

0-50 Good 51-100 Satisfactory 101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very Poor 401-500 Severe

SKY WATCH
FORECAST: July 30
Generally cloudy sky.
Light rain/thundershowers

MAX: 33 MIN: 25
1.5°C above normal 2.2°C below normal

'MONEY LAUNDERING' CASE

Court raps ED for linking AAP's Jain to firms despite not being a director

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

TAKING COGNIZANCE of an Enforcement Directorate (ED) chargesheet filed against AAP leader Satyendar Jain, a court pulled up the agency for mentioning that the accused companies were represented by Jain, even though he was not the director of any of the companies.

Special Judge Geetanji Goel asked the ED how the companies will be associated with Jain just by naming him.

The judge noted that accused companies, M/s Akinchan Developers Pvt Ltd, M/s Paryas Infosolutions Pvt Ltd, M/s Manglayatan Developers Pvt Ltd

and M/s JJ Ideal Estate Pvt Ltd, have been represented through Jain, however the "same are admittedly companies and it is not the case of ED that at present Jain is either the Director or has been appointed by the said companies to represent them".

The ED told the court that an "amended memo will be filed to bring on record through whom the companies may be represented".

The court took cognizance of the ED chargesheet by stating that "there is prima facie sufficient incriminating evidence about the involvement of the accused" and issued summons to Jain's wife and co-accused Poonam Jain and the representatives of four companies made



Satyendar Jain has been in custody in the alleged money laundering case since May 30

accused in the case. The ED, represented by Additional Solicitor General S V Raju and Special Public Prosecutor N K Matta, said Jain

"acquired cash from unfair means by commission of the scheduled offences, while holding office as a Cabinet Minister in Government of Delhi".

"Subsequently, the said cash was transferred through CA via hawala operators to Kolkata to entry operators for layering of the cash transactions. Thereafter the entry operators knowingly and intentionally layered the cash in different shell companies' bank accounts and finally transferred the said amounts to companies of Jain for final integration in the mainstream financial system for further claiming/projecting the same as clean untainted money," the ED submitted.

The agency submitted that

Jain and his companies/associates "used the said money for purchasing agriculture land and these acquired out of the proceeds of crime generated through the commission of scheduled offences are now being claimed/projected as being of clean/untainted origins".

ASG Raju told the court that Jain "masterminded the entire operation and executed the accommodation entries against cash with full preparation and with a guilty mind. The aforesaid operations/transactions and the criminal conspiracy were carried out by Jain and his associates with complete preparation and knowledge of the criminal nature of the activities".

CBI books suspended senior civil judge in disproportionate assets case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE CBI has booked suspended senior civil judge Rachna Tiwari Lakhpal in a disproportionate assets case. The agency alleged that Lakhpal, along with her lawyer husband Alok, amassed 283% wealth over her known sources of income. The agency had in 2016 arrested the couple

for alleged corruption.

"Rachna Tiwari Lakhpal... during the period 27.07.2006 to 28.09.2016 accumulated huge assets in the name of her husband Alok Lakhpal... (they) have amassed/possessed huge assets worth Rs 2,99,07,036 (283.61%) disproportionate to their known legal source of income, which they could not satisfactorily account for," the CBI said in its FIR.

The FIR alleged that the cou-

ple had assets of Rs 1.09 lakh when she joined judicial services which swelled to Rs 3.53 crore in 10 years on September 28, 2016, when they were arrested. During the period, they had an income of Rs 1.05 crore and expenditure of Rs 51.73 lakh, it said. The agency in 2016 arrested a local commissioner while allegedly accepting a bribe on behalf of the judge. During raids at Lakhpal's house, "trap money" of Rs 4 lakh was recovered.

Happiness classes helped reduce number of suicides among school children, says Kejriwal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE DELHI government's Happiness Curriculum has reduced the number of suicides in the capital, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal claimed in an address to students and teachers Friday.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 'Happiness Utsav', organised to mark four years since the introduction of this flagship programme in Delhi government schools, the CM said, "In today's time, students face immense pressure, especially academic pressure. Parents also pressure them if



At the closing ceremony of the 'Happiness Utsav', to mark four years since the introduction of the programme. Amit Mehra

their results are not up to the mark. They even compare their performance with other students. This has resulted in sui-

cides at such a young age. Happiness classes changed that..."

He also stated that the programme has helped students deal with peer pressure and problems at home.

"Students face peer pressure as they are very conscious about what other students and friends think about them. Sometimes, this peer pressure forces them to commit suicide. Thirdly, there is a lot of family pressure on children. Many of our students come from families with a lot of problems. I was listening to a girl named Upeksha, a 13-year-old girl from class VIII. Her father is a plumber and her mother is bedridden. She has four siblings.

The entire responsibility of the housework is on her... Such students face so many issues, and happiness classes help eliminate this stress. We have seen that suicides are committed across the country. I am thankful to God that such incidents don't take place in Delhi and a big part of that is because these classes have strengthened the mental balance of the children," he said.

As part of the ceremony, a meditation session with a teacher from the Brahma Kumaris organisation was conducted.

The ceremony was attended by 170 teachers and officials from Punjab government schools.

The Indian EXPRESS
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S. E. RAILWAY TENDER CORRIGENDUM
The Period of Completion of the e-Tender No. ST-CKP-OT-20-2022-3 may be read as 12 (Twelve) Months. All other terms & conditions remain unchanged.

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM
Ref.: (S Tender Notice No. 22/2022-2023 dated 21.06.2022 S.No. 061) Tender No. 19220839 due on 25.07.2022 revised due date on 08.08.2022. In reference to above tender, the due date has been extended as above. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
Publication Receipt No. IN THE COURT OF SH. PAWAN KUMAR JAIN, LD, DISTRICT JUDGE, COMM.-03, ROOM NO. 307, CENTRAL DISTRICT, TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI CS (COMM)-1650/2021

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDERS
Opened E-Tender based on Single Packet System (Tender notice No. M/C&W/06/2022-23 dt. 28.07.2022) is invited by Divisional Rail Manager/Mech./C&W Varanasi/N E Railway for and on behalf of President of India for following work:- Description of works: Provision of New Watering Hydrant, Dismantling, replacement, repair, relaying, painting of hydrant pipeline in BSB division.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE
The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (G) East Central Railway, Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of Union of India invites Tender from competent and experienced Contractors having valid Electrical Contractor's license, technical expertise, financial solvency through E-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railway for execution of the following works.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
The tender called vide tender notice No. C/CA/IBN/C/4/9/2022 dated 13/07/2022. Tender Ref. No. YPR-CSDR-DL-04 on SL No. 2 due for closing on 03/08/2022 has been cancelled and recalled as under.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
Publication Receipt No.: IN THE COURT OF SH. PAWAN KUMAR JAIN, LD, DISTRICT JUDGE, COMM.-03, ROOM NO. 307, CENTRAL DISTRICT, TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI CS (COMM)-1194/2021

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-5 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T2)M-5 ROOM NO. 312, VARUNALAYA PHASE-I, JHADEWALAN, DELHI-110005

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
Publication Receipt No.: IN THE COURT OF SH. PAWAN KUMAR JAIN, LD, DISTRICT JUDGE, COMM.-03, ROOM NO. 307, CENTRAL DISTRICT, TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI CS (COMM)-1194/2021

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE
The Divisional Engineer/Track, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites e-tenders for the following works:

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
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) (9) (1) 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/symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:-

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-5 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T2)M-5 ROOM NO. 312, VARUNALAYA PHASE-I, JHADEWALAN, DELHI-110005

Air Force to phase out remaining four MiG-21 squadrons by 2025

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JULY 29
THE INDIAN Air Force (IAF) has drawn up a three-year timeline to phase out the remaining four MiG-21 fighter squadrons with one of them set to retire from service in September, people familiar with the development said on Friday.
IAF also plans to start the phasing out of the three squadrons of MiG-29 fighter jets in the next five years, they said.
At the same time, they added that the plan to phase out the Soviet-origin aircraft fleet is part of the IAF's modernisation drive and it is not related to the latest crash of a MiG-21 jet in Rajasthan's Barmer on Thursday night.
Wing Commander M Rana and Flight Lieutenant Advitiya Bal, the two pilots of the jet, were killed in the crash that once again put the spotlight on the ageing fleet.
The plan is to retire all the four MiG-21 squadrons by 2025, people familiar with the development said.
The Srinagar-based No 51



(Left) Family members of Flight Lt Advitiya Bal in Jammu on Friday; and (above) Wing Commander M Rana and Bal, PFI and ANI

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system
Dy. Chief Materials Manager, Tughlakabad, New Delhi on behalf of the President of India invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE
The Divisional Engineer/Track, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites e-tenders for the following works:

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-5 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T2)M-5 ROOM NO. 312, VARUNALAYA PHASE-I, JHADEWALAN, DELHI-110005

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subsequent decades.
To help the IAF replace its ageing fighter fleet, the Defence Ministry in February last year sealed a Rs 48,000 crore deal with the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for the procurement of 83 Tejas fighter aircraft. The IAF is also in the process of procuring 114 Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA).
A senior official said the IAF will not be able to reach the sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons in the next 10-15 years notwithstanding all the planned acquisitions as a significant number of aircraft are being phased out.
India is also working on an ambitious USD 5 billion project to develop a fifth-generation medium-weight deep penetration fighter jet to significantly bolster its air power capability.
In March, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhat said in the Rajya Sabha that 42 defence personnel were killed in accidents involving aircraft and helicopters of the three services in the last five years. The total number of air accidents in the last five years was 45 out of which 29 involved IAF's platforms.

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Office of the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D Rampur (E-Tender Notice)
1. On behalf of Governor of UP, tender for following work is invited by Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD Rampur from registered Road/Bridge contractors from Dated 11/08/2022 at 10:00 am to 11/08/2022 at 5:00 pm. Technical bid/Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on 18.08.2022 at 12.30 noon.

Table with columns: S.No, Name of Work, Estimated cost, Bid, Cost of Bid Document, Time of Completion including rainy season, Address of Executive Engineer, Address of Superintending Engineer, Contractors Registration Category For Road Works.

DNA test in rape case corroborative, not conclusive: HC

OMKARGOKHALE MUMBAI, JULY 29
THE BOMBAY High Court has held that a DNA test cannot be said to be conclusive evidence in case of a rape, and can only be used as corroborative evidence. The court observed this while rejecting the bail plea of a man booked for raping a 14-year-old girl.
On July 26, Justice Bharati H Dangle passed the order while hearing the bail plea filed by the man who was arrested on September 11, 2020, by the Navi Mumbai Police for raping the minor. The man was booked under Sections of the IPC as well as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.
According to the police complaint registered by the girl's mother, her family resided in a slum adjoining the building where the man stayed. In February 2020, the man, along with his wife, had requested the complainant to send her daughter, then 14 years old, to look after their children - aged six and one. Later, when the girl was be-

ing treated for stomach pain, she disclosed that the man had repeated sexual intercourse with her forcibly when his wife was out of town.
The girl later became pregnant and the foetus could not be terminated. The court noted that the girl's medical examination did not reveal any evidence of sexual intercourse since she was examined after seven months. The DNA analysis of the foetus excluded the man as the biological father of the child.
Advocate Nelson Rajan PV, representing the accused, sought his client's release while relying on the DNA report. It was opposed by advocate Ameeta Kuttikrishnan, appearing for the girl's mother. "...The DNA test excluded the applicant as the father of the child, but that does not discredit the victim who has reiterated in her statement that the applicant forcibly committed sexual intercourse with her."
Justice Dangle noted, "...The DNA test cannot be said to be the conclusive evidence regarding a rape, but it can only be used as a corroborative evidence."

Retrospective EWS quota: HC sets aside Maharashtra move

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, JULY 29
THE BOMBAY High Court on Friday set aside a decision of the erstwhile Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, which had stipulated that eligible candidates from the Maratha community, retrospectively, could avail benefits under the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) quota for civil jobs and admissions in education institutes for the year 2020-21. The court termed the decision taken in retrospective manner as illegal.
On June 27, 2019, the HC had upheld the Maharashtra government's decision to provide reservation to the Maratha community under the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act, 2018. This was challenged in the Supreme Court. The government had issued a government resolution (GR) on December 23, 2020, after the SC put an interim stay on Maratha reservation on September 9, 2020. Thereafter, in May 2021, the SC struck down Maratha quota.
The EWS quota is open to all those not covered by any other quota and whose family's annual income is below Rs 8 lakh.
After the SC verdict of last May, the state had issued another GR on July 15, 2021, directing its authorities to confirm appointments recommended under SEBC quota between the HC judgment of June 2019 and the SC stay on quota on September 2020. It had said that the candidates can be provided benefits under EWS quota.
A division bench led by Chief Justice Dipankar Datta on Friday passed a verdict in a bunch of pleas, including those filed by several EWS category candidates who had challenged the December 23, 2020 GR.
The court also refused petitions filed by Maratha community members for work in Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited, which had refused them jobs under the EWS category. Some petitioners, previously covered by SEBC quota had approached the HC saying they be considered for EWS reservation.

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM
Ref : Tender Notice No. 25/2022 - 2023 Dated 01.07.2022 (I) Tender No. 09223050 due on 29.07.2022 (S.N.05) In reference to above tenders, the due date has been extended from 29.07.2022 to 01.08.2022, and Eligibility Criteria has been changed. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. The corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in. 1931/22

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION SATNA, DIST - SATNA (M.P.)
Notice Inviting e-Tenders
NIT No 03/01,03/02,03/03,03/04 & 03/05/SCDW/e-tendering/2022-23
Satna, Date 28/07/2022
Online tender through e-tendering is invited by Satna Municipal Corporation (SMC), Satna, (M.P.) for the works of given in the table below.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

To break a fall or not to

If the world financial markets want a depreciated rupee, the RBI would be foolish to throw reserves to prevent it



PARTHA SEN

KARNATAKA MODEL

Why CM Bommai must take inspiration from his own state's governance legacy, not take cues from UP

JUST A YEAR in office and with nearly one year to go for assembly elections, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai seems to be searching for the way forward. A relatively late entrant to the BJP, this former Janata leader has, by all accounts, been under pressure to push the Hindutva agenda in government. The rhetoric of a section of the ruling party has been divisive and polarising. Now, the heinous murder of a BJP Yuva Morcha worker near Mangalore on Tuesday has turned the BJP cadre restive. Bommai has responded to this by offering to emulate Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and crack down on "anti-national and communal elements". But this rash offer of adopting the "Yogi model of government" is fraught – politically, legally and economically – for Karnataka. It may win Bommai some reprieve from the hardliners within the BJP, but it could hurt the state's prospects in the days to come.

The "Yogi model" that Bommai seeks to invoke, to a large extent, has to do with an assertive majoritarianism and the weaponisation of the law to target the minority. Since the anti-CAA protests, it has come to light how sections of the UP administration have given the go-by to due process and attached or demolished properties belonging to the alleged protestors, many of them Muslims. Municipal laws on encroachment have been selectively used, and no hearing given to those targeted. It is true that Karnataka has been facing the problem of radicalisation of youth; organisations like the Popular Front of India, which wish to impose a militant and puritanical agenda among Muslims, especially on women, are a threat to communal peace. The recent hijab controversy revealed how much of a stifling influence the PFI can be on an aspirational community. These organisations need to be proceeded against, but this must be done without compromising due process for all. Bommai should know that Karnataka's rise as an economic powerhouse and Bengaluru's evolution as a high-tech hub has much to do with the enabling social environment nurtured by his predecessors. The state has been a pioneer in building grass-roots democracy with its Panchayati Raj institutions, offering policies that combine welfare and social justice, using private/communitarian capital in developing educational institutions, promoting sunrise sectors such as IT and bio-tech. All this was possible because the state had extended periods of social peace.

There is no reason why Bommai should abandon this legacy for politics and practice in a state that has a long distance to travel before catching up with Karnataka. The BJP in Karnataka has some soul-searching to do as its factions battle it out for the spoils of office and ideological gains. While they do so, the least the party leadership can do is to ring-fence governance from the inner-party pull and tug.

CLOUDY DAYS

As central banks tighten policy to fight inflation, the global economic outlook appears to be worsening

TWO YEARS AFTER the global economy went through one of the most severe economic downturns in recent history, the economic outlook is once again clouded. In the July update of its World Economic Outlook, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has slashed its forecast for global growth this year to 3.2 per cent, down from its earlier expectations of 3.6 per cent. These latest projections imply that world economic growth, after rebounding to 6.1 per cent in 2021, will slow down sharply to 3.2 per cent in 2022. Equally worrying is the even more severe revision in growth expectations for next year – the Fund now expects growth at 2.9 per cent, down 0.7 percentage points from its April forecast.

In large part, the lowering of growth projections is driven by expectations of a sharp slowdown in developed economies, the US in particular, as central banks tighten policy to fight surging inflation. Inflation is a global phenomenon – the Fund has upped its forecasts on the back of higher food and energy prices. It now expects inflation at 6.6 per cent in advanced economies and 9.5 per cent in emerging market and developing economies. The tightening of monetary conditions will impact output. Data released on Thursday showed that the US economy had contracted in the second quarter as spending by business fell, and the pace of consumer expenditure slowed down. A day prior to that, the US Federal Reserve hiked its policy rate by 75 basis points for the second time, raising the rate to 2.25-2.5 per cent, as inflation hit record highs. Following the Fed's decision, the view that the US central bank will ease the pace of rate hikes is gaining traction. However, with the labour market remaining quite tight, there is considerable uncertainty over how much and how quickly the Fed will tighten further. A recession in the US, differences in the definition notwithstanding, along with a sharp slowdown in China – the Fund has lowered its growth forecast for the country by 1.1 percentage points – will have grave consequences for the world economy.

For India, the Fund has lowered its expectations from 8.2 per cent to 7.4 per cent. This is in line with the RBI's forecast which expects growth at 7.2 per cent. However, even by the RBI's own assessment, growth will average just about 4 per cent in the second half of the year. Considering the current macroeconomic environment of slowing global growth and trade and a tightening of monetary conditions, with domestic drivers of growth subdued, returning to a higher growth trajectory could prove to be difficult.

BECAUSE WORDS MATTER

Congress leader's use of 'rashtrapatni' is an opportunity to talk about the inequalities language mirrors and creates

WHEN MEN ARE viewed as the human default and the human ideal, even compliments are not gender-neutral. Thus it was that the former prime minister, Indira Gandhi, was described by admirers as the "only man" among her cabinet colleagues. Several decades later, the failure of language to keep up with changes in society and politics is still evident. On Thursday, with Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's reference to President Droupadi Murmu as "rashtrapatni" – he later blamed it on his unfamiliarity with Hindi and has apologised to the President – it is welcome that the spotlight has been trained on how gendered language and linguistic imagination remain.

That Chowdhury's comment didn't go unremarked upon – indeed, it's led to much uproar in Parliament – presents an opportunity that must not be lost. A door has been prised open to a long overdue conversation, direly needed in India's highly masculinised public-political space. The language a society uses matters because it both reflects and creates inequalities. Only an overhauling of the imagination, which has been schooled by centuries of gender inequality, can help create new, more inclusive defaults and ideal types. Language is not a static entity: It can and should evolve in step with the times, and the use of words that draw attention to gender where it has no role to play must be questioned.

The question isn't what word can be used to describe a woman president or a male caregiver. It should be: How can we re-imagine our common usages, words and meanings so that they may contain all the diversity that exists? Progress is not only about enabling women and men to assume responsibilities and seize opportunities that have historically been denied to them. It also consists of creating conditions – and language – that make gender irrelevant to access and opportunity.

THE INDIAN RUPEE has been in free fall. Some commentators have pointed out that it has fallen less against the US dollar than a lot of other currencies. They neglect to mention that a large part of this alleged relative strength of the rupee vis-à-vis other currencies is due to the sale of dollars by the RBI – it has lost more than 10 per cent of its foreign reserves in the space of about nine months.

A developing economy needs foreign exchange to finance its international transactions for both the current account (goods and services) and capital account (assets) transactions. Foreign exchange reserves also signal its ability to meet potential obligations. The larger the stock, the more its reassuring value. The benefits of this stock are obvious, but there are also costs associated with the holding of these. Typically, because of their "liquidity" nature, the returns on these are low.

A country can accumulate reserves by running current account surpluses (that is, keeping its total expenditure below its gross national product), and/or by interventions in the foreign exchange markets. India (usually) runs a current account deficit – in this century, it ran a surplus only in 2020-21 (the year of Covid-led disruptions). Its reserves are then accumulated solely through "sterilised" interventions. When foreign entities want to invest in Indian assets (stocks and debt), the RBI gives them rupees in exchange for foreign exchange. Mindful of the fact that this may cause a surge in inflation, the RBI then sells government bonds, sucking out the additional rupees. The foreign exchange reserves rise, and are matched by an increase in government bonds outstanding. The accumulation of foreign reserves limits the appreciation of the currency. The "exchange market pressure" caused by the capital inflows then is met partly by a currency appreciation and partly by foreign exchange accumulation.

But, in recent months, we have witnessed a reversal of this process – there is an outflow of foreign financial capital, with

reserves falling and the rupee depreciating. International capital flows tend to be pro-cyclical, that is, they move with the world economic activity. Hence, a depreciation of our currency is unlikely to see our exports rise very much because the world income levels are down. What this depreciation will cause is imported inflation and bankruptcies.

When capital inflows were taking place, the RBI accumulated foreign exchange and allowed some currency appreciation. The price-sensitive exports never got off the ground, while imports increased. The unborn Indian export sector suffered a premature death, while the import-competing sectors gave way to cheap imports, from China for example. As long as capital flows were strong, foreign reserves kept piling up and the currency (in real terms) was strong. This gave rise to a feeling that the good times were permanent, causing complacency, and even hubris. Those engaged in "carry trades" continued without bothering about the exchange risk, as did those Indians who borrowed in foreign currency (external commercial borrowings).

The RBI threw caution to the winds and allowed outward remittances in foreign currency by Indian residents, with almost no questions asked (up to \$2,50,000 annually). The rich bought properties abroad and sent their children to study in foreign universities. Note the inherent bias in favour of the wealthy, because to buy foreign exchange one needs an equivalent amount in domestic currency – it is unlikely that someone who is struggling to find regular MGNREGA work is going to ask for foreign exchange. It is, therefore, not quite correct when the RBI Governor says that during the inflows period foreign exchange reserves were piled up as umbrellas for rainy days of possible outflows. The RBI could have had a much larger supply of such umbrellas had they not generously handed out foreign currency to be frittered away.

I am sure the RBI is worried about the im-

mediate future. While they have not restricted outward remittances, they are trying to shore up reserves by making FCNR (B) and FDI deposits more attractive. It is not in any individual's interest to bail out the RBI, given that it is asking for these reserves in a bid to try and prevent a currency crisis. That is, we now have a one-way bet against the rupee, because no one expects its sizeable appreciation. The RBI has also committed to using reserves to ensure an orderly depreciation. The problem is that if the world economy enters a more turbulent phase, these initiatives will resemble King Canute ordering the waves. If the world financial markets want a depreciated rupee, the RBI would be foolish to throw reserves to prevent it – remember how George Soros defeated the Bank of England in 1992 (also in that year, France lost 155 per cent of its reserves and Italy 133 per cent). But in spite of this, the RBI, with its commitment to inflation targeting, would try to prevent a depreciation (because it causes the price of imported goods to rise).

We are standing at the edge of a precipice, but, hopefully, the world will pull back in the nick of time (my jeremiad, notwithstanding). If not, it would be the chronicle of a death foretold. Having too open a capital account policy was always fraught with risks. When countries are confronted with a crisis, the IMF is asked to provide assistance. This is done but they demand their pound of flesh. Here, that would involve a "structural adjustment", including cutting back on subsidies for the poor and vulnerable. The irony is that these people never got any of the goodies when the party was on, but are now being thrown under the bus. A bigger question is about the lessons that the policy authorities would have learnt from this episode. Most probably, they would reset the clock, and go down the same path again. In the "currency crisis" literature, not learning from history is called "this time it is different".

The writer is former director and professor of Economics, Delhi School of Economics

COVID DESPAIR & HOPE

We are all exhausted with Covid-19. But we just need to bide our time



ANU RAGHUNATHAN

I TESTED POSITIVE. Covid-19 was not dead and gone. It was here, with me. I faced the challenge of quarantining myself after 28 months of warding off the virus. I was someone who decided to respond to the pandemic as a scientist. Someone who had been talking to frontline policy makers and doctors, promoting genome and immune surveillance not only to understand the genome variants but to also understand how they are immune to the vaccines. People still need to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour and protocols in public. Masking, social distancing, and testing. The holy trinity.

That probably sounds bleak, but don't despair. The truth is that pandemics always end. How, you may ask? The SARS-CoV2 virus will morph into an endemic source of disease. The Covid-19 flu will eventually become just another seasonal flu. However, until this does happen, Covid-appropriate behaviour is essential as one can inevitably foresee small and large waves not only in India but in every country, every few months.

Although the virus will eventually become relatively harmless, waves of infection will continue – potentially due to changes in the virus and its human hosts. Covid-19 has been showing successive spikes of new and novel subvariants. Vaccination schedules are causing waning immunity. People are exhausted, and the change in their attitudes and behaviour is causing more migration, mixing and transmission.

In 2022, we have already seen two record

infection highs in India, with population prevalence peaking in mid to late January (Omicron BA.1 and BA.2). After eight weeks of declining prevalence, infections started to increase again with the rise of yet another set of Omicron variants. Instead of just one new variant, we currently have four: BA.2.12.1 (dominant in the US), BA.4 and BA.5 (dominant in South Africa), and BA.5.1 (dominant in Portugal). Together, these four variants became dominant in India and BA.5 and BA.5.1 will likely become the dominant variants.

The good news is that for the vast majority of people who have previously been infected or vaccinated, that protection will help reduce the risk of developing more severe illness and hospitalisation. But we are not yet out of the woods. While Omicron might be less severe than Delta, and people have higher immunity through vaccination and previous infection, it is not mild. At a population level, its sheer transmissibility more than compensates for any reduction in experienced disease severity or symptoms for the individual. The high number of infections will also lead to yet more disruptions across the workplace. This is now the third Covid wave in six months and Omicron appears genuinely different in how it can drive these repeated waves of infection. The initial subvariants of Omicron (BA.1/2) have perhaps become weaker but the newer subvariants (BA.4/5 subvariants) are potentially leading to a new wave across Europe and the US already. Omicron sub-variants do seem par-

ticularly wily in evading the immune system (both antibody and T-cell responses). This element of "immune escape" makes people more susceptible to infection.

The thin end of the wedge is the low recorded number of infected cases. Home testing has become rampant and using that alone is misguided and increases transmission. Rapid antigen tests are not very accurate in light of the new variants and even mild symptomatic cases need to get tested in a laboratory. There is a constant need for testing programmes for everyone with symptoms, no matter how minor or non-specific. We also need to test contacts to minimise community spread until the pandemic dies out completely. Not testing a low-grade fever and sore throat could skew the infected numbers, making the data no longer reliable. Genome surveillance needs to continue lock, stock and barrel to detect harbingers of new waves and identify new variants of concern that need to be reported. We need to keep vigilant.

We are all exhausted with Covid-19. However, we need to protect ourselves through vaccinations, boosters and, of course, masking. Yes, this became tedious for me as well. I was lucky, recovering after mild symptoms. But that's something I could bet on. The history of pandemics shows clearly that this one too will cease to be a public health crisis at some point. We just have to bide our time.

The writer is senior principal scientist, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune

JULY 30, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

PM'S US VISIT

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi conveyed to President Ronald Reagan, India's concern over the American supply of sophisticated military equipment to Pakistan. Mrs Gandhi disputed the American justification of Afghanistan for aid to Pakistan and said the arms were not going to be used against the Soviet Union. Mrs Gandhi said because of the acquisition of sophisticated arms by Pakistan, India had to increase its own defence expenditure.

DEVI LAL EXPELLED

CHARAN SINGH EXPELLED the Haryana

strongman Devi Lal, once again pushing his shrinking Lok Dal to the verge of disintegration. Within hours of Devi Lal's expulsion, several socialist leaders in the Lok Dal announced their resignations from party posts.

ANTULAY ISSUE

MAHARASHTRA GOVERNOR I H Latif has accorded sanction under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1947 and Section 197 of the CrP to prosecute former CM A R Antulay.

PLO LEAVES BEIRUT

THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION Organisation

(PLO) has decided to leave the Lebanese capital, the Arab League Secretary-General declared. Chadli Klobi said the PLO has decided to move its forces out of Beirut, after defining certain guarantees. He did not reveal the destination of the guerrillas.

TARAPUR DEAL

INDIA AND THE US reached an agreement envisaging supply of French low enriched uranium for Tarapur power plant. A spokesman of the Indian delegation said after talks between PM Gandhi and President Reagan that the agreement would keep the 1963 condition in effect.



Government of Jharkhand Rural Works Department JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (JSRRDA)

VERY SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (National Competitive Bidding Through e-Procurement)

Re-e-Tender No.- 31 /2022-23 Dated: 28.07.22 PR No-260569 dated 28.12.2021

The undersigned on behalf of Government of Jharkhand invites item rate bids through e-Procurement from the eligible bidders registered* in appropriate class with any State/Central Government/State /Central Government Organization for construction and maintenance for five years of the works (List of schemes shall be displayed in the website pmsgstendersjhr.gov.in) of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY-III).

Table with columns: Sl. No., District/Block, Repackage, Road Name, Length (in Kms.), BOQ Amount (in Lakh), E/M (in Lakh), Time Completion

Table with columns: Procurement Officer, Place of Opening, Availability of tender (on-line) for bidding, Date & time of opening (on-line) of tender

* Non-registered bidders may also submit bid, however the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authority before signing the contract.

- Note: 1. Amount of Bid Security should be taken as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document. 2. Cost of Bid Document (Rs. 10000) and Bid Security (as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet) shall be deposited online in form as mentioned in Bid Data Sheet failing which the bid will be treated non responsive and action shall be taken as per Sec. 2 of ITB clause 12.2 (d).

All other details can be seen in the bidding document which is available in website pmsgstendersjhr.gov.in as per schedule mentioned above. Chief Engineer JSRRDA, Ranchi

Government of Jharkhand Rural Works Department JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (JSRRDA)

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (VERY SHORT TENDER) (National Competitive Bidding Through e-Procurement)

Re-e-Tender No.- 28 /2022-23 Dated: 28.07.22 PR No-268882 dated 23.04.2022 (2nd Call)

The undersigned on behalf of Government of Jharkhand invites item rate bids through e-Procurement from the eligible bidders registered* in appropriate class with any State/Central Government/State /Central Government Organization for construction of road and maintenance for five years of the works (List of schemes shall be displayed in the website pmsgstendersjhr.gov.in) of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (RCLWEA- Batch-III).

Table with columns: Sl. No., District / Block, Repackage, Road Name, Length (in Km), Const. Cost (in Lakhs), Maint. Cost (in Lakhs), Total Cost (in Lakh), Earnest Money (in Lakh), Completion of Time

Table with columns: Procurement Officer, Place of Opening, Availability of tender (on-line) for bidding, Date & time of opening (on-line) of tender

* Non-registered bidders may also submit bid, however the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authority before signing the contract.

- Note: 1. Amount of Bid Security should be taken as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document. 2. Cost of Bid Document (Rs. 10000) and Bid Security (as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet) shall be deposited online in form as mentioned in Bid Data Sheet failing which the bid will be treated non responsive and action shall be taken as per Sec. 2 of ITB clause 12.2 (d).

All other details can be seen in the bidding document which is available in website pmsgstendersjhr.gov.in as per schedule mentioned above. Chief Engineer JSRRDA, Ranchi

adani Electricity NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 30.07.2022

Table with columns: NIT No., Division, Brief Works Descriptions, Estimated Cost (Rs. Lacs), Cost of EMD (Rs. Lacs), Prebid Meeting Date, Due Date & Time of Submissions, Date & Time of Bid Opening

All Materials & Services will be as per Adani Electricity Mumbai Limited specifications / BOQ. All Prebid Meeting will be done electronically / telephonically due to Covid-19 restrictions.



PROJECT-SHARDA UNIVERSITY

After seeing various incidents of sudden fire in cars or bikes, students at Sharda Univ. developed a heat alert device for the vehicle's battery. Two students studying in their 4th yr of B. Tech, Sudhanshu & Pranjal, have developed a smart battery management system integrated with the canbus interface in which the driver will get an alert even before a fire.



MISSION-JAMIA HAMDARD

Jamia Hamdard, in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs & AICTE, is participating in "Mission Amrit Sarovar - Jai Dharohar Sanrakshan", which aims to inspire & encourage India's youth to protect, rejuvenate and preserve traditional water bodies to ensure water security.



PROGRAM-DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL

DAV Public School Sreshtha Vihar, Delhi hosted a 1 day long Capacity Building Programme organized by COE CBSE, ND on National Education Policy-2020 on 16th July 2022 in the school auditorium.



CAMP- MANAV RACHNA

Over 104 Campers including 72 Athletes & 32 Coaches from 14 States celebrated conclusion to the National Coaching Camp held in Table Tennis. The Camp is hosted by Manav Rachna Int'l Institute of Research & Studies, Faridabad, as the knowledge partner of SO Bharat.



PROGRAM-IMS GHAZIABAD

Under the leadership of Dr. Urvasi Makkar, Dir., IMS Gzb, the Centre of Innovation & Entrepreneurship of the institute organized an "IPR Awareness Program" under the flagship of National Program for Intellectual Property Literacy & Awareness promoting 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat' in collaboration with AICTE- Ministry of Education Innovation Cell for PGDM Batch 2022-24 on July 20, 2022.



KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS - UTTARANCHAL UNIV.

23rd Kargil Vijay Diwas was celebrated at Uttarachal University with much fanfare. Chancellor of the Univ., Jitender Joshi was the chief guest of the event organized at 'Shaurya Diwar' of the university campus.

AMITY A strategically significant 'Scholar Centric' virtual joint global Seminar was organised by Amity University in collaboration with United Service Institution of India on "Asian Resurgence: Strategic Rebalancing and New Geo-Political Challenges".

DELHI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL EDGE proudly announces the first result of excellence produced by the 10th standard batch. The maiden board batch of Delhi International School edge, Sector 18, Dwarka emerged with flying colours maintaining 100% pass percentage.

ICSI The ICSI has relaxed the dates for registering in Company Secretary Executive Programme, for Class 12 students who cleared their CSEET in July 2021. The validity of the July 2021 CSEET result has now been extended from July 20, 2022, to January 20, 2023.

IP UNIVERSITY has started online counselling process for two major national level tests - based programmes - B. Tech (code - 131) & B. Arch (code - 100). The eligible applicants of both the programmes can apply for the online counselling till 5th August 2022.

RESULT-KR MANGALAM

The young Mangalites' success echoed in the air of their outstanding performance in CBSE Board Exam for the session 2021-22. K.R.Mangalam World School, Vaishali is elated and proud in sharing the exemplary performance of our students of Grade X & XII.



HITIKA GILHOTRA, XIIth (96.2%)



OJAS JAIN, Xth (99%)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Suresh Kumar, S/o Kalu Ram, R/o Gali No. 1, Tonda Nagar, Main Gate Joharipur, Near International Public School, PS Karawal Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case Cr. No. 10099/2019, E-FIR No. 44175/2018 U/S 411/482/34 IPC PS Burari, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Suresh Kumar can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Suresh Kumar has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Table with columns: Name of work, Approx cost of work, Earnest Money to be deposited, Cost of tender document, Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender, Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.

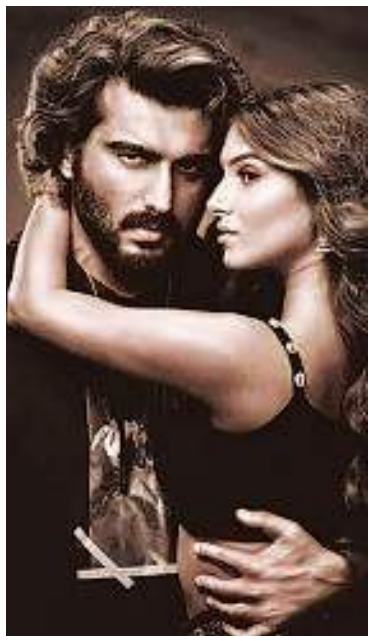
HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) The Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Hamirpur Distt. Hamirpur H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class for the works as detailed in the table.

KARNATAKA STATE PULSES ABHIVRIDI MANDALI LIMITED (Government of Karnataka Undertaking) Flat No. 42, Cotton Market, APMC Yard, Nehru Gunj, Kalaburagi-585104 No: KSPDBL/Admin./2022-23 Date: 29.07.2022 E-PROCUREMENT SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTICE

e-Procurement Cell JHARKHAND STATE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD., RANCHI Short Term e-Procurement Notice Date : 28/07/2022 Table with columns: Sl. No., Tender Reference No., Work Name, Amount in (Rs), Completion Time, Call No., Advt. PR. No.

ADANI ELECTRICITY MUMBAI LIMITED Registered Office: Adani Corporate House, Shantigram, Near Vaishno Devi Circle, S. G. Highway, Khodiyar, Ahmedabad, Gujarat 382421, India. Website: www.adanielectricity.com CIN: U74999GJ2008PLC107256

ADANI ELECTRICITY MUMBAI LIMITED Registered Office: Adani Corporate House, Shantigram, Near Vaishno Devi Circle, S. G. Highway, Khodiyar, Ahmedabad, Gujarat 382421, India. Website: www.adanielectricity.com CIN: U74999GJ2008PLC107256



Dead on Arrival

EK VILLAIN RETURNS

★

Director: Mohit Suri
Cast: John Abraham, Arjun Kapoor, Disha Patani, Tara Sutaria, J D Chakravarthy

EIGHT YEARS after the original, comes the sequel *Ek Villain Returns*, in which the theme, 'every story has a villain' gets a refresh. This time around, the story expands its base with two male characters ricocheting between being hero and villain, one masked, another struggling to find his real face. There could have been something to this idea, that everyone has elements of hero and villain within and the one that comes up top depends upon our circumstances. But a disjointed plot and pedestrian performances do not an effective film make: in comparison, the less than middling *Ek Villain*, starring Sidharth Malhotra-Riteish Deshmukh-Shraddha Kapoor, feels like a better film.

Arjun Kapoor plays Gautam, a spoilt, rich brat who swaggers in and out of his father's plush office, open-air concert theatres, and a wedding venue. A heart-break leads him into all kinds of questionable activities, with the film trying to tell us that here's a good-at-heart man-child in search of a good woman (Tara Sutaria) who will save him from himself. John Abraham is Bhairav, a naive and innocent taxi-driver in love with an attractive young woman (Disha Patani) whose wiles are hidden behind a fresh face.

The two men clash, what else, in this spot-the-serial-killer game. They also have scenes with their love-interests, whenever the script can be bothered to find them: both Patani and Sutaria are given chances to speak but only when their men have caused some mayhem, and they scurry to pick up the pieces, showing off their svelte lines more than their dialogues.

There's an attempt at actual characterisation. Gautam is given life-lessons by his millionaire father: only when you support someone, you will grow. Ditto for Bhairav, for whom the dictum this movie wants to push is — one-sided love can be enough. But whatever happened to strong plots and story-telling? An able actor like JD Chakravarthy, part of the crime team trying to crack the case, is made to flounder: the cops, as ever, are late to the party, which involves a zoo-keeper and buckets of human flesh.

Mohit Suri's editions of his dark, pulpy universe, buoyed by Sufi ditties, used to be able to keep us with them, but even by the law of diminishing returns, the shockingly bad *Ek Villain Returns* has sunk lower than low, if that's even possible.

SG



VIKRANT RONA

★

Director: Anup Bhandari
Cast: Sudeep, Nirup Bhandari, Neetha Ashok

For Crying Out Loud

A LITTLE girl and her mother are driving through a dense forest when suddenly out of the darkness, comes a scary noise, and a shadow flitting across the path. Anyone sensible would stay in the car, roll up the windows, and sit tight. But this is a film where you know something dreadful is about to happen, and the character doesn't. So, of course, the mum promptly gets out of the car, sees something a few steps ahead, turns back, and, of course, everything turns to black.

Cut to a village, and a house which has a grouchy man who communicates by shouting, a woman who cries her eyes out whenever she comes on, and a car full of relatives who have turned up for the marriage of their daughter, insisting that

GOOD LUCK JERRY

★★★

Director: Siddharth Sengupta
Cast: Janhvi Kapoor, Mita Vashisht, Deepak Dobriyal, Sushant Singh, Neeraj Sood, Sahil Mehta, Saurabh Sachdeva, Mohan Kamboj, Samta Sudiksha

Up for the Ride



SHUBHRA GUPTA

THAT JERRY, the hero of this enterprise, uses her timid will-burst-into-tears-at-the-drop-of-a-hat type personality as a clever shield, is clear from the very beginning.

The official remake of the 2018 Nayanthara starrer *Kolamaavu Kokila* is a black comedy, featuring a smart cookie (Kapoor), her chirpy younger sister (Sudiksha), and their mother (Vashisht), the fount of their brains. These women form a tiny Bihari family unit in a Punjab town, sur-

Power of Small Things

A COURTROOM drama in a small town called Hillolganj arrays two formidable old rivals against each other. Former Rajya Sabha member and a much respected legal luminary Rev Basanta Kumar Chatterjee (Soumitra Chatterjee in his last completed role) finds himself face to face with the testy Anton D'Souza (Naseeruddin Shah), in a case which is intensely local but has repercussions for the world outside.

The man on trial is school teacher Kunal Joseph Baske (Sraman Chattopadhyaya) who refuses to teach a chapter from the Bible ahead of Darwin's theory, and who draws a line at having to extol the virtues of 'Vedic Science'. Who is at fault here? A teacher who doesn't want to abide by the arbitrary rules of his institution, or an administration which is increasingly bowing to the political and social temperament of the people in power?

The two lawyers are respectful of each other, but leave us in no doubt that they are engaged in a battle. Chatterjee speaks for a minority institution which is divided over how to define apostasy as opposed to the right to think. "A thinking man is on trial here," thunders D'Souza: how can a true

teacher tell his students about things that do not have any scientific basis? A Delhi-based journalist (Sen) reports the proceedings for his outlet, stirring things up.

A *Holy Conspiracy*, based on a play which was itself based on an incident of a similar nature which occurred in the US of the 1920s, comes off stodgy in places, its lines stilted. The filmmaking is basic and rudimentary. It's also a talky movie, which is usually what legal dramas tend to be, and the performance of most of the supporting cast shows up their inexperience.

But what keeps us engaged are both the

in buses and tempos, carrying contraband worth crores, dealing with multi-hued mobsters. There's also a clear attempt at creating the right degree of jokey-menacing tone.

Where it falters is in sustaining that tone, with slack patches in between. The merry-go-round with the cops and gangsters stretches out, even as the droll crook-in-the-neck Timmy (Dalal, excellent) keeps it going. Nice to see Mita Vashisht in a *hatke* role, so different from the sombre characters she is usually saddled with. The same goes for Sushant Singh, who maintains a glint in the eye, even as he counts his packets of white powder and

finds them missing; he fits right in, in this light-hearted version of *Udda Punjab*.

While we are at it, though, we can't help noting the slippage of Kapoor's Bihari accent. But there's no doubt that she leads the way, letting that small triumphant smile emerge, even though she is made to snivel too much, the flood of tears nearly overcoming the general air of fun and frolic. And that's the best part of *Good Luck Jerry*, a film that commits to its loopyness, without finding an excuse to get the men in front of its feisty women. Good for Jerry aka Jaya Kumari aka Janhvi Kapoor.



A HOLY CONSPIRACY

★★★

Director: Saibal Mitra

Cast: Soumitra Chatterjee, Naseeruddin Shah, Sraman Chattopadhyaya, Anusha Majumdar, Kaushik Sen

stalwarts. Chatterjee's illness is made space for by the script: his character keeps getting asked to rest a bit, and take his medication. But there is power and grace with which he delivers his lines. It is clear that he is a be-

liever, and that his faith overcomes all doubt. Shah is as believable, and again real-life hews close to his performance. In the passionate way he defends his client, referring to his multiple identities — tribal, Christian, Indian — you can almost feel Shah shedding his character's skin, and being himself, as we have seen and heard him, in so many forums. He bangs the gong for a composite India where everyone has place, for the secular foundations of the constitution, and an education system saved from bigotry and obscurantism. Will that India survive?

SG

STREAMING WATCH LIST

BY ALAKA SAHANI



A GIRL WALKS HOME ALONE AT NIGHT

PRIME VIDEO

Ana Lily Amirpour's outstanding debut, this black-and-white vampire noir film made in 2014, has its dedicated followers. A female vampire, clad in a chador stalks the unsuspecting people of an Iranian town called 'Bad City'. This lone-some and skateboarding vampire (Sheila Vand) preys on men who disrespect women. With her vampiric teeth and supernatural powers, she subverts the image of the veiled woman as meek and challenges patriarchal practices.

LIGHT AND MAGIC

DISNEY+HOTSTAR

This six-part documentary series tells the story of Industrial Light & Magic, the visual effects company created by George Lucas to make *Star Wars*. Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Lawrence Kasdan, who was granted unparalleled access, takes viewers on a journey to discover world's first proper special effects company while also giving a peek into special visual effects, animation and virtual production division of the film.



CRIMES OF THE FUTURE

MUBI

This science-fiction body horror film, written and directed by David Cronenberg, had its world premiere in the 2022 Cannes Film Festival's competition section. Accompanied by his partner Caprice, celebrity artist Saul Tenser publicly showcases the metamorphosis of his organs in some avant-garde performances. Their movements are tracked by Timlin, a young investigator, as well as a mysterious group set on shedding light on the next phase of human evolution. The movie's cast features Viggo Mortensen, Léa Seydoux, and Kristen Stewart.



NEVER RARELY SOMETIMES ALWAYS

NETFLIX

This hard-hitting drama, written and directed by Eliza Hittman, received widespread acclaim following its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2020. After discovering that she is pregnant, Autumn (Sidney Flanigan), a teenager, along with her cousin Skylar, sets out to go to New York to have an abortion.



LICORICE PIZZA

PRIME VIDEO

Directed and written by Paul Thomas Anderson, this movie follows the story of Alana Kane (Alana Haim) and Gary Valentine (Cooper Hoffman) growing up and going through the treacherous navigation of first love in 1973. The critically acclaimed film received three Oscar nominations including best picture, best director, and best original screenplay.

