

Fighting COVID-19 with hope. Not hoaxes

With all the fear and doomsday predictions around the Coronavirus outbreak floating around in cyberspace, we completely understand why life as we know it has been enveloped with fear and uncertainty.

We at The New Indian Express believe that the only way to fight that all-consuming fear and the torrent of fake news is by giving you the facts - plain and simple. Triple checked for authenticity and sanitised with a good deal of sensibility.

As the network of delivery personnel and logistics have been hit by this pandemic, we understand that getting the paper may not be the certainty that it was a short while ago. Which is why The New Indian Express and City Union Bank bring you a digital version of TNIE straight to your smartphones - every single day.

Meanwhile, if you'd like to keep track of how the global fight against Corona is progressing in real-time on www.newindianexpress.com or check out our other group sites for your daily dose of art, culture, cinema or education during these quarantined times.

Happy reading!



THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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DUST CONTROL AT NATIONAL CAPITAL

A truck mounted with an anti-smog gun spraying tiny droplets of water into the air in Delhi on Saturday. It was used to curb air pollution after a thick layer of smog engulfed the national capital following Diwali celebrations, stubble burning and first winter fog in the city | PTI

Blaze in ICU ward at Maha hospital kills at least 10

Covid patients died on spot in Ahmednagar in latest hospital tragedy; 7 others badly hurt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

A major fire broke out in the civil hospital of Ahmednagar on Saturday, killing at least 10 patients admitted to the ICU. The toll is expected to rise.

Ahmednagar district collector Rajendra Bhosale said patients admitted for Covid-19 died in the fire at the hospital, which had been treating a total of 19 coronavirus patients. He said the fire began in the ICU and spread to other wards.

"The fire might have been caused due to a short circuit but an investigation team will ascertain the real cause. It was a new building and even the wiring of the electric fitting was new. We are surprised by this major fire," Bhosale said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray ordered a high-level inquiry and said strict action will be taken against those responsible for the tragedy.

Eyewitnesses said the fire started in the AC unit and quickly spread across the ICU. The entire ICU was enveloped with smoke, making it tough to rescue patients. While 10 victims died on the spot, seven others were injured badly and are being treated in other wards.



Charred remains at the Ahmednagar hospital ICU after the fire | PTI

The Ahmednagar fire is not the first such hospital tragedy in Maharashtra this year. In Virar, 14 people died in a hospital in April. In Nasik, 22 died after leakage of medical oxygen in a hospital. In Nagpur, four people died in a fire a few days ago.

Congress minister Balasaheb Thorat visited the hospital and announced ₹7 lakh relief for the kin of the deceased.

The opposition alleged that the Maharashtra government was not serious about the health of the people.

"This is not the first incident that has killed innocent people... The Maha Vikas Aghadi should focus on real issues, not reel one," said Pravin Darekar, leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council.

Politics of fuel tax cut in Opposition-ruled states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

WITH 22 states and Union Territories reducing local taxes on fuel shortly after the Centre cut excise duty on petrol by ₹5 and diesel by ₹10 a litre, the BJP sought to change the narrative by blaming Opposition-ruled states for refusing to ease the burden on the poor.

By doing so, the BJP tried to alter the optics of runaway fuel prices, as it had struggled all along to defend the high tax

rates that became a double whammy during the disastrous Covid second wave.

The Congress scrambled to formulate a suitable response since fuel rates in Rajasthan are the highest in India now. In Delhi, party spokesperson Pawan Khara said, "Congress-ruled states are discussing the issue and a decision will be taken soon." However, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot rejected the Centre's appeal to

reduce the state's value added tax (VAT) on fuel. Petrol in Jaipur was sold at ₹111.12 and diesel at ₹95.73 a litre. The BJP is preparing to hold a statewide agitation against the Gehlot government on the matter.

The Chhattisgarh government in Punjab, too, was under pressure, as high fuel rates could well become a political hot potato with state elections just four months away. As for the Kejriwal government in Delhi, it said it was

weighing options. "We are examining what impact it will have and what Delhi can do," Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said. In Andhra Pradesh, the BJP and the Telugu Desam Party staged agitations urging Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy to slash VAT on petrol and diesel.

In all, 13 states/UTs have not reduced VAT on fuel. They include Maharashtra, Delhi, Bengal, Telangana, Andhra, Kerala and Jharkhand. Tamil Nadu cut its fuel VAT in August.

MULLAIPERIYAR

CM thanks Vijayan for nod to fell 15 trees

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

CHIEF Minister MK Stalin on Saturday thanked his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan for granting permission to fell 15 trees downstream of the baby dam at the Mullaiperiyar dam site. A long-pending demand of the TN government, the removal of these trees will help the State begin the work needed to strengthen and earthen the baby dam.

In his letter to the Kerala Chief Minister, Stalin requested the latter to expedite other important requests from TN such as granting permission to repair the road between Vandri Periyar and Periyar dam site.

"This is the only route via road to the dam site and hence these road works are essential to transport the materials and machinery to carry out the repair and strengthening works," Stalin wrote.

Thanking Pinarayi, Stalin said, "I sincerely hope that this spirit of cooperation between continues. I reiterate TN's commitment to take steps to further strengthen the Mullaiperiyar dam and ensure the safety of the people of Kerala."

However, the letter created confusion in Kerala with State Forest Minister AK Saseendran hinting that there was no such decision was known to him. "I have asked the chief principal conservator of forests for a detailed report on these developments," Saseendran said. P6

EXPRESS READ

Tamil Nadu government transfers 10 IAS officers

Chennai: The State government on Saturday transferred 10 IAS officers. S Krishnan has been made Additional Chief Secretary, Industries Department, while N Muruganandam will serve as the Principal Secretary of the Finance Department | P7

NATIONWIDE	NOV 05	NOV 06
Fresh cases	12,729	10,929
Recoveries	12,165	12,509
Deaths	221	392
TAMIL NADU	NOV 05	NOV 06
Fresh cases	875	862
Recoveries	1,012	1,009
Deaths	13	10

WITH THIS ISSUE
NO KIDDING
Do parents know what their children are up to and what they can do better?
PLUS 12 PAGES
MAGAZINE

Ahead of more rains, TN in dark as tech snag brings down weather radars

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

THE northeast monsoon is likely to intensify from next week as a new low pressure is brewing in the southeast Bay of Bengal. However, the meteorological department has suffered a massive blow with the Karaikal and Chennai radars going offline due to technical snags.

Officials at the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Chennai admitted that the radars are broken. However, until the Karaikal radar is fixed, a major stretch from Pudukcherry to Thoothukudi is in a blind spot, a nightmare for 'nowcasting' in cyclone season.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the low pressure area is likely to move towards north Tamil Nadu in the next two days and



PHOTO: MARTIN LOUIS

rainfall is expected to increase in north coastal Tamil Nadu between November 11-12.

On Sunday, heavy rainfall is forecast in Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Ranipet, Vellore, Tirupattur,

Krishnagiri, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Nilgiris, Salem, Erode, Namakkal, Kallakurichi, Tiruvannamalai and Tiruchy.

The rainfall intensity may increase from November 10 in Chennai and surrounding areas. "Heavy to very heavy rain is expected over isolated places in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Mayiladuthurai, Thanjavur and Pudukkottai," officials said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister MK Stalin on Saturday told officials to take all precautionary steps. The storage levels of dams must be constantly monitored, he added. P6



TROUBLED WATERS

Tamil Nadu's packaged drinking water industry is in a pickle, courtesy of the Covid-19 pandemic | P4

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SREEMATHI M @Tirunelveli

In an epoch where people are drawn towards spatial installations rather than flat canvases, colours still seem to rule the roost. Is it not natural for us to be drawn towards colours and patterns out in the open? If you're walking past the Palayamkottai Bus Stand, you are going to want to stop and click a photograph of its walls.

S Kaveri, a 26-year-old artist from Tiruvallur district, has let her imaginations run wild on the six walls at the bus stand that served as her canvas. The project is yet to be unveiled by the corporation.

Tasks like painting, cycling, and swimming might seem trivial to some, but for Kaveri, they helped her express herself and gain confidence after a mishap when she was in Class 9 resulted in her undergoing multiple surgeries and losing an arm.

"The first skill I learned after that was cycling, which earned me confidence, and later, I learned swimming without any guidance, by jumping into a well," said the artist.

In 2013, after she completed her Bachelors in English Literature and teacher training, she gained laurels and recognition for her art through a 'kolam' competition. Now, Kaveri specialises in wall painting and colour-sensing and holds a degree in Fine Arts from the Government Fine Arts College, Chennai.

Kaveri got into the college again for another Bachelors degree, when she was 23, without quota. "My mother and two brothers have been my major support after my father's demise five years ago. I learned to paint with one hand from painters, and modified the techniques according to my physique. My friends also helped me learn and guided me to



Kaveri, the disabled 26-year-old painter, covers walls of the new Palayamkottai Bus Stand in Tirunelveli with colours as part of the Smart Cities Mission Project | V KARTHIKALAGU

She lets her brushes talk

A double degree holder, this disabled artist chose not to be treated differently in society

PAINT THE TOWN

understand art better," she said.

Kavin Art Gallery's founder, Ananda Perumal, who invited her to paint, said such opportunities for artists are on the rise, and youngsters should be encouraged to gain recognition through such projects. The Tirunelveli Corpora-

tion Commissioner, Vishnu Chandran, has given Kaveri an opportunity to express her art through a government building, he added. "While losing my left arm was a big blow to my routine, I took everything as a challenge and chose not to be treated differently. I wanted to shine for my abilities," said Kaveri, whose only limit is the sky.



My mother and two brothers have been my major support after my father's demise. I learned to paint with one hand, and modified techniques according to my physique

S Kaveri

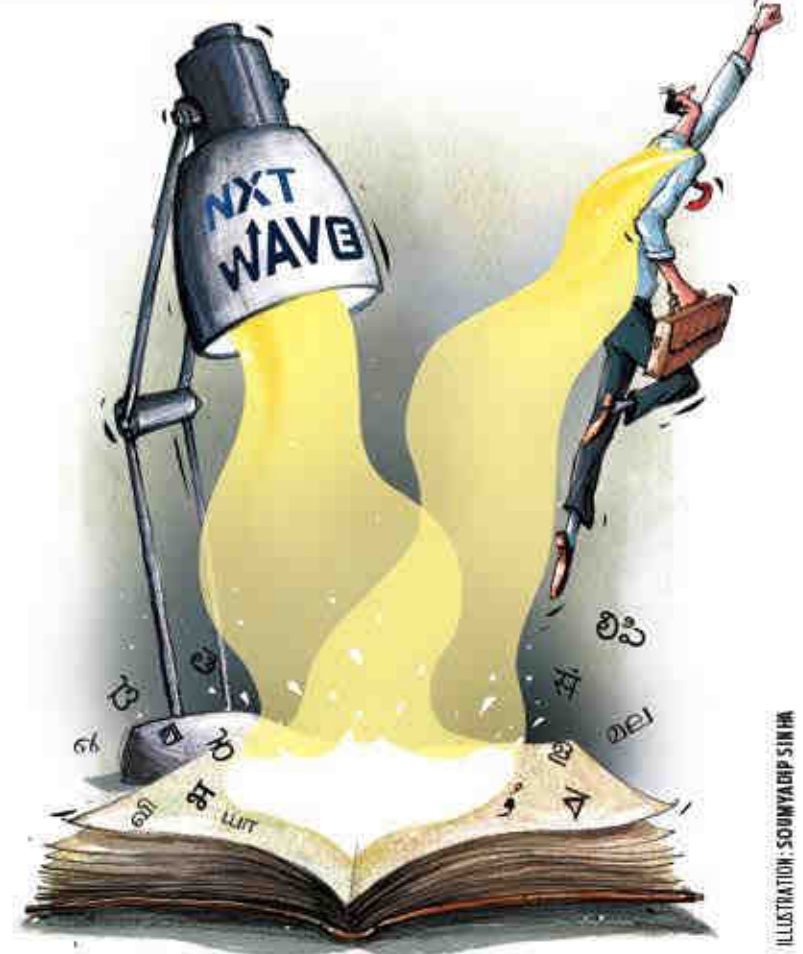


ILLUSTRATION: SOUVYADIP SINHA

BRIDGING GAPS, BUILDING LIVES

CP BALASUBRAMANYAM @Chennai

CO Ebrem, a 29-year-old data engineer, is a happy man these days, and it's not all about the wedding he just had. After years of burning the midnight oil and graduating as an aeronautical engineer from a private college in Perambalur, Ebrem did not land the job of his dreams, for no company participated in the campus recruitment process.

To make ends meet and to provide a relief to his working mother, Ebrem took up a few low-paying jobs in a private bank and a knowledge processing outsourcing company. However, this resident of Tiruchy was able to tide over the crisis with the help of interventions made by an edutech startup Nxtwave, founded by alumni of IIT-Bombay, IIT-Kharagpur, and IIIT-Hyderabad along with a team of graduates from premier institutions across the country.

With its programmes, Nxtwave aims to bridge the gap between college education and what the industry expects, by upskilling students, mostly from tier 2, 3 and 4 towns and make them employable in Industry 4.0 technologies. Founded during the pandemic last year, the startup stands out among its competitors with programmes to all candidates irrespective of educational background and imparting training in vernacular languages.

"I got training in Tamil and was able to grasp the concepts quickly," said an elated Ebrem. Engineering graduates, Dhivakar Balasubramanian from Chennai and Siva Subramanian from Ambasamudram, also had similar stories to share. Similarly, with Nxtwave's intervention, Shobha Katuru, daughter of a small-time farmer, became the first person from her village in Andhra Pradesh's Nellore to land a job in an IT company.

A topper in Class 10, Shobha got a free college seat based on her results. She took her uncle's help to



Shobha Katuru

convince her family to be sent off to college. In a post on LinkedIn, she wrote, "During the pandemic, I joined an online course and started studying at home. I didn't have a laptop, so I used an old phone. Internet connection was weak in the village in the evenings. So, I used to wake up early, go to the terrace for better signals and finish my classes by afternoon. During interviews, my cousin lent me his phone and data pack."

"People didn't understand my stubbornness for studying. They thought it's useless for a girl. But, they no longer think this way," wrote Shobha.

According to various findings, over 60 per cent of young graduates remain unemployed across the country. The remaining settle for lower salaries, despite an abundance of opportunities, as forecast by the World Economic Forum, that 13.3 crore new jobs will be created by 2022 in Industry 4.0 technologies such as artificial intelligence, data science, cyber security, internet of things (IoT), augmented and virtual realities.

Govind Akash, Vice President of NxtWave, said money comes in from the nominal registration fees paid by candidates. While bootcamps are offered free, the maximum fee per programme is ₹75,000. According to data shared by the team, in the last four months, at least 1,000 of its students have landed jobs in over 180 companies, including Amazon, Accenture, IBM, Bank of America, TCS, and Deloitte, among others. The startup also claims to have sensitised over two lakh students from 3,000 colleges across the country on 4.0 technologies and career opportunities.

Are there specific programmes for the underprivileged from tier 3 and 4 locations? The startup is conducting 4.0 online boot camps which anyone can attend, said Akash.

Even as the pandemic was robbing people of their employment, Nxtwave has helped several candidates land a tech job



Rahul Attukuri, CEO of Nxtwave



The new eco-house built by NGO Sudar for Sadaiyan on his land; (right) The small hut in which Sadaiyan had been living previously | EXPRESS

Act of kindness helps change children's fate

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR @Erode

NESTLED in the western hills of Burgur in Erode, Kongadai ST colony is seeing better times, thanks to timely help from 75-year-old Sadaiyan, who donated his two acres of land to build a school.

Until 2010, the village, rampant with child labour, did not have a school. It was through the donation of Sadaiyan, uneducated himself, that a school could finally be constructed for children rescued from child labour by an NGO called Sudar. Sudar, which works for the education of tribal students, had decided to set one up under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) scheme after 40 students were rescued from child



I am not educated. My children also couldn't go to school because of lack of facilities here, in the village. At least the next generation can study

Sadaiyan, while offering two acres of his land for school

labour. The facility was meant to be a bridge-school for students before they joined mainstream education. But till Sadaiyan stepped in, the children had no option but to study at a house in the village. With more children being rescued from child labour and starting their studies, the house could no longer accommodate them. The classes had to shift outdoors under a huge banyan tree. When it rained, they moved to a temple shed.

It was then that a few philanthropists, who had come to distribute clothes to the children, noticed the need for a building and offered to donate. The next step was to find a suitable land. When the organisation was discussing the matter, Sadaiyan volunteered to donate his own land. "I am not educated. My children also couldn't go to school because of lack of facilities here, in the village. At least the next generation can study," he said.

Thereafter, it hardly took a couple of years and ₹3 lakh for the building to come up. "We have decided to build Sadaiyan an eco-friendly house as he lives in a small hut on his land. We also have a plan to felicitate him," said Natraj, director of Sudar.

All said and done, lack of transport surely stands out as the major difficulty for the village's residents now.

SELFLESS DEED

It was in 2018 that Chinna Kannan, a child rescued from labour and educated at the bridge-school, presented a paper on 'Loss of energy due to lack of transport in mountainous areas' at the National Children Science Congress in Bhubaneswar. It not only won him the Young Scientist Award, but also gave him a chance to receive an award from President Ram Nath Kovind. His paper, meanwhile, brought the need for transport, to the fore.

Though the village had some semblance of roads, it did not have proper modes of transport, connecting to towns. Chinna Kannan's achievement helped the village find a place on the map, shortly after which their long-pending demand of a bus, from Anthiyur to Kongadai, was fulfilled. This bus service now helps more than 10 villages located in the region.

S GODSON WISELY DASS @Thoothukudi

AN ecologically fragile, but a pivotal location in a State; a tree that stands tall, deep-rooted, and spread across the region, with the power to pull through the odds. If the land is in need of someone to take guard for it, then why not call upon the trees, thought a group of forest officials in the Gulf of Mannar under their Forest Range officer R Raghuvaran.

Seeds of palmyrah, the 'karpaga tharu' of Tamil Nadu, were thus sown in the saline marshes of islets in the Gulf of Mannar, in a venture to strengthen the region against further erosion, and to prevent the islands from all-out submersion. With man-made factors and climatic changes over the

Palms of the GULF

past five decades bringing forth changes in the morphology and geomorphology of the region, two of the islands — Vilanguchalli and Poovarasanpatti — have gone under the waters. Fifteen more of them face the eventuality, as they have been reduced in size over the years. The islands are also getting elongated in shape, expanded on the windward side, and shifted from their original core towards the land.



A forest official showing the palmyrah seeds that sprouted at the Vaan Island in the Gulf of Mannar | EXPRESS

POINTS TO PONDER

- The Vilanguchalli Island and Poovarasanpatti Island, which covered an area of 2.81 hectares and 4.69 hectares respectively in the year 1969, have been submerged now
- SDMRI researchers headed by Dr N Gladwin Gnanan Asir say that in the past 49 years, five islands including Vaan, Koswari, Karlyachalli, Upputhanni, and Valai had lost more than 50 percent of their area
- According to Dr Gladwin, apart from excessive coral mining, dynamite fishing, and bottom trawling, scientists have said that natural processes such as storms, tsunami, neotectonic activity, and sea-level rise could also have influenced the morphology of the islands
- Increasing the tree cover in the islands could also encourage more nesting and roosting of birds, which will further increase the vegetation on the islands

At a time when researchers are taking studious efforts to find out prevention mechanisms to these changes, the forest officials came up with the idea of planting palmyrah trees — which can stand strong against gales and cyclones, and have a long life — as a plausible solution for the islands' troubles. Dr JK Patterson Ed-

ward, director of the Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute, says palmyrahs are essential as they could prevent soil erosion. Patterson had earlier spearheaded the deployment of an artificial reef in the Vaan island to prevent it from drowning. Raghuvaran says they have now planted nearly 7,000 palmyrah seeds

in six islands under his range. "We did not have any special funds for the planting drive; however, we took it as a task so as to protect the islands," he said. "Palmyrah seeds were preferred as they can withstand strong winds and grow in saline waters, too," he says, adding the seeds have germinated in all the islands, despite destruction due to rodent menace. "Rats destroyed all the seeds planted in Karlyachalli island. We have replanted them," Raghuvaran says.

Wildlife Warden and District Forest Officer Abishek Tomar sees these efforts as part of a two-pronged approach to protect the islands, the scientific one which includes its restoration, and a goal to increasing the tree cover. Though it may take years for the palmyrahs to yield, it is on this 'real yield' that they pin their hopes to make the difference.

Major boost to WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

2.61 crore Izzat Ghar made under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. State ranks first in the country.

1.50 lakh women have been given government jobs.

10.01 lakh daughters benefitted under Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana



Empowerment of the women has been an important issue for the Uttar Pradesh government just as it has been for the Central government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The urgency to empower women comes from the realization that the country cannot progress without promoting the half the population. Schemes like the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Janini Surakhsha Yojana, and several others including the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana in UP have been formulated with the same objective – empowering the women. Performance of Uttar Pradesh in implementing these women-centric schemes has been the best among all states in the nation. Uttar Pradesh is the first state in

the country which has ensured banking system in every village through appointment of female banking correspondents or Banking Sakhis. Besides the Yogi Government has also launched schemes like the Kanya Sumangala Yojana to protect and promote girl children so that the birth of every girl child is celebrated instead of feeling gloomy as was practiced in some sections of the society. There is also a Samuhik Vivah Yojana - a mass marriage scheme for eligible girls of poor families. The Swamitva Yojana is one of a kind. This scheme gives property rights to the women members of the family. Self Help Groups set up The Self Help Group (SHG) movement has taken off in the state in a big way. Around one

crore women are associated with SHGs. It is a known fact that the Balinee Milk Producer Group has earned a profit of Rs 2 crore. The state government and the rural development department have approved the constitution of similar groups in five districts of the Purvanchal. These are Chandauli, Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, Ghazipur and Ballia. A revolving fund of Rs 35 crore has been approved by the Centre for these SHGs. Similarly a Jhalkari Bai Women Farmer Producers Company has been established which is expected to benefit more than 17 thousand women. A fund of Rs 16 crore has been approved for this by the Central government. In Badaun another such group is being set up. This will benefit more than 14

thousand women with an approved Central fund of Rs 18 crore.

The government has given women preference in the operation of fair price shops under the public distribution system with the main to make women self reliant. About 15 crore ration card holders are enjoying the benefits of ration distribution. The continuous efforts of the state government has helped to increase the participation of women in public life. In the last panchayat elections 54 percent women were elected as Pradhans. A total of 56 percent women are Zila Panchayat Chairpersons and 54 percent are Block Pramukhs.

'PAC women battalions

Three districts are to get women's PAC battalions. These are Lucknow, Gorakhpur and Badaun. Under Mission Shakti, Women Helpdesks have been set up at all 1535 police stations and 350 tehsils of the state of UP. These are there to provide a sense of safety and security to half the population of the state. So far, the state government has appointed about 30,000 women. In police recruitments, the government has given a quota of 20 percent to enhance the number of police women. Recently, the government also deployed woman constables as beat incharge in some districts.

UTTAR PRADESH Mukhya Mantri Bal Sewa Yojana



The Mukhyamantri Bal Sewa Yojana has proved to be a boon for as many as 6000 children in the state. The scheme was launched for the children who lost either or both parents in COVID-19 pandemic from March 2020. This scheme was launched by the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Later on, the department of women and child development identified 2,000 more children as eligible beneficiaries of the scheme. Now these children are either being looked after at government children's homes or by their kins who are being paid Rs 4,000 per month towards educational and other expenses of the child. Apart from this, the Child and Women Development department has been helping thousands of children in below-poverty-line families through schemes arranging direct benefit from sponsors. These schemes are aimed to give dignity, self-reliance and security to these kids.

Under this scheme there is a provision of disbursing Rs 2,000 every month to single or disabled parents and destitute children of poor families.

The district probation officer (DPO), DCPU and Bal Kalyan Samiti are accepting applications coming from Gram Panchayats at the block level for more children to avail of this scheme.

NAYA SAVERA YOJANA for Child Labourers in state

To make Uttar Pradesh free from the stigma of child labour, the Labour Department has been working on a Naya Savera Yojana in collaboration with the Unicef. In the past 4.5 years of the Yogi Government, as many as 26933 child labourers of below 14 years in villages of 20 districts have been benefitted under the scheme. These children were freed from their engagements and sent to schools. Also, in order to dissuade poor families from sending their children for working as child labour, the government provides financial support to their families. The scheme has given a new lease of life to these children who were earlier working in hotels, factories and homes in Panchayats and local urban bodies. With the education being imparted to these children and financial assistance being provided to their families, the scheme is proving to be a major intervention towards bringing these children and their families into the mainstream of the society.

Apart from the state capital Lucknow other districts are also covered under the scheme these are Kanpur, Agra, Bareilly, Badaun, Moradabad, Ghaziabad, Barabanki, Gonda, Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Jaunpur, Ghazipur, Varanasi, Ballia, Prayagraj and Gorakhpur. Notably, as many as 39,576 working children in 1197 Gram Panchayats of 20 districts have been identified under the programme. Efforts were made to provide them vocational training and give them proper education as well. Besides a total of 7561 families of these working children have also been given the benefit of the social security.

Along with improving the lives of child labourers, the government also introduced schemes for rehabilitation of bonded labourers. In the financial year 2020-21, Rs 265.17 lakh was spent under the new scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labourers. It is noteworthy that in the year 2017-18, over 3065 and in the year 2018-19, as many as 1210 bonded labourers were identified.

In order to empower women, they will be given government jobs. This will help them not only to live with honour but also to feel safe besides giving them an opportunity to become self dependent.

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

PRADHAN MANTRI SUKANYA SAMRIDHIYOJANA

Under this scheme account may be opened for girls below 10 years of age. The scheme runs for 14 years and gives higher rates of interest along with tax benefits. Fifty percent of the amount can be withdrawn when the girl turns 18 years old. The maturity amount along with interest can be withdrawn as tax-free amount when she is 21 years old. The scheme has been a grand success in Uttar Pradesh.

NIRBHAYA FUND YOJANA

In view of the safety of women passengers UP is the first state in the nation to provide panic buttons and CCTV cameras in buses.

UDAANYOJANA

This scheme has been set up to allow meritorious girl students from schools to technical institutions by giving them free online coaching facility of maths and science.

MARRIAGE SCHEME OF LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The government has made provisions for a grant of Rs 75,000 for maximum of two daughters of registered construction site workers female or male. So far 61,805 persons have taken the benefit of this scheme.



ONE STOP CENTRE to Help Women in distress

Since the state has resolved to ensure the safety and dignity of women through its flagship campaign of Mission Shakti the government has set up One Stop Centres (OSC) for women throughout the state to control atrocities against women among all sections of society. These One Stop Centres have been set up by the Department of Women Welfare and Child Development and are going the extra mile to help redress the grievances of women in distress. The constant mental, emotional and social and legal support provided by the young and dynamic officials of the OSCs are bringing a new ray of hope to women in the state who have been hit by domestic violence or have been abandoned. The OSCs are being operated in all 75 districts of the state. More than one lakh women have received assistance through these centres in the state.

Help Desks and Courts

The state government has set up women's helpdesks at all the 1535 police stations of the state. Also, 218 new fast tracks, 81 magistrate-level courts and 81 additional sessions courts have been established. The government is encouraging girls' education in a big way by providing free education till graduation.

SUPPORTING WOMEN AT EVERY STEP

- Prompting self-reliance of girls, the Uttar Pradesh government provides to them free education till graduation.
- Government Jobs to 1.50 lakhs women
- To empower women, several initiatives including Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao, Janani Surakhsha, Varasat Abhiyan, and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana have been implemented in the state.
- Banking work and facilities made accessible in the villages by posting women as Banking correspondent Sakhi in 59,000-gram panchayats.
- SHGs Linked over a crore women with 10 lakh self-help groups SHGs. This not only allows them to be self-sufficient but also provides employment opportunities.

UJJWALA YOJANA : Making Life Easier and Healthier



One of the most important welfare schemes launched by the government of India is the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) that provides free PLG connection to poor families. Uttar Pradesh has been the foremost state in implementing this scheme that aims to improve women's health by saving them from indoor air pollution caused by smoky fuels used for cooking. Uttar Pradesh has embarked upon a mission to distribute free LPG connections to needy families in the state. The scheme that was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Ballia has now reached 1.67 crore households in two phases.

Adoption of clean cooking fuel doesn't prevent only health hazards but brings about a qualitative change in the lifestyle of the women in poor families who now don't have to run helter-skelter for arrangement of the

cooking fuel. The time saved from this is now being utilized in productive activities to help improve their living standards.

At first the scheme proposed to provide Rs 1600 per household for security deposit for 14.2 kg cylinder of gas and regulator. Under this scheme a BPL family got a deposit free LPG connection. It was issued in the name of the woman member of the family. It was originally planned to result in an additional employment of one lakh persons and provide business opportunities of at least 10,000 crore to the Indian industry.

The launch of the scheme was to provide a great boost to the make in India campaign. The main mantra of the scheme is 'Swachh Indhan Behtar Jeevan' or clean fuel leads to a better life. During the launch of Ujjwala 1.0 a target was set to provide connections to five crore women of the BPL

households. Subsequently the scope of the yojana was expanded in 2018 to include women beneficiaries from seven more categories. SC/ST, PMAY, AAY, Most Backward Classes, Tea Garden, Forest Dwellers, Islands. Also the target was revised from five crore to eight crore LPG connections.

The implementation of PMUY has resulted in an increase in national LPG coverage from 61.9 percent on April 1, 2016 to 99.5 percent as on January 1, 2021. As of January 1, 2021 the total number of LPG consumers stands at 28.74 crore. Further more Oil Marketing companies (OMCs) have set up 7208 LPG distributorships from April 1, 2016 to January 1, 2021. To meet the increased demand of LPG consumers. As on January 1, 2021 there were 199 LPG bottling plants operating in the country.

Under PMUY 1.67 crore free gas connections have been distributed in UP. This is the highest in the country

PNG connections to 20 lakh families of Eastern UP soon

Deposit free LPG connections under Ujjwala 2.0 with free first refill and hotplate to the beneficiaries

PNG CONNECTIONS FOR EASTERN UP

Piped gas supply for kitchens is to soon reach eastern UP districts as a major project is on for this. People will now no longer have to book gas cylinders in most cities of the state. In the first stage the state government is planning to supply piped gas to 20 lakh families of Eastern UP. For this a 2050 km long pipeline is being laid from Haldia in West Bengal to Jagdishpur in Uttar Pradesh. The state government has started this scheme under the Central government's Urja Ganga Yojana. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has already inaugurated the scheme in Gorakhpur by issuing 101 connections to families there. The PNG would be cheaper than the conventional gas cylinders and will save around 40 percent of the consumers money. Along with this the problem of carrying around gas cylinders will also end by getting the supply from the pipelines to the homes.

EMI for Ujjwala beneficiaries

The scheme also provides financial support of Rs 1600 for each LPG connection for such households. It includes a cylinder, pressure regulator, a booklet, a safety hose etc. There is also an option of paying in instalments in case the consumer opts for EMI. In case the consumer opts for EMI the EMI amount will be adjusted against the subsidy amount due to the customer on each refill. This monthly payment mechanism has improved the LPG penetration in India and now even families that are not so well off can easily switch over to cleaner fuel for cooking and prevent indoor air pollution in their homes.

PMUY jobs for villagers

The demand for gas cylinders is bound to go up in rural and urban India with more and more people being issued gas connections. This will result in indirect employment opportunities for the youth in the supply of cooking gas cylinders and in factories engaged in manufacture of cylinders, gas stoves and regulators. All a woman needs to do is fill a prescribed application form under PMUY. The LPG field official will match the application against socio-economic caste census of 2011 data base. After ascertaining the status of the applicants enter the details into a dedicated oil marketing company (OMC). This is done through a login password generated by the OMC. The connection is issued by the OMC to the eligible beneficiary after several stages of verification processes. This welfare scheme covers underprivileged families under all categories of distributorship. It covers urban and rural distributors, distributors working in remote regions and for various sizes of cylinders from 5 Kg to 14.2 kg.

An Eventpress Initiative

Appoint a dept to stop begging in TN, State advised

High Court makes suggestion while hearing bail plea by man held for kidnapping child; says govt must ensure all citizens live with dignity



A beggar at Wallajah Road in Chennai | FILE PHOTO

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Madurai

THE Madurai Bench of Madras High Court recently recommended that the State government appoint one department — either the Department of Differently-abled or the Social Welfare Department — to strictly implement the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Begging Act and the Beggars Rehabilitation Scheme. The Bench also observed that the State must ensure all its citizens live with dignity.

Justice B Pugalendhi made the suggestion while hearing a bail petition filed by a man, R Pandi, who was arrested by the Tiruchy police for allegedly

kidnapping a three-year-old girl child and making her beg.

As per the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Begging Act, 1945, begging is an offence and whoever is found begging can be punished with six months jail term. The government is also spending huge public money under various schemes to ensure that needy people get food, the judge noted. "However, even now, several people are wandering on the streets, indulging in begging, especially with children," he pointed out.

Though the State government launched Beggars Rehabilitation Scheme, established

six special homes and is spending ₹1.5 lakh of public money every month for the caretakers of those homes, the said homes are dilapidated and not in usable condition, the judge further added.

During the hearing, the judge was informed that the Government Care Camp in Melapakam, built in 1954 to rehabilitate beggars who are convicted under the Act, has been under the control of different departments over the years. "It is in a dilapidated state now and is not suitable to accommodate any inmates," the Director for Welfare of the Differently Aabled,

who is presently in charge of the camp, told the court.

Hearing the same, Justice Pugalendhi observed, "Right to life and to live with dignity as guaranteed under the Constitution. Therefore, it is the duty of the State to ensure that all its citizens live with dignity in the State."

Stating that the poor implementation of the scheme and the lack of maintenance of the camp may have been because no separate or particular department has been allotted for it, he made the above recommendation. Meanwhile, he granted default bail to the petitioner Pandi by imposing certain conditions.

STATE'S REMIT

Notice on plea challenging stamp duty on mutual funds

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE Madras High Court issued notices to the Central and State governments on a petition challenging the State's authority to levy and collect stamp duty on instruments like mutual funds in the absence of a State legislation. The First Bench of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice PD Audikesavalu ordered notice on a petition filed by one Gnanamani of Chennai.

The bench also instructed that copies of the petition be furnished to the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) and posted the matter to November 17.

The petitioner contended that a completely flawed procedure is being followed and investors have been taxed without any authority of sanction of law. Mutual funds and other instruments, which can fall within the ambit of Article 56-A of the First Schedule of the Stamp Act, are taxed at such rate and quantum passed on to individual States.

"The petitioner points out that as far as she is aware, States have not enacted any law to indicate the rate at which such instruments would be subjected to levy of stamp duty and, at any rate, there is no such legislation in the State of Tamil Nadu," the bench recorded. She submitted that in the absence of a State setting the rate of stamp duty in respect of such instruments, the very authority to impose tax or receive the same is 'absent' and 'non-existent.' Referring to Article 56-A of Schedule I to the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, which provides for the rates of stamp duty pertaining to securities other than debentures, she said the article covers securities other than debentures, derivatives, government securities, and repo on corporate bonds.

POLITRICKS

Purge in DMK ahead of urban local body polls

S KUMARASAN @ Chennai

AS part of its preparations before the upcoming urban local body elections in the State, the DMK leadership has suspended many of the party functionaries, with most of them being from the nine districts where rural local body polls were held recently.

In an article published in these columns on October 20 — "Ahead of urban civic polls, DMK to pull up those who created rebels", it was stated that the DMK leadership is mulling action against the functionaries responsible for the party losing union councillor seats to rebel candidates in the rural local body polls.

Now, the party has suspended several functionaries, including four union secretaries, two union in-charges, and the husband of one union chairperson.

Notable persons who faced the party's action include: Vellore district Alangayam West union in-charge VS Gnavelan, member of the union in-charges team Pari, hus-

band of Alangayam union chairperson Sangeetha, East union in-charge PM Muniyel, Kancheepuram district Madurantakam South union secretary V Sridharan, Tenkasi district Kadayam union secretary R Kumar, Melaneelithanallur union secretary A Raja. According to party sources, the action was taken as the leadership, prima facie, received complaints against the functionaries.

The party leadership has also decided to send an enquiry team into all the districts to meet party cadres and rebel candidates in case if needed. The party cadre expect the party to continue with the actions so that a thumping victory is ensured in the upcoming urban local body elections. They believe the adamant and lethargic attitude of a significant number of incumbent functionaries would affect the party's prospectus.

According to party sources, at least ten persons would be formally suspended from their posting in the coming days.

The action was taken as the leadership, prima facie, received complaints against the functionaries. The party leadership has also decided to send an enquiry team into all the districts

Party sources

'Visited Mullaiperiyar dam 14 times since 2001'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

AIADMK Coordinator O Panneerselvam on Saturday took strong exception to Minister S Durai Murugan's remark that neither him (Panneerselvam) nor any of the AIADMK ministers visited Mullaiperiyar dam in the past 10 years. The AIADMK leader, who had held the Public Works portfolio for many years, said between 2001 and 2021, he had visited the dam 14 times and released water from the dam for the southern districts.

"Now, the question before the DMK government is this: Whether the water was released from the dam unilaterally by Kerala or was it done with the Tamil Nadu's consent? If it is done with the approval of Tamil Nadu, did the government discuss the issue with farmers and other parties beforehand? What was the necessity to release water before the storage level touched 142 feet? Without answering these questions, finding fault with the AIADMK is condemnable," Panneerselvam added.



Filled water cans kept in front of a shop in Chennai | DEBARDATTA WALLICK

TN'S PACKAGED WATER UNITS IN DIRE STRAITS

K V NAVYA @ Chennai

SINCE as early as 2002, Tamil Nadu, especially Chennai, has been mostly dependent on packaged drinking water. In a State with a poor track record in water availability and quality, drinking water units have been regarded as a blessing. The industry, however, is in troubled waters now, courtesy of the pandemic.

According to E Saravanan, general secretary, Greater Tamil Nadu Packaged Drinking Water association, a factory making 1,000 cans of drinking water a day before Covid-19 is producing only 300-400 cans of water post pandemic. There has been at least 60 per cent fall in demand.

Though it's not exactly clear just how big it is, industry experts say Chennai's water-bottling industry alone is one of the world's largest. Taking into account all its branches, including recycling, production, and supply, the revenue of the bottling sector runs into millions of rupees, according to sources. So, when demand plunges by around 60 per cent, the livelihood of thousands is at stake.

"Those who once engaged in supply and were planning to buy houses and give a good education to their children are un-

able to even eat thrice a day," said Saravanan, adding that many left the industry to work for a soft-drink unit.

Pandemic, however, is not alone in battering the industry. Proliferation of small water tankers has also been flagged an issue. Many unit owners says these tankers should be regulated. They sell the water terming it to be pure, but there is no regulatory body to check its quality, according to sour-

ces for these tankers. It's becoming impossible to survive in an industry that had so much potential just a couple of years ago," said J Anantha Narayanan, president, Greater Tamil Nadu Packaged Drinking Water association.

He also cited issues like rise in diesel prices, labour shortage, and lack of government support. According to him, Tamil Nadu's dependence on packaged drinking water is at least 60 per cent more than other South Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, and Kerala. A water can sells at an average ₹30-45 in Tamil Nadu.

"All that the government did for us is increasing the period to pay our taxes. That, however, isn't enough. Even during the 2019 drought, when Chennai had absolutely no water, it was the bottling units that came to the rescue of the public. We never know when we might run out of water again," said L. Selvam, who was working at a packaged drinking water unit that was shut down earlier this year after facing losses.

It may be noted that in a State that drowned in a flood, battered by a cyclone, and dried up by the worst drought in 140 years (all in the span of a year (2015-16), the water situation could be unpredictable.



In this series, TNIE focuses on the need to conserve water before it's too late

es. FSSAI and ISI authorities say they cannot regulate loose water; only packaged water comes under their purview. While only 12,000-20,000 litre tankers plied in the State earlier, following an uptick in demand, 1,000-2,000 litre capacity tankers have also started operating in the State.

"Almost 50 per cent of offices have not begun functioning post pandemic. And some of those functioning are opting

Grandmother of ace Irular students helms school panel

K EZHILARASAN @ Jayarkondam

THE appreciable academic performance of two Irular girls paved the way for their grandmother to head the School Management Committee (SMC) of a government middle school at Aanandakudi village in Cuddalore district.

Selvi, a 50-year-old woman, was entrusted with the responsibility after her grandchildren — Meenakshi (18) and Kamatchi (17) — cracked the exam under National Means Cum Merit Scholarship (NMMS) Scheme to avail ₹12,000 per annum.

Belonging to the SC (Arundhati) community, Selvi was widowed at the age of 21. Despite being deprived of education herself, she sent all her children to school. Her elder daughter Santhi married one Velmurugan of ST (Irular) community and the couple have three children — Vetrivel (20), Meenakshi and Kamatchi. Vetrivel is a third year BE (EEE) student at the Government College of Technology (GCT) in Coimbatore.

While Meenakshi is pursuing second year Diploma in Computer Science and wants to study UG course in Computer Science, Kamatchi is in 12th standard and aims at clearing NEET. Acknowledging Selvi's role in the education of her grandchildren, school headmaster A Senguttuvan and other teachers appointed her as the head of the School Management Committee, comprising 20 members.



Selvi with her daughter Santhi and grandchildren at their house | EXPRESS

"We chose Selvi as the head of the SMC as her grandchildren made the school proud by clearing the NMMS exam. After becoming the SMC chairperson, her contribution towards the school's growth is impressive," he said.

In the last five years of Selvi leading the SMC, the school saw a significant development in its infrastructure. An old building of the school that posed threat to the students was demolished and a new building constructed. The 50-year-old ensured the funds allotted for the building construction was spent properly.

"My grandchildren taught me to write my name a few years ago. Since then I have been signing instead of using fingerprints," said a proud Selvi, adding that she was excited for the opportunity to hoist flags before the students, teachers, and villagers.

"All these were possible because of my grandchildren," she said enthusiastically.

During a conversation with TNIE, Selvi also shared her plans to build a compound wall for the school. "We need three important things to be done for the school's development. A compound wall, a new bore-well, and repaired toilets," she noted.

Nonetheless, the family still seems to struggle in the web of poverty. Selvi's daughter Santhi said, "We can't even afford the children's basic needs and education. We live in a hut, where it is difficult to even cook during the rains. We would be grateful if our children get some help until one of them get a job." Santhi also stated that it was a long struggle for them to get the community certificates. "I even fell at the feet of some officers for the certificates of her children," she claims.

Time to wind up Jaya death panel: TTV

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

IT'S time to wind up the Justice Arumugasamy Commission investigating the death of former Chief Minister J Jayalitha as it's a waste of public money, said AMMK general secretary TTV Dhinakaran on Saturday. He said doctors and Health Secretary J Radhakrishnan had clarified that Jayalitha died of illness.

Asked whether he and VK Sasikala would work together in future, Dhinakaran said, "Though our paths are different, we would like to reach the same goal. If necessary, I shall accompany VK Sasikala when she launches her Statewide tour to meet cadre."

19,000 trees to be felled for phase-3 of Bengaluru-Chennai expressway

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

AN estimated 19,000 trees are likely to be felled by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to build phase-3 of the Bengaluru-Chennai expressway connecting Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh and Sriperumbudur in Kancheepuram.

An expert appraisal committee of the Union Environment Ministry recommended for an environment clearance in this regard. The 106 km-long expressway is proposed to pass through Mahimandalam reserved forest area, and the Arcot range in Vellore forest division. About 5.42 hectares of reserve forest land is proposed to be diverted for the project, for which a stage-1 (in principle) clearance has been obtained from State authorities.

As per assessment, there are 16,954 non-forest trees and 2,058 forest trees along the proposed road. Officials said about 1.70 lakh trees will be planted in consultation with the forest department to offset the tree loss. "Efforts will be taken to restrict felling within formation width. The project will ensure a smooth flow of traffic, which will reduce emissions. Better connectivity between Bengaluru and Chennai will act as a link between major commercial, industrial centres of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu," officials said.

The expert appraisal committee has recommended for an environmental clearance to be obtained before imposing specific conditions, including developing a green belt in non-forest land. Another condition put forth is to carry the work in such a way that the heritage and old trees supposed to be affected are saved. Official documents show a total area of 1,085 hectares of land is proposed to be acquired for the project, out of which 5.42 hectares is forest land, 833.913 hectares is private land, 107.424 hectares is surface waterbodies, and 138.396 hectares is other government land. An approximate 52 per cent of the land to be acquired comes under agricultural land.



STF yet to act on unauthorised buildings

Three years after its formation, the task force has done little while violations continue in the city

C SHIVAKUMAR @Chennai

The Tamil Nadu government formed a Special Task Force (STF) to crack down on illegal buildings across the city following a government order (G.O.) issued in December 2018. Three years on, action has remained limited to paperwork and meetings, with hardly any concrete steps taken in this regard.

While top officials told TNIE they are examining the essence of the G.O., the meetings seemed to be an eyewash. Of the last five ones, held during the AIADMK regime, representatives of key departments such as the Fire Services and Public Works Department abstained from the first four.

The STF was formed after the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs asked the State in 2018 to take necessary steps after the Supreme Court suggested that the Union government issue an advisory to all States. The idea

was to improve civic facilities and reduce inconvenience costs to residents of cities.

The State government formed two special task forces to address issues pertaining to encroachments, unauthorised construction, and enforcement of provisions of the Second Master Plan in the Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA) and areas under the jurisdiction of the Directorate of Town and Country Planning and the Composite Local Planning Authority. The formation of the task force was initially mooted by the High Court-appointed Monitoring Committee in 2008. It was one of the first recommendations of the committee but there has been no check on unauthorised construction.

The role of the 14-member task force for the CMA, as per the G.O., was to monitor unauthorised constructions, misuse of land, en-

croachment of public land, and other violations of the Second Master Plan and other laws. The STF was to ensure urban local bodies take up formation of a unified integrated web portal wherein all complaints or issues within an area may be recorded and which should be reviewed by the STF. It was also mandated to clear encroachments on footpaths, under passes and other public areas. The field staff were to be given GPS-enabled cameras to record violations and use them as evidence to take action.

Former Anna University professor of urban engineering KP Subramanian says the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 has deterrent provisions such as demolition, locking, and sealing, imposing penalties, including imprisonment, to act against unauthorised and violative developments. Local bodies' acts pro-

vide for prosecution and levy of penalty, including continuous penalty on a day-to-day basis so long as the offence continues. Nevertheless, violations and unauthorised developments mushroom.

This should make the officials ponder whether practical Development Regulations and Building Rules are formulated with effective participation of stakeholders. The government should come out with a transparent and straightforward approval system so the common people in general and the professionals, builders and land owners in particular don't lose faith in the rules and regulations. Similarly, government agencies should act as enablers and facilitators rather than controlling authorities.

If this is followed, there may not be a role for the task force, said the former professor. Or else, it would simply add to the existing plethora of institutions, he added.



TN COVID WATCH

New cases	862
Deaths	10
Tests	1,00,687
Total recoveries	26,61,428
Total deaths	36,214
Active cases	10,588
Tests total	5,09,05,270

GCC health staff vaccinating a woman against Covid-19 during the door-to-door campaign in Chennai on Saturday | P. MAHAJAN

'TN aims to achieve 100 per cent vaccine coverage by Nov end'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

TAMIL NADU aims to achieve 100 per cent coverage of Covid-19 vaccination by the end of November, Health Minister Ma Subramanian told reporters on Saturday. After inspecting a drive to vaccinate people at their doorsteps in Chennai's Nohchikuppam, the minister said 71 per cent of the eligible population has taken the first dose of the vaccine while 32 per cent has taken the second dose.

"A total of 65,70,285 people are yet to get their second dose. Of them, 51,60,392 are to receive Covishield, and 14,07,903 are to get Covaxin," he said.

On Saturday, the Chennai Corporation started vaccinating people at their doorsteps after preparing a list of beneficiar-

ies. "Based on the list, staff will make people take the vaccine," Subramanian said. After the camp at Nohchikuppam, two others were simultaneously held at Besant Nagar and Kottivakkam.

"Next week, the eighth mega vaccination camp will be held at 50,000 locations across the State. All the eligible persons will be covered," he said, and urged people to follow Covid-19 appropriate behaviour.

On the dengue situation, the health minister said 456 people in the State are being treated for the infection. "We have tested three times more samples than last year, for dengue. The civic body and the Health department are working to control the spread of dengue," Ma Subramanian added.

Migrant labourer arrested for killing TASMAC staff

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THE Kancheepuram police have arrested a 25-year-old migrant labourer from Bihar who was the main accused in a robbery-turned-murder case at a TASMAC outlet in Oragadam on October 6.

The suspect, M Umeshkumar (25), from Bihar, was arrested by a special team of police, who camped in Kaimur district for the past two weeks. A senior police officer said they assessed CCTV footage from nearby junctions and since the area of uncertainty was large, it took almost a month to trace the suspect.

The police have received a transit warrant and are bringing the

suspect to Kancheepuram by train. They said they will interrogate the suspect to find the whereabouts of the others involved in the crime.

On October 4, Thulasidas (43), a TASMAC staff member, was killed and his colleague suffered serious injuries after they were attacked by a gang in Oragadam.

After closing the shop, Thulasidas and his colleague Ramu (34) went to take their two-wheeler from the parking lot near the bar. The police said a group of men, who were hiding nearby, attacked Thulasidas with knives and later shot him dead. Ramu, who tried to intervene, suffered severe injuries and was shot in the back.

Tax fraud case: Absconding suspect held after 2 years

Chennai: The Entrustment Document Fraud (EDF) wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB), Chennai police, arrested a person on charges of cheating the Income Tax Department by forging documents of his house. The suspect, identified as Ganapathy Ramasubramaniam (44), was arrested from his hideout in Tirunelveli. According to the police, 1,600 sq ft of land belonging to him in Neelankaral was attached to the Neelankaral Registrar Office in 2017. The IT Department found Ganapathy failed to pay tax from 2011 to 2014 worth ₹4,24,93,418. The police, in 2019, arrested Ganapathy's power agent, Sunil Jain (54), for forging the property documents, and Sanjay (33) for buying the house knowing it was illegal. Ganapathy managed to abscond for the past two years.

Three held for cheating man of ₹54 lakh

Chennai: The city police arrested three people, including a couple, for allegedly cheating a man of ₹54 lakh on the promise of a job in Port Trust. The victim, Venkatesan, a retired employee of the firm, paid the suspects in the hope of getting his son the post of junior executive officer. Venkatesan had given the money to one Swadhiswaran between August 2018 and January 2021. Swadhiswaran went absconding in January this year, after which Venkatesan lodged a complaint with the police commissionerate. The suspect, SG Swadhiswaran (37), his wife Yamini alias Anitha (36) and one V Suresh (54), of Kolathur, who falsely claimed to be an employee at Port Trust, were arrested and remanded.

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Heavy rains leave parts of city waterlogged

Poonamallee highway take a battering, asphalt washed off in Washermentpet



Motorists negotiating a waterlogged road in Aminjikarai on Saturday | P. ANJANAR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

HEAVY intermittent rains continued to lash Chennai on Saturday, leaving parts of the city waterlogged. Among the areas inundated were Virugambakkam market, parts of Mogappair, Ambattur, Poonamallee, Madhavayal, Valsaravakkam, and Koyambedu. The rains battered the Poonamallee highway, resulting in an increase in potholes, while in parts of North Chennai, such as Washermentpet, the showers washed off the asphalt within hours, inconveniencing motorists and pedestrians. Interior roads in Vyasarpadi and Madhavaram, and parts of south-

ern areas such as Madipakkam also reported waterlogging. On the outskirts, areas in Ayappakkam, Kovilambakkam, Nannamangalam and Padi were inundated. In Ambattur, the Amma Unavagam on MTH road was waterlogged, forcing staff to shut its gates on Saturday. Officials said the road housing the canteen had been relaid by the State Highways department recently. The height of the road was increased, causing water to enter the canteen. "We cleared the water by evening and blocked the flow of water to keep this from happening again. The canteen will reopen tomorrow (Sunday)," a corporation official said.

Ordeal for Narikkuravars as hamlet gets flooded

Jayankondam: About 10 families of a Narikkurava settlement near Mahmalpuram in Jayankondam had to spend sleepless night as their hamlet was inundated on Friday. There are 30 Narikkurava families residing on patta lands at MGR Nagar near Mahmalpuram. A channel that runs along their settlement was overflowed with water because of heavy rain since on Friday evening. ENS

Subway under water, villagers stuck

Thoothukudi: The whims of weather and official apathy has snapped the connectivity of Melapaparatti villagers, leaving them in the lurch, without any option to reach the mainland than to cross the pool of water at the railway subway, the only connection between the village and Kadambur-Kovilpatti road. The subway got filled with rainwater for a length of 120 feet and to a depth of 20 feet. ENS

Lack of detection systems may cripple weather predictions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

YET, with the department's website having stopped showing radar images from the Karaikal doppler radar in the last week, concerns arise as to the accuracy of the observations. The Chennai radar, nearly 20 years old, cannot be used daily. As a contingency, the department is depending on the new radar at the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT). However, this is an X-band radar with a maximum range of only 150km to 200 km and will be fully operational only from Monday. M Ravichandran, secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, said efforts are on to address the issue, adding that

there are plans to replace the doppler radar in Chennai. However, S Balachandran, deputy director general of meteorology, RMC said, "A team has arrived to repair the Karaikal radar. Even otherwise, this will not affect the weather forecasting. There are satellite images, balloon data and other tools to give accurate forecasts."

Experts feel that a lack of adequate ground-based system like radar can affect weather predictions particularly during severe weather events. The higher resolution images help track weather frequently on real-time basis and provide accurate details about the intensity of rains and landfall of cyclones.



Collectors told to prepare for relief works

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

Chief Minister MK Stalin on Saturday directed officials of key departments to take all precautionary steps to face the low pressure expected to develop from November 9. He said the dams and lakes are half full and their storage levels should be monitored. "Of the 14,138 lakes,

water level has gone above 50 per cent in 7,048 lakes across 15 districts. The Collectors should expedite steps for all preparatory works to face the rains and measures for relief works," the CM said.

Stalin said during the northeast monsoon, TN had received 317.59 mm rain till Saturday, which is 41 per cent above the normal rainfall and

12 districts have received heavy rain, while 17 districts received 20 per cent rains above normal. From January till date, the State has received 969.9 mm of rains against the normal 706.0mm rainfall, he said.

The CM also directed officials to provide relief materials to affected people without delay and ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities to those in relief camps.



Workers patching up potholes on a road in the city | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Corpn gets its act together, patches up 2,000 potholes

NIRUPAMA VISWANATHAN @ Chennai

Over the past week, the city corporation patched up potholes at around 2,000 locations, spanning around 30,000 square feet, senior corporation officials told TNIE.

The civic body began taking up road maintenance works from Tuesday, a day after a 32-year-old man was run over by a bus after his bike hit a pothole. Although the road where the accident occurred was maintained by the State Highways department, the city corporation had taken up filling potholes in the city ever since, and allocated ₹10 lakh each for all the 15 zones for this purpose. A survey by the civic body had revealed 942 roads in the city were in need of maintenance works.

Asked how long the patch work would last, an official said it will hold for around two-three months by which time, they will ensure it will be permanently dealt with. "Once we get some breathing time, we will ensure it is permanently fixed. Our aim is to ensure that it holds till the end of the rains this season so that the public can travel safely," said an official.

While the corporation's maintenance drive has been met with a positive response from the public, residents said the exercise should be incorporated into the yearly monsoon preparedness measures instead of waiting till a mishap occurs. "Now the potholes are repaired but we don't know how long those will last. It should be a yearly exercise at least ahead of the rains to ensure safety of motorists," said R Veeraraghavan, a student from Adambakkam.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER, MAHANADI BASIN, BURLA, PIN-768017, E-mail: cebmburla@rediffmail.com
Bid Identification No. UMB-09/2021-22 (ONLINE)
No. 6117 / Dated: 01.11.2021
DETAILED NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Tender Fee (In Rs.)	Bid Security	Class of contractor	Period of completion
1.	Construction of Retilled Rubber Dam (in-Stream Storage Structure) across Bheden river at Sarda in Sambalpur district of State of Odisha including power connectivity works, road connectivity, staff quarters including survey, investigation, planning, design and estimate of all components with Operation and Maintenance of the project for a period of five years or five flood seasons whichever is more after successful commissioning of the project.	30,000/- (Non-Refundable)	Bidder shall submit "Bid Security Declaration" in lieu of bid security along with the Bid.	Super Class	30 (Thirty) calendar months including rainy season.
2.	Construction of Retilled Rubber Dam (in-Stream Storage Structure) across Sape river at Kerjama in Sundergarh district of State of Odisha including power connectivity works, road connectivity, staff quarters including survey, investigation, planning, design and estimate of all components with Operation and Maintenance of the project for a period of five years or five flood seasons whichever is more after successful commissioning of the project.	30,000/- (Non-Refundable)	Bidder shall submit "Bid Security Declaration" in lieu of bid security along with the Bid.	Super Class	30 (Thirty) calendar months including rainy season.
A.	Period of Completion	30 (Thirty) Calendar Months			
B.	Date & Time of Availability of Bid Document in the Portal	08.11.2021, 11.30 AM			
C.	Period of Sale of Bidding Document	08.11.2021 to 23.12.2021			
D.	Date and Time for Pre-Bid Conference	23.11.2021 at 11.30 AM in the virtual mode			
E.	Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bids	23.12.2021 upto 05.00 PM			
F.	Place of Sale, Receipt of Bids	On-line through e-Procurement.			
G.	Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid	24.12.2021, 11.00 AM			
H.	Place of Opening of Bids	At the Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Basin, Burla, Pin-768017			

Further details can be seen from e-procurement portal <https://tenders.odisha.gov.in>
Sd/- Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Basin, Burla OIPR-32048/11/0011/2/122

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II
6th Floor, Additional Office Building, Shashi Shevan, Hadfrees Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600006
DRC No. 264/2018 E-AUCTION SALE Dated: 03.11.2021

Proclamation of Sale
(Under Rule 52(2) of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 Read with Sec 25 and 29 of RDDBI & FI Act, 1993)

The undermentioned properties will be sold "As is and where is/on what is/no complaint" basis by on line e-auction through www.banksauctions.com for recovery of a sum of Rs. 1,03,38,708.22p (Rupees One Crore Three Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Eight and Paise Twenty Two Only). Plus further interest and costs payable as per law less amount already recovered, if any, from Mr. Gowtham Chand Jain & another to Punjab National Bank, ARMB, No. 46-49, RH Road, Chennai as per DRC No. 264/2018 dated 15.06.2018 in O.A. No. 69/2017 and Notice of demand dated 11.07.2018 subsequently issued by the Ld Recovery Officer of this Tribunal. As on 25.06.2021 a sum of Rs. 1,36,49,735 (As per Bank affidavit dated 25.06.2021) is due.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of property being land and BUILDING bearing Plot No. 8 in "Benmac Estates" comprised in S.No. 289/A (part) of Veddapattinam village, Cheyyur Taluk, Kanchipuram District vide village approval for construction of building payment proceedings receipt No. 5594/2011 and 551946/2015 for old Sy.No. 289/A, New. Sy. No. 289/10 dated 10.04.2015 issued by Panchayat President in favour of G. Gollamchand Jain Bounded on the North by: Plot No. 22, South by: 20 Feet Cart Track, East by: Plot No. 7 and West by: Plot No. 9 measuring on the North & South: 50 Feet, On the East & West: 100 Feet in all measuring 5000 sq. ft. - six double storied building therein under construction with all easement rights situated within the sub registration district of Cheyyur and Registration district of Chenglepet.

Upset Price : Rs. 76,63,000/- (Rupees Seventy six lakhs and sixty three thousand)

Date and Time of e-auction	10.12.2021 (Friday) between 11.00 hrs and 12.00 hrs with auto time extension of 3 minutes each, till sale is concluded.
Earnest Money Deposit	10% of the upset price Rs. 7,66,300/-
Last date for submission of bid form with EMD:	On or before 08.12.2021 (Wednesday) through EFT/NEFT/RTGS Transfer in favour of The Recovery Officer, DRT-II, Chennai to the credit of Current A/c No. 16330200001000, Indian Overseas Bank, Cathedral Branch, Chennai - 600 002. Branch Code: 0109, IFSC Code: IOBA0000109
Bid Multiplier	Rs. 50,000/-
Inspection of Property	22.11.2021 (Monday) 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

RECOVERY OFFICER

KARNATAKA BANK LTD LEGAL AND RECOVERY DEPARTMENT
Regd & Head Office: P.B.No.599, Mahaveera Circle, Kankananadi, Mangalore-575 002, Dakshina Kannada District Ph:0824-2228488/2228149
Email: legal.recovery@ktbkbank.com Website: www.karnatakabank.com
CIN: L85110KA1224PLC001128

1) **M/S. Tharan Trading Company**, Represented by its Partners, 1) **Mr. Anulmozhivarman Jayaraman**, 2) **Mr. Muneeswaran M.**, S/N Narayana Apartment, F-3, No. 22, A & B MTH Road Villavakkam, Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu - 600 049. 2) **Mr. Anulmozhivarman Jayaraman**, S/O Mr. Jayaraman, Plot No. 2 Metro Nagar Second Avenue, Alappukkam, Porur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 118. 3) **Mr. Muneeswaran M.**, S/O Mr. Muniyasaamy. 4) **Mrs. Kanagavel Pandi M.**, W/O Mr. Muneeswaran M. Both 3) & 4) are addressed at: Flat No. S10, Grace Apartment, 3/2, Joliharamalingam Street, West Mambalam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 033.

Sir/Madam,
The credit facility under OD A/c. No. 7837000100000901 dtd 13.12.2019 for Rs. 1,00,00,000/-, availed at our Thiruvallur Branch by 1) **M/S. Tharan Trading Company** Represented by its Partners You No. 2) **Mr. Anulmozhivarman Jayaraman** and You No. 3) **Mr. Muneeswaran M.** are the borrowers You No. 4) **Mrs. Kanagavel Pandi M.** are the Guarantors / Co-Obligants has been classified as Non Performing Asset on 30.06.2021 and that action under SARFAESI Act has been initiated by issuing a detailed Demand Notice under Section 13(2) & (3) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by the Authorised Officer of the Bank on 04.08.2021 to the parties concerned. The said Demand Notice sent by speed post with acknowledgement to above mentioned address, has been returned undelivered. Hence, we have published the contents of the Demand Notice by way of this Notice by observing the procedures laid down in the SARFAESI Act 2002. The total aggregate balance as on 31.07.2021 in the OD A/c No. 7837000100000901 was Rs. 1,03,72,300.35 with future rate of interest at 8.32% compounded monthly with effect from 01.08.2021. You are called upon to pay the same within 60 days from the date of this paper publication.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MORTGAGED PROPERTIES (Secured Assets)

1. Property Owned by Mr. Muneeswaran M. EM of Apartment Lake View Apartments, Ground Floor, Flat bearing No. A2 bearing, Old Door No 4, New No. 102, Present Door No 194, Lake View Road, Nallankuppam, Chennai-600 033, with 137.540553 sq. UDS WITH Plinth area of 460Sq.ft, Including Survey No. 1, New Survey No. 191 (Part), T.S. No. 28, Block No 60, Kodambakkam Village, Mambalam Gundy Taluk, Chennai

2. Property Owned by Mr. Muneeswaran M. EM of Vacant Plot No. 10, Annamalai Nagar Extension, Pandyipattu, Avadi, Chennai. Poonamallee Taluk, Thiruvallur District, Survey No. 73 / 522, Panchipathu Village No. 98, Previously Pannamalle Taluk, Now Avadi Taluk, Thiruvallur District.

3. Property Owned by Mrs. Kanagavel Pandi M. EM of Residential Flat No. G 1 Ground Floor And Second Floor, One Single Room In Aditya Residency At Plot No. 118, Kasavan Street, Balaji Nagar, Pallisarani Chennai-Survey No 22, Patta No. 17506. As Per Patta S.No. 22/21, of Palikaranni Village, Presently Shellinganallur Taluk, Kancheepuram District.

4. Property Owned by Mrs. Kanagavel Pandi M. EM of Vacant Plot No. 975, Bhakya Nagar Kattarambakkam Village, Sriperumbudur Kancheepuram District, S.No. 690/1, New Sub Division Survey No 690/1a1 -Aa Per Patta M.No. 1124 Of Dd Village No. 98, New No 56, Kattarambakkam Village, Sub Registration Office of Sriperumbudur

5. Property Owned by Mrs. Kanagavel Pandi M. EM of Vacant Plot No. 974 Bhakya Nagar, Kattarambakkam Village, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District S.No. 690/1, New Sub Division Survey No 690 /1a1 Patta M.No. 1124 of Old Village No. 98, New No 56, Sub Registration Office of Sriperumbudur

Place: Chennai Date: 04.08.2021
Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorised Officer, For Karnataka Bank Ltd.,

QuoteExpress
IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE
NELSON MANDELA

Karnataka Bank Ltd. ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH
No.324, Ground Floor, Thambu Chetty Street, Chennai - 600001
Phone: 044-23463509 (Gen) / 759576384 (CM)
E-mail: chennai.arm@ktbkbank.com
CIN : L85110KA1224PLC001128

1) **M/S. Daaruk Traders**, represented by its proprietress Mrs. Radha S. No. 1, Musaravakkam Salai, Darnal Village, Kanchipuram - 631 551. 2) **Mrs. Radha S.**, W/o Mr. Satish Kumar R, 379/3, Rettil Piraminar Street, Darnal Village, Kanchipuram - 631 551. 3) **Mrs. Arnsa A.**, W/o Mr. K. L. Ananthan, 67, Ammankara Street, Chinnna Kancheepuram - 631 501. 4) **Mr. Satish Kumar R.**, S/O Mr. Rajakandhan, 379/3, Rettil Piraminar Street, Darnal Village, Kanchipuram - 631 551

Sir/Madam,
The credit facility under OD & CC - PRIORITY SECTOR A/C No. 441700600004601 dt 18.11.2016 for Rs. 20,00,000/-, availed at our Kancheepuram Branch by You No. 1) **M/S. Daaruk Traders** represented by its proprietress Mrs. Radha S. as Main account Holder and you No. 3) **Mrs. Arnsa A.** and You No. 4) **Mr. Satish Kumar R.** as Guarantors has been classified as Non Performing Asset on 30.06.2021 and that action under SARFAESI Act has been initiated by issuing a detailed Demand Notice under Section 13(2) & (3) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by the Authorised Officer of the Bank on 22.09.2021 to the parties concerned. The said Demand Notice sent by speed post with acknowledgement to above mentioned address, has been returned undelivered. Hence, we have published the contents of the Demand Notice by way of this Notice by observing the procedures laid down in the SARFAESI Act 2002. The total aggregate balance as on 31.08.2021 in the OD & CC - PRIORITY SECTOR A/C No. 441700600004601 was Rs. 16,39,158.98 with future rate of interest at 8.56% compounded monthly with effect from 01.09.2021. You are called upon to pay the same within 60 days from the date of this paper publication.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY (Secured Assets)
All that piece and parcel of Equitable Mortgage of Already Equitably Mortgaged residential land and building - land measuring 505.72 Sq. Ft. comprised under Old T.S. No. 647 Part, New T.S. No. 647/3A1 and Ground Floor (390.00 Sq.Ft) and First Floor (390.00 Sq.Ft) residential building there on at Old Door No. 19, New Door No. 194A, Badakkulamman Koil Street, Kanchipuram Town Taluk & District owned Mrs. Arnsa A.

Place: Chennai Date: 22.09.2021
Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorised Officer, For Karnataka Bank Ltd.,

UCO BANK
Kollambakkam Branch, Plot No 5, Muthiah Nagar, Medavakkam Road, Kollambakkam, Chennai-600129.
(Head Office: No. 10, BTM SARANI, Kolkata-700001) Ph: 22682644. E-Mail: kollam@ucobank.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (Under SARFAESI Act 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
(Sale of immovable property mortgaged to the Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security interest Act 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 symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of UCO Bank (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS", "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" AND "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" on 07.12.2021, for recovery of Rs. 31,36,318.24 (Rupees Thirty One Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand Three Hundred and Eighteen Rupees and Paise Twenty Four only) inclusive of interest upto 05.11.2021 and further interest, incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc. thereon due to UCO Bank, the Secured Creditor from **Mr. Sampathraj V (Borrower)** and **Mrs. Shanmugapriya M (Guarantor)**, consequent upon their failure to repay the bank dues.

***Date & Time of E-Auction Sale: 07.12.2021 and starts at 11.00 a.m. (with unlimited auto extension of 10 minutes each, if required).**

NAME (S) AND ADDRESS OF BORROWER & GUARANTOR / OUTSTANDING AMOUNT / DATE OF POSSESSION NOTICE	DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY	RESERVE PRICE MONEY EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT (EMD)
Borrower: Mr. Sampathraj V and Mrs. Shanmugapriya M (Guarantor) , F-3 Saranya Flats, Muthiah Nagar, 2nd Cross Street, Kollambakkam, Chennai - 600129. Am't Outstanding: Rs. 31,36,318.24 inclusive of interest upto 05.11.2021 and further interest, incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc. thereon Date of Demand Notice: 24.06.2021 Date of Possession Notice: 29.09.2021	Schedule A of the property: All that piece and parcel of vacant land bearing approved sub divided Plot No. 19 & 20C, Durga Nagar 2nd street Nanmangalam Comprising in SNo 262/1 and sub divided SNo 262/5 as per patta no 1213 the land measuring an extent of 2257 sqft situated in Nanmangalam village, Sholinganallur Taluk, Kancheepuram Dist. The land is bounded on the North by Road, South by: House, East by: House, West by: Plot No. 18. Admeasuring North to South on the Eastern side 35 feet, on the Western side 52 feet, East to West on the Northern side 18 feet 6 inches, and 35 feet, on the Southern side 61 feet 6 inches. Totaling an extent of 2257 sqft, situated within the Registration District of Chennai South and Registration Sub District of Palleavaram. The property is situated within the limits of Nanmangalam Village. Schedule B of the property: 362 sqft UDS land out of the above referred schedule A property, Flat No S1 constructed in the second floor in the above property measuring 793 sqft inclusive of the proportionate common area in the building.	Reserve Price: Rs.29.58 lakhs EMD: Rs.3.00 lakhs

The intending purchasers can inspect the property on or before 01.12.2021 between 11.00 AM and 1.00 PM, with prior appointment. For detailed Terms and Conditions of the sale, please refer the website <https://bbapi.in>, https://bbapi.in/Saleinfo_Login.aspx and www.mstcecommerce.com/auchohome/bbapi/index.jsp. For further details contact: Authorised Officer & The Chief Manager, Mr. Senthil Kumaran, Mob:9841452291

Place: Chennai Date: 05.11.2021
Authorized Officer UCO Bank

Dealers suffer heavy losses due to fuel price cut

Some feel reduction in Value Added Tax will help boost transport, tourism and sales

C SHIVAKUMAR & DEBJANI DUTTA @ Chennai/Puducherry

THE fall in fuel prices may have brought some relief to motorists but petroleum dealers in the State are a harried lot. The reason being them having filled up underground tanks at old rates before sudden slash of excise duty resulting in their loss of approximately ₹165 crore, according to Tamil Nadu Petroleum Dealers Association (TNPDA).

KP Murali, president of the TNPDA said the sudden price slash has impacted 5,500 fuel outlets in the State. "On an average, each outlet has lost ₹3 lakh to ₹4 lakh," he added.

Dealers usually purchase petrol and diesel by paying full excise and value added tax (VAT). They sell it through Retail Selling Price (RSP) fixed by public sector undertaking companies and not by dealers. "When excise price was reduced, it was immediately passed on to dealers resulting in a heavy loss," said Murali.

Petroleum outlet dealers in the State now seek compensation from oil companies as they claim it will have a negative impact on their financials to operate outlets and maintain sales. "We are going to write a letter to State heads of oil companies and the Petroleum Ministry. Each dealer in the State will be sending details of losses they incurred," said Murali.

A petroleum dealer told TNIE that usually when the Union government slashes or increases excise duties, they announce a date. This time it was now done. "Previously when the

price was hiked, the oil companies did not pass on the price to dealers but it was adjusted internally. Now they have passed the reduction to dealers," rued Murali. Officials from oil majors could not be contacted.

Meanwhile, in Puducherry, around 110 dealers have suffered losses ranging from ₹2 lakh to ₹15 lakh based on their stock. Secretary of Puducherry Petroleum Dealers Association A Murugesan told TNIE, "We did not celebrate Deepavali. The oil companies are not reimbursing the excise duty paid in excess for their unsold stock, claiming it is a government decision and it is not in their hands."

As per the dealership agreement with the oil companies, a minimum stock for three days have to be maintained, said Murugesan. Besides, the oil companies have pushed for month-end sales by giving credit on October 31; most of the dealers have availed themselves of this credit depending on their requirement and unloading capacity. They not only stocked the underground storage but also maintained the stock on wheels (transport truck). These trucks have a storage capacity of 12 KL to 20 KL (in compartments to store both petrol and diesel). Further, after unloading the stocks, the dealers got fresh stocks on November 1, 2, and 3, he said.

However, the Puducherry Dealers Association welcomed the reduction of VAT. It will boost industrial, transport, and tourism activities and in turn will increase the sales of fuel, the association members said.



Medical aspirant, dejected over low NEET marks, kills self

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Salem

A 20-year-old medical aspirant from Salem, who had attempted to die by suicide on November 1, succumbed on Saturday. It is alleged that he took the extreme step as he scored low marks in NEET medical entrance test.

According to police, G Subashchandrabose, son of Ganesan and Dhanalakshmi of Vadakumarai village near Tha-

laiyasal, had taken the NEET and was waiting for the results. He had taken the test for the second time as he had scored a low marks of 158 in his last attempt in 2019 and hence could not secure a medical seat. In the results released recently, the youth had scored 261 marks, while he was expecting a high total. On November 1, he attempted

to die by suicide following which he was taken to a private hospital in Salem for treatment. However, he died at the hospital around 3 am on Saturday.

Police personnel were deployed at the hospital to prevent any untoward incidents as the relatives of the deceased had gathered in the premises. The body was shifted to the gov-

ernment hospital for postmortem and was later handed over the family following which the relatives cremated his body in Thalaivasal.

Subashchandrabose studied in a private school and had scored 425 out of 500 marks in class X. He had scored 385 out of 600 in class XII. His father Ganesan, a farmer, said, "I did not anticipate that he would take such an extreme step. He

told me that he had done well in the test. We had a hope that he would make it to a medical college this year. But, the dream has not come true."

Assistance for those having suicidal thoughts is available on Tamil Nadu Health Department's helpline 104, Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050, and N Damodaran centenary lifeline for suicide prevention 1800-121-203040.



DMK man held for assaulting Circuit House caretaker

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Thoothukudi

THE DMK functionary who assaulted the caretaker of Government Circuit House was arrested on Saturday and later remanded until November 19.

Sources said as J Billa Jegan (44) developed chest pain after the arrest, he was shifted to Thoothukudi Medical College Hospital. The mouthpiece of the DMK, Murali, reported that Jegan was suspended from the party.

Earlier on Friday, Thoothukudi South police registered an FIR against Jegan and his five associates under sections 147 (rioting), 148 (armed with deadly weapons), 452 (trespassing), 294(b) (uttering obscene song), 332 (causing hurt), 324 (hurting with dangerous weapons), 506(ii) (criminal intimidation) and 510 (trespass public place in intoxicated state) of IPC based on a complaint given by Saddam Sait (29), the caretaker of the Government Circuit House on South Beach Road here in Thoothukudi.

In his complaint, Sait said Jegan assaulted him after he denied him and his associates a room at the Circuit House to drink alcohol.

Police said a search is on for other suspects.



WITHERED BY WEATHER Wholesale flower sellers in Koyambedu dumping unsold flowers following incessant rains on Saturday | P ANWARAS

Three of a family die in road mishap near Kodai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Dindigul

THREE persons of a same family, including a child, was dead in a road accident near Kodakanal on Friday night. Police said Gokul an advocate from Thenoor near Samayanal-

ur in Madurai, went on a trip along with his wife, Nandhini, children Dhanya and Karthi and his mother-in-law Azhagurani to celebrate Deepavali. On Friday night, while they were returning home, Gokul lost the control of the vehicle near

Adukkam due to poor visibility caused by rains and mist. The car then fell off into over 100-foot-deep gorge. While Nandhini, Dhanya and Azhagurani died on the spot, the other two sustained injuries and were admitted to Theni MCH.

10 IAS officers transferred in TN

In a rejig of IAS officers, the Tamil Nadu government on Saturday transferred as many as 10 bureaucrats. Here's a look

Table with 3 columns: NAME, PRESENT POST, NEW POST. Lists 10 IAS officers and their transfers.

Politician 'extorts' TASMAL staff, video viral

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Coimbatore

TASMAL staff have alleged that local politicians were demanding money from outlets every month and forcing the employees to heed to them. A video of a man claiming to be a ruling party functionary to extort money from a TASMAL near Pollachi on Wednesday surfaced on social media.

The video triggered the debate of whether the ruling party workers extorting from TAS-

MAC shops has led to fleeing the public. Following this, TASMAL staff sought action against the culprits, and urged both the TASMAL management and the State to protect the staff.

The man, in the video, allegedly demanded money from the supervisor and later threw a bottle into the shop after his demand was not met. The supervisor lodged a complaint but was compromised due to political influence.

"We've decided to condemn it and hold a protest urging the

State to ensure employees safety," said A John, district secretary of Tasmal workers' association (CITU).

However, DMK Pollachi town secretary Thendral Selvaraj refuted the allegations and said, "The man questioned the staff as he was asked to pay extra for a liquor bottle."

The senior regional manager of TASMAL (Coimbatore region) assured the employees' associations that steps will be taken for employee protection and promised to inquire.

Repro Home Finance Limited advertisement including asset recovery branch details, E-Auction Sale Notice, and property descriptions.

TNMA TAMIL NADU MARITIME ACADEMY THOOTHUKUDI advertisement for Pre-Sea General Purpose Rating Training Course.

First Year Anniversary advertisement for KMP Family Karupathur, featuring a portrait of Kamakoti P. Sundaresa Iyer.

KITTUR RANI CHANNAMMA RESIDENTIAL SAINIK SCHOOL advertisement for girls, including admission notification and exam details.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE - U R RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
 HAL Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore - 560 017.
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
 (Phone : 080 25084168, 4175, 4189) (Fax: 080 25084155)
'BRIEF CORRIGENDUM NOTICE - I'

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tender is invited for the following work.

Description	Details				
Name of work	Providing Air-Conditioning facility to extension to Clean Room Area at URSC-Main Campus, Vimanapura, Bangalore-560017	Providing Passenger and Goods lift to Proposed extension to clean room at URSC Main Campus, Vimanapura, Bangalore-560017	Providing Double Gider EOT Cranes to Proposed extension to clean room at URSC Main Campus, Vimanapura, Bangalore-560017	Providing Heavy duty Motorised Horizontal steel sliding doors to Proposed extension to clean room at URSC Main Campus, Vimanapura, Bangalore-560017	Providing Compressed Air facility to Proposed extension to Clean Room at URSC Main Campus, Vimanapura, Bangalore-560017
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C and MG/EACD/EX/CR/AC/102 2/ETN-49A/2021-22 Dt:30.08.2021	URSC/C and MG/EACD/EX/CR/UR/102 3/ETN-94M/2021-22 Dt:30.08.2021	URSC/C and MG/EACD/EX/CR/CR/101 024/ETN-85M/2021-22 Dt:30.08.2021	URSC/C and MG/EACD/EX/CR/Door/10 25/ETN-66M/2021-22 Dt:30.08.2021	URSC/C and MG/EACD/EX/CR/CP/102 6/ETN-67M/2021-22 Dt:30.08.2021
Estimated cost put to Tender	Rs. 869.25 Lakhs	Rs. 86.88 Lakhs	Rt. 255.61 Lakhs	Rs. 145.03 Lakhs	Rs. 34.38 Lakhs
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	Extended upto 16.30 Hrs. on 16.11.2021				
Bid clarification	Extended upto 17.00 Hrs. on 18.11.2021				
Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification	22.11.2021 Upto 17.00 Hrs.				
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Upto 14.30 Hrs. on 29.11.2021				
Due date and time of opening of tenders	After 15.00 Hrs. on 29.11.2021				
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	EMD declaration shall be submitted in prescribed format, as enclosed				

2. Interested tenders may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

Sd/- Group Director (Construction & Maintenance Group)



CHROMPET BRANCH
 16, Basayam Street, Raithe Nagar,
 Chrompet, Chennai - 600 044,
 Telephone : 944-2265 4550, 2265 5009,
 email : chrompet@indianbank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated: 05.07.2021 calling upon the Borrower - (1) M/s.Dev N Dev Enterprises, (Borrower), D.No.18/2, Nehru Street, Bharathipuram, Chrompet, Chennai - 600 044, (2) Mrs.Sindhu Lenin, (Borrower), Proprietor : M/s.Dev N Dev Enterprises, D.No.18/2, Nehru Street, Bharathipuram, Chrompet, Chennai - 600 044, (3) Mr.K.Lenin, (Guarantor/Mortgagor), D.No.18/2, Nehru Street, Bharathipuram, Chrompet, Chennai - 600 044, (4) Mr.K.Radhakrishnan, (Guarantor), D.No.18/2, Nehru Street, Bharathipuram, Chrompet, Chennai - 600 044 (or) D.No.18, 8th Cross Street, New Colony, Chrompet, Chennai - 600 044, with our Chrompet Branch, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being Rs.16,78,742/- (Rupees Sixteen lakhs seventy eight thousand seven hundred and forty two only) towards Cash Credit Loan No.6476676722 & Rs.3,15,283/- (Rupees Three lakhs fifteen thousand two hundred and eighty three only) towards GECLS COVID Loan No.6884516479, Total Dues - Rs.19,94,025/- (Rupees Nineteen lakhs ninety four thousand and twenty five only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The amount due as on 01.11.2021 is Rs.17,52,199/- (Rupees Seventeen lakhs fifty two thousand one hundred and ninety nine only) towards Cash Credit Loan No.6476676722 & Rs.3,25,419/- (Rupees Three lakhs twenty five thousand four hundred and nineteen only) towards GECLS COVID Loan No.6884516479, Total Dues - Rs.20,77,618/- (Rupees Twenty lakhs seventy seven thousand six hundred and eighteen only) with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon.

The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor in particular and the Public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for a total amount of Rs.20,77,618/- (Rupees Twenty lakhs seventy seven thousand six hundred and eighteen only) as on 01.11.2021 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon.

SCHEDULE OF MORTGAGED ASSETS

The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder:
Mortgaged Assets : All that part and parcel of the house property of residential flat No.51 in Second floor with built up area 800 Sq. ft. and having undivided share of 301 Sq. ft. out of land 1404 Sq. ft., comprised in S.No.269/4, T.S.No.48/4/2, Block No.4B, Flat No.S1, Ward No.D at Iswarya Nagar (part) in Patta No.44 at Zamin Pallavaram Village, Alandur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, within the Registration District of Chennai South and Sub-Registration District of Pallavaram. Bounded on the North by : Land belongs to Mr.Nataraja Naicker, South by : 20 feet road, East by : Puthery, West by : Remaining land in Plot No.5B.
 Date : 02.11.2021
 Place : Chennai
 Authorised Officer,
 Indian Bank.

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RAIL WHEEL FACTORY Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560004
 Website : www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE NO. RW/F/146/2021-22/10 Dated: 04/11/2021

E-TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manager/RWF invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website: http://www.irpsa.gov.in from experienced/registered contractors in the field.
Tender No.1 : RWF S TPT CWS 1090 21-22
Scope of Work : 29/11/2021. Tender closing at 14:15 Hrs.
Due Date & Time : Cargime of Steel Scrap consisting of Railway Products i.e., 900 MT of Condemned Wheel sets from Various Railway Units to Rail Wheel Factory (RWF), Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560 084, under the distance slab of 501-1000 Kms. by road.
Estimate Value : 501-1000 Kms Quantity: 900 MT
Estimate Value : Rs. 35,64,000/- EMD Amount: Rs.71,300/-
Contract Period : 12 (Twelve) months from the date of commencement of Work.
 PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER



POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of City Union Bank Ltd, having Administrative Office at No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001 and one of the branch offices at No.12, Kundrathur Road, Muruganagar, Mangadu, Chennai, Kancheepuram - 600122 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2)&(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 16-08-2021 calling upon the Borrowers (No.1) Mr.Tamilarasam, S/o. Sambanthan, No.39, Sakthi Nagar, Mangadu, Chennai - 600122. (No.2) Mrs. Shanthi Tamilarasam, W/o. Tamilarasam, No.39, Sakthi Nagar, Mangadu, Chennai - 600122 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.85,73,324/- (Rupees Eighty Five Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty Four Only) within 60 days from the date of the said notice with subsequent interest thereon from 11-08-2021 with monthly rests.

The Borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 05th day of November 2021.

The Borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd., for an amount of Rs.87,98,248/- (Rupees Eighty Seven Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Eight Only) and interest thereon from 01-11-2021 till the repayment of entire dues.

IMMOVABLE PROPERTY MORTGAGED TO OUR BANK

Property - 1 : (Property Owned by Mr. Tamilarasam, S/o. Sambanthan)
 All that piece and parcel of Land and Building bearing Plot No.39 MMDA approval No.PPD/LD No.130/88 vide letter No.D2/L/6509/89 dated 09-06-1989 admeasuring 2200 Sq. Ft. comprised in S.No.31 New S.No.31/62 situated in Sakthi Nagar, Mangadu Village, Siperumbudur Taluk, Chengalpattu District bounded on the North by : Plot No.29, South by : 30 Ft. Road, East by : Plot No.38, West by : Plot No.40, Linear Measurements : East to West on the Northern side : 40 Ft., East to West on the Southern Side : 40 Ft., North to South on the Eastern Side : 35 Ft., North to South on the Western Side : 55 Ft. and situated within the Sub-Registration District of Kunderathur and Registration District of Chennai South.
 Place : Chennai - Mangadu, Date : 05-11-2021
 Authorised Officer



E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Sale of immovable assets charged to the bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security interest act, 2002.

The undersigned Authorised Officer of State Bank of India issued demand notice and has taken over possession of following property u/a 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act.

Public at large is informed that e-auction (under SARFAESI Act, 2002) of the charged property as detailed, for realisation of Bank's dues will be held on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS AND AS IS WHAT IS BASIS'.

SI.No.1) Name of the Borrowers:(1)Mrs.K.Kalaiselvi W/o Mr.Kannan, (2)Mr.V.Kannan S/o.Mr.Vijayarathu, Date of Demand Notice:09.02.2021. Date of Possession:01.09.2021. Dues as on 06.11.2021:Rs.1,94,72,513/- + interest, cost, incidental expenses, charges etc.

PROPERTY DETAILS:All that piece and parcel of vacant land bearing Plot No.1236, measuring an extent of 4800 Sq.ft., Now measuring an extent of 3520 sq.ft., comprised in Old Survey No. 123, New Survey No. 123 Part, situated at Madipakkam Village, Ram Nagar South, Sholinganallur Taluk, Kancheepuram District. Bounded on the North by Plot No.1235, South by: XVI Main Road, East by Plot No.1238, West by Plot No.1234, Measuring: North to South 44 feet, East to West 80 feet. In all admeasuring an extent of 3520 sq.ft., or thereabouts, situate within the Registration District of Chennai South and Sub-Registration District of Velachery. **Property Address:** Plot No.1236, Ram Nagar South, Madipakkam, Tambaram Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Chennai-600 091.
Reserve Price: Rs.1,33,00,000/- EMD:Rs.13,30,000/-

SI.No.2) Name of the Borrowers:(1)Mrs.D.Khadarbi D/o Mr.D.Peerajith,(2) Mr.D.Hussain Basha, S/o.Mr.D.Kasim (3)Mr.D.Raffisen,S/o. Mr.D.Khasim, Date of Demand Notice:16.03.2020. Date of Possession:27.01.2021. Dues as on 06.11.2021:Rs.55,21,281/- + interest, cost, incidental expenses, charges etc.
PROPERTY DETAILS:All that piece and parcel of the land with building bearing Plot No.31 Part, 32, Anu Garden, Measuring an extent of 1716 sq.ft., comprised in Survey No.2/1B, Patta No.2350, of Chikkarayapuram Village, Pallavaram Taluk, Kancheepuram District and bounded on the North by:Vacant Land, South by:Vacant land, East by Survey No.2/1C, West by 24 feet Road, Measuring: North side 72.3 feet, South side 72.3 feet, East side 24 feet, West by 24 feet, situated at within the Sub-Registration District of Kundrathur and Registration District of Chennai South. **Property Address:** Plot No.31, Part & 32, Door No.11/242, Anu Garden, Chikkarayapuram Village, Kovur, Siperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Chennai-600 122.
Reserve Price: Rs.55,90,275/- EMD:Rs.5,59,028/-

SI.No.3) Name of the Borrowers:Mr.P.Rajkumar S/o.Mr.P.Palanisami; Date of Demand Notice:08.04.2021. Date of Possession:08.07.2021. Dues as on 06.11.2021:Rs.63,26,572/- + interest, cost, incidental expenses, charges etc.
PROPERTY DETAILS:All that piece and parcel of vacant house site bearing Plot No.61, Radha Nagar, To an extent of 2505 sq.ft., comprised in Survey No.212/2 part, Patta No.5714, As per patta in New Survey No.212/54, situated at Nandhivaram Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District, lying within the Registration sub District Guduvancheri and Registration District of South Chennai. Bounded on the North by Vacant Land, South by 30 feet Road, East by Vacant Land, West by Plot No.60 and Vacant land. **SCHEDULE 'B' (Sale Property)** An undivided share of 450 sq.ft, land right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' above mentioned Property. **Property Address:** Flat No.S1, Second Floor, 'Alpha Flats', Plot No.61, Radha Nagar, Nandhivaram, Guduvanchery, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District-603 202.
Reserve Price: Rs.49,40,000/- EMD:Rs.4,94,000/-

SI.No.4) Name of the Borrowers:Mr.N.Prasanth S/o.Mr.B.Nagesh; Date of Demand Notice:20.04.2021. Date of Possession:03.08.2021. Dues as on 06.11.2021:Rs.50,60,720/- + interest, cost, incidental expenses, charges etc.
PROPERTY DETAILS:All that piece and parcel of vacant plot bearing Plot No.A3 Measuring 3245 sq.ft., and this plot comprised in Survey No.88/1, as per Patta No.712, New Survey No.88/1C, at Irundankattalai Village, Siperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District. Bounded on the North by Plot No.A2, South by Survey Nos.88/2, 88/3, and 88/4, East by 24 feet Road, West by Survey No.85 and 86, Measuring: East to West on the North side 86.3 feet, East to West on the South sides 69.5 feet, North to South on the East side 34.9 feet, North to South on the West side 40.9 feet + 24 feet, and this Property coming within the Sub Registration District of Pammal and Registration District of Chennai South. **SCHEDULE 'B' (Under This Deed)** 417 sq.ft., undivided share of land in Schedule 'A' Mentioned above. **SCHEDULE 'C' (Property Hereby Conveyed)** In Plot No.A3, Second Floor 417 sq.ft., undivided share of land out of 3246 sq.ft, Mentioned in Schedule-'B' Property, within the Sub-Registration District of Pammal and Registration District of South Chennai. **Property Address:** Flat No.S2, Second Floor, 'Aishwaryam Flats', Plot No.A3, Grannani Street, Irundankattalai, Kundrathur, Chennai-600 069.
Reserve Price: Rs.44,41,000/- EMD:Rs.4,44,100/-

SI.No.5) Name of the Borrowers:Mr.J.Suresh S/o.Mr.Jaganathan; Date of Demand Notice:08.04.2021. Date of Possession:08.07.2021. Dues as on 06.11.2021:Rs.66,93,394/- + interest, cost, incidental expenses, charges etc.
PROPERTY DETAILS:All that piece and parcel of vacant house site bearing plot No.61, Radha Nagar, To an extent of 2505 sq.ft., comprised in Survey No.212/2 part, Patta No.5714, as per patta in New Survey No.212/54, situated at Nandhivaram Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District, lying within the Registration sub District Guduvancheri and Registration District of South Chennai.Bounded on the North by Vacant Land, South by 30 feet Road, East by Vacant Land, West by Plot No.60 and Vacant land. **SCHEDULE 'B' (Sale Property)** An undivided share of 450 sq.ft, land right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' above mentioned Property. **Property Address:** Flat No.F1, First Floor, 'Alpha Flats', Plot No.61, Radha Nagar, Nandhivaram, Guduvanchery, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District-603 202.
Reserve Price: Rs.51,30,000/- EMD:Rs.5,13,000/-

SALE DETAILS

Date and time of e-Auction	13.12.2021 - between 11.00 a.m. and 12.00 Noon With auto time extension of five minutes each till sale is completed
EMD Remittance	Submission of EMD through "DEMAND DRAFT" in favour of State Bank of India.
Bid Multiplier	Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand only) and above
Inspection of property	06.12.2021 - from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.
Submission of online bid application with EMD	07.12.2021 from 11.00 a.m. onwards
Last date for submission of online bid application with EMD	10.12.2021 up to 4.00 p.m.

Terms and Conditions:
 1) The properties are generally sold on 'as is where is basis' and 'as is what is basis' condition. The purchasers should make their own enquiries regarding any statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues, etc. of the borrower by themselves before participating in the auction.
 2) E-Auction tender document containing online e-auction bid form, Declaration, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available in websites: <https://sbl.auctiontiger.net>. For further details regarding other conditions of sale, the intending bidders may contact The Authorized Officer, State Bank of India, RACPC, OMR, Chennai-600096. Mobile: 9445661199, Bank's recovery staff's Mobile: 7010009484, 8939597868 Ph: 044 - 24543991/0992 or the Bank's approved service provider M/s.C1 India Pvt. Ltd. (Contact:+91 9840446485). Web: www.bankeuctions.com; Email: tn@c1india.com.
 Place: Chennai
 Date: 05.11.2021
 AUTHORISED OFFICER,
 STATE BANK OF INDIA, RACPC - OMR.



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 proviso 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/ies mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Koyambedu Branch, (now transferred to SAM Branch, Chennai) for SI. No.1, the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Ethiraj Salai Branch, (now transferred to SAM Branch, Chennai) for SI. No.2, the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Vadapalani Branch, (now transferred to SAM Branch, Chennai) for SI. No.3, the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Ashok Nagar Branch, (now transferred to SAM Branch, Chennai) for SI. No.4 and the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Saidapet Branch, (now transferred to SAM Branch, Chennai) for SI. No.5. Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 25.11.2021, for recovery of the amounts mentioned below with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon to the Secured Creditor from:

SI.No.1) NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER / GUARANTOR : (1) M/s.AV Constructions, Represented by its Partners : Mr.A. Dinesh and Mr.S. Manoj Kumar, Flat No.F1, 1st Floor, West Ganga Amman Koil Street, Madhuravoyal, Chennai - 600 095. (2) Mr.S. Manoj Kumar, (Partner/Guarantor/Mortgagor & Legal Heir of Late S.Durga), S/o.Mr.S. Lingam, No.17B, Guruvappa Street, Ayanavaram, Chennai - 600 023. (3) Mr.A. Dinesh, (Managing Partner/Guarantor), S/o.R. Alagar, Flat No.F1, Plot No.73/58, 1st Floor, Ganga Amman Koil Street, Alapakkam Road, Madhuravoyal, Chennai - 600 095. (4) Mrs.S.Durga (Late), (Guarantor/Mortgagor), Rep. by her legal heirs, (5) Mrs.S. Bhavaniswari, D/o Late N.S. Lingam, No.17B, Guruvappa Street, Ayanavaram, Chennai - 600 023. (6) Ms.S. Saranya, D/o Late N.S. Lingam, No.17B, Guruvappa Street, Ayanavaram, Chennai - 600 023.

AMOUNT DUE TO THE BANK AS ON 31.10.2021 : Rs.3,29,12,184.25 (Rupees Three crores twenty nine lakhs twelve thousand one hundred eighty four and paise twenty five only) with further interest from 01.11.2021 costs, other charges and expenses thereon.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : The house, ground and premises bearing Old Door No.17, present Door No.212, Vanniar 2nd Street, Korattur, Chennai - 600 080, comprised in Grama Natham Survey No.916/2A of Korattur Village, Ambattur Taluk, measuring 7426 Sq. ft. Situated within Sub-Registration District of Villivakkam and Registration District of Central Chennai. Measuring : East to West on the Northern Side : 47 feet, East to West on the Southern side : 47 feet, North to South on the Eastern side : 156 feet, North to South on the Western side : 160 feet. In all measuring 7426 Sq. ft. and situated within the Registration District of Chennai Central and Sub Registration District of Villivakkam. Encumbrances on property : Nil. **TYPE OF POSSESSION :** Symbolic.

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.334.20 Lakhs Bid Increment : Rs.25,000/- PROPERTY ID NO. : IDI86506883023 EMD : Rs.33.42 Lakhs

SI.No.2) NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER / GUARANTOR : (1) M/s.PNC Enterprises, (Borrower), PNC Trade Center, No.7&10, Convent Street, TP Chathiram, Sherooy Nagar, Chennai - 600 030. (2) N.S. Srinivasan, (Partner/Guarantor), S/o.P.N. Shasthri, G-61, 12th Street, Anna Nagar East, Chennai - 600 102. (3) PNA. Mani Sundar, (Partner/Guarantor), G-61, 12th Street, Anna Nagar East, Chennai - 600 102. (4) S. Suseela, (Partner/Guarantor/Mortgagor), W/o.N.S. Srinivasan, G-61, 12th Street, Anna Nagar East, Chennai - 600 102.

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE TO THE BANK AS ON 31.10.2021 : Rs.5,25,46,082.74 (Rupees Five crores twenty five lakhs forty six thousand eighty two and paise seventy four only) with further interest from 01.11.2021 costs, other charges and expenses thereon.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : Schedule A : All that piece and parcel of the property being Villa No.B1-14 Elan B1 Type measuring 4622.99 Sq. ft. and common area of 1951.71 Sq. ft. and Plot area measuring 4144.11 Sq. ft. at Navalur Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District, comprised in S.No.46/2G, Villa No.B1-15 Elan B1 Type measuring 4622.99 Sq. ft. and common area of 1951.71 Sq. ft. and Plot area measuring 4144.11 Sq. ft. at Navalur Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District, comprised in S.No.46/2F & 46/2G. Villa No.B1-16 Elan B1 Type measuring 4622.99 Sq. ft. and common area of 1951.71 Sq. ft. and Plot area measuring 4148.11 Sq. ft. at Navalur Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District, comprised in S.No.46/2B1 & 46/1. Villa No.B2-13 Elan B2 Type measuring 4729.45 Sq. ft. and common area of 1996.65 Sq. ft. and Plot area measuring 4187.67 Sq. ft. at Navalur Village Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District, comprised in S.No.46/1.

Schedule B : All that piece and parcel of the property being the Villa No.B1-16 Elan B1 Type measuring 4622.99 Sq. ft. and common area of 1951.71 Sq. ft. and Plot area measuring 4148.11 Sq. ft. at Navalur Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District, comprised in S.No.46/2B1 & 46/1. Situated within the Sub Registration District of SRO Thiruppur and Registration District of Kancheepuram. **Schedule B Property out of the aforementioned Schedule A properties. Encumbrances on property : Nil. TYPE OF POSSESSION :** Symbolic.

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.304.63 Lakhs Bid Increment : Rs.50,000/- PROPERTY ID NO. : IDI86211628783 EMD : Rs.30.50 Lakhs

SI.No.3) NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER / GUARANTOR : (1) M/s.V Tech Park, (Borrower), No.130, 140 Raahat Plaza, Azcol Road, Vadapalani, Chennai - 600 026. (2) Mr.V. Deepak, (Partner), 27/18, G.I Krishna Colony, Nerkundrum Pattai, Vadapalani, Chennai - 600 026. Also at : Star Resort, No.5, Saitheya Sai Avenue, Kanathur, Chennai - 600 112. (3) Mr.C.N Ramesh, (Partner cum Mortgagor), 8/21, Rangiah Garden, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004. Also at : Plot No.8, New Door No.61, Old Door No.25, Avvai Nagar Main Road, Arundel Nagar, Thiruvanniyur, Chennai - 600 041.

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE TO THE BANK AS ON 31.10.2021 : Rs.3,03,21,942.09 (Rupees Three crores three lakhs twenty one thousand nine hundred forty two and paise nine only) with further interest from 01.11.2021 costs, other charges and expenses thereon.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : The building measuring about 500 Sq. ft. and land comprised in S.No.89/2 at Plot No.8, New Door No.61, Old Door No.25, Avvai Nagar Main Road, Arundel Nagar now called as Avvai Nagar, Thiruvanniyur Village, Saidapet Taluk, Chennai District measuring 2400 Sq. ft. or thereabouts. Situated within the Sub Registration District of Saidapet and within the Registration District of Chennai Central. Encumbrances on property : Nil. **TYPE OF POSSESSION :** Symbolic.

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.201.40 Lakhs Bid Increment : Rs.1,00,000/- PROPERTY ID NO. : IDI8669955797 EMD : Rs.20.14 Lakhs

SI.No.4) NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER / GUARANTOR : (1) Mrs.S. Vijayalakshmi, (Borrower), W/o R. Devanand, 2/650, "Vishwadi", 3rd Main Road, River View Enclave, Manappakkam, Chennai - 600 125. (2) Mr.R. Devanand, (Co-borrower), S/o.Ramasamy, 2/650, "Vishwadi", 3rd Main Road, River View Enclave, Manappakkam, Chennai - 600 125.

AMOUNT DUE TO THE BANK AS ON 31.10.2021 : Rs.2,98,42,949.19 (Rupees Two crores ninety eight lakhs forty two thousand nine hundred forty nine and paise nineteen only) with further interest from 01.11.2021 costs, other charges and expenses thereon.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of property being vacant Plot bearing No.16, Part A measuring about 3200 Sq. ft. in VGP Golden Beach Uthandi, Part I, situated at No.191, Uthandi Village, Sholinganallur Taluk, Kanchipuram District, comprised in Old Survey Nos.2/2B1 and 3/2B1, as per present Patta No.286/13 and as per Patta New S.No.2709, bearing Approval No.LP (MM) No.27/1975. Situated within the Registration District of South Chennai and Sub Registration District of Neelankarai. Encumbrances on property : Nil. **TYPE OF POSSESSION :** Physical.

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.180.00 Lakhs Bid Increment : Rs.50,000/- PROPERTY ID NO. : IDI86594259099 EMD : Rs.18.00 Lakhs

SI.No.5) NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER / GUARANTOR : (1) M/s.Divyashree Enterprises, (Borrower), Rep. by its Proprietor : Mr.Senthil Jothi, No.119, Velachery-Tambaram Road, Palikarasi, Chennai - 600 109. (2) Mr.Senthil Jothi, (Proprietor), No.10, Mogappair West, S and P Gardens, Nolumbar, Chennai - 600 095. (3) Mrs.Divyashree, (Mortgagor cum Guarantor), No.10, Mogappair West, S and P Gardens, Nolumbar, Chennai - 600 095.

AMOUNT DUE TO THE BANK AS ON 31.10.2021 : Rs.2,73,80,807.31 (Rupees Two crores seventy three lakhs eighty thousand eight hundred seven and paise thirty one only) with further interest from 01.11.2021 costs, other charges and expenses thereon.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : Land and Residential flat at Flt No.DG1, Block "Pandian", 1st Floor, "The Grand Palace", Ekattur Village, Kancheepuram District, having an undivided share of land of 995 Sq. ft. out of total extent of 29,063 Sq. ft. with flat having a built up area of 2651 Sq. ft. in S.No.106/4 of Patta No.388, New S.No.100/4A1B. Situated within the Sub-Registration District of Thiruppur and the Registration District of Chengalpattu. Encumbrances on property : Nil. **TYPE OF POSSESSION :** Physical.

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.90.00 Lakhs Bid Increment : Rs.50,000/- PROPERTY ID NO. : IDI864

Stalin's letter on nod to fell trees baffles KL govt

Forest minister hints there is no such decision to allow TN to cut trees near Periyar baby dam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi/TPuram

TAMIL Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin's letter thanking his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday for granting permission to cut down 15 trees near Mullaiperiyar dam to facilitate strengthening of the baby dam has created confusion in Kerala.

"I have asked the chief principal conservator of forests for a detailed report on all developments regarding this," Kerala forest minister AK Saseendran told TNIE, hinting there was no such decision as per his knowledge. He said all files concerned needed to be perused to know whether there was any official-level understandings in the past. The CM's office also pointed to the probe ordered by the forest minister. Sources in the water resources department said there was no permission from their end either.

The decision to allow TN to cut trees and strengthen baby dam will weaken Kerala's demand to construct a new dam, said activists fighting for de-commissioning of the dam. They fear the move will also weaken the case pending before the Supreme Court. The authority of the State to permit

cutting trees of in the Periyar Tiger Reserve is also questionable. "As the area is a protected tiger reserve, permission for tree felling for any non-forestry causes needs to be granted by MoEF and National Wildlife Board," said an official.

Dr Joe Joseph, the petitioner who approached the Supreme Court seeking to ensure the safety of people living in the downstream areas of Mullaiperiyar, said that strengthening the baby dam will be only a temporary solution. "While the permanent solution will be a new dam, strengthening of the baby dam will ensure the safety of people living in downstream areas. If TN limits the maximum water level at 142 feet after strengthening the baby dam, it will be a great relief. However, attempt to raise it to 152 will be dangerous as it will increase the pressure on the structure," he said.

Former water resources minister NK Premachandran MP asked Vijayan to clarify State's stand on Tamil Nadu's decision to raise the water level in the dam to 152 ft. "The CM should also reveal why he stated in the assembly that TN has shown a favourable approach to Kerala's cause in the case," said Premachandran.

Prof removed, but SC student to up protest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kottayam

FOLLOWING immense pressure from the government and various quarters, the Mahatma Gandhi University in Kottayam, Kerala on Saturday removed Prof Nandakumar Kalarikkal from his post as part of the efforts to settle the protests launched by an SC research student alleging caste discrimination from the professor.

Though removal of Prof Kalarikkal from the varsity centre was one of the two major demands of the student, the student said she would continue her indefinite hunger strike till the professor is ousted from the centre. "The statement issued by MG University is an attempt

to eyewash the public. No action has been taken against Prof Kalarikkal. I won't end the protest till the professor is ousted," she wrote on her Facebook page.

Earlier, when all mediation talks to settle the indefinite hunger strike of the research student failed to yield results, the state government came up with the assurance of its intervention in addressing the issues raised by the student. Higher Education Minister R Bindu, in her Facebook post, also warned the university au-

thorities about strict action on the part of the government if the varsity delays its decision.

"If the decision to replace the accused teacher continues to remain pending, the varsity authorities will be specifically instructed to ask the teacher to step down," she wrote.

The minister's stringent stance is also learnt to have forced the varsity authorities to expedite the action against Prof Kalarikkal. In a statement, Sabu Thomas, Vice-Chancellor of the varsity, said he would be holding the charge of

the varsity centre directly, instead of Prof Kalarikkal. This is in addition to giving her an opportunity to complete the research by exempting the additional fee and providing her the necessary infrastructure at the centre.

Meanwhile, the PhD student came down heavily against Kottayam district collector P K Jayasree, alleging that the latter scheduled a compromise talks in her chamber on Friday afternoon without considering her ill-health following hunger strike. "It was an irresponsible stance, which is to dishonour me as the collector was well aware that I was extremely weak following the hunger strike since October 29," the student wrote on her FB post.

The statement issued by MG University is an attempt to eyewash the public. No action has been taken against Prof Kalarikkal. I won't end the protest till the professor is ousted from IUCNN

The student

TTD SUSPENDS VIP BREAK DARSHAN FOR THREE DAYS

Tirupati: Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has suspended the VIP break darshan of Srivaru for three days from November 13 in view of the Southern Zonal Council meeting to be held in the temple town. The meeting, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, will be attended by chief ministers of Kerala, Puducherry, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, besides the Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Administrator of Lakshadweep on November 14. The TTD suspended the VIP break darshan on November 13, 14 and 15 to avoid any inconvenience to dignitaries. Requesting the cooperation of devotees, the TTD said in a statement that letters of recommendation for VIP break darshan would not be entertained on November 12, 13 and 14. ENS



PLANS FOR TREKKING? NOT NOW
Chamundi hill road in Mysuru, which caved in following heavy rains, seen damaged further on the weekend | UDAYSANKAR S

'MAKE IN KARNATAKA'

State to focus on manufacturing of electronic products, targets 10L jobs

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

THE State government is proposing 'Make in Karnataka', on the lines of 'Make in India', with the focus on electronic manufacturing companies. IT-BT Minister Dr Ashwath Narayan said the push to the segment is expected to generate 10 lakh jobs over the next five years.

Karnataka is known for design and development of electronics, but the stress is needed on manufacturing. The government is planning to achieve this by offering incentives and providing faster and easier clearances.

Dr Ashwath Narayan told TNIE, "Make in India, proposed by PM Narendra Modi, encourages companies to develop, manufacture and assemble products in the country. Make in Karnataka too will be part of Make in India."

The State government is pushing manufacturing of electronic products, especially semiconductors. He said, "Our State is known for startups and also design and development in the electronics sector. But when it comes to manufacturing, we are lagging. We will encourage more startups and companies to manufacture and let the state excel in that sector too. There will be a simultaneous push for the IT-BT sector."

Dr Ashwath Narayan said that at a recent meeting in New

Delhi, he proposed a conference of IT-BT ministers of all States be held in Karnataka. "If they get a platform in Karnataka to discuss and debate on the IT and ITes sectors, it will help us grow collectively," he added.

The state government is also conducting a skill demand assessment survey, which will provide data on the region-wise skill requirement, helping the government give specific training to youngsters.

A government source said Bengaluru has exceeded its limit, but IT firms still prefer the city. "We have suggested them to go beyond Bengaluru. But they either set up shop here or move to other States. We need to focus on tier-II and tier-III cities; it is not happening. No government has succeeded in this," the source added.

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After 16 months, Swapna Suresh walks out of prison

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Thiruvananthapuram

AFTER spending 16 months behind the bars, Swapna Suresh, the key accused in the sensational gold smuggling case, walked out of jail on Saturday. She had secured bail in all six cases registered by various probe agencies.

Swapna, a former employee at the UAE consulate, was released from the women's prison

in Thiruvananthapuram. The Kerala HC had granted Swapna and seven others bail on November 2 in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act case filed by the NIA on a ₹25-lakh bail bond and two solvent sureties. The HC said prima facie it did not find any terror link against them.

Swapna had been in jail since July 11, 2020, when she was arrested by the NIA from Bengaluru. The sensational case

which rocked Kerala politics was registered after the Customs department stopped a diplomatic baggage which arrived at Trivandrum International Airport from Dubai on June 30, 2020. The consignment was addressed to the UAE consulate. Later, on July 5, 2020, the Customs checked the baggage in the presence of the consulate staff and first accused P S Sarith and found 30kg of gold worth ₹14.82 crore.



PI: VINCENT PULICKAL

14 students fall ill after midday meal

Kamareddy: Fourteen students of the Mandal Parishad Primary School in Damarancha village in Telangana fell ill after their midday meal on Saturday. Kamareddy DEO K Raju stated that the students were shifted to the Government Hospital in Banswada and their condition was stable. The school has a total number of 153 students. Of them, 101 students and teachers had the midday meal. After some time, the students started vomiting. The Damarancha village sarpanch's son is also among those who have been admitted to the hospital. DEO Raju said an inquiry would be conducted into the incident. He said the midday meal agency would be changed. ENS

CLASSIFIEDS

OTHERS
ASTROLOGY
WEAR RIGHT GEMS FOR BETTER LUCK AND FORTUNE WHATSAPP 8078908087 JYOTHSHE@GMAIL.COM SANJEEV KUMAR - CERTIFIED PLANETARY GENOLOGIST, TRIVANDRUM. CLO047664

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME
NAME CHANGE
1. Mary Bridget Bretto, W/o Late M.D.A. Bretto, aged about 71 years, residing at No. 8/48, Signal Office Road, Anna Nagar, Pammal, Chennai - 600 075, I state that I was Christianised as Mary Bridget Prudent Walker. After my Marriage as per Indian Custom Community customs I have been called along with my husband's surname as Mary Bridget Bretto.
I state that Mary Bridget Prudent Walker and Mary Bridget Bretto refers to one and the same person i.e. myself.
Chennai 23.10.2021 MARY BRIDGET BRETTO

1. DHIRUV PRAJAPATI, son of Thiru Kaushik Prajapati, born on 12th October 2002 (Native District: Chennai), residing at 421, 4th Link Road, 5th Main Road, M.K.B. Nagar, Vyasapadi, Chennai-600039, shall henceforth be known as DHIRUV N. Dhiruv Prajapati. (Chennai 17th June 2021 CLO047664)

1. V.SUDHA, wife of Thiru V.Vijayakumar, born on 5th June 1986 (Native District: Kancheepuram), residing at No.299, 'G' Block, Kakkian Nagar, Besant Nagar, Chennai-600090, shall henceforth be known as V SREE SUDHA. V Sudha Chennai, 1st June 2020. CLO047698

1. DONFORD DAVID CUNNINGHAM alias CUNNINGHAM DONFORD DAVID, son of Thiru Carlton Cunningham, born on 26th February 1984 (District of Birth: Chennai), residing at No. 13A/14, D. No. AI, Bhavanai Nagar, Vivekananda Main Road, Kolathur, Chennai-600 099, shall henceforth be known as DONFORD CUNNINGHAM. D. Donford David Cunningham alias Cunningham Donford David, Chennai, 12th October 2021 CLO047665

SANJANA daughter of Suresh Kumar Gupta, resident of SHO 286/3, Madambakkam Camp, Air Force Station Tambaram, Chennai-600073, have change by name from SANJANA to SANJANA GUPTA vide Affidavit Dated 3rd Sep 2021 before Tambaram, Chennai-73. CLO047669

1. KULANDAI THERASAL/KULANDAI THERASE, W/o. Thomas, (Native Village/District: Lalugudi, Tinachirappali Dist.), residing at No.19A/VA, Veerasamy Main Street, Ayanavaram, Chennai-600023, shall henceforth be known as: KULANDAI THERASAL. Kularndai Therasal/Kulandai Therase. Chennai, 3rd November 2021 CLO047667

1. K ARUNA, W/o No 2987850A Ex Hav S Kumar R/o Plot No 6, Gate No 4, 2nd Street, Prasanth Colony, Senthil Avenue, Kamarajapuram, Sembakkam, Chennai 600073, have changed my name from K ARUNA to K ARUNA PARYATHI and my correct DOB is 16 Nov. 1973 instead of 17 Nov 1972. CLO0476848

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
O/o, THE OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR, HIGH COURT, MADRAS
"Corporate Bhavan" 2nd Floor, No. 29, Rajaji Salai, Chennai-600001.
Telephone No: 044-25271149/25271151, Fax: 044-25271152,
Website: www.olchennai.in, Email: olmadras@gmail.com
Form No.63 - Rule 148(1)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
In the matter M/s. P.S.Krishnamurthy Steels Private Limited (In Provisional Liquidation)
Company Application No.115/2021 in
Company petition No.291/2013

ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO PROVE THEIR CLAIM
Pursuant to the orders of Hon'ble High Court, Madras dated 13.08.2021 in C.A.No.115/2021 in C.P.No.291/2013, notice is hereby given to the creditors including workmen of the above named company that they are required to submit to the Official Liquidator of the court, proofs of their respective debts or claims against the above named company by delivering at the office of the Official Liquidator on or before 06.12.2021, or sending by post to the Official Liquidator so as to reach him not later than the said date, an affidavit proving the debt or claim, in the prescribed form Form No.66 (copy of the same can be downloaded at www.olchennai@mca.gov.in) duly stamped and notarized with their respective names, addresses and particulars of debt or claim, and title to priority under Section 529, 529A and 530. Any creditor who fails to submit his affidavit of proof within the time limited as aforesaid will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution of dividend before his/her debt is proved, or as the case may be, from objecting to such distribution.

Any creditor who has sent in his/her proof, if so required by notice in writing from the Official Liquidator, shall either in person or by his/her advocate, attend upon the investigation of such debt or claim at such time and place as shall be specified, in such notice and shall produce such further evidence of his debt or claim as may be required. Amended Draft put up

DATED AT CHENNAI THIS THE 2nd DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2021.
Sd/- SRIDHAR PAMARTHI, ICLS
OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR, HIGH COURT, MADRAS

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II AT CHENNAI O.A. No. 72 of 2021
Axis Bank Limited, Represented by its Manager, Mr.K.Thiyagarajan, No.17 & 18, Claret Complex, Duraisamy Reddy Street, Tambaram, Chennai - 600 045. ... Applicant

- Vs -
1. Mrs. Mary Grace Santhakumari, Daughter of Mr. Samuel Chelladurai, aged about 39 years, No.58/68, G1, Priya Vijay Castle, 8th Cross Street, Indira Nagar, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020.
2. Mrs. Joice Thavamani, Wife of Mr. Solomon, aged about 70 years, No.58/68, G1, Priya Vijay Castle, 8th Cross Street, Indira Nagar, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020.
3. M/s. Chennai Integrated Construction Company Private Limited, Represented by its Director, Mr. K. Rajendran No. 49, Mayura Apartments, Venkatrathnam Nagar, Adyar Chennai - 600020. ... Defendants

NOTICE
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Original Application bearing O.A. No. 72 of 2021, came up for hearing on 01.11.2021 before the Hon'ble Debts Recovery Tribunal - 2 at Chennai. The Hon'ble Debts Recovery Tribunal - 2 was pleased to order notice to you, the Defendant Nos.1 to 3 above named, by way of substituted service returnable by 08.12.2021. You are hereby called upon to be present before the Hon'ble Debts Recovery Tribunal - II, 8th Floor, Additional Office Building, Shashi Bhawan, Haddows Road, Chennai - 600 006, on 09.12.2021 at 11.00 a.m., either in person or through counsel, failing which, the matter will be decided in your absence.
Dated at Chennai on this the 01st day of November, 2021.
M/s. V.V. Sivakumar, Chethan Nagar & B. Kishore of Dua Associates, Advocates, Pizani Centre, Ground & 3rd floor, 32, Venkateswara Street, Nagar, Chennai 600 017. Counsel for the Applicant

Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (inStem)
(An Autonomous Institution of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India)
GKVK Post, Bellary Road, Bangalore - 560 065.
Ph:080-23666001/002. Fax: 080-23696662 (www.instem.res.in)

APPLICATIONS/NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR STEM CELL SCIENCE AND REGENERATIVE MEDICINE (inStem) BANGALORE.

Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (DBT-inStem), an Autonomous Institute of the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India was established in 2009 and is located in the GKVK Campus, Bengaluru. The Centre for Stem Cell Research (CSCR) is the clinical translational unit of inStem in partnership with and located at CMC Vellore, Tamil Nadu. inStem's core mandate is to establish collaborative research programs tackling major questions in stem cell biology and regeneration with disease relevance and translational emphasis. inStem has established well-defined thematic research structures, comprising teams of investigators to collectively address complex problems of biology in the context of tissue repair following injury and inflammation, brain disorders, cardiac disease, metabolic regulation of cell function and a dedicated programme on chemical approaches aiding discovery injury repair. Today, the institute's 15 research groups (set to grow further), operate in major thematic programs. Commitment to the development of translational capabilities through programmatic partnerships with universities, research institutes, clinicians and industry as well as the establishment of platform technologies and development of sophisticated technical capabilities, enabling endeavours across themes, are major thrusts of our efforts. inStem shares a campus and core facilities with the National Centre of Biological Sciences (NCBS, TIFR) and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platform (C-CAMP), which together comprise the Bangalore Life Science Cluster. inStem's investigators partner with international collaborators for specific projects of joint interest. Through these partnerships, the Institute has developed a strong research foundation with state-of-the-art facilities to attract investigators to its theme-driven, interconnected network of research programs. Details of inStem are available at <https://instem.res.in>.

The Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, invites applications from eminent scientists having proven scientific record in life or medical sciences with application to disease (not limited to Stem Cell Biology), and possessing research excellent leadership and administrative abilities for the post of **Director on Deputation (including short term contract)/Absorption.**

Scale of Pay and other benefits: The selected incumbent will be placed in the Level-17 (As per 7th CPC) Apex Scale: **Rs. 225000/- (Fixed)**. Other benefit/allowances shall be as per rules of Government of India applicable for appointment on deputation including Short-Term Contract/Absorption basis.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Scientists from Central/State Governments, Research Institutes, Autonomous Bodies, Government funded Research Organizations Institutes, etc.
- Holding analogous post on regular basis in the parent Department; or
- With 5 years service in post with Grade Pay of ₹ 10,000/- or 7th CPC level 14 or equivalent in the parent cadre/Department and possesses the qualification & experience as below:-

Essential:

- PhD in any life science discipline/MD/M. Tech or equivalent.
- Minimum 15 years experience of research in the area of specialization.
- An outstanding track record of research accomplishments as evidenced by excellent scientific publications, patent and awards.

Desirable:

- Experience in successfully running large programme, centre, institution.
- Experience of guiding research activities in the area of specialization.

For more details including additional desirable qualifications login to the website: www.dbtindia.nic.in or www.instem.res.in

Last date of receipt of applications/nominations in Department of Biotechnology is 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News for local candidates and 45 days for the candidates residing abroad, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Island, States/Union Territories in the North-Eastern region, Ladakh, region of J & K, Sikkim, Sub division Chamba and Lahaul and Spiti districts of Himachal Pradesh.



The ego is a fascinating monster

Alanis Morissette

EXPECTATIONS FROM WTO'S 12TH MINISTERIAL MEET

Less than four weeks, the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) will be convened in Geneva, almost 18 months after it was originally scheduled in Kazakhstan. MC12 is being organised as global trade is witnessing a sharp rebound, after a precipitous COVID-induced fall.

According to the latest WTO estimates, global trade volumes are expected to increase by almost 11 per cent in 2021 and are expected to grow at nearly 5 per cent in 2022, well above its immediate pre-COVID growth trajectory. Thus, trade has become a driver for many economies including India, compensating for the continued sluggishness in domestic demand.

Not surprisingly, therefore, expectations from the MC12 are running high as the decisions taken by the trade ministers of the WTO member states to rejig the trade rules and to agree on a work programme for the organisation will be crucial not only for the maintenance of the growth momentum of trade, but also to ensure that the economically weaker countries can partake in the benefits from trade. The question is whether MC12 can realise the crucial latter objective.

However, as MC12 is being convened, the WTO is battling a severe legitimacy crisis on several counts that are striking at its foundations. The negotiating arm of the WTO is in jeopardy, having delivered just the Agreement on Trade Facilitation since the formation of the organisation. Negotiations to rebalance the major WTO agreements, especially to factor in the needs and aspirations of developing countries,

which were being conducted under the rubric of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) since 2002, came to a virtual standstill after the economic recession in 2008. Worse still, in the Buenos Aires Ministerial Conference held in 2017, there was no consensus among members on continuing with the DDA, and recent discussions show that the development agenda is off WTO's agenda. WTO is keener to serve the interests of the dominant commercial entities and not the interests of the majority of its members, the developing countries.

Equally damaging for WTO's legitimacy was the then US President Donald Trump's move to scuttle WTO's dispute settlement mechanism, considered vital for enforcing global trade rules. President Trump had refused to join the consensus for appointing new members of the Appellate Body, without whom disputes between members cannot be resolved. Unfortunately, the Biden administration has shown no signs to reverse the previous administration's decision, leaving the future of the Appellate Body in a limbo. Clearly, the role of the WTO as an enforcer of global trade rules and to thus facilitate conduct global trade in a seamless manner, are seriously compromised in the absence of a functioning Appellate Body.

The legitimacy question facing the WTO has become even louder in the wake of the COVID pandemic when the rules of the organisation on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) became formidable barriers for equitable access to vaccines. Major pharmaceutical companies used the monopoly power granted by their IPRs to deny technology and know-how to developing countries, thus preventing production of vaccines in these countries. Large involvement of developing countries in vaccine production could not only have increased supplies, but more importantly, vaccines would have become more affordable. In October 2020, India and South Africa tabled a proposal in the WTO arguing that enforcement of several forms of IPRs must be waived during the COVID-pandemic, to facilitate access to technologies for "health products and technologies including diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines, medical devices, personal protective equipment, their materials or components."

This proposal was co-sponsored by 61 WTO members and was supported by nearly two-thirds of the membership. For several months, developed countries opposed this proposal, but after the United States broke ranks under the Biden Administration lending limited support, there were expectations that WTO members would take a collective decision to see the back of the pandemic by making COVID-related vaccines and medicines more affordable and accessible, at least by MC12. Unfortunately, this possibility seems unlikely as this critically important issue is conspicuous by its absence in the recent musings of WTO Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala on the state-of-play of negotiations in *The Economist*.

While India will be disappointed at not seeing any forward movement on its proposal to waive IPRs, can it expect any other favourable outcome? Among the issues on which there could be an agreement in MC12 is disciplining subsidies on fisheries. However, the outcome may not be what India has desired for its small fishermen. Further, India is looking for a resolution of the issue of public stockholding for food security purposes, on which the implementation of the country's public distribution system depends. The current WTO rules raise question marks over the ability of the government to provide subsidised foodstuffs through the public distribution system, which is clearly unacceptable. The Government of India has made it clear that the WTO must allow the policy space for it to continue with the public distribution system in the existing form. Surely, the trade body cannot do otherwise.

THE POLITICS OF INVERTED BINOCULARS

POINT OF VIEW

T J S GEORGE



These are times when the attitudes of the top leadership have double importance. They are vital to policymaking and they are vital in creating public confidence. In such a situation, senior leaders ought to consider what impact words would have on people

IN UP, you won't see a criminal even if you use binoculars." In India, you won't find a criminal making such a claim, but you will find politicians doing it. Hence, the amazing assertion made by India's amazing Home Minister. Are Indians as dumb as he thinks? No one needs binoculars to see how hooligans often rule the roost in UP. This has been the case for quite some time. Who can forget Raja Bhैया, described by BJP leader Kalyan Singh himself as *Kunda Ka Goonda*? Legend has it that those who opposed him were thrown into a lake in his estate; permanent residents of the lake were crocodiles.

Amrit Shah must be using special binoculars that shut out what he does not want to see. It is astonishing that the Home Minister of India thinks that Indians are stupid enough to swallow what the Government says.

There is a sinister side to this game. The way the Home Ministry uses the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) brings this out. A casual look is enough to see that the rule is: What is unacceptable to the Home Minister is unlawful. The abandon with which this Act is used against people the Government dislikes can be seen from a simple

statistic: Cases taken up under the UAPA have seen only 2 per cent conviction rate. That means the vast majority of UAPA cases are politically motivated, filed outside the scope of law.

An India Today report two years ago said 68 per cent of prisoners in India have not been convicted by any court. Forty years ago, the Supreme Court had said that the high prevalence of undertrials in jail was "a crying shame on the judicial system". It remains so.

The law lends itself to be misused. There are said to be upwards of 5,00,000 prisoners as of now, 70 per cent of them undertrials. In other words, thousands of citizens are kept in jail for years without their cases being heard and without bail. The state's ability to imprison people not convicted under due processes of law is disturbing. The situation becomes alarming when we realise that the UAPA cases can be fabricated with ease. It is a state of affairs where law turns meaningless.

Add to this, emotional — as distinct from rational — interpretations of events. Three Kashmiri students were recently arrested for celebrating Pakistan's victory in a cricket match. Worse, they were charged with treason and cyber terrorism. They were promptly suspended by their college.

The students were of course stupid. Their stand on Kashmir in the current situation is emotional, not political. Knowing that, they raised the issue to political levels. So they have no one to blame except themselves for the actions that followed. But the question that India must answer is: Did the adoption of a tough position based on "patriotism" serve the cause of India? Will the extra emphasis on patriotism have a positive impact on Kashmiri students, or will the impact be negative?

For any nation, the purpose of policy ought to be the achievement of justice for citizens and goodwill for the country. When policy leads to the loss of jus-

tice and goodwill, it ceases to be a policy beneficial to the country and becomes one reflecting a loss of perception and foresight. It is amazing that policy-makers in Delhi have not yet realised the counter-productive nature of their "tough" stand on Kashmir. Toughness must produce results that are good for the country, otherwise it can only do harm. Those who are tough for toughness' sake live in a make-believe world of their own, unaware or unconcerned of the negative impact of their actions. They hurt India.

These are times when the attitudes of the top leadership have double importance. They are vital to policymaking and they are vital in creating public confidence. In such a situation, senior leaders ought to consider what impact their words would have on the people. To say that any state in India, let alone UP, is crime-free amounts to admitting an inability to see what is crime. It also means saying in effect that people cannot distinguish between good and evil. When the Home Minister of the country makes a statement implying such things, people feel let down. There could even be a feeling of being cheated. When the most authoritative voice in the country says that criminals do not exist, how can citizens feel otherwise?

The Home Minister's binocular statement is an affront to the people of the country. Let there be no doubt about that.



OPINION
BISWAJIT DHAR
Professor,
Centre for Economic Studies
and Planning, School of Social
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LOYALISTS REWARDED BUT UP IS DOWN IN WESTERN U.P.



POWER & POLITICS

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More hype than productive diplomacy

Governance through disruption is interruption through intention. From Day One, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been re-defining and re-structuring almost every institution dealing directly with governance. Out with the Planning Commission. Change the composition of important Cabinet Committees. Distribute unconnected portfolios to ministers. However, South Block mandarins had hoped that he would leave alone the MEA's seven decades of institutional monopoly. Last week, diplomat-turned-politico S Jaishankar, with the least experience in domestic politics but most experienced in getting plum postings, was seen not merely as part of Modi's foreign entourage but also sticking closely to the PM's heels. Unlike previous FMs like Sushma Swaraj and Yashwant Sinha who were rarely part of Vajpayee's or Modi's delegations, the poker-faced Jaishankar is omnipresent. Another tradition was trashed by including the foreign secretary in most of Modi's diplomatic sojourns. Only the EAM or the territorial secretary had that honour before; the EAM joined only when the PM visited countries under his direct suzerainty. For decades, what was called the collegium system of all secretaries in MEA handling autonomous divisions and re-

porting directly to the FM prevailed. This changed drastically when Jaishankar became Foreign Secretary barely three days before retirement. He became the single window access to the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister, and dismantled the previous system. He and NSA Ajit Doval are ever present in Modi's team. Since Jaishankar had established a close rapport with Modi during his China and US visits where the deadpan diplomat was ambassador, the PM gave him the corner room. The ex-foreign secretary became indispensable, thanks to his familiarity with the mannerisms of foreign diplomats but has hardly their substance. He has rarely spoken on foreign policy to a domestic political audience. He exploits his close contacts with international think tanks to fly above BJP leaders and IFS babus. His monopoly over the diplomatic discourse has substantially reduced political inputs in diplomacy. Many apparatchiks in the Foreign Office have begun to notice that their boss's counterparts treat him lukewarmly. What this means is India's flagging and often caught on the wrong foot diplomacy, crafted by a file pusher. It needs a Modi mojo.

No longer a missing link

The PMO is in a constant state of evolution. The Prime Minister loves new experiments and devising new rules of governance. The 47-member strong PMO has seen many structural changes since 2014. It has always been dominated by retired civil servants who are chosen for their inside and extensive knowledge about governance. Recently, Amit Khare, who retired as Secretary, Higher Education and I&B, was appointed as the second Advisor to the PM with Secretary rank - the other being Bhaskar Kulbe. Previously, three PMO officials enjoyed Cabinet rank but now there are only two including the NSA. But Khare's role is being closely watched. Since the implementation of

the New Education Policy and media guidelines for digital and electronic media are the top priority, Khare with his affable and accessible nature is expected to be the link between the media and the PM. Modi has refrained from appointing a media advisor and gave media management to trusted but intrusively mannered aides from Gujarat. Khare is likely to be Modi's ears and eyes which can reduce the trust deficit between the PMO and the press.

Never tired or retired

Despite hounding and arrest by investigative agencies, Indian bankers see some light at the end of the tunnel in the form of a superstar who is the darling of every government and hogs both the limelight and power. He neither tires nor retires. While there is an age bar on almost all government positions, he is evergreen. Former banker Kundapur Vaman Kamath, 73, was recently appointed the Chairperson of the newly created National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID). Ever since he graduated from IIM-Ahmedabad in 1971, Kamath's upwards trajectory has been smooth. On the verge of retirement, the government of the day gives him a better job. Kamath began as a junior management official at ICICI. He left in 1988 to join Manila-based Asian Development Bank and returned as ICICI's MD and CEO in 1996. He leveraged his charm and connections with the Mumbai's corporate leaders to convert the institution into a bank. Their patronage ensured his continuance at the bank's helm till 2009. It was during his tenure that one of India's biggest banks became what was later termed "Indian owned Foreign Bank" sans formal government approval. Kamath enjoyed the distinction of retaining the non-executive chairmanship of ICICI and Infosys chairmanship simultaneously. In 2015 when his Infosys term expired, Modi chose him to head the new-

ly created BRICS Development Bank based in Shanghai. After serving his five-year term, he was appointed to lead important panels in the financial sector. Since he has always kept a low profile, Kamath hasn't faced much public scrutiny. At BRICS Bank, he was expected to deliver wonders by raising massive funds. According to latest reports, the Bank had committed \$15 billion to various infrastructure development projects. But by the end of December 2019, only 10 per cent (\$1.5 billion) was disbursed. At his sunset age, Kamath has been tasked to deploy ₹20,000 crore to revive India's fund-starved infra sector. To ensure speedy disbursement NaBFID funds, the new DFI is insulated against scrutiny by CAG or investigation by CBI or ED. His peers in the banking system are hoping for similar privileges. However, Kamath is considered the banker for all seasons and causes since he has been a director of international companies dealing in pharma, oil and IT while serving the boards of many academic institutions.

A heartland warning

As the countdown for the Uttar Pradesh elections begins, pollsters are hyperactive in predicting the outcome. Since various agencies have unofficially banned opinion polls, parties have hired their own agencies to assess their prospects. A current survey predicts the BJP winning a maximum of 245 seats if there is no further erosion of caste support in its ranks. The poll also indicates that over a dozen ministers would lose. It concludes that the BJP can break the jinx of no party getting a second term since 1989, thanks to Yogi Adityanath's forceful, clean and staunch image. The study indicates that the party would suffer huge losses in western UP by getting less than 30 seats out of 75. This means the farmers' fury is making a huge dent even as the leadership remains blind to the possibility.



QUOTE CORNER

It is not a secret that COP26 is a failure. It should be obvious that we cannot solve a crisis with the same methods that got us into it in the first place. We need immediate drastic annual emission cuts unlike anything the world has ever seen.

Greta Thunberg, climate activist



Let there be no doubt that triggering Article 16 to seek the negotiation of the Protocol would have serious consequences. Serious for Northern Ireland and serious also for the EU-UK relations in general.

Maros Sefcovic, European Commission vice-president

This (UK) government has done a number of things that have concerned me deeply: they have broken the law, the prorogation of Parliament. They have broken treaties... They have broken their word on many occasions.

Sir John Major, former British prime minister

MAILBAG

Fuel price and election

This refers to "Fuel price cut in consonance with national mood" (November 6). It requires an election defeat for the BJP government led by PM to cut fuel tax to the extent of ₹6 on petrol and ₹10 on diesel. Thanks to assembly elections slated next year, the oil companies would most probably keep the daily price increase on hold as they did during the last assembly elections of course at the behest of the ruling party in Delhi. PM Modi has often been touting "One Nation One Pool" and voters need be wary if this ever becomes a reality which means the fuel price would be cut only once in five years unlike now which aligned to elections at various points of time.

TN student at COP26

At the age of 14, Vinisha Umashankar from Tamil Nadu is an active environmentalist who means

business. Coming from a teenager, her words at Glasgow COP26 on climate change "I am not just from India, I am from Earth" assume utmost significance. She said the world leaders should stop making empty promises and start acting on controlling carbon emission.

Net-zero emission

This has reference to the news "COP26 a Failure: Thunberg". Though pessimism should not be the attitude, what young green activists Greta Thunberg and Earthshot Prize winner Vinisha Umashankar from Tamil Nadu, India (who innovated solar-powered laundry iron box) expressed are a reality. After 25 climate summits, the 26th one also have no solid agenda for net zero carbon emissions except assurances by fixing 2040, 2050, etc as deadlines by major carbon emitters the US, China, India. The world leaders should have come to the conference with minimum preparation on what their countries will start taking steps right now after their return to their capitals. They did not

even say they would take steps for tree planting immediately. As the protestors said in Glasgow, it is only greenwashing their failures.

Actions speak louder

In poll-bound Uttarakhand, PM hails rishi tradition. Undoubtedly, in the run up to the Assembly elections, BJP is going full throttle in promotion exercise. However there are pressing issues such as climate induced catastrophes especially in Uttarakhand which calls for immediate attention. Holy trips, for now, ought to be kept on a backburner. Moreover, the reply from Centre is not forthcoming on snooping charges. Political campaigning is natural for political parties but can it camouflage the failures of ruling dispensation? Recent by poll results speaks otherwise.

Pvt broadcasters move SC

It is real shocking that television broadcasters have moved the Supreme Court against the TRAI deci-

sion to cap the channel price in bouquets at ₹12 from December 1, 2021. In fact, when the set top boxes were introduced, the TRAI had fixed a cap of ₹5 per channel and the customers had the privilege to choose the channels they wish to see. But the cable operators came out with their own packages, with a minimum of ₹130 per month, which included all local language channels plus news channels and one or two sports channels. This while customers need to shell out more for extra channels.

Unfair to bankers

The arrest of former SBI chairman Partip Chaudhuri in Rajasthan with charges of surreptitious sale of Garh Rajwada hotel assets, a NPA account with the bank at a lower price than its market value as alleged by directors of the hotel now in a protest petition has sent shock waves among all the banking fraternity. Reopening of the case which is a matter of close scrutiny for any underhand connivance with the police.

Brij B Goyal, Ludhiana



Army soldiers during an exercise near Arunachal border with China | FILE

Cong tells PM to withdraw 'clean chit' to China

Says recent Pentagon report claimed PLA entered 4.5km into Arunachal Pradesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

CITING a Pentagon report that claims China has entered 4.5 km into Arunachal Pradesh, the Congress on Saturday sought an apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and asked him to withdraw his "clean chit" to China that no one has entered into the Indian territory.

The Congress said that Chinese intrusion has now been confirmed by the Pentagon to the US Congress in its annual report and that the villages across the border are of dual-use that have not only civilian population but also act as cantonment for the Chinese army.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said in June 2020, BJP MP in Arunachal Pradesh Tapir Gao had written to the prime minister and the home minister warning them of the transgressions made by China into Indian territory.

He said the prime minister and the home minister denied the transgressions and it has been 17 months since PM Modi gave a clean chit to China and

he must give answers and give deadlines on when there will be status quo ante as on April 2020 on all our borders with the neighbouring country.

"That clean chit is a dark chapter in our history because it was used by China across the world. China was emboldened by this clean chit, not just in Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh but also in Uttarakhand, where PLA entered and destroyed our infrastructure," he said.

Calling it a very serious issue and seeking an apology for "misleading" the country, he said: "The prime minister must withdraw his clean chit given to China and give a deadline to the nation and tell when the status quo ante of April 2020 be restored across all our borders with China, whether it is Depsang, Gogra Hot Springs, Daulat Beg Oldie or Arunachal Pradesh."

Indian and Chinese troops have been in an eyeball-to-eyeball situation in eastern Ladakh since April 2020 and even entered into a bloody clash in which many soldiers were killed.



We need answers, we need deadlines, we need dates and we need an apology for misleading the world that China has not entered our territory — Pawan Khera, Congress spokesperson

'Priyanka's poll promises too late'



Priyanka Gandhi addresses 'Congress Pratigya Rally' in Gorakhpur | FILE

She is making right noises but she started reaching out to people very late. In a state with multi-corner contests, Congress with no organisation has few chances

Senior Congress leader

RICHA SHARMA @New Delhi

FROM holding town hall with women to taking out *padayatra* and giving freebies to women voters, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is making all the noise but many in the party and opposition camps feel she started too late and this won't be enough to woo the voters in the poll-bound Uttar Pradesh.

Party leaders are of the view that Priyanka has been focusing on Uttar Pradesh off late with an eye on the women voters but this is unlikely to provide any electoral gains. The party won just seven seats in the 2017 UP Assembly elections with a vote share of 6.5 per cent while it won only one seat — Rae Bareilly held by Sonia Gandhi — in Lok Sabha elections.

"She is making the right noises and has announced several women-related sops in UP but she started reaching out to people very late. In a state with multi-corner contests and highly polarised elections, the Congress with no organisation has few chances to gain," said a

Row over live telecast of rituals from Kedarnath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Dehradun

OPPOSITION parties, including the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party, have criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "violating tradition" by live telecast of him performing rituals in the sanctum sanctorum of Kedarnath temple.

Ganesh Godiyal, state Congress president said, "Taking pictures and telecasting live from the sanctum sanctorum of Kedarnath temple are prohibited as per traditions. The prime minister has insulted the tradition. It seems as if he thinks he is bigger than Baba

Kedarnath but there can be no one above Baba."

Modi visited Kedarnath shrine on November 5, a day after Diwali, and unveiled a statue of Adi Guru Shankaracharya besides inaugurating projects worth ₹130 crore.

"The visit was another political tourism by him (PM). People of Uttarakhand had high expectations from him but all he gave them was a big disappointment. Uttarakhand suffered 80 deaths in devastating rains last month. The PM did not utter a single word on that," added Godiyal.

Col (Retd) Ajay Kothiyal,

chief minister candidate of the AAP for Uttarakhand raised five questions to the PM.

"Listening to the PM seemed as if he is on election tour and not visiting Baba Kedarnath. He just repeated old promises and said nothing about recent deluge the state suffered. He should answer to the people," said Kothiyal.

In July this year, the state had decided not to broadcast rituals from the Char Dham shrines. Officials had time and again reiterated that the government doesn't want to interfere in the affairs of the four popular shrines.



PM Narendra Modi offers prayers inside Kedarnath temple on Friday | EXPRESS

Crores spent but Indian cities are still gas chambers

KUMAR VIKRAM @New Delhi

WHILE many parts of the country recorded alarming air pollution, government data discloses that the Centre has spent substantial amounts to tackle the menace but all of it appears to have come to naught.

The Centre sanctioned nearly ₹515 crore under the National Clean Air Programme for 2020-21 and 2021-22. Besides, ₹4,400 crore was released during 2020-21 as per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission to tackle air pollution in 42 cities.

An amount of ₹290 crore was allocated under the NCAP and ₹152.73 crore was released in 2020-21 for expansion of monitoring network, construction and demolition waste management facilities, non-motorised transport infrastructure, green buffers, mechanical street sweepers, composting units, etc. For 2021-22 an allocation of ₹225 crore was made.

The Centre launched the NCAP in January 2019 for pan-India implementation to reduce air pollution levels across the country. The tentative national level target of 20-30% reduction

of PM2.5 and PM10 concentration by 2024 is envisaged under the NCAP. Under the NCAP, 124 non-attainment cities have been identified across the country based on the air quality data from 2014-18.

Apart from these, there are many schemes that also focus on tackling air pollution. About ₹7,365.82 crore was allocated for solid waste management under the Urban Swachh Bharat Mission during 2014-2019. Besides, a provision of ₹1,41,678 crore for 2021-2026 has been made for Urban Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0.

CONSERVATION Rivers to get focus during Azadi events

PARVEZ SULTAN @New Delhi

UNDER the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Union Culture Ministry is organising various activities to highlight the importance of rivers and ensure people's participation in their protection and rejuvenation.

Union Tourism and Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy said rivers shouldn't be seen separately and it is our collective responsibility to protect them.

"For Swachh Ganga (clean Ganga), every year Ganga Utsav is held and the central government is making efforts to ensure people's participation in the initiative. Under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, we want to work on all rivers in the country and make people aware of that. People should keep the rivers clean and protect them. To set the scene for this, different programmes are being planned," informed the minister on the sidelines of an event — Ganga Utsav 2021 — to mark the anniversary of announcement of Ganga as the 'National River'.

The minister further said PM Modi believes that Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav shouldn't only be the government's event but people's movement.



EXPRESS READ

5 workers die inhaling toxic gas at pharma unit near Gandhinagar

Ahmedabad: Five workers died after inhaling toxic gas while cleaning an underground tank at a pharmaceutical unit in Gujarat's Gandhinagar district on Saturday, an official from the fire department said. The incident occurred at an effluent treatment plant of the pharmaceutical unit in Kalol taluka in the afternoon, chief fire officer of Gandhinagar Mahesh Mod said. "As the plant was shut today, the management had decided to clean the tank, which stores the factory's liquid waste before it is sent for treatment. Although there was hardly any liquid waste in the tank, the workers were unaware about the presence of toxic gas inside it," Mod said.

'USE TECHNOLOGY TO ADDRESS DELAY IN DISPOSAL OF CASES'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

EXPRESSING concern over the delay in disposal of criminal cases, Supreme Court Judge Justice DY Chandrachud opined that technology is capable of addressing certain issues that delays disposal of criminal cases.

Justice Chandrachud suggested that technology can play a vital role, especially in cases where accused person is absconding or official witnesses absenting themselves, and emphasised that time has come to

make recording of evidence by official witnesses a rule as opposed to exception.

"I do believe we have answers in technology. One of the key initiatives which the E-Committee of the Supreme Court is now adopting is to ensure that we are able to tap and monitor those cases in which the accused are absconding. We must tap them at the level of police station and at the level of every district. We can then escalate it to the DGP of the state concerned," he said.

Justice Chandrachud was speaking at the inauguration

of Model Virtual Courtrooms in the districts of Angul and Nayagarh, Odisha.

"We have to ensure that we bridge the digital divide for the members of the Bar by providing them resources. Those resources can be provided under the one-stop facility of providing e-seva Kendra in every district court," he added.

"Technology, let us emphasise it to make life simpler and to make us more responsive. It is with this initiative in our mind that we take these baby steps which will go a long way in making justice speedy and more transparent," he said.



Arunachal to showcase its first village on China border through documentary

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Gowahati

ARUNACHAL Pradesh will showcase its first village on Chinese border to the world through a documentary.

As a part of the year-long and country-wide celebrations — Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav — of the 75th year of Indian Independence, the northeast state's BJP government is organising a programme at Kaho village in

Anjaw district on Sunday. Official sources said a 12-member team from the Department of Information, Public Relations and Printing had left for Kaho from state capital Itanagar on Friday morning. They will reach Kaho, 580 km east of Itanagar by road, on Sunday morning.

"The team has left for Kaho for the purpose of giving publicity to the place. This is the

first village from China border in Anjaw district," the department's director Dasher Teshi told this newspaper.

Not many people know about Kaho and that is the whole purpose behind the publicity drive, the official said.

For the record, 11 Arunachal districts share their border with China and each has its first village on the international border.

"The team will film the programme. It will also make a documentary on the village and the locals who belong to Meyor tribe. We will show it to people who do not know much about Kaho," Teshi said.

Kaho is one of the seven villages of Kibithoo Block where river Lohit divides the picturesque region. According to the 2011 census, it has a population of only 65 residents and a

literacy rate of 64.15 per cent. A similar event was organised at Dipa village in the state's Lower Siang district recently. In present day Arunachal, the national flag was first hoisted at Dipa on August 15, 1947.

The place also assumes significance as several locals had taken part in the freedom movement. Their services were acknowledged at the event, Teshi added.



SOFT POWER

'Sidhu spreading misinformation'

Punjab advocate general says state Cong chief trying to gain political advantage over rivals

HARPREET BA JWA @ Chandigarh

PUNJAB Advocate General APS Deol launched a scathing attack at state Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu for spreading misinformation to gain a political advantage over his political colleagues and accused him of obstructing the functioning of the state government and the AG office.

Sidhu had been demanding that Deol should resign for representing former DGP Sumedh Singh Saini and suspended JGP Paramraj Singh Umaranangal, both accused in the 2015 sacrilege and police firing cases.

Deol slammed Sidhu for repeated utterances that seek to derail the earnest efforts of the state to ensure justice in the



'drugs matter' and the sacrilege cases. A statement issued by Advocate General Deol read, "Navjot Singh Sidhu is spreading misinformation to gain political advantage over his political colleagues. There is a concerted attempt by vested interests to malign the functioning of the Congress party in view of coming elections in Punjab for their selfish political gain by politicising the constitutional office of the Advocate-General of Punjab."

A senior advocate of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, APS Deol was appointed as the AG in September after Atul Nanda resigned. Nanda quit after the former CM Amarinder Singh resigned as Punjab Chief Minister. This is reportedly for the first time that a serving AG has come out with a public statement against the leader of the ruling party.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi said that action would be taken against all the guilty responsible for the sacrilege of the *Guru Granth Sahib* as the investigations of SIT are already on the fast and right track.

Congress chief visits Faridkot gurdwara

Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu visited Burj Jawahar Singh Wala gurdwara in Faridkot from where a copy of the *Guru Granth Sahib* was stolen in 2015 and said that those involved be given exemplary punishment. "Ardas at Gurudwara saheb Burj Jawahar Singh wala, Bargari ... Praying for exemplary punishment for those involved in the sacrilege of *Guru Granth Sahib* Ji ... should be a deterrent for generations to come!" Sidhu said in a tweet.

RTI REPLY

PMO says no record on plea for renaming Khel Ratna

EIAZ KAISER @ Raipur

THE Prime Minister's Office did not have any information on requests PM Narendra Modi has received ahead of the government's decision to rename the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award after legendary hockey player Major Dhyani Chand, revealed an RTI reply.

In response to the query filed under the Right to Information by a Chhattisgarh-based RTI applicant Uchit Sharma, the PMO said there is no such information available on record. Not satisfied with the response, the applicant has moved the Central Information Commission (CIC).

"The documents related to the matter in question were looked into, inspected. The details sought are beyond the purview of the definition of the 'information' under the RTI Act. The public authority is bound to provide only that information which is available and accessible on record. So, no information can be provided to you on the given issue," stated the PMO's written response to Sharma after he filed the first appeal.

The Director and first appellate authority in PMO, Amrik Singh, also rejected the activist's assertion to penalize the public information officer. "Such a plea is not accepted at the level of first appeal. And it needs to be produced before the CIC," Singh added.

Sharma objected to the manner in which the hearing of the first appeal was conducted, calling it "unfair". The applicant contended that the decision given by the authority, designated for the first appeal, was "one-sided" as neither was he informed nor invited to attend the hearing along with the central public information officer of PMO before arriving at the conclusion.

"My simple question was not properly addressed. I just wish to know after the PM's tweet on getting many requests from the citizens to rename the highest sports honour Khel Ratna Award after Major Dhyani Chand," Sharma said.



A crowd at a roadways bus stand on the occasion of 'Bhai Dooj' in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, on Saturday | PTI

FESTIVAL FRENZY

J&K: Search operation for terrorists extended to Rajouri's forest area

SRINAGAR: The main road connecting Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri to Thanamandi was briefly closed for traffic on Saturday as security forces extended the ongoing search for a group of terrorists to the Khabla forest following information about their suspected movement in the area, officials said.

The counter-insurgency operation in Surankote and Mendhar forest in Poonch district and Thanamandi in Rajouri district entered the 27th day on Saturday. While the operation to track down the terrorists in the forest belt of Poonch-Rajouri was underway, the security forces received information about the suspected movement of terrorists in the vast forest area of Khabla along the Mughal Road in the early hours of Saturday, the officials said.

An operation was jointly launched by the Army and the police in the forest area of Khabla but there was no contact with the suspected terrorists, they said. In view of the operation, the traffic on the Rajouri-Thanamandi road was suspended as a precautionary measure for the safety of commuters, the officials said.

Nine soldiers, including two Junior Commissioned Officers



(JCOs), were killed in two separate encounters with the terrorists on the first day of the search operation in Surankote forest on October 11 and in Mendhar forest on October 14. A Pakistani terrorist, Zia Mustafa, who was shifted from Kot Bhalwal Central Jail, Jammu to Mendhar on police request for questioning in connection with the operation, was killed when the security personnel accompanying him to identify a hideout in the Bhatti Durrian forest in Mendhar came under fire from the hiding terrorists on October 24.

CPM increases vote share in Bengal bypolls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

IN the by-elections in four Assembly constituencies in West Bengal, the CPI(M), the key stakeholder of the Left Front, performed better comparing to the recent Assembly elections but the ally parties continued to suffer sharp fall in their vote shares.

When the CPI(M) candidate's vote share was 19.57 per cent in the by-poll in Shantipur constituency, which was nearly 15 per cent higher than the performance in the 2021 Assembly polls, LP's other allies like Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) and Forward Bloc (FB) failed to stop erosion in their vote bank.

In Gosaba, RSP bagged only

1.66 per cent votes when 2.49 electorates had kept their faith on the party in the recent Assembly polls. Similarly, in Cooch Behar's Dinhat, once a stronghold of the FB, the LF ally got only 2.79 votes in the by-poll which was 0.3 per cent less than in the recent Assembly polls. Both the allies lost their deposit in the by-polls and TMC bagged all four seats.

The CPI(M) gave a tooth a nail fight to the BJP in Shantipur, the constituency in Nadia district, dominated by the followers of Hindu religious sect Matuas, which was won by the BJP in the recent Assembly elections. Matuas, comprising the Hindu refugees from Bangladesh once known to be Congress's vote-bank who switched

loyalty to the TMC before changing allegiance to the BJP in the 2018 LS elections.

In Dinhat, FB led as former leader Kamal Guha's son Udayan, who was elected on FB ticket in 2011, shifted his political allegiance to the Trinamool Congress before the 2016 Assembly polls. The BJP bagged the seat in 2021 but failed to retain the seat in the bypoll.

"The FB's vote-bank shifted to the TMC following Udayan's defection to the ruling party in 2016. A chunk of it showed its allegiance to the BJP which won Dinhat with a razor thin margin of 57 votes in the assembly polls. But our party managed to bring back the electorate to its fold in the by-election," said a TMC leader.

EX-CHIEFS SPAR

The rift in BJP Bengal unit surfaced on Saturday after its national vice-president Dilip Ghosh hit out at former Meghalaya governor Tathagata Roy, asking him as to why he wasn't leaving the party if he was so upset. Ghosh's attack came over Roy's recent series of criticism of the party's 'style of functioning'. In a series of tweets, Roy attacked some of the national and state leaders for the party's poor show in the Assembly polls. Incidentally, both Roy and Ghosh are former presidents of the state BJP unit.

'We will gouge out eyes and cut arms'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chandigarh

HARYANA Bharatiya Janata Party Member of Parliament Arvind Sharma on Saturday threatened to "gouge out the eyes and cut off the arms" of anyone who opposed his party colleague and former state minister Manish Grover.

Addressing a public meeting in Rohtak, Sharma credited the BJP's win in the Rohtak Lok Sabha seat to Grover. "There is

no doubt that the Lok Sabha seat of Rohtak was won due to efforts of Manish Grover. Also the Congress should listen to one more thing, if anyone dares to eye Grover, we will take out the eyes and chop of the hands and will not leave that person."

Sharma also said the Congress would "run in circles for 25 years" while the BJP, in power after stitching an alliance with Dushyant Chautala's JJP following the 2019

election, ruled.

Grover was among the BJP leaders who were gheraoed by angry farmers on Friday while inside a temple in Killoi vil lage in Rohtak district. The farmers were angry at Grover for calling the farmers as "jobless alcoholics" and "bad elements" intent on prolonging the protests against the farm laws.

The BJP leader and others were stuck inside the temple for nearly eight hours, after which Grover was seen outside with folded hands.



Ayodhya Diwali lights set fifth Guinness record

On the night of Diwali, temple town of Ayodhya, clinched another world record, the fifth in a row, when the main Saryu ghat got illuminated with nearly 9.5 lakh diyas in one go, going into the annals of history as a fifth consecutive Guinness World Record for the largest display of oil lamps, at Ram Ki Paldi. An official adjudicator along with the team from Guinness World Records was present in Ayodhya on the Diwali eve. The official certificate declaring the world record was handed over to the district. A drone helped count the exact number of lamps at 9,41,551. The chants of Jai Shri Ram reverberated the ambience.



NAMITA BAJPAL
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in Uttar Pradesh
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LUCKNOW DIARY

Direct benefits transfer scheme for uniforms launched

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday formally launched the direct benefits transfer (DBT) scheme for the purchase of school uniforms, sweaters, shoes, socks, and school bags for 1.6 crore government and aided school children. Under the scheme — aimed at eliminating middlemen and quality issues which erupt almost every other year — the government will transfer ₹1,100 to Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts of parents of each child enrolled in state-run and aided schools. The scheme will include students from Classes I to VIII across the state. Of the total amount, ₹600 is for two sets of uniforms, ₹200 for a sweater, ₹125 for a pair of shoes and two pair of socks, and ₹175 for a school bag. The parents/guardians can buy the items from wherever they wish to.

Annapurna idol brought from Canada

The union government has reclaimed an ancient idol of goddess Annapurna from Mackenzie art Gallery of Regina University in Canada. The idol, which is said to have been stolen from Varanasi nearly 100 years ago, will be handed over to the UP government on November 11 at a grand function in New Delhi. The UP government, in turn will organise a massive 'Shobha Yatra', spanning over four days (November 11 to November 14), all the way from Delhi to Varanasi. The idol will be placed at Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi after performing a 'Pran Pratishtha' on November 15.



Three-day Kali Puja by Bengali community

Amid Diwali festivities in Lucknow, a three-day Kali Puja organised by the Bengali community began in the City of Nawabs with 'bodhan puja' and cultural nights to mark 'Bhoot Chaturdash' went under way on Wednesday. The celebrations continued till early on Friday when the worshippers of the Kali goddess kept fast for the day and ended it after the puja after midnight. Annakoot was organised on the day of Bhai Dooj on the Kali Bari premises. This puja is performed to remember how Maa Kali went in rage after killing Mahishasur and began killing many other demons. Lord Shiva himself lied down on her way to calm her.



CHENNAI ASSET RECOVERY DEPARTMENT,
"STAR HOUSE", Fourth Floor, No. 30, Errabalu Street,
Chennai - 600 001. Ph:6677 7461/468/462. Fax: 6677 7460.
E-mail:AssetRecovery.Chennai@bankofindia.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 CUM NOTICE TO BORROWERS/GUARANTORS

SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002 (hereafter referred to as Act) r/w SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 (hereafter referred to as Rules) Pursuant to the Notice issued U/S 13(2) of the above Act, the Symbolic Possession of the below mentioned properties were taken on behalf of the Bank of India, by the Authorised officer of the Bank.

Whereas the Authorised officer of the Bank has decided to sell the property described herein below on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis under rules 6 & 9 of the said Act, through public auction.

Borrower/s & Guarantor/s Name & Address / Branch Name:	Total Due + Interest from
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SI.No.1)BORROWERS:(i) M/s.Auro Mira Bio Energy Pudukkottai India Ltd. (Principal Borrower), "Woodhead Centre", 3rd Floor, No.23, Sivaganga Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600034. (ii) Mr. Perumal Bhaskar, No.49, Lakshmi Haya Grever Nagar, 1st Cross Street, Adambakkam, Chennai-600088. (iii) Mr. Mayank Sharma, D-18, Nirmohi City Bandhahala, Ajmer Road, Jaipur-302024. (iv) Mr. Manikandan Karunakaran, No-54, Avvai Street, Makkarathottam, Kolathur, Chennai-600099. (v) M/s. Auro Mira Energy Company Pvt Ltd (Guarantor), Room No.25, Doran Complex, First Floor, 37, Damodaran Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Branch Name: Chennai Asset Recovery Branch	Amount Due: Rs.9,02,49,114.14+ interest from 15.09.2014 with monthly rests, costs, charges, etc. Present Outstanding: Rs.19,66,29,155/- + 12% p.a. simple interest from 31.10.2021 with monthly rests, costs and charges etc.,
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DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Schedule of Property (to be sold as a single lot): (a) Leasehold rights belonging to the principal borrower on all that piece and parcel of land known as Plot No.5-A & 6-A in the SIPCOT industrial Complex at Pudukkottai within the village limits of Thiruvengaval Taluk, Illupur Sub-Registration District of Annavaasal in Pudukkottai Revenue District containing by admeasurement 22.21 acres bearing survey Nos 5/part, 6/part, 16/part and 17/part and bounded by North: Plot No.4-A, South: Plot No.7-A, East: SIPCOT road and 18 meter wide, West: Private Lands. (b) Leasehold rights belonging to the principal borrower on all that piece and parcel of land known as Plot No.9B/3, Part 2 in the SIPCOT industrial Complex at Pudukkottai within the Village limits of Thiruvengaval Taluk, Illupur Sub-Registration District of Annavaasal in Pudukkottai Revenue District containing by admeasurement of 1.00 acre bearing survey Nos 4/part and 5/part and bounded by North: Plot No.9-B/3 (part 1), South: Plot No. 9-B/3 (part 3), East:SIPCOT Road, West: Parambakkulam. **Physical Possession within the Bank.**

Reserve Price:Rs.162.50 lakhs	EMD:Rs.16,25,000/-	Bid Increment Amount: Rs.50,000/-
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Borrower/s & Guarantor/s Name & Address / Branch Name:	Total Due + Interest from
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SI.No.2)BORROWERS:Mr. Suri Babu S.No. 56/65, Kamarajar Street,Tejnampet, Chennai-600018. GUARANTOR: Mr.T.Lokesh Rao, No. 15/7,Venkatarathinam Street, Tejnampet, Chennai-600018. Branch Name:Thousand Light Branch	Amount Due: Rs.20,79,102/- + interest from 01.01.2018 with monthly rests, costs, charges, etc. Present Outstanding:Rs.32,09,135.81 + 7.55% p.a. interest from 08.08.2021 with monthly rests, costs and charges etc.,
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DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Schedule of Property: Residential Flat No. F1 situated at First Floor, Gayatri Flats, plot No.53, Senbaga Nagar, Korattur, Chennai 600099, with a built-up area of 650 sqft and UDS of 250 sq.ft. of land out of 2400 sq.ft. comprised in Survey No. 664/4 and 665/2B, New Survey No. 665/2B13 of Korattur Village Taluk, Thiruvallur District and bounded on the North:24 feet Road, South:Plot No.57, East:Plot No.54, West:Plot No.52 and situated within the Registration District of Central Chennai and Sub-Registration District of Villivakkam. **Physical Possession within the Bank.**

Reserve Price:Rs.14,00,000/-	EMD:Rs.1,40,000/-	Bid Increment Amount: Rs.50,000/-
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Borrower/s & Guarantor/s Name & Address / Branch Name:	Total Due + Interest from
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SI.No.3)BORROWERS:(1)M/s Nathans Foundations Private Limited,Door No. 18, Arulambal Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600 017.(2)Mr. K.V. Sankaralingam,S/o. K.R.Viswanathan, (3)Mrs.S. Sanitha, W/o. K.V. Sankaralingam, both are residing at: 49/86, Bazuliah Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600 017. (4)Mr. S. Sekar, S/o. K.R.Viswa nathan, No.94D, Thiruvalluvar Main Road,Keelkatalai, Chennai-600 117. Branch Name: Chennai Asset Recovery Branch	Amount Due: Rs.2,45,16,064.56 + interest from 30.06.2017 with monthly rests, costs, charges, etc. Present Outstanding:Rs.3,59,16,814.65 + interest from 31.10.2021 with monthly rests, costs and charges etc.,
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DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Schedule of Property:(a) All that piece and parcel of 637 sq.ft.(12.5% share of UDS in the total land measuring an extent of 5103 sq.ft., together with flat constructed thereon bearing Flat No.F-9 (South West), 4th floor with built up area of 1161 sq.ft. in the building known as "Nathan's Shridhana" Situated at Nos.182 & 182/1, & New Nos. 48 & 50, North Usman Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600 017 and comprised in prt of Survey No.96/1 Town Survey Nos.6798/3 & 6799/1 in Block No.106 of Theyagaraya Nagar Village, Mambalam- Guindy Taluk, Chennai District and bounded on the North by: The property comprised in T.S.Nos.6799/1 and 6798/2 of T. Nagar, South by: The property comprised in T.S.Nos.6800 and 6801/2, East by: North Usman Road, (Block No.1025), West by: The property comprised in T.S.Nos 6798/1 of T. Nagar.

Reserve Price:Rs.152.00 Lakhs	EMD:Rs.15,20,000/-	Bid Increment Amount: Rs.50,000/-
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Schedule of Property (b): All that piece and parcel of 3785 sq.ft of land together with a separate house building thereon having 825 sq.ft built up are situated at S.V Farms, Puthur Road, Thiruvancheri, Chennai-600092, and comprised in Survey No.3/1A4B2 (part) Thiruvancheri Village, Tambaram Taluk, Kancheepuram District and bounded on the North by:Lands in S.Nos.23/A1B in 3/1A4A and 3/1A3 part belong to Jayalakshmi and Mahalakshmi, South by:Land in S.No.3/1A4C and Remaining in S.No.2/3B, East by:Land in S.No.3/2 and 3/1C, West by:Land in S.No.3/1A4B1 part.

Reserve Price:Rs.69.00 Lakhs	EMD:Rs.6,90,000/-	Bid Increment Amount: Rs.50,000/-
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Borrower/s & Guarantor/s Name & Address / Branch Name:	Total Due + Interest from
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SI.No.4)BORROWERS:(1)Mr.Pratap H (2)Mr. Ravikumar H, both are residing at:No.5A, 1st Floor, School Road, Kolathur Opp. Axis Bank ATM, Chennai-600099. Branch Name: Thousand Lights Branch.	Amount Due: Rs.41,23,114/-+ interest @ 8.70 % from 01.01.2018 with monthly rests, costs, charges, etc. Present Outstanding:Rs.58,70,194.54 + interest @7.55% from 08.08.2021 with monthly rests, costs and charges etc.,
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DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Schedule of Property : (a) All that piece and parcel of land at Bharathiar Street, 1st lane, Madhavaram, Chennai-600060, comprised in Survey No. 965/1, as per Patta T.S.No. 18/2,Block No.23, Ward-B, Madhavaram Village, Madhavaram Taluk, Measuring to an extent of 1569¹/₂ sq.ft., of land and situated within the Sub-Registration District of Madhavaram and Registration District of North-Chennai and bounded on the North:Chinna Uppukulam, South:Property belongs to L.Vijayalakshmi, East:Bharathiar Street leads to 15 feet wide Lane, West:Property belongs to Mr. Sivaprakasham Durai Naicker and Chinmamal. (b) All that piece and parcel of land at Bharathiar Street, 1st lane, Madhavaram, Chennai-600060, comprised in Survey No. 965/1, as per Patta T.S.No.18/3,Block No.23, Ward-B, Madhavaram Village, Madhavaram Taluk. Measuring to an extent of 1737 sq.ft., of land and situated within the Sub-Registration District of Madhavaram and registration District of North-Chennai and bounded on the North:Property belongs to S. Puroshothaman, South:Property belongs to S. Puroshothaman, East:Bharathiar Street leads to 15 feet wide Lane, West: Property belongs to Durai Naicker and Chinmamal. Admeasuring in all 1737 sq. ft. land, item No. 1 and item No. 2 totally measuring 3306 ¹/₂ sq. ft. **Schedule-B:** 538 sq. ft. of undivided Share of the land in the Schedule "A" Property, Flat No.FF3, First Floor, measuring 1036 sq ft built up area inclusive of proportionate common service space area and covered car parking. **Physical Possession within the Bank.**

Reserve Price:Rs.21.00 Lakhs	EMD:Rs.2,10,000/-	Bid Increment Amount: Rs.50,000/-
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Borrower/s & Guarantor/s Name & Address / Branch Name:	Total Due + Interest from
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SI.No.5)Name of the Borrower: (1) M/s.SDS Steels (P) Limited, 4/181, GNT Road, Panjetti Village, Ponneri Taluk Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu - 601 204. Regd. Address: Old No.44, New No.31, 2nd Floor, Armenian Street, Chennai-600 001. (2) Shri.Pramod Kumar Saraf, S/o.Late.D.D.Saraf, No.11/A, Jatindra Mohan Avenue, 4th Floor, Kolkata-700 006. Also at: No.143, Harshivihar, 1st Floor, Pitampura, New Delhi-110 034. (3) Shri.Piyush Saraf, S/o.Pramod Kumar Saraf. (4) Ms.Sangita Saraf, W/o. Shri.Pramod Kumar Saraf, both are residing at: No.11/A, Jatindra Mohan Avenue, 4thFloor, Kolkata- 700 006. (5) M/s. Jai Bhawani Steel Enterprises Limited, No. 4/181, GNT Road, Panjetti Village, Ponneri Taluk, Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu - 601 204. Also at: Flat No 6K, Century Plaza, 560-562, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 018. Branch Name: Chennai Asset Recovery Branch	Amount Due: Rs.57,19,76,310/- + interest from 20.01.2011 with monthly rests, costs and charges etc., Present Outstanding Amount: Rs.275,89,65,224/- + further interest from 01.11.2021 at the Rate of Interest as mentioned in DRC No. 180/2015 dated: 11.11.2015 in O.A 71/2012 DRT II Chennai.
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DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Schedule Property: (To be sold as a single lot) (i) All that piece and parcel of land of the southern portion measuring (i) 1.14 acres out of 1.30 acres comprised in S.No.197/2B and (ii) 11 cents out of 13 cents in S.No.197/2A2 totally measuring 1.25 acres, Panchetti Village, Ponneri Taluk within the Sub Regn. Dist of Redhills and Regn. Dist. of North Chennai belonging to M/s.Jai Bhawani Steel Enterprises Limited bounded on the North by:S.No.187/2 & 196, South by:Stretch of land belonging to Mr.K.Ramamurthy, East by:S.No.185, West by:S.No.197/2A1. (ii) All that piece and parcel of land of the southern portion measuring 1.18 acres out of 2.18 acres comprised in S.No.185 Part, Panchetti Village, Ponneri Taluk within the Sub Registration District of Redhills and Regn. Dist. of North Chennai belonging to M/s. Jai Bhawani Steel Enterprises Limited, bounded on the North by:Land of Mr.Dayanidhi, South by:30 feet vacant land belonging to Mr.Dayanidhi, East by:GNT Road, West by:S.No.197 belong to Mr.Ramamurthy. (iii) All that piece and parcel of land of the northern portion measuring 1 acre out of 2.18 acres comprised in S.No.185 Part, Panchetti Village, Ponneri Taluk in Sub. Regn. Dist. of Red Hills and Regn. Dist. of North Chennai belonging to M/s JaiBhawani Steels Enterprises Limited, bounded on the North by:S.No.186 & 187/2, South by:Land belonging to Mr.Ashok Kumar Saraf, East by:GNT Road, West by:S.No.197. (iv) All that piece and parcel of land measuring 15 cents out of 3.08 acres comprised in S.No.196 Part, Panchetti Village, Ponneri Taluk in Sub. Regn. Dist. of Red Hills and Regn. Dist. of North Chennai belonging to M/s Jai Bhawani Steel Enterprises Limited, bounded on the North by:S.No.187/1, South by:S.No.197/2B part & 185 part, East by:S.No.186, West by:S.No.196. (v) All that piece and parcel of land measuring 10.10 acres comprised in S.No.137/6, Patta No.75, Panchetti Village, Ponneri Taluk in Sub. Regn. Dist. of Red Hills and Regn. Dist. of North Chennai, belonging to Mr.Pramod Kumar Saraf, bounded on the North by:Land belonging to Balarama Naidu, South by: The Remaining lands in S.No.137/6, East by: The already existing shed belonging to Mr.Pramod Kumar Saraf, West by:S.No.142. (vi) All that piece and parcel of land measuring 0.33.0 acres comprised in S.No.193, Panchetti Village, Ponneri Taluk in Sub. Regn. Dist. of Red Hills and Regn. Dist. of North Chennai belonging to Mr.Pramod Kumar Saraf, bounded on the North by:Lands of Rama Reddy, South by:Land of Govindaraja Reddy, East by:Lands of Govindaraja Reddy & Karai, West by:The remaining lands of K.Ramamurthy & 2 others (Vendor). (vii) All that piece and parcel of land measuring 1.10 acres comprised in S.No.196/1, Patta No.17, Panchetti Village, Ponneri Taluk in Sub. Regn. Dist. of Red Hills and Regn. Dist. of North Chennai belonging to Mr.Pramod Kumar Saraf, bounded on the North by:Land in S.No.192/1D, South by:Land belonging to K.Punithavel, East by:Land belonging to Sri Ganesh Steel Rolling Mills & Ashok Kumar, West by:Land belonging to Govindaraj Reddy. (ix) All that piece and parcel of land measuring 1.08 acres comprised in S.No.196/1, Patta No.17, Panchetti Village, Ponneri Taluk in Sub. Regn. Dist. of Red Hills and Regn. Dist. of North Chennai belonging to Mr.Pramod Kumar Saraf, bounded on the North by:Land belonging to Chelladurai, South by:Land belonging to Lalitha Durai, East by:Land belonging to Pramod Kumar & Ashok Kumar, West by:Land of Bagyalakshmi Ammal & Govindaraj Reddy. (x) All that piece and parcel of land measuring 70 cents comprised in S.No.192/1D, Patta No.17, Panchetti Village, Ponneri Taluk in Sub. Regn. Dist. of Red Hills and Regn. Dist. of North Chennai belonging to Mr.Pramod Kumar Saraf bounded on the North by:Land belonging to Govindaraj Reddy, South by:Land belonging to R.Kanagasaba Mudaliar, East by:Land belonging to P.Devraj Reddy, West by:Land belonging to K.Punithavel. (xi) All that piece and parcel of land measuring 31 cents, 9 cents & 31 cents, comprised in S.No.192/1D, 192/3B 194/3, Patta No.17 & 70, totally measuring 71 cents, Panchetti Village, Ponneri Taluk in Sub. Regn. Dist. of Red Hills and Regn. Dist. of North Chennai belonging to Mr.Pramod Kumar Saraf bounded on the (a) S.No.192/1D is bounded on North by:Land belonging to Govindaraj Reddy & S.No.192/3, South by:S.No.195, East by:Land belonging to Govindaraj Reddy, West by:Land belonging to K.Punithavel in S.No.194/3. (b) S.No.192/3B 194/3 is bounded on the North by:Land belonging to Kishappa Reddy & Thangalkaras, South by:Land belonging to Govindaraj Reddy, East by: S.No.192/1A2, 192/3 & 192/1D, West by:30 cents belonging to K.Punithavel in S.No.192/1A2, 192/3 & 192/1D. (xii) All that piece and parcel of land measuring 30 cents comprised in S.No.194/3, Patta No.70, Panchetti Village, Ponneri Taluk in Sub. Regn. Dist. of Red Hills and Regn. Dist. of North Chennai belonging to Mr.Pramod Kumar Saraf bounded on the North by:S.No.193 & Thangalkaras, South by:Land belonging to Govindaraj Reddy, East by:Lands in S.No.192/3 & 192/1D, West by:Land belonging to K.Punithavel. (xiii) All that piece and parcel of land measuring 13 acres comprised in S.No.198, New S.No.198/2, Patta No.41, Panchetti Village, Ponneri Taluk in Sub. Regn. Dist. of Red Hills and Regn. Dist. of North Chennai belonging to Mrs.Sangita Saraf, bounded on North by:Land belonging to Thulakkana Reddy, South by: Land belonging to Govinda Naidu, East by:Land belonging to R.Kanagasabapathy Mudaliar & Thayaramma, West by:Land belonging to Ellammal. (xiv) All that piece and parcel of land measuring 1 acre out of 2.55 acres, comprised in S.No.187/1 part, new S.No.187/1B, Panchetti Village, Ponneri Taluk in Sub. Regn. Dist. of Red Hills and Regn. Dist. of North Chennai belonging to Mrs.Sangita Saraf, bounded on North by:Land of A.S.Kuppuswamy Mudaliar & others, South by:Land of D.D.Saraf, East by:S.No.186, West by:S.No.186. (xv) All that piece and parcel of southern portion, measuring 1 acre out of 2.55 acres, comprised in S.No.187/1 part, new S.No.187/1A, Panchetti Village, Ponneri Taluk in Sub. Regn. Dist. of Red Hills and Regn. Dist. of North Chennai belonging to Mrs.Sangita Saraf bounded on the North by:Land of A.S.Kuppuswamy Mudaliar & others in S.No.187/1, South by:S.No.187/2, East by:S.No.186, West by:S.No.196. (xvi) All that piece and parcel of land of the southern portion, measuring 55 cents out of 3.08 acres, comprised in S.No.196, New S.No.196/3, Panchetti Village, Ponneri Taluk in Sub. Regn. Dist. of Red Hills and Regn. Dist. of North Chennai belonging to Mrs.Sangita Saraf bounded on the North by:Land belonging to K.Punithavel in S.No.196, South by: Land belonging to K.Punithavel in S.No.196, East by:S.No.187, West by:Land belonging to K.Punithavel in S.No.196.

Reserve Price:Rs.14.75 Crores	EMD:Rs.1,47,50,000/-	Bid Increment Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-
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Borrower/s & Guarantor/s Name & Address / Branch Name:	Total Due + Interest from
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SI.No.6)BORROWERS:Mrs.A.Shanthi, Second Floor,B-Block, "Dream Valley" Plot No.3 & 4, VGA Nagar, Anakaputhur, Chennai-600074 also at No.23/12,Arul Prakasam Street, Ekkattuthangal, Chennai-600032. Branch Name:Chennai Asset Recovery Branch	Amount Due: Rs.48,82,835.29 + interest from 30.03.2017 with monthly rests, costs, charges, etc. Present Outstanding:Rs.79,97,572.55 + interest @9.70% from 31.10.2021 with monthly rests, costs and charges etc.,
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DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of Residential apartment situated at Plot No.3 & 4, Flat No.S-1.B Block,Second Floor,VGA Nagar, Anakaputhur, Chennai-6000074 situated in S.No.139/8,139/10A & 139/10B as per patta S.No.138/8A to an extent of 4889 sq.ft of site and 1105 sq.ft. of build up area and UDS of 479 sq.ft within the sub-Registration Dt of Pammal & Registration Dt of South Chennai in the name of Mrs.A. Shanthi. Bounded as per Deed: North by:Existing Road, South by:Plot No.23,East by:Sub-divided Plot No.1 & 2,West by:Existing building in S.No.138. Bounded as per Site:North by:24'- 0"feet wide Earthen Road,South by:Residential Property,East by:Sub-divided Plot No.1 & 2 (A-Block), West by:Residential Building.

Reserve Price:Rs.32,00,000/-	EMD:Rs.3,20,000/-	Bid Increment Amount: Rs.50,000/-
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Borrower/s & Guarantor/s Name & Address / Branch Name:	Total Due + Interest from
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SI.No.7)BORROWERS:(1)Mr.R. Gokulakrishnan A, S/o Mr Aranda padmanabhan (2)Mrs. Komala G, W/o.Mr.A.Gokula krishnan, both are residing at: No.9B, Door No.207/2,14th Anna Street,G K M Colony, Chennai 600 082. Branch Name: Thousand Lights Branch.	Amount Due: Rs.30,51,190.90 + interest @ 8.85 % from 07.09.2019 with monthly rests, costs, charges, etc. Present Outstanding:Rs.36,48,524.92 + interest @7.75% from 08.08.2021 with monthly rests, costs and charges etc.,
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DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Schedule-A-Item-1 All that piece and parcel of land at Bharathiar Street, 1st lane, Madhavaram, Chennai-600060, comprised in Survey No. 965/1, as per Patta T.S.No. 18/2,Block No.23, Ward-B, Madhavaram Village, Madhavaram Taluk, Measuring to an extent of 1569¹/₂ sq.ft., of land and situated within the Sub-Registration District of Madhavaram and Registration District of North-Chennai and bounded on the North: Chinna Uppukulam, South:Property belongs to L.Vijayalakshmi, East:Bharathiar Street leads to 15 feet wide Lane,West:Property belongs to Mr. Sivaprakasham. **Item-2** All that piece and parcel of land at Bharathiar Street, 1st lane, Madhavaram, Chennai-600060, comprised in Survey No. 965/1, as per Patta T.S.No.18/3,Block No.23, Ward-B, Madhavaram Village, Madhavaram Taluk, Measuring to an extent of 1737 sq.ft., of land and situated within the Sub-Registration District of Madhavaram and registration District of North-Chennai and bounded on the North:Property belongs to S. Puroshothaman, South:Property belongs to S. Puroshothaman, East: Bharathiar Street leads to 15 feet wide Lane, West: Property belongs to Durai Naicker and Chinmamal. **Item No.1** and **Item No.2** totally measuring 3306 ¹/₂ sq. ft. and situated within the Registration District of North Chennai and Sub-Registration District of Madhavaram. **Schedule-B:** Flat No. FF4, First floor, measuring 878 sq ft super built up area inclusive of Proportionate common service/ space area and covered car parking having 455 sq.ft. of undivided Share of the land in the Schedule "A" Property. **Physical Possession within the Bank.**

Reserve Price:Rs.16,50,000/-	EMD:Rs.1,65,000/-	Bid Increment Amount: Rs.50,000/-
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Borrower/s & Guarantor/s Name & Address / Branch Name:	Total Due + Interest from
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SI.No.8)BORROWERS: (1) M/s. Bhaaraath Beverage Pvt. Ltd., No.317/1, 317/2, Meenakshipuram Road, Nilakottai, Dindigul District, Pin-624208. Registered Office: Plot No.29 & 30, Jothi Nagar, Tharamani Road, Annanur, Chennai-600062. (2) Mr.T.Rajavel, S/o. P.Tharamaraj Nadar, (Director) M/s. Bhaaraath Beverage Pvt Ltd, (3) Mrs.R.Selvalatha, W/o.T.Rajavel, (Director) M/s. Bhaaraath Beverage Pvt Ltd, both are address at: Address.1] No.1, V.O.C. Nagar, Ayappakkam, Chennai-77. Address.2] No.317/1, 317/2, Meenakshipuram Road, Nilakottai, Dindigul District, Pin-624208. Address.3] Registered Office, Plot No.29 & 30, Jothi Nagar, Tharamani Street, Annanur, Chennai-600062. Branch Name: Chennai Asset Recovery Branch	Amount Due: Rs.9,34,97,461/- + interest from 08.08.2016 with monthly rests, costs and charges etc., Present Outstanding: Rs.19,32,63,577.96 interest from 31.10.2021 with monthly rests, costs and charges etc.,
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DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Schedule - "A" Item No.1: All that part and parcel of the land property situated at S.No.317/1 and S.No.317/2 of Nilakottai Village, Nilakottai Taluk,Dindigul District, Tamilnadu including Factory Buildings and Sheds constructed there on admeasuring 2 acres,88 cents. (2 storied building and 5sheds)within the following boundaries North by: Common Odai, South by: Nelco Metal Factory, East by: Land belonging to Mr.Muthuvillage, West by: Meenakshipuram LF Road. **Item No.2:** All the plant & Machinery of the company lying at S.No.317/1 and S.No.317/2 of Nilakottai Village, Nilakottai Taluk,Dindigul District, Tamilnadu (except LPG Storage facility -Tank). **Physical Possession within the Bank.**

Reserve Price:Rs.763.30 Lakhs	EMD:Rs.76,33,000/-	Bid Increment Amount: Rs.50,000/-
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Date and Time of E-Auction: 25.11.2021 - 11.00 A.M. to 05.00 P.M.

(with unlimited extensions of Ten minutes duration each)

Last date for submission of online Bid : 23.11.2021 - up to 05.00 P.M.

Inspection Date & Time of the Property : 15.11.2021 - up to 05.00 P.M.

Terms & Conditions:

- The auction sale will be 'Online E-Auction/bidding through website <https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> on 25.11.2021 from 11.00 A.M. to 05.00 P.M. with unlimited extensions of Ten minutes duration each.
- Intending bidders shall hold a valid e-mail address and mobile number. Intending bidders shall register with the e-auction portal to create their user ids and passwords. Registration is one time activity and a bidder can participate in any number of e-auctions with one registration only. Registration involves a process of the bidder filling up an online form and then submitting KYC Documents.
- Steps to be followed by the bidder for registering with e-auction portal
- STEP 1**-Bidder/purchaser registration: Bidder to register on e-auction portal <https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> using mobile number and email ID.
- STEP 2** - KYC Verification: Bidder to upload requisite KYC Documents. KYC Documents tns shall be verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days).
- STEP 3** - Transfer of EMD amount to bidder's global EMD wallet: Online/Off-line transfer of fund using NEFT/Transfer, using challan generated on e-auction portal. NOTE: Step 1 to 3 should be completed by bidder well in advance, before e-auction date. The registration process takes minimum of two to three working days.
- Contact details of MSTC - Shri.RiteshNathmath@mstcindia.co.in 9668551395 & Shri.RakeshRanjan_ranjan@mstcindia.co.in 9911700233. For details with regard to e-auction procedure, please contact BANK OF INDIA, Asset Recovery department, "STAR HOUSE" Fourth Floor, No 30, Errabalu Street, Chennai-600 001. (Contact No:044-66777552-468-462, E-mail id: AssetRecovery.Chennai@bankofindia.co.in).
- Bidders are advised to go through the website <https://www.ibapi.in> and www.bankofindia.co.in/tendersfor detailed terms and conditions of Auction Sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the E-Auction sale proceedings.
- Bids shall be submitted through online procedure only.
- Earnest Money Deposit- 10% of the reserve price (EMD) shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/NET BANKING/UPI to credit of MSTC E-WALLET (Refer Point No.3). In case of successful bid, the remaining part of successful bid amount should be paid through RTGS/NEFT/NET BANKING/FUND TRANSFER to the BOI Account No. 800021100003277, Account Name: SARFAESI E-Auction, IFSC Code: BKND0008000.8. In case of unsuccessful/failed bid, the bidder has to give request for refund of EMD in the MSTC website between 7.00 am to 1.00 pm and it will be refunded in next two working days. Please note that the bidders will not be entitled to claim any interest, cost, expenses and any other charges.
- The bid price to be submitted shall be above the reserve price and bidders shall improve their further offer in multiples of above mentioned amount.
- The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the purchase amount (including Earnest Money already paid) immediately to the bank on the same day or not later than next working day of the sale. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid day of confirmation of sale.
- The property is sold in 'as is where is' and 'as is what is' condition and the intending bidders should make discreet enquiry as regards any claim, charges on the property any authority, besides the Bank's charges and should satisfy themselves about the title, extent, quality and quantity of the property before submitting their bid. No claim of whatsoever nature regarding the property put for sale, charges/encumbrances over the property or on any other matter, etc., will be entertained after submission of the online bid.
- The Authorised Officer has the absolute right and discretion to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale/modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice and assigning any reason. The decision of the Authorized Officer regarding declaration of successful bidder shall be final and binding on all bidders.
- The purchasers shall bear the stamp duties, TDS, charges including those of sale certificate, registration charges, all statutory dues payable to government, taxes and rates and outgoing,



21 passengers flee from a plane that made emergency landing in a Spanish island

GLOBAL WEATHER table with columns for city, temperature, and weather conditions.

U.N. CLIMATE SUMMIT

Youngsters throng Glasgow for second day of protests

Cities worldwide see demonstrations demanding stronger climate action

GLASGOW

THOUSANDS of climate protesters braved rain and wind in Glasgow on Saturday to take part in worldwide demonstrations against what campaigners say is a failure of crunch UN talks to act fast enough to tame global warming.

Dozens of events are planned worldwide to demand cuts in fossil fuel use and immediate help for communities already affected by climate change, particularly in poorer countries.

In Glasgow, organisers and police said they ultimately expected up to 50,000 people to parade through the streets of the Scottish city.

Demonstrators began gathering on Saturday morning in a park near the COP26 summit venue, chanting slogans such as "Our world is under attack, stand up fight back!"

"I think a lot of politicians are scared of the power of this movement," said a 22-year-old Norwegian protester who gave her name as Jenny.

Delegates from nearly 200 countries are in the Scottish city to hammer out how to meet the Paris Climate Agreement goals of limiting temperature rises to between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius.

At the halfway stage of the COP26 negotiations, some countries have upgraded their existing pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while there have been separate deals on phasing out coal, ending foreign fossil fuel funding,



Climate activists hold up banners during a protest organised by the Cop26 Coalition in Glasgow, Scotland on Saturday | AFP

and slashing methane. The promises followed a pre-COP26 estimate from the UN that said national climate plans, when brought together, put Earth on course to warm 2.7C this century.

With just 1.1C of warming so far, several communities across the world are already facing ever more intense wildfires and drought, displacement and economic ruin wrought by global heating.

And a major assessment last week showed global CO2 emissions were set to rebound in 2021 to pre-pandemic levels.

Swedish teenage climate campaigner Greta Thunberg said the summit had gone nowhere near far enough in a speech at Friday's youth march in Glasgow, where she labelled the conference "a failure".

In Australia on Saturday, protesters in Sydney and Mel-

bourne — some dressed as lumps of coal or Prime Minister Scott Morrison, a vigorous defender of the mining industry — echoed that sentiment, calling the talks "a sham" and their national leader "an absolute embarrassment".

"No more blah, blah blah. Real climate action now," read one sign at a protest in Sydney. South Korean capital Seoul saw roughly 500 take to the streets demanding immediate action for communities already hit by the fallout of a heating planet.

About 1,000 people gathered in London outside the Bank of England with placards reading "Less talk more action" and "No More COP outs".

And protesters gathered outside Paris city hall carrying a giant banner that said: "Climate inaction = crimes against the living".

Communist Party to endorse third term for Xi

BEIJING

A key conclave of China's ruling Communist Party next week is widely expected to pass a resolution on the major achievements besides "historical experience" of the 100-year-old party and pave the way for an unprecedented third term for President Xi Jinping.

Xi, 68, holding China's all three power centres — General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission (CMC) the overall high command of the military and the Presidency — will attend the "high-profile Party plenum" of the Party on Monday, a lengthy commentary by state-run Xinhua news agency said on Saturday.

unprecedented third term in office. All China's top leaders derive their power from the post of the General Secretary of the CPC. All the predecessors of Xi have retired following the mandatory rule of two five-year terms or completion of 68 years of age.

The Plenum is scheduled to be held from November 8 to 11. Politically, it is regarded as a key meeting for Xi who in the last ten years of his tenure in power has emerged as the most powerful leader after party founder Mao Zedong as he is widely expected to take up an



Xi Jinping

Plenum being held in Beijing. The plenum is being held ahead of next year's party congress which was expected to appoint a new leadership. Except Xi, most of the officials including Premier Li Keqiang are expected to retire.

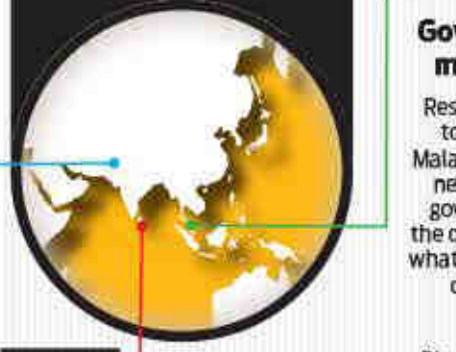
Over the past three decades, the party has usually used the last plenary session to address party affairs, especially on key appointments, ideology and party-building matters. The key issue to be watched is to see if the party continues to follow precedent on its leadership changes, especially the informal retirement age of 68 besides the two terms for its top leadership set by Party's founder Mao's successor Deng Xiaoping.

PAKISTAN

Court grants bail to Islamist leaders

An anti-terrorism court here has granted bail to several leaders of the proscribed Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan hardline Islamic outfit under a clutch of cases registered under sections related to terrorism. All those granted bail on Saturday were booked under sections related to terrorism, following the wave of clashes that broke out between the TLP workers and security officials in the Punjab province last month. The latest move is seen as part of a secret deal between Pakistan and the banned outfit following days of violent protests demanding the release of TLP leader Saad Rizvi and expulsion of the French envoy.

ASIA MATTERS



SRI LANKA

Payment to Chinese firm blocked in fertiliser row

A Sri Lankan commercial court has extended the order to block a payment of \$4.9 million to a China-based company over the shipment of organic fertiliser, which was found to be contaminated following tests. The extension of the enjoining order on Friday means that the local People's Bank cannot make payment to the Chinese company until November 19.

SINGAPORE

Govt rejects call for mercy in drug case

Responding to global calls to spare an Indian-origin Malaysian from the gallows next week, the Singapore government has said that the death row convict knew what he was doing when he committed the crime of heroin trafficking. Nagaenthran K Dharmalingam, 33, is to be hanged at Changi Prison for drug trafficking on Wednesday. He was 21 when arrested for trafficking drugs at Woodlands checkpoint on a causeway link between Singapore and Peninsular Malaysia with a bundle of drugs strapped to his thigh. Nagaenthran was convicted and sentenced to death in November 2010 for importing 42.72 grams of heroin in 2009.

Lahore HC acquits 6 JuD leaders in terror financing case

ISLAMABAD

THE Lahore High Court on Saturday set aside a trial court's conviction and acquitted six senior leaders of Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed's banned Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) in a terror financing case. Saeed-led JuD is the front organisation for the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the terror outfit responsible for carrying out the 2008 Mumbai attack that killed 166 people, including six Americans. The anti-terrorism court Lahore in April this year had handed nine-year imprisonment each to JuD senior leaders Prof Malik Zafar Iqbal, Yahya Mujahid (JuD spokesperson), Nasarullah, Samiullah and Umar Bahadur — and six months jail term to Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki (brother-in-law of Saeed) after an FIR was registered by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of the Punjab Police. The trial court had found these leaders guilty of terror financing. They had been collecting funds and unlawfully financing the proscribed organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). "On Saturday LHC's division bench comprising Chief Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti and Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh set aside the trial court's decision in the CTD's FIR 18 of 2020 against the six JuD leaders after the prosecution failed to prove the charge against the appellants beyond reasonable doubt," a court official told PTI. The official said the division bench allowed the petition of the JuD leaders, observing "the statement of the 'star prosecution witness' is not reliable as there is no corroboratory evidence."

EXPRESS READ

Knife attack on German train severely injures three

Berlin: A knife attack on a high-speed train in Germany left three people severely injured, the Bavarian Red Cross said on Saturday. One man has been arrested in connection with the morning attack at the train station in Seubersdorf, where the train is currently stopped, police said. Police said multiple people were injured but were unable to provide a specific number. The train in question, one of Germany's high-speed ICE trains, was travelling between the Bavarian cities of Regensburg and Nuremberg at the time of the attack

Pro-Iran group stages fresh protests in Iraq

Baghdad: Hundreds of supporters of pro-Iranian factions staged a fresh demonstration Saturday in the Iraqi capital over last month's election results, a day after at least one protester was killed in a clash with police. The demonstrations come while Iraq's numerous political parties negotiate to form coalitions and name a new prime minister after the October 10 elections. Preliminary results saw a pro-Iran paramilitary network, suffer a substantial decline in its parliamentary seats

US convicts Chinese man in espionage case

Cincinnati: A jury on Friday convicted a Chinese national of trying to steal trade secrets from multiple US aerospace companies, including the theft of proprietary airplane engine fan technology. The government alleged that beginning in December 2013, Yanjun Xu recruited experts who worked at aviation companies, including GE Aviation in Cincinnati. Specifically, Xu was accused of trying to steal technology related to GE Aviation's composite aircraft engine fan

US House passes \$1.2 trillion infra package

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATS rescued US President Joe Biden's faltering domestic agenda on Friday passing a giant infrastructure package that is one of the pillars of his \$3 trillion economic vision after rebel moderates had earlier blocked a vote on his social welfare expansion. Despite hours of cajoling lawmakers, party leaders had risked seeing Biden's two-pronged legislative strategy collapse as they failed to unite the party's feuding progressive and moderate factions.

But the breakthrough came as lawmakers rubber-stamped the Senate-passed \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill on the House floor by a comfortable 228 votes to 206. The passage of the infrastructure spending marks a legacy-making achievement for Biden, amid plunging personal approval ratings and a humili-



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi speaks to reporters at the Capitol | AP

ating upset defeat for his Democratic Party in the Virginia gubernatorial election.

His spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the success was "proof that delivering for the American people is worth all the painful sausage making." "Clean drinking water for kids, broadband access, electric vehicles, biggest investment in public transit. It's

Democrats refused to commit to the "Build Back Better" benefits package, arguing they first needed to see a full accounting of its economic impacts, which won't be available for at least a week. With a majority of just three votes in the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi was forced to postpone the vote on the Build Back Better package, which includes major investments in health, education, tackling climate change and expanding social welfare programs.

Progressives initially blocked the infrastructure vote amid suspicion that Senate centrists would reject the Build Back Better bill as soon as they got their transport upgrades signed into law. But Pelosi refused to back down, insisting on the vote before the end of the day and offering an olive branch to the liberals — a procedural vote on the "rule" to at least get debate started on Build Back Better.

92 KILLED AS FUEL TANKER EXPLODES IN SIERRA LEONE

TRUCK CATCHES FIRE

According to witnesses, the blast happened when a tanker truck caught fire at a petrol station after a road accident. The flames then spread, burning people in cars and on roads nearby

The truck was reportedly attempting a U-turn when it collided with another truck carrying sand. The tanker truck then began leaking fuel as it entered the petrol station, the New York Times reported quoting an official

Video footage showed a burnt-out tanker and a truck, and the surrounding area littered with husks of vehicles, some still smouldering



People stand near a pile of burnt motorbikes in the aftermath of a fuel tanker explosion in Freetown, Sierra Leone on Saturday | AP

We are all deeply saddened by this national tragedy, and it is indeed a difficult time for our country Julius Maada, President Sierra Leone



The majority of the victims were street vendors and motorcyclists, many of whom were caught in the blaze while trying to retrieve fuel. Hundreds of people milled outside the main gates of the mortuary, waiting for word of their loved ones. It was not immediately known how many people were undergoing treatment

TOLL MAY RISE

The mortuary at Connaught Hospital reported 92 bodies had been brought in by Saturday morning. About 30 severely burned victims were not expected to survive, according to a staff member

TANKER BLASTS NOT RARE IN AFRICA

Accidents involving petrol tankers have happened many times before in Sierra Leone, one of the poorest countries in the world

In other parts of Africa, similar incidents have also left many dead as people gather to collect fuel leaking from tankers

In 2009, over 100 people were killed when a petrol tanker overturned near Nairobi and an explosion burnt those gathering fuel

In July, 13 were killed when a "huge fireball" engulfed a crowd in Kenya as they siphoned fuel from an overturned petrol truck

8 dead in stampede at US music festival

HOUSTON

A stampede caused by a crowd surge killed at least eight people and wounded several others at rap star Travis Scott's Astroworld music festival in Texas on Friday night, local authorities said.

Officials said the crush happened as "the crowd began to compress towards the front of the stage" around 9.00 pm when Scott was performing. There were around 50,000 people in the audience at Houston's NRG Park. "That caused some panic and it started causing some injuries, people began to fall out, become unconscious and it created additional panic," Houston fire chief Samuel Pena said at a press conference. "We had at least eight confirmed fatalities tonight and scores of individuals that were injured," he said, adding the cause of death could not be confirmed until after medical exams were completed.

Pena said 17 people were rushed to hospital, with 11 of them in "cardiac arrest." Scott was on stage when the incident occurred and stopped his act on several occasions when he saw fans in distress near the stage, the Houston Chronicle reported.



The crowd watches as Travis Scott performs at Astroworld Festival in Houston | AP

Survivors described chaotic scenes of people squeezed up against one another and many struggling to breathe, the Chronicle reported. "We were hanging on to each other to avoid getting separated," one survivor said. "If you let go, you could easily drift apart." One concert-goer quoted in the paper described carrying a man who had fallen to safety over barricades in the arena and watching paramedics perform CPR.

Senior Harris County official Lina Hidalgo said it was "an extremely tragic night."

"Our hearts are broken, people go to these events to have a good time, to make memories," she added. Houston police are investigating the cause of the incident and looking at video footage from the arena. "Over the course of just a few minutes, suddenly we had several people down on the ground experience some type of cardiac arrest," assistant police chief Larry Satterwhite said.

Videos shared on social media showed paramedics resuscitating unconscious fans in the audience as the concert continued. Agencies

NEWSCOPE

When will we admit our children are going hungry?

Global Hunger Index puts India at 101st rank on a list of 116 countries

GURBIR SINGH

WHILE India was busy tracking the ball application of Aryan Khan in Mumbai and Yogi Adityanath's campaign to lock up 'anti-nationals' who supported the Pakistan cricket team, the dismal findings of the Global Hunger Index (GHI) was lost amidst the local brouhaha.

The hunger index placed India at an unflattering No.101 in a list of 116 countries, belying government claims that the country had made solid progress with a multitude of nutrition programmes. There is some consistency in the abysmal show. In 2019, we were 102 in the list. Now, India's ranking has slipped 6 slots from 94th in 2020, though the authors warned that the "GHI scores, rankings, and indicator values are comparable only within each year's report, and not between different year..."

However, the report made no bones about the poor state of health of India's children. "With a score of 27.5, India has a level of hunger that is serious," says the introduction to the report, brought out annually by German NGO Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and an Irish aid agency, Concern Worldwide. India was lower in rank to all its immediate neighbours including Pakistan and Bangladesh, with the exception of Afghanistan. In contrast, 18 countries scored less than 5 (the lower the score, the better the performance), which included Brazil, Kuwait, and China.

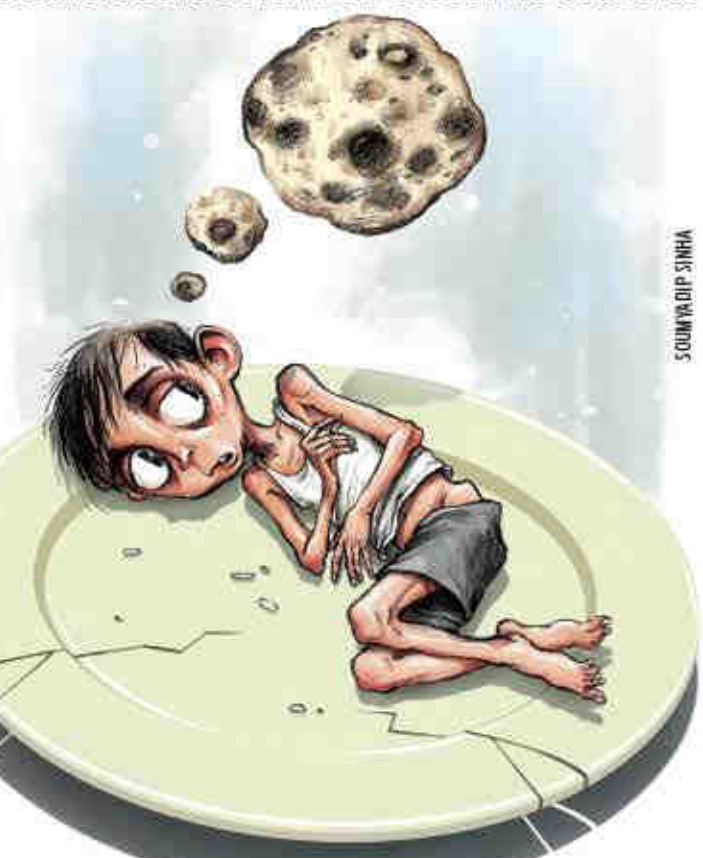
Side-stepping the report

Unfortunately, instead of examining where it had strayed, the Union government has chosen to divert the issues.

A statement from the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development said the "scientific measurement of undernourishment would require measurement of weight and height, whereas the methodology involved here is based on Gallup poll based on pure telephonic estimate of the population."

It also accused the authors of completely disregarding the "government's massive effort to ensure food security of the entire population during the Covid period." In its reply, the German NGO WHH rubbished the government claim pointing out that data collection was not based on a Gallup opinion poll; instead, all undernourishment data is measured using data officially presented by the Indian government to the UN.

On the charge of ignoring food support by the government, Miriam Weimers, advi-



sor, Global Hunger Index, said: "The Global Hunger Index is not a tool designed to assess and reflect individual measures taken by governments..."

It is not that India has not made any progress on child nutrition. The Hunger Index authors acknowledge: "Since 2000, India has made substantial progress... India's GHI score has decreased from a score of 38.8 points — considered alarming — to a 2021 GHI score of 27.5 — considered serious. The proportion of undernourished in the population and the under-five child mortality rate are now at relatively low levels."

However, the report underlines the areas of concern. "While child stunting (children who have low height for their age) has seen a significant decrease — from 54.2% in 1990-1999 to 34.7% in 2016-2018 — it is still considered very high. At 17.3% — according to the latest data — India has the highest child wasting rate (children who have low weight for their height)."

Govt data too is a pointer

Joining the debate, Siraj Husain and Jugal Mohapatra, in an article in 'The Print' point out that the government's own data — the National Family Health Survey — released in December 2020, corroborate that overall malnutrition has worsened.

Though the findings are preliminary since data for UP, Punjab, Jharkhand and MP have not yet been released, "stunting, reflective of chronic malnutrition, has increased in 11 out of the 17 states surveyed. Wasting, indicative of acute

malnutrition, has also increased in 13 of these 17 states. Such malnourished children are more vulnerable to illness and disease."

If anything, the Global Hunger Index is an understatement as it does not capture the economic impact — the crisis of migration, the loss of jobs and income induced by the lockdown — related to the months of raging pandemic. In July, the United Nations estimated that global food insecurity in 2020 had been the worst in 15 years as normal, healthy diets had become out of reach for about one-tenth of the world's population. The projections for 2021 are worse as commodity inflation and disrupted supply chain networks have sent food prices through the roof.

India too knows hunger well. It is estimated 196 million people are undernourished, and malnutrition is the top cause of death and disability. And here lies the rub. India has also the highest levels of excess food grains, and it is struggling to warehouse the surplus and find export options.

As on 1 October 2021, the central pool of rice and wheat was 816 lakh tonne, against the norm of maintaining a maximum buffer of 308 lakh tonne. Several economists have pointed out that rather than using the excess stock to make ethanol, the government should issue emergency rations, either free of cost or at half the controlled cost to the most vulnerable.

Instead of its ostrich-like approach to criticism, it is high time the government acted before things get worse.

PANKAJ CHOPRA

LET me start by giving you an analogy. The citizens of a democratic country all have the same rights and responsibilities written into the constitution and apart from enjoying the benefits of living in the country, they have the opportunity to vote and elect their representatives to govern the country as per a given schedule.

Similarly, shareholders of a company have the same rights and responsibilities under corporate law and while all of them enjoy the fruits of good performance of the company, as translated in dividends declared and stock price appreciation, they also get an opportunity to vote on major decisions taken by the company management and to elect independent and non-independent directors as per a schedule.

However, I think the similarity ends just there. When voting for representatives to the government, all of us will be passionate about our views, stand in queues and feel proud of exercising our franchise. Each one of us knows that by our own self, we will not make any difference, but the sense of collective participation is so strong that we would like that contribution to be felt.

On the other hand, in the case of companies, shareholders have the right to vote at every annual general meeting. The processes that have been set up to register and count votes are just as elaborate and formal, maybe not at the same scale, but individual shareholders in companies do not exercise their vote. It is something that is valuable and has been granted to you, but almost all individuals choose to ignore it. I find this quite confounding, but there are a few reasons for the same.

Firstly, while in an electoral exercise there are parties and their backing, there is no

INVESTOR ACTIVISM AND ITS IMPACT ON COMPANY PERFORMANCE

known block of votes that has already been delivered to a particular candidate. In case of companies, except for a rare few which are completely professionally managed, the owners/promoters are the largest single shareholders and their exercise of vote matters that much more. It is also to be expected that owners/promoters having a substantial stake in the company, would have the best interest of the company in mind when they run it or review the performance of the management in board meetings. The company not doing well will hurt them the most and conversely the company performing well will help them increase their wealth the most.

The last and perhaps the most important factor is that individual shareholders do not have the ability to analyze proposals that have been put up to vote, or the actual contribution that has been provided by each of the directors in the company. So when the proposals come to them, it is the easiest to just ignore as exercising the vote is a right but not a responsibility.

While in most cases it is true that the promoters and/or management try their absolute best and the performance of the company is limited only by the external environment and the abilities of the management, there are rare cases where the intent and objectives of the promoters start to differ from that of the company or the shareholders at large.

One of the main decisions to be taken by the promoters and management is regarding the use of cash generated by the company. When a company starts to generate signifi-



cant free cash flow — after factoring in all requirements including payment of debt and maintenance expenses — the options are to return cash to shareholders through dividends, buy back shares of the company, to go for faster pace organic growth, or to do inorganic growth through acquiring another company or business.

In the rare cases, this deployment of spare resources which belong to all shareholders, but are decided upon by the promoters and management, is not aligned in everyone's benefit. This may be due to the promoter's personal ambition to enter and operate into a certain unrelated sector. Debt or other liabilities taken separately by the promoter that need to be serviced etc.

The key question then is, how does an individual shareholder understand when the company management is working in the interest of all shareholders or in the interest of a certain category of shareholders only. This is where institutional share-

holders and independent shareholder advisory companies come into play. If the shareholder has the time and intent to analyze proposals sent by the management before the AGM, that is ideal. Otherwise at least s/he should read up on the advice being given by independent agencies and look at the position taken by larger institutional shareholders to decide the stand. But decide they must!

Just as in the case of elections, each shareholder should understand that they have a moral responsibility to vote. At least in cases where they come to a conclusion that the management is not doing its best for all shareholders, they need to vote — however futile it may look to them. As they keep voting, slowly but steadily their combined vote will start to matter and bring in the much needed accountability for promoters and management, which is currently missing.

Pankaj Chopra is the Founder of Five Rivers Portfolio Managers

₹53-cr deposits of Maha co-op bank frozen

THE Income Tax Department has frozen deposits worth over ₹53 crore of an urban credit cooperative bank in Maharashtra after it found "glaring irregularities" in the opening of accounts in a recent raid, the CBDT said on Saturday. The department raided the headquarters of the bank and the residence of its chairman and a director on October 27, it said. While the official statement did not name the searched entity, sources identified it as Buldana Urban Cooperative Credit Bank. "The analysis of bank data on core banking solutions and the statements of key persons recorded during the search action have revealed glaring irregularities in opening the bank accounts," CBDT said. PTI

No evergreening of loans: IndusInd Bank

TERMINING whistleblower allegations on loan evergreening as "grossly inaccurate and baseless", IndusInd Bank on Saturday admitted to have disbursed 84,000 loans without customer consent in May owing to a "technical glitch". Lending without the consent was reported by the field staff in two days, and the glitch was also rectified expeditiously, the private sector lender said in a clarification. On Friday there was a media report about anonymous whistleblowers writing to the bank management and the RBI about BFL, the micro-lending-focused subsidiary of the bank, allegedly resort-

ing to evergreening of loans, wherein existing borrowers unable to pay dues were given new loans to present the books as clean. "The bank strongly denies the allegations of 'evergreening'. All the loans originated and managed by BFL, including during the Covid period which saw the first and second waves ravaging the countryside, are fully compliant with the regulatory guidelines," an official statement said. "Due to a technical glitch in May 2021, nearly 84,000 loans were disbursed without the customer consent getting recorded at the time of loan disbursement," it added. PTI

EXPRESS READ

India set to enter next growth orbit: SBI chief

INDIA is ready to move into the next orbit of growth with its successful Covid vaccination programme, SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara said. The kind of vaccine drive the country has seen makes all the Indians proud, especially because the domestically produced vaccine is being used in a big way, Khara said at EXPO2020 Dubai.

Godrej Properties' sales bookings jump 18%

REALTY firm Godrej Properties' sales bookings rose 18% to ₹3,072 crore during April-September 2021, driven by higher demand of residential properties in Delhi-NCR. In terms of volume, the sales bookings grew 3% to 43,83,959 sq ft during the first six months of this fiscal as against 42,41,283 sq ft in the year-ago period.



UCO Bank observes Vigilance Awareness Week at zonal office

Vigilance Awareness Week was observed from 26th October to 1st November 2021 in UCO Bank Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar, along with the branches working under Bhubaneswar zone. On this occasion, all the staff members of Zonal office, RTC, FI & Ashoka market branch observed a walkathon with great enthusiasm. A meeting of preventive vigilance was also organised in the Zonal Office virtually, which was addressed by Ganesh Chandra Pradhan, Additional SP, Vigilance Bhubaneswar.

Business & Beyond



PNB observes vigilance awareness week

Punjab National Bank observed vigilance awareness week with theme "Independent India at 75 - Self reliance with Integrity" from 26th October 2021 to 1st November 2021. On this occasion PNB Bangalore West and East organised a walkathon at Lalbagh on 31st October to create awareness about integrity, transparency and corruption-free society.

Adika Ratna Sekhar takes over as CMD of Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.

Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd., a Mini Ratna Category-I PSE under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, has announced an important leadership change at the board level. Adika Ratna Sekhar has taken over as Chairman & Managing Director of the Company, with effect from 3rd Nov., 2021.



LIC of India, South Zone felicitates silver medalist at Tokyo Paralympics

LIC of India joins the country in felicitating our proud sons and daughters who had brought 19 medals including gold in the recently held Tokyo Paralympics 2020. LIC honoured PR Sreejesh, Captain and Goalkeeper of the Bronze Medal winning Indian Hockey Team. T Marlappan of Salem, Tamil Nadu, claimed Silver in High Jump.

MCL celebrates 47th Coal India Foundation Day

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), on Nov 1 celebrated 47th Coal India Foundation Day with much fanfare and enthusiasm. The celebrations began with flagging off of 'Run for Excellence' which was organised at company headquarters in Sambalpur where in employees and their family members participated. Run was flagged off by OP Singh, Director (Technical/ Operations) in the presence of Keshav Rao, Director (Personnel), and other officers.

Vedanta Jharsuguda deploys all-women Security Quick Reaction Team, 'Baaz'

Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium and value-added products, has deployed 'Baaz', a newly constituted all-women Quick Reaction Team (QRT) for stepping up plant & people security. This special task force consists women security professionals who are trained in martial arts to serve as the first responders in case of any unforeseen circumstance.

Swachhata Pakhwada at Paradip Port Trust

Coinciding with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, PPT began the observance of "Swachhata Pakhwada" on Nov 2. It started with a Swachhata pledge administered by PLharanadh, Chairman, PPT to HoDs and Dy. HoDs at the Portico of PPT Administrative Building. Due to Covid-19 guidelines, different head of offices and staff took the pledge. R&B Division of Engg. Deptt. undertook cleanliness activities.

SBI, Bhubaneswar observes Vigilance Awareness Week

Vigilance Awareness Week-2021 was observed by State Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Circle from 26th October to 1st November 2021. The theme for the year was "India @75, Integrity with self-reliance." The week kick-started with integrity pledge administered to all the staff members throughout the state. At LHO, it was administered by Vidya Krishnan, Chief General Manager, Bejoy Kumar Kuzur, General Manager, Network II and Ranjit Kumar Mishra, General Manager.





Barcelona confirmed the return of Xavi Hernandez as coach on Saturday, adding that the legendary midfielder was expected back in the city this weekend to take up his new role. The Spaniard left Camp Nou to play for Al Sadd in 2015, after making 767 appearances for the Catalan club, which included winning eight La Liga titles and four Champions Leagues.

Overall it's been a disappointing campaign. In terms of the batting we have not done well at all... It's the end of a generation, we have some guys who have done good things for T20 cricket in our team and around the world

THE LAST DANCE THAT NEVER WAS

Fading West Indies stars bow out of T20 World Cup after losing to Australia



SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Chennai

Dot. Dot. Six. This reflected West Indies' approach to T20 cricket for a decade when they pretty much came out with a rule book on how the format ought to be played. While other countries focused on wicket preservation and minimising dot ball percentages, West Indies looked at power-hitting, clearing boundaries and advanced batting metrics like 'number of 6s for every 4'.

Their batters became good at this brand of cricket as they kept playing for different franchises across the world. The ultimate win for their strategy came five years ago in Mumbai. In the semifinal against India, West Indies played 50 dot balls to India's 27. However, the former scored 146 runs through boundaries compared to India's 92.

destined to fall from the time they decided to stay true to their ethos of dot, dot, six. On slightly bigger grounds on tired pitches with batters not in the best of form, the strategy was more bust and less boom.

In that context, the tournament's background has witnessed the kings slowly exiting the stage. The blowout against England, the retirement of Dwayne Bravo, the slow death innings of Lendl Simmons, the recall of Ravi Rampaul, the exclusion of Sunil Narine and a debut to Roston Chase. An impromptu guard of honour by Australia to bid farewell to Bravo could easily have been a guard of honour for this batch of superstars.

You could also argue that players from the Caribbean were, by and large, responsible for making the format what it is today: a behemoth capable of taking the ICC to the Olympics.



Brief scores: West Indies 157/7 in 20 ovs (Laws 29, Pollard 44, Hazlewood 4/39) lost to Australia 161/2 in 16.2 ovs (Warner 89, Marsh 53).

The first truly great global advertisement for the format came in 2007, thanks to Chris Gayle, arguably T20s greatest batter. It came in the very first match of the very first World Cup.

His 117 off 57 comprised seven 4s and 10 6s. The very first ball of the World Cup had gone for a boundary. Even as other teams were decoding the grammar of T20 cricket, Gayle showed them the path. On Saturday, the 42-year-old briefly flickered in what could be his final game. Two of his last four balls went for six. Fitting because no player has hit as many sixes than Gayle.

The two-time champions' campaign in the UAE was perhaps

Gokulam women set for Asian test

MARTIN JOSEPH @Kochi

IN what could be a watershed moment for women's football in India, Gokulam Kerala FC will take part in the AFC Women's Club Championship which gets underway on Sunday.

The competition is considered to be the marquee event when it comes to women's football in Asia. Gokulam will represent India courtesy of being the defending champions of the 2019-20 Indian Women's League edition. They will be competing with Jordan's Amman SC, Iran's Shahrardi Sirjan and Uzbekistan's FC Bunyodkor.

Gokulam has put together a strong team with a clutch of foreign signings and many Indian internationals.

They have recruited two strikers: Elshaddai Acheampong from Ghana, and Karen Stefanny Paez from Colombia. Myanmar forward Win Theingi Tun will also represent Gokulam along with Puerto Rican midfielder Adriana Tirado and Ghana defender Susan Ama Duah.

The team is also bolstered with Indian players Dange-me Grace, Aditi Chauhan, Dalima Chhibber, Manisha Kalyan, Ranjana Chanu and Soumya.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

give to the youngsters. "Doing well at the world stage should be the goal."

Carlos Brathwaite's 6, 6, 6, 6 naturally launched a 1000 articles on the side's innate ability to outmuscle and outthit sides. What, though, formed the basis of that side was the gun bowling. The foundation was built by Samuel Badree and Suleimann Benn, both of whom bowled dry, and Andre Russell and Bravo, who turned water into wine whenever they bowled.

In fact, the unsung hero across their two World Cup wins was Badree who conceded one boundary every 10 balls. At an economy rate of under 5.6, he also successfully fattened the lamb for the likes of Narine (2012) and Russell and Bravo (2016) to profit later in the innings. They never had that sort of sequence this time out.

What also cost them in the UAE was the lack of an anchor in the mould of Marlon Samuels, who wrote the book on how to anchor for a team as explosive as this. Both Chase as well as Simmons were cast in that role but Samuels understood the role to perfection.

In 2012, he was the third leading run-getter (230) at a strike rate of 132.95. In 2016, he was seventh (181) in the list, while striking at 112.42. In both editions, he emerged as West Indies' highest run-scorer. When Brathwaite did his 6, 6, 6, 6 routine, Samuels was at the other end unbeaten on 85 off 66.

Five years later, a vastly changed middle-order frequently struggled for oxygen. As a result, dot, dot, six was replaced by something approaching dot, wicket, single, dot, wicket, single.

If this is indeed going to be the end, like one journalist said in the post match conference, 'thanks for all the memories'.

All eyes on...

India's final match is on Monday, but Sunday is the D-Day for India. The result of Afghanistan vs New Zealand match will decide India's fate in the tournament.

AFG VS NZ

To say whole of India will be cheering for Afghanistan is an understatement. For India to stay alive, Afghanistan have to beat New Zealand at Abu Dhabi. It is not an impossible ask for Afghanistan as they have a quality spin attack to test the Kiwis. With this being an afternoon game, dew won't be a factor and even if Afghanistan are bowling second, they stand a good chance. For Kiwis, the equation is simple. If they win on Sunday, they will qualify for the semifinals. Mujeeb Ur Rahman hasn't played the last two matches because of injury. Should he be fit, he will be a valuable asset to Afghanistan & will bolster their spin attack.

Live on Star Sports 1 @ 3:30 PM
PAKISTAN VS SCOTLAND LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 @ 7:30 PM

Eng, Aus qualify

SHARJAH: A final over hat-trick from Kagiso Rabada meant England just fell short of South Africa's 189 but still qualified as the top team from Group 1. However, Australia plipped the Proteas to advance as the second team from the group on account of better Net Run Rate.

Brief scores: South Africa 189/2 in 20 ovs (De Kock 34, Van der Dussen 94 n.o., Markram 52 n.o.) bt England 179/8 in 20 ovs (Buttler 26, All 37, Malan 33, Livingstone 28, Pretorius 2/30, Rabada 3/48).

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

THERE is definitely a road ahead across all formats for R Sai Kishore. For the time being, the spotlight is firmly on T20s where he is emerging as a hot property. To say his reputation has been growing is stating the obvious and as another big auction is around the corner and India potentially drifting towards a separate team for the T20s, the left-arm spinner is going to be on the radar.

For a spinner who has been used in the powerplay overs by Tamil Nadu in successive editions of Syed Mushtaq Ali T20s, his economy rate was 4.63 and 4.82. It was the lowest for any spinner in the tournament and understandably generated interest from IPL franchises.

After trials with Mumbai Indians and Punjab Kings, Sai Kishore found home in Chennai Super Kings. But over the last two seasons, all that he has done is warm the bench. Of course, in a franchise that hardly changes its XI, it is hard to get a look-in and at Super Kings, there was simply no room.

So when Sai Kishore joined the Tamil Nadu team ahead of the ongoing edition Syed Mushtaq Ali T20s, all that he was looking for was game time. And this season, in the three matches he has played, there has been a change in role for Sai Kishore. Apart from using him in the middle-overs, TN have started to use him at the death, a stage where not many spinners prefer.

Sai expands his repertoire

SELECT BRIEF SCORES

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C
Pondicherry: 129 for 8 in 20 ovs (Ragu 32, Faid Ahmed 27, R Sai Kishore 4/28) lost to Tamil Nadu 130 for 2 in 16.1 ovs (C Hari Nishaanth 75 not out, B Aparajith 28, Sagar P Udheshi 2/22) by eight wickets.	Mumbai: 131/7 in 20 ovs (Shyam Dube 24, Wittick Chatterjee 2/19) beat Bengal: 121/8 in 20 ovs (Kalf Ahmed 31, Ritwik Roy Chowdhury 30; Mohit Avasthi 3/25, Tushar Deshpande 2/19, Siddhesh Lad 2/16) by 10 runs.	Uttar Pradesh: 108 for 8 in 20 ovs (Madhav Kaushik 30; Deepak Puri 3/15) lost to Delhi: 109 for 1 in 13.2 ovs (Anuj Rawat 50) by 9 wickets.
Maharashtra: 183 for 8 in 20 ovs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 81, Nedar Jadhav 55, Debraj Pradhan 3/37, Bikash Rout 2/29) beat Odisha: 156 all out in 18.5 ovs (Anshy Rath 34, Abhishek Rout 29, Divyansh Himganekar 4/35, Ashay Pelkar 3/13) by 27 runs.	Karnataka: 142/6 in 20 ovs (Manish Pandey 51; Divesh Patharia 2/31) beat Services: 109/8 in 20 ovs (Rahul Singh 34; Vityakumar Vyshak 3/25, MB Darshan 2/30) by 33 runs.	Chandigarh: 162 for 5 in 20 ovs (Manan Vohra 106 not out; Ravi Teja 2/19) lost to Hyderabad: (Hanuma Vihari 57, Tilak Verma 61 not out, Arpit Pannu V/7) by eight wickets.

On Saturday, against Pondicherry, Sai Kishore returned with figures of 4-0-28-4 including a hat-trick in the 20th over as TN, after restricting their neighbours to 129, won by eight wickets with C Hari Nishaanth top-scoring with an unbeaten 75. Though the economy rate has slightly gone up in each of the three matches, what is not missing is the dot balls. In three matches he has bowled 10, 9 and 11 dots. They are precious in the format as they lead to wickets.

"I have been working on bowling at the death overs and always liked doing it because if it works, the high you get is unparalleled because it is basically hit or miss. I like that high. You don't get that anywhere," Sai Kishore said.

"In TNPL also I took up the role of bowling at the death. And if my team needs me, I should be equipped to bowl where ever they want me to.

Over here, there was lot of help on these pitches and the team also backed me."

Though Sai Kishore didn't get a break in the IPL, he was picked for India's tour to Sri Lanka in July, where he accompanied the team as a net-bowler. There is a strong chance that he will be in huge demand at the auctions but Sai Kishore is keeping his focus with TN.

"I have learnt to stay in the moment and I want to do well for TN. If I continue to win matches for TN then I will definitely be in the reckoning, but it is important for the team to win. And the more you think about auctions, it will take you away from your game. If people think that I'm good enough, I'm going to get a team. It is totally based on their perception. You can't do anything about it. What I can do is keep performing for TN. Although I didn't play, it is what I learnt at CSK. Performance is primary."

Humiliating: Coaches after late award snub

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

HURT and humiliated after his name was removed from Dronacharya (regular) Award list, hockey coach Sandeep Sangwan on Saturday met sports minister Anurag Thakur. In fact, he was not the lone coach, who found his name missing from the list. More than 10 coaches, whose names were recommended for either Dronacharya (regular and lifetime) or Dhyan Chand (lifetime) by the selection committee, were left out of the final list announced by the ministry of youth affairs and sports on November 2.

"Not only me. Everyone, whose name was made public around a week ago after the committee recommended his/her name, is now feeling humiliated. I cannot come to terms with this rejection. I have been either applying or being nominated by Hockey India for this award since 2017 and never felt bad after being rejected in the last four years. But this time it's different as my name was recommended by the committee," Sangwan, who runs HAR Hockey Academy in Sonapat, Haryana, said.

Hockey coach Baldev Singh was part of the committee, also said "Sandeep deserves it. I recommended his name and everyone in the committee approved it unanimously. I don't know why his name was removed later." The other prominent names, who missed out despite being recommended by the committee, whose chairperson was retired Supreme Court judge Justice Mukundam Sharma, are Sujit Mann (wrestling), Bhaskar Bhatt (boxing) and CR Kumar (hockey). The last two were recommended for Dronacharya Award in lifetime category.

"Ever since I have learnt that my name was removed from the list, I don't feel like stepping on the field. I may even approach the court or retire from coaching," one of the coaches, whose name was removed, said. Sangwan, who has been coaching hockey players for years, requested the government not to give them cash award if that is the issue behind the move. "We want the honour not money. This is an exceptional year with our athletes performing brilliantly in the Olympics. We won an Olympic medal in hockey after 41 years and it's good that the players from the men's team were chosen for Khel Ratna and Arjuna but why the coaches and mentors, who prepared them for the big stage, were ignored," lamented Sangwan.

It was learnt that these coaches are seeking an appointment with the sports minister to put forward their grievances. The award function is scheduled on November 13.



Saurabh, Abhishek finish on podium

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

PISTOL SHOOTERS Saurabh Chaudhary and Abhishek Verma medalled in the men's 10m air pistol event of the ongoing President's Cup in Wrocław (Poland) on Saturday. Saurabh claimed the silver medal while Abhishek settled for bronze. Germany's Christian Reitz won the gold medal.

The duo had earlier missed out on mixed team events.

Teaming up with Iran's reigning Olympic champ Javad Foroughi, Manu Bhaker bagged gold in the 10m air pistol mixed team event, late on Friday.



Saurabh Chaudhary

Their partnership was formed by draw. Playing in an experimental format, the duo beat Mathilde Lamolle (France) and Artem Chernousov (Russia) 16-8 in the gold medal match. Manu and Foroughi were initially behind but they bounced back and managed to

hold their nerves to clinch the top prize. However, Manu could not replicate that result in the individual event as she bowed out at the semifinal stage on Saturday. She had showed her class in the first phase of qualification by finishing as topper among top twelve shooters in the world.

In the semifinals on Saturday, she got off to a promising start but in the second series, the 19-year-old struggled to find her groove, hitting below-par scores to get eliminated. Ukraine's Olena Kostevych, who had finished second in the semifinals, went on to clinch the gold medal.

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Derby delight for Man City, Chelsea held

AFP @Manchester

MANCHESTER United suffered another home humiliation as Manchester City cruised to a 2-0 win at Old Trafford on Saturday to raise further questions over the future of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. League leaders Chelsea, meanwhile, were held 1-1 by Burnley.

In Manchester, Eric Bailly's own goal and Bernardo Silva's strike on the stroke of half-time was the difference between the sides on the scoreboard. But that did little justice to the chasm between the teams as only a string of stunning saves

from David De Gea prevented United from a thrashing similar to the 5-0 humbling they were handed by Liverpool less than two weeks ago. Solskjaer bought himself some time with a 3-0 win at Tottenham last weekend. But United have now won just one of their last six Premier League games.

Solskjaer's switch to a back five worked a treat at Spurs, but that owed much to the return of Raphael Varane from injury. Without the French World Cup winner, who sustained a hamstring injury against Atalanta on Wednesday, the Norwegian's decision to retain the same sys-

tem quickly backfired. Bailly was included for the first time in the Premier League this season and took only seven minutes to give City the perfect start when he sliced Joao Cancelo's cross into his own goal.

United have won just five of Cristiano Ronaldo's 13 appearances since the five-time Ballon d'Or winner returned to the club. Had things gone differently in the final days of August, Ronaldo could have been lining up for City as they pursued the 36-year-old to fill the void left by Sergio Aguero.

Results: Southampton 1-0 Aston Villa; Man United 0-2 Man City; Chelsea 1-1 Burnley; Brent-

ford 1-2 Norwich; Crystal Palace 2-0 Wolves.

Barcelona held

Just hours after officially confirming legend Xavi Hernandez as coach, Barcelona squandered 3-0 lead to be held 3-3 by Celta Vigo in La Liga on Saturday. Barca were cruising at one point after goals by Ansu Fati, Sergio Busquets and Memphis Depay. However, Celta fought back in the second half. Iago Aspas reduced the deficit in the 52nd minute before scoring a late equaliser in injury time. Nolito scored the second goal for the hosts in the 74th minute.



Man City's Bernardo Silva scores against Man United on Saturday | AP

Record Rs 1.45 lakh crore payment of cane price

UP UNDERGOES A SILENT SUGARCANE REVOLUTION

A Sugarcane revolution is taking place in Uttar Pradesh today with the Yogi government committed to fulfilling the promise made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to double the income of farmers in the country. With this in mind the state government is taking several steps for the welfare of sugarcane farmers. Even as the state has seen a record production of sugarcane to the tune of 476 lakh metric tonnes the government has taken steps to proceed with the expansion of the capacity of 20 sugar mills in UP and has approved licenses for 272 new Khandasari units. All this is being done with a view that the sugarcane produced by the farmers must be crushed and their payments made at the earliest.



during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when many industries had to close down but sugar mills were asked to ensure unhindered operations. COVID-19 protocol was introduced in all 119 mills in the state and all of them were made operational.

More than 47 percent of the country's sugar is therefore being produced in UP today and this is no surprise. The sugarcane sector contributes 8.45 percent of the state's GDP. It contributes 20.18 percent of the farm sectors GDP.

Sugar Mills Made Operational

A total of 119 sugar mills have been made operational in the state. COVID-19 protocol was effectively implemented in these sugar mills, yet the state did not allow the work to be affected. This was very important in view of the fact that there are more than 45.44 lakh sugarcane supplying farmers in Uttar Pradesh and 67 lakh farmers are involved in sugarcane cultivation. Also, the promotional policies of the state government have seen the area under sugarcane cultivation grow.

Closed Sugar Mills Reopened

The Yogi Adityanath government has reopened several sugar mills which were closed during the earlier regimes. In Uttar Pradesh 30 sugar mills were closed during the years 2007 to 2017. The establishment of two new sugarmills at Pipraich and Munderwa (10,000 TCD respectively) and three sugar mills of the private sector which had been closed earlier Gangalhedhi (5000 TCD) Manjhavali (3500 TCD) and Bulandshahar (3500 TCD) have been revived by the incumbent government.

Increasing crushing capacity of existing sugarmills has also taken place. The crushing capacity of 11 sugarmills nine of which are private mills and one each is in the cooperative sector have been increased to 23850 TCD.

Top in Sugar Production

The state is at the top position in sugarcane and sugar production. It is number one. After the year 2017 a record 476 lakh metric tonnes of sugar has been produced in the state and

the mills have crushed more than 4289 lakh tonnes of sugarcane.

Increasing The Average Incomes

As a result of various sugarcane development programmes in the state, the average production of sugarcane has increased from 72.38 to 81.50 tonnes per hectare. Even the sugar percentage in the cane has increased. As a result farmers' incomes have gone up, too. This increase in production of 9.12 tonnes per hectare has resulted in an increase of Rs 29,184 in the average per hectare income of sugarcane farmers.

Putting UP Khandasari Units

For the first time in 25 years, new licenses have been issued to set up 272 Khandasari units. Out of these 176 Khandasari units have been operationalized. This has meant an investment of Rs. 388 crores in these new units. About 20,000 direct and indirect jobs have been created through these new units. Also, licenses of old and closed Khandasari units have been reissued to make the units operational. This has ensured utilization of additional sugarcane production and healthy sugar products.

Sugar industry in Uttar Pradesh thriving as never before

A record production of 476 lakh metric tonnes of sugar has taken place

Minimum support price increased to Rs 350 per quintal

Crushing capacity of 20 sugar mills expanded

Licenses issued for 272 new Khandasari units in the state

More than Rs 1.45 lakh crore paid to farmers as cane price

Farm machinery bank to reduce environmental damage in 146 Cooperative development societies

Even during the COVID-19 Pandemic period when all the industries were facing closure, sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh continued their crushing operations. It was the commitment of government for safeguarding the interests of farmers that the supply of the sugarcane remained uninterrupted even during the lockdown period.

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh



Record Ethanol Production



A record production of ethanol has taken place in the state due to the expansion of the sugar industry all around. This has taken place through 53 distilleries during the sugarcane crushing season from 2017-18 to July 31, 2021. An ethanol plant has been set up in Sathiyao and Najibabad Cooperative Mills. The Pipraich Sugarmill of Gorakhpur will be the first sugar mill in North India to make ethanol directly from sugarcane juice by using a different technology.

Due to the low cost of making ethanol directly from sugarcane juice the income is estimated to be almost double as compared to making sugar.

- Irrigation capacity saw increase to 3.77 lakh hectares
- In Har GharNal Yojana 30,000 gram panchayats have pure piped drinking water schemes
- Bundelkhand sees construction of 19,428 farm ponds
- Indo-Israel water project MoU signed
- In Bundelkhand 467 piped drinking water schemes launched under 32 projects of Jal Jeevan Mission

Boosting Crops and Water Conservation



Known for insufficient supply of drinking water and unavailability of water for farming the reorganized Chinat and Sarojininagar Blocks of the state capital Lucknow have undergone a massive change over the last few years since the Yogi government came to power. This is due to the efforts of the Irrigation department as the groundwater table has increased. These blocks had been suffering from depletion in groundwater levels. It was a major problem there. The area did not have enough water for drinking and also had insufficient water for agricultural purposes. The water level in the blocks was also in the over exploited category.

In the eight development blocks of Lucknow there used to be dry ponds and the area was also not equipped to use less water consuming methods of farming like drip and sprinkler systems. To address this issue from 2017 onwards rapid efforts for rainwater harvesting started. The old ponds were renovated and new ponds were also constructed. A tree plantation drive was carried out and 2093581 saplings were planted in the area and the water situation in these blocks started improving. The government has also installed water harvesting in around 446 government and semi-government buildings of the rural and urban areas. The schemes are also being run for groundwater conservation across the state. Water harvesting arrangements are being made to suit local geographical conditions.

HAR GHAR JAL SCHEME

Providing pure drinking water to every house



Bundelkhand was synonymous with the word drought and water shortage but today things are changing. The state has launched a total of 467 piped drinking water schemes under 32 projects of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the Bundelkhand region.

The project is estimated to cost Rs 10,131 crores. Mahoba, Lalitpur and Jhansi will benefit from this project which will cover a population of 14 lakh persons. This is a region which is prone to droughts and water famine and water availability is a major issue here.

Boon for villagers

The project which was earlier scheduled to be completed by December 2022 but the government has directed the construction agency to expedite the work in Jhansi district. The aim is to start piped water supply to 648 villages in December 2021 itself.

Bukhara is a village located among the rocky terrain of Maurani Tehsil about 20 km from Jhansi. Now it is finally ready to get easy access to drinkable water after many years. Earlier women of the village had to trek many miles to collect water and carry it home. This scheme has put an end to years of struggle and trouble. The Har GharNal Har Ghar Jal Scheme has started laying water pipelines across the village. Soon the village will have a regular water supply once this network of pipes is connected.

Jhansi to See Transformation

With the Har Ghar Jal Scheme Jhansi will see a major transformation. During the period of March to July the villagers faced a shortage of water but with this scheme in action, several lakhs will get pure drinking water. In collaboration with the government scheme that raises awareness on

the need to save water in every village this will ensure better water conservation and more efficient use of water. The state government has also almost completed the work of water treatment plants in various districts of Bundelkhand including Jhansi and Mahoba. The scheme will benefit lakhs of residents of the area.

Increasing water table

The problem of groundwater shortage in western Uttar Pradesh is now expected to be history. The work by the water conservation department to save water is being done on a war footing. The department has raised the groundwater level through several schemes which include rainwater conservation measures, drip and sprinkler irrigation methods especially in the over exploited and critical development blocks of Saharanpur and Meerut in the past four years.

Taking precedence from these cities work has started in other districts of Uttar Pradesh as well. More efficient irrigation systems have been set up. The ground water conservation department has also made farmers aware of the use of drip and sprinkler systems in the construction and restoration of ponds and construction of check dams and low water consumption methods in irrigation.

According to the groundwater resources assessment report five development blocks of Saharanpur fall into over exploited areas and four in the critical areas category. The department has started work on a huge scale to increase the water table in all the development blocks here. As a result the ground water has increased by 20 centimeters here. In urban areas the department has promoted roof top rainwater harvesting to recharge the groundwater and increase the water table. To increase the level of groundwater a rainwater harvesting system was established on 187 government and semi government buildings. A total of 59,81,391 saplings have been planted in Saharanpur through an afforestation scheme. Minor irrigation works have been carried out in all the development blocks of Saharanpur and a total of 72 check dams and 2203 ponds have been constructed and renovated. These efforts have reduced the number of over exploited blocks to four blocks from five blocks and critical blocks have been reduced to one block alone. All this has been accomplished in the four and a half years of the Yogi Adityanath government.

2995 villages in Vindhya region to be benefited

The Har GharNal Yojana has been launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the state to provide tap water to every household. For the districts of Sonbhadra and Mirzapur in the Vindhya region of Uttar Pradesh he launched the scheme via Video Conference in 2020. The scheme is to the tune of Rs 5555.38 crores. It aims to provide water to over 41 lakh villagers in two districts. It will ensure the water supply through the pipeline to 2995 villages in two districts in the region. Despite the region having many rivers it was known for drought. But the government is addressing the water scarcity by launching the scheme. An estimated 21,87,980 villagers in Mirzapur are expected to be benefited by the scheme. In Sonbhadra it is estimated that 19,53,458 villagers are to be benefited.

The water of lakes and rivers will be purified and supplied to the families in Sonbhadra. A sum of Rs 3212.18 crore and Rs 2343.20 crore will be spent under this scheme in Sonbhadra and Mirzapur respectively. This scheme is expected to be completed by next year.

An Eventxpress Initiative

No Kidding

Do Parents Know What Their Children Are Up To And What They Can Do Better?

By SHILPI MADAN and NOOR ANAND CHAWLA

Parents are Boomers. Kids are Zoomers. With the kicky feeding frenzy that social media, its spin-offs, and peer pools are shaking up today, the mutual trust within la familia is tottering on the stilts of young adult secrets. Admit it. There was a certain degree of power Boomers wielded in the kid domain when the now-juniors were toddlers. Not anymore. A surreal climate change has been happening through remote learning. With millions of online-spending-time tykes turning Kidults, and sharenting and conscious uncoupling becoming the norm, the relationship between parents and children is oscillating sharply. From warfare narrative to an I-spy commando course to clueless parental presence, it's all out there. The recent developments in Aryan Khan's life sharply spotlight the vital question which has been hovering and humming like a background score in everyone's subconscious: Do parents really know what their kids are doing?

THE TRAGEDY OF UNBELONGING

Apparently not.

Despite being a single divorcee parent, Delhi-based entrepreneur Shikha Sharma* gave it all to raising her daughter Ananya—the best of education, life experiences, and value systems. She firmly believed that her intelligent always-top-of-the-class kid was different from the wayward children of her friends. Eighteen-year-old Ananya*, to all outward appearances, was the rare teenager with a single-minded focus on studies and getting a seat in an Ivy League college. No distractions for her—no partying (raves, absolutely not) or demanding boyfriends. One day Sharma returned home a day earlier than scheduled from a work trip and walked into her daughter's room to a shocking sight: Ananya was on a video call with three other girls—all masked and each one naked to the bone—pleasuring herself. Sharma went ballistic when she realised that she had walked in on a virtual act of communal yet anonymous sex. Later, even with counselling, she found it difficult to come to terms with the fact that her understanding of her own child was so incomplete.

Then there is Prithvi Goel*, a young boy who meets girls through dating apps. Since he lived with his parents and grandfather, he would never bring them home. One night, however, when there was no other place to go, he sneaked his date into his room at 1:30 am and he shuffled her out four hours later. When he woke up around lunchtime, feeling rather clever about his escapade, his 87-year-old grandfather smirked, "Did you have fun?" Embarrassed at first, he soon joined his grandfather's guffaw, realising that the secrecy had been unnecessary.

"Parents are humans too. In the dynamic world we live in, we don't know what we are doing ourselves. Hence, it's silly to assume that we'd know what our kids are doing all the time. Of course, we like to believe that we do, it gives us a pretext of being a 'concerned and responsible' parent, but the truth is far from it," says Arouba Kabir, Gurugram-based mental health counsellor and founder, Enso Wellness, adding, "The story with young adults is like a thriller with new twists and turns every day—hormonal swings, making new friends and relationships, developing curiosity towards unexplored spheres of life and so on. It is also the time when the sense of 'being an adult' sets in their mind, and at this vital point, your relationship with your child is put to the limustest."

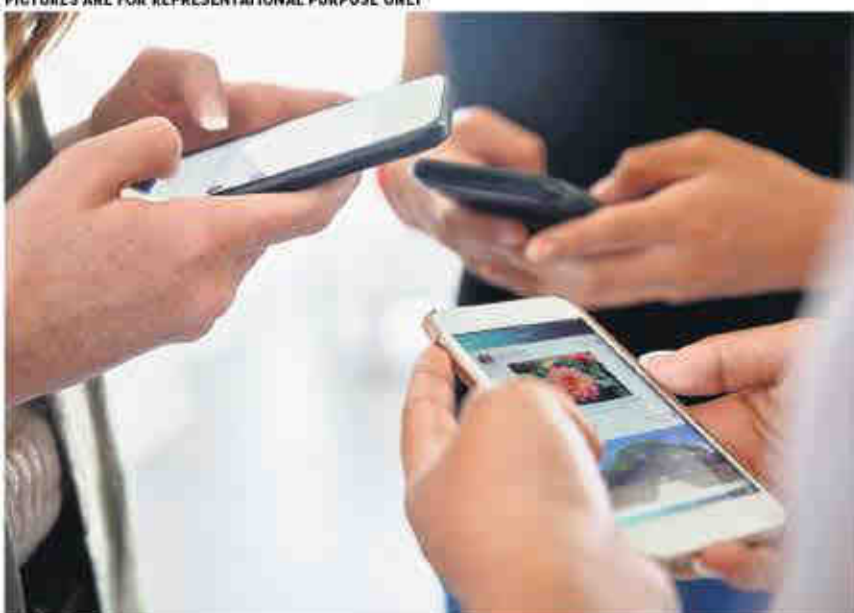
Like Ananya, 15-year-old Ankita Dua*, daughter of a bank employee and a schoolteacher, was on track to becoming the head girl of a prominent Mumbai school. She had friends with rich parents but could not afford their lavish lifestyles. When an end-of-year 'conti-party' (teen slang for continuation of the school farewell celebrations) was around the corner, her tony friends bought matching designer dresses, the price tags equal to her father's salary for three months. Desperately wishing to keep up with the 'it' crowd but too embarrassed to ask her parents, Ankita saw an opportunity when the class teacher absentmindedly left her solitary engagement ring on the table in the classroom. Unmindful of CCTV cameras, Ankita stole it with the intention of hawking it at a pawn shop her mother went to, when money was short. The desperate teen was caught and immediately suspended from school. Worse, she was humiliated in front of her friends with whom she wanted to 'belong' by committing the crime. Her middle-class parents, too ashamed to deal with the fallout, quietly packed her off to Indore to live with her grandparents.

There is no class distinction when it comes to teen behaviour. In what he jokingly terms the 'Bareilly Ki Barfi Syndrome', Feisal Alkazi, theatre personality, educationist, activist and counsellor for 40 years with NGO Sanjivini, observes that when young people land in Delhi from satellite towns like Meerut, Alwar, Bareilly, etc, they get enormous culture shock. Arriving from modest backgrounds, with nose-to-the-grindstone upbringings, they secure seats in the city's top colleges and move into paying guest accommodations. Here, they begin to interact with city girls and boys whose lifestyle is absolutely alien to them; expensive makeup, big cars, wild parties, and general freedom of thought and action. They start believing they must assimilate to gain the acceptance of this trendy crowd. Soon, they are going to or having parties, and use dating apps like Tinder, Bumble, and Hinge for instant gratification. "A young girl was consulting me for her depression. One morning, she came in and said, 'Today is a great morning because 12 guys swiped right'. She was thrilled. Many first-time couples

Turn to page 2



PICTURES ARE FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY



Gen-Z refers to the generation born roughly between the years of 1997 and 2012, following the millennials—kids raised on the internet and social media. According to a survey conducted by Sprout Social, a global social media management platform, **66 PERCENT OF GEN-ZERS USE SOCIAL MEDIA PURELY TO KILL TIME**, making them the only generation to rank that above connecting with family and friends.



Continued from page 1

who meet online have shared with him that they end up having sex on the first date itself. Such situations make it impossible for such young adults to bridge the gap between where they come from and who they want to be. They start lying to their parents and lose respect for them. They go back home for holidays only to be badgered with traditional concerns like marriage. They're not ready to settle down after having dozen-odd casual sexual relationships," shares Alkazi.

BROOKING THE BOND

"Parents are usually extra vigilant with kids up to 10/11 years of age. When children begin to demand more freedom, in the pre-puberty phase, their folks feel they don't need as much supervision as before. This thin line of distinction between independence and reduced supervision is a tightrope walk, which becomes the decisive factor between knowing and not knowing," explains Rupa Chaubal, practising psychologist, psychotherapist, and trauma therapist, in Mumbai. "My parents never knew 100 percent what I was doing, I never told them everything. So how can I expect to be in the know, 100 percent, about what my kids are doing?" asks Mumbai entrepreneur Veena Rathi. She keeps the lines of communication open 24/7 with her 20-something sons. "My boys confide in me a lot, and yet if I were to assess, the marker would stand at eight on 10 in terms of how plugged in I am about exactly what is happening in their lives. I can't snoop, which would make them allergic to me. I can't probe. I can only listen keenly, even to my younger one studying in the US when he calls at odd hours. My older son told me that everyone tries weed at least once, and so has he. Pick and choose times when to react."

But there is a growing gap in the child-parent bonding. Dr Sonal Anand, psychiatrist, Wockhardt Hospital, Mira Road, Mumbai, feels this is because adults are becoming more aware of their own needs and expecting too much from themselves. And the children are more intelligent, developing faster, and exposed to so many new experiences, both virtual and real. Says Anand, "Ideologies are changing and so is progressive thinking, causing a perception lag between generations. The definition of norm, right and wrong, is also changing constantly. Remember, there are different types of parent ideologies: 'cool parents', 'orthodox folks'... But there are also parents who find balance and help children learn the correct way of life while discovering their own journey as well."

Familial complexities in large Indian families, however, break communications down. Alkazi believes that joint families teem with emotional violence, and licentious and sexually predatory behaviour that is largely kept under wraps. "Both joint and nuclear families have their own pressures. In a nuclear setup, both parents are working, and children are raised as latchkey kids. They rely on the help, who in many cases behave inappropriately with the child when the parents are not around. It could be a neighbour. There is no particular norm for what is considered safe for a young person," Alkazi laments. Shruti Chadha* was diagnosed as being on the autistic spectrum around age 10. Already awkward at school, she began to feel increasingly alienated from the rest of her classmates once the terrible teens set in. A penchant for drama and a desire to impress led her to a 'relationship' with the neighbourhood *dhobi*. "I have a boyfriend!" she gleefully told the girls in her class one day, who in their disbelief pestered her for more information. Chadha's mother was immediately alerted by the school, and the man was duly caught and punished.

THE ANTI-SOCIAL MEDIA

Generation-Z, or Gen-Z, refers to the generation born roughly between the years of 1997 and 2012, following the millennials—



WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

FEISAL ALKAZI Counsellor, Educationist, Activist, Theatre Director

1. Communication is the key and the way to make it an everyday occurrence is by eating dinner together with mobile phones and the TV off! If it's difficult to get the kids talking and sharing, start with sharing your own day, how you felt, the ups and downs.
2. Sometimes a film or TV serial deals with a topic you want to address with your children very effectively. Find the time to watch it with them so that you can discuss the content later.
3. If there is no other time, use a car ride to bring yourself up to date with your children's news. There is no exit possible till you reach your destination and often you can converse without uncomfortable eye contact because of where you are sitting in the car.
4. Begin conversations with 'I feel..' rather than with sentences that sound like you are blaming them such as 'You do..'



SINCHITA V BHATTACHARYA
Consultant Psychologist

1. Help children develop interpersonal skills, teach them to connect with family and friends virtually and also learn to appreciate and support each other.
2. Take out family time to share your experiences, encourage reading good books and writing a journal, watch a show together or play a board game—engaging children in activities helps them talk.
3. Help them explain their emotions and reactions, and also support them to develop a problem-solving approach.
4. Practice time away from the news and social media.



NASREEN KHAN Counsellor, Life Coach and Behavioural Skills Facilitator

1. Make your children aware of the dangers of breach of privacy in their interactions with strangers online.
2. Don't shy away from seeking professional help for yourself or your children if needed.

PRABHSAHAY KAUR Advocate, Representing Numerous Child Right's Organisations

1. Make a concerted effort to pull them away from sitting in front of a screen to smelling the rain, playing in the mud, chasing butterflies. Nature must be reintroduced into their lives. Playing outdoors is of seminal importance to their physical and mental health as well as social interactions. The feel of a book in one's hand and the connection with an actual book, to a library, as opposed to a Kindle. All this needs to be re-introduced.
2. It is crucial to show them how enjoyable our childhood was.

kids raised on the internet and social media. According to a survey conducted by Sprout Social, a global social media management platform, 66 percent of Gen-Zers use social media purely to kill time, making them the only generation to rank that above connecting with family and friends. Explains Nasreen Khan, certified life coach and behavioural skills facilitator with over two decades of experience in counselling, "Children are in a tearing hurry to grow up these days, and I attribute a lot of it to social media which allows kids to compare themselves with their friends and the friends of their friends who they don't even know! It causes FOMO."

Many kids are culturally confused. Pink Floyd's coming-of-age anthem 'Another Brick In The Wall', written in 1979, continues to resonate even today. The only change is that the children asserting their independence are now younger than ever before. Alkazi believes that it is because TV and social media have a huge influence on impressionable minds. "Through these platforms, they see how independent Western kids are; they have their own cars and freedoms, and often pay for everything themselves by earning their own money. Our

kids are attempting to be ultra-American, but don't have the tools or money."

THE ADDICTION SYNDROME

When Mumbai graphic designer Abhinav Singh's teenage son was picked up by cops from their house for peddling drugs and being in possession of a questionable quantity, he realised he had seen it coming. "He was disengaged from school, losing a radical amount of weight, and was spending a lot, while my wife and I were slogging to pay EMIs and fees for both the kids. No amount of counselling and convincing helped. Sometimes we learn to revise priorities when everything blows up in our face. It is a second life now after his release from jail, and we have to live it well," he says wryly.

What makes children susceptible to addiction? "Anxiety, depression, irresponsible risk-taking behaviour, social alienation (when they feel their peers dislike them) and emotional avoidance," explains Chaubal. "Watch out for symptoms like your kids spending long hours in the bathroom, problems with sleeping, unusual body odours, abrupt weight changes, slow responses, uncommon calmness,

posting different messages on social media, fights for increased demands to be met, stealing money, gregarious spending, in addition to depression, lethargy." While counselling a troubled teen, she asked him with who would he bond the most at home. Surprisingly, the answer was a parent with a difficult temperament. She explained to the boy that if he is not accepted the way he is, he must also accept that he must let go of the expectations of being accepted the way he is by this parent. "To resolve the situation, I focussed on him building a better bond with another attachment figure; a second parent figure like an aunt who had raised him as a baby. I worked in tandem to diffuse the core belief in the boy's mind that he was unloved and worthless, and identified triggers for substance abuse. Both he and his parent were psycho-educated about identifying signs of relapse. Awareness is the key to successful intervention," says Chaubal. The boy needed medication and is now studying engineering.

THE DIGITAL DEVIANTS

The idea of achieving gratification through strangers is a common theme among Gen-Z today which is easiest done on the net. A recent survey by online dating app Tinder highlights that nine in 10 Gen-Z Indians use dating apps to meet new people or stay connected, and 67 percent believe that meeting new people online is liberating. Counsellor Khan shares the case of a 16-year-old girl. Having recently lost a beloved pet, which had been hard on the teen, she had become close to a man online while sharing her woes. Eventually, she wanted to meet him. Her parents told her that they would like to meet him first. They were glad they insisted—"the boy" was a 40-year-old man. "It is so easy for people to lure youngsters online, particularly when they are feeling sad and vulnerable," Khan points out. She shares another case of two young girls

aged 14 and 15, who were addicted to online chats and ended up making inappropriate video calls with a stranger, who started to blackmail them. They were forced to pander to his unreasonable demands. "There is a lack of understanding and awareness among such young children that breach of privacy is a major problem with terrible consequences," says Khan. Youngsters watching online pornography is a nightmare parents don't like to face. Advocate Prabhshahay Kaur, the representative of Bachpan Bachao Andolan and other child rights organisations, says, "I don't believe children, particularly teenagers, can fully fathom the consequences of their online activity. Bachpan Bachao Andolan has proposed that intermediaries must be held liable for controlling child pornography."

Entering these troubled waters is a new generation, the youngest members of which haven't even been born. Imagine that! Generation Alpha are children of millennials, and born between the years of 2010 and 2024. Ordinarily the concerns of the very young may not merit attention, but things changed with the pandemic. These little ones are spending an unprecedented amount of time online and are growing up in digital realms. The parenting of this generation is being increasingly outsourced to digital platforms, as parents struggle to adjust to a post-pandemic world.

COCOONED UNDER ONE ROOF

Clearly, a growing distance is setting in between parents and children. Forget the digital disconnect, there is increased emotional disengagement. Says Kabir, "In affluent families, parents think their offspring will become loving if they are pampered with the latest gadgets, while the grown-ups focus on their professional and social lives

with gusto. This creates a distance that grows with time and leads to the children and the parents not realising the charm of togetherness and the true meaning of a family"

Parents-in-progress realise that no one told them bringing up kids was going to be easy. So how do they deal with it, instead of going down the Monday morning sermon route, shrieking their lungs out, whimpering in emotional assault, or simply zipping ahead with their lives? Says Sheela M Bajaj, life guru and spiritual coach, "During my interactions, I've realised that it is not up to the children to understand their parents. Parents should upgrade their belief systems and approach, and think about what their kids are going through. It is almost like upgrading our phones and gadgets to fit newer technology. Parents need to connect, and not make it a big deal when they find out certain things." She has advice for adults on inter-generational trauma. "If your own parents didn't give you security and you don't know what it feels like, then how can you offer it to your own kids? So you cultivate an attitude that 'if you grew up like this, and things turned out fine for you, hence there is nothing wrong with such parenting.' This is how trauma passes from one generation to the next."

It is OK not to be OK, once in a while. It humanises you and carries no shame. "Being vulnerable in front of your children helps because then they feel you are more approachable," says Bajaj. "Build trust slowly. My 18-year-old logs into his Instagram account on one of my extra devices. He knows that I have access to it. I appreciate his trust so much that I will never peek into his account. Knowing that you trust them, gives kids their emotional backbone."

Telling your children you have their back is the best a parent can do. (*Names have been changed to protect identities.)



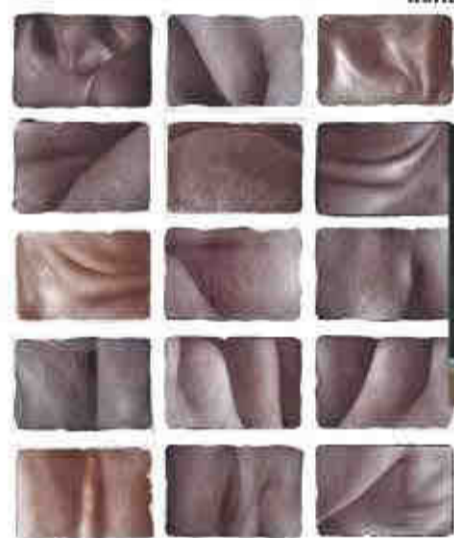
Many kids are culturally confused. Pink Floyd's coming-of-age anthem 'Another Brick In The Wall', written in 1979, continues to resonate even today. The only CHANGE IS THAT THE CHILDREN ASSERTING THEIR INDEPENDENCE ARE NOW YOUNGER than ever before.

A Shot at the Past

In his 2013 memoir *Levels of Life*, Booker Prize-winning English writer Julian Barnes places photography as the first of the three supreme emblems of modernity in the early 19th century, the other two being electricity and aeronautics. Narrating the adventurous shooting of the earth from the sky by French aeronaut Gaspard-Félix Tournachon, Barnes says photography was a sudden, contemporary art that achieved technical excellence very quickly, like jazz.

Nearly two centuries after French inventor Joseph Nicéphore Niépce took the first photograph in history, the world is getting ready to celebrate the moment of triumph. Two major exhibitions in the national capital were dedicated to photography, an art form that radically altered thought and aesthetics through the expression of truth. The first, 'Unsealed Chamber, The Transient Image', had artists Aparna Nori, Arpan Mukherjee, Indu Antony and Philippe Calia. 'In Search of Ancient India', the second, was a solo exhibition by Scottish historian and writer William Dalrymple.

Mounted at the Romain Rolland Gallery of the Alliance Française in Delhi, Unsealed Chamber marked the 195th anniversary of



Artist Aparna Nori; (left) work in mosaic of gold borax-toned salted paper print

Photographs are the central theme of two exhibitions—one an ode to two centuries of camerawork and another a historian's trail through ancient India

By FAIZAL KHAN

WINDOW VIEW

French inventor Joseph Nicéphore Niépce, in 1827, after several failed attempts, successfully used a camera obscura to capture an image from the window of his home in eastern France.



The image titled 'View from the Window' is the oldest photograph in history.

His first photograph on an unetched tin plate gave the world a new art form.



Indu Antony; (left) artwork from the series 'Ivar' in salted paper print

Niépce's invention of photography. The works of the featured artists relied heavily on processes of photography used in the 19th century to create a nostalgic link with the community of early practitioners of the art. The artworks were also influenced by the explosion of technology in the 21st century and the pressures brought about by the pandemic.

"I wanted to slow down," says Bengaluru-based artist Antony, reflecting on the painstakingly slow salted paper print method used to make her 28 photographic works, titled 'Ivar'. The salted paper print technique, invented by British scientist William Henry Fox Talbot in 1835, takes eight hours to make one print. "The prints were created during the second wave of Covid-19. I was filled with anxiety during this time and printmaking became a meditative process," adds Antony. Her works on display were prints of photographs of women collected from

second-hand shops and *kabadi-walas* over a decade.

Nori, who like Antony used the salted paper print method, combined digital and analogue photography in her works. "It is a personal project. I have made images of myself digitally and in the printmaking process used the

French artist Philippe Calia's work from the series, 'The Shape of Clouds'.



salted paper technique," says Nori. Each of her 15 works at the show, from the series 'Nalla Pilla', was a starting point to talk about the body as a site of experience. "It is a way to explore how to externalise these experiences."

Santiniketan-based artist Arpan Mukherjee used the 19th century calotype and cyanotype photography techniques for his works, titled 'Gola Vora Dhan' (which means your grain storage is full). "I do think that the older methods of photography have a lot to offer," he says. Invented in the 1840s, calotype was the first photographic process in which the idea of a negative was used. "It was also the method primarily used by the colonial photographers to document India. All the important monuments, including the Taj Mahal, were clicked several

times using this process," adds Mukherjee. French artist Philippe Calia questions the medium of photography in his series 'The Shape of Clouds'. His



William Dalrymple (left); His photograph 'Tamil Saint', a digital print on bright white paper

inkjet prints on natural paper were Google Earth images that questioned the current technological regime of digital imaging and cloud storage. "We delegate memory to machines. Machines multiply our capacity to remember, but it also reduces our skill of remembering," adds Calia, who lives in Bengaluru. "Eventually we need a balance; maybe everything doesn't need to be recorded."

'In Search of Ancient India' at the Vadehra Art Gallery highlighted the first stage of Dalrymple's travels around India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka for his new book, *The Golden Road*, which aims to record the artistic and cultural achievements of ancient India between 200 BC and 1200 AD. "I am still continuing the research, which was delayed by the pandemic," says Dalrymple. "I hope to start writing early next year and finish by the end of the year."



Painting the Town Bright



By MANJU LATHA KALANIDHI & VIJAYALAKSHMI SRIDHAR

It's tastefully evident. Tamil Nadu's culture is no longer confined to art galleries but is adorning the walls of public spaces. Tamil art, sculptures, architectural landmarks, the man-nature connect, even iconic scenes from literature—all are splashed on flyovers, parks, walls of government buildings, hospitals and schools. Think traditional bull sport like *Jalikattu*, folk dance *Oyilattam*, and even local outdoor game *gilli danda*. These are all part of Singara Chennai 2.0, an attempt by the Greater Chennai Corporation to transform the public spaces filled with graffiti, posters, spillage, and years of other damages to aesthetic and informative



Mural at Jaigopal Garodia School, Nanganallur; (top) Students painting the walls of AJS Nidhi High School

messages. Over 100 artists, including banner painters who suffered job losses during the lockdown, have been roped in for these projects helmed by artist JPK Vijay and his team, who have worked on the facades of Chennai Primary School, a former cyclone shelter at Kathivakkam, Manali Bus Terminus, to name a few. "The brief was to recreate and celebrate our culture and heritage. We decided to paint the local profession. So while it was fishermen in Ennore, it was vegetable and flower vendors in Koyambedu. It took a team of 20

artists and painters to complete the 5,000 sq ft enamel painting in Ennore," says Vijay.

Meanwhile, the drab walls of the AJS Nidhi Higher Secondary School, Alandur, a suburb of Chennai, has got a fresh stroke of paint. It sports a colourful mural of a young girl sitting near the door of a hut, smiling and looking hopeful. A team of second-year undergraduate art students from Sri Annai Kamakshi Music and Fine Arts College in KK Nagar had a field day transforming the walls. The paintings depict the co-relationship between animals and humans in the wheel of life and survival. Prabakaran A, a professional sculptor and artist, has collaborated with A

Sukumar, one of his peers, to paint the Gemini flyover at Anna Salai. They have curated the stencilled design in a digital collage with the background and set of composition images. "We

used acrylic radium paints to give it a pop of colour. Five of us worked for four days on it," he adds. Thuvakkam, a Chennai-based NGO that works on education, environment and humanity initiatives for children in government schools, has been roped in to paint the walls of Jaigopal Garodia School, Nanganallur, and Nidhi School, Alandur. Says Krishna Kumar, CEO, Thuvakkam, "We choose messages that will be suitable for schoolchildren. We have got many requests now and will be working on some more school walls too."

LEISURE CORNER



COMEDY CIRCLE
Stand-up comic **Amit Tandon**, who has performed in over 28 countries, is back with his one-liners that promise to leave his fans in splits. His new act *Masala Sandwich* carries forward his hilarious and hugely relatable anecdotes about being the married guy in the standup comedy circuit. At multiple venues in Bengaluru; On November 12 and 13; Tickets at the venue & BookMyShow



AFFORDABLE ART
A new art gallery in Mumbai has debuted with an online solo exhibition titled *Liner Unparalleled Experience* featuring veteran artist **Milind Mulick**. The gallery aims to offer affordable artworks to art lovers, with pieces priced between ₹7,500 and ₹5,00,000. At Art Window, Mumbai; till November 21; online exhibition; of-line visit through prior appointment; details on artwindow.com

MUSIC BY THE GHATS

After a missed year, Mahindra Kabira 2021 festival is back. Celebrate the wisdom of the 15th century mystic and poet Kabir with some soulful music. Paying ode to a timeless river, in a city that is sentinel to history, the two-day festival has an eclectic lineup of artistes. At Varanasi; November 26-28; tickets at mahindrakabira.com

An Accidental Mystic

How Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati has transformed her life—from an ordinary girl in Los Angeles to a beacon of spirituality at Rishikesh

By MANJU LATHA KALANIDHI

In Hollywood, which she left 25 years ago with a backpack to visit India on a short break from her PhD programme, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati was nicknamed 'vegeterrorist' by her friends. Reason? She ate only vegetarian food wherever she went eating out with them.

"When my husband invited me to join him for a vacation to India in 1996, I said yes simply because I love the vegetarian food here. At that time, I was neither seeking God nor was I spiritual. Yet, my enlightenment happened at one magical moment when I put my feet into the Ganga. I felt touched by divine grace," she recollects. It is this journey—from being a middle-class Jewish girl who had been through sexual abuse, depression, anxiety and bulimia to becoming a beacon of spirituality—that she sums up in her latest book *Hollywood to the Himalayas: A Journey of Healing and Transformation* released in August.

Sadhvi, as she is known at the Parmarth Niketan Ashram in Rishikesh today where she lives, serves and works, was a psychology student at Stanford University, California, in 1996. She had an academic break and wanted to travel the world, and ended up in India to never really go back to her life in America. The book is an enlightening memoir of a reluctant spiritual seeker who finds her true self and lifelong calling when she travelled to India. "All that I did was to keep my heart open. I have always asked God, 'what do you want from me at this moment?' This ability to embrace



Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati

whatever comes to me has led me into the path of spirituality," she explains.

At Parmarth Niketan, she gives daily spiritual discourses (*satsang*), teaches meditation, provides counselling and mentoring, and oversees myriad charitable and humanitarian projects and activities. A motivational speaker and best-selling author (*Come Home to Yourself: Wisdom for Life from the Parmarth Niketan Ashram*, 2019), she was officially initiated into the order of *sanyas* (monastic renunciation) in 2000 by Swami Chidanand Saraswati ji, spiritual leader and founder of the ashram. Sadhvi, who holds a PhD in Psychology, was the Managing Editor

for the ashram's monumental project of the 11-volume *Encyclopaedia of Hinduism*.

Sadhvi's key transformative moments find mention in the new book which is about healing, awakening and transformation she has experienced in India. "I have included parts specifically relevant to the trauma I went through and the lessons I learned, and make people realise that I did not come out of the womb enlightened. Most regular people, who feel they had ordinary childhood and adolescence like me, feel disqualified and unworthy of grace. It is not mandatory to be into meditation or spirituality from childhood to get enlightened. If I can do it,

you can do it. I want people to feel that her story is just like mine. If I could find freedom, peace, joy and awakening, so can you," she elucidates.

Well, in life you lose some and you win some. But Sadhvi says that the only thing she has lost in her life is the attachment to the identity of who she was. "I used to ask what's in it for me while signing up for any new venture. Now, I ask what's through me that I can do today."

Looking back, is there something she wished she could reverse? "Every single moment of my journey, including the traumatic ones, has led me to where I am. I would not want to reverse anything. Sometimes, I feel I should have been born in India, but then I also feel that being born in America and imbibing that culture is what brings in the value addition to who I am."

At Parmarth Niketan, she gives daily spiritual discourses, teaches meditation, provides counselling and mentoring

Pakistan is Crazy. Should We Follow Them into the Same Lunatic Asylum?

How Modi Can be Top Regional Leader

ACUTE ANGLE

Anand Neelakantan

Author of *Asura*, *Ajaya* series, *Yanars* and *Bahubali* trilogy



Pakistan beat India in the T20 World Cup last week in a convincing manner. Victory and loss are a part of any sport. In any other country, the result of a sports match would have evoked some emotions in the die-hard fans of the sports and life would have gone as usual, but not in our sub-continent. The jubilation in Pakistan is as if that bankrupt country sinking in internal conflicts has suddenly shot forward to the league of developed nations after winning this match. Pakistan's Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed claimed that his country's victory against India was a victory of 'Islam', and the Muslim community from across the world, 'including India', wished for the Pakistan cricket team's victory. Former Pakistan captain Waqar Younis gushed that watching Pakistan wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan 'offer *namaz* in front of Hindus was very special to him.' Fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar boasted that Pakistani Punjabis are a superior and more powerful race. "We Punjabis from Pakistan are a great race. We eat, speak, and walk, in different ways," claimed Akhtar.

The kind of jingoism exhibited by either side is sickening. It is as if the wounds of Partition are still haunting us even after seven-and-a-half

decades. After the Partition, the two nations took entirely divergent paths. Pakistan chose to take the path of becoming a religious state with draconian medieval era laws. It tried to impose one religion and language, Islam and Urdu, respectively, on a diverse population. The blatant racism shown by Punjabi-dominated Pakistan towards Bengali Pakistanis and the attempt to impose Urdu as the national language ended up dividing their country into two, proving that language and culture are

the match? How about breaking coconuts for good luck before every ball? Would ICC allow that?

Pakistan behaving like spoiled brats would surprise no one. What is surprising is the childish way we have reacted to a cricket match loss. The loss didn't end with a disappointment to be shrugged off by the next day of the match. It has split out communal strife, political grandstanding, hate-mongering and slapping of sedition charges. Going by the public reaction, it is as if

authorities? In Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir, at least 14 people have been booked because they celebrated Pakistan's victory. The laws and criminal provisions invoked include sedition, cyber terror, a section usually associated with instigating riots, and UAPA, the one meant for terrorists. A private school teacher lost her job for supporting Pakistan.

In January 1999, India and Pakistan played a closely contested Test in MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai. A few months

before, both the countries had conducted nuclear tests, and a few months later, the Kargil War would start. As it often happens in sports, one team outplayed another. It happened to be Pakistan that won that Test match. And the Chennai crowd, almost 50,000 ardent cricket fans who had come to support India, gave a standing ovation to the victors as they took their victory lap. Does one wonder how many sedition charges would be filed now against that Chennai crowd? Where are we heading with our hysterical hyper-nationalism fuelled by hatred and fanaticism? That Pakistan has trodden this perilous path and has ended up in the hellhole, which is not even serving us as a warning. Our selfish politicians are leading us on the same path, and like blind devotees, we follow the pied piper to our doom. Cricket is not a medieval religious war, and cricketers are not warriors. They are just entertainers on contract with a private firm called BCCI, playing for money and advertisement revenue. That Pakistan is crazy doesn't mean we should follow them into the same lunatic asylum.

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more potent than religion. Pakistan didn't learn its lesson and continues to sink into the quagmire of religious fanaticism day by day. For Pakistan, a cricket match has become a holy war and a stadium, the place to exhibit one's faith. ICC should seriously look into banning the exhibition of religious rituals like offering *namaz* in the sporting arena. What if the Christian players want to conduct a mass in the cricket ground? Can Hindus demand to do a Ganapati *havan* on the pitch, before or during

Pakistan has invaded India, conquered us, and started marching us to gas chambers for losing a T20 match. When have we started mixing religion and sports? India's finest players have come from all faiths and regions. Now, in a game where the finest 11 players of India played and lost, only one player is targeted for the results. His crime is that his name is Mohammed Shami. One can dismiss this as the mischief of the fringe. But how would we explain the deluge of sedition charges by the

PROVOCATEUR

Ravi Shankar

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The trouble with repetition is that the emphasis could backfire. During every election campaign, state and national, both Narendra Modi and Amit Shah attack the Congress for wrecking the nation. Last week in Dehradun, Shah blasted its *namaz* politics for destroying Uttarakhand. Modi has blamed Nehru for the 1964 Kumbh Mela stampede and the Congress for everything from the stratospheric petrol prices to Partition to betraying the Assamese. While both men, astute politicians and veterans of many bitter battles, know all this not to be true, why do they beat the same drum? Even the poorest and most illiterate Indian knows that seven-plus years have passed since Modi sent the Congress packing. Besides, the Congress does keep winning state elections, even though it is toppled later by defections.

Why then the echoes? Is the Goebbels wisecrack that the repetition of a lie makes it the truth behind the monotony? Whenever India's top political wizards rant against the Congress, it is presented as the fiefdom of the dynastically demonic Nehru-Gandhis, dead or alive. But India is a self-aware nation, and the BJP can't boast of having antibodies against dynasty or nepotism. People endorse Modi not because they hate the Congress, but because they love Modi. The more the spotlight falls on the Gandhis, the sharper the reminder that they are still around to give a fight; as bumblers, autocrats, naive netas or neo-Hindu copycats—but still around. Ironically they can thank the BJP for their larger-than-life image. The Congress is still in the fight. Significantly, this week's byelection results showed that its shock value is intact by sweeping Himachal Pradesh and keeping Rajasthan. But the Gandhis have shrunk to being just an idea and not a political reality, outside their party. Even that idea is fast fading, erased by the very Hindutva politics Indira Gandhi had raised to win elections under the garb of secularism. The strategists at 24 Akbar Road have positioned Priyanka Gandhi as Yogi Adityanath's alternative in Uttar Pradesh, something Rahul Gandhi should have done in 2012 against Akhilesh Singh Yadav. But the arrogance that only Indraprastha is the Gandhi destiny missed both the point and opportunity. If anyone has done Rahul in, it is himself. The Congress is fighting itself, not the BJP. To claim credit for a certain victory in Punjab, the Gandhis humiliated Captain Amarinder Singh by favouring Navjot Singh Sidhu who functions more to the BJP's advantage than his own party's. It is open season in Punjab now. They could be making the same mistake in Chhattisgarh. And Priyanka's UP realpolitik has pitted her party not just against the BJP, but the rest of the Opposition.

Now is wake-up time for Modi. The BJP's real enemy is resurgent regionalism which is challenging nationalism. It is the TMC in Bengal, Samajwadi Party in UP, DMK in Tamil Nadu, TRS in Telangana, Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, AAP in Delhi. TMC won the by-elections convincingly. The phantoms of the Independence movement cannot nationally resurrect the Congress, irrespective of the states it wins. Before India, India was run by regional chieftains in the Congress. It could happen again, though by regional parties. Modi is India's tallest national leader. He could be India's tallest regional leader too. As the badass queen Cersei in *Game of Thrones* series says, "When you play the game of thrones, you win or you die. There is no middle ground." To take all the thrones, stooping to conquer the low ground may not be a bad idea.

THINK

Middle Class is the Grist of Easy Money Policy

BY INVITATION

Satya Mohanty

Former Secretary, Government of India



deposits, a large swathe of the middle class faces negative interest rates and variability of interest-earning, which affect their survival and lifestyle. Their quotidian life of coping with reduced earning is a challenge for many. One can argue that other options like investment in financial technology firms or the stock market could have helped them. The peer-to-peer deposit/lending platform is fraught with risk, imperilling not only interest alone but principal too. The stock market is the minefield for the uninitiated. This is corroborated by stubborn figures of demat accounts despite a bull run.

Who are the beneficiaries of this accommodative policy stance of RBI? The Central

capital which do not reflect the cost of lending.

When the implicit inflation is high, keeping the repo rate down is as good as levying a tax on the saving segment of the population. Worse still, money is moved from this not very affluent middle class to really affluent class. Meanwhile, the weaker side gets a negative real interest rate, grapple with inflation and countenance the diminished lifestyle. On the other hand, the rich manage to borrow large tranches, delay investment, and a part of the money probably finds its way to the stock market which is currently defying gravity.

In 1973, Stanford economists Edward Shaw and Ronald McKinnon coined the term financial repression to disparage



Government has been able to borrow by issuing bonds at the low rate of 5.8 percent to meet its fiscal deficit. It is said to be the lowest rate in the last 17 years. The second group is the corporates who get incentivised to borrow. But when they do not invest for capacity expansion in the face of low existing capacity utilisation, it takes the shape of repurchase of shares, increased leverage, and mergers and acquisitions. The balance sheet gets spruced up and the profit margin of these corporates increases. There is at least evidence from the US that low interest rates make superstar firms gain disproportionately and increase their market value and dominant position relative to other companies. They are beneficiaries of mispriced

ingly refer to policies to channel funds from the private sector to the government themselves in easy terms to pare down their debt and to reduce their deficit. This said arrangement to transfer funds from the savers at below the inflation rate to the government is said to be repressive. But how do we designate the transfer of easy money from the middle class to the ultra rich in the name of growth? Accommodative financial stance ostensibly for growth of a few economic actors and suffering of a large part of the middle class when confronted with inflation. Ironically, this growth imperative is financial repression by another name.

(Views are personal) satya_mohanty@ediffmail.com

Can Politics Rise above Petty Considerations?

BY INVITATION

Jaya Chandrasekhar

Trainer in English language and literature, and author of *A Walk to Tintern Abbey and Beyond*



indignation, through shameful disgrace, humiliation to stunned numbness, wounded national pride and a patriotic loss of face.

Rather than watch the splendid game shots of the adversary, television screens were turned off and the stands were deserted by the blue camp. Later students who broke into a song and dance celebratory mode, were bashed up. Later a teacher who dared to tweet her joy on the green camp's win was expelled from the school.

I had watched with rapt fascination the scintillating performance of the exuberant skipper Babar Azam and his partner Mohammad Rizwan and admired their artistry. Will I be accused of sacrilege and blasphemy and ostracised for my unpatriotic zeal? But then, with a twinkle in my eye, I thought, perhaps I would be lauded for my true spirit of sportsmanship!

Both captains on this fateful evening showed remarkable maturity, admirable balance and composure. No trace of overweening confidence, no hint of flamboyant swagger.

While the players exuded a calm strength, the crowd of fans all around wrapped themselves in the fabric of biased national pride and blazing patriotic fervour. They waited with bated breath for the match to begin, impatient to see the dream run of the

victorious men in blue. They were so convinced of the invincibility of the Indian side and its assured triumph.

Alas! That was not to be. The match ended with the deserving team bathed in glory. Sport takes over at some point during play and the human spirit, in sublime flight, transcends temporal limits. It rises above partisan interests, above mortals and above borders.

It was given to the South African president Nelson Mandela in 1994 to support with open arms and enthusiasm the rugby team Springboks, loved by the South African whites. A country rent asunder by apartheid, it intrigued and baffled many of his countrymen. Mandela won the victory of uniting a pained, fractured country into one people of solidarity. The Springboks were victorious over New Zealand and sport had transcended limitations and enabled a whole country to become one.

Can politics overcome narrow-minded concerns and rise above petty considerations, can it once again bring about peace and oneness in the world, can it create a community of love, cooperation and friendship?

Let us do this with passion, compassion, humour and style. jayachan2020@gmail.com

Covid Effect on Financial Results

BY INVITATION

Badri Narayanan

Equity Investor and Founder, EquityLovers Finance Lab



We are in the midst of the financial result season. Results reported so far have been weak and consequently the share prices. This article explains that current results need to be assessed from the Covid impact angle also.

EPS growth is a very important driver for share price movement. Meaningful acceleration in EPS gives strong clue for expected EPS growth and share price movement over the next 6-12 months. Investors typically focus on EPS growth in QOQ (current result over the previous quarter) and YOY (current results over last year same period) time frames. Let's consider results for Jubilant Foodworks (JUBI) and Hindustan Unilever (HUL), which have reported results. The chart shows six quarterly results and PE

valuation on respective result dates. For JUBI, the QOQ and YOY EPS growth looks healthy at 66 percent and 60 percent. For HUL, QOQ and YOY growth was 17 percent and 6 percent. Yet, both these shares have declined by 7-10 percent over the past 10 days. Let's delve deeper.

JUBI's current EPS of ₹9.17 is even lesser than December 2020 EPS. Forward growth expectations based just on the recent four quarters will be very poor, possibly sub-10 percent. June 2020 was affected by the Covid business shutdown and as such this data

shutdown and PE ratio rose to compensate. Progressively, as results normalised, the PE ratio has come down to the current 115 times. This is very high as generally companies with high PE show healthy 25 percent+ growth. As this stock is owned by several institutions, the price may not correct too much immediately, but it is easy to see that share price appreciation from here will need much stronger EPS growth.

HUL has reported similar EPS over the past three quarters, with no growth. This company benefited from the Covid shutdown as consumers purchased its products heavily as it was one of the few essential businesses allowed to operate. Consequently, June and September 2020 EPS were very strong. In this context, even small growth would have been meaningful. Before the result announcement, its share price rose in anticipation of a better result. However, the reported growth came flat, explaining the price movement. Even so, given that valuation is in historic range, this could be a buying opportunity in HUL, should growth revive. In the next, we examine how historic valuation ratios can be used beneficially by investors. badri@equitylovers.com

Quarter Results	JUBI			HUL		
	EPS (₹)	YOY PAT Growth	PE (X)	EPS (₹)	YOY PAT Growth	PE (X)
Sep '21	9.17	60%	115.8	9.32	6%	66.2
Jun '21	5.66	60%	123.1	9.05	6%	70.6
Mar '21	7.98	200%	119.2	9.27	6%	66.9
Dec '20	9.39	134%	183.1	8.47	38%	68.7
Sep '20	5.74	22%	205.1	8.75	15%	73.5
Jun '20	-5.64	-41%	208.5	8.58	10%	69.1

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point cannot be used to undergrowth trends. Let's now focus on its PE valuation. PE ratio for the company was a huge 205 times in June 2020, a very high number perhaps because its earnings had collapsed due to

Workout for the Lungs

5

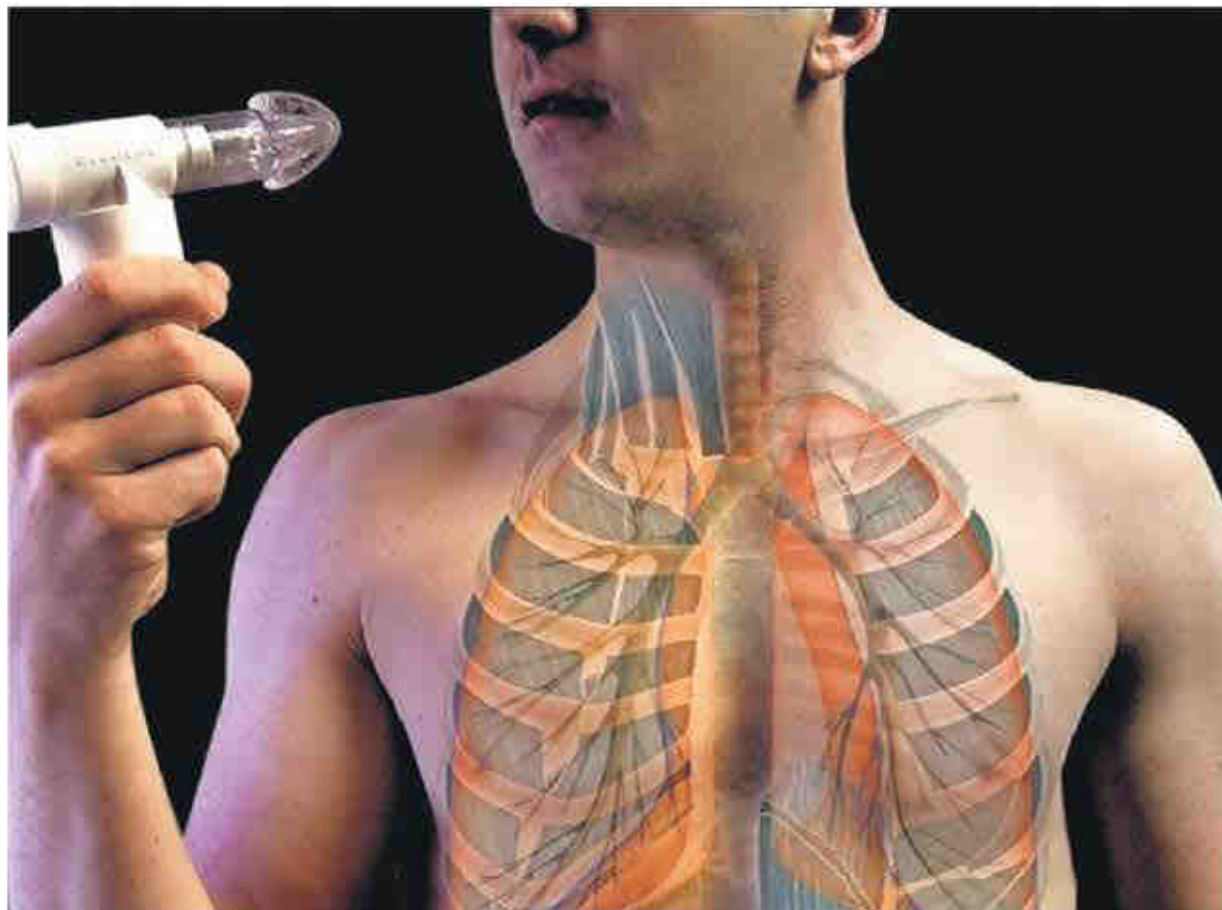
THE SUNDAY
MAGAZINE

Rohan Kapoor had tried everything under the sun to get his weight under check. Nothing helped. Every time he walked on the treadmill or took a flight of stairs, he would get breathless. Squats made his joints hurt and weight training flared his spondylitis. Kapoor piled the kilos and ill-health. At 38, he had high blood pressure and diabetes. But what scared him was periods of forgetfulness. It started with difficulty concentrating at work but soon led to confusion. Just then he was introduced to a game-changer. It was the Inspiratory Muscle Strength Training (IMST), a form of resistance training, which strengthens the muscles that you use to breathe. Just by following the technique for 22 days, Kapoor's blood pressure plummeted, diabetes came to the borderline, and he could retain and recall more.

All you need is five minutes, six days a week to see a difference, according to a new study published in the *Journal of American Heart Association*, conducted

A quick breathing technique promises to lower blood pressure, control diabetes, and improve several other health parameters

By ANU JAIN ROHATGI



Inspiratory Muscle Strength Training (IMST) is a form of resistance training, which strengthens the muscles that you use to breathe

BENEFITS OF IMST

- ◆ Easy to use
- ◆ Improves endothelial functions by increasing Nitric oxide levels, thereby reducing the risk of a stroke or a heart attack
- ◆ Markers of inflammatory and oxidative stress reduce, thus the frequency of falling sick tapers
- ◆ Advantages are long-lasting; adherence rate is higher than aerobic exercise
- ◆ Helpful in maintaining cardiovascular health
- ◆ Assists those who have had a stroke or are at risk of one
- ◆ Lowers blood pressure, cholesterol
- ◆ Can help those with Parkinson's disease, neuromuscular diseases
- ◆ Enhances sports performance

ed by the University of Colorado Boulder. The research was conducted on 36 adults aged between 50 and 79, all of who had high blood pressure. Half of the people followed IMST for the stipulated period and the other half were on a low-resistance placebo programme. After six weeks, it was found that adults who were on the IMST programme saw a drop in systolic blood pressure by 9mmHg, which otherwise could have been brought down by exercising for five days a week for 30 minutes, along with regular medications. The reduction points were

almost the same as caused by medication. They also exceeded the effects of a 30-minute walk done five days a week. On the other hand, there was no change found in those who were on a low-resistance placebo programme. "When the muscles used for breathing strengthen, you can work out for longer and more efficiently. The best part is that you save time. This (IMST) is ideal for people like Kapoor who cannot get themselves up to exercise as it is easy to execute and still maintains cardiovascular health at any age. You can perform this at home or office.

Neither do you need a proper setup nor a change of clothes," says Dr Neetu Jain, Senior Consultant, Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, PSRI Hospital, New Delhi. For Gaurav Bawa, a war reporter with a leading publication in Delhi, taking out 30 minutes for a workout is unimaginable. He is always on the move. IMST is a saving grace. "I am continuously travelling through different time zones with little rest and sometimes no food. While I love my job, it has come with a trade-off—deteriorating health. For five months, cold, cough and

fever had become a usual occurrence. My immunity was at an all-time low, and with no time to exercise, I tried the IMST breathing technique upon a family physician's recommendation," he says. "I have been doing it for a month now and my mood is better and I have fewer bouts of fever and body ache." Experts believe this therapy to be effective for the critically ill and those paralysed. IMST is highly recommended for those with asthma, bronchitis, COPD, and emphysema patients, who experience trouble breathing due to narrow airways and swelling in their lungs. It improves diaphragm muscle strength for athletes. Cyclists and runners are using it quite

often now. "Results show that the dependency on medicine can be done away with if IMST is followed regularly," says Palak Dengla, Chief Physiotherapist, Aster RV Hospital, Bengaluru.

The therapy is not recommended for those with poor cognition, and those who suffer from dyspnoeic or severe breathlessness. Dr Hireanna Udmur, Consult-



HOW IT'S DONE

This diaphragmatic exercise is performed using a hand-held device that provides resistance when you inhale through it. Initially, you are advised low-resistance inhalation but gradually the resistance is built for a more rigorous breathing pattern.

ant Pulmonologist at Columbia Asia Hospital Hebbal, Bengaluru, however, has his doubts. "IMST has its benefits but it is difficult to believe that it can do away with the need to exercise or take medication. Having said that, I know that it does increase exercise capacity, adding to overall well-being," he says.

OPINION Luke Coutinho



Lend an Ear

Listening is not a mere act, it's a skill. We are talking about listening to understand, not just to reply, judge or offer a quick solution. Everybody wants to be heard, as listening heals deeply. It is extremely comforting. Anyone who has owned a pet, and has sat with them to share their thoughts and emotions, will root for this. Pets just listen. No interruptions whatsoever (well, maybe a few licks here and there but nothing else). Learn from them, for that's how you should be.

With our experience of consulting over 9,000 patients across the world, we see how powerful the simple act of listening is. When a patient feels heard, cared for, understood and knows that the other person is truly engaged in their story, the healing starts that very moment. Patients begin to express from their heart immediately, they feel closer to you, and feel light and relieved. There is nothing more rejuvenating than this.

But sadly, most of us don't listen. We jump to offer advice or tell our stories instead. This doesn't work for either of the people. All a person in pain wants is to know someone is interested in what they have to say. This is called compassionate listening.



Also, hearing and listening are not the same. Hearing is a physical act of perceiving sounds or someone's voice. You could be hearing but not paying attention. Deep listening, on the other hand, is beyond hearing. It allows you to understand not just what's spoken but also the things that aren't. It helps you read between the lines. You pick up emotions, thought processes, energy, patterns, and begin to understand the mindset of a person.

Deep listening is not just for others, it is also for ourselves. We often look for solutions outside, but our body already has all the answers. For that, you just need to peak inside and listen without judgement. It will help you answer all your dilemmas... even little everyday things like how much you should eat, when you should eat, which foods suit you, which ones don't, how much sleep you need, what makes you cranky, what makes you happy etc. It is a great way to understand yourself. So, the next time you want to find an answer, just stop and turn inwards. Here are a few ways to listen deeply.

- ◆ Practice patience first
- ◆ Avoid multitasking
- ◆ Resist offering answers or solutions
- ◆ Don't be judgemental
- ◆ Avoid giving sympathy or empathy

The skill of deep listening is useful for, but not just limited to nutritionists, doctors and coaches. It is the key to successful relationships at home, work and between couples, personal growth, and how we feel about ourselves when going through life's ups and downs. We speak to many people who tell us that they want to give back to society but are unsure about what they can do. Just lend an ear to somebody who needs it. You will change their life forever.

The author is a holistic lifestyle coach- Integrative and Lifestyle Medicine

FIT BIT



GOLDEN GIFTING

It is gifting season and what is better than to offer somebody the gift of health, especially immunity? Prahna Superfoods is a homegrown organic brand that believes in the therapeutic potential of turmeric and that's why it has come up with festive boxes that pack in turmeric's many benefits. The Lakadong turmeric taps into the concentrated curcumin, the most active compound found in turmeric, known to improve heart health and shield against Alzheimer's disease... even cancer. It is grown ethically and sourced from select farms in the valleys of Meghalaya. You can also try infusions such as Vanilla-Cardamom Golden Milk with vanilla, organic cardamom and jaggery, the Almond Cinnamon Golden Milk Mix with chunky almonds, organic cinnamon with a hint of jaggery, and more. Order: PrahnaSuperfoods.com; Amazon and Flipkart

HEALTH CAPSULE

BY BRON SMITH
WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF NITRIC OXIDE IN THE BODY?

FLEXIBLE ARTERIES MEAN LOWER HEART DISEASE AND STROKE RISK

NITRIC OXIDE IS A SUBSTANCE THAT IS PRODUCED BY THE BODY. IT CAUSES BLOOD VESSELS TO DILATE, REDUCING BLOOD PRESSURE. BUT NITRIC OXIDE PRODUCTION DECREASES AS WE AGE, SUBJECTING THE ARTERIES TO DECREASED FLEXIBILITY AND DAMAGE, WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE TO CORONARY DISEASE

Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.

STUDY CLASS Examining new research from across the world

Bad for Your Brain

Name of study: Highly processed foods harm memory in the ageing brain
By who and where: Ohio State University, USA



WHAT DOES IT SAY?

- ◆ Foods with a long shelf life often have preservatives that cause inflammation in the brain, which leads to memory loss.
- ◆ It ages the brain and brings on cognitive decline.
- ◆ Things such as potato chips, frozen pizza, pasta, meat, chicken and other items with large amounts of preservatives, are harmful to the brain.
- ◆ Only four weeks of processed food consumption can affect brain functioning adversely.

FOR Damage is inevitable

Dr Aditya S Chowti, Senior Consultant
Internal Medicine, Fortis Hospital,
Cunningham Road, Bengaluru

Eating a lot of processed food or complex carbohydrates can result in the production of toxins, which triggers an inflammatory process, hence leading to cascading mental health. Some foods contain substances like nitrosamines, which can cause the liver to produce fats that are toxic to the brain, while others contain diacetyl, which may increase the amyloid plaques in the brain, linked to Alzheimer's disease. Thus, those who consume a lot of processed food will eventually be at a greater risk of memory loss.

AGAINST It's not the villain

Dr Sreekanta Swamy,
Head of Neurology, Aster
RV Hospital, Bengaluru

There is a combination of many other factors that can affect memory problems, so blaming only processed food is not right. Those who follow a balanced diet, exercise regularly, take care of their mental health, have no associated co-morbidities, aren't likely to be impacted by the moderate intake of processed food, neither is their memory in danger. If you are someone who already has neurological dysfunction or has an unhealthy, sedentary lifestyle, highly processed foods can put your brain health in jeopardy.

by Anu Jain Rohatgi

PRODUCT REVIEW

Natural Face Lift

The easiest way to plump up your cheeks is by using a contour palette. But contouring itself is not all that easy. Kay Beauty's Contour and Highlight Pro Palette makes sculpting simpler. Inside the slim and compact rose gold case, you get a bronzer, contour, and a highlighter—very practical for travel. I used it as an eye shadow too and boy, it did look good!

It comes with a mirror, which is a handy addition. The satin matte formulation is compatible with oily and normal skin. Dry skin may need extra moisturisation before application. The product is buildable and blendable. The pigment ranges from neutral, warm to cool tone, and complements olive and gold-yellowish skin the best. Others may require a blending of the shades to achieve the right payoff. The water and sweat resistant aspect could have been better but overall, it is a great product. —Ayesha Singh



Kay Beauty Contour and Highlight Pro Palette
Price: ₹1,099

★★★★☆

Availability Nykaa.com; brand stores

Year: Plav
Iyppasi: Valar Pirai
Kartik: Shukla Paksha.
Tithi: Tritiya
till 16-24hrs.
Nakshatra (Star):
Jyeshtha till 21-06hrs.
Moon in Vrischika
till 21-06 hrs.
Today is Akshay
Navami.
Rahukaalam:
04.30 pm to 06.00 pm
Yamagantam:
12 noon to 01.30 pm
Gulikakalam:
03.00 pm to 04.30 pm



**BIRTH STONES
SCORPIO**

(October 24-November 22)
Although there are eleven birthstones listed for those who belong to Scorpio, the main gemstone that is said to represent the sign is topaz. Scorpios are passionate and always approach life with determination. Astrologists say that the stone that balances a Scorpio's personality is topaz. It is believed that the blue shaded topaz keeps Scorpios calm and mentally strong, attracting negative energies away from them and bringing them a sense of joy and peace. As Scorpios are emotional, this encouragement of calm is said to help them be more level-headed and prevent them from being overwhelmed by their feelings. Those who have studied astrology will often tell you that Scorpios have a dual personality, and this is another reason why topaz is the perfect stone for this sun sign—topaz is pleochroic, which means that its colour appears different from different angles. Some people also believe that God sent this gem to protect people from danger.

HOW THE CARDS FALL Meenakshi Rani
meenakshirani33@gmail.com



WHAT TO EXPECT, HOW TO COPE WITH IT

LOVE RELATIONSHIPS WORK HEALTH MONEY

ARIES



Pivot points have you swing into action and do something transformative. Leading a charge; you determine who will run a company in its best interests. Market leadership is up for grabs but you need a helping hand. Faces are replaced and you aspire to be cutting edge in performance once again. Existing stock sits around and is eased out through discounts. Interactive platforms give useful feedback which you implement straightaway. Accounting practices are examined for being opaque. A colleague uses a weak moment to extract a pound of flesh. Burgundy and beige activate Mars and Jupiter to enable handling of tough questions and snap up opportunities.

TAURUS



You rue a shift in equations and wish for some serious PR. People keep you hemmed in—away from real connections or access to useful information. You find 'screen time' is as much 'boxed-in' as being in a glass cubicle. A new project vows to liberate you from groupism, crony capitalism and corporate politics. A business secret is accidentally shared. You padlock the board room as if it were a 'war room'. Surveillance cameras spot some fishy business. Doing something substantial is as important as doing it on time. A comparative analysis is sudden but 'easy to slay'. Olive green and electric blue harness Mercury and Saturn to solve a labour problem.

GEMINI



A plan falls beautifully in place. An exit clause has you ditch unsavoury projects or personnel and retain profit and market poise. 'Glory days' return to the self-employed, professionals and those on contract. Resources are made available to expand, modify or replace or diversify. New technology arrives. Upgrades in machinery, floor space and expertise have you build something enviable. The wheel comes full circle giving you a financial surplus, working capital or cash to reinvest/save. Figures of authority give a landmark ruling that comes at a very appropriate time. Terracotta pink and navy blue bring the best of Venus and Saturn to generate gains from every sliver of opportunity.

CANCER



You scour the footnotes, terms and conditions of prior deals. 'Special charges', escalated rates and miscellaneous hurdles are overcome. You strike excellent deals with good rapport essentially giving people what they want. A partnership founders under pressure to be relegated from a bigger to smaller role. Takeovers and acquisitions are swift and smooth with little trace of 'hostility'. An interviewer asks uncomfortable questions about family or finances. A mentor is caught in a bribery or more serious scandal and you discover their feet of clay. Wear forest green and cream for Mercury and Jupiter to reconcile differences or challenge orthodox methods.

LEO



The best of research comes to your assistance. Data exchange, knowledge share and collaborations bail you out of a sticky predicament. An innocuous player generates great ideas. You encourage them to work in tandem. A cap on stock holdings gets a dilution clause. Corporate exile continues for some as a senior hogs the limelight. A comeback is scripted by someone outside your trade/industry. A loyalist has great ideas and greater respect. Department enquiries go past the innocent and pick up on signs of aberrant behaviour. A questionnaire causes a furore and 'domino effect' of defiance. Navy blue and camel beige use Jupiter and Saturn to turn a competition healthy once more.

VIRGO



You make your presence felt in markets. Lopsided dividend disbursements are corrected. A loan shark attempts to show a tough set of conditions. Liquidity levels return and enable completion of a project. Foreign principals are interested in collaborating. A position vacated by an industry stalwart is now offered to you. A sharing of profit is long overdue and you make up for lost time. Transfers, postings and adapting quickly to new locales poses a challenge. Expats, colleagues and bosses make a rival bow out. An offer adds to your kitty. Top management sees a major rejig. Gray-green for Neptune helps you challenge sharks and obtain a controlling market position.

LIBRA



A sleeping partner awakens and demands a bigger share of the pie. A bid received is lower and that takes the sizzle out of your interest. A cash surplus is buried in accounting hoopla. Security upgrades are timely. Offsetting or amortising a loan occurs and helps you make a venture permanent. A nosy colleague creates roadblocks to a pitch that is otherwise 'pitch perfect'. A new entrant snoozes and standards are compromised. A staffer has a simple grouse that gets buried under ego and misinformation. You put a petty gossip firmly in his/her place. Yellow and khaki drum up Jovian support in red tape, loans and quality control.

SCORPIO



Peace is brokered by experts and a price war comes to a close. Management imposes tough terms that 'dissolves opposition like disin'. Self-employed make money with the liberal generosity of a patron. A colleague mislays an important article and you supervise a 'clean-up' operation. Rumours and overenthusiastic gossip lead to a drop in market presence as a young team leader comes under a cloud. Tax and other benefits materialise and an expansion plan is back on rails. A 'fiscal right' is held back by employers. A drunk colleague receives a reprimand. A carpool service proves helpful. Wear white and khaki beige for working in harmony.

SAGITTARIUS



You take advice and bring in major changes. A tilt in power equations has you reconcile to a 'new normal' with fresh bosses. Short-term earnings are affected by policy changes. Diverse plans are in the pipeline and you decide to postpone pressured negotiations. Team spirit helps crack deadlines, zonal competitions and prestigious awards. A family business is strengthened with the addition of a new player. Retirement of a parent from the board has you try to recreate some of their corporate magic. Brands and names are weighed in goodwill and cold hard cash. Red, white and black help you channel the Sun, Moon and Saturn, and checkmate a troublemaker.

CAPRICORN



An investor states their concerns and is delighted when you are 'way ahead of them'. Continuity in working relationships helps you flag off ventures, start-ups and financing. People believe in you and witness you translate blueprints into action. Fees, brokerage and agency commissions are hiked. A rival tries to push you back with a slew of attractive offers. You work harder on franchising and cut down inflated costs. A family venture is mired in slowdowns with the reckless moves of a youngster. A colleague has a tiff with a loyalist or understudy and you surprise them by staying objective. Lemon yellow and mauve/grey help you tap into Venus and Jupiter and end an impasse.

AQUARIUS



Eyes on the prize; you raise money for a new business. Help is swift and pulls you through tough negotiations. You conceptualise smaller concerns and handle minor issues and points of interest that need constant tweaking. Stock options arrive that show 'the pot of gold under the rainbow'. Market swings are random despite advertising but you stay 'immunised'. The asking price for expert services is exorbitant. A 'giant' bankrolls a blueprint only because of a sustainable plan and honourable history. Documents are accessed; contracts are signed, sealed and delivered. Slate gray and aquamarine harness Uranus and Neptune and keep a venture afloat.

PISCES



You abstain from a critical vote and find the 'career carnival' has moved on. Lightning speed determines acquisitions, trades, sales and bids and you forfeit second guessing. A freeze on assets is lifted and capital is made available. An expense account is trimmed but retained. Bad debts are eased out and investor confidence returns. A colleague acts surreptitious about meetings. You discover plans counterproductive to main agendas. A normally unfussy employee is particular about getting their work recognised or rewarded. Wear ginger orange and browns for Jupiter and Uranus to defuse conflict.

THE WEEK AHEAD Peter Vidal

ARIES
Mar 21-Apr 20:
Life is good, but the real question at the moment is where you want to live, how - and who with! The problem is an excess of choice, or perhaps unrealistic hopes, and the answer is to keep your feet firmly on the ground at all times. Towards the end of the week a partner will begin to offer you real help.

TAURUS
Apr 21-May 21:
Bend the rules but don't break them! If you have strayed from the straight and narrow you will eventually be called to account, but perhaps not for another four weeks. This week you have a chance to change your mind. At work it is now essential that you learn new skills.

GEMINI
May 22-June 21:
There is a youthful spirit in the air, which has to be good news. A partner's generosity may have dried up, at least for now, and you may be feeling a little alone. A spot of window-shopping, though, will be a wonderful way of distracting yourself from the cares of the world.

CANCER
June 22-July 23:
How sweet life is when partners bend to your will and satisfy your desires. Even when you think you've got it tough, you'll have it easy compared with other people. In short, count your blessings. Your personal power will be enforced if you behave with wisdom and compassion.

LEO
July 24-Aug 23:
Inspirational planetary alignments take first place this week. There's nothing wrong with day-dreaming. In fact, you might be better off following your imagination and leaving practical chores to those who are on the ball.

VIRGO
Aug 24-Sept 23:
Monday and Wednesday bring passion, while Thursday and Friday bring lots of adventure, so can you really afford to stick to the same old life or are you prepared to launch yourself into a wonderful new world waiting to be explored?

LIBRA
Sept 24-Oct 23:
Sometimes the planets emotional difficulties and spiritual doubts should be a thing of the past. By the end of the week you may even be getting an inkling of the new, confident you. In love, aim for the top and, at work, set your sights on a promotion.

SCORPIO
Oct 24-Nov 22:
Sometimes the planets just don't behave as planned, and unexpected personal developments will cause you to rethink your plans. Good communication is the key but, if you are to persuade people you're right, a poetic touch will carry more weight than the facts.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23-Dec 22:
A truly unique planetary aspect will give you a gentle nudge in the right direction at home. However, there's one thing which will oil the wheels of domestic contentment, and that's a little extra cash. Why don't you get together with family members, and lay down some ground rules for the future?

CAPRICORN
Dec 23-Jan 20:
If you manage to make an early start to all important activities, it is likely that others will be happy to follow your lead. Fair but firm is the best way forward and partners will do whatever you tell them as long as you give them good reason.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21-Feb 19:
Your stars are moving fast. In fact, there's no escape from busy pressures, and you may be putting in extra time at work. Even people of leisure must eventually get down to all those essential routine chores. Health-wise, a good tonic is now required.

PISCES
Feb 20-Mar 20:
Your guiding principle this week is that a little pleasure does you a lot of good. If you are forward-planning, set Monday to Wednesday aside for making money. Thursdays and Fridays for spending. Professional hopes will be satisfied on Monday, but domestic plans must be tackled on Wednesday.

YOUR FORTUNE THIS WEEK Amarakosha

What the planets say about your prospects for wealth, romance and professional success in the next seven days



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19)
Work: Though you face some new big opponents, you will have fun strategising to deal with them.
Money: Cashflow is fine but if you are the financial pillar of your family do not indulge in luxury as urgent expenses may occur.
Couples: The relationship is less sweet but the strong bonding can help you be on the same page.
Singles: You find out that your date is involved with others as well.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20)
Work: More burden than expected. Leaders balance micromanagement and delegation.
Money: Smooth financials. If you have applied for a loan or are talking to investors, a good chance comes to get the deal sealed.
Couples: Relationships are in good shape, and there's great bonding with your spouse's family.
Singles: If you fall for someone, express your feelings and you will get a positive answer.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Work: The quick troubleshooter in you raises productivity or income that satisfies all parties.
Money: Income surpasses expectations. If you don't overspend, you will save more than planned. Investors gain better than hoped.
Couples: Time and space are balanced. Both are sources of support for each other.
Singles: Your charm may attract many from both the same sex and opposite sex. Take your time.

LIBRA (Sept 23-Oct 22)
Work: No work gets approval before the 10th, but after that things gradually get better.
Money: Do not be lavish as people under your care may have urgent expenses.
Couples: You both are sources of support and guidance for each other. Those who wish to get pregnant will get the good news.
Singles: If you wish to look for romantic relationships, seek advice from a relative or a friend.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21)
Work: You will discover a solution that can help you manage time and priorities better than before.
Money: There are good chances to get an ongoing deal concluded. A loan/funding is granted.
Couples: A senior member of your spouse's family is toxic. Stay calm, all will be fine. Unmarried ones may discover their partner's dark side.
Singles: You and your friend may fall for the same person and the latter bitches about you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21)
Work: You get an important job done as planned. Higher-ups may want you to tackle a problem.
Money: Earning is better than expected but avoid extravagance as unexpected expenses may occur.
Couples: For married couples, it is money and for the unmarried, it is jealousy that lead to conflicts.
Singles: The one you desire may signal you that he/she sees you as a friend only. Those without a relationship will focus more on their career.

WORLD MATTERS
Sundar Balakrishnan



The transit of a natal planet to its original position, as was during its birth, is known as 'Planetary Returns'. In both Vedic and Western astrology, it is given tremendous importance, especially when it comes to returns of slow-moving planets like Jupiter, Saturn, Rahu/Ketu, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. In the case of the USA, Pluto, which takes approximately 248 years for one rotation around the zodiac, will return to the same position—as was in the nation's chart—on February 20, 2022. The effect of the Pluto return will be for one year starting January 2022. Because of this, the communications industries such as air, land, sea, etc. will be under

stress. There will be an imbalance in imports/exports. Dispute with the neighbouring countries will arise. Relationship with foreign allies will not be satisfactory. There will be a major downward correction in the stock markets as far as the USA markets are concerned. The country will participate in war with some of its allies like Afghanistan. There will be a rise in Covid, and the government will find it difficult to contain it. Financial indices will be affected and the government will be forced to borrow to contain its deficit. For a detailed analysis of the above, visit Jupiterastrology.com. For snapshot predictions, follow https://twitter.com/jupiter_astro

AUGURIES
Meenakshi Chawla



Venus, the Lagan lord of India's horoscope, is now on another interesting journey. It has shifted to Sagittarius, the eighth house of India's chart, and the house of Jupiter, its enemy. In Sagittarius, Venus will stay adorned by two malefics—Ketu and Saturn on either side. Shastras call this *paap kartri yoga*, which does not allow the planet to function in a benefic way. Venus will move to Capricorn on December 8 and will go retrograde on the 18th and then move back to Sagittarius on December 28. This retrogression period of Venus will end on January 26. In Sagittarius, Venus will also go combust as being too close to the Sun, which will occur in early January next year.

All this is happening when *kaal sarp dosh* has formed in the sky, ie, when all the planets are hemmed in between Rahu and Ketu. This back and forth transit of Venus is stressed, disturbed and *ativakri*. Under pressure, Venus transiting in the eighth house will affect women's issues, social factors connected to marriage, children, artists, sports, entertainment, banks, financial and share markets. Expect tax reforms, pension plans, investment in foreign countries and scientific research and development. There may be underhand dealings by the government, which may remain hidden from the public. This is not a good period for politicians.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Work: Great productivity/income is on the cards. An excellent new team member joins.
Money: Awaited money finally comes. A financial deal or crowdfunding move is successful.
Couples: A planned activity may have to be cancelled at the last minute as your partner falls sick or gets stuck with an urgent task.
Singles: You will focus more on your career or study, and have less interest in romance.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)
Work: Burdensome but you will be able to get important jobs done on time.
Money: An extra job adds to your main income. Cashflow is fine and can repay an outstanding due.
Couples: Spouses enjoy quality time together. Some may plan their wedding.
Singles: People both from the same and opposite sex you met on social media fall for you. A 'friend with benefits' may signal they want a relationship.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 22)
Work: Obstacles are significant. You may need to rope in people that you do not get along with.
Money: Cashflow is fine, and you can balance income and expenses well.
Couples: A senior member of your family may introduce you to someone who has a better profile than your partner and persuade you to break up.
Singles: You will focus more on making your own wish come true. Love is not on your list now.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19)
Work: Those of you who have never been a leader will be assigned to steer the team.
Money: Planned savings aren't possible as you overspend on online entertainment. Investors should not put money into digital assets.
Couples: Fewer quarrels and more quality time for spouses. The unmarried plan their wedding.
Singles: Two persons will approach you—one online and another offline. Take your time.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18)
Work: People may not keep their word or betray, but a friend will help you out.
Money: A debtor may ask for a postponement of payment. You may need to repair a car or a hi-tech device but cashflow is still fine.
Couples: Serious issues may arise but it's only a healthy argument that helps strengthen the bond.
Singles: If you are about to start a serious relationship, you may discover a dirty secret.

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20)
Work: After the 10th, things will not go as planned but your team will help you to overcome this.
Money: Financials are healthy but discipline drops a lot. Investors' intuition is likely to be more accurate than insider information.
Couples: You accept some imperfections or drawbacks of your partner.
Singles: Find the right moment gradually to know better the one you have lost your heart to.

Love Aaj Kal

Vocal for local, the slogan to encourage domestic industries, also seems to be what young Indians are chanting when it comes to dating apps. An in-house study of the Aisle dating app has found that for 70 percent of Indians, local language content is more reliable. A significant proportion of the young population in Tier II and III cities is sharing their emotions through vernacular languages. Dating apps are now cashing in on this trend.

Indian dating apps such as Aisle and QuackQuack have introduced local languages. Aisle has introduced two vernacular apps Arike and Anbe, exclusively for Malayalam and Tamil speaking users respectively residing in and out of India. "I can't go beyond a hello and hi in English apps as I am not proficient in the language. But with the introduction of a Tamil app, I can express freely," says Keerthi Mahalingam, a techie in Chennai, and a user of Anbe app in Tamil.

According to regional social media platform ShareChat's 2018 Year-End Report, it was in 2018 that regional content on social media was made possible.

There has been a spike in Indian dating apps that allow users to chat in local languages. This comes as a relief to many youngsters who are not comfortable with English.

By MANJU LATHA KALANIDHI



This also aided the growth of user-generated content in native languages. Microblogging platform Twitter also localised the web user interface experience in local languages such as Kannada, Tamil, Gujarati, Bengali and Marathi in July 2019. The regional language networking and content publishing apps market was worth \$1 billion by 2020, according to media reports.

With a population of over 1.3 billion, of which 20 percent is in the prime age demographic for dating, India is where dating apps want to invest in. Able Joseph, Founder and CEO, Aisle, says that of the 600 million-plus internet users in India, only a fraction is natively English/Hindi speaking. Owing to the impact of the Digital India campaign and affordable data, today there is massive growth potential to reach hundreds of millions of

"Although the entry of western apps warned people to online dating they didn't fully meet the Indian dating needs as they lacked delivery to tier-II and III users. Neetho in Telugu is their latest offering, introduced in October in Beta version."

ABLE JOSEPH, FOUNDER AND CEO, AISLE

first-time internet users in Tier-II and III cities. "Western dating apps entered India at a time when it was considered to be a conservative market. Although the entry of western apps warned people to online dating they didn't fully meet the Indian dating needs as they lacked delivery to Tier-II and III users. Neetho in Telugu is their latest offering, introduced in October in Beta version," Joseph explains.

In a short period of time, Aisle launched Arike and Anbe, and is on the way to bring customised dating apps to all states of India, personalised to that region's culture and habits.

Arike, introduced in February, is acquiring 1000+ users daily which is 3x faster than Aisle which was launched seven years ago. Aisle recently launched two vernacular dating apps and the total member base on Aisle's portfolio of apps is now 6.5 million, Joseph says.

He believes that there is a greater sentimental value to speaking in one's language. "There is a 'feel at home' factor to speaking in the language we think. Conversing or chatting in local language breaks the ethnic barriers in romance," says Joseph. Ravi Mittal, Founder and CEO of another dating app called QuackQuack, says

the app is currently only in English primarily because their audience is pan-India and they speak many languages. However, plans are underway to add Hindi into the portfolio by January. "Users search pan-India and the easiest and common medium to communicate is English. Having said that, we do market and advertise in languages like Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Bhojpuri, Gujarati, etc to attract users from Tier II and Tier III cities. We are exploring other regional language markets early next year," Mittal observes.

What's the biggest advantage of regional

language? Confidence? Nativity? Relatability? "Relatability makes one feel closer to understanding the product. It makes it easy to onboard users who understand the product pitch in their native language," Mittal explains.

Raj Bhargav Jenna, an app reviewer with a channel of his own called TechToniks, observes that

Arike and Anbe apps



"You have a dog, a cat or a parrot! No kidding!"

It really made a difference to consumer behaviour.

"I would say that regional dating apps started picking up in March 2020 soon after the first lockdown. Many singles who were not on any of these apps before, got curious about them and started using them, perhaps due to pandemic-induced-boredom that many faced. That was also the time apps began local languages. It was the perfect coming together of demand and supply," he says.



Able Joseph

Mysteries of the Matterhorn

It was a mountaineering tragedy in 1865 on the slopes of the Matterhorn that led to the birth of tourism in Zermatt, one of Switzerland's finest Alpine towns

By CHAITALI PATEL

In Zermatt, an Alpine town in the canton of Valais in Switzerland, the Matterhorn is everywhere. The 4,478-metre tall mountain that looks like a slightly crooked pyramid, looms over the town visible from virtually every nook and corner. Indoors, it made its presence felt in different ways. It was beside my bed on the wall as a metal installation. It was on the cover of the artisanal handmade chocolate bar kept in my room to welcome me. If not for the early explorers drawn to the Matterhorn, perhaps Zermatt would not have become the swish ski and mountaineering destination that it is today.

Until the mid-1800s, Zermatt was an obscure farming village. Besides a handful of scientists who visited to study the unique geology and flora of the valley, the village had hardly any visitors. Its fortunes changed in 1865 when a group of four English climbers—Reverend Charles Hudson, Edward Whymper, Lord Francis Douglas and Douglas Robert Hadow—along with three guides set out to summit the Matterhorn. There were two groups—one from Italy and the other from Switzerland making a race for the top, oblivious to each other's presence. The group from Switzerland was the first to scale the mountain, considered to be one of the toughest to summit till date. However, they met with a tragic end as only three of the party of seven made it back safely. A board in the Matterhorn Museum says, "During the descent, 100 metres below the summit, at an exposed, steep and snow-covered spot, Hadow slips and pulls the leading guide Michel Croz down with him. Their combined weight catapults Hudson



The Matterhorn

and Douglas, who are descending behind them, from their positions."

Moments before, local man and guide, Peter Taugwalder Senior, had tied the rope holding them around a rock. This helped Whymper, Taugwalder Junior, one of the other guides, and Taugwalder Senior keep their footing. As luck would have it the rope snapped and Hadow, Hudson, Douglas and Croz plunged down the glacier. Widely reported, the incident garnered a lot of attention. There were many conflicting reports of the exact events that unfolded

on the slopes of the Matterhorn and to this day there remain many unanswered questions.

The tragedy aside, Whymper was hailed to be the first person to have successfully summited the Matterhorn. His feat turned the spotlight on Zermatt attracting a large number of British tourists to the village. Grand new hotels began to be built catering to the needs of the elite visitors. To this day, Zermatt continues to be a popular Alpine destination attracting people from all over the world. Mountaineers and those looking for active

holidays flock to the town as it offers easy access to the 29 four-thousand-metre peaks of the Alps.

Wooden chalets with window sills overflowing with bright geraniums built on either side of the Vispa stream greet visitors in the summer months. Come winter and the town turns into a snow-covered wonderland.

Records continue to be set and broken on Zermatt's snow-covered peaks. The Matterhorn Museum offers an insight into the many expeditions that have taken place over the years. From that first ascent in 1865 of the Matterhorn, a lot has changed. The equipment used today is top notch and there are stringent safety measures in place, ensuring accidents don't happen.

GETTING THERE

Fly to Zurich via Swiss Air or Lufthansa. From there take a 3-hour-12 minute train ride to Zermatt. Swiss Federal Railways connects Zermatt to a number of the country's big cities.



Zermatt

QUICK TAKE



BREAD AND MORE

Comfort bakery, helmed by Gunjan Batra from the house of Café Delhi Heights in Delhi, brings out its Diwali bread baskets with sourdough, garlic bread, focaccia, sesame bread, croissants, a vegan range of bread and more. You can also get themed trays and baskets made, for instance, a Lebanese Grazing tray with eats such as falafel, hummus, lavash, soft pita, marinated olives, nachos and more. *Where: Bakehouse Comfort, DLF Avenue, Saket, New Delhi*



VACATION READY

Many pandemic-paused weddings are finally seeing the light of day. Thomas Cook India and SOTC have identified some of the top destinations that will be on the minds of India's honeymoon segment. Kashmir, Rajasthan, Andamans, Goa, and the Northeast are at the top of the list. The experiential segment will see a surge with wine tasting and water adventure being sought after. Candle-lit meals remain a hit.

Old Gets Health Wise



By ESHITA

Nothing says festivities like a box of mithai. The past few years have witnessed the humble Indian sweets undergo a metamorphosis and the dessert category is responding to the demand for healthier choices. Luxury brands are answering this call by taking popular sweets such as besan laddoo, kaju katli and khoya barfi, and swapping their ingredients for healthier ones.

Salauddin Ahmed, chef with Namaste Dwaar, shares that there has been a 30-40 percent shift in food consumption pattern with healthy food, especially healthy sweets, becoming a top priority. "Till a few years back, requests for vegan or gluten-free sweets were few and far between, but now, specifically after the pandemic, people are all for healthier options."

Chef Anand Panwar, Executive Pastry Chef, Roseate Hotels and Resorts, agrees. "Owing to this trend, we introduced several alternatives that are gluten-free, or sugar-free. People are loving things such as flaxseed laddoo, roasted channa laddoo, coconut laddoo, hazelnut pedia, walnut pedia, and bal mithai."

Oil-free, no-dairy laddoos? Gita Ramesh, Managing Director Kairali Ayurvedic Group, says it's possible. "Jaggery is a hit. Palm sugar comes next as it has less glucose content that keeps blood sugar level stable."

Chef Vidushi Sharma, Founder of Truffle and Co., a bespoke desserts company, has been making things in almond milk or oat milk, cashew butter, or coconut oil. "Almonds are a versatile ingredient that go well



with vegan desserts," he says. Given the growing concern over food adulteration with the use of synthetic colour, wax, and preservatives in food, especially desserts off-late, people are ever more conscious of what they consume. "We will see more of plant-based and plant-forward foods in the future," says Jasjit Singh, Co-founder, and Business Partner, La Marinata.

If nothing else, the pandemic has increased people's awareness for nourishment. Food is not seen just as an indulgence but also as a value addition to one's health. "That's why, a sweet dish has to find the right balance between healthy and decadent," says Chef Himanshu Taneja, Culinary Director, South Asia, Marriott International, adding, "In the past two years, I have received more requests for steamed and low-fat dessert than ever before. Dates and figs are in great demand." From sweet potato halwa to ragi sheera, you won't have any regrets the next day.

Dogma is for the intellect and faith for the mind. Dogma is the code of working, behaviour and conduct while faith is the belief or conviction. Specific faith may or may not be based on any dogma. But dogma is based on an ideology on unwritten or written strands of thought established through tradition or scriptural in origin. The human race has all along striven for peace, happiness and fulfilment. For this, dogmas drawn from scriptures were set through history.

Faith is belief in an almighty universal power regulating the material nature and the lives of living beings developed over time. The present times of the 21st century are marked by new challenges and questions faced by humanity. Today's world abounds in dogmas and multiple faiths, interestingly all aimed at the deliverance of mankind from misery and sorrows of all kinds. But happiness, fulfilment, peace and harmony on a comprehensive scale are not in evidence even in today's world. One set of dogmas contradicts the other; one type of faith strikingly contrasts with the other. And in this realm of multiple dogmas and faiths, all ostensibly serving the common purpose of peace, happiness and fulfilment, the major global population of the 21st century experiences an ideological vacuum and a crisis of faith, and is witness to an increasing indifference and apathy to traditional religious rituals and practices. With scientific developments having revolutionised the human lifestyle, a serious crisis of environmental degradation stares mankind in the face. This crisis has already started manifesting itself in

Dogma feeds the intellect and faith feeds the mind. They act as the twin tools of traversal of the path leading to the ultimate abode where the human soul exists in divine bliss.

By ATUL SEHGAL



climate change, global warming and the resulting catastrophes.

What is the solution to the present set of problems?

All dogmas are incontrovertibly unanimous on conduct that is honest and truthful and on action, which is conducive to peace, harmony and preservation of environmental purity. All dogmas eloquently agree on the necessity of human action which is just, equitable and oriented towards the welfare of all living beings. And of faith? Faith in a supernatural power, who is omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient and supreme creator, is an element common to followers of almost all religions. For atheists, the dogmas of righteous action are sufficient to guide them to their goals of emancipation from the sorrows of life.

Dogma and faith are comple-

mentary but where dogma is the mantra for progress, faith is the mystic key to access that mantra. Right action follows right knowledge but faith helps a person to tap the beneficent spiritual energy of the supreme creator for his progress. However, the benevolent creator showers his blessings on his atheist and agnostic subjects too. Therefore, ultimately dogma and faith are mutually exclusive as much as they are complementary instruments of human progress.

Dogmas could be well understood by individuals and then followed for the desired results. But faith as a core belief may or may not be a matter of understanding. In the latter case, it becomes associated with mysticism and creeps out of the realm of conscious understanding. Human beings, being

innately of limited intellectual prowess, naturally have to lean on faith as an instrument of their deliverance. But in actual terms, every phenomenon in this vast universe is subject to scientific scrutiny and occurs according to eternal scientific principles. Nothing in the universe happens on an irrational and illogical basis. Hence dogma and faith converge where the understanding gaps of humans close.

Mind and intellect are the tools available to the human being to advance materially and spiritually. Dogma feeds the intellect and faith feeds the mind. The supreme creator has made everything very simple. The ignorant man has made simple things complicated. But right precepts clear these and faith helps in this through divine intervention. The creator

wants us to live in total happiness and peace, and so do we want. Let us help him and ourselves in this pursuit of peace and happiness through dogmas based on the universalistic, simple tenets of righteous action and faith borne out by our natural instincts as children and subjects of the supreme divine creator. He is our true liberator, for he guides us through this thick jungle of confusion and adversity and pulls us out of the mire of misery which is our own creation, being the retributive effect of our vicious actions. Dogma and faith, in the ultimate analysis, as the elements of our progress plan, are two faces of the same coin. They act as the twin tools of traversal of the path leading to the ultimate abode where the human soul exists in divine bliss.

Today's world abounds in dogmas and multiple faiths, interestingly all aimed at the deliverance of mankind from misery and sorrows of all kinds

MODERN PANCHATANTRA AT WORK

Once, all the birds of the jungle—except the crows—gathered to choose a new king. The Garuda was very busy and no longer protecting them. They unanimously selected owl for the fact that he could see at night, when they were most unsafe. An elaborate throne was built for his coronation, and when the owl and his wife were being escorted to it, a crow arrived. He wanted to know the reason for the celebration. The birds explained everything to him. But the crow was not in favour of the decision. He said, "The owl is blind by day. Also, why have an ugly king, when birds are known for their beauty? We already have Garuda. The mere mention of his name keeps our enemies away!" The birds were convinced and they started flying away one by one, leaving the owl and his wife who were waiting to be anointed. The owl was disappointed, and announced that owls and crows shall never be friends. The crow repented giving unsolicited advice and flew away.



MORAL: Never give advice unless you are asked to. Moreover, if you know your unsolicited advice is going to ruffle someone's feather, avoid it at any cost. Unsought counsel not only ends up annoying the person it has gone against, it vitiates the work atmosphere.

EPICS FOR CHILDREN | GAURAV YADAV

Be the Change

There are, no doubt, several things about the world that each of us would like to change. It would be great if the world were less rude, egocentric, greedy, dishonest, manipulative, arrogant, judgmental, and vindictive. It is easy for us to recognise these negative traits in others, but difficult to see them in our own selves. Thus it might appear to us that the responsibility for improvement lies solely on others and not on us. We sometimes make our change contingent on others making that change first. I'll be more polite if everyone is more polite. I'll stop honking if other drivers stop honking. If most of us feel this way, it is no wonder that the world continues to be the way it is. Mahatma Gandhi once said some words that are paraphrased as, "Be the change you want to see in the world." This tells us two things—first, the onus of change is on us not on others, and second, if at all we hope to inspire others to change, it can be through our actions, not our words. Gandhi ji was an ardent reader of the Bhagavad Gita and perhaps he got the thought



from the following *shloka* in Chapter 3:

Yadyadaacharati shreshth-astattadevetaro Janaha |

Sa yatpramaanam kurute lokastadanwartate ||

(Whatever an ideal person does, so do other people. Whatever standard he sets, other people follow.)

This is part of the philosophy of Karma yoga—right action, propounded in the Gita. Here, Sri Krishna is basically telling Arjuna that actions speak louder than words. People always pay more attention to what we do than to what we say. If a parent smokes, do they stand a chance of convincing their children not to smoke, no

matter how often they repeat their advice? Ancient Hindu philosophy maintains that we can only teach people by our *aachaar*—behaviour. A real *acharyam* (teacher) is one who teaches by his *aachaar*.

One of the lesser-known but beautiful singles by Michael Jackson called 'Man in the Mirror' has the following lyrics:

"I'm starting with the man in the mirror, I'm asking him to change his ways. And no message could have been any clearer, If you want to make the world a better place. Take a look at yourself, and then make a change."

People tend to mimic the behaviour in social interactions. If one person in a conversation is talking aggressively, others soon become aggressive. If one person is talking gently, then the others tend to take a gentle tone too. Whether one person in a group acts foolishly or wisely, others tend to behave similarly. So the best way to bring a change is to be the change.

THE FOUR DESTRUCTIVE KARMAS

Ghati (destructive or defiling) karmas obscure the natural qualities of the soul



Jnanavaraniya (knowledge obscuring) karma: Obstructs the soul's ability to seek knowledge of all things in this universe, and to know each of them in their specific detail. By overcoming this karma, an individual is endowed with infinite knowledge (*ananta jnana*).

Darsanavaraniya (vision obscuring) karma: Obstructs the soul's ability to attain a general and holistic view of things. By overcoming this karma, an individual is endowed with infinite vision (*ananta darsana*).

Mohaniya (deluding) karma: There are two kinds of mohaniya karmas—those which disturb conduct (*charitra mohaniya*) and those which disturb faith (*darsana mohaniya*). These lead to false faith, bring in delusion, and obstruct the clarity of the soul. By overcoming the two kinds of mohaniya karma, an individual attains a passionless state and is respectively endowed with infinite conduct (*ananta charitra*) and eternal faith (*ksayika samyaktva*).

Antaraya (obstructing) karma: Creates obstacles in energy and obstructs the soul's ability to engage in true action. By overcoming this karma, an individual is endowed with infinite energy of soul (*ananta virya*) and irrefinite bliss (*ananta ananda*).

Source: Who is a Saint? by Upadhyaya Rishi Praveen

AMMASPEAK Mata Amritanandamayi



Significance of Collective Spiritual Pursuit

Some years ago, I returned to my room after lunch and was contemplating a nap when the skies darkened, the winds started slamming the windows and a storm broke out. What an ambience—perfect for a siesta! I stayed up, however, to watch the downpour. I have always loved the cosy seclusion the monsoon imposes. As I gazed outside, the downpour transformed the sweltering landscape into lush terra firma. The salty tang of the ocean drifted in through the windows, reminding me of the ashram's closeness to the Arabian Sea. The grass blades bowed low in deference to the wind. In the background, young coconut palms stood swaying in the breeze.

Time has done nothing to diminish my sense of wonderment at this transmutation, as if rains were an enchanting effusion from the Maker's magic wand. Missing this spectacle would have been a waste. I took my *japa mala* (rosary) and started telling my beads.

My desultory gaze was arrested by the sight of a brown-winged eagle proudly perched on a coconut frond. As the branch sagged, the eagle tentatively raised its huge wings, lowering them when the branch heaved, all with more poise than a tightrope acrobat. The squall could do nothing, it seems, to ruffle its feathers.

More remarkable than the eagle's unflappability is the yogi's equipoise. From Chapter 6 of the Bhagavad Gita, *yatha dipo nivatasho nengate sopama smritia yogino yatactasya yanjato yogam atmana*—The flame of a lamp sheltered from wind does not flicker. This is the comparison used to describe a Yogi's mind that is well under control and united with the *atman*. (6.19)

This composure is symbolically expressed by the *kedaa-va-lackku*, literally the lamp that never goes out. It is an oil lamp protected on four sides by glass panes that allow one to see the flame while protecting it from the wind. Similarly, *japa* (repeated chanting of one's mantra) quieters to a great extent the ceaseless chatter of the monkey mind, immersing it from the gusts of *ragas* and

dveshas (likes and dislikes). The devotion generated by *sadhana* (spiritual practice) is the oil that keeps the wicks of our bodies aflame with spiritual illumination.

The glass panes of society are ashrams. They provide a conducive environment for collective spiritual pursuit. There is no disputing the security numbers confer: Amma points out how much easier it is for a group of people to remove, say, a roadblock than it is for one person to do so. Likewise, spiritual practices like group *archana*, *pujas*, *satsangs*, group meditation and retreats can be powerful aids in removing impediments on our spiritual paths and fortifying our inner cloisters (the individual glass panes). In this age of social alienation and anomie, group effort could well be the most effective means of ensuring that the nascent sanctity flickering within is not snuffed out by the profane.

Nature is indeed a double-edged amalgam of the sacred and the profane. Like the rainstorm that can lull one to sleep or awaken one to creation's intrinsic beauty, there is in every object and experience the possibility of bondage or liberation. This is quintessential *maya*, nature in its enchantingly delusive aspect. We can choose to slumber, making our lives "such stuff as dreams are made on, rounded with a little sleep," or we can awaken, through avian alertness, to the sublime Truth. Like the eagle, we will then be able to maintain a prehensile grip, as it were, on every situation, and not be thrown off balance by the *sturm und drang* inevitable in every life. And when we are done with our mundane chores, we may soar into the empyreans, becoming forever free from the trammels of earthly existence.

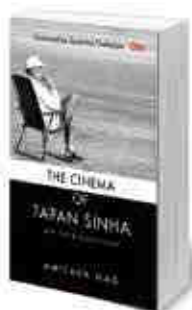
The writer is a world-renowned spiritual leader and humanitarian

MASTER MIND

"Good means not merely not to do wrong, but rather not to desire to do wrong."
~ DEMOCRITUS

'It Pains to See How Tapan is Forgotten'

Author Amitava Nag tells Sathya Saran why filmmaker Tapan Sinha never got his due despite his films winning awards, international laurels, and inspiring a generation of successful directors



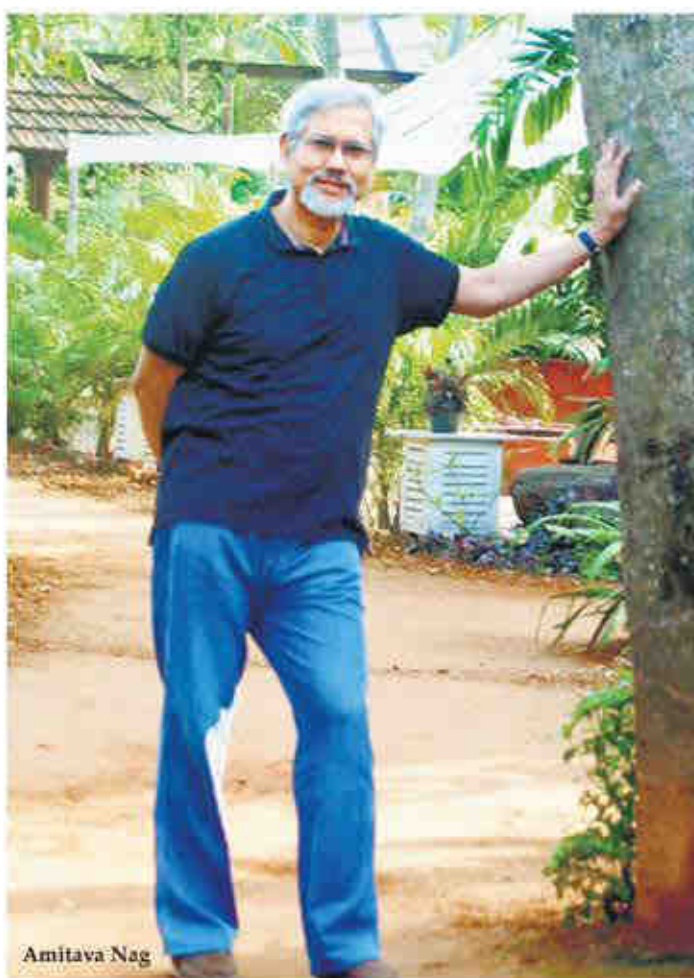
The Cinema of Tapan Sinha: An Introduction
By: Amitava Nag
Publisher: Om Books International
Pages: 208
Price: ₹395

Amitava Nag's book on Tapan Sinha aims to remind viewers who have watched and enjoyed his work about the multi-talented director who straddled commercial and artistic fields simultaneously in most of his films. Written in an easy, lucid manner, the book starts with the director's childhood days and tracks influences that would colour his work throughout his career. Sinha was versatile as his films never sacrificed the artistic for the commercial; he seldom played to the gallery but managed to engross every strata of viewer with his themes and the way he handled the stories and the filming. An added jewel in many of his films was the music he composed for them. Tagore, literature and life were his main inspirations, and the range of his creations includes all these and goes beyond to seek out children as his audience. He can be counted as one of the few filmmakers who was never bound by a genre, made films in Bangla and Hindi, and also for children. Nag's motif through the book is the regret he feels over the fact that Sinha is largely ignored and forgotten by the very audiences he entertained over decades. The author of *The Cinema of Tapan Sinha: An Introduction* speaks about his research and findings on the work of the director. Edited excerpts:



Tapan Sinha

"What they failed to realise was that his aim was to entertain the audience intelligently and yet return money to the investors. When Tapan got the chance he could make films like *Ek Doctor ki Mauj* and *Aadmi aur Aurat* as well." AMITAVA NAG



Amitava Nag

What made you write the title as 'An Introduction'. Do you think it was necessary to introduce the work of the director to readers?

Absolutely Tapan Sinha is a very underrated director of Indian cinema. His positioning is unique not only in the context of Bengali cinema but also Indian cinema as such. Interestingly, his films even now have been revered and liked by the common, educated, middle class. Somehow since the late '60s his films have fallen out of favour with the intellectual film critics. What they failed to realise was

that Tapan's aim was to entertain the audience intelligently and yet return money to the investors. When he got the chance he could make films like *Ek Doctor ki Mauj* and *Aadmi aur Aurat* as well.

It pains me to see how he is almost forgotten, never discussed in any sort of serious discussion on Indian cinema. Maybe, this book is an attempt to address that.

Any plan for an in-depth follow up on his work?

I would love to do so. An in-depth analysis of film-making definitely is required—not

only on his films but also many others as well. However, I doubt we will have many takers in a culture that thrives on hagiographies.

The book is a fast read. But would a little more detail on his most notable films have not been desirable?

I think I was keen to show the multi-faceted genius that he was. He was not obsessed with one style or form or theme. That is why he could make children's films along with socially relevant ones and the ones on classical literature. I wanted to show the sweep, not individual peaks. Maybe, as you asked, a subsequent title can address those in minutest details.

Was it difficult to find material for reference on Tapan Sinha. Is this the first book in English on his work?

This is the first book on him in English. There are a couple or so memoirs of him which I relied upon and another one by Mr Abesh Das which is a very sincere attempt at understanding his films. I also looked up a few special film society magazine issues—all commemorative ones after he passed away. If they would have done something similar while he was alive, that would have been worthwhile. You seem to have a sorry opinion on what you call the 'film society crowd'. Why?

The Film Society movement was a great initiative at a time when film appreciation as a vocation was naive. Come what may we need to give that credit always to the film societies and their members. Unlike today when one gets a chance to watch any film worldwide, at that time, non Hollywood foreign films were rare. The Film Societies did quench that thirst of the enthusiast.

However, slowly since the late '60s and '70s I think there was a slide in the philosophy of many though not all, film societies. In

the process the local filmmaker more often than not got sidelined repeatedly. For Tapan Sinha it is a bit strange because his films did travel outside of India a number of times—a yardstick which is, till today, used to measure how important a filmmaker is. Yet, he was bracketed with others whose films rarely had that opportunity to travel to festivals.

To top it all, Tapan Sinha was not in favour of Marxism as a political belief. In a number of films, including *Galpo Holeo Soyi*, *Sagina Mahato* and his *Calcutta Trilogy*, he made his political stance very clear. Leftist ideology was the preferred one amongst the educated Bengali middle class at that time. I think the animosity towards Tapan Sinha was less due to his cinema but more due to his political beliefs as depicted in his films.

Tapan Sinha remains unsung despite awards and inspiring filmmakers like Gulzar, Hrishikesh Mukherjee, and even Bimal Roy. How do you explain this in your book?

I think he remained essentially a Bengali film maker, making films for the Bengali audience and living in Bengal. He was in New Theatres when Bimal Roy, Hrishikesh Mukherjee and others left Calcutta for Bombay. He was not one of them. His idea was very clear—he wanted to make films in a language he was comfortable with. Later on he did make a few films in Hindi, mostly remakes of his own apart from the ones for children.

I think he had to pay the price for not moving to the centre but preferring to remain in the fringes. But why regret... that was his own conscious decision. However, what is actually unfortunate is the fact that he has been mostly forgotten by the same community for whom he dedicated his whole life in a creative pursuit.

READ

THE BESTSELLERS

- | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <p>1 The House Next to the Factory
By: Sonal Kohli
Publisher: Fourth Estate
Price: ₹499</p> | <p>2 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Big Shot
By: Jeff Kinney
Publisher: Puffin
Price: ₹550</p> | <p>3 Beautiful World, Where Are You
By: Sally Rooney
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Hope Flowers in a Field of Carnage

A forgotten piece of Africa's colonial history while surviving Germany's tyranny



Afterlives
By: Abdulrazak Gurnah
Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing
Pages: 288
Price: ₹499

By ANUJA CHANDRAMOULI

Recently anointed Nobel Laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah's *Afterlives* is a sprawling narrative that tackles heavy themes like oppression, genocide, rebellion and savage reprisal brought about by German colonial rule in Africa early in the 20th century. Yet, it is so much more because its focus is primarily on the overwhelmingly ordinary lives of individuals who quietly and resolutely go about the business of living, forging precious bonds and eking out every bit of happiness and peace they can from an existence that is anything but peaceful. Gurnah's tale has minimal bombast, which serves to maximise the impact. Across the length and breadth of East Africa, known as Deutsch-Ostafrika, German military tactics leave the land ravaged and drenched in the blood of those who have been

senselessly and callously slain. Even more chilling is the excesses of the dreaded Schutztruppe Askari, native soldiers trained by their colonial oppressors to kill and brutalise their fellow Africans on command. Gurnah shifts the focus from all that blood and gore to a small coastal town that remains unnamed which has somehow managed to steer itself clear from the worst of the never-ending conflicts that plague their continent thanks to the insatiable greed of colonisers.

This is the home of the protagonists—Khalifa, Ilyas and Hamas whose lives are inextricably linked. Khalifa may be given to grumbling and married to Asha, who goes through life with a perpetual grouse but it is his inability to be anything less than kind to those who are down on their luck that truly lights up this novel. He befriends Ilyas, who ran away from his wretched home only to be kidnapped by an Askari

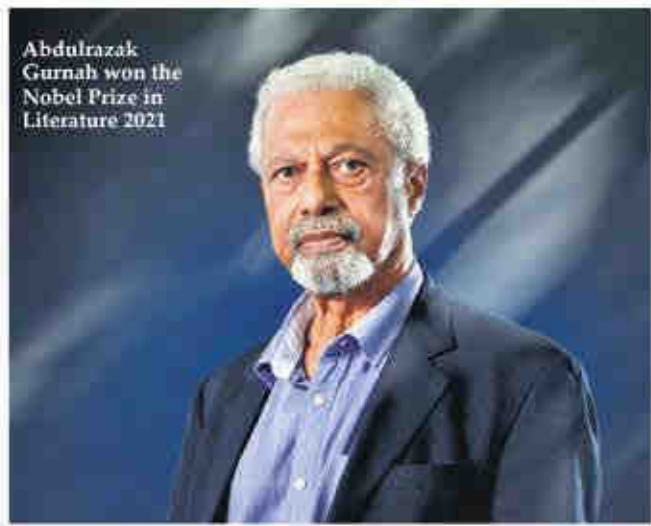
and is taken in by a noble German farmer who makes sure he receives an education and helps him secure a job. Consequently, Ilyas is kindly disposed to the colonisers and often voices his support of their actions much to the mingled horror and amusement of those around him. At Khalifa's instigation, he returns to his village, where he finds his orphaned sister, Afiya who is only 10 and has been abandoned to the mercies of neighbours who feel it is well within their rights to ill-treat her. Ilyas rescues her and for a brief period, they are happy and content, till his restlessness sees him enlist in the army to fight for the German empire

he so reveres. Hamza's tale is a harrowing one. Sold as a bonded labourer by his father driven to do so by crippling debt, he runs away and volunteers to join the Askari only to realise he has traded a terrible existence for a worse one. It is through his eyes that Gurnah explores the complicated relationship between the oppressor and the oppressed. Assigned to be the Oberleutenant's personal assistant, the sensitive Hamza is forced to endure the ridicule of his fellow troops who gleefully inform him that the Germans 'like playing with pretty young men', and the officer who is determined to teach him to

read Schiller while also insisting that the Germans have taken up the task of civilising such a 'backward and savage people and the only way to rule them is to strike terror into them.' Observing the war through Hamza's eyes is an intensely painful experience and readers will find themselves flinching at the awfulness of it all. Having sustained a grievous injury, Hamza waits out the war at a Christian mission and returns to his roots, hoping to salvage what he can from the broken remains of his life.

Afiya, meanwhile, who was sent back to her tormentors is rescued by the unassuming yet heroic Khalifa but is unable to reconcile herself to the inexplicable silence of her brother and the crippling uncertainty regarding his fate. Hamza also becomes the benefactor of Khalifa's compassion. This coupled with Afiya's love and devotion helps bring a measure of much-needed restoration to his shell-shocked psyche.

By telling these stories of the oppressed and their small triumphs in the face of overwhelming adversity, Gurnah takes an important step to counter the erasure of those who have been brutalised and left voiceless. *Afterlives* is quietly brilliant and a stirring saga of hope.



Abdulrazak Gurnah won the Nobel Prize in Literature 2021

Unquiet Times

By SHINIE ANTONY

Humra Quraishi is an emotional writer whose heart belongs to all those who suffer. In her fiction as well as her non-fiction works, she closely follows people, plot, cities and characters with a sensitivity that borders on the painful. Always alert to the reality of displacement, Quraishi picks up the traumatised and narrates their tales with empathy.

Her latest collection of short fiction, *What the Hell and Other Stories*, published by PepperScript, is no different. Here too the walls of the dispossessed echo throughout the narrative. Though most of the 30 tales depict the quiet despair of women—who have lost their homes, children, village, sanity—many give voice to the men too who are trying to survive these iffy times.

Quraishi's prose, both in the telling and the talks between the characters, is kept to the bare minimum—as if the universal language of tragedy has its own grammar. 'He's here or where?' asks someone. 'Something or everything bizarre,' finds a child in 'Mr and Mrs Inn', the first story in the collection. There is a morbidity infusing every word, as if growing up into adulthood is not the coveted passage of time it used to be. The turmoil in Kashmir, caste issues, poverty and ghetto violence come together in a mosaic of intensities.

A rare story, like 'Your Teeth, Please', where a dentist spells doom for someone suffering toothache, begins with a touch of humour, but Afghan refugees soon bring the focus sharply back to the book's theme of temporary addresses.



What the Hell and Other Stories
By: Humra Quraishi
Publisher: PepperScript
Pages: 312
Price: ₹295

When hope comes in, it is more a fleeting visit.

In 'Why Not a Full-Fledged One?' she writes: 'He'd clasped my hands. Strangely, I'd begun to reciprocate. I'd begun to feel happy. For his clasp didn't relay lust or love. Just support. Perhaps the emotional support I'd been craving all these years. Never finding it. Not even in that marriage that had throttled my urges, killed those emotions.' Closures, though, are never complete, never bringing satiety with them. Neither in relationships nor in the sense of belonging.

An artist in the plane, mangoes that mysteriously go missing, the Alzheimer's patient who is picked up for interrogation... No one has it easy. Every moment carries its own menace, sometimes forcefully, sometimes subtly.

In the dystopian present, old men and women, young children and strangers on the run, they must all escape but there is nowhere they can hide. In a harrowing ride on the road, passengers experience naked fear. There is the lack of words, an appalling silence, a realisation that everyone is on their own, unsafe and unprotected in a world that is whimsical in its brutality. As Quraishi writes: 'Unmoving the bus. Moving the stillness.'

Italian Art Meets Indian Craft

Indian women have a long and complex relationship with jewellery, going back all the way to Mohenjo Daro. Traditionally jewellery has formed part of the *stree-dhan* concept, but its allure is so much more than mere legalese. India excels in jewellery craft but the crafting has traditionally been a male domain. Mumbai-based Shachee Shah has upended this, working with her own hands on the bench. Not only that. She has brought the ancient tradition of micro mosaic to India, which originated in Italy as keepsakes that travellers took back, but is now almost lost in Europe.

Shah began her journey wanting to study fashion but discovered micro mosaic on a trip to Italy. She realised that this would be unique in India and set out to train herself in an Italian institute, learning to work with tools in the traditional way, and researching design and history in Vatican museums and ateliers in Ravenna.

Her intense study led to her brand of micro mosaic jewellery, which is Italian in concept but with an Indian heart and Indian motifs. She calls it the Garden of Bliss, with Nature as her main inspiration. Shah thinks that Nature has an unspoken voice that speaks volumes for those who want to listen and that her jewels are the little beauties that speak that voice. Art, history,

Jewellery designer Shachee Shah has brought to India the unique and ancient Italian craft of micro mosaic and combined it with traditional Indian motifs for a whole new look

By MIRA GUPTA



The raw material in mosaic jewellery consists of tiny rods of gold and Venetian glass enamel, which are formed by mixing different colours



wildlife and vintage objects are her other inspirations.

The raw material in mosaic jewellery consists of tiny rods of gold and Venetian glass enamel, which are formed by mixing different colours (called Smalto). These are pulled into threads at a temperature of 1200 degrees and then left to cool. The process is highly skilled and time-consuming. Each of these glass-pulled threads (tessera) are cut in microns and arranged together to create a pattern. Shah creates the pattern with her naked eye. Because each piece is completely handcrafted, it is unique and unrepeatable. All gold used is 18-karat, and the glimmer comes from natural diamonds and precious gems.

Shah's other line of jewellery is so much like lace, you'd be forgiven for trying to attach it to your hanky. This is her invention: 18-karat gold wires woven into intricate lace-like patterns, an ethereal jewel worn on the ear or wrist. She called this the Venetian collection.

When Shah started her line, she worked on each piece herself, from the block of gold to the finished piece. Now with avid demand, she has added helping hands to her production process, but each piece still carries her handwork in its manufacturing process.

Shah's muse is the woman who believes in herself and amalgamates her style with story, emotion and character. This woman knows she can. Much like Shah herself, who broke into the male-dominated field of metalsmithing, which is perceived as physically punishing.

Because the jewellery is entirely handcrafted and takes time to produce, Shah prefers to work through personal appointments at her studio, and through exhibitions at stores and galleries. She has a market abroad too, with women in the UAE, UK and the USA eager to wear her jewels. All this is slated to expand in the next few years. Most exciting? She is going to introduce a new jewellery technique by the end of 2021. We can't wait.



Shachee Shah

A Confluence of Cultures

Good Earth's Bosphorus Design Collection that connects the East to the West is a true voyage of discovery

By MEDHA DUTTA YADAV

The Bosphorus is not just a famed waterway that connects Europe with Asia, it also represents a confluence of cultures of the Orient and Occident. Which is exactly what Good Earth's creative director, Anita Lal, had in mind for the brand's landmark 25th anniversary collection. "I decided to shift our gaze westwards and when I thought about what connects Western cultural influences with the Eastern world, the storied legacy of the Bosphorus strait was an obvious choice," she explains.

Born from a collective fantastical imagination, the Bosphorus Design Collection introduces an all-new vocabulary of motifs, colours and design. From ruby red pomegranates to stylised leopards, each motif has a unique story of its provenance. Richly layered together, they create syncretic designs, reimagined as lush hand



block prints, jewel-toned embroideries, hand-drawn toiles, and opulent brocades



the Bosphorus, encountering magical cheetahs and peacocks in palm groves festooned with roses and jasmines.

as well as tableware and décor accents.

The collection comprises Bosphorus Rosa, focuses on hand-drawn toile with festoons of roses, from classical Greek and Roman decorations surrounding Asiatic cheetahs poised under palm trees. Then there's the seductively named Scherezade, digitally printed on cotton and then quilted in the French *boutis* style. Its deep crimson ground is the much-loved Ottoman colour palette known as 'guvezi.'

Next comes the Jewel Box, inspired by patterns on Ottoman brocades, which comprises jewel-toned cushions woven and embroidered in silk and velvet with gold and silver threads. Then, digitally printed on handloom silk, the Secret Garden collection presents an imagined journey from the hidden gardens of China down the Silk Road to the shores of

Staying true to its oeuvre, the brand also showcases Imperial Blue. With its distinctive blue and white porcelain which was especially valued by the Imperial Ottoman court, this unique collection comprises hand-painted porcelain platters, vase, and ginger jars reminiscent of those created by traditional artisans in Jingdezhen, home of Ming pottery in China. The launch of the 25th-anniversary collection also coincides with the unveiling of the restored and renovated Good Earth Flagship at Raghuvanshi Mills, Mumbai. Reimagining the grandeur of Yalis—palatial Ottoman villas along the Bosphorus—the restoration has been brought to life in a unique collaboration between Anita Lal and designer Adil Ahmad.



Eco Times



As green fashion takes centre-stage, Fossil has come out with a range that's easy on the eye and easy on the planet. Making an eco-friendly promise without compromising on design, the brand has re-introduced its crowd-favourites—Minimalist for him and Jacqueline for her with sustainable updates that reduce water usage during the tanning process, make use of recycled stainless steel, and comprise a solar movement.

The Minimalist is available in three styles in brown, green and blue tones. The earthy shades truly reflect the distinct design philosophy behind these pieces. Not only that, the movement also gets an upgrade with the date window. The Jacqueline is available in classic shades of beige, light pink, brown and black.

These timepieces are not only a responsible choice, but also elegant and perennial style decisions that will tide you fashionably through numerous occasions. Price: ₹9,995.



PICK OF THE WEEK

Dine in Style

Sarita Handa's elegant table linen weaves a luxurious visual tapestry for your dining experience



old-world elegance.

The embroidered collection displays a bouquet of patterns inspired by Mother Nature. Enriched with motifs of exotic flora and fauna such as palampore motifs, birds, delicate florals and ambi with florals.

Then there's the first of its kind range of runners and placemats in solid-coloured, 100 percent quilted cotton. Portrayed in mustard, coral, indigo, red, green,

If you're looking for fine table linen to go with your fine dinnerware, look no further than Sarita Handa's collection that's a celebration of untouched nature. The range of table mats, runners and napkins highlight nature in all its glory, and exhibits the brand's trademark vibrant and neutral colour palettes. With this range, Sarita Handa has yet again used the art of Indian needlework to translate it into craft-intensive collections with universal aesthetics. The result is designer table linen that merges modern designs with



teal, beige and ivory, this machine quilted range showcases varied intricate to bold patterns done in matching threads.

The florals, the vine trellis patterns, the abstract diamonds to the simple channel designs all creating something unique.

This entire range is sure to create a lasting impression at get-togethers and dinners with your loved ones. Furthermore, while it offers the comfort of washing at home (so easy maintenance), the collection is formal and sophisticated at the same time.



It Happens Only with Sonu Sood

When Sonu Sood speaks, people listen. In a world where celebrities are demi-gods thanks to their commercial value, Sood's currency is activism. His latest avatar as the host of a new National Geographic series uncovers the uniqueness of India through its villages and cities. The humanitarian actor, whose advocacy of causes was perceived with a jaundiced eye by the government, says, "On this show, lost stories will be told. It gives the unsung heroes of our country a platform to share their work."

On *It Happens Only in India*, which premiered recently, Sood is seen interacting with men and women who have left an indelible mark on society with their work, just like the actor himself. The 10-part series spans the modern to the mystic and features individuals and their achievements—environment crusades to the latest in space technology.

Sood would rather talk about the people who inspire him than how he inspires others. "In our country there are so many individuals doing

The activist actor on his new show, humanitarian work that keeps him grounded and his future projects

By SMITHA VERMA

so many things and inspiring others. I always say, don't think that you don't have the resources to do something or help someone in need. Just take the first step," advises the 48-year-old star with a difference.

It is only logical that if with Sood, the talk will move to philanthropy—establishing scholarships for the underprivileged, helping stranded migrants, acid survivors, giving free meals to the poor and more.

It's difficult to not pay attention that even in the small window of our 10-minute Zoom interview his attention is diverted twice by people waiting to meet him. Someone is seeking medical aid, a father wants a job for his son, a mother is waiting anxiously for Sood to arrange her child's school admission.

Is there a formula to his activism?

"Everyday it's a challenge," he confesses. Even when he is on the sets, his staff such as the vanity van driver or the makeup man gives their friends the location and people in need queue up. "I take the first step of holding their hand and things fall in place. The last two years have taught me that when the Almighty gives you the responsibility to bring change, a formula to make it happen follows," he adds.

Philanthropy runs in Sood's genes. His mother, a government college lecturer in Moga, Punjab, gave free classes to underprivileged children. "My mom always inspired me. If she saw a student missing in class then she

would ask me to take her to that student's house. In Punjab's heat, I used to take her 30-40km on my scooter's pillion," he reminisces. His mother would reason it out with the parents on the importance of education and ensure that the child returned to class the next day. "Then I could never understand why my mom used to take such pains to convince strangers about the merits of education. She used to say even if one child gets educated per family then generations will be saved."

Sood still receives letters from his mother's students, from all across the world, expressing their gratitude on the change she brought in their lives. It seems he is walking in her footsteps. "I miss my mom so much now. She planted that seed in me that it doesn't really matter if you can do it or not, just take that first step and then you will see magic unfolding. Put in that effort," he urges.

On another note, his effort is going into making a historical action drama *Prithviraj* (alongside Akshay Kumar) from Yash Raj Films to be released in January. In the pipeline is Telugu action drama *Acharya* and one more action thriller. However, Sood's altruistic commitments mean less time for films. "A lot of film projects have come to me, but unfortunately I'm not getting time even to read the scripts. I wish I could do more films next year," he says.

Meanwhile, there are medical reports of patients who have approached him to be sent to the doctors and colleges to be finalised for aspiring students. He is the harbinger of hope on whom rides a thousand dreams that happen only in Sood's work.

On *It Happens Only in India* on the National Geographic Channel, Sood is seen interacting with men and women who have left an indelible mark on society with their work, just like the actor himself

STORIES THAT FASCINATED SOOD IN IT HAPPENS ONLY IN INDIA

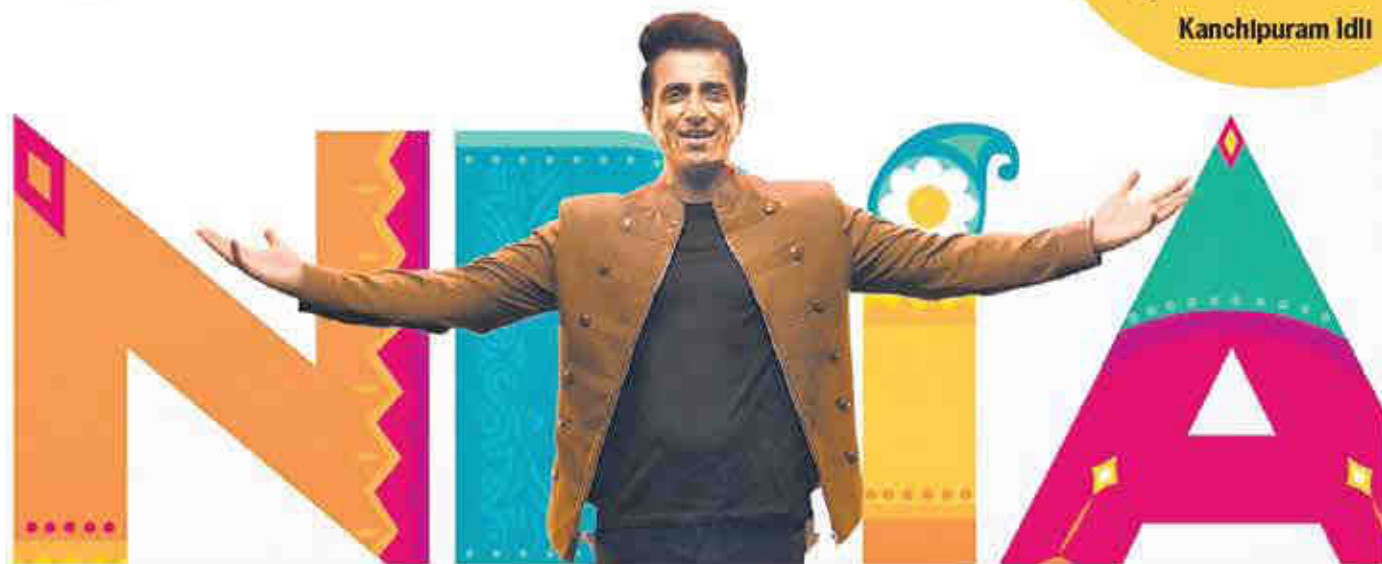
Kalari Martial Arts

Muscope—The world's smallest microscope

Making Ink from pollution

Origins of Mysore sandal soap

Kanchipuram Idli



WATCH

BUZZ CUT

PRAISE FOR PRIYANKA

Actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas could well be a Marvel superhero if actor Richard Madden's words are to be taken seriously. Madden who makes his debut in the Marvel Cinematic



Universe with *Eternals* thinks that his *Citadel* co-star would make an "awesome" Marvel superhero. He also praised the star, calling her a talented actor. She has a number of international projects in the pipeline, including the next installment of *Matrix*.



VISHAL OFFERS AID

Tamil actor Vishal has volunteered to take care of the 1,800 students, who were getting free education from late actor Puneeth Rajkumar, from next year onwards. The Kannada superstar who recently died of cardiac arrest had set up several free schools, orphanages, cow shelters and old-age homes.

HALLE BERRY ON SEEING LOVE FOR CATWOMAN FROM HER FANS



"Where were you guys 17 years ago?"

'Let's Humanise Villains also'

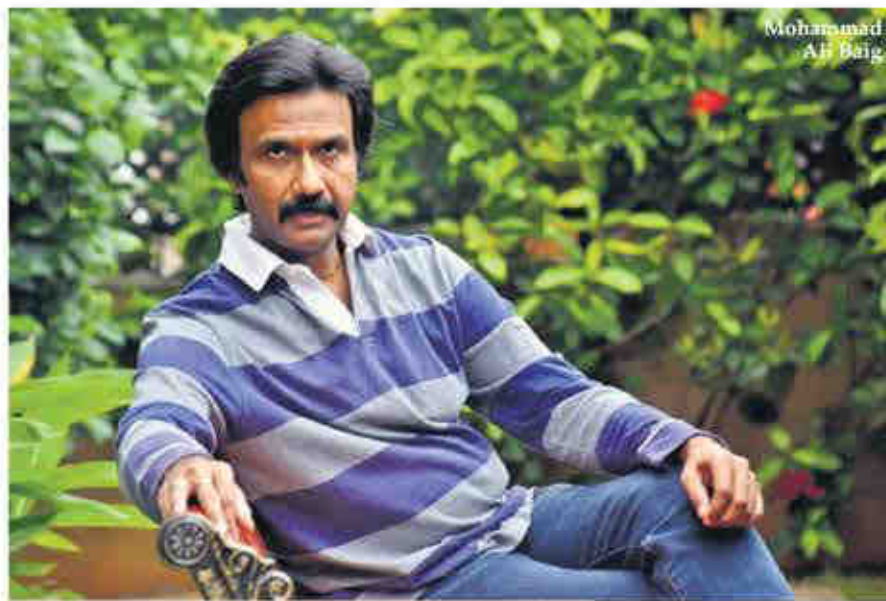
Mohammad Ali Baig, actor and ad filmmaker from Hyderabad, talks about his roles on the stage and in OTT, and how he managed to bust myths around him

By MANJU LATHA KALANIDHI

Why don't I get to play someone who is grey, not always black or white?" asks Mohammad Ali Baig. In his defence, he has played either the suave top cop who is saving the country from a terrorist attack or is a kohl-sporting, nose ring-wearing, hardened criminal who is conspiring against the country. The Padmashree awardee from Hyderabad thinks he can afford to ask such questions as he has earned this privilege with his hard work in the last two decades. He is the founder of the Qadir Ali Baig Theatre Foundation, started 16 years ago, and which staged its annual show to a packed auditorium a few weeks ago. Baig debuted on the silver screen with Tamil blockbuster *Aruvi* in 2017. Now he has a bunch of OTT shows on hand. "As filmmakers, we should stop making the hero look so heroic and villains look so evil. We should humanise both heroes and villains," he says.

Even as he speaks about the ideal case scenarios in the OTT circuit, he is enjoying being in the spotlight. He plays a police officer investigating a drug nexus in Mumbai in director Imtiaz Ali's *She* on Netflix. The show's second season is set to begin this month. He is also upbeat about Suresh Krishna's thriller series *In the Name of God* on Aha OTT platform. It's his debut Telugu OTT series where he plays a psycho drug peddler from Israel who strays into Rajahmundry town in Andhra Pradesh.

But why has the 40-plus actor stayed away from Telugu shows/films for so long? "I don't know. I am



OTT VS THEATRE

"I have performed at Edinburg, Toronto and Lahore etc where the audience turnout was over 1,500. They are a committed audience who wait for the show to begin at that particular venue and then take time out to give me mature feedback about my work. Now, I have a different set of audiences who watch me on their phone in OTT platforms, often while multi-tasking. The feedback is a two-word, badly-spelt compliment, yet straight from the heart. Something like "Osm sir, Rossie rocks." Theatre and OTT are two different worlds, but with a different charm."

IN CHARACTER MOVIES

- Aruvi**, Tamil, 2017; NSG Commando
 - Haveli Diary**, English, 2018; Artist
 - Kalinga**, Telugu, 2020; Anthropologist
 - Cobra**, Tamil, 2021; Maths teacher
 - Sardar**, Tamil, 2021; Bureaucrat
- #### WEB SERIES
- In the Name of God**, Telugu, 2021; Criminal
 - She - Season 2**, Hindi, 2021; Police Officer

always the outsider," he bemoans. Incidentally, even in his roles, he is the outsider. In *She 2*, he is a cop from Delhi working in the Mumbai Police. In the upcoming Telugu movie *Kalinga*, he is a Telugu anthropologist who goes to Kerala. In *Cobra*, he is from Kolkata who goes to Chennai. "However, in June I broke the myth with Rossi (his character in *In the Name of God*). Otherwise, everyone thought I am an English/Urdu actor from a royal Muslim family who is not familiar with

Telugu. I am proud to say that my Telugu is so good that I even corrected the "maatras" in the dialogue on the sets of *In the Name of God*. I hope the Telugu industry embraces me now," he quips.

When he's not doing theatre, movies or OTT shows, Baig is a full-fledged ad filmmaker. His company CineWorks has produced 450 ad films so far, including the Aditya Birla Group million dollar budget ad "Taking India to the world".

"It's easier to make a 180-minute feature film than to make a 30-second ad commercial that sells a product. Yet, ad filmmakers get no credit for their work. How unfair," laments the actor best known for his Urdu theatre production *Quli: Dilon ka Shahzaada*.

As he awaits the release of his next Tamil film *Cobra* (featuring Vikram) and *Sardar* (with Karthi) in 2022, what's the role that he is most excited to play? "That of a dad. We are expecting our first child in November," he signs off excitedly.

When he's not doing theatre, movies or OTT shows, Baig is a full-fledged ad filmmaker, having produced 450 ad films so far

BINGE BOX



QUEST FOR LOVE

ZEE5's latest movie *Aafat-e-Ishq* is a laugh riot where the quest for true love continues. The dark comedy with Neha Sharma, Deepak Dobriyal and Namit Das in important roles is based on the award-winning Hungarian film *Liza—The Fox Fairy*. The drama with an interesting plot is one of the few releases around Diwali that can keep you hooked.

TRENDING

YOU Netflix

CAST: Penn Badgley, Elizabeth Lail, Zach Cherry.
PLOT: A bookstore manager crosses paths with an aspiring female writer and their subsequent love story.

Maradona: Blessed Dream

Amazon Prime Video
CAST: Juan Palomino
PLOT: The 10-part sports biopic looks at the remarkable life of Diego Maradona marked by glory and controversies.

Call My Agent: Bollywood

Netflix
CAST: Soni Razdan, Rajat Kapoor, Aahana Kumra
PLOT: Four Mumbai talent agents hustling to save their sinking company

Thinkalazhcha Nishchayam

Sonyliv
CAST: Manoj KU, Ajisha Prabhakaran
PLOT: Malayalam-language comedy drama around an engagement ceremony

Sanak Disney+Hotstar

CAST: Viduyt Jammwal, Neha Dhupia, Rukmini Maitra
PLOT: Action-thriller around the journey of a lone hero who fights overwhelming odds in a restricted environment

REVIEW

A Forgettable Trip



HYPNOTIC

Directors: Matt Angel, Suzanne Coote
Genre: Horror
Platform: Netflix
Language: English
Rating: ★★

Unrealised promise is perhaps more disappointing than mediocrity. *Hypnotic*, the latest Netflix original film, has a host of insane ideas, but they remain in nascentcy throughout. The narrative is coherent and dense, with one scene setting up the other, and plot points snowballing into bigger conflicts. However, the predictability and the red flags you see from a mile make for a rather dampening experience.

Richard D'Ovidio's script plays it by the book. It begins with the protagonist—a young lady in a slump, both personally and professionally. When an unemployed techie, Jenn Tompson (Kate Siegel, in a familiar role in the horror genre) going through a lull, runs into her friend's therapist, Dr Collin Meade (Jason O'Mara), she decides to pay him a visit for a therapy session. Even the lighting and the atmosphere of Collin's clinic paint a picture of his evil intentions, but Jenn apparently is oblivious. She volunteers to undergo hypnosis and despite an hour passing by, she barely notices it. "It felt like three minutes," she says, while Collin responds with a smirk. She begins having dreams, shot with lurid lighting to give an abstract feel, and soon realises that the hypnotist might be taking control of her life. How do you overcome a villain who exerts profound control over you? This question at the centre of *Hypnotic* is an exciting idea. The best parts of this film have Collin command and control Jenn with a snap, even as the latter struggles to defend herself. But these ideas never get due exploration, on account of the inconsistent treatment. The threat is never palpable, even though Collin is capable of posing a physical danger.

The opening scene, where we see a woman get trapped in a lift, is a great way to give an idea of the threat, and the film does keep nudging us about the menace lurking around Jenn. Perhaps filmmakers should not hesitate about exploring the full darkness of such horror stories. In fact, some of the better stretches of the film are those that hint at this. Be it an unknown lady suddenly attacking Detective Wade Rollins (Dule Hill) or the final stretch in which Rollins searches for Jenn, who is held captive by Collin, these are sequences that hold our attention.

It doesn't help that the dialogues are cheesy. When delivered with conviction by O'Mara (who has voiced Batman in the DC Animated Movie Universe), they make the movie feel like a parody of a psychological thriller. Akin to Jenn, who barely remembers her visions from the hypnosis, I might hardly remember *Hypnotic* hours after finishing it.

—Ram Venkat Srikar

