

UNION TERRITORY INDEPENDENT

₹20

NOVEMBER 16-30 2023

VOL . 33

ISSUE 10

NEW DELHI

PAGES 20

www.utindependentnews.in

US 50c | UK p50



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UNION TERRITORY
INDEPENDENT

Freebies Destroying Country Economy

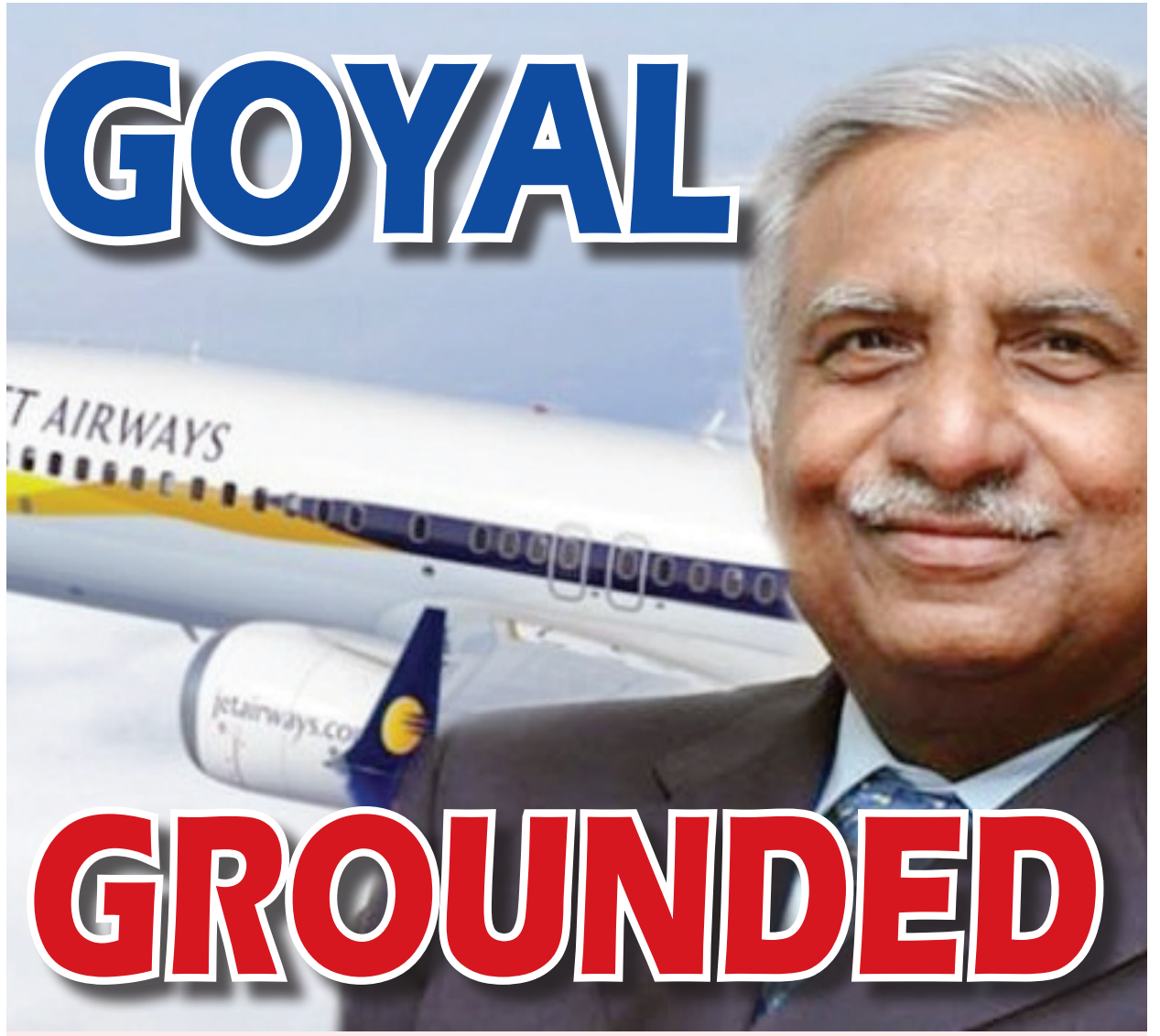
Political climate is heating up. Elections are fought to win. Political parties leave nothing to imagination. Nation's developmental programmes and economic health are acutely compromised. Freebies can have adverse consequences on the fiscal health and macroeconomic stability of the state and thus the country, by increasing public expenditure, deficits, debts, and inflation. There is no legal definition of a freebie. The difference between freebies and government welfare schemes is not clear, but a general thumb rule is to assess whether a political party has planned the fiscal room before announcing a freebie or a so called people welfare schemes. Political parties position their plans as welfare for the needy, and dismiss the same of the opposition as wasteful giveaways. There is a sea difference between electoral-win oriented freebies and government announced real welfare schemes which are well thought, planned, duly budgeted with funds sources well defined without jeopardising the funds for other sectors and or diverting funds from more productive and essential sectors such as infrastructure, agriculture, industry, etc. The money that could have given better infrastructure is given to free bus rides, the investment for renewable energy is given as free 200 units of power, etc. Freebies have a negative impact on the environment too, by encouraging overuse and wastage of natural resources, such as water, electricity, or fuel, as people tend to over use them, just because it is free. Freebies are seen as a way of luring voters or bribing them with populist promises. Some examples of freebies are free cash transfers, loan waivers, laptops, TVs, bicycles, electricity, water, etc. These freebies naturally are at the cost of tax payers. If at all the political parties are so much passionate about providing relief as freebies, why not free bus rides only for senior citizens? Why generalize for all women who do not need this free ride? Freebies are a double-edged sword. Anywhich way you swash the sword it has to rip apart the tax payer. Several countries have gone bust. Venezuela and Sri Lanka are latest victims of freebies termed as subsidies at the cost of destructions of their country economy. India could face the same prospect of sub-national bankruptcies if States continue to dole out freebies to influence the voters; all denting the exchequer sucked mercilessly from poor tax payers. We have selfish leaders to doom the national economy. AAP's Kejriwal set the doomsday trend. Now we have a lineup of parties. Leading the freebies mockery in the name of people welfare are AAP, Congress, DMK, YSR Congress, BRS and TMC, to name the leaders. Freebies, aimed at benefiting the targeted population in the short term, create the dangerous "Dependency Syndrome. Freebies are always for a particular targeted voter segment. This makes targeted people lazy, revenue isn't generated in the system and slowly people are so dependent on the Government, as a result the government gets completely ruined. Victims of Freebies create a negative pattern of dependency who expect more in the future and become less motivated to work hard or pay taxes. It can reduce the sense of responsibility and accountability of the beneficiaries. This is unhealthy for the beneficiaries and the Nation. Several top bureaucrats have time and again flagged their total discontent and critical concerns over populist schemes and mindless freebies announced by political parties during elections, just to win, not mindful of they affecting the national economy. Freebies must be understood from an economic perspective and connected to taxpayers' hard earned money. It is time to draw a Line Between Welfare and Freebies. Election Commission of India (ECI) has to be empowered to regulate and monitor the announcement and implementation of freebies by political parties during elections. This should include giving the ECI more powers to de-register parties, impose hefty penalties, or take contempt action for violating the model code of conduct or the court orders on freebies. Judicial Intervention becomes indispensable to frame measures. The Supreme Court has suggested setting up an expert committee to look into the issue of freebies and their impact on the economy and democracy and stricter legal reforms to ban political parties from freebies-politics. Mother of all deterrent for political parties is Voters' Awareness. In a democracy, the power to block or allow the parading of freebies is with the voters. Educating voters about the economic and social consequences of freebies and encouraging them to demand performance and accountability from political parties is another way forward to ban political parties to announce freebies during elections and in their manifesto. It is for the voters to decide if they want to Chase a Chimera for illusionary pleasures or long term prosperity!

S H A Badshah

Printed, Published and owned by S.H.A. Badshah, Published at Union Territory Independent, 2997 Kucha Neel kanth, Dariya Ganj, New Delhi-110002 Printed at Pushpak Press Pvt. Ltd.
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SUBSCRIPTION E-MAIL : utindependentindia@hotmail.com
All disputed matters in Delhi Jurisdiction only.
Outside Delhi Air/Railways surcharge ₹30 per copy

GOYAL

GROUNDED



Once considered an Emperor of the Indian air travel industry with his huge Jet Airways fleet flying to several dozens of destinations, Naresh Goyal now is in disarray, with his huge multi hundred core airways business shut, accused of several frauds and scams for alleged money laundering siphoning off thousands of crores to offshore banks of benami and shell companies and more.

Once counted as one of the richest in India, Jet Airways founder Naresh Goel is now in custody and lodged at Arthur Road jail in south Mumbai in a money laundering case linked to an alleged fraud at the Canara Bank. This is one of the many cases filed against Goel.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Naresh Goyal in September this year under the PMLA following a long session of questioning at the central agency's office here. This money laundering case stems from an FIR of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against Jet Airways, Naresh Goyal, his wife Anita, and some former company executives of the now-grounded private airline in connection with an alleged ₹ 850-crore fraud at the Canara Bank. This is one of the many frauds busted by the Indian investigations agencies.

Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal's "resistance" to diluting his stakes and "incessant siphoning off of funds for personal pecuniary gains" led to the downfall of his otherwise running well Jet Airlines and Goyal's

downfall. His alleged crime connections in the Gulf also went against him. It was no wonder that the crime money that flowed freely led him to commit more crimes and at the end fell flat and got caught red-handed by the always smart and alert Indian investigating agencies.

Despite the scams and the cases against Goyal there are at least three major lessons that can be learnt from the colossal tragedy of Jet Airways downfall, from a management perspective.

One: Rash decisions, rigidity and faulty management are harmful to any business. Every business requires a strong business model and an efficient management team. For a large scale organization like the Jet, one team was not enough to cater to all the departments. But the company refused to believe this and ignored repeated alerts to expand the team base scale up business management techniques. Founder Naresh Goyal was rigid and rash in his decisions, like sacking 1900 employees suddenly post-recession. Two: Keep constant tab on competitors and watch them closely. Civil aviation industry in India is one of the most dominant ones, but the cut-throat competition of this sector is killing if not watched and remedial measures taken instantly. In fact keeping tab on competitor moves and being one up on them is the key to success in this high saga industry. Goyal of Jet misjudged the competitors like Indigo, Spice Jet and Go Air who all understood

and targeted the cost-sensitive domestic flyers to retain their position in the Indian skies. Goyal and Jet Airways ignored the alerts and missed the bus.

Third: Keeping options open. When a company is running downhill, everybody's life is at stake. When Jet was grounded, thousands of employees lost their jobs instantly creating a glut in the sector. Jet had no options for the employees. Jet never had any of these: emotional strength, backup funds or contingency funds, and the backup plan. Goyal had none. Flat high-speed downfall was imminent.

It is good if you want to follow your passion and be your own boss. But you need to have the wisdom, passion and clean personal and business life to start big, play big, survive the onslaught of bigger and have multiple plans to face challenges in an eventuality. Goyal was not made for these.

Goyal who was said to have had a luxurious lifestyle spending his time in luxury villas and having penchant for expensive things in life, now is counting his days in jail, with all his assets and those of his family members frozen and ceased, talks volumes of real life stories how money greed shadows one's own destiny.

Goyal, stuck in a web of cases of scams, scandals, money laundering and use of overseas crime money for his businesses in India, and more. Goyal really is grounded after flying too high!

ANURAG SPRINTS

Anurag Singh Thakur, the Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha and the current Minister of Sports, Youth Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting is a low profile soft spoken minister is the perfect bill to fit into the assigned Ministry. Previously, Thakur served as a Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs. Thakur LS-MP from Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh is the younger son of Prem Kumar Dhumal who was a former Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. Thakur also has served as President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) from May 2015 to February 2017. He also was the National President of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha. Being very proactive and buzzing with enthusiasm, recognizing his contribution as an MP in the Lok Sabha, he went on to be the First Bharatiya Janata Party MP to be awarded the Sansad Ratna Award, an award established in 2010 for recognizing contributions by parliamentarians. He has

served as the President of the Board of Control for Cricket of India. Early on in his administrative tenure, he gained fame for possibly being the first cricketer to have made his first-class debut after taking over as the president of the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) in July 2000. Anurag Thakur is a professional cricketer and played a Ranji Trophy match against Jammu & Kashmir in when he was the president of HPCA. He has played one match in first-class cricket representing Himachal Pradesh and leading the team as captain. This experience in first-class cricket enabled his induction into the BCCI national junior selection committee. Minister Thakur's term as President of the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association was for four straight terms since 2000. His tenure saw development of five stadiums in Himachal Pradesh including the stadium in Dharamsala. His penchant for sports is making him think on

bigger reforms to ensure sports in India in all formats not only is promoted in a structured way, but also ensure the identification, training and development of sports persons in India but he also wants to ensure the sports men and women are provided the best environment, sports infrastructure and the right motivation, pre and post events, to excel in their performance, world class, and continue the medal haul for India in the national and international events. His administrative skills are getting appreciations from bureaucracy of his Information and Broadcasting Ministry that he aims to make it more effective and helps the industry to excel. His Territorial army training supports his trait being a disciplinarian too. His communication skills are outstanding. He is easily accessible to his people and listens more than do empty talking. His sports profile and being young suits his ministry for sports and youth affairs.



புதுவை அரசு

ஆதிதிராவிடர் நலம் மற்றும் பழங்குடியினர் நலத்துறை

சமூக மற்றும் பொருளாதார மேம்பாட்டுத் திட்டங்கள்

1. பிரதான மந்திரி ஆவால் யோஜனா வீடு கட்டும் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் ரூ.5,00/- லட்சம் மானியம் வழங்குதல். மேலும் இந்த மானியத் தொகை ரூ.5,00 லட்சத்திலிருந்து ரூ.5,50 லட்சமாக உயர்த்தி தர நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.
2. ஆதிதிராவிடர் மற்றும் பழங்குடியின மக்களுக்கு (ஒரு நபருக்கு) ரூ.500/- மதிப்புள்ள இலவச வேட்டி, சேலை வழங்கும் திட்டம் (குடாவளி மற்றும் பொங்கல் பண்டுகை) அல்லது வங்கிகள் மூலம் நேரடி பண பரிவர்த்தனையில் பணமாக வழங்குதல், மேலும் இந்த உதவித்தொகை ஒரு நபருக்கு ரூ.1,000 ஆக உயர்த்தி தர நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.
3. ஏழை ஆதிதிராவிட மற்றும் பழங்குடியின மணப்பெண் திருமண உதவித் தொகை வழங்கும் திட்டத்தில் ரூ.1,00,000/- நிதி உதவி வழங்குதல்.
4. கல்யாண திருமண ஊக்குவிப்புத் தொகையாக ரூ.2,50,000/- வைப்புத் தொகையாக வழங்குதல். மேலும் இந்த உதவித்தொகை ரூ.2,50 லட்சத்திலிருந்து ரூ.3,00 லட்சமாக உயர்த்தி தர நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.
5. ஏழை ஆதிதிராவிட மற்றும் பழங்குடியின கருவுற்ற மற்றும் பாலூட்டும் தாய்மார்களுக்கு ரூ.18,000/- நிதி உதவி வழங்குதல்.
6. தொடர் நோயினால் துயரமும் ஆதிதிராவிட மற்றும் பழங்குடியின நோயாளிகளுக்கு மருத்துவ செலவிற்கான நிதி உதவி மாதம் ரூ.3,000/- அளித்தல்.
7. இறந்தவர்களுக்கு இறுதிச்சடங்கு செலவிற்கான நிதி உதவி ரூ.25,000/- (இறந்த நாளன்றே) வழங்குதல்.
8. கழிவறை கட்டுவதற்காக ரூ.20,000/- மானியம் வழங்குதல்.
9. ஏழை ஆதிதிராவிட, பழங்குடியின மற்றும் இசை பொருளாதாரத்தில் பின்தங்கிய மக்களுக்கு இலவச மனைப்பட்டா மற்றும் தொகுப்பு வீடுகள் வழங்குதல்.
10. ஆதிதிராவிட மற்றும் பழங்குடியின மக்கள் குடியிருக்கும் பகுதிகளில் அடிப்படை வசதிக்காக கொடை வழங்கல்.
11. வளக்கொடுமை தடுப்புச் சட்டம் 1989-ல் திருத்தம் 2015-ல் விதி 2016-ன் கீழ் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட ஆதிதிராவிட இன மக்களுக்கு இழப்பீட்டுத் தொகை வழங்குதல்.
12. ஆதிதிராவிட மற்றும் பழங்குடியின காப்பினி பெண்களுக்கு துறை சார்பில் வளையல் அணி விழா நடத்துவதற்காக "காரைக்கால் அம்மையார் வளையல் காப்புத் திட்டம்" தொடங்கப்பட உள்ளது.
13. ஆதிதிராவிட மற்றும் பழங்குடியின மக்கள் அனைத்து நலத்திட்டங்களில் பயன்பெற தற்போதுள்ள வருவாய் உச்சவரம்பை ரூ.8,00 லட்சமாக உயர்த்த நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.
14. பாபாசாஹேப் டாக்டர் அம்பேத்கர் அவர்களின் பஞ்சாந்னா தலங்களில் இந்தியாவில் உள்ள நான்கு தலங்களுக்கு ஆண்டுதோறும் அட்டவணைமையின மக்கள் யாத்திரை மேற்கொள்ள நிதியுதவி வழங்க நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.
15. மின்சக்தி மூலம் ஆட்டோ ஓட்டுவதற்கு உரிய பெற்ற பெண் ஆட்டோ ஓட்டுநர்களுக்கு மின் ஆட்டோ வாங்குவதற்கு மானியம் வழங்க நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.
16. நிலமற்ற ஆதிதிராவிட மற்றும் பழங்குடியினத்தவர்களுக்கு தேவையான நிலம் கையகப்படுத்தி தகுதியானவர்களுக்கு இலவச மனைப்பட்டா வழங்க நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.
17. இருதய அறுவை சிகிச்சை மற்றும் பிற நோய்களுக்கான உயர் மருத்துவ சிகிச்சைக்காக ரூ.3,00 இலட்சம் நிதியுதவி வழங்க நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

கல்வி நல மேம்பாடு, பயிற்சி மற்றும் சுவவேலை வாய்ப்புத் திட்டங்கள்

1. ஆரம்பக் கல்வி முதல் ஆராய்ச்சி கல்வி வரை பயிலும் ஆதிதிராவிட மற்றும் பழங்குடியின மாணவ-மாணவியர்களுக்கு அரசு கட்டணக்குழுவால் நிர்ணயிக்கப்பட்ட தொகை முழுவதையும் வழங்கும் திட்டம்.
2. பள்ளி இறுதி நிலைக்கு முற்பட்ட கல்வி பயிலும் ஆதிதிராவிட மற்றும் பழங்குடியின மாணவ, மாணவியருக்கு உதவித்தொகை வழங்குதல் (6-ம் வகுப்பு முதல் 8-ம் வகுப்பு வரை ரூ.1,500/- மற்றும் 9-ம் வகுப்பு முதல் 10-ம் வகுப்பு வரை ரூ.2,500) மற்றும் 9-ம் வகுப்பு, 10-ம் வகுப்பு கல்வி பயிலும் மாணவ, மாணவியர்களுக்கு மத்திய அரசின் நிதியுதவி திட்டத்தின் கீழ் ரூ.3,500/- வழங்கப்படுகிறது. (ஆண்டு வருமானம் ரூ.2,50,000-க்குள் இருக்க வேண்டும்).
3. 10-ம் வகுப்பிற்கு மேல் அரசு பள்ளியில் கல்வி பயிலும் ஆதிதிராவிட மற்றும் பழங்குடியின மாணவர்களுக்கும் (11-ம் வகுப்பு முதல் 12-ம் வகுப்பு வரை) அங்கீகரிக்கப்பட்ட தனியார் பள்ளியில் பயிலும் மாணவ, மாணவியருக்கும் அதிகபட்சமாக மற்றும் கல்லூரியில் பயிலும் மாணவ, மாணவியருக்கும் கல்லூரியின் கட்டண விகிதத்தின் அடிப்படையில் அதிகபட்சமாக அரசு நிர்ணயிக்கும் தொகை உதவித்தொகையாக வழங்கப்படுகிறது.
4. 6-ம் வகுப்பு முதல் 12-ம் வகுப்பு வரை கல்வி பயிலும் ஆதிதிராவிட மற்றும் பழங்குடியின மாணவியரின் பெற்றோர்களுக்கு வாய்ப்புதியம் ரூ.3,000 வழங்கப்படுகிறது.
5. ஆதிதிராவிட மற்றும் பழங்குடியின மாணவர்களின் கல்வியை ஊக்குவிக்கும் பொருட்டு உதவித்தொகை வழங்கப்படுகிறது (1 முதல் 5ஆம் வகுப்பு வரை ரூ.1,000).
6. பிராந்திய வாரியாக பள்ளி இறுதித் தேர்வில் முதன்மை இடம் பெறும் மாணவ, மாணவியருக்கு டாக்டர் பி.ஆர். அம்பேத்கர் நினைவு பரிசு (ஒரு மாணவர் மற்றும் ஒரு மாணவியருக்கு தலா ரூ.30,000) வழங்கப்படுகிறது.
7. 10-ம் வகுப்பு இறுதித் தேர்வில் 65 விழுக்காடு அல்லது அதற்கு மேலும் மதிப்பெண் பெறும் அனைத்து SC/ST மாணவ, மாணவியருக்கும் தலா ரூ.1,000 வழங்கப்படுகிறது.
8. சென்டாக் மூலம் தேர்வு பெற்று மருத்துவம் மற்றும் பொறியியல் போன்ற தொழில் கல்வி பயிலும் மாணவ, மாணவியருக்கு நிதியுதவி திட்டத்தின் கீழ் மருத்துவ படிப்பிற்கு அதிகபட்சமாக ரூ.4,26,000/-மும் மற்றும் விடுதி கட்டணமும் மற்ற படிப்புகளுக்கு அரசு நிர்ணயிக்கும் கட்டணம் முழுவதும் நிதியுதவியாக வழங்கப்படுகிறது.
9. அரசு தொழிற்பயிற்சி நிறுவனங்களில் பயிலும் ஆதிதிராவிட மற்றும் பழங்குடியின மாணவ, மாணவியருக்கு உதவி தொகையாக மாதம் ரூ.1,700/- வழங்கப்படுகிறது.
10. பள்ளிக் கல்வியை தொடர் முடியாத ஆதிதிராவிட மற்றும் பழங்குடியின பெண்களுக்கு தொழில்முறை (தொழில்) பயிற்சியுடன் பெற மாதம் ரூ.1,500 நிதி உதவி வழங்கப்படுகிறது.
11. ஆதிதிராவிட மற்றும் பழங்குடியின மாணவ, மாணவியருக்கான விடுதிகள் அமைத்து பராமரிக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது. மேலும் விடுதி மாணவ, மாணவியர்களின் நடை நாள்கோரிக்கையை நிறைவேற்றி வாரத்தில் 3 நாட்களுக்கு கறி, மீன், முட்டை வழங்கப்படுகிறது.
12. விடுதி மாணவ, மாணவியர்களுக்கு சீருடைகள் வழங்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது.
13. புதுச்சேரி பிராந்தியத்தின் 6ம் வகுப்பு முதல் 12-ம் வகுப்பு வரை பயிலும் ஆதிதிராவிட மற்றும் பழங்குடியின மாணவ - மாணவியர்களுக்கு மாலை நேர வகுப்புகள் நடத்தி கல்வித் தரத்தை உயர்த்த நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

ஆ. கிளங்கோவன்
இயக்குநர்

No.2449/DIP/AD(PRESS)/PRA/2023-24

SINKING AAP ?



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal who climbed the popularity ladder entering politics with his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) sweeping the Delhi State elections this decade. AAP was elected to rule Delhi for the second straight term, based on freebies those were to dent the state economy later, and he also captured the confused Punjab in last year's State elections, grabbing the mantle from the then ruling Congress with the same freebies culture. He appeared to have stolen the limelight with his favorite statements that: except for him all others in he was the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) from May 2015 to February 2017 politics are corrupt, he will move around freely without security, he will travel in his old self-owned car, will not take to luxury life and continue to live in

his own small flat and he put all the corrupt in jail. These were all his own public statements at that time, about 9 years ago when he formed his AAP end of 2012 caving out of the popular Anna Hazare andolan, mass movement against political corruption. All these are gone for a toss. What he does and is now are exactly the opposite. All these have gone for a wild toss! Arvind Kejriwal today is down, quite and fallen from grace in politics. His government is all out scandals and scams. He lives in luxury government mansion that was specially renovated for him at a whopping cost of over Rs 48 Crore, which is under CBI investigation. Moves around in a fleet of cars, wearing expensive branded apparels in private, has security ring and is in the midst of scandals and scams those are under CBI, DRI and ED in-

vestigations. Three of his favoured AAP leaders, two of them also Ministers, Manish Sisodia, Satyendar Jain, and Sanjay Singh, have all landed in jail after being arrested by central probe agencies in money laundering cases.

What happened to Kejriwal? He has always been riding high on ego, arrogant with the bureaucracy and was like an empty vessel, always making noise, but no action. In the last 9+ years Delhi under Kejriwal has seen development. What one sees as Delhi was all the hard work of his predecessor Delhi CM late Shiela Dixit. Even today after several years of her demise, people of Delhi remember her as the most efficient and passionate CM ever who lifted and dreamt of Delhi as a world's astonishing capital. Autocratic to the core, Kejriwal went about neutralising anyone who

was seen as a competitor or pricked his conscience. It is a story of a nemesis confronting hubris!

The India Against Corruption (IAC) movement steered by Arvind Kejriwal as 'Messiah' and a force for good, for ramming through the groundbreaking Lokpal Act in 2013. It was considered a middle-class uprising against political corruption that deprived the government several lakhs of crores to the exchequer or having siphoned lakhs of crores from it. To give the devil a decent credit, he was undoubtedly the moving force in the crusade against corruption when he entered politics with his AAP banner dramatically.

His tactics in attempting to overshadow RSS and BJP philosophies were dramatic. Kejriwal roped in Hindutva icons Ramdev and Sri Sri Ravishankar to the IAC fold which drama was busted his own close aide at that time Prashant Bhushan. At the end, Kejriwal's third rate cops-and-robbers narrative was just a ploy to steal the limelight of the Hindu voters and that he never really had any such affinity towards Hindutva at all.

What was unknown at that time was his inner craving for Power. He became the Delhi Chief minister, for possibly the first time in history without any portfolios for himself. Having got a taste of power, albeit without accountability, he lusted for more. Kejriwal realised that the anti-corruption movement had run its course and he needed to migrate to where the real power was to remain relevant in the public sphere. Here is where he started making mistakes. But he was helpless, as scams and scandal of his government started getting exposed. The Liquor scam, school building scam in the name of building world class government schools, renovation of his official bungalow, Jal Board 70K crore embezzlement, to name a few were great potential bombs to devastate his political stakes. Though Kejriwal says these allegations, the ED and CBI investigations tell a different story.

Kejriwal went about rearing his self-serving politics. His first mega mistake was to sever his ties with his close aides Prashant Bhushan and Yogendra Yadav who were then touted to be the conscience of AAP. His possible next mistake was to nominate a CA and a Businessman from his cast to Rajya Sabha that annoyed those eligible suitors who slaved for the party and Kejriwal's

success. His literal downfall started from here. The Liquor scam consumes almost all of his credibility. Three of his close aides who have been picked by the investigating agencies and languishing in jail for the past several months berate Kejriwal's claims that they are framed.

Under his administration Delhi has seen no developments at all. Not an iota of infrastructure development seen. Almost all the revenue earning departments are running in losses. Delhi Transport corporation, DTC, is running at loss of 9+ crores a day, thanks to his free ticket for women. Delhi electricity board is running in losses owing to his freebies of 200 units free electricity. Jal Board liabilities have increased to a whopping 70K crores, which many allege is owing to rampant corruption and siphoning of money from its budget.

His big promos trumpeting that the government schools have been transformed to global excellence schools also has been exposed in that he just made beauty interiors to the school building and class rooms of some schools. Teaching staff and the standard remains the same as earlier. Teachers protests continue to haunt his administration.

Having betrayed several of his own people who slaved for him and his party, the preacher of public morality now is running here and there, running scared, with the fear of may be picked up by the agencies and put behind bars to join his close aides already languishing there.

Should this happens what will happen to his political ambitions? It is being rumoured that Kejriwal is making his plan-B for the extreme eventuality. It is rumoured that he just might bring in Raghav Chadha, the RS MP from Punjab to Delhi to be the Delhi CM, elevate Atishi Marlena Singh as Dy Chief Minister and put his wife Kavita as the AAP party chief and later nominate Raghav's wife Pareeniti Chhokra to the Rajya Sabha. All these are possible wild guesses, but does not look impossible.

Kejriwal today is totally confused on his political goals and directions he should take, falling from grace like a hot potato. The image and positions of other parties aren't good either. But all said when the Delhi elections come in it would be a bad choice for the people to choose between the Devil and the Bigger Devil and it is possible the smaller Devil gets it again!

Pandian To Succeed Patnaik?

JITENDRA KUMAR DAS

In a surprise move V Karthikeyan Pandian, most controversial figure, but also the most powerful bureaucrat in Odisha for over a decade, and considered by all in the State as the De-Facto Chief Minister, has taken voluntary retirement (VRS). More surprisingly his VRS request for cleared by the Centre in just flat 3 days, in spite of the fact that the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) had asked Odisha Chief Secretary to take disciplinary action against him!

This also has surprised many as VRS requests takes months to get approved, but his was cleared and settled in less than 3 days. Is it the 2024 election effects or something else than that meets the eye?

Both the BJP and Congress earlier had moved the DoPT under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, seeking action against the IAS officer, V K Pandian. The DoPT had written a letter to Odisha's Chief Secretary asking the top official to take appropriate action against the officer amid an allegation of violating the norms of the All India Conduct Rules.

But now the focus shifts elsewhere!

A 2000-batch IAS officer, Pandian served as the private secretary to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik since 2011. His VRS was cleared by the Centre on a super express speed, just in less than 3 days!

A day after the Centre approved the voluntary retirement of "powerful" Odisha cadre IAS officer and Naveen Patnaik's private secretary and closest aide V K Pandian, the state government appointed him as chairman of 5T (transformational initiatives) and Nabin Odisha with a Cabinet rank.

An order issued by the state general administration department said Pandian would work directly under the chief minister, which indicates that the erstwhile bureaucrat of the 2000 batch would continue to wield "extraordinary influence" in Odisha governance. Though the state government order gives no clarity on Pandian's new role as chairman of 5T and Nabin Odisha, sources said the former IAS officer would work with more authority, since major programmes

and projects of the state government are taken up under the 5T, which has Pandian's footprints in almost every Odisha government department now.

The 5T initiative, launched in Patnaik's fifth and current term to overhaul the administrative apparatus, is believed to be Pandian's idea. The Ts stand for 't'ransparency, 't'eamwork, 't'echnology and 't'ime, leading to 't'ransformation. Under it, the Patnaik government claims to have transformed over 4,000 high schools in Odisha, with refurbished classrooms, laboratories and playgrounds.

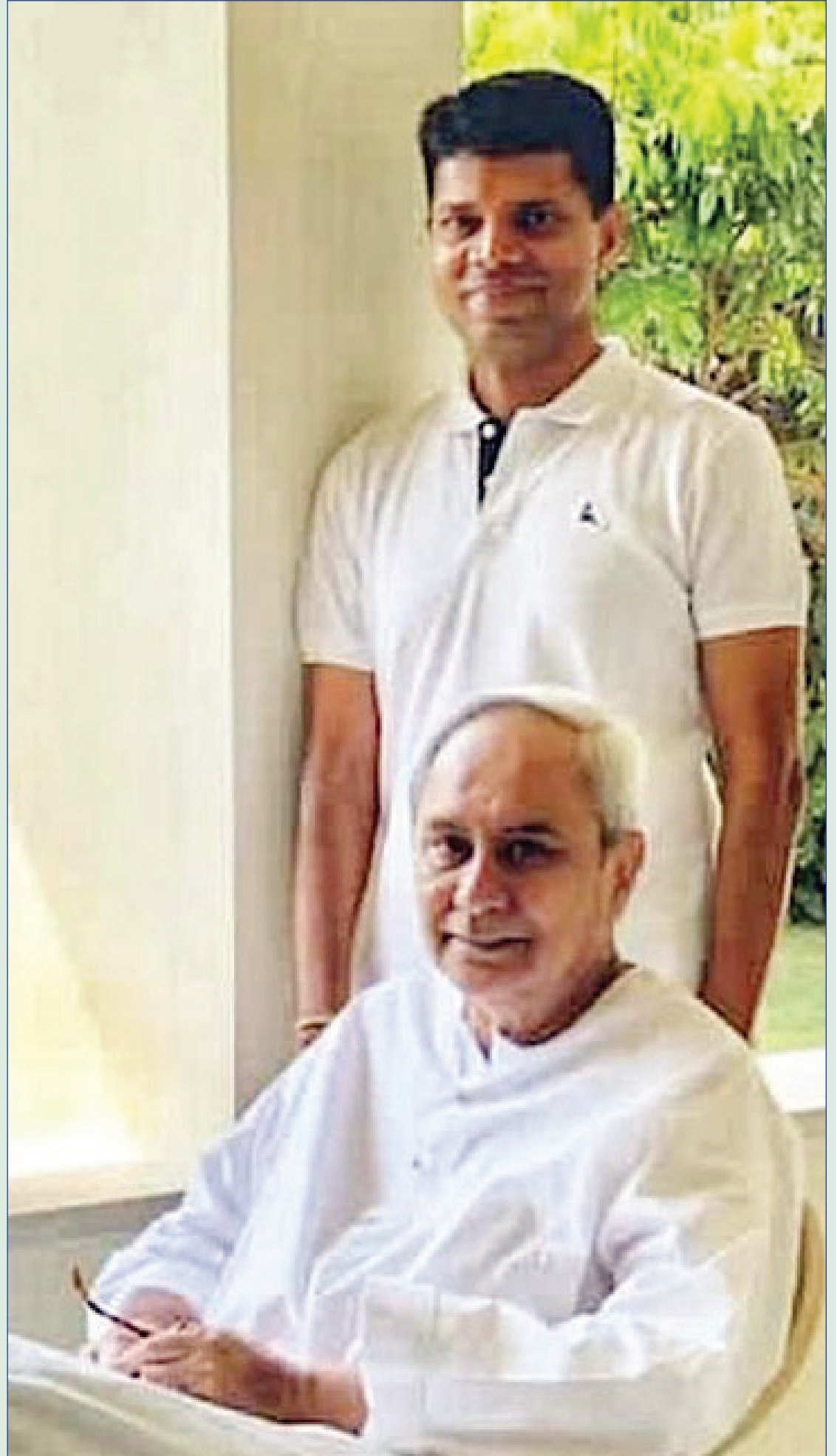
With the Odisha government having recently approved the Rs 4,000 crore 'Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha (Our Odisha, New Odisha)' scheme under which every panchayat will get Rs 50 lakh to take up different projects, it will now be implemented under the direct supervision of Pandian.

But this said, how the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) workers and Leaders look at his elevation, who are already against Pandian, an outsider's rise in local politics. But all of them got the pulse of the Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik when Pandian used party funds and state owned helicopters for official work and that Patnaik stated openly that Pandian's acts had his pre-approval.

Though he initially had the reputation of being reticent and elusive, Pandian had been leading more from the front of late. He was often seen in public with the Chief Minister. With the CM's support Pandian was definitely the most influential top notch IAS officer in the State.

Pandian was always appreciated for his efficiency, transparency, vision and meticulous planning and implementation. This earned a name and slowly the CM appears to have started assigning him jobs that supports the CMs political ambitions and initiatives. Pandian always was appreciated for his perfected planning.

With popularity comes passion for power, however far one tries to distance from such personal greeds. It is this extraordinary influence that Pandian holds in the State that has come under scrutiny not just from the Opposition, but also from sections of the BJD. Though there were



murmurs of resentment among the old guard of the BJD about Pandian's rising prominence and their own growing irrelevance, CM continues his faith in Pandian. Wielding such an influence and being close to the CM, it is only natural that Pandian, is becoming the latest target of CM's own and Opposition parties in the State. It is said that even some sections in Patnaik's own BJD is becoming unhappy with some initia-

tives of Pandian and are complaining that Pandian is interfering with them in their political activities.

Pandian wielding so much authority, his arrogance and his acts to ignore CM's partymen does make many feel he is more than a de-facto CM. It is too early to say whether the ex-bureaucrat will succeed Naveen Patnaik in the BJD which has no second-rung leadership. But it is not going to be a easy cake walk. Sure Patnaik

doesn't have hierarchical issues. But this does not mean an outsider, a man from Tamil Nadu, will ever be able to become a CM of North Eastern State of Odisha! Despite all these allegations on his arrogant style of working, Pandian continues to be the most influential person in Odisha government.

With elections around the corner, how things will shape for Pandian and the CM for his BJD is worth watching.

BURMANS-DERA BABA ₹ 1006 Cr Fraud

It is all accusations and counter accusations drama all over again by the Burmans of Dabur India, Religare Chairperson Rashmi Saluja and its Independent Directors and the new entrant, Dera Chief Babaji. Dabur India promoters Burmans are being accused of siphoning over Rs 1000 Crore from Religare owned entities to Radha Soami Satsang Beas in Punjab. Then there is the evergreen fraudsters Ranbaxy's Singh brothers. This fraud drama now has jailed conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar also entering the scene!

The ongoing spat between billionaire brothers, Malvinder Singh and Shivinder Singh, who once together owned Fortis Healthcare and Ranbaxy Laboratories, has taken a sharp twist after a complaint before Delhi Police that has directly named Radha Soami Satsang Beas Gurinder Singh Dhillon known as Babaji for illegally benefitting, conspiring and diverting funds more than Rs 1000 crores from Religare group of companies through the Burmans game plays. These sensational charges, asking the police to probe the Dera head, have been made in two different complaints, one submitted by Religare's current management and second by Malvinder himself! In a separate move, SEBI also has intensified its investigations and examining how REL's share price has been dropping consistently from Rs 271.55 per share to Rs 235 per share with charges of "Dabur's hostile takeover" by REL's independent board. Too many coincidences directing at planned fraud. The SEBI complaint accuses the Burman family of having a categorical nexus with Gurinder Dhillon and the original promoters of Fortis-Religare, that is brothers Shivinder and Malvinder Singh.

In the same Delhi Police complaint, the Religare company's Vice President Manpreet Singh Suri, has also sought probe against Shivinder's wife Aditi for allegedly paying illegal gratification of Rs 200 crore to jailed conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar to "bribe government officials for obtaining bail for her husband from the judicial custody".

Supreme Court had last year jailed both Malwinder and Shivinder while Malwinder had this year in June secured a bail.

In a separate complaint, the accused Malvinder Singh too had told Delhi Police, that he requested the Dera baba to settle the loans extended by Religare and or its subsidiaries to Gurinder Dhillon and his family members, including his son as the total outstanding of Religare had crossed beyond Rs 5,400 crores.

The complaint also named six firms, as subsidiaries of Religare, were used by Shivinder to aid Gurinder in Punjab's Beas, and his associates in achieving his goals from inside the jail, but now on bail. These six companies are: Best Healthcare Private Ltd, Modland Wears Private Ltd, Fern Healthcare Private Ltd, Devera Developers Pvt Ltd, Green Line Buildwell Pvt Ltd, and Adept Lifespaces Pvt Ltd. It is also alleged in the same Delhi Police complaint that these companies were acquired without proper due diligence.

There are serious charges of 'share manipulation' against the Burmans. The Burman family — Mohit Burman, Amit Burman, Gaurav Burman and Saket Burman — who run the Dabur Group, the 138-year-old FMCG company that manufactures Hajmola, Real Juices, Vatika hair oil, Chywanprash among other personal care products, had made a public offer for acquisition of shares of REL at Rs 235 per share. Interestingly, coinciding with this open offer, the share prices of REL dropped systematically to Rs 235 per share. It looks like a perfect plan orchestrated by the brain tank of Burmans.

"In the foregoing circumstances, it is highly probable that the present hostile takeover of REL has been carefully planned by the Burman Group. The Burman group acquired about 7.5 % of REL shares in the month of August 2023. It is verily believed that the Burman Group has there after persuaded various persons to purchase shares of REL and after the public announcement on September 25, 2023 to sell the shares so purchased at the proposed offer price of Rs 235 in order to ensure that the value of the scrip which was Rs 271.55 per share on September 29, 2023, drops consistently to the proposed offer value of, that is Rs 235 per share," the complaint has said.

"It is the general practice that the share price of an acquiring company drops and the target company's short-term share price tends to rise because the shareholders only agree to the deal if the purchase price exceeds their company's share value. But REL's share value have dropped by 11 %," it added.

Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intensified its probe on the accusations of market manipulation done by India's oldest Ayurveda major Dabur India after the complaints with Delhi Police made startling disclosures on systematic diversion of more than Rs 1,006 crore from a core investment company Religare Enterprises Limited (REL) to Punjab's spiritual group Radha Soami head Gurinder Dhillon based out of Beas in Amritsar. "It has been pointed out earlier, that the Burman

Group acquired a 7.5% stake in the company (REL) through a block deal worth Rs 533 crore on August 16, 2023 which increased their stake from 14 % to 21.5 % in the company. Notably, the 7.5 % stake was bought by the Burman through Investment Opportunities V PTE, which in turn, had bought these shares from Resilient India Growth Limited in January 2021, which had bought these shares from the Dhillon Group (Gurinder Dhillon of Radha Soami Satsang in Beas) in December 2017. Therefore, it's the shareholding of the Dhillon Group that has been finally acquired by Burman which further reveals nexus between acquirers with Dhillon & Singh brothers," reads the detailed complaint by REL before SEBI.

From where the money is flowing for the Burman family and its group that is attempting a total takeover bid of REL? The complaint states that only, an in-depth forensic investigation by the SEBI would reveal the source of funds. The investigation by the SEBI on this proposed acquisition by the Burman family, that also jointly owns IPL cricket team Punjab Kings, has begun following these sensational charges made by the board of independent directors of the REL itself, in a 99-page complaint.

The board of independent directors, that has approached the SEBI against these charges was constituted the India's central bank Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2018. These damning revelations come barely less than three weeks after Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) separately launched mega probe into alleged fund diversion, between 2017 and 2018, from as many as six subsidiary companies of Religare — Modland was used to divert Rs 223 crore, Devera gave Rs 122.6 crore,

Fern Healthcare handed over Rs 292.5 crore, Best health care deposited Rs 207 crore, Adept and Rosestar gave Rs 152.8 and Rs 8 crore to Dera baba's family members: Gurinder Dhillon (himself), Gurkirat, Gurpreet Dhillon, Shabnam Dhillon (deceased wife of Radha Soami Satsang Beas) — to Gurinder Dhillon and his family members including his son.

Story continues. As these investigations are in process, Burmans who have made a controversial 'open offer' that is to bring in fresh consideration of Rs 2,116 crore into REL, also have, on their part, filed a complaint.

Entities controlled by the billionaire Burman family, the largest shareholders of Religare Enterprises Ltd, have written to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and stock exchanges, seeking a probe into trades in the shares of the financial services firm by Chairperson Rashmi Saluja and her beyond imagination annual drawings from REL.

Entities controlled by the billionaire Burman family - MB Finmart, Puran Associates, VIC Enterprises and Milky Investment and Trading Co - that collectively hold 21.24% in Religare said the REL Chairperson Rashmi Saluja sold a portion of her personal holdings in the firm soon after a 45-Minutes meeting at The Oberoi Hotel in Delhi with a representative, possibly their exclusive financial advisor JM Financial, of the Burmans extending an "open offer". The Burmans have also alleged and taken exception to the huge annual compensation of Rs 150 Crore that she takes home. REL in turn has questioned from where the Burmans huge cash is flowing from?

The drama goes on. Corporate wars are always complex, but very interesting.

ED Destroying Coop Sector



of the country where no action has been taken by the state governments, it is coming it is coming only to Kerala," he further alleged. Vijayan also claimed that the ED is an agency that has been severely criticised by many top courts of the country.

He said that various public sector banks in the country had over Rs 66 lakh crore worth of non-performing assets and, of those, around Rs 16 lakh crore was waived off by the central government. "These huge irregularities were committed by those at the helm of huge corporate companies. They committed the frauds and escaped to foreign nations," Vijayan said.

He further alleged that 15 percent of such businessmen are those with links to the BJP at the Centre. "Therefore, they are safe. No one questions them. There are some banks who are complicit in such activities, but the ED never sees them, never reaches them and does not question them. "Instead, it targets the cooperative sector banks which are the backbone of our state. This is not acceptable and will be opposed," Vijayan said.

He called upon everyone to come together as one and oppose such activities of central agencies like ED. The Enforcement Directorate, which is investigating the multi-crore Karuvannur bank scam, has arrested a local CPI(M) leader and Wadakkanchery Municipal Councillor P R Aravindakshan. The agency also arrested a former employee of the bank C K Jills, who allegedly syphoned off Rs 5 crore in bank funds. The ED had earlier arrested two people in connection with the alleged issuance of 'benami' loans from the bank. Kerala MLA A C Moideen was interrogated for over nine hours by the ED. The investigation into the alleged fraud, beginning in 2010 in the Thrissur-based bank, stems from 16 FIRs registered by the Kerala Police (crime branch) in Thrissur, Kerala.

Vijayan said there were deposits worth over Rs 2.5 lakh crore in cooperative sector banks in the state which were functioning efficiently and professionally. "With the aim of destroying this sector, central agencies are coming here," CM Vijayan alleged.

Referring to the Karuvannur bank scam, Vijayan said that once the corruption in that establishment was revealed, both the cooperation department and the police had taken action. While action was taken against the culprits, the government did not shut down the bank but tried to support it in order to safeguard the trust the people have on cooperative banks, he said.

"Instead of investigating large-scale irregularities in other parts

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday accused central agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) of targeting the cooperative sector banks in the state while turning a blind-eye to large-scale financial irregularities in other parts of the country.

Kerala CM Vijayan alleged that agencies like the ED were coming to Kerala to portray something being wrong with the cooperative banks here, with the "ill-intention" of destroying the sector. The CM said that such politically motivated moves would neither be accepted nor permitted in the state.

He was speaking after inaugurating a conference here on the topic of protecting the cooperative sector.

MAHUA GETS Yechury Support



Sitaram Yechury extends support to Mahua Moitra, calls TMC "undemocratic & corrupt"

Kolkata: Standing by Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament (MP) Mahua Moitra, CPI-M General Secretary Sitaram Yechury said that the Ethics Committee is not meant for harassment and it should probe and find out the real facts. Meanwhile, with an eye towards 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Yechury also made it clear that CPI-M will not support Trinamool Congress in Bengal, which is "corrupt and undemocratic" but the party will be part of INDIA bloc, where Trinamool is also a part.

"I was in the Ethics Committee for more than ten years in Rajya Sabha. It had its meeting for 4-5 times in the period of ten years. The Committee generally does not meet so often. The way this complaint was received and the Committee met twice in such a short interval...it is really amusing. Why is it done in such haste? The Committee's meeting has been called in such haste as Adani's are involved," Yechury said.

"If you want to probe, do the investigations properly. The committee is not meant for harassment, it is meant for probing, investigating and finding out what really happened," the CPI (M) generally secretary said.

Moitra reportedly participated in the Ethics Committee meeting

recently but walked out of the meeting. Some opposition MPs, including BSP MP, also left the meeting in the middle of it, saying unethical questions were being asked to Moitra.

BJP State President Sukanta Majumdar lashed at out CPI-M and Trinamool saying, they are all part of the same alliance and targeting to remove Prime Minister Narendra Modi from power.

Meanwhile, clearing his standing on Trinamool in Bengal, Yechury referred to the famous saying, "Keral me kusti, Delhi me dosti", and added that "this is going on for long from the time and everyone knows about it."

"In case of Bengal, we are opposed to Trinamool but they can come with all as part of INDIA bloc. Trinamool is and anti-democratic party and tainted with corruption in Bengal. If the party comes with INDIA Bloc to defeat BJP, we have no objection. However, our fight against the party will continue in West Bengal," Yechury said.

"Trinamool cannot be an alternative to the BJP," Yechury emphasized. "In case of corruption, ED can take action but it cannot harass the opposition parties. The people who are corrupt should be convicted but when the same person is defecting to BJP," Yechury said while talking about ED raids in various states, including Bengal.

₹1000 CRORE LOSS SAGA

In this decade the Government of India is always focused on exports and has been rolling out schemes and encouraging exporters to perform more and more taking India to greater levels. There is an endless of items that are exported out of India.

India exports items like Coffee, Tea, Kali Mirch (Black Pepper), Elaichi (Cardamom) that makes up for the premium priced items being exported.

Agriculture exports plays crucial roles in economic development in India, such as provision of food to the nation, enlarging exports, transfer of manpower to non-agricultural sectors, contribution to capital formation, and securing markets for industrialization.

Indian spices exports, a part of the agricultural produce items, play a major role in the growth of our country's economy. Spices are high value and low volume commodities of commerce in the world market.

All over the world, the fast-growing food industry depends largely on spices as taste and flavor makers. Health conscious consumers in developed countries prefer natural colors and flavors of plant origin to cheap synthetic ones. Thus, spices are the basic building blocks of flavor in food



applications.

Spices contribute one of the key sectors of the Indian economy. It is the economically and commercially significant agriculture crops in the world. Indian spices are the most sought-after globally, given their exquisite aroma, texture, taste and medicinal value. Traditionally, spices in India have been grown in small land holdings, with organic farming gaining prominence in recent times. Given the importance and high value of the spices exports, India still lags behind in volume despite good high quality produces owing largely to the corruptions that is rampant and the nexus of the government officials with the Spices Mafia.

Elaichi, Cardamom, is one such spices which has very high revenue potential for the government. But rampant corruption in the customs department

and spices mafia nexus is making India lose over 1000 crore in revenue to the government.

Teni District of Tamil Nadu produces huge quantity of Elaichi. The areas that produce Elaichi include Pody, Podymettu, Khambhammettu and Munar. The quality is par excellent and is the most sought after Elaichi produce by the overseas buyers. It is being alleged that due to lack-luster attitude of officials of Central Excise and Customs and State Government's Excise Department and rampant corruption in this department is making the exchequer lose over Rs 1000 crores in revenue. In short, the dreaded Bureaucracy-Mafia-Polity nexus is literally destroying this industry in this Tamil Nadu district. Mafia goons working for the spices smugglers are at work in this small Elaichi producing district of

TN. They force the producers to sell at lowest costs to them, who in turn sell them at way too high prices. Allegedly, the smugglers force the producers to sell their Elaichi produces @ Rs 600 / Per Kg. They then export them @ Rs 5000 / Per Kg, but without paying the taxes. This again is a case of GST frauds.

Modus operandi. Fraudsters create several bogus and benami companies. These are to generate bills and pass on input credits within the same company cluster, or just not pay the GST at all. The fraud transactions involve fake purchase invoices at inflated prices and pass on fraudulent input tax credits, or just not pay at all, thus denting the government chequer by several crores of rupees. In short: This is a case of issuing fake invoices, where the fake and or inflated invoices are issued to one person and the goods are diverted to some other person. The person who purchases invoices may utilize the credit for payment of taxes at the time of export of goods and claim refund of the said tax paid, resulting in loss of revenue. This is no small loss, but runs into several hundred thousand crores month after month.

It is being alleged that local politicians and his close confidantes in nexus

with local corrupt officials are fanning such types of illegal businesses, under the blessings of officials of Central Excise and Customs and State Excise Department, the illegal activity is thriving and flourishing resulting in exchequer, revenue, loss to the government.

It is open and fearless nexus among the Spices Mafias, Politicians and corrupt Officers. The Finance and the Commerce Ministries are in the know of these frauds and smuggling of this spice from neighboring Kerala where the distribution system is in total disarray. What the customs vigilance department doing to halt this illicit spices trade that is denting the government exchequer by several hundred thousands of crores? Are they also a part of this corrupt nexus gang? Finance and Commerce ministries are sleeping over this huge revenue loss issue. It is time the central government took stern measures to stop this illicit business in this district and elsewhere, bust the crime nexus, book all the culprits irrespective of the status and position and attach all their assets immediately. It is time for genuine exporters to do their business and move forward taking Indian spices exports to new heights.



RAJA CALLS UNITY

Congress stresses importance of state polls after Nitish Kumar blames it for INDIA bloc losing steam Patna: Communist Party of India's "Bhajapa Hatao - Desh Bachao" (dislodge the BJP from power and save the country) rally has been viewed as a successful one having achieved its initial objective of inviting the attention of the people to the misrule of the BJP's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In fact this is the moto behind the convergence majority opposition parties who have come together to form the new grouping I.N.D.E. alliance. This massive rally that had lakhs of CPI and other supporting party workers streaming in, was attended and spearheaded by Left party stalwarts like D Raja. This Left sponsored rally also saw several other

opposition party leaders including JDU President and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. At this CPI rally in Patna, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, whose JD(U) is part of the newly formed I.N.D.I. alliance, blamed the Congress' preoccupation with assembly polls in five states for this new coalition group's inability to build on the momentum it had gained in recent months.

With Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar blaming Congress' preoccupation with assembly polls for the new I.N.D.I. alliance bloc's inability to build on the momentum it gained, Kumar stressed on the importance of the elections and asserted it was fighting them "seriously". Speaking in the presence of senior leaders such as CPI general secretary D Raja, the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar recalled that parties opposed to the current dispensation had come together to form the new coalition. I.N.D.I. alliance.

"But, of late, there has not been much progress on that front. The Congress

party seems to be more interested in the five assembly polls. In the I.N.D.I. alliance coalition, all of us had agreed to assign the Congress the leading role. But it appears they will respond and call the next meeting only after they are through with the ongoing elections," said Bihar CM Kumar, who had hosted the first meeting of opposition leaders in Patna in June which set the tone for the formation of the coalition. The Congress on its part and to counter Nitish Kumar' concern and accusation, asserted that the new opposition I.N.D.I. alliance bloc had been formed for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections at the national level and was not state specific.

Asked about Kumar's remarks, Bihar Congress chief Akhilesh Prasad Singh in a press conference held in AICC HQ in Delhi said, "It was a CPI event. I have heard his speech. The intention of his remarks is that the Modi government should be removed as soon as possible. But it will be removed only when the elec-

tions are held and the time comes." Communist Party of India (CPI) general secretary D Raja made a fervent appeal to the public at the rally to dislodge the BJP government at the Centre, as it is "anti-poor and working to benefit only a few corporate houses in the country", besides "compromising with the Constitution and Democracy". "We are confident that the BJP would be defeated in the 2024 parliamentary elections, and a pro-people government would be formed at the Centre, since popular anger against the present central government is visible everywhere," D Raja said while addressing his party state-level rally.

D Raja also upheld the cast-based headcount done in Bihar by the Nitish Kumar-led Grand Alliance (GA) government, and demanded holding a similar census across the country in all States and UTs. He also commended the Bihar aliane format saying Bihar provided the lead for the opposition unity by form-

ing a GA government.

Raja also added that the I.N.D.I. alliance bloc is also strong, despite some local or state-level complexities, which will be resolved soon. "Our political vision is clear that the BJP government at the Centre has to be removed," Raja said. He also added that the Left parties have been telling the Congress to develop mutual trust and accommodation if we are to win the elections and remove BJP from its rule. CPI's D Raja summarized the Bihar CM's remarks in his speech at the CPI rally. The summary of the Bihar chief minister's remarks was that the parties that have come together should be more pro-active and jointly dislodge the Modi government, he said.

Talking about the Congress taking on others such as the BJP and the BRS in the upcoming state polls, Rajya Sabha MP and Congress Working Committee member Syed Naseer Husain said at all the places, "we are fighting the elections with full force and all the survey reports that have come have shown us in the lead and that we are going to form government".

AJAY ASSIGNMENT

SHILA BADASHAI

Ajay Maken elevation to Treasurer of the grand old Congress Party had not gone well with many congress loyalists. Ajay Maken, a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) and one of the past General Secretaries of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) had been Union Cabinet Minister in former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's Cabinet and Minister under former Delhi Chief Minister Late Shiela Dixit. Two times Parliament Member and three times State Legislative Member, Ajay Maken, 59, took the mantle of Treasurer of Congress party early this month, replacing and succeeds former Union minister Pawan Kumar Bansal, who served as the Congress treasurer after the demise of Ahmed Patel in November 2020.

Ajay Maken is considered close to Congress bosses Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi and now occupies a key position in the party hierarchy, along with such leaders as Congress general secretary KC Venugopal and the party's Madhya Pradesh in-charge Randeep Surjewala. Maken quit as the party's Rajasthan in-charge in November 2022.

He caught the political limelight when Maken won as the first NSUI candidate in a direct election to be elected as the President of Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) in 1985, the first B.Sc. Chemistry (Hons.) final year student in this post. Since then he had been having a nice time in the party.

At the State level, he was Speaker of Delhi Legislative Assembly (2003-04) at the age of 39, Maken was the youngest Speaker in the Country, a Cabinet Minister of Power, Transport and Tourism (2001-2003) at the age of 37, the youngest until that time and Parliamentary Secretary to the Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit (1998-2001). He shot more to prominence when he defeated the popular BJP candidate Jagmohan in 2004 from the New Delhi Parliamentary constituency and going on to retain the seat in 2009. However, Maken was defeated in the 2014 general elections rolling under the BJP's Narendra Modi wave, by the more popular BJP candidate Meenakshi Lekhi. He served as the



Congress General Secretary until 2015, when he resigned after the party's failure to win any seat in the 2015 Delhi Legislative Assembly election.

Maken is credited with privatising power distribution in Delhi and moving public transport to a clean fuel system (Compressed Natural Gas, CNG). It was under Maken's supervision that the Delhi Metro work was sped up and officially launched on December 25, 2002.

Despite his rise from being a youth leader to becoming the priced CWC member, his rise has been, per party workers, has not been on his own merits. Soft spoken and lying low profile, has always been accused of going round the party bosses to steal meaty posts in the party. Though several party loyalists feel he is not the best fit for the party Treasurer post, he appears to fit the Gandhi's bills who would wish to have soft target of "Yes Sir" and "Yes Madam" man for this key sensitive position as the man would be rolling and sitting on loads of party cash, accounted and unaccounted. Understandable!

Maken naturally does not match the caliber of his predecessors late Sitaram Kesri, Motilal Vohra or Ahmad Patel who were all stalwarts, popular leaders, shrewd and powerful and who all had the knack and power needed for 'Vasooli' jobs as the party depends on their acumen to raise and manage huge money bags to fund such a big National Party. But nothing matters as long as he suits the bill of Gandhis', party's supreme bosses.

'Vasooli', the fund collection process for the party is very secretive and requires those special arrogant talents to both

convince and also pressurize the party donors to shell out the dough. This is a special job. Does Maken have those mandatory traits to collect from targeted sources? This is naturally is done through a huge complex web, network, of party office bearers starting from the bloc level to district levels. For instance party's district level Secretaries are generally entrusted with the fund collection from their targets in their districts. This goes to the next circle above and to the City and to State level Secretaries who all deposit, again a through a complex network of sources and channels. Does Maken have the capability to manage these people from bottom to top, ask the loyal party workers who appear to have known Maken and his work style for years.

Party workers say that Maken is not management genius and that his rise in the party is not through any hard work or mass popularity but owing to that special trait of being able to convince using his 'yes sir' 'yes madam' characteristics that made him climb up the ladder. This new position has come in a gold palter to a person who had been without any significant post for a long time, since he resigned as President of Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee few years ago and few months ago as General Secretary In Charge of Rajasthan.

But, all said, Maken today has reached the most important and sensitive position of being Treasurer of one of the biggest National Party and he shoulders greater responsibilities, that comes as a mandatory rider with power and now the onus is on him to prove to his bosses his honesty and caliber reflecting the faith they have entrusted him.



Congress gets a strong candidate for its Bihar outfit. Former Tamil Nadu Director General of Police (DGP) (Vigilance) Braj Kishore Ravi joined the Congress Party in the presence of Congress Party MP and Congress Working Committee (CWC) member Syed Naseer Hussain and Bihar Congress Pradesh Committee President Akhilesh Prasad Singh at the AICC Head Quarters in New Delhi. Braj Kishore Ravi, the 1989 batch IPS officer hails from Saharsa district in Bihar and is likely to fight on a Mahagatbandhan ticket in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Ravi was the second senior most DGP ranking official from the TN cadre and has served as an IPS officer in the Tamil Nadu cadre for more than 30 years. Ravi, the ex-DGP rank officer from Tamil Nadu recently opted for voluntary retirement to join politics, starting with his induction into the Congress party recently. Ravi had worked with the United Nations peacekeeping force and also headed the TN Fire and Rescue Services until recently. As DGP Vigilance of TANGEDCO, Ravi was involved in monitoring corruption and malpractices in the Tamil Nadu power utility and gained great appreciation for his honesty and hard work. During his long dedicated career of over three decades, Ravi held various law and order, law enforcement and public administration responsibilities in the Tamil Nadu state police force. Ravi hails from a Congress party family in Bihar. Ravi's father, Late Tulmohan Ram, was a freedom fighter, MLA from 1957 to 1962 and three-term Lok Sabha MP from 1962 to 1977 won on a Bihar Congress party ticket from Araria constituency in Bihar. Ravi's father was a name of repute and pride in Bihar who had absolute support of the people of his constituency. Ex-IPS officer Ravi, a BA graduate in Sociology from Patna University and Post Graduate from the Delhi School of Economics, New Delhi was a people-friendly IPS officer and is the recipient of the United National Medal in 1998, and the Foreign Services Medal in 1999. About six months ago, there had been media reports in which Ravi himself was quoted as saying that he wants to join politics as a Mahagatbandhan candidate in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Ravi, the son of a Freedom Fighters and former Bihar MP, soon after joining the grand old party said that he will focus on fighting on behalf of his party from his home state of Bihar but is open to campaigning in Tamil Nadu too if his party wanted him to. CWC member Syed Naseer Hussain said, "More and more prominent people and leaders, including those from other parties, are joining the Congress. This 'New joinees' trend has gained momentum, particularly after Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'." Bihar Pradesh Congress President AP Singh said that "After Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, Ravi's resolve to join the party strengthened. He wanted to leave his job and got in touch with us. He wants to serve the Congress and spread its ideology in Bihar," Singh said. He added, "Just yesterday, the chairman of the manifesto committee of the BJP in Telangana, Vivek Venkataswamy also joined the Congress. Earlier, two Bahujan Samaj Party legislators joined the Congress in Rajasthan." The new trend of Congress se judo has started few months ahead of the crucial 2024 general elections. Ravi is a strong supporter of marginalized communities and has worked in the fields of social reform and agriculture. Ravi has been actively involved in the pursuit of social justice and human rights, both in official capacities and through personal initiatives. Ravi had been inclined towards the Congress's ideology for a long time and had been toying with the idea of joining the party to start his new journey in politics. Sharing the ideology and principles of the Congress, on the empowerment of underprivileged sections of society, Ravi chose to voluntarily retire from his esteemed position, embarking on a new journey with the party and to contribute his bit in strengthening the party in Bihar. With his illustrious career in law enforcement and being a staunch believer of social justice and empowerment of the weaker in the society, Ravi is bound to be a great asset to the Congress party.

DGCA GREEN FLAGS CORRUPTION?

This new bribery case has sent shock waves across the bureaucracy. Polity is astonished that the bureaucracy has surpassed them beyond imagination!

We have heard about different types of bribes – Hard Cash, Transfer to benami accounts and or accounts of relatives, friends and even their known persons, sweepers, maids and drivers, gold, silver and diamond jewelry and the likes. But have anyone heard of Planes being taken as bribe? Strange are the ways the corrupt officials channelize their bribes!

India's civil aviation regulator DGCA has been rocked by corruption charges against one of its senior officials, responsible for regulating flight schools.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), in a swift move, for now, has transferred its director of Flying Training Capt Anil Gill, two days after allegations of corruption emerged against him to ensure the department documents and files are not tampered with. Eyebrows are raising, as to when the allegations is so huge running into several hundred crores, why a mere transfer?

With such high level of corruption, rarest of rare of its kind, why the DGCA has not suspended the corrupt official? Why only mere transfer that too within the same Ministry? Whom are they trying to hoodwink – the public? Or is it that the

top DGCA bosses are themselves were in the know and were also beneficiaries of the looted booty? To ensure their names do not surface, the DGCA has just taken a meager superficial hoodwinking action against this high ranking official? There are too many questions unanswered, even in the start of the action against such a top-notch corrupt official?

It has now come to light that a top DGCA official took planes as bribes, provided them to flight schools for huge monthly lease rent in benami and fraud company accounts. This was also for favorable audits in the future, to hoodwink and escape being caught should there be any investigation. Unfortunately, he is now caught. His new channelization of bribe in the form of airplanes has shocked everyone.

Capt Anil Gill, Director in the Flying Training Division (DFT) of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has used his position to take three aircrafts as bribe from Flying Schools and in turn leasing the planes to different schools on a monthly lease rental of Rs 90 lakh each. This has been allegedly revealed in a detailed whistleblower letter to DGCA and the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

The complaint letter detailed a sophisticated mechanism through which Gill allegedly carried out corruption worth several crores. This includes a

network of 'benami' aviation companies that were supposedly used to accept aircrafts as bribes which were later leased out to select Flying Training Organisations (FTO). A smartly planned and implemented corruption channel, with recurring monthly payouts!

Such leased out aircrafts were then over-logged by FTOs that are in connivance with the former

Directorate of Flying Training (DFT) Chief to generate huge recurring monthly returns for the 'benami' companies controlled by Gill, the letter alleged. The complaint put down how over-invoicing or over-logging was carried out by all parties involved. The letter also leveled allegations of money laundering against Gill.

Capt. Anil Gill, who earlier headed the directorate of flying training, has been discharged from that duty and has now been reassigned to the AeroSports department, according to the DGCA's order. So, the concerned Ministry has given Capt Gill an all new green pasture to play his newer innovative corruption games?

The aviation regulator received a detailed complaint recently, in which multiple allegations were leveled against Gill by a whistleblower who accused him of taking entire planes and aircrafts as bribe in exchange for extending favours. Notably, the complaint, which was sent via



3 AIRCRAFTS AS BRIBE?

email, had asked for the transfer of the flying training director before initiating an investigation into the alleged wrongdoings.

The Directorate of Flying Training (DFT) is responsible for the approval of flying training organisations in the country that can issue commercial pilot licenses. The primary allegation against the former DFT Head is that he allowed flying training organisations (FTOs) to get away with violations of established guidelines in return for planes as bribes. These violations included safety lapses that resulted in multiple aircraft accidents, according to the complaint.

Compromising on safety? Grave criminal act! How many lives and crores

of rupees of the flying machine are at serious stake when left in the hands of these type of licensed institute trained pilots and other staffs? Such corrupt officials and all their accomplices are not worthy of normal legal actions related to corruption and money laundering, but are to be shot in public, say the public who are all not just shocked but angered at such instances of rarity.

Interestingly, the complaint alleged that two out of the three aircraft accepted by Gill as bribe, were leased out to Redbird Flight Training Academy, a Delhi-based FTO whose operations across all its bases were indefinitely suspended by the DGCA earlier this week, citing repeated safety

concerns as the reason behind suspension.

Redbird operates its training facility across five locations in India and one in Sri Lanka. The suspension came on the back of five accidents that took place at Redbird Academy in the last six months. The DGCA already stated that it will carry out an audit of the maintenance practices followed at Redbird.

What else could be expected from these corrupt Training Institutes? What type of pilots and other flying related staffs they will produce? Gill also is also accused of being arrogant and having penchant for luxury life and nights with rave parties where everything had to be out of control, alcohol, drugs, young

mid and lower rung officers would not have sniffed the huge monthly crime money flow and laundering and still kept quite or let him have the booty alone.

DGCA as such has been under the cloud of allegations of corruption for decades where its officers are alleged to have been extending favours for money and luxury nights that includes rave parties in secluded and or far off locations with women, wine and everything else flowing freely. With corruption at every stage, one could imagine how much the airline companies would have been shelling out from their revenue to get favour from the Directorate and Ministry officials.

From where will this money come from to grease the palms of the department and ministry officials? Naturally from their revenue vis-à-vis the increasing fares looted from the customers in a novel way in the name of "Dynamic Pricing". In fact the times are gone when the airlines used to be under the pressure of the Civil Aviation Ministry. Now the Ministry and all the related departments are under the will, whims and wishes of the airline companies who could get away with anything and everything. That is the reason why there is no price control over the air fare prices which are sucked from flyers wallets in the name of "Dynamic

Pricing".

Unfortunately, even the passenger price-friendly Indian Railways have also started the same concept. It is now common for anyone see a 'popup' stating "Dynamic Pricing would apply" while booking their rail reservation at IRCTC website.

'Planes for bribe' is unique in many ways where the corruption money flow is monthly, that too in crores for the corrupt official and his accomplices. Many in the know are wondering how come the vigilance officials of the ministry were so quite. Were they also a part of the looted booty of Gill's monthly flow? When money laundering had reached such heights of monthly inflow, why the vigilance department did not initiate action? It is impossible that the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) never smelt this corruption play in DFT. Why the ED and DRI kept quite looking at the huge monthly inflow of corrupt money into such benami, shell and shadow accounts of Gill and his accomplices? Now it is alleged that to escape pointers at DGCA's ignorance and wishes of the airline companies who could get away with anything and everything. That is the reason why there is no price control over the air fare prices which are sucked from flyers wallets in the name of "Dynamic Pricing".

demand now as such is for a high level CBI and also DRI-ED combine inquiry into the whole Gill corruption episodes now and also in his previous stints in the government. Even after being transferred, but within the same Ministry, he still can manage destruction of whatever little evidences left through his accomplices in the previous departments. It is imperative Gill and his accomplices in the crime be suspended instantly, their assets in all formats an possibly in different names be immediately ceased and attached, all their and spouse and children and every other related bank accounts frozen and all be immediately put behind the bars. But the toothless DGCA which only has attempted to transfer their corrupt top official and within the Civil Aviation Ministry, will have the courage to suspend all of them and the companies which gave the planes as bribe and the schools who willingly took the bribed planes on monthly lease and institute the CBI and DRI-ED inquiry against all of them immediately without wasting any more time and to halt the involved from erasing crucial evidences? It looks unlikely! It will all only start when all the evidences are erased and the accused come out as if clean! This is India and such things can happen only in India!

AMUDHA, PRIDE OF TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu government's Home Secretary P. Amudha, a 1994 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre having the additional portfolio of Prohibition and Excise department is one of the most sought after senior bureaucrat of the M K Stalin's Tamil Nadu government.

Amudha carries the distinction of having received accolades and appreciations from former Chief Ministers late M Karunanidhi and J Jayalitha, those who ruled Tamil Nadu during their times with iron hands. She received a stream of appreciations for her hard and committed relief works during the devastating floods that

engulfed Chennai in 2015.

Prior to this position, she was working as Principal Secretary, Rural development and Panchayat Raj. Owing to her honest and hard work and her meticulous administrative capabilities, she was called from her parent cadre to serve as Additional Secretary in Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for a period of fourteen months.

Amudha has a envying career graph thus far. Amudha, was working as a professor of Public Administration at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand before her deputation in PMO. She was the execu-

tive director of the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women under Tamil Nadu Government and has worked as a program officer with the United Nations Children's Fund for Water and Sanitation. She has worked in fifteen different departments under Government of Tamil Nadu.

TN-HS Amudha was one of the key top Tamil Nadu bureaucrat who got the all important and sensitive position of Home Secretary in a major reshuffle of IAS officers in Tamil Nadu following the reorganization of the cabinet effected by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin in May2023. She is the

fourth woman to occupy this sensitive post in the Tamil Nadu government after, Santha Sheela Nair, S. Malathi, and Sheela Rani Chunkath.

Amudha was in media glare recently when the Madras High Court issued statutory notices, requiring the presence of Tamil Nadu Home Secretary and Director General of Police (DGP) before the court in the contempt petitions related to not granting permission to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) route marches at various places across the State despite a court order.

Tamil Nadu government had appointed their trusted IAS officer P. Amudha,

in her previous stint in the Rural Development, to probe in detail the allegations of custodial torture against suspended IPS officer Balveer Singh and other implicated police personnel.

In her initial stints in the bureaucracy Amudha faced several challenges, when she was appointed as Collector of Dharmapuri, a district in Tamil Nadu, in eradicating low female literacy rate and female infanticide. Her dedication to her work objectives earned a name in the government circles. In the past, she was the Executive Director of the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women in the Tamil Nadu Government

and has worked as a program officer with the United Nations Children's Fund for Water and Sanitation. For several years, Amudha was the District Collector with the Land Revenue Management and District Administration.

The senior IAS officer also served as a Commissioner of Food Safety and Drug Administration in the state. Prior to joining as the Additional Chief Electoral Officer in the Public (Elections) Department in the Tamil Nadu Government, Amudha chaired as the Project Director in the Health and Family Welfare Department of the Tamil Nadu Government and Member-Secretary of the

Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society. A strict and disciplined top notch Tamil Nadu government bureaucrat carrying a clean image is known for her penchant for being on the field and taking bold decisions and giving a clean administration, has worked in over 15 different departments under Government of Tamil Nadu. She is credited to be one of the most committed and passionate bureaucrat who is unbelievably people-friendly,

Amudha, going by her career graph and her clean image, is really an asset to the Tamil Nadu government and is really doing proud to her position and the State.



DKS SIDLINED?



Infighting and faction feuds knows no end in the grand old Congress party. This being so where is the peace of mind the top bosses to expand the footprints and strategise to win elections. Karnataka, the latest win of Congress that has boosted the party's morale. But will the success stay for long to celebrate?

There are coveted efforts to pull down the younger lots and ensure no one is able to overpower the experienced in the party. Latest target being Shivkumar in Karnataka, who per backdoor agreement Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is to share the chair with him for the last two and half years of government's tenure.

A closed-door hush-hush late night "dinner" meet-up Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had with his Cabinet colleagues G Parameshwara, Dr H C Mahadevappa and Satish Jarkiholi recently has birthed talks of political realignment within Congress that has all the bigger thorny designs to determine the next course of the government's leadership fight in the State.

That this meeting happened without Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has set tongues wagging, that efforts could be on to curb him and his chief ministerial

ambitions.

The dinner was hosted by Parameshwara at his Sadashivanagar residence. It is said discussions took place for over three hours on the current political developments and future leadership issues and possibilities, permutations and combinations. Siddaramaiah naturally has to do something to curb ambitions of people who want him exit. Creating a friction is one way sure way to keep people thinking. Even in the eventuality of he having to give way, he will only ensure his man-Friday occupies the chair in the State.

Apparently, Parameshwara's name was discussed as a potential future CM candidate. A six-time MLA and a former state Congress chief, he has earlier expressed his desire to become the C - he will be the first Dalit to occupy the chair if that happens.

"Nothing of the sort" Parameshwara said. it was just a courtesy dinner.

Talk in Congress circles is that scenarios of a change in leadership came up during the meeting amid buzz that a mid-term power-sharing pact would see Shivakumar become the CM, which Siddaramaiah is certainly not in favour of. You expect Siddaramaiah to sacrifice the chair, while in power? Impossible, crazy wish!

Rghubar Das New Innings

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das gets a new role, Governor of Odisha in place of the outgoing Governor Prof. Ganeshi Lal whose terms ends. New Governor's term starts from Oct-31. After the announcement of appointment, 68-year-old Das took the blessings of his elder sister. As per the tradition, his elder sister ignited lamps and applied sandalwood paste and vermilion on his forehead, as a mark of joy and love ahead of his new journey as the Governor of Odisha.

Raghubar Das Das, currently a National vice-president of the BJP, was the first non-tribal Chief Min-



ister of Jharkhand from 2014 to 2019. He has been appointed to the gubernatorial post in place of Ganeshi Lal, who has completed his tenure. He was part of the Janata Party in

1977 and joined the BJP as a founding member in 1980. In 2004, he was appointed as Jharkhand State President of the BJP. Mr. Das is a grassroots leader of the BJP.

Crime To Be Neutral In Genocides

Israel war on Hamas is no more an isolated incidence in West Asia. This war and war crimes have invited worldwide focus to condemn the genocidal aggression and dialogues on ways to halt the war and it after effects once the war games dust settles down.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan expressed solidarity with the people of war-ravaged Palestine and said one cannot remain neutral when a section of people were facing genocidal aggression, while referring to Israel-Palestine conflict. The CM also alleged that Israel was targeting Palestine with the support of the US. "Our Palestinian brothers are suffering. We all know that with the support of America, Israel is targeting Palestine and the people there are facing genocidal aggression. We cannot take a neutral stand. We need to express our solidarity with the people of Palestine," Vijayan said.

He was speaking after inaugurating the concluding ceremony of the 'Keraleeyam' 2023 celebration which showcased the state's progress, achievements, and cultural heritage to the world. The week-long event was inaugurated on Kerala Piravi Day on 10 November 2023. Addressing the gathering, Vijayan said the massive participation of the people shows that Keraleeyam was a huge success. The Kerala CM also said the government will consider the suggestions and directions received



during the 25 seminars that took place during the last seven days, as part of the event. While senior BJP leader O Rajagopal attended the event and witnessed the concluding ceremony, the opposition Congress-led UDF and the BJP boycotted the event altogether alleging that the Keraleeyam was a 'financial extravaganza' and was not needed at a time funds are badly needed for developmental programs of the Kerala State. The Chief Minister, in his speech, reiterated that the Keraleeyam festival will be continued in coming years. "We assure you that all the suggestions and directions that came from the seminars organised here will be considered for the further development of Kerala and its society," Vijayan said.

He stressed the need for more central assistance for further development in many sectors including the coastal area and its community. Vijayan also called for

a change in the union government's National Rubber Policy in order to protect the interests of rubber farmers in this sector.

Kerala Finance Minister K Balagopal, who spoke at the event said the Kanakakunnu venue of the Keraleeyam alone witnessed a footfall of over a lakh every day. "It shows that lakhs of people visited Keraleeyam and it will be a platform for the further development of the state," he said. In an apparent reference to the Congress party, Balagopal said those who criticise the event should at least raise their voice against the central government, which was 'refusing' to pay what is due to the state government. With 42 venues, 25 seminars aimed at shaping the future of New Kerala, exhibitions, food festivals, and grand art performances, the festival showcased Kerala's commitment to secularism, unity, and unique culture, according to the government.

Ten-Fold Increase In Farm Loans

Union Minister of Home Affairs and India's 1st Cooperation Minister since this Ministry formed, Amit Shah was addressing a gathering of farmers and people from the cooperative sector in Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency on Tuesday after inaugurating India's first liquid nano di-ammonia phosphate (DAP) plant of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) on the Ahmedabad-Kalol highway.

In our country 60% people are engaged in farming and about 60% of the country's land is suitable for agriculture. However, for a very long time farmers and farming activities have been neglected in our country. Impressing upon the focus the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government had been giving the farm sector, he coined several statistical figures.

Amit Shah said farmers and farming activities had been the most neglected in India for a long time. Indian farmers have for long felt neglected, but a significant shift has taken place under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government at the Centre with the country's budget for farmers witnessing more than a ten-fold increase, Shah said.

Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah attacked



previous governments saying that previous governments had done a lot of injustice to Indian farmers. "Farmers received loans totaling seven lakh crores in 2013-14, whereas the Modi government at the center provided loans totaling 19 lakh crores in 2023-24," Shah Added.

"Before Prime Minister Modi came to power in 2014, the budget for farmers was only Rs 22,000 crore, while the Modi government's budget for 2022-23 is Rs 1,22,000 crore," Shah said.

He said that the production of cereals has increased from 323 million tonnes in 2013-14 to 665

million tonnes presently under the Modi government. The minimum support price for rice, wheat and millet has seen 68%, 62.5% and 68% rise in 2023-24 as compared to 2013-14.

Union Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah gave the statistics of how unfair the previous governments have been in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) in agricultural products. Shah claimed that "In previous governments, the MSP of rice was Rs 1310, while the Modi government increased it to Rs 2203, which is an increase of about 68 per cent, the MSP of wheat was Rs 1,400, the Modi govern-

ment increased it to Rs 2275, while the MSP of pearl millet (Bajra) was Rs 1250 was increased by the Modi government to 2500 rupees which shows an increase of 100 per cent."

Amit Shah was addressing the gathering at the inauguration program of India's 1st IFFCO Nano DAP (liquid) manufacturing unit at Kalol, Gujarat. Addressing the Gathering at IFFCO Shah said the Modi government has increased the budget by one lakh crore rupees, and the Modi government is continually implementing farmer-friendly actions."

In a bid to enhance India's self-sufficiency in the fertiliser sector, IFFCO's Nano DAP (Liquid) boasts an 8 % nitrogen and 16 % phosphorus composition, providing a cost-effective alternative to the conventional 50 kg bag of DAP, which is presently priced at ₹1,350 for farmers.

IFFCO has registered for a long-term patent on its nano urea and nano DAP, according to Shah.

"Following the pandemic, Corona, when fertilizer prices increased in global markets, the Modi government did not impose additional burdens on farmers, in 2013-14, the fertilizer subsidy was 73,000 crores, which will increase to 2,55,000 crore rupees in 2022-23," said Shah. Shah said that fer-

tilisers should be scarcely used but till the time there are no alternatives found, its dependency remains.

"The outlay for subsidy on fertilisers back then was ₹73,000 crore, which presently stands at ₹2,55,000 crore. All this while keeping the prices of fertilisers unchanged," said Shah.

He emphasised the importance of transitioning from heavy dependence on urea towards natural farming. "If farmers aspire to embrace natural farming without compromising crop yield for three years, they can employ Nano urea and Nano DAP while incorporating cow dung into their farming practices, which encourages the thriving of earthworms. By following this approach, in just two years, you can seamlessly transition to natural farming without any loss in crop productivity," he said.

During the day, the Union Home Minister attended various programs, including laying the foundation stone for a sports complex in Gandhinagar and laying the groundwork for various development projects in Sanand.

Earlier, Shah also attended the 'Raas Garba' in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Devotees worship Maa Durga's nine incarnations during the nine-day Navratri festival in order to obtain her blessings.

24,000 Cr For Tribals

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches Rs 24,000 crore scheme for empowerment of tribals of the country. The scheme termed PVTG Development Mission, will be a huge step towards the empowerment of tribals and that this will be a first-of-its-kind initiative.

Tribes in India stay in scattered, remote and inaccessible habitations, often in forest areas. Taking these into consideration, the mission has been planned to saturate PVTG families and habitations with basic facilities such as road and telecom connectivity, electricity, safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, and sustainable livelihood opportunities, they said.

Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi launched a Rs 24,000 crore scheme aimed at holistic development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) on the occasion of 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' in Jharkhand. The scheme, PVTG Development Mission, will be a huge step towards the empowerment of tribals.

In the 2023-24 budget, this scheme was announced for improving socio-economic conditions of the PVTG. In 2021, the Modi government announced that the birth anniversary of revered tribal warrior Birsa Munda, who was born in Jharkhand, will be commemorated as the "Janjatiya Gaurav Divas."

According to officials, there are 75 PVTG in 18 states and Union territories living in 22,544 villages spread across 220 districts having a popu-

lation of around 28 lakhs.

These tribes stay in scattered, remote and inaccessible habitations, often in forest areas and hence the mission has been planned to saturate PVTG families and habitations with basic facilities such as road and telecom connectivity, electricity, safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, and sustainable livelihood opportunities, they said.

The mission will be implemented through the convergence of 11 interventions of nine ministries under a host of existing welfare programmes covering rural roads, rural housing and drinking. Some scheme norms will be relaxed to cover these remote habitations, an official announcement said.



MISSION KESHAV CHANDRA



The Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (A&N) cluster, located in the Indian Ocean, are a group of 572 islands in the south eastern part of the Bay of Bengal. These islands are situated close to Indonesia and Thailand. A&N is a Treasure house of Tribes, The Andaman and Nicobar Islands cluster are home to 5 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups: Great Andamanese, Jarwas, Onges, Shompens and North Sentinelese.

A&N is of high strategic importance to the country from both economic and security standpoints. A&N when fully developed will strengthen and enhance India's maritime capabilities multifold. These islands not only provide India with a key maritime space but also carry significant potential in shaping the strategic and military dynamics of the India in the Indian Ocean region. India's key maritime partners such as the US, Japan, Australia and France acknowledge and recognise the strategic location of the Andaman and Nicobar.

However, this all important UT island cluster has not received the importance it deserves. Environmental degradation is a major concern at present and hence, needs greater focus on sustainable development to flourish the island economy and also to ensure it provides and boosts India's defence capabilities.

In addition to the issues the local population face owing to the ignorance of the governments to implement tangible

and meaningful development in this islands cluster. Added to these are the Illegal Migration and Smuggling. This UT Islands cluster faces greater challenges to their internal security through illegal migration from littoral and other states, poaching of marine and forest resources, arms and narcotics smuggling, majorly through uninhabited islands and natural disasters.

A&N islands cluster also has the history of Unsustainable Development. Andaman and Nicobar have become a major tourist attraction, and this has resulted in many development projects being initiated in this region. While at one side it will transform the islands substantially, it would also cause loss of ecological stability owing to overcrowding of the island.

The Developmental activities are also impacting the coral reefs in the area, which are already under threat from warming oceans, and are of enormous ecological importance. Environmentalists have already flagged the loss of mangroves on the island as a result of haphazardly planned development projects and underscoring the Geological Volatility. The Andaman and Nicobar island's groups lie in a seismically highly active zone. Due to this, the region is prone to a number of natural disasters.

Long neglected by previous government, now the islands cluster gets a boost from the current government. There are several key projects

planned and being implemented. NITI Aayog's Proposal for Little Andaman calls for the development of a new greenfield coastal city to compete with Singapore and Hong Kong. NITI Aayog's another project for Great Nicobar that includes an international container transshipment terminal, an airport, a power plant, and a township also are in process. A&N's Airport has already been inaugurated and in operation. Others in progress, per reports.

Then there is also Japan's Overseas Development Assistance program where Japan had approved a US\$ 265 crore grant aid for Andaman and Nicobar Islands development projects.

All these are good to hear. But the ground reality is that the people of the islands cluster face innumerable problems affecting their daily life. Being a island cluster cost-effective and efficient transportation within the island and between islands is still a big issue. Despite being surrounded by vast sea, people do not have proper potable drinking water facility. Electricity to islander homes is a very big issue. Unemployment of the local youth have increased many fold, as the rampant corruption has allowed the outsiders from other states have penetrated deep and fanned the 'job for cash' trend. Local youths suffer as a result. Roads are still bad with hardly any maintenance.

These being so, as they are, rampant corruption in this island administration also has damaged

the fabric of the social life of the local people. All previous island administration and the Central governments, MPs and local polity had all been ignorant to the issue of the people of this islands cluster, busy making money for themselves. Relief alas appears to have dawned on this islands cluster not.

A&N islanders now have an efficient and able administrator in their Chief Secretary Shri Keshav Chandra, a 1995 batch IAS officer, who has served in various departments in Delhi in different capacities. He received great appreciation for all his works in his previous stints, including his committed initiatives in his association with the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement board. Known for his able and clean administration with a great penchant for peoples' welfare now has embarked on a string of measures to bail out the people of this remote islands cluster from their miseries and attempting to resolve all the problems ailing this island cluster.

Lying low profile with no media glare on him, his initiatives for the island and its residents have brought accolades from the local population and also the Lieutenant Governor, LG, of this Union Territory. Knowing the abilities and the great traits of people-friendly nature, even LG, Admiral DK Joshi, with a defence background, of this remote UT trusts him and appears to have given a free hand to Chandra to plan and implement the welfare programs and basic infrastructure improvement for the islanders. The amazingly unbelievable feat of Chandra in this UT is providing employment to over 5000 youth of the island, majorly to the eligible local island population. This in itself has come as pleasant surprise to the local population, who have thus far seen these jobs going mostly to outsider and that too on 'cash for job' basis. Youth of the island are jubilant.

Chandra also has set the electricity issue fixed and says the people should not face any electricity problems in the future and that more is being done on this to improve upon the infrastructure to ensure the

people never ever face any electricity problems. Chief Secretary Chandra also has gone ahead with his plan implementation programs to fix the water problem in the island. He guarantees that once the whole plan is implemented, which would be completed very soon, the islanders will not have any water problem for at least the next 10-15 years. More improvements when done would guarantee perennial water supply to the islanders, assures Chandra. Chief Secretary also said that road and water transport sector issues are also being attended to. He said he has planned for regular supervision of implementation of National and other highways and bridges projects to ensure proper and quick completion and regular maintenance of the road infrastructure. He said he is also looking into the issues of waterway transportation to bring more relief to the people.

Chandra also said that he is taking personal interest and care on the implementation of the central sponsored schemes to benefit the islanders by educating them and making his administrative staff implement them in toto. He also assured that he is putting a system in place where every complaint and problem of the people would be heard, noted, solutions evolved and meticulously implemented without any loss of time. Not forgetting to mention, he is also taking steps to clean the administration.

These are initiatives for a start by the able Chief Secretary in this remote and thus far ignored island and its residents. One is expecting that he will soon intervene and help triggering fast development in the Niti Aayog proposed project implementation that has all the designs to make this remote islands cluster the most sought after beautiful global destination soon.

His is ready to listen to the people and the polity on the issues plaguing the island so that he could take actions to resolve them quickly. His people-friendly nature and his passion for doing good for the people is making him to be the most liked performing top bureaucrat of this remote UT island cluster.

PEACE IN WEST ASIA

World is looking upon to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a global savior, to end Israel-Hamas war of destruction. He is being considered the most suitable strong Leader to bring about peace in West Asia and the Middle East. World is expecting him to bring about a lasting peace and a recognized land solution for the long suffering Palestinian people, who have been the scapegoat for the terrorist groups who claim they are for their good, who fortunately get all the moral support of the Islamic Nations, but unfortunately who never have accepted them into their countries.

PM Modi is a sought after friend of all, a strong leader of great repute recognized world over for lasting peace and fast paced development and a global figure whom the world thinks can depend and count on to resolve global issues. Yes, this is undoubtedly the correct global status and image of PM Modi.

War is all about all-round destruction, from human lives to infrastructure. It is a very long-term destruction of poisoning land and soil for any productive use. War does not serve any humanity purpose. Israel knows that a Hamas victory, remote though, is about driving long-term political outcome that would be totally unfavorable to Israel and its own survival. So, it is understandable that Israel's war with Hamas, considered a terrorist group, is not about winning, but for its own survival with pride and honour.

Israel's IDF, the army in particular, has a remarkable record of winning, literally fought on their borders, supported by the great strength of its Air Strike power. It won conventional wars in 1948, 1967, and 1973; it forced the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLA) to give up armed struggle in 1996; and it has deterred Hezbollah since 2006. The military is strong not merely because of U.S. support, but also because everything about Israeli unique military, from its doctrine, organization, most all-round advanced technology including lethal weaponry and training to its leadership and personnel, makes it by far the most formidable fighting force in the world.

Most feel that the Gaza

war, in the end, Israel will win. The stakes are so high for Israel, and Israel's edge over Hamas is so large, that any outcome other than victory is unthinkable at this point in time. The only questions are in what timeframe and at what cost.

Hamas, on its part, is possibly not looking at a straight victory, but inflicting greater damages to Israel's global image, Israel's isolation in global eyes and consolidating their rule over Palestinian population by destroying the Palestinian Authority government that has Israel's tacit support. Rather, its goal is to estrange Israel from its international partners and turn it into the pariah, an outsider that Hamas believes itself to be.

Hamas strategy looks smarter in that Israel's own great strength should destroy Israel! Israel is betting that it can kill enough Hamas fighters fast enough to win, and it will sort out the details afterward. Hamas's goal is steadfastly clinging on to stalemate.

Hamas surely planned its October 7 action against Israel for years, something that even Israel's most dreaded intelligence agencies never imagined, unsure of its own success but reasonably sure of Israel's response. Israel cannot afford to lose a war. But in its efforts to win, it could lose on several other counts, if not the war with Hamas. Hamas is sure looking to end this war game. Israel also sure should be looking to end this game of destruction, which is slowly also destroying Israel's own economy. War games are expensive.

Solution then? Here is where the role of Indian PM Modi comes, to save both the warring parties interests and each one's objectives. Eventually, it is all about living with pride and honour and power and authority to save their own interests and their people. India has always been a friend of both Israel and Palestinian people. India has one of the best bilateral ties with all the Islamic Nations, both in the Arab and Middle East. Strongest of the Arab Nations respect and regard PM Modi and consider him as their best friend of all seasons. In contrast, even the super powers do not enjoy that status.

US, UK and European Union front does not enjoy friendly relations with several of the Islamic Nations the way India does. Russia and China are not friends of Israel and more over will never support Israel for the simple reason that it has USA's support.

In today's circumstances and relationships status there is not a single country in the world, including all the super powers, except for PM Modi's India who is a friend of both the warring factions. India is a strong friend of Israel for long. Both the countries and its people have great regard and respect for each other. Trade relations are the best between the countries. Israel always has stood solid with India even during India's trying times when on war with its neighbors. India, at the same time, is a long term friend and supporter of the Palestinian people and their cause for a recognized land. India has always been a great passionate friend of Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLA), starting with its most popular Leader Yaser Arafat, who started the fight for the cause of the Palestinian people in all earnestness by starting a political platform Fatah Political Party.

India is a long time friend of Saudi Arabia, UAE to name a few from the Arabian Nations, who support Palestinian cause and also indirectly Hamas owing to them also being Muslims. Several of the Arabian and other Islamic Nations have already recognized, regularized their relations and have good bilateral relations with Israel and hence are not standing against them. Cumulatively, Israel is no more what it was.

India has excellent bilateral relations with Iran. Iran is the key open supporter of Hamas, accused of arming them against their fight with Israel. However, Iran being very good friend of India will listen and not deny a peacemaking effort.. They wouldn't listen to anyone else. India also has not spoken anything against Hamas, except for strongly condemning the barbarousness of Hamas's massacres in Israel, that has drawn comparisons to the Islamic State and al Qaeda type of terrorist groups. So Hamas is not against India nor India is, and will surely listen to In-



dia.

India as such is very important for all the countries. India's perennially growing market potential and the huge buying of oil, gas and fuels and other essential goods that India buys from them, is the key to India's supremacy over others. India is also one of world's largest refined crude oil exporters to several of these countries. These are in addition to the hard work of PM Modi in building and taking forward the relationship and rapport with all the countries. The recently concluded G20 summit is an outstanding showcase of PM Modi's power and strength of personal relationship with the group leaders and countries.

India has all the needed strengths, power and traits to initiate a peace-making effort in ending Israel war with Hamas. The key issue is the good of and for the Palestinian people and a recognized land for them, similar to what Yahudis' of Israel got decades ago and of course peace for Israel too to rebuild and rejuvenate their strengths.

India has always been

advocating peaceful dialogues at every stage, everywhere, across the globe and India has the capacity to initiate successful dialogues with both the warring factions and eventually help in assigning a land for the always suffering people of Palestine, though their so called Leaders have always been leading and living life of luxury beyond compare. But this is not a deterrent as the issue is the good for the people at large.

India can be the most successful 'Peace-maker'. India could take the lead for peace for the targeted Nations and the people, and eventually for the world for lasting peace and unhindered fast-paced development. India is a great country. World's largest democracy with richest heritage and cultural history, evolved from the greatest civilizations, 5th Largest Economy fast moving to become 3rd, 2nd Largest in population! PM Modi of such a great country has the clout across Nations. He is a friend of all. His statesmanship is beyond compare. PM Modi can do this.



OPERATION SABAREESAN

Tamil Nadu ruling party gets a new fund manager in V Sabareesan, Tamil Nadu's first family's premier son-in-law. He is the unbeatable and Stalin's most trusted strategist, facilitator and sounding board and is one of the most powerful faces in the state as on date.

74 years, 3 generations and 1 ideology. DMK's Stalin is sailing smooth. In fact Stalin's tenure as CM is said to be sailing smooth despite issues, is because of the effective and efficient strategy management planned and implemented by Sabareesan.

Sabareesan is also

called the Mastermind of DMK and TN-CM M K Stalin's policies and strategic management of the State's administration. His communication skills are not hidden. He is often referred to as the Communication King and literal One Man Army support system to DMK and Stalin.

He is credited with bringing in 40 seats with the coalition in the State, which is a commendable feat that had not happened in the State for a long time. The cordial relations with the alliance partner Congress and even the opposition parties appear to be his

master success key in the State affairs so far.

Sabareesan knows the political games of people and bureaucratic behavior well and also knows the pulse on whom to prioritize when and how. His relations with the party workers is so good, the workers themselves say that the party remains charged all the time owing to his skills of taking all with him from across the party cadres and lines.

But the political games need huge funding. So far the DMK has managed to raise and manage funds through their District Secretar-

ies, party in-charge of districts. It is one of the prime jobs of the party's district chiefs to identify donors, receive funds through a complex web of money logistics system that eventually reaches the designated accounts with the party HQ.

But all these appear to be changing. With Sabareesan's phased entry into party affairs has put him in a highly influential position. Being able event manager and trusted aide of the party chief, he is changing the fund control chain in the party. It is said that Sabareesan has slowly started taking control of the fund gen-

eration and management for the party.

Now with his great communication and convincing ability, it is only natural that he would be best suited for this fund management game for the party. With so many of the senior leaders who have been raising huge funds and managing them acting like party's Money ATMs, having come under the close scanner of the central investigating agencies and with so many raids and few behind the bas already, It is only natural an family insider steps in to manage the huge party funds.

Officials On Payroll Of Polluting Factory?

Biryani For Allowing Pollution?



THAMBIMARI MUTHU

The Puducherry coastal region in the recent years faces a severe threat due to unplanned and uncontrolled disposal of wastewater and had a serious issue on the rapid increase in the pollution levels.

It is alleged that Vaigai Industries in Karaikal is the culprit in polluting the air and water resources and devastating the cultivable soil that has been poisoned badly making the cultivable land slowly turning into barren uncultivable land. The farmers and people of the villages constituting the entire land area of and around this highly polluting factory are deeply worried, their income almost gone owing to not being able to generate any farm produces and are naturally up in arms. Disposal of municipal wastes, industrial wastes and waste generated by numerous recreational and commercial activities had degraded the quality of coastal water and also caused a serious health hazard to marine biota's and in returns to human. Moreover a multitude of anthropogenic impacts are attributed due to accelerated coastal settlements and development of small-scale and large-scale industries, expansion of harbors and tourism related activities in the coastal zone. Experts say, to understand the pollution level in the coastal zone, it is required to assess the level of coastal water pollution both spatially and temporally, in order to make further recommendations for safe disposal of wastewater.

The main source of pollution in the identified estuaries and coastal belts of the Puducherry coastal region are mainly due to direct discharge of untreated industrial effluent and domestic sewage at various points along the coast. Vaigai Chemical Industries Limited in Karaikal, a unit of the Vaigai Group based out of Tamil Nadu, operates a chemical manufacturing plant that produces the dangerous and highly polluting chemical, Potassium Chlorate, operating in Melakasakkudi Vadapadi area next to Nedungkadu. This chemical unit manufactures and or supplies several chemical components as raw materials for use in match sticks, firecrackers and explosives. The very location of this manufacturing plant created controversies. There was strong opposition to its location in the middle of the village. Nothing happened and the factory units stayed where it started owing to its big clout with the political bosses and of course the play of money power. Following incidents like boilers exploding and catching fire in this factory, there have been several serious allegations that the factory's hazardous and other wastes are now being released into the canals that irrigate the agricultural lands, without being properly treated per chemicals safety and pollution control norms.

The dangerously heavily polluted dark brown coloured untreated aqueous effluent waste from the plant process along the northern meridian is being deposited inside the

factory premises, waiting for the arrival of the monsoon season. They are never treated, cleaned and disposed off safely and properly immediately upon their generation in the factory manufacturing process. As the monsoon sets in, the plant opens this stagnant hazardous waste secretly and indiscriminately to mix with the rain water and flow into the drains. The public is complaining about the color of the water in the drain as this untreated hazardous waste is being opened from time to time into the drain during the rainy season.

Independent of its location, it is utmost necessity that the plant waste be properly treated and disposed of safely and securely. The government granted permission to the plant with conditions that included prioritized attention to the safety of health of the workers of the plant and the people inhabiting the area. But, as it is to be understood, the plant never followed any safety guidelines or norms properly. It also did not ensure safe and secure disposal of its factory wastes, all of which were very hazardous in nature. Coming to the details, the said industry is the supplier of the dangerous raw materials needed for the match sticks, firecrackers and explosives industry that flourishes in locations like Sivakasi and other locations throughout India. Of the semi-finished raw materials that this company produces for the firecrackers and match box making industry, among others, while Chlorine is locally

produced and Potassium is locally purchased, the key ingredient Ammonium is imported. It is alleged that the company imports large quantities of this ammonium component from foreign countries and that most of the materials pass through customs without paying proper import duty, naturally with the connivance of few corrupt customs officials, with support from local polity. Customs duty evasion it is alleged, makes the import of this dangerous chemical too easy for the company to continue its money games using this factory, not mindful of the environment destruction they are fanning in the area. It is alleged that the Director of the company was camping at the factory, since complaints of high pollution and other issues were being raked in by the people of the villages to ensure no untoward actions are taken by the concerned departments that might lead to closure of the unit that is making very huge profits for the company. The department officials had taken note of the critical pollution issues being faced by the local farmers and the population and fearing violent protests, the department recently hoodwinked the people by sending, of all departments, Revenue department officials team to visit the factory recently. Everyone knows how and what the Revenue officials will and can do. It is alleged that these officials were greased by the Director and senior management of the factory and served them a delicious meals that included the

expensive Biryani, among other to name. Once this pleasing ceremony of the officials was completed, the Revenue officials team left. Naturally they cannot take any action as this is not their responsibility.

It surprised and shocked the people that why the administration did not send relevant teams from their Pollution department, Agriculture department and industries department as the issues are related to polluting the land, water and air of the area? Everyone knows, it is alleged that the polluting company bribes the officials of all these department and that's why the factory doing its roaring flourishing business despite having destroyed the land, air and water resources of the area by polluting them all beyond normal solutions. It is alleged seriously that all the concerned officials and departments are under the payroll of this dangerously polluting factory and that is the reasons why no serious action is taken against this dangerously polluting chemical factory that is not following even the minimally prescribed norms.

Why the Chief Secretary of the Pondicherry government and also the pollution board official are sleeping over this crucial issue? When will the administration take stringent action to shut this dangerously polluting factory? Will the administration bring relief to the people from their sufferings and investigate and book the rogue factory and shut their factory in this area?

CORPORATE BUSINESS

Dabur Eyeing Acquisitions

The homegrown FMCG major and cash rich Dabur India is scouting for acquisitions. It is only natural for a FMCG behemoth with Rs 7000 Crore in cash reserve to look for acquiring brands that add further value to its existing brands and item categories. Dabur also Dabur Ltd, an Indian multinational consumer goods company, founded by S. K. Burman, manufactures Ayurvedic medicine and natural consumer products, and is one of the largest fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies in India. Dabur derives around 60% of its revenue from the consumer care business, 11% from the food business and remaining from the international business unit.

The current chairman, Dr. Anand Burman, and vice-chairman Amit Burman, are part of the fifth generation of the family. They were among the first business families in India to separate ownership from management, when they handed over the management of the company to professionals in 1998. In 1997, Dabur set



up a wholly-owned consumer goods subsidiary called Dabur Foods under which it launched its fruit juice brand called Real. In 2022, Dabur acquired a 51% stake in the Indian spices company Badshah Masala for ₹588 crore.

Dabur off loaded its pharma business in 2003 and hived it off into a separate company, Dabur Pharma Ltd where the German company Fresenius SE bought a 73.27% equity share in the new pharma company.

With Rs 7,000 crore cash reserve, Dabur India is said to be looking for acquisition opportunities in the online space,

in healthcare and home & personal care segments and with several D2C (Direct to Consumer) brands operating in it, according to its CEO Mohit Malhotra.

The company is scaling its presence in the online space, which includes e-commerce channels and D2C business, where it plans to introduce more innovations under existing brands and through inorganic opportunities. "We are introducing innovations there. Those innovations are coming on the back of existing brands and these innovations will come on the back of some new brands that we might

launch or we are looking at an acquisition for a new brand," Malhotra told PTI. The company would pursue organic growth with new brand launches in skin care and premium skin care, and the rest would be through acquisitions. Malhotra added that besides acquisition, innovation is also very important, which not only attracts younger or new-age consumers but also grows the lifecycle of a brand. All the nine power brands of Dabur India, are slowly evolving, adding value additions to brands and also to systemize the huge consumer oriented business.

Dabur has nine power brands, eight in India and one in the overseas markets, which together account for 70 per cent of its total sales. They are: Dabur Chyawanprash, Dabur Honey, Dabur Honitus, Dabur Pudina, Dabur Lal Tail, Dabur Amla, Dabur Red Paste, Real and Vatika.

Its juice brand Real's revenue is to grow to Rs 2,000-2,500 crore in the next five years. Besides, it has three Rs 1,000 crore brands Dabur Amla,

Dabur Red and Vatika, which Danir expects to increase to Rs 1,500 crore. Dabur has 17 brands that are above Rs 100 crore but less than Rs 500 crore in size, said Malhotra while addressing the investor meeting last week.

Earlier this year, Dabur completed the acquisition of 51 per cent stake in Badshah Masala to enter the branded spices and seasoning market, making its total growing brands to 17. Now, Dabur is expanding Badshah to international markets targeting the international diaspora. Despite the controversies of Burmans thrashing black money overseas and its honey brand getting a negative report of sugar syrup adulteration and a legal spat in a neighboring country on the name of one its brands and their current legal battle with the board of Religare, Burmans are taking the Dabur power brands to newer growth heights and looking anxiously to disrupt the supply chain innovatively, both online and offline to enter deeper into newer market and buyer segments.

Havells India In DRI Net

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) conducted a search operation at the corporate office of Havells India located in NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh.

The searches by DRI comes over alleged mis-classification in the import of heating elements by Havells India, a electrical goods manufacturing major in India. DRI acts as the lead agency to check smuggling and cases of commercial fraud.

Havells India has been accused of using methods to evade import levies and also rumoured to have been engaged in smuggling of key premium components for its India manufacturing unit, majorly to cut making costs so as to be able to compete in the local market with aggressive pricing of its finished products.

The DRI search was



conducted over "alleged mis-classification in import of Heating Element," the company said. Havells India, a major electrical goods and appliances manufacturer, Havells India stated that the impact on its financial and operational activities cannot be quantified at this time, but in a preliminary assessment, it is not expected to have a materi-

al impact.

For 2022-23, Havells India reported a revenue of Rs 16,868.38 crore.

The company has 15 manufacturing units and 90 per cent of the products sold in the country are manufactured in-house. Havells India operates in the consumer electrical and appliances market with brands such as Havells, Lloyd, Crabtree, Standard and REO.

AAP MLA Caught In PMLA

Punjab AAP MLA Jaswant Singh Gajjan Majra was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a bank fraud-linked money laundering case. He was evading several summons sent by ED. Eventually, Majra was picked up by ED when he was on a public meeting event. The sources alleged that Gajjan Majra, a legislator from the Amargarh assembly constituency, had skipped multiple summons issued to him in the past and hence, was detained by the officials and then arrested after questioning. The central agency raided the MLA and some others in September last year as part of this PMLA investigation that stems from a March 2022 FIR filed by the CBI (Anti-Corruption Branch, Chandigarh).

The CBI FIR was registered against Tara Corporation Limited (TCL), renamed Malaudh Agro Limited on September 24, 2018, its directors Jaswant Singh (Gajjan Majra), Balwant Singh, Kulwant Singh, Tejinder Singh, their associates and other sister concerns in Ludhiana, Malerkotla, Khanna, Payal and Dhuri.

ED officials said they had seized mobile phones, hard drives and loads of Indian and foreign currencies and hundreds of discriminatory documents from multiple premises that were searched. It said the Bank of India's Model Town branch in Ludhiana had sanctioned a loan on cash credit limits aggregating Rs 35 crore to the company as against hypothecation of stocks and book debts on 23.09.2011 under sole banking arrangement. "On the basis of information available, an investigation was initiated against the above-said persons and their associates in order to ascertain the money laundering activities undertaken by them for laundering their proceeds of crime," the agency added.

₹10000 Cr SANISWARAN TEMPLE ASSETS LOOT



ROSO ANGAPPAN

Fraudsters do not spare even the most feared Lord Saturn, Shani. More than Rs 10,000 crores worth of temple lands now is encroached by political bigwigs and government officials in benami names it is alleged. They have been enjoying the temple property and earning income without paying any rent or lease to the temple for many years. Administration and the Puducherry government sleeps over these without taking any action against the perpetrators of these corruption crime, that too of temple assets. Shameful indeed!

Tirunallar 'Sri Dharbaranyeswarar' Temple, more popularly known as 'Tirunallar Saniswaran Temple', the most revered and the holy temple is dedicated to the deity Shiva, located in a village, Thirunallar of Karaikal district of Union territory of Puducherry.

The greatness of the Thirunallar Saniswaran Temple is that offering prayers at this temple are believed to reduce the malefic effects of planet Saturn or the Shani Dosha as well as increases the positive effects of Saturn thereby help people benefit from great difficulties, challenges, and limitations. For over a thousand years, devotees visiting Thirunallar Saniswaran Temple have found their misfortunes and bad luck to decrease as this is the only temple in the world where Lord Shani is believed to have lost all his power to Lord Shiva. The holy tank named Nalan Theertham of this temple possesses healing powers literally and metaphorically. And devotees strongly

believe that a holy dip in the sacred waters of Nalan Theertham washes off all kinds of afflictions and misfortunes caused by their past karmas.

The temple has six daily rituals at various time slots, and four yearly festivals on its calendar. Mahasivarathri festival celebrated during the month of the Chittirai (March - April) is the most prominent festival of the temple for the presiding deity. Sanipeyarchi, Sani (Saturn) changes its rashi or position, is a 2 day long most prominent and popular festival conducted every 2.5 years. Lord Sani (Saturn) is believed to change its rashi (zodiac) or position. This holy occasion witnesses thousands of devotees visiting the temple from all over the world. Thirunallar Saniswaran Temple is considered one of the 'Saptha Vidanga Sthalams'. Each idol or Murti in these seven temples has the Lord representing a unique dance form. The processional deity or Somaskandhar of Thirunallar Saniswaran Temple is 'Naka Vidangar' and the unique dance he performs here is 'Unmatha Nadanam'. Hence the place is also known as 'Nakavidangapuram'.

The temple has six daily rituals at various times from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and four yearly festivals on its calendar. Mahasivarathri festival celebrated during the month of the Chittirai (March - April) is the most prominent festival of the temple for the presiding deity, while Sanipeyarchi festival that occurs every 2.5 years is the most prominent for Shani.

Puducherry Hindu Religious Charities Depart-

ment does not respect the traditions, rituals and ceremonies of Thirunallar Saniswaran Bhagawan Temple. Devotees offer money in cash and other kinds of cashable offerings to the temple and the income received in the temple is very huge. Despite this, the devotees who come to the temple are deprived of even basic facilities. Of the thousands of devotees who come to the temple, if any suddenly fall ill, they have to be taken to the nearest city that is 5 Kms away. There is no ambulance services for emergencies. Allegations are that huge temple funds are being used to pay the salaries of Puducherry government employees. Devotees have long been demanding to start at least a small clinic near the temple for the elderly, heart disease, nervous tension and blood pressure patients.

Hundreds of thousands of crores are being looted in the guise of regular demolition, construction and renovation of temple properties. It is alleged that the contracts are awarded to the preferred contractors without tenders and paid using the income of the temple from devotees. It is alleged that the corrupt government officials appointed as Executive Officers, are misusing the discretionary authority to spend from temple funds for such wasteful construction activities, in lieu of huge illicit commissions from these contractors. Interestingly, it is also being alleged, that several employees are appointed directly under recommendations from local politicians as nominees, circumventing the employment rules and without considering their merit. Lakhs of devotees throng to the temple every day during the Sanipeyarchi occasion to bathe in Nalan Theertha Sarovar, light sesame oil lamps and worship Lord Shani. 48 days before and 48 days after the transit of Saturn are considered very holy and important and the devotees come in lakhs as waves of sea. Bandhakal Mugurtam is the most important event for this festival. Despite all the allegations, Dharumapuram Atheenam is trying its best to maintain the Shani

Bhagawan temple is well. They have been managing this temple affairs for hundreds of years. Anything clean, efficient and good is never tolerated by majority government officials. It is only natural that the Puducherry Government Hindu Religious Charities Department, the government authority looking after the income and expenditure budget details of the temple, allegedly is blocked the clean administration of the Atheenam trust, to allegedly hide the illicit transactions and acts of its appointed Executive Officers who are the controlling authority for the funds of the temple.

It is being alleged that the Charities Department of the Puducherry government controls and operates the temple as a revenue-generating corporate entity, rather than as a place of sacred worship or a healing center. The income of this temple is never properly audited, it is alleged. The Chola kings who built this temple gave strategically located prime premium lands worth billions to the temple. This has been usurped by many people who sit as administrative officers in Shani Bhagawan Temple. The land of temple other than the constructed area is used for cultivation for regular funding of the temple management. But the government authorities have kept the temple lands without paying any money for paddy, urad, paddy and other commercial products which are for the running of the temple.

Several hundreds of Hotels, Lodges, Prime Residences, Cottages, Pooja offering shops, and artifact shops have been built illegally around the temple, allegedly by encroaching upon the temple premises.

All these do not have Karaikal Town Planning (JTP - Junior Town Planning) approval. More than Rs 10,000 crores worth of temple lands now is encroached by political bigwigs and government officials in benami names it is alleged. They have been enjoying the temple property and earning income without paying any rent or lease to the temple for many years.

Accusations are

mounting that the temple patrons and the temple officials were so complicated even in the ill-fated decisions of changing the rituals and event schedules. A supporter of local MLA Siva released an audio on WhatsApp, threatening Darumai Adeena Akayat Thambiran on his opposition to these decisions. Tension persists in Tirunallar as it is said that if the Saint Thambiran sits near the temple flag and offers prayers and prasada, his beard will be cut off. Strangely no action has still been taken to book the culprit. A public outrage has started against this open threat to the holy Highness.

Why the police is not acting on this open threat by a local goon of the local politician? What is the fear? The temple administration officer, local MLA, Siva, due to the hidden threats of non-working salaried employees, Dharmai Adeena Ordinance Thampiran Sri La Sri Kandaswamithampiran Swami did not attend the Shanibhagwan temple's Shanipairchi festival on the opposition to the rituals. As a result, the temple administrator, Arunagiri, and the priests poured the holy water on the bare ground that they had brought to pour the holy water, do Abhishek, on the holy deities of the temple. Devotees coming to Shani Bhagawan Temple are naturally frightened by this incident. Many people are confused as to whether something bad will happen to them as the holy water was poured on the ground, starting with the Shanipairchi bandhakal mugurtam dispute. Devotees believe that this is the reason why the tragedy of removing Chandrapriyanka, who is a Virgo, and Rangasamy, who is an Aries, were removed from the position in the Puducherry cabinet. Devotees of Lord Shani are demanding that the Puducherry government intervene, book the culprits in the temple, charity department and polity fearlessly and reinstall the peace in the area and the holy rituals in the temple as it is being performed from time immemorial.

THE GRAND 'GST' GOLMAL!

It is all mega mega GST frauds and scams. However stronger laws are framed and tighter checks made, fraudsters find novel ways to evade paying taxes. Stronger the laws and tighter the checks at different levels, the fraudsters supported by their financial wizards and conniving officials find newer avenues to evade them, commit frauds.

Rs 20,124 Crore GST Fraud In 3 Months? This is what Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman admitted in Rajya Sabha way back in 2021. The government detected GST frauds to the tune of Rs 20,124 in just 3 months of its 'special GST drive'. A nationwide special drive against unscrupulous entities for availing and passing on Input Tax Credit (ITC) fraudulently on the strength of fake and bogus invoices was carried out at that time, when this whopping tax evasion fraud was detected.

Giving details of detection of GST Frauds from November 9, 2020 (Date of initiation of special drive) to January 31, Finance Minister said 2,692 cases were booked by the officers involving GST and or ITC frauds of Rs 20,124.19 crore. This is no small figure in such a short time that too found by government agencies themselves. The amount recovered during this special drive period was Rs 857.75 crore and 282 persons were arrested. Later during the same year, 2021, the MOS for Finance admitted again that the quantum of fraud between 2020-21 and 2021-22 (till July 2021) at Rs 56,805 crore. In another reply to another question in the parliament, then Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said the income tax department has detected undisclosed income of Rs 2,223.88 crore between April-December 2020-2021 fiscal. Searches were conducted on 250 groups between April-December, 2020, and total assets seized stood at Rs 6,500.78 crore.

These were government admittance in early 2021. We are now in end of 2023. What would be the status as on date? This means fraudsters would have looted to several lacs of crores by now! What has the gov-

ernment and its tax intelligence and vigilance agencies done to curb these frauds, book them, cease and attach their assets, as on date?

Recently, early this month, Dr Amit Mitra, a leading Economist and a former State Finance Minister and currently Principal Chief Advisor to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, referred to the central government's shocking admission in the Lok Sabha that Rs 1.15 lakh crore of fraud have been detected from GST invoices between 2018-19 and 2022-23, all deducted just from GST Invoices. This is just the government detected amount on GST frauds! This is just the tip of the iceberg?

Goods and Services Tax (GST) replacing multiple tax regimes followed by the Central and State governments, majorly, Value Added Tax (VAT) or more popularly known as the erstwhile Sales Tax (ST) and Central Sales Tax (CST) was put in place from midnight of 01-Jul-2017. Both VAT and GST have the same taxation slabs. It is a comprehensive, multistage, destination-based tax: comprehensive because it has subsumed almost all the indirect taxes except a few state taxes. Multi-staged as it is, the GST is imposed at every step in the production process, but is meant to be refunded to all parties in the various stages of production other than the final consumer and as a destination-based tax, it is collected from point of consumption and not point of origin like previous taxes. In simple terms, GST is the digitized form of VAT. Since its introductions varying amendments were made to make GST as rational as possible and to make Indian Goods Tax regime compatible with the global trading processes. For instance, e-Way Bill, IntraState e-Way Bill, Reverse Charge Mechanism, QRMP Scheme and the likes to name a few that has evolved to make the GST more effective, simpler and the same time tighten the system to shoo away fraudsters and for faster detection of frauds. But all these are gone for toss in front of our great gambler fraudsters. Law breakers always

are a step ahead of the law makers! Lacks of crores are being swindled day in and day out. Government is aware of everything that is going around, but plays complacent owing to black sheeps in the system, the corrupt officials who are part of the nexus gang: officials-fraudsters-polity.

Every day we hear about GST frauds being unearthed, running into multiples of hundreds of thousands of crores. 1.15 Lakh crore is the current updated GST fraud amount as admitted by the government itself!

Dr Mitra alleged that GST frauds are proliferating across the country, happening in each and every State, on one hand and on the other that MSMEs are facing problems due to a web of regulations that is so overpowering for the MSMEs that they are on the verge of deregistering back to their informal status. Pointing to these concerning issues, Dr Amit Mitra urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to convene a GST Council meeting on priority to discuss these issues. Like Dr Mitra, everyone is deeply concerned and annoyed at the amount of the fraud amount, which would run into several lakh crores more, if those not yet detected but thronging in the system is added up.

The 'humongous' fraud taking place in the country and the suffering of the MSME in the current GST regime require a total rethink by the Centre and the GST Council on the structure and GST.

It was found 69,426 GST identification numbers verified during the last two months, 20,893 were found to be non-existent, and the amount of GST evasion detected in that period was to the tune of Rs 19,638 crore. It is to be noted with interest that out of the 1.4 crore businesses registered with GST, only 0.42 per cent of registered taxpayers were verified, which yielded the shocking 30 per cent non-existent and fraudulent registrations Dr Mitra added. In other words, since the inception of GST, year after year we have been helplessly watching massive fraud taking place in this porous GST system. The economist also drew



the union finance minister's attention to the complex web of GST that has been thrust upon the MSMEs and said that till date 770 notifications have been issued. The rates of more than 400 items of goods and around 100 categories of services have been changed till date. How the government could expect that an MSME company would be able to keep track of these hundreds of notifications and changes and still cope with this gargantuan regulatory structure?

Though the intent of GST was to bring the informal sector entrepreneurs into the formal arena through a simple and transparent GST system, the unfortunate fact is that 90 per cent of the GST is contributed by large taxpayers who can cope with this complex web of regulations. Dr Mitra's concerns are fully justified. It is imperative that the GST Council meeting is convened immediately that exclusively focuses on these two big issues and quickly find holistic and sustainable solutions

to control frauds & simplify regulations, keeping the MSMEs in mind.

The Need of the current situation is to employ Information Technology progressively and by developing a robust risk profiling mechanism that be put in place immediately to identify and monitor the whole regime, supported by appropriate actions through more challenging reforms in the tax regimes of all categories and types.

When will all these tax frauds end? Slower reforms in phases are not going to solve issues? What is needed is strong political will for implementing challenging reforms in wholesome and quickly that should make fraudsters and conniving government servants' shiver in fear. Is it asking for more from the government in the general good of the Nation and the people of the country whose hard earned money extracted by the government in the name taxes is being siphoned out by fraudsters and scammers'?