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ENTERTAINMENT



LOVE ACTUALLY'S HEART-RENDING BIT

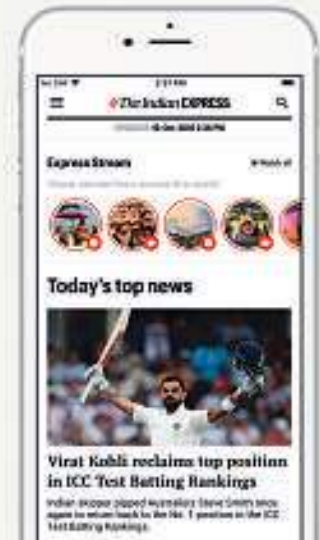
This week, *Scene Stealer* is about an iconic Emma Thompson moment

RESEARCH



WHY CLASS-BASED REGIMENTS SURVIVED

Experts, Army officials note the context in which the system arose



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EXPRESS AUDIO

India's chances at CWG 2022, and some memorable tales

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Host Mihir Vasavda joins *The Indian Express'* Shivani Naik to discuss India's prospects at the upcoming games, and the events you should look forward to.

Gehlot braces for firefighting as BJP rakes up immolation

HAMZAKHAN
JAIPUR, JULY 23

THE DEATH of a Bharatpur seer who immolated himself is set to increase troubles for the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in Rajasthan, which has already been beset by various crises.

On Saturday, three days after he set himself ablaze in Bharatpur's Pasopa village protesting against mining activities in the revered hills of Aadibadri and Kanchchal there, seer Vijay Das passed away while undergoing treatment in Delhi. Das and some other sadhus had been holding their protest there for nearly 15 months.

CM Gehlot had met a delegation of the protesting sadhus in April 2021, and had assured them of necessary action, following which the sadhus suspended their agitation. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi had intervened in the matter, which resulted in ex-Congress MLA from Mathura, Pradeep Mathur, as well as Radhakant Shastri, the head of the Braj Parvat Sanrakshan Samiti, which has been seeking conservation of the hills, also attending the April meeting.

However, in August 2021, Shastri was forced to write an open letter to Gehlot, warning of widespread anger among the protesting sadhus and stating that they have even decided to "commit suicide". However, it seems the protesters' grievances were still not redressed.

The episode has also brought the politician-bureaucrat conflict into focus. With the BJP already accusing the Congress of playing "appeasement politics", the self-immolation of an anti-mining seer protester would give the saffron party a major issue against the Gehlot government in the coming days.

Village pradhan's husband booked for forcing family out of house in UP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JULY 23

AN FIR was lodged against the husband of a village pradhan for allegedly forcibly occupying the house of a Dalit family on Friday in Mehrauli village in Moradabad district's Kundarki area, police said.

"While the accused, Mohammed Abdullah, claims to have bought the house from its owners, the current occupants said they had been living in the house for several years and the latter was trying to lay claim on the property by showing forged documents," police said.

According to the police, Naresh — who lives in the house with his family — alleged that on Thursday Abdullah and his aides reached his house and started throwing out their belongings. Naresh and his family were not present in the house at the time. "After vacating the house, Abdullah started construction on the land. Meanwhile, local residents alerted the police who reached the spot and stopped the construction," police said.

"During preliminary inquiry, we learned that the house was built several years ago and the owner of the house had allowed Naresh to stay in it with his family," they added.

Circle Officer (Kundarki) Ganesh Kumar said, "We have sought land records of the property from the district administration. Abdullah claims to have purchased the land from its owners, who live in Delhi."

FROM PAGE ONE

Bengal minister

to take away the seized cash and items. As she was led away from her home, Mukherjee said, "It's a big conspiracy... I haven't done anything unethical."

At a press conference, TMC state general secretary Kunal Ghosh said, "The money recovered from the house of one woman has no connection with the TMC. The woman is not a TMC member. The TMC has no connection with this incident. As far as Partha Chatterjee is concerned, the matter is in the court now. We have full faith in the judiciary. If anyone is found guilty or allegations against him are proven, only then action will be initiated against him by the party and the government."

Following his arrest, Chatterjee was taken to the ESI Hospital in Joka for medical examination and then produced before the Bankshall court which sent him to ED custody for two days.

According to ED sources, Chatterjee will be produced in court again Monday.

Chatterjee was later admitted to the SSKM Hospital after he complained of chest pain. "Partha Chatterjee isn't feeling well. He has developed heartache. Wedemanded before court that if ED custody is granted, then proper medical facilities should be given to him," said his lawyer Somnath Mukherjee.

The agency, which is probing the money trail aspect of the alleged school recruitment scam being investigated by the CBI, will press charges under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

As he left the hospital, Chatterjee was asked by reporters whether he tried to contact Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. "I tried but could not get through," he said.

In April and May this year, the CBI had questioned Chatterjee. On the direction of the Calcutta High Court, the CBI is investigating the alleged irregularities in the recruitment of Group C & D staff and teachers in government and aided schools on the recommendations of the West Bengal School Service Commission.

The ED is investigating the money laundering aspect of the alleged recruitment scam -- crores of rupees allegedly changed hands for the appointment of teachers recruited through the SSC.

The notification for appointment of teachers in state-run schools through SLST (State Level Selection Test) for teachers was published in 2014 and the recruitment process started in 2016.

A series of petitions were later filed in the Calcutta High Court alleging anomalies in the recruitment process. The petitioners said many examinees who obtained low marks ranked high in the merit list. There were also allegations that some applicants, who were not even in the merit list, received appointment letters.

In the second case, the state government had issued a notification in 2016 to the School Service Commission (SSC) for recruitment of 13,000 employees for state-run/aided schools. In 2019, the term of the panel making the appointments ran out. Petitioners claimed that at least 25 people were appointed through SSC after the term of the panel expired. Later, petitioners put the number of appointments at over 500.

Monkeypox

suitable linkages with hospital facilities earmarked to each port of entry.

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, in a press conference Saturday, said: "WHO's assessment is that

the risk of monkeypox is moderate globally and in all regions, except in the European region where we assess the risk as high. There is also a clear risk of further international spread, although the risk of interference with international traffic remains low for the moment. So in short, we have an outbreak that has spread around the world rapidly, through new modes of transmission, about which we understand too little, and which meets the criteria in the International Health Regulations."

He added: "For all of these reasons, I have decided that the global monkeypox outbreak represents a public health emergency of international concern."

Last month, 3,040 cases had been reported from 47 countries.

The Emergency Committee under International Health Regulations, which met Thursday to review the new numbers, did not, however, reach a consensus on announcing a public health emergency.

Yet, WHO made the declaration based on cases being reported from several countries, the meeting of the three criteria for such a declaration (a situation that is serious, sudden, unusual, or unexpected; carries public health implication beyond the border of affected state, and may require immediate international action), and the risk to human health, international spread, and the potential for interference with international traffic.

Five people have died of the infection so far.

This is the seventh time the highest alarm level is being used since 2009. These are the earlier instances: H1N1 pandemic (2009), increasing polio cases (2014), Ebola outbreak in Western Africa (2014), Zika virus epidemic (2015-16), Kivu Ebola epidemic in Democratic Republic of Congo (2018-20), and Covid-19.

Monkeypox is a viral infection that is mainly transmitted from animals to humans, previously with limited transmission among humans as the smallpox vaccine used for the eradication of the disease also protected against monkeypox. The first human case was reported in 1970 in Democratic Republic of the Congo and subsequently became endemic to several West and Central African countries.

CJI debates on issues involving justice delivery are proving to be detrimental to the health of democracy. Biased views being propagated by media are affecting the people, weakening democracy, and harming the system. In this process, justice delivery gets adversely affected. By overstepping and breaching your responsibility, you are taking our democracy two steps backwards," said the CJI.

"Print media still has certain degree of accountability. Whereas, electronic media has zero accountability as what it shows vanishes into thin air. Still worse is social media," he said.

Saying that there is growing demand for stricter media regulations and accountability, he advised the media to "self-regulate and measure their words". "You should not overstep and invite interference, either from the government or from the courts. Judges may not react immediately. Please don't mistake it to be a weakness or helplessness. When liberties are exercised responsibly, within their domains, there will be no necessity of placing reasonable or proportionate external restrictions. I urge upon the media, particularly the electronic and social media, to behave responsibly," he said.

The CJI also emphasised the need to strengthen the judiciary and empower judges, saying an increasing number of physical attacks on judges are being witnessed. "Can you imagine, a

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Fertiliser imports from Russia up

24 per cent in FY22. Historically, Russia has not been among the top fertiliser suppliers to India; in FY22, India's imports from Russia were just 6 per cent of its total fertiliser imports.

According to sources, imports from Russia were "10 per cent cheaper" than the prevailing prices in the international market. "India could secure diammonium phosphate (DAP) at \$920 a tonne when global prices were hovering above \$1,000 a tonne," a source said.

The spurt in imports of fertilisers and crude oil from Russia has come at a time when western countries have imposed sanctions against Moscow following its invasion of Ukraine. This issue may also figure during talks with USAID Administrator Samantha Power, who is scheduled to travel to India during July 25-27. She will be in India to meet a cross section of stakeholders including climate experts, civil society, and government officials to discuss the global food security crisis, and the US-India development partnership.

India has so far maintained a tightrope walk between the US-led west and Russia on the Ukraine crisis, but has moved in to buy cheap oil and fertilisers to meet its energy and food security needs. High Russian imports have been a point of India's conversation with several western interlocutors in the past few

IMPORTS FROM OTHERS				
Countries	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Saudi-Arabia	24.39	19.9	26.59	5.65
Oman	27.57	21.45	15.88	4.86
China	44.82	41.75	44.06	3.96
Canada	10.96	11.88	3.41	2.49

*(up to June 2022)

months.

Of the 7.74 lakh MT fertiliser imports from Russia, urea comprised 47,000 MT, DAP 1.32 lakh MTs and NPK (a complex fertiliser containing nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) 5.95 lakh MTs.

To meet its domestic demand, India imports a significant quantity of fertilisers. In FY22, urea consumption stood at 341.73 lakh MTs, of which 250.72 lakh MTs was met through indigenous production and 91.36 lakh MTs through imports; mainly from China (25.91 lakh MTs), Oman (15.88 lakh MTs) and UAE (7.95 lakh MTs), according to government data.

Similarly, to meet its DAP consumption of 92.64 lakh MTs in 2021-22, India imported 54.62 lakh MTs, of which the maximum 18.59 lakh MTs came from Saudi Arabia followed by China (18.15 lakh MTs) and Morocco (11.60 lakh MTs). India's domestic production of DAP was 42.22 lakh MTs in FY22.

For muriate of potash (MoP), India is completely dependent on imports. In 2021-22, India imported 24.60 lakh MTs of MoP with the two major sources being Israel (5.22 lakh MTs) and Lithuania (5.21 lakh MTs).

In recent years, India has imported mainly NPK from Russia. To partly meet its 121.37 lakh MTs demand for NPK, India imported 11.70 lakh MTs, of which more than half 5.72 lakh MTs came from Russia, shows government data.

In the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, fertiliser supply has taken a hit globally, causing an uptick in prices of the nutrients in recent months. Observing that the Department of Fertilisers has been "continuously monitoring" the supply situation, Mandaviya told the House, "In the aftermath of the Russia-Ukraine war, the focus is to facilitate long term tie ups and short-term supplies of P&K fertilisers from alternative sources."

"Further, India has entered a long-term agreement to offset

10 lakh MTs urea annually from Oman on FOB basis through OQ trading for a period of three years. Shipment under the long-term agreement has commenced during February, 2022," Mandaviya said in the written reply.

Mandaviya himself has travelled to several countries to secure supply of fertilisers. "I have come back from Jordan after signing a long-term agreement for supply of 30 lakh metric tonnes of rock phosphate of the best grade. Besides, an agreement has also been signed for 2.75 lakh MTs MoP and 2.5 lakh MTs of DAP... The agreement is for five years," he had told reporters on May 17.

Mandaviya said there would be "no shortage" of fertilisers during the kharif season 2022.

For kharif 2022, the Centre has pegged the total fertiliser requirement at 354.34 lakh MTs, of which urea accounts for 179 lakh MTs, DAP 58.82 lakh MTs, MoP 19.81 lakh MTs, NPK 63.71 lakh MT, and SSP 33 lakh MT.

As per the government data, the opening stock of fertilisers available for the kharif season stood at 125.5 lakh MTs, or 35 per cent of the requirement as on April, 19, 2022. Among individual fertilisers, the urea stock is 34.62 per cent of the total requirement, DAP 41.65 per cent, MoP 30.29 per cent, NPK 25.33 per cent, and SSP 51.52 per cent.

Intelligence agencies, the same activities are being run in the guise of commercial activities. This is highly suspicious when national interest is concerned. The money is routed from the M/s Amnesty International United Kingdom to M/s Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd in India to fund anti-national activities in the guise of export of services, which is nothing but the supply of report if any and doing campaigning, mass gatherings etc.," the ED stated in its complaint to the court.

On July 9, Amnesty India rejected the allegations. In a Twitter post, it said, "We reiterate that the allegations of @dir_ed, a financial investigation agency under @FinMinIndia, that Amnesty International India was involved in 'money laundering', are patently untrue."

"This violation is further reinforced by the selective leak of information to certain media channels without giving the organisation access to any such information," it said.

"Since September 2020, the bank accounts of Amnesty International India remain frozen with no means to pay full dues to ex-employees or for the services of lawyers engaged to fight the multiple court cases initiated by the Government of India," it said.

Kochi girl

I find it difficult to follow. But they can't give me special attention. But they really tried hard to make me comfortable, like in social sciences, instead of a map-based question they would give me something else and several such instances," she says.

Though difficult at first, she says her parents' decision to enrol her in a regular school was the best one for her.

Her father, Simon, a legal manager in a private firm, explains why. "When we enquired about blind schools, we realised she could study there until Class X. But we didn't want her to drop out later. My wife, Lija, learnt Braille herself and taught Hannah," he said.

Hannah's teachers and principal call her exceptionally talented. "My own child is hearing impaired and studied here. As far as Hannah goes, she is not just good at academics. She is a gifted singer, great orator, writes wonderfully and has in fact released a book. She is extremely composed and confident for someone her age," says Saji Varghese, principal, Rajagiri Christu Jayanthi Public School.

A student of music, Hannah has completed her Grade 8 from Trinity College London in western classical and rock and pop. "In Class VI, during a competition, I composed a few original songs. It was then, on my father's suggestion, that I wrote my first song, 'Jesus by my Side', and my parents created a YouTube channel for me," she recalled.

Since then, Hannah has written eight songs, garnered 20,000 subscribers for her YouTube channel, published a book of short stories recently — and is a speaker at schools and colleges to boot.

"I started by sharing my experiences in the Church, someone found it inspiring and asked me to come and share elsewhere. Now schools and colleges call me, I just go and share my experiences — they call it motivational speeches," said Hannah, who now wants to major in psychology besides studying creative writing and music.

On August 9, she leaves with her parents for the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, US, where she has been offered a full scholarship.

"All I want is for the world to treat me like any other regular, normal student. I know the first few months will be challenging but I want to prove that I can survive on my own in a foreign country just like any other student."

Grey Blue Yellow Black

Grey Blue Yellow Black

Grey Blue Yellow Black

New Delhi

Grey Blue Yellow Black

Grey

Woman raped inside railway station, four employees held

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

A 30-YEAR-OLD woman was allegedly raped inside the electrical maintenance staff room at a railway station in Delhi late Thursday night by two railway employees. Police said four men, including two who allegedly stood guard outside the room, have been arrested.

DCP (Railways) Harendra Singh said the accused have been identified as Satish Kumar (35), Vinod Kumar (38), Mangal Chand Meena (33) and Jagdish Chand (37) — all railway employees in the electrical department. All four were arrested within two hours of the FIR be-

A Northern Railway spokesman said they have taken disciplinary action against the accused staff under rule 14(2) of service conduct rules

ing registered. They were produced before a Delhi court, which sent them to 14-day judicial custody, he added.

"We received a call at 3.27 am on July 22 wherein a woman alleged that she had been raped by two men inside a room at a railway station. During investigation, we found that the incident

took place inside a train lighting hut," he said.

Singh said the woman informed police that she separated from her husband around a year ago and divorce proceedings are underway. "Around two years ago, she met one of the accused, Satish, through a common friend. He told her he is a railway employee and can arrange a job for her too. They started talking over the phone. On July 21, he invited her to his house for a party to celebrate his son's birthday and the purchase of a new house," he said.

According to Singh, the accused picked her up from a Metro station around 10.30 pm and took her to the railway station.

Singh said the woman alleged she was asked to sit in the train lighting hut, which is for the electrical maintenance staff. "A few minutes later, the accused along with a friend came inside the room and bolted it from the inside. They sexually assaulted her while two others facilitated the assault by guarding the room from the outside," he said.

Based on the woman's complaint, an FIR was registered under IPC sections 376D (gangrape) and 342 (wrongful confinement).

A Northern Railway spokesman said: "While police are investigating the matter, we have taken disciplinary action against the accused staff under rule 14(2) of service conduct rules."

NE Delhi riots: Court rejects Sharjeel's interim bail plea

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Saturday rejected the interim bail application of JNU student Sharjeel Imam in a UAPA case lodged in connection with the Northeast Delhi riots.

Imam's lawyer, Ibrahim, had sought interim bail considering the fact that the Supreme Court ordered that all pending trials in sedition cases be kept in abeyance till its constitutional validity is decided.

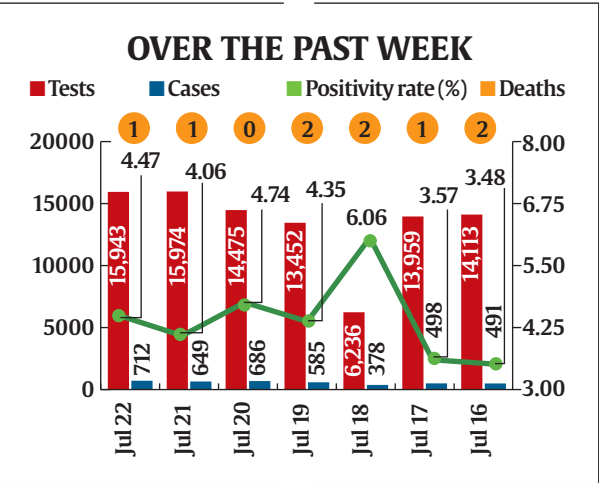
He argued that Imam's previous bail was rejected because of limitations in granting bail in a sedition case, however, in light of the Supreme Court directions, the hindrances raised in the previous bail order where obviated.

Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad opposed his bail plea by stating that there is no direction of the Supreme Court that all persons accused of the offence under sedition should be released on interim bail pending disposal of constitutional challenges to the section.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat, while dismissing Imam's plea, observed that there can only be one bail order on the merits of the case and it "cannot again pass an order on the merits that too in an interim bail application".

"Otherwise, by this logic, there can be two bail orders on merits of the case at the same time passed by this court. The merits of the case cannot be agitated again in an interim bail application in view of the disposal of the previous bail application and orders on charge both dated 24.01.2022," the court said. It also said the defence counsel's plea that Section 13 of UAPA is not made out in the present case is a completely misplaced argument. **ENS**

After slight dip, Covid cases on the rise again in Delhi



EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

AFTER REPORTING a decline in Covid-19 cases through the second week and most of the third week of July, the numbers have started slightly increasing again, with the number of active cases remaining over 2,000 during the previous five days. The number of hospitalisations due to the infection has also remained over 100 across city hospitals over the last six days after dipping below the 100-mark in the five days preceding it.

On Saturday, Delhi recorded 738 fresh cases of Covid-19, which is the highest since the beginning of the month, according to the daily health bulletin released by the government.

There has also been an increase in the positivity rate. On Saturday, the national capital recorded a positivity rate of 5.04%. The average positivity rate over the previous seven days also stood at 4.47%, increasing from 3.31% the previous week. The positivity rate during the first week of July was 4.20%.

The spread of the infection is generally thought to be under control if the positivity rate remains at 5% or less over two weeks. A positivity rate of over 6% was seen just four days ago, albeit on a day when very few tests had been conducted.

Meanwhile, the number of deaths from the infection seems to have gone down. There have been 38 Covid-related deaths in the month of July so far compared to 50 deaths recorded in June. As many as 35 deaths were recorded in May, according to

EXPLAINED
Cases from home-based testing kits

STATES and Union territories were asked to increase awareness about reporting cases after a person tests positive using home-based testing kits. The kits became prevalent in India after the third Omicron-driven wave in January. With these cases not getting reported, unlike the cases detected by RT-PCR tests and facility-based rapid antigen tests, it creates a hindrance in estimating the number of cases.

the data.

With nine states — not including Delhi — still reporting an increase in Covid-19 cases and positivity rate, the Centre directed all states to increase the number of tests and the proportion of the more accurate RT-PCR test, strictly monitor patients in home isolation, implement Covid-19 appropriate behaviour, and accelerate the administration of the vaccine now that the precaution dose has been made free of cost for all adults.

Previously, the Centre had also asked states to organise special vaccination drives along routes of yatras such as the Kanwar Yatra that is currently underway. In order to increase the coverage of the booster dose, the Centre has decided to provide it free of cost to all adults for the next 75 days.

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No.-F-2(01)Acct/Contract/2022-23/145-147 Date: 21-07-2022
"संशोधन सुचना"
न्यास द्वारा जारी EOI सूचना संख्या: No.- F-14() Engg/E.E.-IV/2022-23/120-122 Date:24-06-2022 (Develop Bungee Jumping and Sky Cycling at Rajiv Gandhi Smriti Udhyan, Rani Road near Fatehsagar Lake, Udaipur on PPP mode.) की लिथियों में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया गया है, ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड/अपलोड एवं EMD, Tender Fee & Processing Fee Online दिनांक: 02-08-2022 को सांय: 6.00 बजे तक जमा की जा सकेंगे एवं दिनांक: 03-08-2022 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे तककी बिड खोली जावेगी।
(Nirmal Suthar)Executive Engineer-IV
Urban Improvement Trust, Udaipur

To clear gambling dues, man stabs himself, stages robbery

Gurgaon: A 29-year-old man has been booked for allegedly stabbing himself and concocting a false robbery story to steal cash and jewellery from his uncle's house to clear his gambling dues.

According to police, the complainant said he was alone at home on Wednesday when a man claiming to be a WiFi technician arrived and sought to inspect the router due to a technical fault in the area. The complainant alleged two more men barged in and attacked him with a knife before they robbed cash and jew-

ellery at gunpoint and fled.

Gurgaon police spokesperson Subhash Boken said, "The sequence of events seemed suspicious and the complainant was questioned again. Investigation found that he had concocted a fake story of robbery and inflicted the injury on himself. He said he was involved in gambling and had lost money. He planned to steal cash and jewellery, amounting to several lakhs, from his uncle's house, where he has been staying, to recoup his losses." **ENS**

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Sapru House, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi

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

"PENSION ADALAT"

Central GST Commissionerate Faridabad, Government of India will hold "Pension Adalat" on 26.07.2022 (Tuesday) 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)


भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India
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CG-DL-E-15072022-237301
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भाग II-खण्ड 3-प्रारम्भ (ii)
PART II - Section 3 - Sub-Section (ii)
प्रधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 3034 नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, जुलाई 14, 2022/आषाढ़ 23, 1944
No. 3034 NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022/ASHADHA 23, 1944

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 14th July, 2022
S.O. 3192(E)—In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956), the Central Government, in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, number S.O. 4537(E) dated 01.11.2021, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) on dated 01.11.2021, hereby makes the following amendments, namely:
In the Schedule to the said notification:

Sl. No. (According to Gazette Notification dated 01.11.2021)	Survey No.	In Gazette		For Correction	
		Type of Land	Nature of Land	Type of Land	Nature of Land
Village Name: Abheyapur, Tehsil Name: Sohna, District: Gurugram					
1	1738	Common	Rasta	Common	G.M. Rasta
Village Name: Daula, Tehsil Name: Sohna, District: Gurugram					
4	38/17/2/1	Private	Agriculture	Government	G.M. Canal
5	38/17/2/2	Private	Gair Mumkin Road	Private	Agriculture
Village Name: Lohatki, Tehsil Name: Sohna, District: Gurugram					
9	27	Common	Rasta	Common	G.M. Harwadi
Village Name: Sancholi, Tehsil Name: Sohna, District: Gurugram					
13	78	Government	Gair Mumkin Road	Government	G.M. Rasta

Note: The corrections should be read against the above errors.
[F. No. NHAI/CMU/MTR/MB/DELHI-VADODARA/2018/D-4774/3A1 Corr.]
RAJESH GUPTA, Director

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

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

Lot No.	Name of the Account Borrower/Guarantors Name, Name of the Branch	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name(mortgagers of property(ies)	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/ Physical/ Constructive	A) Reserve Price BEMD C) last date of EMD D) Bid Increase Amount	Date/Time of E-Auction	Details of the Encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1.	M/S Anpurna Mini Rice Mill Proprietor Sh. Ravi Kant Chaturvedi S/o Sh. Indrajeet Chaubey. A/C No- 3863008700001336 & 386300CF00000117 Bo: Bhabua (386300)	Land Situated at: Sale deed no 10900 dated 12.12.2008 Mauza- Dadwa, Ward No 3, PS & Anchal- Mohania, District- Kaimur, Thana No 535, Halka No 9, Khata No 23, Plot No 267, Area 26 Decimal Boundary: N- Jaleshwari Singh, S- Jaleshwari Singh E- Rest of the plot no 267, W- Road Mohania- Ramgarh Mortgagor: Sh. Ravi Kant Chaturvedi and Sh. Shashi Kant Chaturvedi Both S/o Indrajeet Chaubey	A) 30.06.2021 B) Rs 43,36,557.63 + Intt. W.e.f 01.04.2021 and other Charges. C) 21.01.2022 D) Symbolic	A) Rs.65.71 Lakh B) Rs. 6.57 Lakh, C) 24.08.2022 D) Rs. 10,000/-	25/08/2022 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM	Not Known
2.	M/S Laxmi Jee Traders Proprietor Smt. Prem Lata Kumari W/o Sh. Ravi Kant Chaturvedi and Prem Lata Kumari A/C No- 3863008700001646, 386300CF00000287 & 386300NC20062070 Bo: Bhabua (386300)	Land Situated at: Mauza- Dadwa, Ward No 3, Thana and Sub-Registry Office- Mohania, District- Kaimur, Thana No 535, Khata No 144, Plot No. 233, Area 22.5 Decimal, Sale deed no 1222 dated 11.03.2015 Boundary: N- Late Deomuni Chaubey Heirs, S- Late Raj Kumar Chaubey's Heirs and Baha, E- Kailash Singh, W- Dhanajay Singh Mortgagor: Smt. Prem Lata Kumari W/o Ravi Kant Chaturvedi	A) 30.06.2021 B) Rs 30,28,635.80 + Intt. W.e.f 01.04.2021 and other Charges. C) 21.01.2022 D) Symbolic	A) Rs.40.28 Lakh B) Rs. 4.03 Lakh, C) 24.08.2022 D) Rs. 10,000/-	25/08/2022 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM	Not Known
3.	M/S R.J. MALL Proprietor: Shr. Mukesh Kumar S/O Sh Suresh Prasad A/C No- 6002008700000610 & 600200IC00000013 Bo: Bihariya (600200)	Land Situated at: - Regd. Sale Deed No. 6583 Dated 18.06.2014, Mauza- Karisath, Thana No. 327, P. S. & Anchal- Udwananagar, Dist. Bhojpur, Khata No- 254, Plot No. 4191, Area- 31.25 Decimal (10 Katha). Boundary: North- Paine, South- Jeev Bahal Ray (After Acquisition Of Land For Ara-Buxar Road The Southern Side Of The Boundary Will Be Ara-Buxar Road), East- Kapuri Singh, West- Awadhesh Prasad Singh Mortgagor: Smt. Anjani Devi W/O Sh. Suresh Prasad	A) 22.06.2021 B) Rs 70,09,304.12 + Intt. W.e.f 01.05.2021 and other Charges. C) 05.10.2021 D) Symbolic	A) Rs.62.50 Lakh B) Rs. 6.25 Lakh, C) 24.08.2022 D) Rs. 10,000/-	25/08/2022 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM	Not Known

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
1) The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:
2) The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"
3) The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
4) The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.msstcecommerce.com> on **25.08.2022 @ 10:30 AM.** 5) For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer www.ibapi.in, www.tenders.gov.in, www.msstcecommerce.com, <https://eprocure.gov.in/publish/app>
Date: 23.07.2022
Place: Arrah

Authorized Officer
Punjab National Bank
Secured Creditor

4 THE CITY



CORONAVIRUS
IN THE CAPITAL

**VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS**

31,296



PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL:

141

OXYGEN SUPPORT

22

VENTILATOR SUPPORT

5

**DELHI TOTAL
CASES**

19,47,763

HOSPITAL BEDS

2,115

ICU BEDS

2,081

Total active cases in Delhi

2,489*

19,18,975

26,299

3,93,88,896

July 22

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Recoveries

Deaths

Tests

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6 GOVT & POLITICS

Cong attacks Irani over Goa bar; she hits back, dares Rahul



Union minister Smriti Irani addresses a press conference at her residence in New Delhi on Saturday. *PTI*

Cong: Her daughter got 'fraud' licence; lawyer says no link, she was an intern

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, NEW DELHI, JULY 23

ACCUSING HER daughter of running a restaurant-bar in Goa "illegally", with the licence procured "fraudulently" in the name of a deceased person, the Congress Saturday demanded resignation of Union minister Smriti Irani. Calling it a "malicious" accusation, Irani hit back, saying that her daughter was the target only because "her mother does press conferences against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi".

"The allegation that my daughter runs an illegal bar is malicious with the intent not only to assassinate her character but also to politically malign me," Irani said.

She added: "And to the Gandhi family, which directed that this press conference [by Congress] be held against my child, I tell you this, send Rahul Gandhi back to fight the Lok Sabha election in 2024 from Amethi and he will lose again. That is my promise as a BJP worker and as a mother to that 18-year-old. I will see them in the court of law."

In a statement, her daughter's lawyer, Kirat Nagra, said his client was neither an owner nor operating the restaurant in question, Silly Souls Café and Bar in North Goa's Assagao.

These remarks came after Congress leaders showed a show-cause notice issued to the bar and alleged that the Excise Department official who issued the notice is reportedly being transferred under pressure. Nagra stated that his client had not received any show-cause notice from any authority whatsoever.

Addressing the media in Delhi, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara said: "In Goa, a restaurant run by her daughter, it has a bar... it is accused of procuring a licence fraudulently. The licence is in the name of a person who died in May 2021 and... was

procured in June (2022). In the name of that person, Smriti Irani's daughter took the licence."

Goa Excise Commissioner Narayan M Gad had issued a show-cause notice to Silly Souls Café and Bar on July 21 based on a complaint filed by lawyer Aires Rodrigues, who alleged that the eatery's liquor licence was renewed in the name of one Anthony Dgama — his death certificate, issued by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, was annexed to Rodrigues's complaint.

Gad had sought a reply from the restaurant in seven days.

In Panaji, state Congress chief Amit Patkar addressed the media and showed a clip of a purported show in which Irani's daughter was interviewed as a "young entrepreneur", and Silly Souls introduced as "her restaurant".

Nagra said that Irani's daughter "has no control or oversight into the management and affairs of the eatery and her limited interaction at the facility was only while doing an internship program with the chef of Silly Souls Café."

In Delhi, Irani said, "An 18-year-old child, a college student, her character today was assassinated by Congressmen.... They claim that the mutilations stemmed from a show cause notice. I want to ask that Congressperson where is the name of my daughter in the papers that he flashed?"

She also said: "It is done at the directions, as was obviously stated by Pawan Khara, of the Congress leadership, namely the Gandhi family, because I had the audacity to hold a press conference to question Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi for the (Rs) 5,000 crore loot of the Indian treasury [in the National Herald case].... So the gentlemen who sat there, giggled as they assassinated my daughter's character, I will see you in the court of law and in the court of the people...."

—INPUTS FROM PTI, DELHI



President Ram Nath Kovind with Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, PM Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and others at Parliament House Complex on Saturday. *Prem Nath Pandey*

Kovind's farewell address: Protest in 'Gandhian mould', rise above partisan politics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind, who will demit office on Monday, called for protests to always be conducted in the "Gandhian mould" and urged political parties to rise above partisan politics.

Delivering his farewell address to members from both Houses of Parliament, Kovind said, "Citizens and political parties have many constitutional avenues open to them, including protests. After all, the father of our nation employed the weapon of *satyagraha* for that purpose. But he was equally concerned about the other side. Citizens have a right to protest and to press for their demands, but it should always be in the peaceful Gandhian mould."

Tricolour can now stay hoisted day & night

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE NATIONAL flag can now remain hoisted through the night if it is in the open and hoisted by a member of the public. As government launches Har Ghar Tiranga campaign from August 13, the Ministry of Home Affairs on Wednesday amended the Flag Code of India, 2002, to allow for the na-

tionary system to a big family with the President being an integral part of it, Kovind said, "As with any family, there are bound to be differences within this parliamentary family, too. There would be diverging views about how to proceed further. But we remain a family, and the interest of the nation remains our top priority. Political processes operate through the mechanism of party organisations, but the parties must rise above a partisan approach and consider what is good, what is essential for the common man and woman, with the spirit of 'nation first'."

Both Houses of Parliament have witnessed uproarious scenes and repeated adjournments during the current Monsoon session.

In the audience during Kovind's farewell speech at the

Central Hall of Parliament were Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, as well as ministers and several other MPs. Leader of the Congress party in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, was also present. However, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge was absent as he had a pre-scheduled programme and was not in Delhi. Neither Congress president Sonia Gandhi nor the party's Lok Sabha MP Rahul Gandhi were present at the event.

Kovind congratulated his successor, President-elect Droupadi Murmu, and said the country would benefit from her guidance. Murmu will be sworn in as President on Monday.

Kovind is expected to address the nation at 7 pm on Sunday.

Clause XI earlier read: "Where the flag is displayed in the open, it should, as far as possible, be flown from sunrise to sunset, irrespective of weather conditions".

Earlier, the government had amended the Flag Code to allow for machine-made and polyester flags to be used.

The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign has been launched to encourage the citizens to hoist the national flag in their homes from August 13 to 15.

Prove majority to stake claim for Shiv Sena, EC tells Thackeray, Shinde

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India (EC) has asked both Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his predecessor, Uddhav Thackeray, to submit documentary evidence to prove that they have the majority members in the Shiv Sena to stake claim to the party.

Sources said the poll panel has asked both leaders to submit evidence to prove majority and respond by August 8.

The two sides are learnt to have been asked to submit documents, including letters of support from the legislative and organisational wings of the party and written statements of rival factions.

On July 20, Shinde had approached the EC in a bid to stake claim over the Sena in whole. **ENS**

WEST BENGAL MINISTER'S ARREST

TMC's top leadership should be investigated for corruption: BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

ON A day when senior TMC leader Partha Chatterjee was arrested in an alleged teacher recruitment scam, the BJP sought questioning of the top leadership of the party saying West Bengal's ruling party had accumulated huge amounts of money over the years through corruption.

The saffron party took exception to TMC leader and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's campaign against the central investigative agencies and said it has been a case of "chor machaye shor (thief making noise)". "A raid by the ED has unearthed Rs 21 crore cash from a close associate of a minister. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had appreciated the minister for his good work and today we came to know of the good work she was referring to," Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said at a press conference.

He said over Rs 1 lakh crore illegal assets have been brought back into the mainstream by the ED and other investigative agencies. "We want to expose the hypocrisy of the leaders who do their very best to intimidate investigative agencies and derail the process of the investigation," Chandrasekhar said.

Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur also hit out at the Trinamool Congress, saying the party is "the mountain of corruption". "Trinamool Congress — TMC — stands for The Mountain of Corruption," Thakur said in a statement in Delhi. He accused West Bengal CM of remaining a "silent spectator" to scams unravelling under her rule.

Former West Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh alleged that TMC leaders have accumulated huge wealth over the years, adding that nobody will believe that party's "high command" was not aware of this. "Based on the evidence unearthed so far, the top leadership should be questioned," Ghosh said without naming anyone.



Partha Chatterjee at a Kolkata court on Saturday. *Partha Paul*

Petitions and protests helped flag 'irregularities'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JULY 23

THE ARREST of West Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee in connection with the School Service Commission (SSC) recruitment scam on Saturday is the latest development in an issue that surfaced in 2014 and, more recently, has seen nearly 500 days of sustained protests from candidates who claim that they have not got jobs despite having cleared the relevant examinations.

Apart from the Primary Teacher Eligibility Test (TET), allegations of irregularities have been made regarding recruitment of school teachers, even in Group C and Group D employee categories.

It was in 2014 that a notification for appointment of teachers in state-run schools in West Bengal through SLST (State Level Selection Test) for teachers was published and the recruitment process started in 2016.

However, a series of petitions were filed in the Calcutta High Court alleging "anomalies" in the recruitment process. The petitioners alleged that many candidates who got low marks ranked high in the merit list. There were also allegations that some applicants

who weren't even in the merit list received appointment letters.

In 2016, the state government issued a notification to the School Service Commission (SSC) to recruit 13,000 Group-D employees for state-run/aided schools.

In 2019, the tenure of the panel making the appointments expired. However, petitioners in the Calcutta High Court alleged that despite this, at least 25 persons were appointed by the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education through the SSC. Later, petitioners claimed that over 500 such appointments were made.

Similarly, cases were filed against the West Bengal primary education board for allegedly recruiting teachers "illegally."

Some of the petitioners alleged that some persons had been appointed though they had not qualified in TET, 2014. For getting a job in a primary school as a teacher, a candidate must have passed the TET. The petitioners have alleged that around 23 lakh candidates appeared in TET, 2014 and a panel was published for giving appointment of nearly 42,000 candidates as primary teachers. The petitioners expressed serious suspicion about the "legality and correctness" of publication of such a panel.

Mamata's trusted lieutenant in eye of teacher recruitment scam storm

SANTANU CHOWDHURY
KOLKATA, JULY 23

WEST BENGAL commerce and industry minister and senior Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader, Partha Chatterjee, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) Saturday for his alleged involvement in the teacher recruitment scam in the state School Service Commission (SSC), has been one of the most trusted lieutenants of Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee.

Apart from being a heavyweight minister handling various key portfolios, Chatterjee is also the TMC secretary general — the most important party role after the position of party chief Mamata Banerjee and her nephew and party national gen-

eral secretary Abhishek Banerjee.

One of the most prominent TMC faces in Kolkata, the five-time MLA from the city's Behala Paschim Assembly constituency, Chatterjee, 69, has been Mamata's "go to" leader when it comes to dealing with the Bengal organisational affairs. From the constitution of the TMC district committees to working out election strategies, Chatterjee plays an important role in the entire spectrum of organisational matters.

Chatterjee had worked as an HR professional with Andrew Yule before foraying into politics several decades ago. After Mamata quit the Congress and formed the TMC in 1998, he joined her party. On the TMC ticket he was elected as an MLA for the first time in 2001 from Behala Paschim and has been con-

tinuously winning from the seat since then. He was the Leader of the Opposition in the Bengal Assembly from 2006 to 2011 during the tenure of the erstwhile CPM-led Left Front government.

When the TMC ousted the Left dispensation from power in Bengal in 2011 and formed its government, Chatterjee was inducted into her Cabinet by Mamata.

In 2014, Chatterjee was appointed as the minister-in-charge of higher education and school education — the portfolio at the heart of the SSC scam, which he held till 2021. After Mamata took over as the CM for the third consecutive time after the TMC's triumph in 2021 Assembly polls, she again allocated the portfolios of commerce and industry, information technology and electronics to Chatterjee.

Minister's aide, a model, actor, face of his Durga Puja committee campaigns

ATRI MITRA
KOLKATA, JULY 23

A DAY after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out raids across West Bengal in connection with its probe into the state's School Service Commission (SSC) teacher recruitment scam and recovered Rs 20 crore from the house of Arpita Mukherjee, a close associate of senior minister and TMC leader Partha Chatterjee, the agency arrested Chatterjee while detaining Mukherjee.

According to the ED, besides the hoarded cash running into nearly Rs 20 crore, its personnel seized from Mukherjee's flat in Tollygunge in south Kolkata more than 50 lakh in foreign currency, 20 mobile phones and a cache of incriminating documents.



Arpita Mukherjee

In a statement about its raids on her residence and seizure, the ED described Mukherjee as a "close associate" of Chatterjee. A model and actor, Mukherjee has done some minor roles in a few Bengali, Odia and Tamil films. Sources said she met Chatterjee nearly a decade ago through his Durga Puja committee called the Nakalta Udayan Sangha.

Arpita has been the face of the

promotional campaigns of the Nakalta Udayan Sangha in recent years. Her image has featured extensively in the advertisements of Chatterjee's committee during Durga Puja. Sources said Mukherjee has several flats in Kolkata and its suburbs. Her mother Minati Mukherjee, who stays in their ancestral house at Belgharia in north Kolkata, said: "She (Arpita) has not been staying here for many years. But very often she used to come here. Last week too, she came but did not stay for more than an hour."

A senior TMC leader close to Chatterjee recalled that "a few years ago, when Chatterjee held the education portfolio, he went to a school at Baruipur for inspection on the occasion of Saraswati Puja. Arpita had accompanied him on that visit."

Tourism ministry revamps its Swadesh Darshan scheme, aims for sustainable infra

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE MINISTRY of Tourism has revamped its Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with an aim to develop sustainable and responsible infrastructure at destinations, said Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy. Giving a written reply in Rajya Sabha to a question by DMK MP M Mohamed Abdulla, Reddy added that the guidelines for SD2.0 have been circulated to the stakeholders.

The Ministry of Tourism, under its schemes of Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive), provides financial assistance to states and Union Territories for the development of tourism infrastructure. The projects under this scheme are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilisation of funds released previously, the minister stated in his reply.

The government had launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme in 2014-15 for integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits — Buddhist Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, Eco Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Northeast Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Sufi Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit, Wildlife Circuit and Tribal Circuit. As of March 2022, 76 projects have been sanctioned across 15 circuits under this scheme at a cost of Rs 5,445 crore.

Patil says BJP made Shinde CM with heavy heart; Fadnavis plays it down

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JULY 23

DEPUTY CHIEF Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday clarified that Eknath Shinde is the leader of the Shiv Sena-BJP Palliance in Maharashtra. The remark came soon after state party president Chandrakant Patil said that BJP had made Shinde the CM with a "heavy heart".

Addressing the BJP state executive at Panvel in Navi Mumbai, Patil, in the inaugural speech, said: "It was with a heavy heart that BJP made Eknath Shinde the CM. It was sad... But we digested the decision and happily agreed to move ahead."

"The decision had to be taken to convey right message... For this



BJP's Maharashtra unit president Chandrakant Patil

Fadnavis, who was the claimant of the CM post, sacrificed, which is laudable," he added.

Soon, the video of Patil making the statement went viral on social media, creating a flutter. The BJP went into damage control mode by withdrawing the video from all platforms and also ordering an internal probe on how it was leaked.

Underplaying Patil's remarks,

Fadnavis, while concluding the day-long conclave, said: "In any government, there is always only one CM who is the leader. Accordingly, Eknath Shinde is the CM and the leader of the newly formed Shiv Sena-BJP alliance."

"When Shinde's name was announced for the CM's post, it had shocked BJP workers. Patil was conveying the initial sentiments of the BJP workers. It was not meant to demean Shinde," he added. Fadnavis also said, "When Shinde, along with Sena rebels, walked out of MVA, nothing was certain. He took a giant step to preserve Bal Thackeray's ideology. And the 50 MLAs who followed him, left the government to join the Opposition. Therefore, we rightly decided to honour Shinde with leadership and the CM's post."

Free to go wherever you expect more respect: SP writes to Shivpal and Rajbhar

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, JULY 23

DAYS AFTER the Samajwadi Party (SP)'s ally leaders Shivpal Singh Yadav and Om Prakash Rajbhar cross-voted in support of the NDA nominee Droupadi Murmu in the Presidential polls that she went on to win, the SP on Saturday said they are both free to go wherever they expect to get more respect. This takes the SP alliance towards a formal split.

While Shivpal did not disclose his next move, Rajbhar said, "Bahujan Samaj Party zindabad!" adding that he would meet BSP leaders.

The party issued separate let-



Shivpal Singh Yadav; Om Prakash Rajbhar

ters to Rajbhar and Shivpal and shared these on its official Twitter handle. In the letter, the SP accused Rajbhar of having a "nexus" with the BJP. The party claimed that the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) chief was "working to strengthen the saffron party." "If

you feel that you will get more respect somewhere else, you are free to go there," the party said.

In its letter to Shivpal — SP MLA from Jaswant Nagar — the party said, "Mananaiya Shivpal Singh Yadav ji, agar aapko lagta hai, kahin jyada samman milega to wahan jaane ke liye aap swatantra hain (If you think that you will get more respect elsewhere, you are free to go there)".

Shivpal Yadav heads Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia), which he had formed in 2018 after parting ways with the SP. In the recent Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, the party had an alliance with the SP but got only one seat to contest. Shivpal had himself contested under the SP

symbol and won. Shivpal had recently questioned SP president Akhilesh Yadav's decision to support the Opposition candidate in the Presidential polls. Shivpal has often questioned the leadership of his nephew Akhilesh.

On Friday, Rajbhar received Y-category security cover from the BJP government. His SBSP had contested the Assembly polls earlier this year in alliance with the SP, but the relationship between the two sides has been strained since the loss in the elections. SBSP MLAs were missing from the meeting SP had called in Lucknow on July 7 for Opposition's joint candidate for presidential elections Yashwant Sinha who had arrived in Lucknow for campaigning.

3 OTHERS HAVE DIED, LABOURERS TELL AUTHORITIES

‘Wandering’ in woods for days, 8 of 19 missing men found fortnight after they left BRO project

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, JULY 23

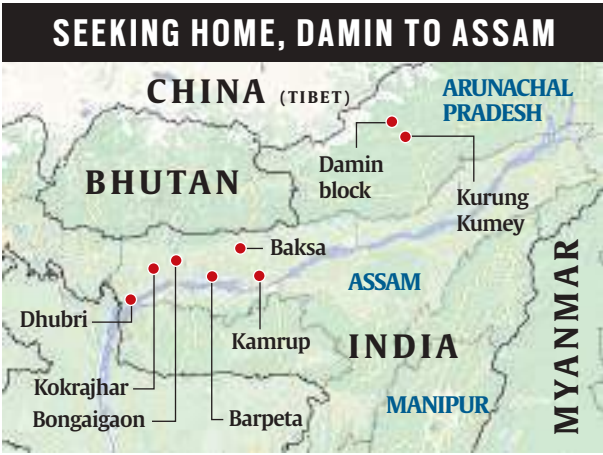
SEVENTEEN days after they fled a Border Roads Organisation (BRO) construction project in Arunachal Pradesh's Kurung Kumey district, eight of 19 labourers were located between Friday and Saturday.

On Friday, four were found near the road construction project, after "wandering in the dense forests for days", officials said.

Late Friday night, three more workers were rescued by SDRF and police. The eighth labourer was rescued on Saturday evening.

The Sarli-Huri road construction project, now nearing completion, is about 90 km from the India-China border.

Ten workers are still "missing", despite IAF-requisitioned aircraft Friday night, three more search rounds on Friday — the labourers rescued have, meanwhile, said that three of their colleagues died over the last fortnight. "They said



■ The labourers rescued said that three of their colleagues died over the last fortnight.

■ According to police, labourers said they lost their way after a "wrong turn".

that two of them fell into the river, and one person died while resting on a stone," Kurung Kumey Deputy Commissioner, Nighee Bengia, said.

"The road runs through mountains, and is close to thick forests — in one part, BRO workers were blasting it. Four labourers, guided by the sound, found their way," Abhimanyu Poswal, SP, Kurung Kumey, said.



Without food or water for more than two weeks, the eight who have been found are in a "critical condition and very weak", the SP said.

As per their initial statements, the labourers lost their way after taking a "wrong turn".

Poswal said the police have been unable to record their statements in entirety.

The labourers, who were hired by a private contractor, independent of the BRO, had left the construction site on July 5. While it is not clear why they left, initial reports suggested that the men left after being denied leave. Some families claim they were being threatened to stay.

The families of the rescued have been informed, officials said.

In Assam's Kamrup district, Joyanal Abedin, whose son Inamul Hasan is among those located, said he received a call early in the morning from a state legislator. "He shared some photos with me and asked whether my son was among them. I cannot explain how I felt when I saw his photo," Abedin, an imam at a mosque in his village, said.

Only two of seven men who had gone to work at the site from Kokrajhar's Malgaon have been found. "We have mixed feelings. Of course, the two families are relieved, but the rest are very upset," said Jaharul Islam, a local village leader.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Telangana Governor attends to sick IPS officer onboard flight

Amaravati: Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan discharged her duties as a doctor and saved the life of an Additional Director General of Police-rank IPS officer onboard an Indigo flight from Delhi to Hyderabad on Friday.

Kripinand Tripathi Ujela, a 1994-batch officer, is now undergoing treatment in a hospital in Hyderabad after being diagnosed with dengue fever.

The Governor, who is a doctor by profession, attended to the IPS officer after he complained of uneasiness during the flight.

"Madam Governor saved my life. She helped me like a mother. Otherwise, I could not have made it to the hospital," Ujela told PTI.

Ujela, who belongs to the Andhra Pradesh cadre, is currently posted as Additional DGP. **PTI**



THE SEIZURE AFTER THE ARREST

Superintendent of Police Anjani Anjan and CRPF officials show the weapons and ammunition seized after arresting Maoist (TSPC) leader Pratap Ganju in Jharkhand's Latehar district on Saturday. **PTI**

CLAIMS CASE NOT BEING PROBED PROPERLY

GUTKHA SCAM

Yasin Malik goes on hunger strike in Tihar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 23



Yasin Malik

KASHMIRI SEPARATIST leader Yasin Malik went on a hunger strike in Tihar jail on Friday, alleging that his case is not being investigated properly.

Malik, sentenced by a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Delhi this year, is serving two life sentences and varying jail terms, all running concurrently, under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Senior jail officials told The Indian Express that Malik refused to eat on Friday and has declared an indefinite hunger strike. "The jail officials met with him and asked him about his demand. He told them that his case is not being investigated properly and the jail officials tried to convince him to end his strike, but he refused," a senior official said.

Malik, the head of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), was arrested by the NIA in 2019 in connection with an over-arching terror-funding case that

it had opened in 2017. In its FIR, the NIA said Kashmiri separatists were receiving funds from Pakistan, including Hafiz Saeed of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Syed Salahuddin of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, to foment trouble in the Valley through stone-pelting, burning down of schools, and organising strikes and protests.

The NIA arrested over a dozen separatists in the case, including Malik, Asiya Andrabi of the Dukhtar-e-Millat, and Shabir Shah of the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party.

A few months ago, alleged conman Suresh Chandrashekhar, too, went on a hunger strike twice, demanding that he be allowed to see his wife Leena Maria Paul, who is also lodged at Tihar jail, more often. Chandrashekhar was on intravenous fluid or glucose, but later he ended his hunger strike.

CBI gets TN nod to prosecute 2 AIADMK ex-ministers, DGPs

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JULY 23

THE TAMIL Nadu government has granted permission to the CBI to prosecute two former state ministers from the AIADMK, two retired DGPs and eight other officers in the gutkha scam of 2017, which had unearthed under the previous AIADMK government.

The state government on Tuesday granted permission to CBI's Anti-Corruption (III) Unit to prosecute CVijayabaskar, the then Tamil Nadu Health minister, and B V Ramana, who handled the commercial taxes portfolio, as well as the state's former top police officers TK Rajendran and S George.

Both officers were indicted for their alleged role in the scam during their tenure as Chennai city police commissioner.

Other suspects are officers from the police, Chennai city corporation, food safety and commercial taxes departments. They are accused of taking bribes amounting to Rs 39.91 crore to help sell banned gutkha products in Chennai city area.

Gutkha and paan masala have remained banned in Tamil Nadu since 2013.

The case started with seizure of a red ledger during an Income Tax raid at a godown in Chennai suburbs in July 2016. While the raid was linked to illegal sale of gutkha in Chennai and its suburbs, the red diary had details of monthly payments allegedly made by gutkha mafia to people at power centres. The payments, as per the diary, were allegedly made between 2015 and 2016.

The series of raids at three godowns also led to seizure of tonnes of gutkha. An investigator who was part of the probe had told The Indian Express in June 2017 that the ledger had a page each devoted to record monthly payments allegedly made to VIPs.

"A detailed probe into the case revealed that a monthly bribe of Rs 15 lakh was being paid to city police commissioners; assistant police commissioners got Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 lakh," the investigator said. "There were also fixed bribe rates for joint commissioners, deputy commissioners, police inspectors in local stations, police intelligence officers, central excise officers and

even health and food safety inspectors to facilitate the gutkha products in the city region."

The case also created trouble in the then government. When BR Balakrishnan, then principal director of I-T Department, wrote in August 2016 to then Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary and DGP about purported evidence against ministers and senior officers in the scam, then DGP Ashok Kumar had initiated a parallel probe on the matter.

When the government did not reply to the I-T Department's letter, DGP Kumar's independent report on the allegations, it was said, did not go down well with the then CM office. At a time when government operations were in a crisis due to the worsening health of then chief minister, J Jayalalithaa, Kumar's attempt to take the issue to Jayalalithaa was seen as having backfired. He was ousted from the post.

Rajendran, one of the accused in the case, subsequently became DGP. The confidential reports connected to the case were later found at Veda Nilayam, late Jayalalithaa's residence, during an I-T raid in November 2017.

In Punjab govt's free power promise, a shock for SC, BC consumers

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, JULY 23

TWENTY-THREE days after the AAP government announced 300 units of free power in the state, a notification by Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) on Saturday set forth some conditions for the Scheduled Caste (SC), Backward Caste (BC), non-SC BPL and BC BPL category of consumers and made it mandatory for them to fill up a self-declaration form.

The move sparked criticism, with Congress and SAD accusing the government of cheating and betraying people in the name of free power.

Earlier, consumers from SC, BC, non-SC BPL and BC BPL categories were to get 300 units of power free, regardless of their consumption. But, the notification says, they will now be considered at par with the general category consumer — who has to pay the entire bill if his consumption exceeds 300 units — if they are income tax payees, government employees (except class IV), pensioners with a monthly pension of over Rs 10,000, chairpersons of corporations, elected representatives (current or former) or in a political post.

They will also be treated at par with general category consumers if they or their family members are doctor, engineer, advocate, chartered accountant or architect.

The notification stated that all consumers from SC, BC, and BPL categories would have to now give an undertaking that they do not fall in these categories if they want to avail of the 300 units of free

POWER ARITHMETIC

How SC, BC, BPL will be affected

EARLIER
200 units free

NOW
300 units free

■ But no free power for certain sections if consumption exceeds 300 units (general category rule)

WHO IS AFFECTED?
Income tax payees, pensioners getting over Rs 10,000 a month, chairpersons of corporations, MLAs/MPs etc

Beneficiaries: 22.40 lakh people in total were getting 200 free units every month

power regardless of consumption.

The notification said all other domestic consumers, except those covered under above categories, will have to pay energy charges for their entire consumption as per applicable tariff issued by Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (PSERC) from time to time, along with fixed charges, meter rentals and government levies/taxes, in case their consumption is more than 600 units bimonthly / 300 units monthly.

Consumers who have a load of up to 7 KW would get a subsidy of Rs 3 per unit as was introduced by former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi.

As per guidelines issued by PSPCL, families from SC, BC, non-SC BPL and non-BC BPL categories will not have to pay anything for using up to 300 units every month. If they consume 301 units

and above, they will have to pay for only for those units. People from other categories would have to pay the entire amount.

In case of PSPCL employees, they are eligible for the concession if they have bimonthly consumption up to 600 units / monthly consumption up to 300 units.

Free power was among guarantees promised by the AAP.

Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring said many conditions have been imposed in the latest notification. "The conditions for getting free power are such that not many households will be eligible for 600 units of free power," he said.

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) said the notification has "exposed another fraud" of the Bhagwant Mann government. The party said that conditions laid down make it clear that more than 80 per cent people will be deprived of this.



Parents and Congress workers at the school on Thursday. **Express**

Karnataka: 40 students fall sick after eating midday meal in school

SANATH PRASAD
BENGALURU, JULY 23

FORTY STUDENTS of a government school in Karnataka's Chitradurga district fell sick and 26 of them had to be hospitalised after eating the midday meal served at the school on Thursday.

Doddappa MC, headmaster of the school, said, "On Thursday afternoon I received calls from villagers and teachers who complained that students are falling unconscious and are vomiting. By the time I reached the school, some students had been admitted to the hospital. However, all students are okay."

He said food samples have been sent to the lab to ascertain if it was a case of food poisoning. According to Doddappa, the

school consists of 149 students from class 1-7. While many students go home during lunch time, some have the midday meals prepared in the school.

"The village authorities appointed three women to cook lunch for the school. They served rice and vegetable sambar on Thursday. Even they are clueless about the unfortunate situation, and offered to resign, but after consulting with authorities we have decided to stop midday meals for sometime," he said.

Kumaraswamy, whose daughter fell sick from the midday meal, complained about the school's infrastructure.

"About 26 students were sent to hospital. Food poisoning case in the school is not new. Students have been complaining about the quality of food but authorities didn't take action," he said.

Behind Bihar govt temple fencing push, Nitish tightrope between secular image, BJP Hindutva

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JULY 23

THE NITISH Kumar-led Bihar government recently decided to make the registration of all public temples, mutts, dharamshalas and their trusts in the state with the Bihar State Religious Trust Council (BSRTC) mandatory under the provisions of the Bihar Hindu Religious Trust Act, 1950, with state law minister Pramod Kumar saying that Bihar has become the first state to have done it.

To expand its existing move to fence temples — on the lines of fencing of cemeteries — to prevent encroachments and confrontations, Bihar government also decided to conduct a survey of all registered temples with a sizeable

number of devotees.

There are 2,499 registered temples and mutts with a total of 18,456 acres of land across the state. The government has been surveying them to determine, among other things, how many of them need to be fenced depending on public turnout and apprehensions of any trouble or dispute.

So far, the government's BSRTC has fenced 205 temples while 94 more are being fenced. This has been done as part of Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) supremo Nitish's bid to "respond to his senior ally BJP's Hindutva posturings while maintaining his secular credentials", said sources.

In a veiled attack on Nitish, Bihar BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal recently expressed concerns over "rising terror threats" in the state.

Significantly, Nitish also holds the home portfolio.

BSRTC member and JD(U) MLC Neeraj Kumar told The Indian Express: "Our government has always worked for social cohesion and camaraderie. There has been no major communal incident under the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government since November 2005," adding that "just as our government had fenced about 8,000 cemeteries over last decade or so, we have also been fencing temples as well to prevent any encroachment or confrontation".

The BSRTC said it had identified 355 temples from across 26 of Bihar's 38 districts for fencing so far, adding that "maximum fencing requests" had come from districts like Gopalganj, Nalanda,

Jehanabad, Rohtas, Gaya and Madhepura. "We have already fenced 205 temples and the fencing of 96 more temples has been underway... To take it further, the trust will survey more temples. As CM Nitish Kumar also made it clear that temples where there are notable gatherings and prayers are offered, fencing would be considered there," Neeraj said.

The Nitish government has also taken another initiative to prevent illegal possession of lands belonging to temples or mutts by their individual trustees. "The BSRTC has recently written to all DMs that no temple or mutt land should be registered in any individual's name but only in the names of their trusts... It is being done to avoid illegal transfer of such temple or mutt land to any

individual," he said.

There are 2,512 unregistered public temples and mutts with altogether 4,321 acres of land across the state, which need to be registered mandatorily now, following which a survey will determine their fencing requirement on the basis of same parameters being followed in the cases of the registered temples and mutts.

The Nitish Kumar dispensation came up with the temple fencing proposal during his third CM term (2015-2020) to counterbalance its previous decision to ensure fencing of cemeteries. It has decided to scale up for two reasons — to "prevent encroachment of temple and mutt lands" and to "give a response to BJP over charges of Muslim appeasement", sources said.

REQUIREMENT OF RETIRED DEFENCE PERSONNEL FOR ESM CANTEN KOSLI					
1. Applications are invited for the post of Manager for employment in ESM Canteen Kosli					
Appt.	Vac	Eligibility	Age	Place of employment	Consolidated pay Scale
Manager (On Contractual basis for 11 months renewal subject to performance)	01	(a) Retired Officer (Maj/Lt Col/Col and equivalent of Navy and Air Force) (b) Must have adequate knowledge of CSD Mgt & Acct Procedures (c) Not involved in any legal/Court Case (f) Should be Medically fit	Below 60 yrs of age as on 01 Aug. 2022	ESM Canteen Kosli	Rs. 40000.00/- per months
2. Selection will be based on candidate's performance in the interview/computer test and past experience					
3. Application alongwith Record of Service (Format can be taken from ESM Canteen, Kosli), Medical cert. Character Cert and Police Verification to be submitted in sealed envelope to Manager ESM Canteen, Kosli or 634 SATA Bty. PIN-926634. do 56 APO by 06 Aug 2022 either by hand/by registered post/via email at canteenkoshi@gmail.com & ht634hm@gmail.com					
4. Interview will be held on 17 & 18 Aug 2022 at 1000hrs at Alwar No TA/DA is admissible Clarification if any, can be sought at tele No 9419157396 (from 0900h to 1600h) on working days					

9 SUNDAY STORY



At the President's official residence the day after it was vacated by Gotabaya and stormed by crowds. The military refused to intervene, advised him to leave. AP

Galle-Force

The images of crowds taking over the President's house were undeniable: change was here. SHUBHAJIT ROY walks the Colombo streets and power corridors to find out the tensions between the Rajapaksas, the missteps, the protests and the chary military which made that moment possible, and what happens next

IT'S ABOUT noon, July 21, at the passport office in Colombo's Battaramulla area, and the queues are serpentine, seeking that one document to leave the country. A few kilometres away, President Ranil Wickremesinghe has just been sworn in, a week after predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa flew out to Maldives to escape a public which took over his official residence, incensed over the country's economic collapse.

Zaki, 29, is among those in the line. A plumber, he has spent a valuable Rs 15,000 for a visa, and hopes to go to Kuwait. The queue includes teachers, IT professionals, engineers, many of them with families. "I have been coming for two days, but haven't been able to even get into the office," says Piyumi, a 25-year-old teacher, here with her father.

But queues are ubiquitous in Colombo, some lasting days, for almost all essentials. Power cuts are rampant, and malls, cinema halls nearly empty. Schools continue to be closed due to lack of power, fuel for buses.

The anger may have ebbed, and government buildings such as the President's house and Prime Minister's office vacated by crowds, but questions remain: how did one of South Asia's better economies come to this.

Mahinda & Sons, and China

Flashback to 2009, and the end of the war with the LTTE. The resolution of the once intractable situation made the Rajapaksas — particularly President Mahinda and brother and Defence Secretary Gotabaya — heroes in the eyes of the country's Sinhala majority. Few questions were raised when, in a brazen display of power, the Rajapaksas ensured that after the 2019 elections, the family reigned supreme — Gotabaya, 73, as President; Mahinda, 76, as PM; another brother Basil, 71, as key strategist; eldest Chamal, 79, as minister; and other Rajapaksas in junior roles.

According to leaders in their party Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna, trouble began soon after, as Gotabaya asserted himself, and found himself ranged against Mahinda and Basil. A former Lt Col, Gotabaya has never been much of a politician unlike the other two, especially the veteran Mahinda. The all-powerful President post came to him as Mahinda was ineligible after two terms, while Basil is a US citizen.

The first discord was over appointments to key positions. Mahinda wanted his favourites, Gotabaya his friends from the military and other hardliners, more accommodating of his tactics in the final run against the LTTE.

Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, a leading Colombo-based political analyst, says: "The relationship between Gotabaya and Mahinda soon became an uneasy one."

China was another bone of contention. Under Mahinda as President, Colombo had grown increasingly close to Beijing, handing over major projects — Colombo Port city project, Hambantota Port, Mattala airport, Lotus Tower to name a few — to Chinese firms. India wasn't the only one discomfited, as whispers grew of money changing hands, and into the pockets of Mahinda's sons Namal and Yoshitha. While Yoshitha, 34, was Mahinda's Chief of Staff, Namal, 36, was a minister.

Rohana Hettiarachchi, Executive Director of an advocacy group for cleaner politics, says, "There was no decision-making process, and they (the Rajapaksas) took decisions without informing the Cabinet."

Concerns that the Chinese projects were overvalued were overlooked. Hettiarachchi says the projects were a way to earn "commissions" by Rajapaksa family members; some estimate overvaluation of 30%-50%.

As President, Gotabaya is believed to have expressed qualms over this. Sources said one

reason was his view that Mahinda's sons were too entitled.

According to Indian officials, as a military person, Gotabaya was also more receptive to Delhi's strategic concerns vis-a-vis China. NSA Ajit Doval is learnt to have developed a rapport with him, and Colombo was one of the few places Doval visited during the pandemic.

Change was also visible on the ground under Gotabaya. Having lost out on the strategic Eastern Container Terminal project to China in February 2021, India got the deal for Western Container Terminal in September 2021, after Gotabaya leaned in favour of Delhi's interests.

A Run in the Family

A senior political leader from the ruling establishment says that initially, the family always found a way to rally together. "Matters would come to a head every two months, but they would all meet at Chamal's house for a long meal and sort out differences."

But then, the communication within the family started getting strained. Insiders say things came to such a pass that the brothers would not talk for weeks, using go-betweens to convey concerns.

This left Gotabaya without a shrewd political and strategic mind like Basil just when he needed one the most. It's a moot point now whether the government would have gone ahead with ill-informed decisions such as tax cuts and the overnight switch to organic farming had Gotabaya been better advised.

George Cooke, a former diplomat and historian, says: "Gotabaya had the wrong team around him." One of those aides was central bank governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal, now out.

Political analyst Saravanamuttu says the hasty decision on organic farming was Gotabaya's idea, to which Mahinda had reservations, being in favour of a step-by-step process. The ostensible reason was to cut imports of fertilisers, with foreign exchange running low. The result was large-scale failure of the paddy crop, adding to Lanka's problems.

Former Sri Lankan High Commissioner to India Austin Fernando says Gotabaya saw himself as a demigod — a belief born out of the LTTE win. "He started believing in his own myth that God cannot do anything wrong. So, nobody could object."

But Lalithasiri Gunaruwan, professor of economics at Colombo University, says it's facile to blame the crisis on just Gotabaya alone, and that it was the result of "poor economic policies for the last several decades". "It's like a family needs Rs 1,500 for food, but has only Rs 1,000. So, it borrows Rs 500, and keeps borrowing every day. The debt piles up. When the income falls, the gap keeps widening."

One sign of Sri Lanka's poor fiscal management is that it has approached the IMF 16 times for a bailout.

A senior official at the President's office told *The Sunday Express* about an incident from early this year: "Gotabaya lost his temper with Mahinda in front of others, blaming him for the crisis. That was unprecedented."

As early as March, when protesters attacked his family home, Gotabaya asked Mahinda to resign. "Mahinda said that it was not his fault. Then in May, when the protesters again made a move, he resigned, followed by Basil," an insider says.

United colours of Aragalya

It's the wee hours of July 13. The breeze at Colombo's seafront Galle Face, the epicentre of '*Janatha Aragalya*' or people's struggle, is cool and calm. On the lawns of the adjacent President's office, the crowd is anything but. Slogans of '*Aragalayata jayawewa* (victory to the struggle)' rent the air, amid a carnival-like



Mahinda (extreme right), at swearing-in of President Wickremesinghe. AP

3 MONTHS, 13 DAYS

APRIL 1: Gotabaya declares temporary emergency, with sweeping powers to detain, after a spate of protests

APRIL 3: Cabinet resigns, Gotabaya and Mahinda isolated; the governor of the central bank quits a day later

APRIL 5: President loses majority, lifts the state of emergency

APRIL 12: Govt announces default on foreign debt of \$51bn after running out of foreign exchange for essentials

APRIL 19: Police kill a protester, the first casualty

MAY 9: Government loyalists attack protesters outside the president's

seafront office in Colombo; 9 people killed, homes of politicians set afire; Mahinda resigns as PM, is rescued as protesters storm his residence. He is replaced by Ranil Wickremesinghe

MAY 10: Shoot-to-kill orders, protesters defy government curfew, it is rolled back

JUNE 27: Government says nearly out of fuel, halts all petrol sales except for essential services

JULY 9: President's house stormed, Gotabaya flees. Wickremesinghe's residence set on fire

JULY 13: Gotabaya leaves country, Wickremesinghe is acting President

DELHI DELIVERS

ASSISTANCE SINCE JANUARY 2022:

Credit Facility for essential items:
US\$ 1 billion

Line of Credit for fuel:
US\$ 500 million

Line of Credit for fertilisers:
US\$ 55 million

Currency Swap by RBI:
US\$ 400 million

For context : Between 1947 & 2021, India contributed US\$ 2.17 billion to the UN

atmosphere as realisation sets in about the end of the Rajapaksa reign.

The *Aragalya* may have burst into world attention now, with the remarkable pictures from inside a President's home run over by crowds on July 9, but its seeds were sown long back. While Colombo initially remained indifferent, in the countryside, anger had been brewing among a public hit by disappearing essentials and rising prices.

But if the outpouring of protesters was, to a large extent, organic, political affiliation helped. The Left parties, including radical groups, lent a hand, particularly Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, the ultra-Left Frontline Socialist Party and the Inter University Students' Federation. They fanned out and helped organise small-scale protests across the country, beyond the Galle Face greens.

Regarding July 9, officials say messages went out to people to hit the streets for "just one day". Security officials claim that some protesters came armed. Donations poured in from different quarters. Allegations of foreign funding are now being investigated.

As middle classes and upper middle classes

of Colombo joined in, the *Janatha Aragalya* grew into a once-unthinkable rainbow coalition — erasing the sectarian differences between the majority Sinhalas and the country's Christian, Muslim and Tamil minorities.

One Identity: 'Sri Lankan'

This wasn't a minor development. Father Jevanthes Peiris, 45, one of the visible Christian faces of the *Aragalya*, talks about the Easter Sunday terror attacks in April 2019 that left 269 dead, and Christians scared. "The Rajapaksas promised action... but nothing happened," he says.

Archbishop of Colombo Malcolm Ranjith, who also joined the protests, wrote several letters to President Gotabaya. The Christian cause got Ranjith a rare audience with the Pope at the Vatican.

The reason for the Christian anger was the faith that, having crushed the LTTE, the Rajapaksas would similarly defeat Islamic extremism, blamed for the Easter attacks. While all eight of the suicide bombers died in the attacks — on three five-star hotels and three churches — the trial of 25 alleged planners has

been on since November 2021.

While the Rajapaksa regime did little to comfort the Christians (about 8% of the population), the Muslims (10%) felt persecuted.

Bhavani Fonseka, a lawyer working for minority rights, says: "The Muslims had to bear the brunt (of the attacks)."

A decision to ban the burqa in the wake of the attacks, in the name of security, caused outrage. A minister in the Rajapaksa government said at the time that the veil "directly affects our national security".

Then came a ban on burial of bodies during the Covid-19 pandemic to check possibility of "contamination of groundwater" — a mis-guided, even if perhaps well-intentioned, move which was seen as a confirmation of the government's anti-Muslim bias.

Danish Ali, 31, who studied in Australia and is among the protesters at the *Aragalya*, says: "They called us terrorists."

The *Aragalya* leaders have been wearing their pan-Sri Lankan unity on their sleeve. Almost every press conference has had people from different communities present.

Sanka Jayasekera, 28, a wealth plan manager at an insurance firm, calls the change in fortunes of the Rajapaksas "karma". "It's ironic that the leader who divided us became the biggest unifier of communities... If the Sinhalas, Tamils, Muslims, Buddhists, Christians were split, we could have never achieved this goal."

Ali says that he has more Sinhala friends than Muslim. "We hope we have started a change... They can't divide us by invoking Sinhala pride... It is all about Sri Lankan pride."

Military holds its fire

To many, the most remarkable feature of the overthrow of Gotabaya was how the military, once fiercely loyal to him, kept away.

But to those on the ground, it is simple: the economic rut is such that families of military personnel too are affected, and it could not close its eyes. Even the most elite in the Lankan power structure, for example, cannot get fuel easily now, unless they work directly for the President or Prime Minister and ministers, or top-ranking military officers.

A senior officer of Gotabaya's former military regiment, Gajaba, says while uniformed personnel may not have joined the protests (though some policemen did), he couldn't be sure about officers on leave. He talks of the July 9 incidents: "The military fired in the air, just to intimidate the crowds, but not at them."

There is another reason. In February 2020, the US imposed an entry bar on then Lankan Army Chief, Lt Gen Shavendra Silva, for alleged war crimes in the operations against the LTTE. He is now Chief of Defence Staff General, and extremely careful about his reputation, insiders say; some add he has political ambitions.

"In the war, the military was accused of human rights violations. It did not want to fire on own people," says Iqbal Athas, a top journalist who covered the war and is now political editor at the Sri Lankan daily *The Sunday Times*.

Other senior officers too, including Defence Secretary Kamal Gunaratne, face calls for sanctions. A senior Rajapaksa regime official says at least two ex-officers nominated by the Gotabaya government for diplomatic positions were turned down unofficially.

The official says that the military brass didn't want to do anything that could invite them further sanctions, or affect their children (the offspring of most of Lanka's elite head abroad).

According to a senior official in Gotabaya's office, "The President wanted the crowd (gathering at the presidential residence) to be dispersed using tear gas and water cannons, but the military did not want that. They advised him to retreat and take refuge."

Athas, who wrote a detailed account of Gotabaya's final hours in the presidential house on July 9, told *The Sunday Express* that he eventually listened. "He just walked across to the adjacent Sri Lankan Navy headquarters."

From there, he would head to a Navy ship take a hush-hush flight to the Maldives, and onwards to Singapore. He is believed to still be looking for a more secure destination. Analysts say he may return, if his brothers who have stayed behind can manage security for him.

The New Man in the House

A veteran politician, former five-time PM, and sitting PM since Mahinda stepped down, Ranil Wickremesinghe was voted President on July 20, seven days after Gotabaya left. While his ambition is undoubted, this is a lottery even Wickremesinghe perhaps didn't expect to win, with his United National Party holding just one seat in Parliament and virtually decimated.

The general belief is that the Rajapaksas have the 73-year-old's back, and he, theirs — another in this saga of political twists, given Mahinda and Wickremesinghe's old rivalry. Wickremesinghe has been at pains to emphasise that he is not friend of the Rajapaksas.

For Wickremesinghe, the temptations of power apart, the post offers a shot at political revival. Having lost a large chunk of his party to Sajith Premadasa (who backed out of the presidential race), he sees an opportunity to woo back supporters before the next elections.

For Mahinda and Basil, who unlike Gotabaya are in Sri Lanka, a President under their influence is their best insurance.

As for Premadasa, 55, analysts say, it made more sense to stay out of a difficult situation. In 2019, he lost to Gotabaya narrowly, and believes getting the next national mandate is his best chance. And that could be as early as six months from now. As per the Sri Lankan Constitution, the earliest a Parliament can be dissolved is two-and-a-half years after being voted in, which falls in March 2023. Premadasa is expected to seek elections then. Incidentally, in Harsha de Silva, he has one of the best economic minds in the country in his team.

Kishore Reddy, head of the India-Sri Lanka Society, who has lived in Sri Lanka for more than two decades, says, "This is Sri Lanka's 1991 moment (referring to India's liberalisation)."

India watches

From India's perspective too, Premadasa could be good news as he is said to be well-disposed towards Delhi. On the eve of the July 20 Presidential election, he reached out to parties in India in a tweet, tagging Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking them to "keep helping mother Lanka and its people".

Wickremesinghe, on the other hand, has his cards close to his chest. While friendly towards India, he is using the China card of late. India has gone all out to lend help to Colombo in the current crisis, extending financial assistance to the tune of almost USD 4 billion in just six months of this year. Delhi will hope that this, plus historical links, will help it claw back the space lost to Beijing.

Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay says Delhi would like to "bring more investment into Sri Lanka because that will help it go beyond short-term solutions".

Fernando, a former Lankan envoy to India, believes there will be a tradeoff: "India will help, but it will ask Sri Lanka to return the favour, especially in the Indian Ocean region."

For now, even at the height of the crisis, when tickets are going for Sri Lankan Rs 400-600 (i.e. Indian Rs 1,800 to Rs 2,700), one of the films showing at Colombo's Scope Cinemas is the Tamil movie *The Warrior*, releasing simultaneously as in India.



Across
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

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Why are the accused denied bail? Pre-charge evidence, framing of charges, trial and arguments will — not may, it is will — take many years. Should the accused be in jail until the trial is over? Is pre-trial incarceration a substitute for trial, proof, conviction and punishment? Is that the law of the country? If that is indeed the law of the country, should not the law be re-stated or should not the law be amended?

“IN OUR criminal justice system, the process is the punishment. From hasty, indiscriminate arrests to difficulty in obtaining bail, the process leading to the prolonged incarceration of under trials needs urgent attention...It is a grave issue that 80 per cent of the 6,10,000 prisoners across the country are undertrials... time has come to question the procedures which result in such prolonged incarceration without trial” — Chief Justice of India, Mr N V Ramana.

Wiser words have not been spoken, certainly not in recent times by the top judge of the country. Mr Justice Ramana had practised law for 17 years and has been a judge for 22 years. He is not a stranger to what goes on in the courts in the name of ‘dispensing criminal justice’. He must have also interacted with families of accused, lawyers, civil society activists, journalists and concerned citizens and heard hundreds of tragic stories. The purpose of this essay is to share some stories with you.

IN PRISON
WITHOUT TRIAL

In current times, there is no story more shocking than the story of the 16 accused in what is known as the *Bhima Koregaon* case. On January 1, 2018 — as on that day every year — there was a gathering (consisting of members of Dalit organisations) at Bhima Koregaon

to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Bhima Koregaon. There was violence and stone-pelting on the gathering by a crowd, allegedly instigated by *right-wing* groups. One person died and five were injured. The investigation by the state government (BJP) took a curious turn. On June 6, 2018, five persons, all sympathetic to the Dalit and *left-wing* causes, were arrested by the state police. More arrests were made in the following months. Among the arrested were a lawyer, a poet, a priest, writers, professors and human rights activists. After the elections in 2019, a coalition government (non-BJP) took office. Responding to allegations of biased investigation, the state government decided to constitute an SIT to re-visit the case. Within two days, the Central government (BJP) intervened and transferred the case to the NIA! Despite multiple petitions, the accused were denied bail. Father Stan Swamy, an 84-year-old Jesuit priest, died in jail on July 5, 2021. Only Mr Varavara Rao, the 82-year old renowned poet, is out on interim medical bail since September 22, 2021.

Sharjeel Imam, a PhD student of JNU, was arrested for two speeches he delivered at Jamia Millia Islamia and AMU in December 2019 during the anti-CAA agitation. Besides the case in Delhi, he faces charges in Assam, UP, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. He has been in jail since January 28, 2020, and denied bail. **Umar Khalid**, a former student of JNU

and activist, was arrested on September 14, 2020, in connection with the riots in February 2020. He has been denied bail. **Siddique Kappan**, a well-known journalist from Kerala, was arrested when he was on his way to investigate and report on the Hathras (U.P.) rape case. He has been in jail since October 5, 2020, and denied bail.

WHAT IS THE LAW?

The point of this essay is not whether the charges are false or true. The point is, why are the accused denied bail? During investigation, the accused are *pre-undertrials*; when charges are framed by the Court, they become undertrials. Pre-charge evidence, framing of charges, trial and arguments will — not *may*, it is *will* — take many years. Should the accused be in jail until the trial is over? Is pre-trial incarceration a substitute for trial, proof, conviction and punishment? Is that the law of the country? If that is indeed the law of the country, should not the law be re-stated or should not the law be amended?

These are the questions that are behind the anguished statement of Mr Justice Ramana. The answers can be found in the law laid down by the Supreme Court. Over 40 years ago, in *Gurbaksh Singh Sibbia’s* case (1980), a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court articulated the law: **“the principle to be deduced from the various sections in**

the Criminal Procedure Code was that grant of bail is the rule and refusal is the exception.” In 2014, in *Arnesh Kumar’s* case, the Court noted that the power of arrest is **“largely considered as a tool of harassment, oppression and surely not considered a friend of public”**. On January 29, 2020, another Constitution Bench in *Sushila Aggarwal’s* case cleared the cobwebs that had descended on *Gurbaksh Singh Sibbia* and *Amesh Kumar* and re-affirmed the power and the duty of the courts to uphold the right to liberty: **“it would be useful to remind oneself that the rights which the citizens cherish deeply are fundamental — it is not the restrictions that are fundamental.”**

A DARK BLOT

Yet, the power of arrest is being grossly abused. Alarmed, the Supreme Court has delivered a series of judgments curtailing the power to arrest, culminating in a definitive statement of law in *Satender Kumar Antil’s* case on July 11, 2022 and a thumping order in *Mohammed Zubair’s* case on July 20, 2022. It is a sad commentary on the criminal justice system that despite these pronouncements, the accused in the Bhima Koregaon case, Sharjeel Imam, Umar Khalid, Siddique Kappan and thousands of others continue to be in prison without being convicted. That is why, I believe, Mr Justice Ramana spoke.

Fifth
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter @tavleen_singh



Defaming
dissidents

There is a new weapon against dissidence in ‘new India’ that could make ‘old’ India rise higher still in the rankings of unfreedom. This weapon has just been used against Mohammed Zubair. He walked out of Tihar Jail last week after the Supreme Court intervened, observing correctly that he was being subjected to a vicious cycle of charges that ensured he would continue being denied bail. He spent three weeks in jail ostensibly because he caused communal tension by tweeting a shot from an old Hindi movie in which Honeymoon Hotel was changed to Hanuman Hotel. The film came out ages ago in that long-forgotten time before Hindutva. Nobody’s sentiments were hurt. Nobody noticed.

There was of course more to Zubair’s arrest than his tweet from five years ago. Soon he was dragged from one court to another in Uttar Pradesh and charged with ‘offences’ so flimsy that they will probably all be thrown out of court. What may have damaged him irreparably is the malevolent campaign to assassinate his character that has been launched on social media by the BJP’s army of trolls.

This legion of vile creatures showed that they could plunge to depths of villainess that are hard to reach for normal people. While Zubair was incarcerated, these creatures were deployed to tell the world that he was no journalist, that he seemed to be the agent of some foreign power, that he was paid to tweet, that he had deliberately tweeted Nupur Sharma’s comments on the Prophet to create communal disharmony. So, although he is now a free man, it is possible that Zubair’s career as a fact-checker could be impaired for good? When he returns to using his website Alt News to refute lies, fake news and hate speech, will he still be credible?

The list of people who have been harmed by this new weapon is long, but here are a few names. Umar Khalid has been in jail for more than a year during which time he has been charged with causing the Delhi riots. Siddique Kappan has been in jail for around the same time, because he tried to go to Hathras to report on the brutal rape and sordid cremation of a Dalit teenager. The Uttar Pradesh police says he was with operatives of the Popular Front of India. Since this jihadist outfit is not banned, he committed no crime. Last year Shah Rukh Khan’s son, Aryan, was pulled off a cruise ship and locked up for a month, during which time the BJP’s social media army made him out to be a cog in the network of international drug cartels. There are more names than I can list of people who have seen their lives ruined not by charges made in a court of law but on social media.

When BJP spokespersons are asked why these things are happening, they usually respond, with fixed smiles on their smug faces, that if someone has a complaint, they should go to court and seek justice. They say this as if it is the easiest thing to do. Allow me a small personal note here. When a senior BJP spokesman tweeted that my son was “a paid ISI agent”, it implied that I had bred and nurtured a Pakistani spy. I wanted to take the BJP’s star spokesman to court but my efforts were stymied at the first hurdle when I discovered that it would cost me more than I could afford, to hire even an ordinary, unknown lawyer.

Zubair was luckier than most in that he could get as far as the Supreme Court. Others who run digital news platforms that are critical of the government can simply not afford the cost of Indian justice. Some instead of being maligned on social media are subjected to tax raids. These raids achieve the same result, which is to silence dissidence. What the bosses of the BJP seem not to have noticed yet is that their new weapon of destroying people’s character on social media is a two-edged sword. It harms the Prime Minister as much as it harms the person who is targeted. And it is not as if the Modi government does not care about international opinion. It cares a lot because the Prime Minister cherishes the image that his devotees believe he already has of being a ‘Vishvaguru’.

This will never happen if the man who leads the world’s largest democracy allows his minions to invent new methods daily to crush dissent. When international watchdogs of democracy and freedom lower India’s rankings in their lists, there is much noise and fury from Modi’s ministers. They invent international conspiracy theories which make India look like a chippy little country instead of the mighty superpower we seek to become.

Modi himself likes to boast that India is the mother of democracy. But seems not to know that democracy is about more than winning elections. It is after elections are won that the real challenges of democracy begin. One of the biggest of these challenges is dealing with dissidents. It is in the way they are dealt with that the real test of democracy comes. If every dissident voice is crushed, it confirms to those who cherish the freedoms that democracy allows, that India is slowly but surely slipping towards illiberalism. What happened to Zubair proves that those who say India is increasingly becoming an illiberal democracy are right.

The new President:
Beyond the tokenism

Dalitality
SURAJYENGDE

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DRAUPADI MURMU has become the 15th President of the Republic of India. The Constitutional framework of India is parliamentary, that is led by the elected representative and overseen by the first person of the country, the President of India. India inherited the presidential position equivalent to the Crown of England. However, unlike India, the United Kingdom does not have a written Constitution.

Murmu is the first Adivasi who has been elected to the apex position in India’s history. No person of Adivasi background has been elevated to such a stature. Born to a Santhal tribe of Odisha, Murmu has undoubtedly inspired and made a name for herself. The Santhal people are a defiant warrior clan resisting any form of coercion and colonisation. These native Indians strongly positioned their force against Brahminical-Aryan assault. They were among the first groups to take on foreign attackers.

While the list of Presidents of India has been impressively diverse, it was missing an important Adivasi voice. It took the nation 75 years to find a suitable Adivasi leader for the post.

The status of Adivasi representation in important fields remains grossly low. Adivasi students and scholars are nowhere to be found in important positions, and neither are scientists and thought leaders given their desired responsibility. Adivasi land is sold to business people, and they are displaced from their natural habitat.

Now that Murmu is in the top spot, another form of tokenism might percolate. How the country and civil society make use of this opportunity is up to them. Expecting Murmu to be the frontrunner of Adivasi justice will be a misplaced judgment. Instead, the country should demand accountability from the party that has fielded her.

When a person is elevated to the position of President, one cannot expect them to stick to one agenda. With India’s first citizen’s calendar preoccupied with the

lives of over 1.4 billion people, one can expect that her protocol position will help India gain favourable influence in the areas impacting indigenous people worldwide. The last time an indigenous person headed a country was Bolivia’s socialist leader, Evo Morales. The differences between ideologies and the career trajectory of Murmu and Morales are vast. However, with symbolism being their favourite pastime, the BJP-RSS might as well do it right.

Murmu’s life has been hit with unfortunate tragedies. Having lost her intimate family — husband, two children, brother, and mother — she has become a lone warrior, with only her daughter by her side.

When President Ram Nath Kovind took over as the 14th President of India, the RSS sent a message to the public that it was sensitive to caste issues and that Dalit subordinates of the RSS still had a chance. While President Kovind was lauded as the Dalit President of India, his tenure was shy of anything to do with Dalits. It is akin to any Dalit official who refutes the image that might make them appear sensitive towards the society’s vulnerable section. It is the burden of choosing between purist morality over strategic responsibility. President Kovind did not exercise the executive power vested in him.

But he indirectly tried to speak to his constituency. One of the first issues he raised was hiring more judges and expanding the diversity in India’s courts. He asked to “select, nurture and promote the right talent from the lowest to the higher levels”. President Kovind’s order for judicial reforms boldly declared that nepotism had no way in the judicial system. At the same time, the President remained mum at the gruesome rape and murder of a Dalit girl in Hathras in his home state.

The BJP is perhaps trying to trump the RSS by giving two prominent quotas — the SCs and STs — symbolic representation. While at the same time the condition of the marginalised groups in India is worsening. Earlier this week, Dinesh Khatic, a Dalit minister in the Uttar Pradesh cabinet, rebelled alleging discrimination and mistreatment in the Bisht government.

Hope the fate of President Kovind is not repeated on President Murmu where their token face is substantiated with Brahminism as a benevolent hope.

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

life &
WORK

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WHEN THE US Supreme Court overturned *Roe v Wade* last month, many sighed in relief that they were in India where abortion has not been ‘criminalised’. While one hopes that was the case, the truth is that there is no “right” to abortion in India. Abortion (“causing miscarriage”) continues to be an offence under the Indian Penal Code, 1860. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, was only enacted as an exception to the IPC provision. The MTP Act is centered around abortion service providers or registered medical practitioners and seeks to protect them from criminal liability for abortions performed on permissible grounds, and not women whose bodies are regulated.

India’s Supreme Court and High Courts routinely engage with the question of abortion, as women who have been denied or can’t access abortion under the MTP Act approach them for permission to terminate their pregnancies, though India has not had a case similar to *Roe v. Wade*.

In 2009, the Supreme Court in *Suchita Srivastava v. Chandigarh Administration*, while deciding whether a woman with intellectual disability has the autonomy to continue her pregnancy, placed the right to reproductive choice of women within the framework of Article 21 of the Constitution.

Although the Court cited *Roe v. Wade* and spoke of women’s “right to make reproductive choices”, it found the provisions of the MTP Act to be “reasonable restrictions” on the exercise of this choice.

Last week, the Supreme Court reiterated the fundamental right to reproductive choice, bodily integrity and autonomy of women, as it allowed a 25-year-old, unmarried woman to terminate her pregnancy of 23 weeks.

The woman had earlier approached the Delhi High Court, where she was denied permission to access abortion as she was unmarried and her pregnancy arose out of a consensual relationship. The decision was based on the Court’s interpretation of the amended provisions of the MTP Act and Rules that came into effect last year.

As the High Court correctly noted, the MTP Act allows termination of “certain pregnancies by registered medical practitioners”. Section 312 of the IPC continues to criminalise abortion (or “causing miscarriage”) except when performed to save the life of the pregnant woman. A woman “who causes herself to miscarry” can also be held liable under this provision.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons

Access to abortion: Where
women still don’t have a say



Pro-abortion protests in the US. File

of the 2021 amendment took note of advancements in the medical field which have made it possible to increase the upper gestational limit for abortion, in particular for “vulnerable women” and cases involving substantial foetal anomalies detected much later in the pregnancy. With these amendments, all women, irrespective of their marital status, can seek termination of pregnancy on account of failure of contraception. Further, certain categories of vulnerable women, can seek abortion up to 24 weeks of gestation. These include, survivors of sexual assault; minors; women with physical disabilities, and mental illness; women in humanitarian settings, disaster or declared emergency; and when there is a “change in a [woman’s] marital status during the ongoing pregnancy (widowhood and divorce)”.

The Delhi High Court ruled that this woman, who was unmarried and carrying a pregnancy arising out of a consensual relationship, was “clearly not covered” under these categories. A few days later, a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court took exception to this “unduly restrictive view” taken by the High Court, and said that the clause relating to “change in marital status” needs to be given a purposive interpretation. Stating that Parliament’s intent could not have been to deny the benefits of MTP provisions to unmarried women, it said that the words “widowhood and divorce” do not exhaustively define the scope of the clause. It would extend to an unmarried woman no longer in a relationship with her partner.

In my fieldwork, that culminated in a report on ‘Legal Barriers to Accessing Safe Abortion Services in India’, the phrase “illegal pregnancy” — a pregnancy arising

out of a wedlock — was heard frequently from different stakeholders (doctors, nurses, government officials, women). A government staff member in Mumbai posed a seemingly rhetorical question, “unmarried [pregnancy] is illegal, right?”. When asked if it indeed was, he said that in all “illegal cases”, they first filed an “emergency police report” and proceeded with abortion only after obtaining requisite approvals from police or the Court. The fear of criminal processes was writ large.

In its decision, the Supreme Court has said that MTP Act recognises the “reproductive choice of woman and her bodily integrity and autonomy”, and that “choice must be inherent in a woman whether or not to bear a child”. It is a landmark decision.

The Delhi HC’s observations, that termination of pregnancy would be “akin to killing the child”, adds to the notion of criminality that follows abortion. For outcomes to change, the Supreme Court’s decision would have to reach those who believe pregnancy in unmarried women is “illegal”.

As I began reading the judgment of the Delhi High Court, I was struck by how the petition made a case for termination of this woman’s pregnancy. There is a mention of her marital status, breakdown of her relationship with her partner, her educational background and current employment status, financial background, future prospects of marriage, social ostracization and stigma around having a child out of wedlock. Would she have to state all of this before the gatekeepers of abortion services if she was well within the limits of the MTP Act?

The Indian law on abortion is indeed progressive when compared to the US, yet it continues to place restrictions on women’s access to abortion. The continued criminalisation of abortion creates an aura of illegality around it, and put together with fear of the criminal justice system, makes women fight their way through medical and judicial institutions to seek abortion.

Unless the law is amended to guarantee an affirmative right to reproductive choice, women’s access to abortion will continue to depend on her chances of encountering a willing doctor, or judge who can apply an approach to statutory interpretation that lets her decide what she wishes to do with her body.

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On the
LOOSE

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AFTER A long hiatus from Hindi films, gutsy actor Mallika Sherawat will be seen in *RK/RKay*, a nostalgic take on Bollywood movies from the 1960s. To jog dormant memories, Sherawat made a splashy debut in 2003 with *Khwaish* that stirred up plenty of righteous indignation for its 17 passionate kisses onscreen. Admiringly referred to by *The New York Times* as Bollywood’s Brigitte Bardot, Sherawat’s next film *Murder* was her piece de resistance, an enjoyable thriller far ahead of its time in its portrayal of a sexually aggressive woman. The fact that it was a huge hit should have been enough to catapult Sherawat to A-list status. Instead, she was ridiculed by the media and her contemporaries for playing a free spirit who takes charge of her own destiny.

poraries for playing a free spirit who takes charge of her own destiny.

Reflecting on the unwarranted vitriol she faced that sidetracked her career, Sherawat matter-of-factly told journalists while promoting *RK/RKay*, “What Deepika Padukone did in *Gehraiyaan*, I did 15 years ago but people were too narrow minded to appreciate it.” (*Gehraiyaan* revolves around an illicit affair and has many steamy scenes featuring Padukone.) Now that we are exposed to a gazillion OTT shows that unapologetically push the boundaries of what is permissible, on a re-watch of *Murder*, Sherawat’s so-called torrid scenes feel vaguely tepid. For anyone worried that it often feels that India is regressing back into the dark ages, at least the designated “fast gin” of yesteryears, of which Sherawat was deemed a torchbearer, has been laid to rest. One can only

ponder the randomness of fate, that a pathbreaking, female-centric role could so negatively brand a woman brave enough to break with conformity — while cementing another’s position as numero uno in a similar act, less than two decades later.

That’s life. Success owes a lot to timing and luck, especially in a chaotic country where the disruptive forces of society wield significant power. Ask directors Anurag Kashyap and Sanjay Leela Bhansali, who have had harrowing experiences with the Hindu fringe, who, at the slightest provocation, threaten to pelt stones at movie goers on opening Fridays. Then, there’s the equally deadly threat of skewed social media narratives that can destroy reputations: for example, Rhea Chakraborty faces an uphill task salvaging her career after being implicated in the death of her boyfriend. As an act of self-preservation, I rarely log on to

Twitter having figured out that whether people praise or berate me, it has no bearing on my life. Recently I had to and saw the shocking level of venom directed towards all women professionals, be it lawyers, journalists or academics.

It makes one wonder whether a little bit of censorship is necessarily a bad thing; maybe a time will come when companies will hold employees responsible for posting misogynistic and racist opinions in the public domain, the same way people have been sacked in France for holding anti-Semitic views. Undoubtedly, the dice is far heavily stacked against women in showbiz. Amid the barrage of opinion, it’s easy to miss that actors like Sherawat have been trailblazing risk-takers. It must have been hard being the butt of lurid jokes or reading articles where women from established film families would superciliously say they would never

act in a *Murder*. As though anybody working in the Hindi film industry would choose artistic greatness over commercial success.

Ultimately, Sherawat’s instincts were right to take on an unconventionally bold role — the best chance any of us have at success is to seize opportunities available to us at a given time. Over a long career, we also have to philosophically accept that some of our decisions will go awry. For some reason, failure lingers a lot longer in our heads than success. *Murder* subjected Sherawat to scathing attack; but doors opened up for her in Hollywood, she became famous but most importantly, she became rich. The website www.caknowledge.com lists Sherawat’s net worth at Rs 113 crore. Pretty damn good for an outsider, vilified for the fictional role of a cheating wife. Truly, success is the best revenge.

The writer is director, Hutkay Films

TOPOF THE
WORLDThai Prime Minister
Prayuth Chan-ochaTHAILAND
PM sails
through last
no-confidence

Bangkok: Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha sailed through his fourth and final no-confidence vote in Parliament on Saturday ahead of a general election next year. The vote came after four days of debate targeting Prayuth and 10 of his Cabinet members for economic mismanagement and their failure to prevent corruption. All 10 ministers also survived the vote. Prayuth won 256 confidence votes, with 206 against and nine abstaining. Cholanan Sikaew, head of the main opposition Pheu Thai Party, said the vote result was disappointing as it didn't reflect public sentiment. "We know we cannot win in the Parliament, but we will not lose in the general election," he said. **AP**

4 KALIBR CRUISE MISSILES FIRED BY RUSSIA; U.S., UN, CONDEMN ATTACK

Russian missiles hit Odesa port, putting landmark grain deal at risk

Moscow cannot be trusted to implement deal, says Zelenskyy

AGENCIES
KYIV, JULY 23

RUSSIAN MISSILES hit Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odesa just hours after Moscow and Kyiv signed deals to allow grain exports to resume from there. Ukraine's Foreign Ministry denounced Saturday's airstrikes as "spit in the face" of Turkey and the United Nations, which brokered the agreements.

Two Russian Kalibr cruise missiles hit the port's infrastructure and Ukrainian air defences brought down two others, the Ukrainian military's Southern Command said. Command spokeswoman Nataliya Humenyuk said no grain storage facilities were hit and she said there were no reports of injuries.

"It took less than 24 hours for Russia to launch a missile attack on Odesa's port, breaking its promises and undermining its commitments before the UN and Turkey under the Istanbul agree-

The site of a Russian missile strike in a sea port of Odesa, Ukraine, on Saturday. *Reuters*

ment," Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleg Nikolenko said. "In case of non-fulfillment, Russia will bear full responsibility for a global food crisis."

Nikolenko described the missile strike on the 150th day of Russia's war in Ukraine as Russian President Vladimir Putin's "spit in the face of UN Secretary-General Antonio

Guterres and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who made great efforts to reach agreement." Guterres' office said the UN chief "unequivocally condemns" the strikes.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the strike showed Moscow could not be trusted to implement the deal. However, public

EXPLAINED
Did strikes violate the agreement?

IT WAS unclear what the strikes were targeting and whether any grain infrastructure was hit. Also, Russia did not promise to avoid attacking parts of the Ukrainian ports that are not directly used for grain exports. If there were military targets nearby, Russia may have been trying to exploit a loophole. Yet even if the strikes did not violate the letter of the agreement, it seems clear that they went against the spirit of it.

Orban urges new EU strategy on Ukraine, says sanctions failed

REUTERS
BUDAPEST, JULY 23

THE EUROPEAN Union needs a new strategy on the war in Ukraine as sanctions against Moscow have not worked, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on Saturday.

"A new strategy is needed which should focus peace talks and drafting a good peace proposal...instead of winning the war," Orban said in Romania.

He said in his speech that the Western strategy on Ukraine has been built on four pillars - that Ukraine can win a war against Russia with NATO weapons, that sanctions would weaken Russia and destabilise its leadership, that sanctions would hurt Russia more than Europe, and that the world would line up in support of Europe. Orban said this strategy has failed as governments in Europe are collapsing "like dominoes", energy prices have surged and a strategy was needed now.

broadcaster Susipilne quoted a government minister said preparations continued to restart grain exports from the country's Black Sea ports.

US Ambassador to Ukraine, Bridget Brink, denounced the Russian strikes "outrageous." "The Kremlin continues to weaponise food," she tweeted "Russia must be held to account."

USA
Two children
diagnosed with
monkeypox

New York: Two children have been diagnosed with monkeypox in the US, health officials said on Friday. One is a toddler in California and the other an infant who is not a US resident, but was tested while in Washington, DC, CDC said. The children were described as being in good health and receiving treatment. How they caught the disease is being investigated, but officials think it was through household transmission. Other details weren't immediately disclosed. **AP**

SAUDI ARABIA
Man who helped
Israeli sneak into
Mecca arrested

Riyadh: Police in Mecca say they have arrested a Saudi man who helped an Israeli-Jewish reporter sneak into Islam's holiest city, defying a rule that only Muslims can enter the area. The outcry appears to have prompted Saudi police late Friday to announce the arrest of the Saudi man, who they say facilitated the entry of the journalist into Mecca in explicit violation of regulations prohibiting the entry of non-Muslims. The Saudi male national, whose identity was not revealed, was referred to prosecution and remains under arrest. **AP**

Pak, China welcome 'interested third nations' joining CPEC

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, JULY 23

ALL-WEATHER allies Pakistan and China have decided to welcome "interested" third countries joining the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying it was "an open and inclusive platform" for mutually beneficial cooperation.

The 3rd meeting of the CPEC Joint Working Group (JWG) on International Cooperation and Coordination (JWG-ICC) was held in virtual mode on Friday.

During the meeting, co-chaired by Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood and China's Assistant Foreign Minister Wu Jianghao, both sides reviewed the implementation of CPEC and its expansion to the jointly agreed priority areas, according to a statement by the Foreign Office.

It was noted that as a flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the CPEC had broken new ground in strengthening international and regional connectivity, especially in the context of its extension to Afghanistan.

"As an open and inclusive platform, both sides welcomed interested third parties to benefit from avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation opened up by CPEC," said Foreign Office.

During Friday's meeting, Pakistan and China also agreed that CPEC's development had reached a new point, with increasing emphasis on high-quality development of industry, agriculture, IT, and science and technology, while ensuring tangible socio-economic benefits for the people. **PTI**



Hamza Shehbaz takes oath as Punjab CM in Pakistan. (Twitter/@the_nation)

Hamza Sharif takes oath as Punjab CM

Lahore: Hamza Shehbaz, the son of Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif, on Saturday took oath as the chief minister of Punjab province. Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman administered the oath to Hamza, 47. Pakistan's SC on Saturday allowed Hamza to remain as the "trustee" CM till hearing resumes on Monday, but barred him from using his powers for "political gains". **PTI**

Military brass talk truce with TTP

Islamabad: Pakistan's top military brass has discussed the ongoing peace talks with the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) outfit facilitated by the Army to prevent further terror attacks in the country, according to the *Dawn* report on Saturday. "Fast-paced developments in the realm of strategic and conventional policies, the importance of peace in Afghanistan for sustainable development and the operational preparedness of the armed forces" were discussed, the Pakistan Army said. **PTI**



WILDFIRE SENDS ALARM BELLS RINGING IN U.S.

A fast-moving wildfire near Yosemite National Park exploded in size on Saturday and prompted evacuations. The Oak Fire, which began Friday afternoon southwest of the park near Midpines in Mariposa County, California, grew to 10.2 square miles by Saturday morning. **AP**

Ranil may expand Cabinet to include all parties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, JULY 23

SRI LANKA'S newly-elected President Ranil Wickremesinghe is likely to expand his Cabinet to accommodate all opposition parties in the government, according to a senior minister.

Wickremesinghe on Friday appointed an 18-member Cabinet that included Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena.

The President is likely to expand the Cabinet to make it representative of all parties in Parliament, Tourism Minister Harin Fernando said, echoing

OVER 1,000 ARTEFACTS MISSING FROM GOVT BUILDINGS

Colombo: More than 1,000 valuable artefacts, including items of vintage and antique value have reportedly gone missing from Sri Lanka's Presidential Palace and Prime Minister's official residence at Temple Trees after irate anti-government protesters occupied these premises, police said on Saturday. Special investigation teams have been formed to begin an investigation, it said. What is compounding the agony for the investigative officers is that the Sri Lankan Department of Archaeology does not have a detailed record of the antiques and different artefacts at the Presidential Palace, even though it has been gazetted as a place of archaeological importance, the report said. **PTI**

Wickremesinghe's thoughts to local media after taking the oath on Friday. However, he did not give any timeframe. Sri

Lanka's Cabinet met for the first time and discussed ways to normalise the situation in the economic-crisis hit country within a

week by regularising functions of the government institutions a media report on Saturday.

The Cabinet also discussed the negotiations with the IMF which are underway to secure financial assistance. Meanwhile, the Opposition requested PM Dinesh Gunawardena to summon the Parliament on July 25 to discuss attacks on peaceful protests at Galle Face on Friday.

International human rights groups on Saturday also urged the president to immediately order security forces to cease use of force against protesters after troops and police cleared main camp following months of demonstrations.

'I AM THE UNDERDOG' Sunak pledges to put UK on crisis footing if elected

Sunak led all rounds of the voting among Conservative Party lawmakers to reduce the field to two candidates.

But it is foreign secretary Liz Truss who seems to have gained the advantage so far among the 200,000 members of the governing party who will ultimately choose the winner. Truss held a 24-point lead over Sunak in a YouGov poll of Conservative Party members published on Thursday.

"Be in no doubt, I am the underdog," Sunak said in a speech in Grantham, central England, the birthplace of former prime minister Margaret Thatcher.

Truss would be only Britain's

Sunak led all rounds of the voting among Conservative Party lawmakers. *Reuters*

third female PM after Thatcher and Theresa May.

"The forces that be want this to be a coronation for the other candidate but I think members want a choice and they are prepared to listen," he said.

In his speech Sunak, laid out his Thatcherite credentials, promising careful management of the economy before tax cuts.

In an interview for Saturday's Times newspaper, Sunak said he would put the government on a crisis footing on taking office. "They're challenges that are staring us in the face and a business-as-usual mentality isn't going to cut it in dealing with them. So, from day one of being in office I'm going to put us on a crisis footing," he said.

Trump former adviser Bannon convicted of contempt of US Congress

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, JULY 23



Steve Bannon

STEVE BANNON, a key associate of former President Donald Trump and an influential figure on the American right, was convicted on Friday of contempt of Congress for defying a subpoena from the committee probing last year's attack on the US Capitol, a verdict the panel called a "victory for the rule of law."

A jury found Bannon, 68, guilty of two misdemeanor counts for refusing to provide testimony or documents to the House of Representatives select committee as it scrutinises the Jan. 6, 2021, rampage by Trump supporters who tried to upend the results of the 2020 presidential election. Each count is punishable by 30 days to one year behind bars and a fine of \$100 to \$100,000. U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols set an Oct. 21 sentencing date.

Bannon was a key adviser to the Republican Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, then served as his chief White House strategist during 2017 before a falling out between them that was later patched up. Bannon also has played an instrumental role in right-wing media. "We lost a battle here today. We're at war," Bannon said.

ONLINE GAME LETS PLAYERS SHOOT VIRTUAL SOLDIERS WHILE RAISING MONEY FOR REAL-LIFE RESISTANCE

Opponents of coup in Myanmar fight regime with the help of a video game

RICHARD C. PADDOCK
JULY 23

SEIN LIN, a retired history teacher in Myanmar, had never played a video game in his life. But about a month ago, while scrolling through Facebook, he stumbled on War of Heroes — The PDF Game. He has been playing it nearly nonstop ever since.

For Sein Lin, 72, killing virtual Myanmar troops is a way of participating in real-life resistance to the country's ruthless military, which has killed thousands of citizens after seizing power in a coup last year.

Since its debut in March, War

of Heroes has been downloaded over 390,000 times. Many players say they are motivated by creators' pledge to donate proceeds to help finance resistance forces in Myanmar and aid those who have been displaced by the fighting.

"Even though I can't kill soldiers who are killing civilians, killing in the game is satisfying, too," Sein Lin said. "One way or another, playing and clicking until I die will help the revolution."

Myanmar's military, known as the Tatmadaw, previously ruled the country for a half-century and has long been at war with its own citizens. Since ousting elected officials in the coup last year, the regime has at-

tempted to crush dissent by arresting opposition leaders, gunning down unarmed protesters, bombing guerrilla encampments and burning thousands of homes.

Many regime opponents have fled to the jungle, where they have formed the People's Defence Force, or PDF, an army with more than 60,000 fighters under the leadership of the shadow National Unity Government. A similar number of fighters in urban areas have formed semi-autonomous guerrilla units, known as the local people's defense forces.

War of Heroes was created by three Myanmar-born developers who left the country be-

Members of the People's Defence Force in Myanmar showing War of Heroes on their cellphones. *NYT*

fore the generals seized power Feb. 1, 2021. One of them, Ko Toot, said they were motivated to create the game after the ar-

rest and subsequent disappearance of tech industry colleagues in Myanmar who were involved, or whose family members were

involved, in anti-coup protests.

A paid version of the game was released in mid-June, and within days it began landing regularly on lists of top 10 games at Apple's App Store in the US, Australia and Singapore. "Myanmar people around the world are downloading it," Toot said. In the game, players go into battle and kill regime soldiers, moving up in rank as the game becomes harder. At higher levels, players can target civilian spies, turncoat celebrities who support the junta and coup leaders.

"We need you to join our resistance forces to protect innocent people from Evil Military Forces," says the game's App Store de-

scription. "Your duty is to join People's Defence Force and become the best freedom fighter."

The game's free version makes money when players watch ads. The paid version takes in revenue when players download it or buy ammunition. Gamers who play enough to make the equivalent of \$54 for the game receive a "certificate of achievement" for participating in the Spring Revolution, as the protests in Myanmar are known, and for donating money.

So far, the developers say they have donated \$90,000. About one-fifth of it has gone to help displaced people. The rest has been donated to more than two dozen local defense groups.

Players in Myanmar need a VPN to get around internet restrictions for access to the game. To avoid arrest at checkpoints, players uninstall the game from their phone before going out and download it again.

The game has attracted some unlikely fans, among them a Buddhist monk and a member of the Tatmadaw. The game has become so popular that some soldiers are also playing. Since the coup, the number of defectors has grown. Those who stay in the military but are against the regime are known as "watermelons": army green on the outside and red, representing the pro-democracy movement, on the inside. **NYT**

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

eve

WORK IN PROGRESS

(Clockwise, from right) Ranbir Kapoor; in a still from the forthcoming *Brahmastra*; with Alia Bhatt from their April wedding; in a still from the just-released *Shamshera*

SNAP CHAT

- DOUBLE ROLE**
Doubly excited
- THEATRICAL RELEASE**
Privilege
- MARRIAGE**
Responsibility
- FATHERHOOD**
Looking forward to it the most
- SUPERHERO**
Someone who does things for others
- FUTURE OF ENTERTAINMENT**
Good storytelling
- FAVOURITE CORNER AT HOME**
My balcony

A MAN OF MANY PARTS

Back on the big screen after four years, Ranbir Kapoor has his heart set on his new avatars — his first double role, a mythological hero, a soon-to-be father

Alaka Sahani

AFTER A four-year hiatus, Ranbir Kapoor returns to the limelight with a slew of releases. But months before these, the Bollywood “lover boy” threw a googly at unsuspecting audiences by tying the knot, at long last. Kapoor 2.0 is rejuvenated, responsible and is raring to go. He is picking diverse characters hoping to chart unexplored terrains. He has his eyes set on the mass market and, quite uncharacteristically for the private person that Kapoor is, it also seems to involve making regular appearances on our social media feeds. Routine media interactions on multi-city promotional tours aside, he is making reels with influencers, fun videos and engaging in banter with paparazzi trailing him.

In his latest film *Shamshera*, he plays a double role — father Shamshera and his son Balli — for the first time on screen. With this Yash Raj Films outing, an ambitious dacoit-action drama set in 18th-century British-colonised India and filmed extensively in the stunning Nubra Valley, the star creates a larger-than-life image.

As if to make up for the gap between his previous release, *Sanju* (2018) and *Shamshera*, which released on Friday, Kapoor has lined up three more big-budget releases in quick succession. “The audience memory is short. I’m trying to do more work now,” says the actor. His next, *Brahmastra Part One: Shiva*, the first part of an Indian mythology fantasy adventure helmed by Ayan Mukerji, will release on September 9. Next year, he will be seen in a yet-untitled Luv Ranjan-directed rom-com opposite Shraddha Kapoor. And in Sandeep Reddy Vanga’s crime drama *Animal*, playing a character with “shades of extreme grey”. Some of his projects have suffered owing to unplanned delays, but, he says, he’s not the kind of actor who will “tell the producer or director that I have only 40 days, so let’s finish the film. I’m ready to give 300–400 days to a film if the role demands it.” *Shamshera*, with all its visual effects, took two-and-a-half years to be completed while *Brahmastra* needed five.

A maverick with a propensity for off-beat potboilers, Kapoor is currently headlining multiple projects which are positioned as mass entertainers. For *Shamshera*, he underwent



physical transformation, shaking off his boy-next-door look. He rides a horse while wielding an axe menacingly and engages in a *kalaripayattu*-style fight sequence. “My driving force is not to earn more money but to be part of a good film,” says the son of yesteryear heart-throb the late Rishi Kapoor and Neetu Kapoor.

Being an industry insider, he is familiar with the roller-coaster life of a star and aware that all it takes is a Friday to upend stardom. “I’ve witnessed super-stardom as well as failure in my family. The movie always comes before the actor or star. The movies should be the superstars with actors essaying their characters in them. When Amitabh Bachchan or the Khans (Shah Rukh, Salman and Aamir) acted in movies, the intention was not to be a ‘superstar’ but to chase excellence,” says Kapoor, who hopes he can continue the tradition of providing the audience good entertainment.

In his 15-year career, Kapoor’s film choices have been unconventional for an A-lister, with even his father frowning at them. If his much-hyped debut *Saawariya* (2007) tanked, the hit *Bachna Ae Haseeno* (2008) saved the day. Undaunted, he followed his instincts. He threw his weight behind directors such as Anurag Basu in *Barfi!* (2012) and *Jagga Jasoos* (2017). His portrayal of different stages of Janardhan “Jordan” Jakhar’s life in *Rockstar* (2011) remains breathtaking despite drawing criticism from some quarters. He took a deep dive into the ‘60s to essay the role of a hot-tempered street fighter in Anurag Kashyap’s *Bombay Velvet* (2015), whose co-writer Vasan Bala says, “Ranbir has the dancing grace of Gene Kelly and the acting chops of (Marlon) Brando and it’s not an exaggeration.”

In 2009, successes like *Wake Up Sid*, *Ajab*

Prem Ki Ghazab Kahani and *Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year* shaped his dominant screen persona — boyish, charming, misfit and vulnerable. “The kind of roles I was getting earlier were that of young boys. Their conflicts are related to what the present generation goes through. In *Wake Up Sid*, *Rockstar*, *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani* (2013) and *Tamasha* (2015), I played the characters I could relate to,” says the 39-year-old actor. He’s done more than one film for Basu, Mukerji and Imtiaz Ali, forging collaborations to escape run-of-the-mill fare. While Ali calls him a “super actor”, *Shamshera* director Karan Malhotra is impressed with his “childlike behaviour and curiosity”.

His choices, however, came at a cost. Some of the risks Kapoor took have been rewarding, bringing in impressive box-office collections, such as *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani*, *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil* (2016) and *Raajneeti* (2010) or accolades, such as *Wake Up Sid* and *Barfi!*. But he also learnt to cope with setbacks early on in his career. “This journey is not easy. My debut film *Saawariya* was a huge disaster. Facing failure in your first film teaches you a lot. There’s a lot of luck involved; barring the hard work you put in, you can’t control anything,” Kapoor had told this writer ahead of *Jagga Jasoos*’ release.

After the film’s dismal box-office performance, despite its grand vision and ingenious music, Kapoor chose to essay the role of a controversial, albeit popular, actor Sanjay Dutt in



In his latest film *Shamshera*, Kapoor plays a double role — father Shamshera and his son Balli — for the first time on screen

his biopic *Sanju*. With a box-office earning of Rs 500-plus crore, it became his highest-grossing movie till date. Did that make the actor gravitate towards big-budget entertainers? “What does a *masala* entertainer mean?” Kapoor ruminates and then replies, “It means multi-genre; it has everything. To make such a movie is much harder than others. We have seen this with movies such as *Baahubali* (*The Beginning*, 2015 and *The Conclusion*, 2017), *RRR* (2022), *KGf* (*Chapter 1*, 2018 and *Chapter 2*, 2022) and *Pushpa: The Rise* (2021). However, I didn’t follow a herd mentality while picking an entertaining movie like *Shamshera*. I instinctively made these choices.” The actor, however, confesses that a movie like *Besharam* (2013) “probably came from a wrong intention”. After doing a few slice-of-life movies, he thought of adding “*masala*” to his filmography. “It doesn’t work that way,” he says.

Bala endorses the transition in Kapoor’s career trajectory. “It’s not easy being a great artiste and a superstar with unreasonable expectations, to always make great artistic choices and also deliver blockbuster hits. Ranbir and Shah Rukh Khan broke in, all guns blazing, with daring choices. But superstardom will eventually demand only and only commercial exploits. That’s the nature of the business we are in. They can’t be too selfish and unabashed as just an artiste, the way they started. Ranbir is at that curve now shouldering mega-budget movies.”

Not only is Kapoor reinventing himself to earn the status of a mass hero but is also aiming for a pan-Indian audience. “Some years ago, the measure of success was the Rs 100-crore club. Today, it’s pan-India success,” he quips. *Shamshera* and *Brahmastra* will also release in south Indian languages.

Kapoor’s current crop of work reflects a significant departure from his earlier belief that “hero-ism doesn’t come easily” to him. According to him, the evolution of his screen characters was determined by the “opportunities” that came his way and the “choices” he made. “The opportunity to act in *Shamshera* came at the right time. I found the story credible and the characters I play exciting,” says Kapoor, who was the one to have orchestrated his first double role. “Initially, I was offered the son’s role in *Shamshera*. Then, the greed of an actor took hold of me. I offered myself to the director (Malhotra) and producer (Aditya Chopra) for the father’s role. We had to do look-tests, of course,” he says. Malhotra lets on that Kapoor had to step out of his comfort zone since his acting is not “loud”. “He’s worked hard in imbibing my sensibilities into his performance and given it his best,” says the director.

Like his *khaandaan*, Kapoor takes a keen interest in the music of his films. “For every movie, I go for song recordings. Working with artistes such as Pritam, AR Rahman, Mohit Chauhan, Arijit Singh, Irshad Kamil and Amitabh Bhattacharya has been instrumental in my growth as a star. If you give me a song, it gives a tone and direction to the character,” says Kapoor. *Ji Huzoor* (*Shamshera*) and *Kesariya* (*Brahmastra*) are raking in the views, over 43 million and 56 million on YouTube (at the time of going to press), respectively. Though the lat-

ter is garnering mixed-bag reactions. Pritam, who’s given music to Kapoor’s *Ajab Prem Ki Ghazab Kahani*, *Barfi!*, *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani* and *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil*, says: “Ranbir emotes it perfectly, keeping in mind what the song needs. The way he dances with ease and makes the steps look easy... he owns the songs, be it in *Ae Dil...* or *Rockstar*. He enjoys every bit of it and that shows on the screen.”

Coinciding with his blockbuster-oriented developments are new milestones in his personal life. His intimate April wedding with actor Alia Bhatt in his Bandra home’s balcony, their “favourite” courtship spot, was followed by the recent announcement: “Our baby... coming soon”. “Marriage,” Kapoor says, “subconsciously changes things even though Alia and I were dating for four years. Two days after we got married, we were back at work. Then, she had to shoot in London for 45 days.” When Bhatt returned home, after wrapping up the shoot for her debut American film, the spy thriller *Heart of Stone*, Kapoor was waiting outside the Mumbai airport to receive her. Social media-shy Kapoor is now more forthcoming.

During the lockdown, Kapoor lost his father to cancer. Now, as he prepares for parenthood, he says, “Today, I understand that he (Rishi) has been a great father. My father has passed on great values to my sister and me. I would like to pass them on to my children. While growing up, we didn’t see our father much. He was always working. We were brought up by our mother who sacrificed her professional life for us.” He is proud and happy that his mother, who had quit acting after her marriage at the age of 21, is once again enjoying her work. He is categorical about not wanting Bhatt to “sacrifice her dreams” after having a baby.

Kapoor has always harboured the desire to turn director one day. “I definitely have a burning ambition to direct — that’s something I always wanted to do,” he says. His turn as a producer, however, went off far too disastrously for Kapoor to try his hand at it again. “I don’t think I have the required skill set,” he says, referring to the debacle that was *Jagga Jasoos*, which he had co-produced. There is one more role he wants to take up though: that of a writer. “During the pandemic, I have written a story that I would like to direct. I need to muster some confidence before I do that,” he says. That, however, has to wait. Right now, the father-to-be is building a nursery for his first child.



New Delhi



DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

Saviour or Sinner?

They have many benefits, but the cultivation of palm oil also has severe environmental fallouts

WONDER: IF there's one palm that stands head and shoulders above all others in terms of its usefulness, it has got to be the oil palm. This tree, which may soar to over 20 m in height, has two species: one native to West and north-west Africa, and the other to tropical Central and South America. The African variety has taken to life in Southeast Asia — especially in Indonesia and Malaysia and we are now offering it large tracts of suitable tropical habitat, too. There's no environmental altruism involved, there's just one word: oil.

The oil extracted from both the fruit and kernel of the oil palm (its yield is much higher than that of the other palms) is like manna from heaven for miscellaneous purposes. It's been in use for 5,000 years, and during the Industrial Revolution, the British used it to lubricate heavy machinery. Because it contains more saturated fats than other vegetable oils, it makes the perfect cooking medium for deep-frying. It contains no trans-fat and is great for baking and making pastry dough. It has been gleefully pounced upon by the manufacturers of commercial foods, from chips to cheese puffs. It is as stable as any well-governed democracy ought to be and maintains quality, flavour and consistency. It is estimated that each person on Earth consumed 7.7 kg of the stuff in the year 2015 and its demand is rising fast. In 2018-2019, world production of palm oil was 73.5 million metric tonnes.

All of this did not, of course, go down our gullets in some form or the other — we put it to other uses, too. Look closely at the labels of your shampoo, shaving cream, body lotions or detergents. Invariably, ingredients derived from palm oil will be among them. Hindustan Unilever's erstwhile product, Sunlight soap, has it. Then there's the tell-tale American brand Palmolive. It's believed that 70 per cent of such products have palm oil in one form or the other and that 50 per cent of all the products used by urban Indians have palm oil in them.

The other big use of palm oil is in the production of



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

STANDING GUARD

A palm-oil plantation in Malaysia

biodiesel. Ah, you might say, at last a renewable source of fuel for our motor vehicles and heavy machinery. Indonesia, in fact, aims to shift to 100 per cent palm-oil biodiesel and will need 15 million hectares of plantations to do so. The biggest biodiesel plant in the world is the Finnish Neste oil biodiesel plant based in Singapore, with a capacity of 800,000 tonnes per year. Half of all of Europe's palm-oil imports from Indonesia went into the production of biodiesel. In India, we import large amounts from Malaysia and Indonesia and when the Ukrainian crisis erupted, the prices sky-rocketed. We're now aiming to be *atmanirbhar* in its production!

The oil palm seems to be one of Mother Nature's magnanimous gifts to us, doesn't it? Not so fast...

PLUNDER: There are major issues with the use — and abuse — of palm oil. Apart from the fact that deep-fried food is bad for you, palm-oil biodiesel produces thrice the amount of carbon emission as conventional diesel. It may thus contribute to an increase in global warming. When I first saw aerial photographs of palm oil plantations, I had an uneasy feeling. Normally, when you see green canopies, your heart lifts. But these trees stood in endless rows like menacing storm-troopers, stiff and silent, the area around them clear-felled and lifeless. The vanquished — hundreds of thousands of hectares of species-rich rainforest in Southeast Asia — has been ruthlessly bulldozed, changing entire ecosystems and upending the lives of locals. The critically endangered Sumatran orang-utan, tiger and rhino will soon have nowhere to run or hide as forests fall around them. Tribal people have had their lives turned upside down as palm-oil companies have bulldozed their forests, forcing many to relocate. Some have got jobs, but there has been wholesale exploitation here too, aided and abetted by governments that would rather look the other way.

In India, we are now casting our covetous eyes on the biodiversity-rich rainforests of the Northeast and Andamans, chainsaws at the ready and Rs 11,000 crore waiting to be invested, even as environmentalists scream blue murder. There are three lakh hectares already under water-guzzling (each tree requires over 360 litres of water per day) palm-oil plantations and the government wants to increase this to 6.5 lakh hectares in the next five years. The recent declaration that henceforth plantations would come under green (or, God forbid, was it forest?) cover calculations makes clear the government's intentions. As always, we seem hell-bent on turning a saviour into a sinner.



PHOTOS: ADITYAVIKRAMORE

A WALK IN THE CLOUDS

(Clockwise from above, left) Punakha dzong; a snowy morning at Phobjika Valley; Tiger's Nest Monastery; a farmhouse in Phobjika; monks out on a stroll

OF DRUK, DZONG AND DATSHI

A brush with beauty and mortality in the Land of the Thunder Dragon

Arefa Tehsin

PEACE IS overrated. When our life flashes before our eyes in that penultimate moment, will we remember the calm or the torrents? The quiet or the adventure? One such life-flashing memory for me arrived in the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, as close as you can get to the last Shangri-la. We were driving from Phobjika to Bumthang Valley. The dells and hills were ablaze with blinding snow. The freshly snowed-in mountain road was as treacherous as Judas with his kiss, making our car skid to the edge of the great fall with the slightest break. Our hearts were sinking like the Titanic as my partner, Aditya, drove us through not one, but four mountain passes before the roads were completely snowed in. And we lived to tell the tale.

Druk Yul — the Land of the Thunder Dragon — is a place at the edge of imagination. A song passed down centuries in a timeless rhyme. It is a land of fiercely guarded traditions, no traffic lights, pink-cheeked *dzongs* against brilliant blue skies and *thasha* — the ashes of ancestors — arranged by the hillsides and eternalised in clay. A land where every other ravine is associated with an ogress, where 70 per cent of the country is shrouded in primeval forests; where butter is not on toast but in tea and chilli is not an ingredient but the main dish!

Bhutan opened in the 1970s for the world and, today, tourists spend a mandated \$250 a day to witness its wonders. A marriage was arranged between the mystic and modern with the monarchy lifting the ban on television in 1999. The mobile-toting monks, men and women clad in *gho* and *kira*, prayer wheels swirling in mountain streams, and music bands playing guitar to the tune of *Lamborghini* in the night clubs of Paro are a proof of arranged marriages that last.

At the Indian border town Jaigaon, it took us more than 45 minutes to scramble through gruelling traffic and garbage dumps. As soon as we crossed the Bhutan Gate and went a few feet away from our motherland, we were profoundly embarrassed to see the orderliness. It was a place free of mayhem, plastic bags, tobacco and



men peeing on walls. One country striving towards *vikaas* and the other towards happiness. It posed before us a pertinent life question: If two aliens landed on earth, one on each side of the Bhutan Gate, would they think they were on two different planets? It is mandated in the Bhutanese constitution that the land-locked country will have 60 per cent forest cover for all times to come. "*Bhaisa'ab*, such total waste of land!" an Uncleji would shake his head and declare, "Good we don't have such bloody nuisance in our Constitution!" At least there are some things in which most Indians stand united. As we drove across the kingdom, graz-

ing yaks, snow-fed rivers in deep gorges and forested hills stretching to the horizon remained our constant companions. The houses and buildings made of rammed earth, wattle and daub and intricate woodwork gave the pockets of civilisation the feel of medieval towns.

Who can forget the nightlife in Thimphu and the hulking *dzong* above a serpentine river blinking up at the sun in Paro? And, ah, the Tiger's Nest! A monastery perched on sheer granite cliffs. The tantric Guru Rinpoche supposedly flew there on a tiger's back, pinned a demon and meditated for three months. We raised a toast of red rice

beer to the unfortunate demon responsible for this miraculous monastery (giving us the pleasure of an exuberant hike) at the café, My Kind of Place. It came highly recommended by Sunil, who had planned our self-drive trip. We could sense why. The chef Karma from Haa valley, who spoke about momos like the raga of malhaar, made us see music in food.

We revelled in stories Bhutan is made of. The fairy tale-ish Dochu-la, pinned with icicles, waiting to house a fable. Mebar-tsho, the Burning Lake, of buried treasures and butter lamps. The 17th-century Punakha *dzong* at the *chuzom* — confluence of Mo Chhu (female) and Pho Chhu (male) rivers, flowing forever in a symphony. Chimi Lakhang, the temple of the giant phallus of the divine mad man, who would shoot an arrow from a mountain-top and make love to a woman in the village it landed. Yes, I know, the last story got your attention.

In this land of happiness, one factor that contributed significantly to ours was the low-priced, good quality spirits, be it Raven, the vodka, or Zimzun, the peach wine. We flitted across the realm like nectar-happy butterflies. At our lunches in farmhouses, there was always the home-brewed Ara to go with ema datshi, buckwheat and generous dollops of yak cheese and meats. This chewy drink is made of rice, eggs and fire, is served hot and looks like molten moonshine. Ara found us even in the blazingly beautiful, glacier-carved valley of Tang.

There was beauty everywhere, sure, but the one we lost our hearts utterly to was the sweeping valley of Phobjika. Luminescent, lyrical, and the winter home of the stoic black-necked cranes who famously eluded Salim Ali all his life. The valley has sunburst meadows dotted with charming little houses and farms. Pines shoulder the horizon, stars put the mountain sky on fire and *bukhari* warms the feet of winter nights.

Who says cold is frigid and aloof? It is opportunistic and tactile, wrapping its fingers around every little thing within reach. It can draw confessions out of cluttered hearts. And can tease with a glimpse of forever. Another memory that might flash before my eyes when all is forgotten is that of a cold, dark evening when we were out on a drive in the solitary Phobjika valley. The night had settled with her knees drawn. Her breath carried the perfume of slumbering pines. When just like that, the wintry illusionist sprinkled salt. We stopped the car and stepped out. Snowflakes melted on our warm skins. And we sensed, fleetingly, the cold lips of eternity pressed on our cheeks.

Arefa Tehsin is an author of fiction and non-fiction books and ex-honorary wildlife warden, Udalgur. Her latest book is *Gupshup Goes to Prison*

A Moveable Feast

On a food trail through the ancient silk route in Kyrgyzstan



Rinku Ghosh

THE LANTERN swings wildly as the mule-drawn cart follows the distant light of the watch tower and nears the inn next to the *bazaar*. And what a *bazaar* it is! A colonnade of richly decorated shops, wrapped in velvet and satin, each pillar coated with copper and gilt; gigantic tiered lamps fed by butter, burning like the sun, and fairy lamps on the parapet etching their brilliance against the night sky. There's everything that you thought only belonged to *bahisht* — gold, silver, jewels, gems, silk, brocade, carpets, porcelain, spices, even the finest horses. The merchants are bedecked in the finest attire as are the Turkmen, their

beards waxed and curled. At the inn, the innkeeper refills the samovar, lines up fresh fruits from his orchard, keeps the lentil soup on the boil and stews the meat in its own juices. Meanwhile, the weary traveller sleeps to stories of how the tower was once the home of a warlord's daughter; how he confined her there to protect her from the prophecy that she would die of a spider bite at 16 and how he cried the day it came true. They say his grief shattered the tower.

Today, centuries later, we are at the same place, the tower still in a tumble, at Burana, which rests on the remains of the ancient city of Balasagun. Among the largest of medieval cities in Kyrgyzstan's Chui Valley, Balasagun was one of the capitals of the Turk Khanate

ORIENTAL DELIGHTS

(Clockwise from above) The tower at Burana; samsa, the precursor of the samosa; noodle soup or lagman

and a key town on the ancient Silk Road. This segment of the Chui Valley, situated between the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek and Lake Issyk-Kul, was a crucial political, economic and military centre in Eurasia between the fifth and 12th centuries. Archaeological excavations revealed towns and monuments, reflecting the cultural and artistic traditions of many countries and peoples — from Byzantium to India and China. With its own sewage and irrigation systems and quarters for all religions, Balasagun was quite advanced for its time. Here, Mongols, Tartars, Persians and Chinese all left their footprints in the sands of time.

Our local host welcomes us into her yurt and serves *kompot* (compote), the way it was made in the days of wandering nomads — cold in summer, hot in winter. She had stewed berries, apricots, peaches, apples, rhubarb and plums in a cauldron of water with raisins and cinnamon.

If the desire for silk led to trade routes and a confluence of cultures in one of the earliest instances of globalisation, it was hunger that drove travellers to equip themselves with culinary skills, travellers sharing their food and the knowledge of making them. That's how the Silk Road became the site of the first experiments with global fusion food. And, given that people were always on the move, the food prepared had to have a long shelf life.

At Pishhpek restaurant in Bishkek, we find the origin of our samosa, triangular pockets of flaky pastry with lamb meat cooked in its own fat with onions. Called *samsa*, this is interchangeable with cheese, cabbage and pumpkin stuffing, a flexibility which allowed Indian traders to take it back home. It gave energy on long journeys, where, at halts, there was feasting. The meat came from the graz-

ing animals, sheep or horses, cooked over charcoal in cast-iron cauldrons with cabbage and onions.

Though Marco Polo was credited with bringing noodles from China, hand-pulled dough strips were used liberally along the Silk Road. A multicultural noodle soup or *lagman*, with farm vegetables and potatoes brought by Spanish and Portuguese traders, have now become native to these parts. *Manti* or steamed dumplings carry the aromatic whiffs of spices from Osh Bazaar, the Silk Road market that continues to thrive in Bishkek.

Could boorsok, shallow-fried dough pillows, to be had with honey, dates, jam, raisins or butter, be the precursor to our crispier *namkeens*? Could the cheese balls have been derived from *kurut* accidentally? As nomads carried milk in their camel-leather bags, the galloping motion of the horse churned it and separated the milk into curd. Drained, dried and lightly salted, it became portable food! Today, it is a roadside savoury, had with fermented mare milk or *kumis*, a probiotic for wanderers in the wilderness.

Flatbreads or *naans* are abundant, a legacy of long-haul travellers, who carried them for satiety and carbohydrates. But the Silk Road had its own balance of "hot" and "cold" foods to avoid stomach aches on arduous journeys. Yogurt and garlic, pomegranates and walnuts, apricots and lamb, peaches and trout. The spice *bazaars* are still there as are the gold mines (Kyrgyz gold is high-grade). But it is the shared food that has become a cultural icon, a testament to a borderless world that was, and still can be, lived.



PHOTOS: RINKU GHOSH

‘Repression is what I’ve questioned’

Bangladeshi photographer Shahidul Alam on his first retrospective in Asia, his days in jail and what worries him

Vandana Kalra

Your exhibition ‘Singed but not burnt’ at Emami Art, Kolkata (till August 20), documents the shift from early photorealistic images to documentary work, like the *Crossfire* series (2010), on extra-judicial executions in Bangladesh. Can you talk about your work that straddles art and activism?

I have developed a visual vocabulary where politics cannot be disengaged from my art. Photography’s ability to provide information was not what was needed in the case of *Crossfire*. The story was known. The need was to build resistance, to shake people, to get under their skin, and to challenge a repressive regime.

In the 1980s, you left London and moved to Dhaka to pursue photography. What led you to establish a conducive ecosystem through initiatives like Drik Picture Library, Pathshala (photography school), Chobi Mela (Asia’s first international photography festival)?

If we want to serve local photographers, we need to be where they are, speak their language, and understand their concerns. As for Pathshala, you can’t fight a war without warriors. One of Pathshala’s tutors called the students photo militants fighting for justice. Chobi Mela served two purposes. It introduced our warriors to cutting-edge work and to practitioners from across the globe.

From capturing protests to the first election after military rule, how has it been to photograph democracy in Bangladesh?

We’ve never really had democratic practices in Bangladesh, so repression of one form or another is what I’ve always been faced with. That is what I’ve questioned and why I’ve always angered the powerful elite. I first showed ‘A Struggle for Democracy’ during General Hussain Muhammad Ershad rule (1983-1990) in the 1980s. I sent an open letter of protest to the prime minister, against the muzzling of the media during BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) rule in 1992. I showed *Crossfire*, the Kalpana Chakma trilogy, and reported on the attack on student protestors during the Awami League rule. Consequently, I’ve had a gun held to my head during the Ershad regime, received eight knife wounds during the BNP regime, and this government tortured me and put me in jail and still has a case



RAHNUMA AHMED

hanging over me. That’s the terrain I work in. It’s when the government starts giving me plots of land and invites me to PR exercises and paid junkets that I’ll start worrying I’m doing something wrong.

Can you tell us some of your sociopolitical concerns that you have captured in your work?

Some 3,500 bodies of young migrants, mostly men in their prime, return as corpses to Bangladesh every year. My work on migration is a story I’ve been working on for nearly 30 years. Sadly, while the work (*Migrant Soul*) has received appreciation, it hasn’t really changed the lives of migrant workers. *Embracing the Other* (2017) was produced to support a campaign for the Freedom of Religion or Belief, where I remain active.

Could you tell us about the series *Kalpana’s Warriors*, which is not just the story of the indigenous rights activist (who was abducted at gunpoint in 1996 and has not been seen since), but also of Bangladeshi campaigners who were silenced?

The need to speak our own language was the central argument behind the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971. Yet, in our own land, we refuse others the right to speak theirs and subject them to military occupation. The abduction of Kalpana Chakma is a shameful act of state brutality. The inability to bring the perpetrators to justice leaves the darkest stain on our judiciary and our executive. Through the exhibits, I’ve tried to interrogate the silent witnesses at the scene of the crime, humanise a revolutionary that the state has tried to



COURTESY EMAMI ART, KOLKATA



HOME TRUTHS

(Top) *Rural Kitchen* (1992, Bangladesh); *Solidamosc Movement* (1981, the UK); Shahidul Alam (left)

demonise, and celebrate the warriors who still campaign for her justice.

Through all these, how do you negotiate the interfaces with power?

I am part of a team and the biggest danger when you face repression is the situation of the most vulnerable. They risk a lot more than

I do, and not all of them signed up for a life of activism. I am hugely grateful that they have stayed with us through these difficult times.

That China can order the closure of a show in Bangladesh (when the police disallowed Drik from opening the exhibition ‘Into Exile: Tibet 1949 – 2009’) that is critical of their regime should be a wake-up call to our citizens. It is a sign of how spineless our government has become. Mahasweta Devi, one of the most respected citizens of our region, being denied access to our gallery (to inaugurate *Crossfire* in 2010), is a sign of how our value system has been eroded.

So the Shilpakala Padak (in 2015) was a surprise, as these awards are generally reserved for party cronies. I constantly remind my students that producing bloody good work, consistently and relentlessly, is an artist’s best defence.

In 2018, did you anticipate that you could be arrested for supporting the student’s protest demanding road safety in Bangladesh? Also, what kept you occupied in jail?

I was also attacked the day before, August 4, 2018, when my equipment was smashed. So, the possibility of being picked up was always there. The support from my Indian friends and colleagues was incredible. Fellow prisoners sneaked in the letter Raghu Rai had written to our prime minister, and I read the letter Arundhati Roy wrote on my 100th day of incarceration. Amartya Sen and other Nobel Laureates joining the campaign for my release meant so much to all of us.

In jail, I read voraciously. I interviewed people I would normally not have had access to. I worked with fellow prisoners to paint murals across the jail. We set up a musical band, adult literacy classes and started a vegetable patch. I remain involved in prison welfare.



EXPRESS ARCHIVE

Bound for Glory

Colleagues recall singer-composer Bhupinder Singh as a giving ‘elder brother’, a man with a unique voice

Tanushree Ghosh

MUSIC COMPOSER Jaidev would often refer to Bhupinder Singh as “*yeh mera sher hai* (he’s my lion)”. But to singer Chhaya Ganguli, Singh was like an indulgent elder brother. When Jaidev died in 1987, Singh stepped in to compose *ghazals* for Ganguli’s albums *Taskeen* (1989) and *Ishq* (1991, the latter with his singer-wife Mitalee Singh). Before the recordings, he took out time to rehearse with Ganguli, giving her tips to perform better. “Working with a knowledgeable artiste, you learn a lot,” she says, “He understood a singer’s voice and capacity, and composed in such a way that it would be comfortable for, and sound nice on, the singer.”

Ganguli’s long association with the singer-composer, who passed away last week, dates back to 1980. The two met on an All India Radio (AIR) programme. Along with Hariharan and Penaz Masani, they came together for a Jaidev special programme *Aarohi*, on Doordarshan. Ganguli sang her 1979 National Award-winning *Aapki yaad aati rahi* (*Gaman*, 1978) and Singh sang *Phir teri yaad* (*Aayi Teri Yaad*, 1980) and *Zeher deta hai mujhe* (*Wohi Baat*, 1977). “Bhupi’s voice was unique, rich and soothing,” she says. As a composer, he was “ingenious, inimitable and multifaceted.” He understood the lyrics, believed in not hurting the sentiments of poetry, and composed keeping that in mind,” she adds.

As the programme executive, in 1983, at Vividh Bharati (AIR), Ganguli produced the show *Sangeet Sarita*. The 15-minute morning slot was presented by well-known artistes. For it, Singh did 12 programmes titled *Baatein Ghazalon Ki*, deliberating on the contributions of *ghazal* artistes, even as lyricist-poet Rajesh Johri threw questions at him. “Bhupi was a large-hearted man. When Akashvani Nagpur station director asked me to design a *ghazal* programme for them in 1984, and since AIR could only pay for Bhupi’s flight tickets, Bhupi flew in his group of musicians at his own expense,” says Wadkar.

Singh was felicitated with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2016), she recalls. The last time the two came together was on August 5, 2018, for Jaidev’s centenary year



COURTESY CHHAYA GANGULI

YESTERDAY ONCE MORE

(Top) Bhupinder Singh; (from left) Jagjit Singh, Talat Aziz, Singh, Mitalee Singh, Chhaya Ganguli at a press event for HMV’s *Jashn-e-Ghazal* in Mumbai in 1986

celebrations at Mumbai’s National Centre for Performing Arts. “Despite not keeping well, Bhupi captivated us with his presence,” she says.

“You hear his single *Woh Jo Shair Tha: Poetry of Gulzar* (1980), you’d be surprised: which Bhupinder is this?” says Uttam Singh, the once go-to arranger for *ghazal* artistes, speaking about the “innovative and creative musician-composer and humble, giving, kind-hearted man” whom he had known for nearly 55 years. It was Singh who prodded a hesitant Uttam to compose a *ghazal*, something the latter had never done. It gave him an understanding of what being a composer entailed. For composers Uttam-Jagdish, Singh first sang the free verse *Tumse jo baat huyi* (Clerk, 1989), in a single take.

Singer Suresh Wadkar remembers meeting him in more dramatic circumstances. Sometime in the early ‘80s, a distressed Singh had walked out of Mehboob Studio in Mumbai, handing the lyrics of a song to the next singer waiting to record. It was an Odia song. “He was flustered at not being able to grasp the language,” says Wadkar.

During the making of their evergreen duet *Huzoor iss kadar na itraake chaliye* (*Masoom*, 1980), at the rehearsal sessions at RD Burman’s house, Wadkar recalls how Singh “was much, much more ready” than he was. The two first worked together in music composer RD Burman’s *Sawan nahin, bhadon nahin* (*Kudrat*, 1981). “Guitar in hand, a cigarette on his lips, this six-plus feet, handsome, jovial man, was a *bindaas mast-ram* (happy-go-lucky man), but if something got on the wrong side of him, Punjabi *mein moti-moti gaaliyan* (swear words) would flow out. *Dil unka saaf thiha* (he was pure-hearted),” he says. “In films, he got some phenomenal songs. *Ghazalon ko unhone aayam diya*, but equally beautifully he rendered *bhajans*, such as (Kabir *bhajan*) *Moko kahan dhunde re bande*. His *zabardast, johari-wali bass* voice fit like a glove,” he says.

It was, however, this “*hatke, yaadgaar*” voice that “unfortunately, also became a problem, as it wouldn’t suit many heroes of the time, save a handful, including Suresh Oberoi, Sanjeev Kumar, Dharmendra, Amol Palekar. Many came who could sing like Kishore Kumar and Mohammed Rafi but never has and never will come a voice like Manna Dey or Bhupinder Singh,” says Uttam.

‘We have always co-existed despite Partition’

Actor-artist Deepti Naval on her memoir, the stories that made her childhood, and living through war

Tanushree Ghosh

IF YOU think you are about to read about “Ms Chamko” (*Chashme Buddoor*, 1981), then this is where we must part. “My whole persona has been given this one face: simple and sweet girl next door (an image from her early films that has stuck on), though these girls are internally very strong (*Saath Saath*, 1982; *Panchvati*, 1986),” says Deepti Naval, 70. She divides her time between New York, Mumbai and Himachal Pradesh (Haripur studio).

Her father had adopted the surname Naval, meaning new, to avoid being just another Sharma. “There were so many in Amritsar,” says Naval, who has a knack for story-telling. That’s evinced by her recently released memoir, *A Country Called Childhood* (Aleph, Rs 999), which trains the lens on her growing up years in Amritsar (1952-70), before she left for the US with her parents, only to return later to the Bombay film industry. Acting first began while playing with her elder sister who would say, “*choonchi barn jaa*”. The draw of Kashmir, the setting for most films, made Naval run away from home, with Rs 15 on her. Dance (Naval’s a trained Kathak and ballet dancer), singing, drama, painting came to her from her mother. “I remember my childhood like cinematic visuals,” she says. Her parents passed away during the two decades of the writing of the book, which is as much about girlhood as a chapter of a country’s syncretic past. Edited excerpts:

You grew up in a different country from what it is today. Your house Chandraavali brushed shoulders with the Khairuddin Mosque, and the *azaan* there and *havan* in your house peacefully co-existed.

From my terrace, I could see inside the mosque, a lane dividing us. At the time, the mosque was all white; now, it also has green paint. A *havan* was a quiet affair, just four-five family members sitting together; the *azaan*



ABHINAV SAHA

was on the loudspeaker, but it was not a disturbance. For 10 years after Partition, the mosque was deserted, with only pigeons fluttering atop the dome. And, then, in 1957, the first *azaan* was heard. Over time, it became a part of our life.

Not fantasy or mythology, your childhood was full of stories of your family’s history. Can you tell us about it.

My mythology was the stories of Burma that Mama told me about the exodus and how they came walking to Imphal from Burma, and further on to Mukerian. The Jalalabad (*Bauji*/her grandpa’s Punjab village) chapter was never told to us when we were kids. In America, my father told me: ‘*Beta*, there’s one very dark and sad chapter of

MEMORY KEEPER

Deepti Naval in New Delhi, after the launch of her book *A Country Called Childhood*

Partition, and nobody talks about it, because there are no survivors to tell the tale.’ (All the village Hindus were allegedly killed on the banks of Beas by Muslims.) I made several trips to Jalalabad. My book is not about bringing out these gory details but to tell that there was hope. There was also an old Muslim *tan-gawallah* who saved three Hindu girls, one of whom was Mama (ferrying them out of Lahore’s riot-torn *mohalla* into the safety of a refugee camp).

As a child, you were excited when the India-Pakistan war (1965) unfolded at your doorstep, and then your father took you sisters to the Khemkaran border.

He must have seen how non-serious we were (*laughs*), so, he said, let me give them a

reality check. From my childhood, I’ve been hearing stories of the exodus from Burma, while us sisters’ lives were so bland. I was addicted to drama (*laughs*). So, when the first bombardment started, we went crazy. We must have been scared, sirens would go off, we’d cover our windows during blackouts, but more than scared, we were excited that something’s happening at last.

Your *Bauji* and *Bibiji* (paternal grandpa and grandma) were on two ends of the political spectrum. How did that work?

He was affiliated to the RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), she would debate and fight for Congress. There could have been fights every day. In the city, people would quote their example and say, ‘*Dekho ji, Bauji toh kattar Jan Sanghi hai aur Bibiji staunch Congressi*’. They would sit at the dining table, exchange views and be okay with it. ‘*Haam bhai tera hai, theek hai, main toh aise sochta hoon* (Let’s agree to disagree),’ and that was the end.

Journalist Mohammed Zubair, who finally got bail, was arrested for his tweet of Honeymoon/Hanuman Hotel, a still from your film *Kissi Se Na Kehna* (1983). What did you make of the case?

Where is everybody’s sense of humour? It was such an innocent thing. In the scene, it was used to hoodwink that the newlyweds aren’t going on a honeymoon, but rather to listen to *bhajan*, so it was switched to Hanuman Hotel...it was meant as a fun thing. We need to stop arresting people. It’s a pity.

You’ve lived through turbulent ‘60s, where do you see the country headed?

Kya bolein... dil dukhta hai, it hurts. There is no need... we have always co-existed despite Partition and the massacres. People need to pause and think: Where is this going to end up? It could be a disaster of a much greater kind. Co-existence is the best way, let’s just all live and let live.

Classifieds

PERSONAL	
I,Zenab W/o Mohd Ramzan R/o 2772 4th Floor, Chooriwalan, Jama Masjid, Delhi- 110006, Have Changed My Name To Jainab, For Future.	0040623805-9
I,Zeeshan Ansari, S/o Yusuf Ansari, R/o C-40, Gali, no-4/5, Near-Dilshad Masjid, Old Mustafabad, Delhi-94, have changed Name to Zeeshan Ahmad, S/o Yusuf Ahmad, Permanently.	0040623835-3
I, Tarun, S/O-Shri Kishore Chandra, R/O-H.No. B-2325, Street no.35,B-Block, Sonia Vihar, Delhi-110084, inform that Tarun and Tarun Kumar is the same and one person.	0040623839-10
I, Sukhvir Singh, S/O Harbans Singh, R/O K-120, Krishna Park Extn., Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, inform that Sukhvir Given-name and SINGH Surname.	0040623805-6
I, Shakshi Rani, W/o-Anil R/o-H.No.192, Kh.No.43, Village Bankner, Narela, Delhi-110040, declare that Sakshi, and Shakshi Rani, is same and, one person, and shall hereafter be known, as Shakshi Rani	0040623839-1
I, Ramzan S/o Mohamad Abdullah R/O 257, Gali No-9, Kardum Puri, Babarpur Delhi-110094, Have Changed My Name To Mohamad Ramzan.	0040623805-10
I, RADHA KRISHAN S/O SHRI BHAVANI DUTT JOSHI, R/O-RZ-285E, F-BLOCK, RAJ NAGAR-2, GALI N-9, PALAM COLONY, NEW DELHI-110077, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RADHA KRISHAN JOSHI.	0040623839-9
I, Punam Kumari W/o Ravinder Prasad R/O D-11, Friends Enclave, Mundka, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Poonam Prasad permanently.	0040623821-1
I, Paras S/o Sanjeev Dang R/O E-41A, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Paras Dang for-all purposes.	0040623835-5
I, Pankaj S/o Paul Mistri, R/O E-3/77, Ansar Nagar, Ramesh Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to PANKAJ MISTRI, for all purposes.	0040623805-2
I, Nitin S/o Jata Dhari Dash R/O-T-2575/1, 4th-floor, Gali, No-21A, Baljeet Nagar, Patel Nagar Delhi-110008, changed my, name to Nitin kumar Dash.	0040623821-5
I, Nisha D/o Nitin Kumar Dash, R/o-T-2575/1, 4th-floor Gali No-21A, Baljeet Nagar, Patel Nagar, Delhi-110008 changed my, name to Nisha Dash.	0040623821-4
I, Narendra Naman S/o Hodli Singh Rana R/o WZ-114, FF, Near Subhash Nagar Metro, Meenakshi Garden, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Narendra Pratap Singh.	0040623795-1
I, Urvashi Singhel, D/o-Late Naresh Kumar Singhal, R/o-D-5(Back Side), Siddharth Nagar, New Delhi-110014, have changed my name, from Urvashi Singhel, to Urvashi Singhal, for all purposes.	0040623839-2
I, SONI TIWARI, W/O-MUKESH KUMAR TIWARI, D/O-SATYANAND SINGH, R/O WZ-12/D-59, RAJNAGAR-2, PALAM VILLAGE, PALAM-COLONY, NEW DELHI-110045, have changed the name of my minor-son AAYUSH aged-14-years and he shall hereafter be known as AAYUSH TIWARI.	0040623805-7
I, Om Prakash Yadav, S/o Babu Lal Yadav R/O.RZ-122, Sayed-Village, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087, have changed my minor son's name Subham Yadav to Shubham Yadav.	0040623805-8
I, Nirmala Mittal, alias Nirmala Devi, W/o Chander Bhan Bansal, R/o-58-59, Pocket-5, Sector-21, Rohini, Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Nirmala Bansal	0040623839-4
I, Sanjeev Kumar S/o Late Banarsi Lal Dang R/o E-41A, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Sanjeev Dang.	0040623835-4
I, NAME KAVITA, W/O OMBIR YADAV, R/O:136 SARAFABAD SECTOR-73 NOIDA GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR UP-201301, changed my name to KAVITA YADAV.	0040623835-2
I, Mohd Farooq, S/o Sharif Ahemad, R/o-340, Gali No.18, Near Madina Masjid, Jafrabad, Delhi-110053 have changed my minor daughter's name Aksha to Aksha.	0040623839-6
I, Khem Chand, S/o Karan Bahadur, R/O B.20R, Rama Road, Zakhira West- Delhi.110015, That Khem Chand And Khem Bahadur is One And the Same Person.	0040623835-1

I, RUBY D/o Sh Jai Parkash residing at Vill Singhwa Khas(59), Teh Hansi, Distt Hisar, Haryana - 125042 have changed my name from RUBY to RUBY J PARKASH for all purposes.	0070796026-1
I, NIRMAL KAUR Spouse of No. JC-769706M(SUB)ONKAR SINGH, R/O-H.No. 241, Baba Deep Singh Avenue, Chheharta, Amritsar, Punjab-143105, vide corrected my date of birth from 16.12.1978 to 04.05.1980, vide affidavit: IN-DL64396379233626U, dated-23/07/2022, before Notary Advocate-Rajkumar, Regd.No.-6536, New Delhi.	0070796005-1
I, Mohsina Mir R/o H.No. 180, First Floor, Front Side, Ashoka Enclave, Part-1, Sector 34, Faridabad, Haryana - 121003 have changed my minor child's name from Mannat Kaur to Mannat Mir	0070795998-1
I, Manisha Kumari D/o Umesh Kumar Singh R/o House No.-964 sector-1, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad (U.P) 201012 have changed my name to Manisha Singh for all purposes vide affidavit dated 22.07.2022 before Ghaziabad.	0040623753-1
I, Dharmendra Kumar S/o Ishwar Singh R/o-76, Aurangabad Ristal, Ghaziabad, UP-201003, have changed my name to Dharmendra Kasana for all future Purposes.	0070795990-1
I, Deep Narayan S/o R.C.Choudhary R/o WZ-463 Ground Floor Rishi Nagar Rani Bagh Delhi have changed my name as Deep Narayan Choudhary permanently	0040623752-1
I Sahab Kaur W/o Sh. Vazir Singh R/o H.No.114, Bazar Panna, Village Karala, North West, Delhi is also known as Hahab Kaur. Both names are of one and the same person.	0040623749-1
I Sagar Bhavinkumar Karanbhai S/o Sagar Karanbhai Bavalbhai R/o Rajput Vas, Milk Dairy, Vansava, Vansva, Ahmedabad, Gujarat-382150, have finally changed my name to Sagar Bhavansinikh Karanbhai	0070795993-1
I Jitender S/o Kirti Chand Suna R/o Flat No-2204, Lodhi Road Complex, Pocket-3, Delhi-110003, have changed my name to Jitender Suna	0070795996-1
I Rajni Kapoor W/o Puneet Kakkar R/o-1190, Dr. Mukerjee Nagar, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Jyoti Kakkar permanently	0070796003-1
I Pankaj S/o-Ram Pal R/o-H-196, Shakurpur, J.J.Colony, North West Delhi-110034 declares that my father name has been wrongly written as Rampal Baiirwa in 10th & 12th Class-Certificate & Educational-Documents. My-Father's actual name is Ram Pal.Please keep this name in future for all purposes.	0040623792-1
I MANBAHADUR BIRKU SINGH S/O LATE MANBAHADUR R/O FLAT NO.P1-503, ELDECO ACCOLADE, NEAR GD GOENKA UNIVERSITY, SECTOR-2, SOHNA, GURUGRAM, HARYANA-122103 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BIRKU SINGH FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.	0040623779-1
I Inder Deep Singh S/o Late Sardar Harcharan Singh R/o Flat No.83, Kamakshi Apartment, Plot No.28, Sector-6, Dwarka, South West Delhi, Delhi-110075 have changed the name of my minor son from Vedaang Saraswat to Vedaang Singh Saraswat for all purposes.	0040623749-2
I Divpreet Kaur Gulati W/o Sandeep Singh R/o-14/47, Geeta Colony, Delhi-110031 have changed my name to Divpreet Kaur for all Purposes.	0070795999-1
I, Sandeep S/o Jee Lal, R/o H-206 Karampura Delhi have changed my name to Sandeep Sharma.	0040623821-2
I Kaushal Kumar Gupta S/o Gulzari Lal R/o House No.15, Ground Floor, Pocket-2, Jasola, New Delhi-110025 have lost my all original documents of my freehold DDA Flat- Allotment-cum-Demand Letter & Flat Possession offer Letter & NOC Electric and Water Connection & Flat Possession letter Original Conveyance Deed of my Flat No.4571, Sector-B, Pocket 5&6, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070. If anyone found the same please send return or contact at 9810098568, Email- seema_84@hotmail.com	0040623526-8
I, IQRA D/O MOHAMMAD ARSHAD R/O 5803 KUCHA REHMAN NEAR EK BURJ WALI MASJID BALIIMARAN DELHI-110006, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME IQRA ARSHAD.	0040623527-2
PROPERTY FOR SALE Immediate sale DDA SFS MIG Flat road facing with store room garage in GH12 Paschim Vihar Contact Owner 9810902754	0050200787-1

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PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Raj Kumar Bhatia, S/o Late Sh. Moti Ram Bhatia and Smt. Lata Bhatia, W/o Sh. Raj Kumar Bhatia, both R/o A-403, HIG Flats, Jhalwal Apartment, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have severed all their relations from their son Sh. Jagat Bhatia and his wife Ms. Divya Bhatia, R/o Pitampura, Delhi-110034 due to their uncivil behavior and immoral activities. My clients have also debanded/divorced them from all their moveable and immovable properties. Whoever makes any kind of legal and illegal deals with them, same shall be entirely at their own risks and consequences and my clients shall not be held responsible in any manner for their acts, deeds and things.

Sd/-
(VIVEKANAND JHA)
Advocate
Chamber No.8-17, & G.S. Block,
Near Gate No. 3, The Hazari Courts,
Delhi-110054.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client Mr. Rajbir S/o Late Sh. Bhunde Ram R/o House No.271, Block-K, Dakshinpur, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi-110016 has severed all his relations with his son namely Akash Kumar and his wife Sonya and their present children thereby grandson and grandchildren namely Bani & Abhishek & second son namely Divas Kumar. My client has disowned & disbarred all his children and their spouses and grandchildren from all his moveable and immovable property acquired by my client in past, present and future. My client is his family members shall not be responsible for any civil and criminal acts and deed done by them as they have become legally disowned. If anybody deals with them, he / she shall deal at his own risk.

Asgar Khan (Advocate)
Ch. No. 434, Saket Court, New Delhi-110017

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Shahnaz Sazia is the registered owner of property bearing No. H 175 AKASH NAGAR, DAKSHIN TEHSIL, AND DISTRICT DELHI/DELHI. However, the original Sale Deed dated 19/07/2008 has been misplaced and not traceable. Any other person(s) by virtue of that missing deed shall not have any right, claim or interest over the property and it shall be supposed as null & void. Whoever try to use those documents in any manner shall be prosecuted as the matter has been reported to this effect to UP Police vide R/o No. 20220003561685 On 18/07/2022. Moreover, by virtue of remaining deeds, Mrs. Shahnaz Sazia is the absolute owner of the property in hand in all respects whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Harendar Singh S/o Late Ram Pal Singh & Smt Kiran Choudhary wife of Late Ram Singh R/o A-41, Sitapur, New Delhi-110045 hereby disown and disinherit my son namely Sh. Rohit Choudhary, Age 22 yrs from all types of moveable and immovable properties, whether situated in India or out of Delhi, if anybody deals with him, will deal with their own risk and responsibility, for which my clients will not be responsible for their such acts. If he is further stated if any act done by Rohit Choudhary which is illegal and punishable in the eyes of law, for which my clients will not be responsible for his such acts. It is further stated that my clients have ended all kinds of relationships. Manish Kumar, Advocate
Member
Delhi High Court.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SUNITA (D/O Late Sh. Mukund Lal) W/O Late S/-Rajender Singh (alias Rajinder Singh) R/O House No. 855, Sector-19, Old Faridabad, Haryana-121002, have lost some of my original documents such as GPA, Agreement to Sell, Will and other relevant documents pertaining to my Flat No. C-40, on Ground Floor, measuring 453 sq. ft. approx., Devil Apartment, Kharsa No. 637/1, Village Devil, New Delhi-110080 on 23.07.2022, in the area of Sant Nagar, East of Kailash, New Delhi in this regard I have lodged a NCR/ FIR with P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi, vide L.R.No. 621277/2022, dated 23.07.2022. Founder May Contact Mobile No. 9911064401

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by the below mentioned securities of NGL FINE CHEM LTD. registered office 301E Square Subash Road, Vile Parle (East) Mumbai-400057 have been lost by the holder Mukesh Atal 1610, Madarsa Road, Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110006. No. of Securities: 600, Distinctive Nos.: 2277601 to 2277700, 2378601 to 2378700, 2541701 to 2541800, 2625501 to 2625600, 2850301 to 2850400, 2988301 to 2988400. Name of Holder: Mukesh Atal, Address: 1610, Madarsa Road, Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110006.

Mukesh Atal
Holder/Applicant

Place: Delhi
Date: 22.07.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL that my clientless Gurleen Kaur W/o Ricky Singh Mann permanent resident of 4315 Cedar Tree Lane, Burtonsville, MD 20866 USA, Indian Passport # T1611538, Green Card: 096-345-157 DOB: January 28, 1977, presently at New Delhi C/o A-246, First Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi. The father of my clientless Shri Mannohan Singh Sawhney S/o Late Shri Hara Singh, have heavenly abode on 05.05.2021, Smt. Prabhatjeet Kaur Sawhney W/o Shri Mannohan Singh Sawhney predeceased him on 22.07.2013, leaving behind my clientless as well as Savleen Kaur W/o 201 Indraprasth Singh, R/o House No.-T-53, Second Floor, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi 110027 being their legal heirs. My clientless is having 50% share/rights in the following properties:-

- A-467, Ground Floor, measuring 217 sq. yds., Defence Colony, New Delhi 110024
- A-467, Third Floor with roof rights, measuring 217 sq. yds., Defence Colony, New Delhi 110024.
- House No. 9960, Nawab Ganj, Delhi 110006.
- Property No.2959 (Old) 5057-5059, New Ward No. VII, Bazar Sirsikawan, Prithvi Raj Market, (land measuring 325 Square Yard), Delhi 110006.
- Shop No. 5109, Ground Floor, Bazar Sirsikawan, Delhi 110006.
- One godown: 5009, Bazar Sirsikawan, Hauz Kazi, Delhi 110006.
- Agricultural land: Village Bajarpur Barana District, Ambala, Haryana.
- Plot No.32, Sector-J, Ajit Garh Colony, Village Kurari, Mohali, Punjab (Panchsheel Coop Society) that my clientless is in physical possession of property bearing No.A-467, Ground Floor along with third floor with roof rights, area measuring 217 sq. yds., Defence Colony, New Delhi 110024.

Any person dealing with any person with regard to the above said properties/share of my clientless, if any person (s) claims any right, title or interest in respect of the above said properties, in that eventuality he/she will reply to the said notification to my clientless within 15 days.

Sd/-
(BAKSHI TAJESHWAR SINGH)
ADVOCATE
C-18, Nizamuddin East,
New Delhi-110013

LOST AND FOUND

I am Mrs. Santosh W/O Late Naresh Gupta, H.No. 1/9449, Gali No.7, West Roshas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-32. I have lost my Property Papers including Possession Letter, Allotment Letter, Lease Deed, Payment Receipt, MCD No. 84, Pkt-P, Sec-5, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi-39.

LOST & FOUND

I, Rakesh Kumar Chopra S/o Sh. K. L Chopra R/o 326, Jagriti Enclave, Delhi through GPA Holder Tirath Ram Chaand, Property No-D-19, Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad. The original registry name of Tirath Ram Chaand S/o Sh. Jagat Ram R/o D-19, Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad, Property details D-19, Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad, Bahi No-1, Jild No-22 Page No-18 Number 313 Musana No-314 or 315 in registered on 26/08/1986 Court Zila Ghaziabad. Has been lost, finder contact at Mobile No.9811083309.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my clients Mr. Mohinder Kumar S/o. Sh. Sewa Ram having U.O. No. 0055-9007-4822 and Smt. Purnima Rani W/O. Sh. Mohinder Kumar having U.O. No. 7609-2783-9008 both R/o. House No-76, E-3 Block, Vikas Puri, West Delhi-110016, hereby sever all their relations with their son namely (1) Gaurav Kumar and his wife Komla (2). Prateek Kumar and his wife Vidya due to their disobeying, misbehavior and heavily disowned and debanded them from their all moveable and immovable properties forever.

Any person dealing with them shall be doing so at his/her/their own risk and responsibility. My clients will not be responsible for their any act and deeds. Sd/-
(VIVEKANAND JHA)
Advocate
Chamber No.8-17, & G.S. Block,
Near Gate No. 3, The Hazari Courts,
Delhi-110054.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my clients Mr. Mohinder Kumar S/o. Sh. Sewa Ram having U.O. No. 0055-9007-4822 and Smt. Purnima Rani W/O. Sh. Mohinder Kumar having U.O. No. 7609-2783-9008 both R/o. House No-76, E-3 Block, Vikas Puri, West Delhi-110016, hereby sever all their relations with their son namely (1) Gaurav Kumar and his wife Komla (2). Prateek Kumar and his wife Vidya due to their disobeying, misbehavior and heavily disowned and debanded them from their all moveable and immovable properties forever.

Any person dealing with them shall be doing so at his/her/their own risk and responsibility. My clients will not be responsible for their any act and deeds. Sd/-
(VIVEKANAND JHA)
Advocate
Chamber No.8-17, & G.S. Block,
Near Gate No. 3, The Hazari Courts,
Delhi-110054.

PUBLIC NOTICE

"Under the instructions of our Client Sh. Veer Singh S/o Sh. Sukh Ram, I hereby inform the general public that his son Sh. Pankaj Singh and his daughter-in-law Smt Sakshi are neither residing with him nor they are in our Client's control. The behaviour of Pankaj Singh & Smt. Sakshi is not good towards our Client and thus our Client has disowned their son Sh. Pankaj Singh and daughter-in-law Smt. Sakshi from his moveable and immovable property and have severed all relations with them with immediate effect. Anyone dealing with them, shall be responsible for their own acts and omissions and our Client would not be held liable in that regard."

Surinder Singh Popli Advocate
C-184, Vikas Puri,
New Delhi-110018

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, **JAI SINGH RATHORE** son of shri **GIRDHARI RATHORE**, Permanent R/o 85, Sunder Nagar, Khatipura, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302012, currently residing at Q-358, Vijay Rattan Vihar, Sector-15, Part-II, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as **J.S. RATHORE** in my minor daughter's, namely **ASHREE RATHORE** age 13 years in her School Record and Birth Certificate. The actual name of mine is **JAI SINGH RATHORE**, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on www.scrindianrailways.gov.in
Details of the Tender Notices of S. Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE No.154/2022

SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS e-Procurement Tender Notice

The following tenders have been floated online. Tenderers are requested to visit the website www.irebs.gov.in and submit their offers online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website. Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender Closing time is 14.30 hrs of the Due date of the Tender. "For all indigenous offers, EMD will be accepted only via online system as available on www.irebs.gov.in."

Tender No.	BRIEF DESC.
90.22.1156A	M.S.Flats steel size
82.22.1420	(PH No 10013) Human Insulin MIX of 30/70
82.22.1450	(P H No. 1 0 0 6 4) SITAGLIPITIN
56.22.5140	S u p p l y a n d commissioning
45.22.1126	Battery operated Led based Torch light

Note: Due dates of Tender Opening:

SL No.01 on dt.08.08.2022, SL no.02 on dt.16.08.2022, SL No. 03 on dt.1.8.08.2022 SL No. 4 & 5 dt.23.08.2022

CORRIGENDUM

Tender Notice No.151/2022 DT.01.07.2022 SL No.1 Tender No.56.22.5117 due on 02.08.2022 Brief Description Supply and Commissioning of Dual redundant. May be read as 17.08.2022.

SL No.2. Tender No. 56.22.5120 due on 03.08.2022, Brief Description Supply Installation & commissioning of SMPS May be read as 23.08.2022

SL No.3 Tender No. 56.22.5051 due on 04.08.2022. Brief Description Supply Installation & commissioning of SMPS based Integrated power May be read as 23.08.2022

Tender Notice No.153/2022 dt.15.07.2022

Tender No.82.22.0033 DUE ON 01.08.2022 Brief Description Tablet/capsule of B-Complex containing minimum Vitamin B1 10MG May be read as 02.08.2022

Beside above mentioned tenders there are other tenders having value below Rs.25 lakhs. For details, please visit Railway website above.

Principal Chief Materials A0867 Manager/Secunderabad

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.irebs.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.

(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gagar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001
Corporate Identity No. U40109UR2001SGC02867/2358 Telephone : 0135-2763872-76, Fax : 0135-2760289

E-TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE

E-tender Specification No. CCP-I/12 & 14/2022-2023 invited by this office for Construction of 11 KV Line from proposed 33/11KV S/S Kempty to final Stage of Yamuna Valley Peyjal Vojana for giving 200 KVA S/C and Grid Connected Agricultural Pumps under component "C" of PM KUSUM Scheme respectively are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. Bid documents will be purchased and submitted upto 17:00 hrs of 8.8.2022. Part-I of the e-tender shall be opened on 10.8.2022 at 13:00 hrs & 13:15 hrs

Other terms & conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in.

No. : 289/ECE(M)/UPCL/A-2 Date : 23.07.2022 (Corporate (C&P-I)

"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION" Use L.E.D. Bulb, Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912) "Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from www.upcl.org"

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1X660MW PANKI EXTENSION PROJECT, PANKI, KANPUR UTTAR PRADESH RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.

Gem Bid Notice

Bids are hereby invited for all mentioned Gem Bid. Details of GeM Bid as well as Total quantity of work, Tender Specifications, Other terms & conditions available on our Web Site: www.uprvnl.org/ GeM portal. Tendering authority reserves the right to cancel any or all e-bids without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any, shall be uploaded on the GeM portal. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time.

1. GeM Bid No. GEM/2022/B2360960 Dt. 19.07.2022

Outsourcing of teaching staff for Vidyut Parishad Inter College, 1x660 MW, PTEP, Panki, Kanpur. **Estimated Cost: 27,22,913.00, Earnest Money: 54,458/-, OPENING DATE OF E-TENDER: 03.08.2022**

website: www.uprvnl.org EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

पत्रांक : 19 /1x660मेघवा पन्की विस्तार /मुअशि/0/सीपीपीसी/विद्युतपन दिनांक 23.07.2022

"SAVE ELECTRICITY FOR THE NATION"

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS STORE DEPARTMENT

"THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT TENDERS"
Tender Notice No. S/2022/20 Date : 21.07.2022
The Principal Chief Material Manager, North Western Railway, headquarter 4th floor, Near Jawahar circle, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur-302017 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-tenders on www.irebs.gov.in site as follows. All the E-tenders will be closed at 14.25 hrs.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Unit	Due date
1	30221047A	REAR COVER FOR AXLE BOX	4608	Nos	02.08.2022
2	82221263	Sitagitlinin Phosphate 100mg Tab	580070	Nos	05.0

COMMONWEALTH
GAMES, 2022

BIRMINGHAM
28 JULY- 8 AUG

Commonwealth of emotions: Breaking stereotypes, a novice's dare, a desire to end poverty, a mother's struggle and curious origins.

Haircut with a Waugh watching, seeing Sachin in a cafeteria line

Alastair Campbell and Aminul Islam share how starstruck cricketers were by other athletes at the games village in Kuala Lumpur

ABHISHEK PUROHIT
MUMBAI, JULY 23

AMINUL ISLAM, the former Bangladesh captain, remembers randomly going for a haircut along with Steve Waugh and Gavin Robertson, the former Australia off-spinner, at the hair-dressing facility inside the 1998 Commonwealth Games Village in Kuala Lumpur. "They said, 'hey, let's go and have our hair cut.' So all three of us went."

Alastair Campbell, the former Zimbabwe captain, recalls queuing up at the "old-school" phone booths in the athletes' cafeteria to request his sponsors for replacement bats after he broke a couple. Former India batsman Amay Khurasiya would wait for refills to arrive as the limited vegetarian options in the round-the-clock cafeteria would get polished off early.

For cricketers used to operating in their own cocooned world of bilateral tours and the odd multi-team, but still single-sport, event, Khurasiya feels the CWC Village atmosphere gave a "slight indication" of what an Olympics Village must feel like. Coming from a land where cricket remains "a religion", Gagan Khoda, the former India batsman and selector, remembers the sobering experience of watching hundreds of elite athletes from vastly different disciplines train and compete.

Cricket returns to the CWC for the first time at Birmingham 2022 since that maiden appearance in Kuala Lumpur 1998. While 16 men's teams competed in the one-day format in 1998, with South Africa taking gold, eight women's teams will play in the T20 version this time. Cricket was part of the 2010 and 2014 Asian Games as well but India did not take part in both, which leaves CWC 1998 as their only major multi-sport event till date. The Kuala Lumpur Village was a great leveller for the cricketers; among the biggest stars of the game, such as Sachin Tendulkar, the Waugh brothers and Curtly Ambrose, were "not that important here," as Aminul says. "The swimmers and athletes were a much bigger attraction."

Starstruck by sprinters

Campbell says he was starstruck initially.

"You saw the people who you had watched only on TV – the sprinters, the swimmers, so it was peculiar from that perspective," Campbell says. "You would walk past a big name and go, 'hey, that is so-and-so,' or 'isn't he the 400m record holder?' and so on."

"A lot of us in the Zimbabwe team were avid watchers of other sports. We knew the faces, knew what they did, particularly in athletics. And the ability to hop on to a bus and go anywhere, from aquatics to athletics to hockey, was a huge eye-opener. Any spare opportunity, we would grab a bus and go watch the heats and cheer on the few Zimbabweans who were also competing."

It wasn't that the cricketers would go absolutely unrecognised. "A South African swimmer was very excited that cricket was in the Commonwealth Games and his heroes like (Shaun) Pollock, (Makhaya) Ntini, (Mark) Boucher, (Jacques) Kallis were all there, and they won gold also," says Aminul, who would make 145 against India in Bangladesh's maiden Test match two years later.

Still, cricket was a novelty for many at CWC 1998, and Campbell would end up explaining the basics to other athletes over dinner. "A lot of the guys there weren't sure about what this game was and how it is played. Some wanted explanations on the laws and what not," says Campbell.

Cuisines and conversations

For Khurasiya and Khoda, the conversations over meals with the other athletes were memorable. "It was a world full of beautiful sports, beautiful athletes and beautiful people. People would start biking or training at 5 in the morning. The commitment levels were unbelievably high. It was something to sit with such people and have your meal," says Khurasiya.

Witnessing at close quarters what athletes in individual disciplines go through in their daily routines was a lesson for Campbell.

"As cricketers, even then, things were sorted out for you as a team. As an athlete, yes, you have your training or sparring partners, but otherwise it is a lonely existence in an individual sport. It was an eye-opener to see



Cricket returns to the Commonwealth Games for the first time since 1998. Players like Steve Waugh and Sachin Tendulkar were part of the event then. AP

these guys train and just how disciplined they were. Just the solitude they go through, especially athletics."

Standing in line with hundreds to fill their plates in the cafeteria buffet was another novel experience for the international cricketers used to laidback five-star hotel spreads and room service.

"There was no VIP treatment for anyone, everyone would stand in line. But it made no difference to Sachin Tendulkar, who was as modest then as he is now, and when Tendulkar is not complaining, nobody complains," says Khurasiya.

While the vegetarians obviously had fewer choices – and minus the Indian spices too – overall, the Malaysians hadn't held back with the variety of fare on offer. So the cafeteria was a ceaseless melting pot of cultures, in more ways than one.

"Those foods were very healthy, mostly

steamed, not much oil. I became a fan of steamed salmon after those days," says Aminul.

"They had cuisines from all over the world. They really pushed hard. You could have Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, typical English fare, they really did an outstanding job in catering for all the different cultures there. It was no mean feat, 24 hours a day," says Campbell. "Some of the disciplines would finish really late, and they would want a midnight snack. So the cafeteria was a hive of activity all the time. It wasn't just starch and protein, there was something for everybody there."

Campbell also recalls the sheer ease of getting around the Village and the metropolis beyond it. "It was like every sort of whim was taken care of. Even if you wanted to leave the Village to have food outside or go to a bar, the transport system was unbelievable. You just

had to look out for the shuttle. It was like being on the London subway. It was clockwork 24 hours a day."

Opening ceremony

Apart from life in the Village, the opening ceremony at a packed stadium was where the difference really hit some of the cricketers. For Bangladesh, the moment was even bigger as they had been on the rise as a cricket nation; they had won the ICC Trophy in 1997 to qualify for their maiden World Cup in 1999. Already, there were great expectations from the team.

"When you go for the opening ceremony, you are not just cricketers, you are part of the Bangladesh contingent. That is a completely different feeling," says Aminul.

"Our captain was Akram Khan, but I became captain after the Commonwealth Games. That was Akram's last as captain, and he was supposed to carry the flag, but at the last moment, I think one of our shooters did."

Campbell, meanwhile, had to wait, and wait, along with the rest of the Zimbabwe contingent, for their turn to come. "We were 'Z', and Malaysia is very hot and humid. But when we did go in eventually, it was marvellous. You see it on TV but to actually go through it was terrific," says Campbell.

In contrast, the cricket itself was largely uninspiring at the CWC. Played across six venues in Kuala Lumpur, the competition produced several low-scoring howlers; bronze-medallists New Zealand were bowled out for 58 in the semi-final against silver-medallists Australia; in the other semi-final, South Africa were 96 for 9 chasing Sri Lanka's 130 before scraping through.

Practice facilities were scarce, and the pitches had been hastily laid and were, understandably, under-prepared in a place that is still not known for its cricket. In fact, the ICC Trophy, also held in Kuala Lumpur a year earlier in 1997, had been played on synthetic pitches.

"The wickets were bad and nowhere near international standard. They were soggy and bouncing awkwardly," says Khoda. "But all of us would sit and eat together, so many people from across sports and countries coming together. And I loved that."

BRIEFLY

Harmanpreet excited to compete at CWG



Bengaluru: Indian women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur has "grown up" watching multi-sporting events like the Commonwealth

Games and she is already getting goosebumps thinking about the walk she will take with the rest of the contingent at the opening ceremony on July 28. Women's cricket is making its debut at the Commonwealth Games. "This tournament is very important for us. This time we are playing for a medal. If I speak about myself, we have grown watching these kind of tournaments and we are glad that we are also getting an opportunity, we will be part of a big event. "I think in the future, if we keep getting these (kind of) opportunities, it will be great for us," Harmanpreet said at the pre-departure press conference **PTI**

Manpreet trains focus on weather in UK



Bengaluru: Once acclimatised to the weather in the UK, the Indian men's hockey team will do "whatever it takes to win a medal" at the

Commonwealth Games, skipper Manpreet Singh said on Saturday. The team left for Birmingham on Saturday to take part in the multi-sport event, which is scheduled from July 28 to August 8. "We are quite excited about this event as we have been training for this competition for quite some time now, and we are looking forward to putting on our best show against some of the best teams in the world. "Having worked on our strengths and weaknesses in the last few months, we will do whatever it takes to win a medal here," Manpreet said before departure. India is placed in Pool B along with England, Canada, Wales, and Ghana. **PTI**

BRIDGE

Dealer: North. Vulnerable: East/West

WEST		WEST	NORTH	EAST		SOUTH
♠ 86		1♠		Pass		1♠
♥ 9873		Pass	3♣	Pass		3♣
♦ KJ42		Pass	4♣	Pass		Pass
♣ 963		Pass				

South reaches 4S on a common auction. North opens 1C and rebids 3C, an invitational bid, and South bids and rebids spades. South's 3S bid is forcing. It is not a sign-off bid. This means that South may have a fairly good hand. West has to lead against 4S. Here are the choices you have to select from. A trump. Hearts, one of the unbid suits. Diamonds, the other of the two unbid suits. Which of these suits appeals to you?

The North Hand: S-Q103H-A-D-863C-A-KQJ72
The East Hand: S-A4H-J10654D-A95C-1084
The South Hand: S-KJ9752H-KQ2-D-107C-5

West should take this position. The opponents have bid strongly. Usually, when they bid in confident fashion and they find a good fit, they have enough tricks if allowed time to get to them. You know that spades are dividing well for declarer and you know that clubs are splitting too. You have to hope that you can take four tricks in a hurry before they can take ten or eleven. Do you agree that if your partner has the ace of diamonds it will give the defense a good start?

It is obvious that if you lead a diamond and partner has the ace or the queen, it will benefit you. It is also obvious that if you lead a 'safe' heart, nothing much will happen if your partner has just the ace and for sure nothing good will happen if partner has the queen. The theory here is that if your lead is going to be effective, you should pick the suit where your hand will most benefit if partner comes through with some help. How does a diamond lead work on this hand?

You can take three diamond tricks and a later spade for down one. A spade lead would be just as effective but you can take my word on this. A trump lead is a give-up lead on auctions like this one. A heart would be neutral and also painful to the defense. South would make eleven tricks after a heart lead.

I wish I could prove in just one hand that leading from a king is not a bad idea if you are leading a suit that your partner bid or if you are leading an unbid suit. But I can not. There are too many players who are wed to the idea that suits headed by the king are dangerous to lead from.

Dealer: South. Vulnerable: North/South

NORTH		WEST
♠ 43		♠ AKJ10862
♥ Q6		♥ A105
♦ AK976		♦ J83
♣ 8642		♣

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
4♣	5♣	dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South opens 3C and West combats this with a leap to 4S. This is not a weak bid at all. Jumps over their preempts show good hands. West expects to make 4S if East has a reasonable six or seven points. North raises to 5C and East doubles it. You lead the king of spades and follow with the ace, East playing the spade nine at trick one and then the eight of hearts. What should West do next?

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.

No one _____ about other people's secret virtues - Bertrand Russel (7)

HSTIO
[Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]

GUYSS
[Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]

AMWYPS
[Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]

IMNOVG
[Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]

SOLUTION: HONIST, GUSYSS, SWAMPY, MOVING

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2383

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- Old time classic movie ____ Kanya (6)
- Camouflaged, cloaked or concealed (8)
- Lodgings (8)
- Load (6)
- Not upto desired standards or level (5,3,4)
- Summon (esp. to army) (4,2)
- Areas of water swirling in circular motion? (6)
- Make a conspicuous mistake (4,1,7)
- Flatten or crush (6)
- Illuminating (8)
- 66 in words (5-3)
- North American country (6)

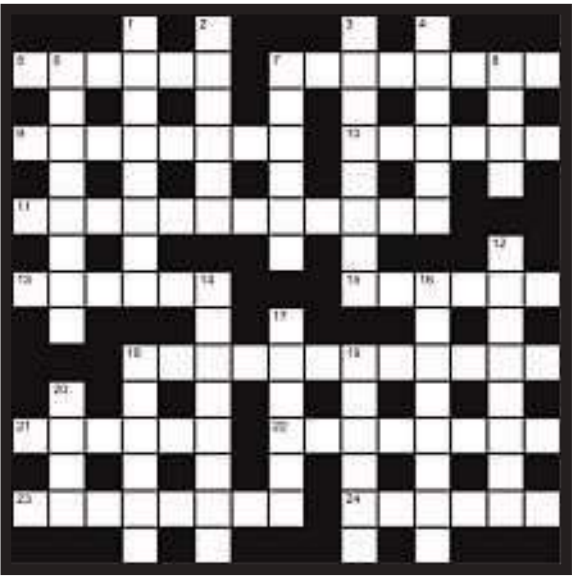
DOWN

- Carbonaceous material (8)
- Vouch (6)
- Card game (8)
- Monetary unit of Mongolia (6)
- Raised road (8)
- Principles of game play (6)
- Fencer's blade (4)
- Devalued, humbled or humiliated (8)
- Foretell (8)
- Giving as a grant (8)
- Big toe (6)
- Inducts or designs (6)
- What is left to one as inheritance? (6)
- Lateral leader (4)

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- Clever people are quick on it (6)
- All the way like a spell of Alcatraz? (4,1,2,1)
- Resort on new lines in Italy (8)
- Old apartment with key acquired recently (2,4)
- Distorted opinion the rooster has of life? (4-4,4)
- Tiny Kelly had his expectant fancies (6)
- Queue to see railway being repaired? (4,2)
- Golf scores? (5,7)
- Trace trouble round the piano covering (6)
- What you steal in to wash



- wearing? (8)
- To put it briefly (8)
- King gives writing material to editor he's nutty (6)

DOWN

- Street hoodlum spins around the rink rail (8)
- Courage at last in masculine, small-minded way (6)
- Officer getting on with wretched Ali in Empire style (8)
- Shout with pain, being inexperienced (6)
- Asks to be given a hand (8)
- Leaves priest on duty saddened initially (6)
- One might have this sort of corn as to make it (4)
- She's uncommonly fertile as a top business women (5-3)
- Fearsome gun and it may be moved round! (8)
- Spinner spinning nine out, having restricted runs (8)
- 1 bleed it so it becomes fit for eating (6)
- They're very fast, but may be shot (6)

- Thank that is built for a person's daily consumption (6)
- Defence organisation in Anatolia (4)

Solutions to 2382

QUICK CLUES Across: Decay, 4 Nightmare, 9 Cements, 10 Abuse, 11 Slang, 13 Lobby, 15 Tot, 16 Ups, 17 Lucky, 19 Meant, 21 Dusky, 23 Dams, 24 Sob, 25 Dia, 26 Moxie, 28 Since, 29 Estonia, 31 Aquaria, 33 Oversight, 34 Elate, Down: 1 Dachshund, 2 Combats, 3 Yon, 4 Nasal, 5 Goa, 6 Truly, 7 Aletta, 8 Erect, 12 Gully, 14 Buyer, 18 Codex, 19 Mists, 20 Tableware, 22 Startle, 24 Sangria, 25 Duo, 26 Moxie, 27 Exalt, 30 Aug, 32 Use. **CRYPTIC CLUES Across:** 1 Demon, 4 Mole skins, 9 Cape Cod, 10 Pamphly, 11 Trees, 13 Showy, 15 E'er, 16 Los, 17 Idles, 19 Buses, 21 Norsk, 23 Pasty, 24 RMO, 25 SOS, 26 Tazos, 28 Henry, 29 Reigate, 31 Lorelei, 33 Blinkered, 34 Butte, Down: 1 Decathlon, 2 Moppets, 3 NOC, 4 Medes, 5 Lap, 6 Sandy, 7 Impress, 8 Shyer, 12 Spick, 14 Ousts, 16 Lapaz, 19 Blyth, 20 Story-line, 22 Rossini, 24 Ringlet, 25 Shrub, 26 Track, 27 Solid, 30 Ear, 32 Rib.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday July 24

The odds are stacked in your favour, but as soon as you become too complacent you'll raise the chance of a temporary setback. In love you'll be flexible. At work, however, stand up for your rights.

Monday July 25

In a year of potential prosperity, you are now in a month when your finances could begin to turn a very important and profoundly welcome corner.

Tuesday July 26

You're on the edge of a breakthrough. If you can put in just a little more effort, you will see that all the trouble was worth it.

Wednesday July 27

It's an ambitious moment, and you want to be recognised for your skills. But first you need more experience in handling certain important responsibilities.

Thursday July 28

Don't be too worried if someone has failed to reply to your blandishments. It's not what other people do that matters, but how you respond.

Friday July 29

Your stars point both ways. You would like to stay close to home yet your mood is lively and adventurous. In addition, you'll find that travel, together with exposure to foreign cultures, will prove stimulating.

Saturday July 30

Little by little, your special long-range goals are becoming easier to achieve. You'll be ready to enjoy social and romantic encounters, free from commitment or concern about the future.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The Sun moves on before long, leaving you to stand on your own two feet once again. You're entering a tricky financial phase and will have to face up to a number of awkward choices. Also, it may be time to abandon a commitment which has become rather burdensome.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Mercury, planet of ideas, renews its connection with intense, passionate Pluto, and you could be heading for an intense confrontation. You will have to speak the truth, although please pick your words with care. Hopefully your sensitivity will be appreciated, and will help everyone move on.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Something may happen behind the scenes to change your plans and ideas. Whatever takes place will almost certainly involve your work or whatever other routine chores are pre-occupying you at the moment. Romantic hopes are reinforced by Venus' passage through complementary quarters of your chart.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The relationship between Mercury and Mars is bound to awaken ideas of social adventure, you'll be on the look-out for new friends and anxious to put former associates in their place. Additional attention is required to all travel plans over the coming weeks, perhaps because you're showing a tendency to forget essential facts.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

The Moon issues emotional challenges from Wednesday to Thursday, so these should be the perfect days to apply a little of your cheery Leonine medicine to a close partnership. Why don't you organise a break from domestic routine and plan something special instead?

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Legal matters seem to have some role to play in your life over the next three weeks. Is it possible that you have embroiled yourself in a bureaucratic muddle? If you stick to your guns and do what you know to be right, you won't go far wrong. And you might also win some additional respect from the people who matter.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Money matters can only increase in importance as the week passes, but don't expect a quick and easy answer. You will come to realise that you have the chance to set your finances on an altogether more prosperous course but how and when are questions that are still unclear.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

It may be more difficult than usual for you to imagine that a close partner can possibly be right, so deep is your belief in your own infallibility. However, any astrologer, on seeing the current planetary picture, would advise you to compromise and bend to circumstances. In short, please be super-flexible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Many freedom-loving Sagittarians are now starting to resemble obstinate and emotional Scorpios. Your tendency to secrecy in important matters, is departing ever further from what they have been in the past. But other people will realise that you have good reason for your actions.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

The week begins with the Moon powerfully positioned in relation to your sign, so family affairs will probably keep you on your toes. As the days go by, you will see that money lies at the root of all disagreements. If you can increase your earnings, you will solve many problems.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Recent developments in the sectors of your chart associated with relations, children and romance seem bound to work out for the best in the long run, even if you have been rather disconcerted by a number of statements or events. Thursday, when the Moon takes a maternal role, should be your strongest day.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

The stars are urging self-improvement. This is a special week for all of you pursuing educational goals or working in the travel and communications industry. If there is any way to get other people to see that you really do mean business, then get on with it - do not dally. It's time to drop your cool, laid-back approach

PLAYING TODAY

ATHLETICS
5.10am, World Athletics Cships, Live on Sony
FORMULA 1
6.25pm, French Grand Prix, Live on Star Sports

BRIEFLY

Leclerc on pole at French GP with Verstappen alongside

Paris: Ferrari's Charles Leclerc received a boost from team mate Carlos Sainz that helped him beat Red Bull's championship leader Max Verstappen to pole position at the French Grand Prix on Saturday. Spaniard Sainz, who already knew he would be starting at the back on Sunday due to engine penalties, 'towed' Leclerc in his slipstream at Le Castellet's smooth-surfaced Circuit Paul Ricard. The extra speed made a difference. "It was a great lap. I've struggled all weekend to put a lap together and I managed to put it," said Leclerc, who is second overall. **REUTERS**

Women's Euros: Sweden beat Belgium

Leigh: Sweden broke down Belgium's dogged resistance with a goal in the second minute of stoppage time to win 1-0 on Friday and set up a semifinal against host nation England in the Women's European Championship. Linda Sembrant smashed home a loose ball from inside the six-yard box following a corner after Belgium goalkeeper Nicky Evrard produced one of many scrambling saves on a rainy night at Leigh Sports Village. **AP**

English cricketer hits 410 for highest score

Leicester: Sam Northeast entered an exclusive group of cricketers to pass 400 runs in a single innings after hitting 410 not out for Glamorgan in an English County Championship match on Saturday. He didn't get a chance to challenge Brian Lara's world-record individual score of 501 — set in 1994 while playing for Warwickshire, also in an English county match — because Glamorgan chose to declare on 795-5 against Leicestershire. **PTI**

Limitless McLaughlin

American shatters her World Record by a whopping 0.73 seconds, winning 400m hurdles in 50.68 secs

SCOTT CACCIOLA
JULY 23

THERE WAS a time, not so long ago, when Sydney McLaughlin was challenged whenever she planted herself in the starting blocks for the 400-meter hurdles. She knew she would face stiff competition from the likes of Dalilah Muhammad, a graceful runner with an impressive list of achievements.

For the past couple of years, however, McLaughlin has lifted herself to a different level. She has repeatedly smashed the world record to smithereens, rendering her rivals — none of them slouches — into background noise as she pushes the boundaries of what seems possible in her profession.

Already the reigning Olympic gold medalist, McLaughlin on Friday night broke the world record for the fourth time in two years, demolishing a deep and decorated field in 50.68 seconds to win her first world championship.

Femke Bol of the Netherlands was second in 52.27 seconds, and Muhammad finished third in 53.13.

For the indefinite future, McLaughlin's only real battle appears to be with the clock: When will she break the world record next?

Some context might help. Consider that McLaughlin would have defeated two of the women who advanced to Friday's 400-meter final — while clearing 10 hurdles. (Yes, you read that correctly.) Consider, too, that she trimmed 0.73 seconds from her previous world record, which she had set 27 days earlier at the U.S. championships.

Most absurd of all? McLaughlin sees room for improvement.

"I think we're all figuring out that, yes, there are 10 barriers, but we can run them a lot faster than people think," she said, adding: "I still think that wasn't even a super clean race."

Undeclared in the 400-meter hurdles since 2019, when she finished second to Muhammad at the world championships in Doha, Qatar, McLaughlin, 22, has emerged as one of track and field's most dominant athletes in a discipline that should be one of its most



Sydney McLaughlin broke the world record for the fourth time in two years. *Reuters*

competitive. Muhammad, who used to own the world record until McLaughlin came along, is an Olympic and world champion. And while injuries have interrupted her training, she is still a fearsome athlete at 32.

"I was kind of nervous, honestly, going into this meet, not knowing where my fitness level would be," Muhammad said. "So to get a medal shows my resilience as an athlete."

Bol, 22, who won bronze at the Tokyo Olympics behind McLaughlin and Muhammad, could be the contemporaneous rival who pushes McLaughlin through the 2024 Paris Olympics, and perhaps beyond. Bol owns the seventh-fastest time in history. (The six times ahead of her belong to McLaughlin and Muhammad.)

But there is still a gap between McLaughlin and Bol, one that was evident as early evening shadows fell across the track at Hayward Field and McLaughlin opened up an enormous lead by the halfway point. Her romp down the homestretch might as well have been a victory lap. No one was close to her. "I would definitely say it's a flow state," she said, "where you're putting everything

that you've done in practice into the race to the point where you're just letting your body do what it does."

McLaughlin, who grew up in central New Jersey and was a teenage prodigy at Union Catholic High School, is quite simply the fastest women's 400-meter hurdler in history. After breaking Muhammad's world record in 2021 at the U.S. Olympic trials, McLaughlin broke it again a few weeks later when she won gold at the Tokyo Olympics. Muhammad finished second in both races.

Last month, McLaughlin seemed fairly impassive when she lowered the record again, running 51.41 seconds at the U.S. championships. Muhammad, who had an automatic bid to worlds as the defending champion, chose not to compete.

As for the future, McLaughlin said she would discuss her options with her coach, Bobby Kersee, at the end of the season. She left open the possibility that she could compete in the 400 meters or the 100-meter hurdles — or some combination of events. "My coach thinks there's a lot more to be done," she said.

NEW YORK TIMES

Chahal all praise for Siraj for defending 15 runs in last over

RAHUL PANDEY
JULY 23

MOHAMMAD SIRAJ had 15 to defend in the final over. Barring 2021 IPL, he has always featured in the list of bowlers with the worst performances in the death overs. Still, India were confident, says Yuzvendra Chahal as he was landing his yorkers in the game. Siraj produced at least five of them in the final over to choke Romario Shepherd, who had the game, to pull off a heist. As he produced his final yorker of the evening to nutmeg Shepherd in the final ball of the game, he walked ever so coolly as if he had done it all his life.



Siraj's yorkers helped India beat West Indies in the final over, inching past the hosts on the final ball of the first ODI. Chasing 309, the hosts needed 15 in the

50th over but only managed to score 11 off Siraj. Having started off the final over giving just a leg bye off the first two, Siraj conceded eight off the next three legal deliveries, barring a wide. The momentum looked to have shifted towards the Windies with four needed off the final ball. The 28-year old did get the final delivery right, angling into Romario Shepherd, who missed out on the line and could only gather a bye.

"Jis hissab se Siraj yorker daal raha tha, hume poori belief thi ki 15 runs bach sakte hai (The way Siraj was bowling yorkers, we had full belief that we can defend 15 runs)," Chahal said in the post-match presser.

"In the couple of overs he had bowled before, he barely missed on that yorker once or twice," said Chahal.

"The pressure is of course there, the way they were batting, 15 runs needed in the final over, one hit could've changed the game. Especially when Sanju [Samson] made that stop on the wide, we got even more confident."

Wrist assured: Pant, Surya will ensure Virat and Rohit wouldn't be missed

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
JULY 23

Once Imran Khan famously asked Abdul Qadir to grow a goatee before a tour of England. If he had his way, he would have got him to wear a turban too.

The 'Conjuror from the East' look was to give his crafty leg-spinner — with those hypnotic eyes and mesmeric run-up — an extra coat of mystery. By the end of the tour, the English couldn't stop talking about the sly spinner who had tricks hidden in every joint of his magical wrist.

Till a week back, a bunch of Indian cricketers were touring England. Most wore stubbles. It wasn't a management decree, they weren't being characters in the script penned by their captain. This was the team's signature match-face, they couldn't have passed off for some exotic illusionist.

Still a couple of them — Rishabh Pant and Surya Kumar Yadav — managed to sweep the locals off their feet, casting a spell over them. The two elicited collective gasps of wonderment in the stands and in TV/podcast studios. Like in Qadir's case, there was talk about the magical wrists.

The effortlessness and innovation of the un-English batsmanship caught the attention of eyes more used to watching textbook strokes that were primarily about elbows and arms.

When India was getting angry and angry about Virat Kohli edging the ball behind the stumps, England, in a trance, were processing two soul-stirring centuries — Pant's 113-ball 125 in the Manchester ODI and Surya's 55-ball 114 in the Nottingham T20.

They were heaping on them heavy praise, burdening the two new stars with back-breaking expectations. In the land known for lyrical cricket writers with poetic licence, they were making some fairly audacious comparisons.

The popular podcast The Analyst, presented by top cricket pundit and former first-class player Simon Hughes and BBC's Simon Mann, made a leap of faith, the kind even Indians can't dare. Pant, they said, was better than MS Dhoni, with just a wee bit of reluctance.

There was also discussion about Surya's 360-degree play and his talent to explore the less-patrolled unexplored areas of a cricket ground. His unconventional behind-square play still fresh in mind, Surya was called the 'Next AB de Villiers'.

Other most-listened-to talkshows around the English shores called Surya's knock the 'best T20 innings ever'. All post-match dissections of his stroke-play had the mention of the flexible wrists strengthened on the Mumbai maidans.

Hughes mentions left-hander Pant's unique way of dealing with James Anderson's



Popular podcasters touted Rishabh Pant as better than MS Dhoni. *PTI*

deadly round the wicket incoming balls that are pitched fractionally short of length. It's the English master pacer's favourite variation to test the best in business.

Darting in diagonally from the edge of the crease, the ball seams further towards the batsman, threatening to take the edge of his bat or knock over the stumps. It is a tight ball that restricts the movement of the batter's hands and even cramps their feet. Hughes says most times, the batters get tucked in and tend to inside-edge the ball onto their tight pads.

But Pant is different. He quickly skips on to the backfoot and clears his front leg. "This enables him to work the ball away to the legside with a wrisly little flick," says Hughes. The wrists again.

It's these late delicate manoeuvres, achieved by some subtle wrist movement, that baffle even the keen observers of the game. A slog-sweep to cow corner, a screaming cover drive hit by a free-flowing bat, or even a straight drive are results of a full contact of the wood and lack mystery. They are beautiful to watch but self-explanatory. You see the forceful action of the bat and anticipate the subsequent reaction of the ball racing to the fence. You see force and expect acceleration — it's simple science. Wristy strokes follow a micro-science, their nuances are too intricate, they are unseen to the naked eye.

From beyond the boundary line, it is tough to fathom how a mere flick can send the ball to the parking lot outside the stadium. They trigger 'How did that happen?' curiosity. It also enhances interest, generates admiration. Anything unexplained and invisible gets wrapped in a cloak of enigma. It's also jaw-dropping.

Magical stuff

These emotions were in abundance when Surya was playing a blinder at Trent Bridge. Despite the awe-inspiring sublime innings, India went on to lose the game but those at the ground were shaking their heads in disbelief. Surya exploited impossible angles by getting in so-far inconceivable positions.

He would stretch his left-foot to the ball pitched way outside the off-stump. He would get inside the line of the delivery and lovingly flick over fine leg for six. For the same ball, he had other options. He would get into shape as if he was about to play a down-on-the-knees cover drive.

But then, that would have been a very English shot. Surya, while on his haunches, would carve it over point for six. Again, it was all down to those famous flexible sub-continental wrists.

There are shades of ABD in him but he is still very different. The South African mostly guides the ball to fine leg by changing the angle of the bat. Surya puts in more work on the ball. He has the skills of a hockey drag-flicker. His engagement with the ball is deeper.

The two heroes of this England series were following a long-standing tradition that the great Ranji started while turning up for Sussex. He too bewildered the English with his new range of strokes.

Neville Cardus would be on hand to record the first major tweak to batsmanship. Cricket would get described as if it was the review of the Great Indian rope trick. Cardus would write of Ranji belonging to the land of "Hazlitt's Indian jugglers, where beauty is subtle and not plain and unambiguous". Something that Imran had in mind.

He would say how the Indian Prince from Nawanagar's cut was a "dazzling lance of batsmanship". His bat was like a "yielding cane making swift movements which circled round those incomparable wrists". The fascination about that specific part of the anatomy is centuries old and still continues.

For Pant and Surya, this was a coming-of-age tour. The bigger stars — Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma — weren't quite bringing the roof down at stadiums but their failure wasn't noticed.

No one missed Kohli's cover drive or Rohit's pull. There were new stars, newer strokes to celebrate.

If transition had a picture, it was one of Surya walking back to a standing ovation from the jam-packed Nottingham crowd and Vivek Razdan from the commentary box belting out one of his instant couplets.

"Buland iraadon se likhte hain taqdeer apni, hamari kismat haath ki lakiron ki mohtaa nahi hai," he would say as if Surya's thought bubble. It's loosely translated as 'fate of those with lofty ambitions isn't dependent on palm lines'. He was right, in the case of Surya and Pant, it's the wrist.

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