

Centre threatening fourth pillar of democracy by raiding BBC: AAP

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Central government of threatening the fourth pillar of democracy by raiding the BBC. Lashing out at the government over its actions, AAP leader Atishi said: "The BJP wants to suppress every word spoken or shown against the government. The Income Tax Raid on the BBC is an attack on the democracy of India. Media is the most important pillar of democracy, today the BJP Central government is trying to break the fourth pillar of democracy." Addressing the media, she said that this is a message to the entire media fraternity that if they show anything against the BJP and the PM, they will meet the same fate. Raising questions about the Centre's intentions behind the action, she said: "BJP banned the documentary made

social media so that no one in India is able to watch it. This was the first act of censorship by the BJP-ruled central government after the BBC's documentary on Narendra Modi." And with today's income tax raid, she alleged, that the BJP-led central government "is threatening all of us and asserting that no one, not even a globally famous organisation like the BBC can say, write, or show anything that is critical of their administration". Atishi asked the BJP to explain what image of India does it want to present to the whole world. "History is witness that you can suppress the voice of the people for some time but you cannot suppress the voice of every person forever," she said, appealing to the BJP to not intimidate the media like this, and stop tarnishing India's image in front of the world.



by BBC to prevent the country from seeing these allegations unfold. India is at number 150 out of 180 countries in the Global Index of Press Freedom, today the whole world is questioning India's democratic status." "Why has the BBC been raided? Because today, not only India but the entire world is discussing the BBC documentary. First of all, the Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled Central government got that documentary banned and removed from websites and

Delhi BJP slams AAP's Sanjay Singh for statement on L-G

NEW DELHI: Delhi BJP working president Virendra Sachdeva has said that the Aam Aadmi Party is an anti-Constitution and extra-constitutional authority party. Sachdeva said that Wednesday's statement of AAP MP Sanjay Singh that the post of Lt. Governor should be abolished, on the one hand shows his anarchic nature while on the other hand it is also an attack on the constitutional arrangements. Sachdeva said that the Aam Aadmi Party is in government in two states and it is ironical that on Tuesday Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann refused to give a clarification to the Punjab Governor on the issue of foreign training of teachers, while in Delhi MP Sanjay Singh went two steps further and demanded the abolition of the Lt. Governor's post. He said that when it comes to their rights, Delhi Chief



When it comes to their rights, Delhi CM and his party leaders start invoking the Constitution, but when the time comes to answer for their actions, they disrespect the constitutional posts" Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his party leaders start invoking the Constitution, but when the time comes to answer for their actions, they disrespect the constitutional posts.

Lawrence Bishnoi to Jaipur from Chandigarh in connection with the recent G-Club firing incident

JAIPUR: The Jaipur Commissionerate Police has brought gangster Lawrence Bishnoi to the city from Chandigarh in connection with the recent G-Club firing incident here. Jaipur police arrested Lawrence on the basis of a production warrant from Chandigarh, Punjab and brought him to Jaipur under tight police security on Wednesday night. He will now be questioned at the Jawahar Circle police station. More than 100 jawans have been deployed in and around the police station premises. Gangster Bishnoi will be taken on remand after being presented in the court through VC on Thursday. Along with the case of Lawrence demanding extortion from the G-club owner and firing 17 rounds for not paying, inquiries will also



be made against him in other cases of demanding extortion from the businessmen. The Jaipur Commissionerate Police had reached Punjab on Wednesday morning to arrest the gangster in the case. Lawrence was arrested from Punjab Jail with a production warrant after which he was made to sit in an armored vehicle from Chandigarh along with seven commandos. Four vehicles of police personnel from Punjab also accompanied the armored vehicle. The Jaipur Commissionerate Police returned to Jaipur with him around 7.30 p.m on Wednesday night. Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi will be questioned at Jawahar Circle police station.

In day light dacoity Rs. 22 lac looted from the Punjab National Bank

JAGMOHAN SINGH Amritsar In a day light dacoity Rs. 22 lakh looted from the Maclod Road Branch of Punjab National Bank here today. The branch of the Bank is just one hundred meters away from the office of Deputy Commissioner of Police.

Tejashwi Yadav meet Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal to discuss opposition unity

PATNA: Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav met Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the national capital on Tuesday to discuss various matters, including opposition unity for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. An RJD spokesperson said that Tejashwi Yadav and Kejriwal discussed current social and political issues as well as state of the economy at the meeting at the latter's official residence. "The two leaders also raised concerns over the BJP government which is putting the national assets in the hands of private players. Tejashwi Yadav appeared to all the



people to work together to save the country," the spokesperson said. "The AAP has governments in two states - Delhi and Punjab - as well as some MLAs in Gujarat and Goa. Recently, Kejriwal was seen in Telangana with opposition leaders including state Chief Minister and BRS chief K. Chandrashekhar Rao, Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav, and those of the Left parties.

BJP in Haryana prepares road-map to form govtt third time

Chief Minister Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar as well as all BJP ministers as well as leaders in Haryana state has started preparations for coming 2024 Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha polls to form BJP government in the state as well as in centre third time. In two days meeting held at Bhiwani in which all prominent party leaders were present a roadmap for victory in both 90 Vidhan Sabha and 10 Lok Sabha seats was also prepared. After Rahul Jodi Yatra' concluded in Srinagar, HPCC president Uday Bhan and the former Haryana CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda also leader of opposition in Haryana Vidhan Sabha announced to conduct a two-months-long 'Haath-se-



Haath Jodo Abhiyan' in order to be nearer to the voters in the state and preparing for the 2024 Lok Sabha as well as Vidhan Sabha polls. Hooda said, as a follow up 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', the state unit of Congress will conduct 'Haath Se Haath Jodi Yatra' for a mass connect ahead of the state assembly polls. Meanwhile, Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) leader and former leader of opposition Abhay Singh Chautala too has announced a state-wide seven-month long 'Yatra' dubbed as 'Parivartan Rally' to cover all the 90 Vidhan Sabha constituencies likely to start on February 20 from Nuh and conclude on September 25, the birth anniversary of INLD founder Choudhary Devi Lal. According to information, INLD has formed a nine-member committee to work out all the modalities and prepare a route map hoping to bring party in power in the state once again. According to a party's senior leader, February 20 is celebrated

Had Cong given development and employment in Kashmir, then youths would not taken up arms: Anil Vij

SATISH HANDA Ambala Taking a dig at the Congress, Haryana Home and Health Minister Anil Vij said that had the Congress done development in Kashmir or given employment to the youths, then youths would not taken up arms. He was talking to media persons at his camp office Ambala, while pointing at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that Rahul Gandhi does not know what is required in Kashmir and said that Kashmir needs development and the BJP government is doing development in Kashmir, whenever there is development somewhere there are small discontinuity, promote all activities by ruling government including wiping out corruption in government offices in the state and arrested large number of employees including senior officers involved in corrupt practices. Dhankar said that not only corruption, ruling BJP government has brought transparency in working in government offices which is not visible to political leaders in opposition.



'Yatra' politics in Haryana to uproot ruling BJP-JJP govt

SATISH HANDA Ambala After 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' by Rahul Gandhi of Congress, various other political parties are now holding their 'Yatras' in Haryana state to attract vote bank in 2024 polls in the state as well as attract headlines in the newspapers. 'Jan Jagriti Yatra' started by independent MLA from Mehan Vidhan Sabha constituency in the state Balraj Kundu started from Nangal Chaudhary in Mahendergarh district on January 26 with an ambitious to uproot ruling BJP-JJP government in the state arrived here on 22nd day was welcomed. Whereas on the other hand, Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) also planning a similar



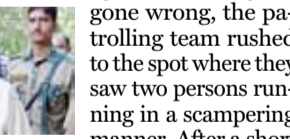
event of a foot march by party's Chief General Secretary Abhay Singh Chautala announced to start on February 20 from Nuh which will conclude on September 25, the birth anniversary of INLD ideologue Ch. Devi Lal, former Deputy Prime Minister. Haryana Congress State President Uday Bhan and leader of

opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda are also holding two-month-long 'Haath se Haath Jodo Abhiyan' all over in the state hoping to have victory in 2024 polls. Kundu, while addressing media persons as well as public meetings said the 'yatra' aims to uproot the incumbent BJP-JJP government ruling in the state.

Delhi : Father-son duo held for robbing Rs 11L by impersonating as CBI officers

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police have arrested a man and his son for allegedly impersonating as CBI officers and robbing a bag containing Rs 11 lakh in the national capital, an official said on Friday. The accused have been identified as Mohd Intzar (46) and his 19-year-old son Mohd Yusuf, both residents of Shaheen Bagh.

lice team was patrolling near the Sarai Kale Khan flyover on Tuesday when they heard a person shouting "chor-chor". "Sensing that something had gone wrong, the patrolling team rushed to the spot where they saw two persons running in a scampering manner. After a short chase, both of them were apprehended," said Rajesh Deo, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast).



Hindu pilgrims raise slogans before leaving for the Katas Raj Temple in Pakistan to celebrate the upcoming Maha Shivratri festival at the Durgiana Temple in Amritsar on Thursday. PHOTO: PRABHJOT GILL

Home Minister introduces 'Rashtrapati Colour Badges' to 'Dhakad' Police Officers in Haryana

SATISH HANDA Ambala During recent visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Karnal, he honored Haryana police at Madhuban with President Badge for its excellent services identifying Haryana police as 'Dhakad'. Now Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij too has introduced 'Rashtrapati Colour Badge' for police men in Haryana state having excellent service record and honored Inspector Naresh Kumar of Ambala Cantt police station with this badge identifying him a 'Dhakad' police officer.



While interacting media persons at PWD Rest House Ambala Cantt after honoring Inspector Naresh Kumar Anil Vij proudly said that Haryana is 10th state in the country honored with 'Rashtrapati Flag' for providing excellent services in past 25 years and in future such 'Rashtrapati Badges' will be offered to all police personnel from the rank of a policeman to Director General Police offering excellent services by the state government. Anil Vij said that Congress should come prepared to attend coming Vidhan Sabha budget session since ruling government in the state if fully prepared to answer their quarries since their leaders are in the habit of raising but and why questions

during Vidhan Sabha session which not only waste time but also indicate that they are not mentally prepared as well as also harmful for democratic decisions in the session. Vij said that people are very happy over frequent 'Janta Durbar' being organized to listen and solve public grievances immediately and now for public convenience decision has been taken to listen to the grievances of people arriving from all over Haryana and those belonging to Ambala Vidhan Sabha constituency on separate days on second Saturday and fourth Saturday respectively. While having a talk with media persons Home Minister Anil Vij told that decision has been taken by the state government that now old range police personnel like Ambala, Hisar and Karnal will get promotion at par with the police personnel of Gurugram and Faridabad. He disclosed that about 4560 new posts have been created to remove the disparity in promotion among police personnel. He said that police personnel from the old ranges like Ambala, Hisar and Karnal were left far behind in promotion, while the personnel posted in Gurugram and Faridabad became Inspectors from Havaldars. Vij said that it was a very old demand of these police personnel that they should also be brought at par with the promoted police personnel, besides approval for 4560 new posts.

60 cows poisoned to death mystery solves with 4 arrests 2 yet absconding

SATISH HANDA Karnal CIA Staff of Karnal police solved the mystery of death of 60 cows in a 'gaushala' at village Phosgarh in Karnal district in which 46 cows were found lying dead and many more were found unconscious struggling for life during night January 26-27 this year when a team of doctors was called to find out the reason of death of such a large number of cows. Finding foam coming out from the mouth of deceased animals the doctors' team suspected that cows died perhaps due to poison, assuming that during spray of some poisonous pesticide on the green cattle feed crop in the agriculture



farm might be the reason for the death of cows. However, news of the incident spread across the state when Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar ordered immediate investigation in this case in his home district. Karnal police took into custody the dealer

'gaushala' at a lonely place near the 'gaushala' with JCB during mid night recently and informed police which arrested four persons taken into possession by villagers, whereas two persons had managed to flee in dark. The arrested persons handed over to the police were identified as Vishal resident of Deha Basti Shahabad, Rajan resident of Mangal Colony Karnal, Suraj resident of Jhuggi Colony Jammu, and Sonu a resident of Deha Colony Ambala Cantt, whereas remaining two persons of the gang managed to abscond were identified as Amar a resident of Deha Colony Shahabad and Amit Pradhan a contractor usually lifting dead animals.

IndusInd Bank invests 140cr in Sushma group's commercial projects

KULBIR SINGH KALSII Chandigarh Chandigarh based North India's leading real estate developer Sushma Group has announced on Tuesday that IndusInd bank has funded 140 Crores for its commercial projects. The funds will be divided between two projects, Sushma Capital and Sushma Pristine. IndusInd Bank has committed 50 Cr to Sushma Capital, of which 25 Cr is in fresh funding, and 25 Cr has been earmarked for the takeover of an existing funding from DMI Finance. Additionally, IndusInd Bank has committed 90 Cr in fresh funding for Sushma Pristine.

New foreign trade dynamics call for sharp responses

India's goods exports, a key driver of its growth impulses and a major job creator, got off to a disappointing start in 2023. Merchandise shipments fell 6.6 percent year-on-year to \$32.91 billion in January. While this is the second month of contracting exports, the dip is more than double the 3 percent drop in December 2022 and marks a sharp 13.6 percent sequential decline. Along with an anticipated post-Christmas cooling off in demand, order books probably took a hit as much from actual slowing of economic activity as buyers' wary assessments about consumer confidence levels, with the new year kicking off amid a pall of gloom and doom on the global economic outlook. Engineering exports fell 10 percent; pharma products lost momentum as did 14 other products out of India's top 30 export items, including jewellery and textiles. The silver lining is that imports dipped too, bringing the goods trade deficit to a 12-month low of just \$17.75 billion, a far cry from the \$25-odd billion averaged in each of the previous six months and the record \$29.23 billion gap of September 2022. If this trend holds, India's current account deficit for 2022-23 may end up lower than the uncomfortable 3 percent-plus levels of GDP projected by most agencies. Yet, the drop in imports during January suggests domestic demand growth is fading. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has rightly flagged concerns about Indian exporters' prospects this year amid global slowdown fears. Her prescription that exporters keep closer tabs on developments in different markets to avoid being "demotivated" is also spot on. Amid the overall headwinds, trends are diverging in key markets. Industry bodies and the government must work in tandem to tap shrinking opportunities better and help exporters move across this river of uncertainty by feeling the pebbles along the way.

LETTERBOX

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“The golden rule for every business man is put yourself in your customer's place.”
— Orison Swett Marden

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DR PS VOHRA

India has become more dependent on China now

It is a matter of immense pride that India has become the fifth largest economy in the world and it seems with some degree of certainty that leaving Germany and Japan behind is not going to be a herculean task. At present, the Indian economy is slightly less than 4 billion US dollars and the economy of Germany and Japan is just over 4 billion US dollars. That's why it seems possible that in the next few years, India will definitely make its mark as the third largest economy of the world. But the path ahead of US and China would be very difficult for India because even today China is 6 times bigger than the Indian economy, whereas America is 8 times. Since China comes from the continent of Asia and according to the size of the population, it has the same challenges like us, so many times it appears that the competition with China is little bit easier, but in reality it is a biased thinking.

The fact is China has dominated India a lot in global trade because India's imports are increasing continuously with China. According to data from a reliable source, India's imports with China have more than doubled in the last 10 years. In 2012, India imported about 39.3 billion US dollars from China, while in the first 9 months of 2022, the import figure was around 90 billion US dollars. It is clear from the above account that India's dependence on China is continuously increasing. In this context, one thing also emerges that since the size of the Indian economy is increasing continuously, it is justified to increase the imports continuously and this is a positive trend for the development of the economy. But statistics also show that India's imports have increased by 46 percent in the last 10 years, while India's imports with China have increased by 127 percent. Certainly this fig-



ure is shocking and also raises the question whether the ever-increasing dependence on China is appropriate for India according to international diplomacy?

For the past many years, India's international trade with China has been continuously running into losses as exports have remained the same. During the year 2021, India's trade deficit with China was equal to 70 billion US dollars, in which imports were more than 97 billion US dollars, while exports were only 25 billion US dollars. The reason for concern is that in the current financial year till now, imports have increased by 44 percent and exports have decreased by 30 percent. For this reason, the trade deficit with China is likely to be around 100 billion US dollars in the current financial year, which can also be seen as 25 billion US dollars per quarter. In this context, it is also necessary to mention that India's military and defence budget was 73 billion US dollars in the year 2021 and 76 billion US in the year 2022. This automati-

cally explains that India is paying more to China in the form of deficit in international trade than what it is spending on its army and defence. This situation is also a major challenge in moving towards self-reliant India. In the midst of all this, when some mobile applications of China were banned by India, it seemed that the youth of India would achieve a new position by adopting entrepreneurship in this field, but the situation still remains contradictory.

India mainly gives priority to capital goods while importing from China which are increasingly used by Indian industries in the construction sector, energy sector and in the nuclear sector. For the last many years, the import of capital goods from China is witnessing an increase of 4 percent every year. On the other hand, this figure is also very surprising that in the last financial year, there has been an increase of 37 percent in the import of various electronic and electrical products and it is clear that under the consumption of smartphones in the Indian

market, China imported raw materials and spare parts are the only contributor. This fact is also definitely a big hindrance towards the self-reliance that India gets through "Make in India", "Digital India" and "Startup India". Heavy machinery, chemicals are major contributors to other major imports from China. In the midst of all this, the question also arises whether India's imports from China are comparatively cheaper than other countries?

Now it is absolutely crystal clear that India's dependence on China is very high and it is also increasing continuously. The relative economic performance of the two economies proves that China is at a much better position in the international division of labor than India. And obviously, China is in a very good position in the manufacturing sector. The contribution of the Indian manufacturing sector to the economy is not increasing beyond 15-16 per cent, while the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC) was set up by the government in the year 2006 with the sole objective of increasing the contribution of the manufacturing sector to around 25 percent in the Indian economy. Similarly, in 2014, when «Make in India» was launched with much excitement, the objective was to increase the contribution of the manufacturing sector to the economy. In this regard, it can only be regretted that economic policies have not made desired changes at the ground level to encourage India's manufacturing sector, as a result of which today, on one hand, this sector is facing the ever-increasing unemployment problem in India and, on the other hand, the demand related to this sector in the country has to be imported because domestic production is available in very limited quantity.

Dr. P.S. Vohra, Academician, Financial Thinker & Newspaper Columnist, Views are personal



DR. SRIDHAR KUNDU

Union Budget and its response to Agriculture

Agriculture has remained the backbone of India's economy. The share of agriculture and allied sector in total Gross Value Added (GVA) has witnessed a declining trend. In 1950, the share was 65 percent and came down to 17 percent of GVA (at 2011-12 constant prices) in 2022.

Even with this lower share, the agriculture, and allied sectors, today provide the largest share of employment in the country. According to the PLFS report 2020-21, about 50 percent of rural households earn their livelihood from agriculture. These rural households constitute 39 percent as self-employed and the rest, 11 percent as casually employed in agriculture. The agriculture sector has its own importance because of its connection with people's lives. It has the capacity to absorb the surplus labour force during an economic slowdown, though the sector employed this labour force at a smaller wage rate.

Agriculture is dominated by the private sector as land, the primary input in the production process is mostly owned by private individuals. However, it is one of the poorest private sectors in the country. A larger section, i.e., above 70 percent of rural agriculture households possess a land size of less than 1 hectare. Many cultivators are also landless. Above 50 percent of poor households live on agriculture as their primary source of income. This adds to the necessity of government interventions to provide basic inputs such as power, irrigation, seed, fertilizer, machinery, bank credit, etc.

Agriculture is a state subject. Because of its connection with society and the economy,



the union government intervenes to support the state in the development of the sector. In 2016-17, total union government spending was Rs.44,230 crores and it increased to Rs.1.32 lakh crores in 2023-24(BE). The annual average growth of union government spending on the sector between 2016-17 and 2023-24 is 19.5 percent.

A major push of union public spending took place in 2019-20 when the budget allocation became almost doubled from its previous year. Total union spending on agriculture here includes only spending under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoAFW) and, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy (MoFAD). The union government also spends on irrigation and fertilizer subsidies which fall under the other ministries contributing to the agriculture sector's development.

The priority of the sector in the union budget has not significantly changed in the last decade. As a share of the total union budget, in 2016-17, the spending on agriculture was 2.2 percent and it increased to 3.9 percent in 2019-20. Since 2019-20, the share follows a declining trend, and it came down to 2.9 percent in 2023-24(BE). In 2021-22 and 2022-23(RE), the share was 3.3 percent

and 3 percent respectively.

The total budgetary provision under the MoAFW and the MoFAD in 2023-24(BE) was Rs. 1.16 lakh crores and Rs. 9,500 crores respectively. Compared to the previous year i.e. 2022-23(RE), the union spending under these two ministries has gone up by 4.8 percent and 9.8 percent respectively.

The total budget allocation for the MoAFW is further divided into two departments namely, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DoAFW) and the Department of Agriculture Research (DARE). A larger share of total funds allocation goes towards the DoAFW. In 2023-24(BE), this share is 92 percent. The rest 8 percent i.e. about Rs. 9,500 crores, goes to the DARE. In 2016-17, this share was 13.4 percent and over the years, it has followed a diminishing trend.

The DoAFW spends the allocated budget on various development schemes related to the agriculture sector. PMKisan, a universal direct cash transfer scheme for the farmers, has a budgetary allocation of Rs. 60,000 crores, which is about 52 percent of the total budget of the DoAFW in 2023-24(BE). However, there is a reduction in budgetary allocation of about Rs.8,000 crores under this head compared to 2022-23(BE) but, the provision in 2023-24(BE) equalizes with the same in 2022-23(RE). Besides PMKisan, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Interest subsidy to farmers are two other major expenditure heads that constitute about 32 percent of the total budget allocation under the DoAFW. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and Rashtriya Krishionnati Yojana are two centrally sponsored schemes that constitute about 12.3 percent of the total allocation for DoAFW in 2023-24(BE).

There is a 39 percent rise in budgetary allocation under the MoFAD in 2023-24(BE) from 2022-23(RE). Within this Ministry, the Department of Fisheries got a budgetary allocation of Rs. 2249 crores in 2023-24(BE) compared to Rs. 1624 crores in 2022-23(BE) which is a rise of over 38 percent. About 90 percent of the total allocation under the Department of Fisheries goes towards the Pradhan Mantri MatsyaSampad Yojana i.e. Rs. 2000 crores in 2023-24 (BE).

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DoAHD) which fall under the MoFAD received a budgetary allocation of Rs. 4328 crores in 2023-24(BE). In 2022-23(BE), the allocation was Rs. 3105 crores. The rise of allocation in 2023-24 is about 40 percent. A major share of the total budget allocation under DoAHD, i.e. about Rs. 2350 crores in 2023-24(BE) goes towards the central sector scheme Livestock Health and Disease Control Program. Two centrally sponsored schemes, Rashtriya Gokul Mission and National Livestock Mission received an allocation of Rs. 600 crores and Rs. 410 crores respectively.

The union budget 2023-24 has covered a wide range of aspects related to the agriculture and allied sector and has tried to give a harder push to the fishery and animal husbandry. However, the spread of the sector and its connection with life and livelihood expects higher priority in the union budget. The research and innovation for the agriculture and allied sector need more emphasis to accelerate the pace of growth and, enable its diversity, and productivity.

Dr. Sridhar Kundu, Bharti Institute of Public Policy, Indian School of Business, Mohali, Punjab

BOOKS: REVIEW

Celebrated author Dr Sabarna Roy comes out with new book

Decorated Author Dr Sabarna Roy's latest book titled, *Thirty Summer Poems and Conversations about a Murder*, is due for a March 2023 release. This book is intense, morbid, stark, realistic, thought-provoking, and unputdownable.

The poems wind around the psychology and thought process that most human beings experience, at some point in life as they trudge along its path.

A book for a matured reader, it makes for a serious read and may not be enjoyed by someone who is looking for some light-hearted fun read to relax with! However, it does not cater to any specific age group.

The prose is precise, exciting and has all the elements a detective story should have, despite its short

length. Dr Sabarna Roy, the author of 9 critically acclaimed fictional works – covering novellas, short-stories, plays, conversations, opinion pieces, journal entries, ballads, and poesies – and 3 technical works, was also working as the Senior Vice President [Business Development] at Electrosteel Castings Limited, Kolkata.

At the age of 55, Dr Roy has made a major career shift in his life. He has now joined The Sandur Manganese & Iron Ores Limited at their Bengaluru Corporate Office in the capacity of DI Business Head – Sales & Marketing.

A technocrat by profession, Dr Roy's keen observations and detailed sketches of the human mind shine through his literature, proving him to be a literary scientist of sorts who follows no conventions

'I am now concentrating on a thick contemporary political novel, which is likely to be published in the winter of 2024-25. Although a section of my readers is glued to my poetry, I love writing prose more than poems'

when it comes to soulful writing.

Meanwhile, Dr Roy's latest epistolary novel, *Tara and Sandy: Slow Dance of Infinite Stars*, written along with Sita Bhaskar has taken the market by storm.



Thirty Summer Poems and Conversations about a Murder By Dr Sabarna Roy Status: Yet to be published

It is a book of letters exchanged between two school friends who briefly meet at the airport and exchange their mail addresses and years later they start writing to each other. It is a beautifully crafted book where letters go back and forth. Tara and Sandy exchange and share their life stories interspersed with philosophy, bad marriage and relationships. In an age where letter writing has gone out of style, this book brings in fresh breath of air.

Dr Roy says, "I am now concentrating on a thick contemporary political novel, which is likely to be published in the winter of 2024-25. Although a section of my

readers is glued to my poetry, I love writing prose more than poems."

Roy has been awarded Honorary Doctor of Arts by Azteca University, Chalco, Mexico for his contribution to Post-modern Literature in Indian English writing, on July 28, 2022 in the Convocation Ceremony of the University.

In July beginning, Sabarna Roy was awarded the Most Iconic Author of the Year, 2022 under the Pillars of Indian Economy [Punjab Chapter] by Government of Punjab.

Sabarna Roy's ninth literary work was published in the winter of 2022. It is an epistolary novel written jointly with his editor and friend, Sita Bhaskar. The Foreword of this book was written by Maithili Rao, who is a film critic and the author of Smita Patil: A Brief Incandescence. Her new book *Millennial Women in Bollywood: A New Brand* is due for publication in 2022.

