashwin: “All I can say is he plays with his heart on his sleeve. Sometimes, when I watch Virat lead the side, I feel how does he manage to bring so much energy? I really envy Virat’s energy level on and off the field. And I think that the energy he infuses on the field really absorbs people.”

There were times when the energy and

aggression shot through the ceiling, when it veered into sportsmanship-or-not territory. But Kohli would rather be an ugly winner than a virtuous loser. So is the perception of his team. And his detractors should consider the sheer fact that he has been India’s most successful Test captain ever, home or away. It would be a Herculean effort to surpass, or even match, him.

Now, his batting needs the channelling of all his energies. Not that captaincy burdened his batting; in the early years, the extra responsibility only elevated his batsmanship. But that moment has arrived when he has to relinquish one so that he can revive the other. Runs and hundreds have dried up, and there may be profit in sacrifice. Kohli’s runs are his greatest assets for the team. And such a canvas should be sketched that Kohli the batsman is allowed to own the crease again and let his obvious talent flourish. Like Sachin Tendulkar, his idol, or Rahul Dravid, his coach. He could yet scale the batting peaks expected of him, could become one of the greatest batsmen of all time, but Kohli the red-ball captain, how much ever one likes or dislikes him, defies or defies him, would be missed.