

# The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

## Smartphones & empowerment

Punjab takes the tried-and-tested route for now

THE electoral consequences of distributing freebies have been dramatic: Naveen Patnaik has won four consecutive elections, while Nitish Kumar, Raman Singh and Shivraj Chouhan accomplished hat-tricks. There was therefore no earthly reason for Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh to have not delivered on the lowest-hanging pre-poll fruit of smartphones, now that five lakh jobs per year and eradicating opioid consumption are not easily achievable objectives for the state government. The party, after all, has to deliver on some promises in order to be fighting fit for the Lok Sabha elections.

The AAP's state of continuous meltdown and the credibility crises of the Badals leave the field open for the Congress. Nothing less than a sweep will keep the CM's chair secure for the Captain. No stranger to sudden twists in political destinies, the Captain would also be aware that his loss in the 2007 state Assembly elections was also because he may have promised fewer freebies than the rival Akalis. This was the time when the blurring began taking place between welfare freebies like subsidised grain, water or power and consumer durable freebies, of which Tamil Nadu was a pioneer. Karunanidhi's combo of heavily-subsidised rice and TVs in 2006 metastasised into Jayalalithaa's fan, mixie and washing machine. It didn't matter that a quarter of them didn't work and many were sold across the border in neighbouring states.

Once post-poll distribution of consumer durables was sanctified by court judgments and repeat electoral wins, the debate over morality of non-merit goods being financed from public money is all but over. But as the 40,000 students who will receive the first lot of free smartphones will realise, freebies are a temporary solution to the larger problem. Till then, they can claim to have been digitally empowered since the Net is accessed the most on smartphones and the Captain can assert that smartphones are merit goods. But, as the Congress realised in Andhra, it cannot beat anti-incumbency without attending to the basics, especially primary healthcare, education and the farm sector. Punjab has a great distance to cover on those fronts.

## Transferring Punjab teachers

Rollback of disruptive policy a huge relief

THE demon of transfers that has always been lurking behind Punjab Government schoolteachers has been exorcised. The Punjab Cabinet has approved the long-sought online teacher transfer policy. Unless facing a complaint or performing poorly, now a teacher could broadly remain in one place of posting throughout his/her career. The decision comes as a huge relief and paves the way for the educators to concentrate on doing their main job — of teaching children — well. The shifting of staff has its merits but frequent relocations do have a disruptive effect on their life. Postings as a vindictive tool are not unheard of and have a detrimental upshot on the quality of teaching. Besides, the tutor-taught bond takes time to build. A crack in it can cost a sensitive child's education dearly. It cannot be overlooked.

Now, with this deficiency apparently addressed, the tutors should have at least one reason less to be out in the streets: there was a sharp spike in such protests in the last year, ever since the policy of compulsory transfers every seven years was introduced. The exercise was a potent breeding ground for corruption as it would have led to a scramble for choice postings by over one lakh teachers regularly. The new policy is designed to goad the teachers to do their best for the children.

The applicants for transfer will be evaluated by marks that have been allocated for academic performance, merit in the zone, remote area postings and extracurricular activities. The abysmal results of students in board exams have been attributed to lopsided teacher deployment, among other myriad problems. A strict and transparent implementation of the new rule should ensure an optimal teacher-student ratio in every school, right up to the border and in the interior areas. It is a test as much for the educators as the authorities since efforts to bend the rules often make a mockery of the best of intentions. The ultimate aim should be to make government schools so attractive that they also become the first choice for every educator's child.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

No race can prosper till it learns there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem. — Booker T Washington

### ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

## The Tribune.

LAHORE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1919

### Fiscal Autonomy for India.

AT the last session of the Congress at Delhi as well as at the Industrial Conference, a unanimous demand was made for the grant of fiscal autonomy to India. Several speakers pointed out that without fiscal autonomy all other reforms would be ineffectual. Unfortunately neither the Montagu-Chelmsford report on political reforms nor the Industrial Commission's report has discussed this important question. When an honest attempt is being made to set India on the road to self-government, the authorities should make an equally open declaration in regard to the economic independence of India. Mr. Montagu has stated that India's fiscal relations are to be determined in connection with the decision of the Imperial trade policy. But why should India be singled out for this purpose when the other parts of the Empire — notably Canada — have refused to abide by any Imperial policy in this respect?

### Political importance of Indian Mussalmans.

IN our leading article we have drawn attention to that part of the Presidential address of the Hon. Mr. Fazl-ul-Haq at the annual meeting of the Muslim League at Delhi in which he deals with the Hindu-Muslim question in the spirit of true statesmanship, of absolute freedom from prejudice and racial feeling. There are other fine things in the address, such as his strong and energetic protest against restrictive measures like the Arms Act, the Press Act and the Defence of India Act, and his manly plea for the introduction of complete responsible government in India as early as may be found practicable. Unfortunately there are a few stray passages in the address which do not seem to us to be altogether compatible with other parts of the address, and with which we cannot certainly agree.

# Let it be year of farm reforms

It's raining 'cash schemes' for farmers, but it won't help in the long term



DEVINDER SHARMA

FOOD & AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST

FOR four years in a row, Pradeep Sharma, a potato grower from Agra district in UP, has been suffering losses. Cultivating potatoes in 10 acres this year, he brought 19,000 kg to the mandi, only to get a profit of Rs 490 after selling his entire produce. In anger, he sent his paltry earnings to the Prime Minister, thinking perhaps 'he will come to understand my problems'. A few days earlier, an MP farmer, Bherulal Malviya, had died of shock after selling his 27,000 kg of onions for just Rs 10,000 in Mandsaur market.

Such distressing media reports depicting the misery of the farming community have hogged headlines for some time now. With losses mounting over the years, farmers have been literally surviving on loans, taking credit from both formal and informal sources. As of September 2016, Rs 12.60 lakh crore was the outstanding agricultural loan. Compare this with the average income of Rs 20,000 per year in 17 states, roughly half the country, the desolation is clear.

Picture the agrarian distress that prevails in the ongoing debate over whether farm loan waiver is the right answer to address farmers' woes, and secondly, how will the state governments bear the fiscal burden? The speed at which the newly elected Chief Ministers of MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have announced waivers soon after assuming office, questions are being asked about the 'economic viability' of an otherwise 'politically sound' measure. The bigger question being tossed around is: Where will the money come from?

It doesn't end here. After Telangana launched the trend-setting Rythu Bandhu programme providing a fixed



FOR REAL: Agrarian crisis is staring us in the face. We need to get to the bottom of it.

If the government can provide 7,000 steps for ease of doing business, why can't it do so for ease of doing agriculture?

amount of Rs 8,000 per acre (now raised to Rs 10,000) per year as direct income support to farmers, it has triggered a chain reaction among states to announce similar or improved versions of financial aid. First, the erstwhile Congress government in Karnataka came up with similar package to provide Rs 5,000 per hectare to dry-land farmers. After the recent electoral debacle in the Hindi heartland, and fearing the Congress and BJP's promise to waive farm loans if voted to power, and obviously in an effort to woo farmers ahead of the forthcoming Assembly elections, Odisha declared an economic package. Instead of a waiver, it announced a Rs 10,180-crore package for three years under the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) programme for land-owning farmers, tenant farmers as well as landless labourers and sharecroppers. This will benefit 57 lakh households.

Jharkhand was quick to follow it up with Rs 2,250-crore schemes to help 22.76 lakh small and marginal farmers with Rs 5,000 per acre, per year, with an upper limit of 5 acres. And while Haryana is contemplating a pension scheme for farmers, West Bengal has

come up with the Krishak Bandhu Scheme, under which a farmer will get support of Rs 10,000 per acre, per year. It will provide a life insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh per farmer, irrespective of the cause, for farmers between the age of 18 and 60. The premium will be paid by the state government.

After Chhattisgarh announced the waiver, Rs 1,248 crore has already been transferred to accounts of 3.5 lakh farmers in the first phase, waiving a maximum of Rs 2 lakh each. In Punjab, despite the slow progress, 4.14 lakh small and marginal farmers, who had defaulted on cooperative and commercial banks, have got a waiver of about Rs 3,500 crore. For the country as a whole, a total of Rs 2.3 lakh crore of farm loans announced by Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu will benefit an estimated 3.4 crore farm families.

Compare this with corporate loan write-offs. According to the RBI, in the four-year period between April 2014 and April 2018, Rs 3.16 lakh crore has been written off, while only Rs 32,693 crore of the outstanding amount has been recovered. As on

September 30, 2018, besides the PSUs, there were only 528 borrowers who had NPAs of Rs 6.28 lakh crore, while only 95 of them had defaults exceeding Rs 1,000 crore. While no questions are being asked about the 'economic viability' of the write-offs of a handful of corporate waivers, a lot of heat is being generated over farm loans.

Meanwhile, gross NPAs have increased by a whopping 11.2 per cent, reaching Rs 10.39 lakh crore in 2017-18, and only Rs 40,400 crore have been recovered through the much-touted Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and Sarfaesi Act. The surge in NPAs is happening despite providing an economic stimulus of Rs 18.60 lakh crore to the industry in the past decade. It was in 2008-09 that the government started a stimulus package of Rs 1.86 lakh crore to the industry at the time of global economic meltdown in 2008-09, a package that still continues. In simple terms, the industry is getting a direct income support every year.

Considered to be 'less distorting' than farm loan waivers, reports indicate that the Centre is looking at the possibility of providing a direct income support of Rs 4,000 to farmers. Estimates point that it will cost the exchequer Rs 2 lakh crore. While this may appear big, the fact is that Rs 4,000 a year is less than Rs 340 a month, almost equal to the price of two cups of coffee/tea at a trendy shop. If Rs 340 per month is considered to be an appropriate financial sop for the beleaguered farming community, it only shows the extent of deprivation and income inequality that prevails.

While loan waivers are an economic necessity and governments will have to find adequate resources, direct income support is not a permanent solution. Agriculture needs robust reforms in addition to the immediate sops. If the government can provide 7,000 steps, both small and big, for ease of doing business, there is no reason why a similar amount of initiatives cannot be considered for ease of doing agriculture. After all, it involves 52 per cent of the population. There lies the perfect economic prescription for 'Sabka saath, sabka vikas'.

# For the loss of a reason..

MR ANAND

RECENTLY there was a hue and cry against the decision of the IIT-Madras management to have a separate kitchen, utensils and dining area for vegetarian students. Non-vegetarians were up in arms, calling the decision an insult inflicted on them by upper-caste people. How did caste consideration come into the picture? There are vegetarians among lower castes and non-vegetarians among upper castes. Separate places for vegetarians and non-vegetarians is not segregation carried out on caste basis. It is not that separate classroom or desks are allotted to vegetarians, all of whom supposedly belong to the upper caste.

The line that divides people into vegetarians and non-vegetarians cuts through castes, religions and even countries. Vegetarians, in general, are so sensitive that the mere sight of non-vegetarian stuff causes in them a loss of appetite. Their sentiments get hurt as they cannot help thinking about what the animals, whose flesh and bones lie in plates in front of them, must have undergone. It looks and smells different. To compel vegetarians to share the table with people eating non-vegetarian food is cruel. How can tigers and goats dine together!

Staunch vegetarians are anxious to know that what they are supplied is 100 per cent vegetarian. When both kinds of food items are cooked in a common kitchen, using same uten-

sils, there is a possibility of mix-up. There is no 'pure' non-vegetarian, but there are 'pure' vegetarians. Non-vegetarians will not mind if they find a vegetable piece in their dish. But if the converse happened with vegetarians, it would cause great stress and fill their hearts with guilt.

As for seating arrangement, vegetarians are not pushing non-vegetarians away. They just withdraw themselves to a corner to have their food peacefully, leaving their non-vegetarian brethren to have theirs passionately.

Moreover, it often happens with common dining halls in colleges that vegetarians are laughed at and joked about. Students also indulge in pranks, like throwing pieces of non-vegetarian dishes on plates. I came across a cam-

pus incident in which senior boys tried to force a chicken piece into the mouth of a junior vegetarian student.

As if all North Indians are 'herbivorous' and all South Indians 'carnivorous', a crooked angle of the North vs South is being attributed to the issue, also since a majority of students who stood for the bifurcation of the mess happened to be from the North.

Previously, Brahmins were accused of oppressing lower castes and were hated. Now, this community in the South stands shrunken and withdrawn to a corner, with its back to the wall. Yet, it gets dragged into all kinds of class clashes and is flogged. It is not enough not to stand against the so-called oppressed caste people. You should not also stand apart and alone.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Judiciary vs executive

Refer to the editorial 'Modi's Ram temple card' (Jan 3); the conflict between the judiciary and the executive is not new, but instances such as the Sabarimala case judgment, where the apex court passed its verdict, but the public took matters into its own hands, are unacceptable. The Hindu community is eagerly awaiting the hearing of the temple issue. There is a possibility that the Hindu *rashtra* and *sarkar* might not arrive at a consensus on the Supreme Court's verdict, and hence, proper law enforcement is required. The country can do nothing but dream of a day when the real issues will be addressed, legislated upon and the law will stand steadfast ensuring proper enforcement.

REWANT SHARMA, PATIALA

#### Sabarimala row

Even after three months of the Supreme Court's order, allowing entry to women of all ages to the Sabarimala temple, there is no end to the tension prevailing at the place ('Two women enter Sabarimala, spark violent protests in Kerala'; Jan 3). The entry of two women at the temple has triggered greater tension, leading to the death of one person and a bandh. Justice Indu Malhotra, who was on

the Constitutional Bench of the SC that delivered the judgment, in her dissenting note did caution against the judicial review of religious faith and practices. Justice Malhotra's 'opinion' is proving right.

NARESH JOHAR, AMRITSAR

#### Temple politics

The issues being raised for the ensuing 2019 elections show once again the approach and priorities of politicians. The political ball is in the court of the people of India to see and judge what they actually want, for its relevance for being effective in the fast-changing world beyond the Indian shores and within their own country with ancient moorings. Smooth sailing has become a challenge for the common man in the turbulent contemporary world, wherein nature and environment have come under a severe strain due to the faulty implementation of development models and the acts of omission and commission of the myopic. The temple issue is not something out of place for the Indian milieu and its dynamics over the centuries. What is expected of the people is the right response. The ongoing struggle between the political and judicial spheres needs to be understood by people.

JAGVINDER SINGH BRAR, PATIALA

#### SAD dilemma

Reference to 'BJP searching desperately for new allies'; it seems that the SAD has failed to draw the first blood as Paswan's LJP has done in Bihar after Khushwaha's exit and like the Shiv Sena has gone on the offensive in Maharashtra. The SAD could neither extract much from the BJP when it was in power, diplomatically, nor could it flex its muscles after BJP's poll debacle in three Hindi heartland states. The BJP seems to be inclined towards settling the equation in the bigger states first and the SAD is resigned to its fate, as it can't even count on its current strength of Lok Sabha members.

JASHANDEEP SANDHU, PATIALA

#### Security at ATMs

Bank and ATM robberies, nowadays, have become a regular phenomenon. Despite the occurrence of many such incidents, the authorities concerned have failed to ensure foolproof security of ATMs. Strangely, nobody has ever been made accountable for even a single incident till now. The installation of ATMs appears to be a boon for robbers and bane for the police. Several theft cases are still unresolved and the police continue to grope in the dark. Concrete steps should be tak-

en to make some effective foolproof arrangements for the safety of banks and ATMs.

SANTOKH SINGH, JALANDHAR

#### Braille literacy

January 4 is the 210th birth anniversary of the Father of Braille, Sir Louis Braille, who invented the technique which became a mode of communication for millions of visually challenged around the world. This noble soul is credited with enlightening and vocationally rehabilitating visually impaired people, making them self-reliant and socially productive members of the community. Many research studies have proven that those who are more proficient in Braille are more confident, independent and highly educated and have higher employment opportunities. Apart from the Braille slate and typewriter, many electronic devices and software have been developed to promote Braille literacy. But in spite of the tremendous developments, legislation and opportunities, people with visual impairment are facing a number of difficulties in attaining higher education. Books of higher education are not available in Braille.

DR KIRAN, THE FIRST VISUALLY IMPAIRED ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, PUNJABI UNIVERSITY, PATIALA

# Surrogacy Bill reflects regressive 'family ethos'



**FLAVIA AGNES**  
WOMEN'S RIGHTS LAWYER

**P**ASSED by the Lok Sabha last month, the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill — once it becomes an Act after the Rajya Sabha's nod — will bring to a grinding halt a flourishing trade in commercial surrogacy and rob India of the title of being the international hub of surrogacy. Since commercial surrogacy is allowed only in Russia, Ukraine and the US state of California, where the costs are prohibitive, couples keen to have a child through this procedure used to flock to Indian shores and approach surrogacy centres in major cities of India. Rough estimates state that it is a \$2.3-billion industry which allowed medical practitioners to reap a rich harvest for well over two decades, without any rules and regulations governing their practice. However, it put the lives of poor women, who rented out their wombs to a surrogate couple to earn a living, at great risk due to repeated pregnancies. Their dire poverty was exploited by medical professionals who trampled upon the surrogate mother's fundamental rights. While the women earned a pittance, the professionals thrived on huge profits through this scientific innovation in the field of reproductive rights. While the surrogate parent could lay down conditions, the woman volunteering to be a surrogate had no rights

to proceed against the doctor or the couple opting for surrogacy. She had no recourse if the conditions of the contract were violated by the medical professional or the couple concerned.

These women were confined to 'hostels'; they could not meet their family during pregnancy; there was no insurance against pregnancy-related or post-partum complications. While the women could not refuse to give up the child, the surrogate parents had the option of refusing the child in case of physical or mental abnormalities.

There was indeed an urgent need for a statute to regulate this practice, wherein women gave birth in almost factory-like conditions, and secure their rights. Ironically, what we have got instead is a virtual ban on commercial surrogacy, dealing a body blow to these women's earning capacity.

The Bill bars commercial surrogacy and allows the process only in the case of close relatives for 'altruistic' reasons. While Health Minister JP Nadda termed it a 'historic' legislation, there were protests by Congress and AIADMK members during the hour-long debate in the Lok Sabha. Even those who supported the Bill expressed apprehension that it was too narrow in its scope.

As per the Bill, surrogacy can only be undertaken by a close relative as a 'labour of love' for her childless kin. While the agency can charge for its services, the woman volunteering to be a surrogate cannot be paid, as that will amount to 'commercial surrogacy', which has been declared a crime punishable with a maximum of five years' imprisonment and a fine up to Rs 10 lakh.

There are several other restrictions and prohibitions. This 'close family relative' must be in the age group of



**RENT A WOMB:** The most disturbing part of the surrogacy Bill is its conservative undertones.

There was an urgent need for a statute to regulate the practice wherein women gave birth in almost factory-like conditions. What we have got instead is a virtual ban on commercial surrogacy, dealing a body blow to these women's livelihood. The Bill cleared by the government doesn't secure their rights.

25-35 years; she should have had a child of her own; she should not have been a surrogate mother earlier. She is also prohibited from donating her own gametes (egg) for surrogacy.

There are also severe curbs on the couple opting for surrogacy. The mother and the father should be in the age group of 23-50 and 26-55, respectively. They should have been in a stable marriage for at least five years. They should not have an earlier child of their own and must be declared medically unfit to bear their own children.

The most disturbing part of the Bill is its conservative undertones, described by the Health Minister in Parliament recently as 'Indian ethos'. As per these, single women or men cannot opt for surrogacy, those who are

in stable live-in relationships, lesbians and gay couples are excluded, transgenders are out and anyone who has a child cannot opt for surrogacy, unless the child suffers from a life-threatening disease. Going by these restrictions, a Karan Johar or a Shah Rukh Khan no longer have this option.

After the historic verdict that decriminalised homosexuality and the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) judgment which awarded citizenship rights to transgenders, the Bill amounts to discrimination and may attract constitutional challenge.

The Bill also closes all avenues of providing opportunities for international surrogacy. Only Indians can opt for this procedure; foreigners and non-resident Indians (NRIs) are excluded.

A couple cannot choose the sex of the unborn child. An insurance cover is provided for the surrogate mother for 16 months to cover post-partum complications. In order to avail the same, she will have to provide a 'certification of essentiality' that is conditional to insurance coverage.

The Standing Committee had recommended that the word 'altruistic' should be replaced with 'compensation'. Altruistic surrogacy, it observed, was tantamount to exploitation.

Permitting women to provide reproductive labour for free to another person but preventing them from being paid for it is grossly unfair and arbitrary, the report stated. It further commented that altruistic surrogacy entailed high expectations from a woman willing to become a surrogate without any compensation or reward but on the basis of 'noble intentions and kindness'.

The government also ignored the recommendations of the Standing Committee, which had pointed out that since the Supreme Court recognised live-in relationships, the eligibility criterion for persons who can avail surrogacy services be expanded to include live-in couples, divorced women and widows.

The Bill now almost seems as though we are moving backward rather than forward, taking in our stride not scientific advancements and securing the rights and dignity of poor, vulnerable rural women, but the patriarchal notion of a woman's body and womb being the property of the great Indian family. The Supreme Court has clearly declared that what India needs to abide by is 'constitutional morality', not outdated modes of social morality in the name of protecting the 'Indian ethos'.

## Parallel universes of Mrinal Sen, Kader Khan

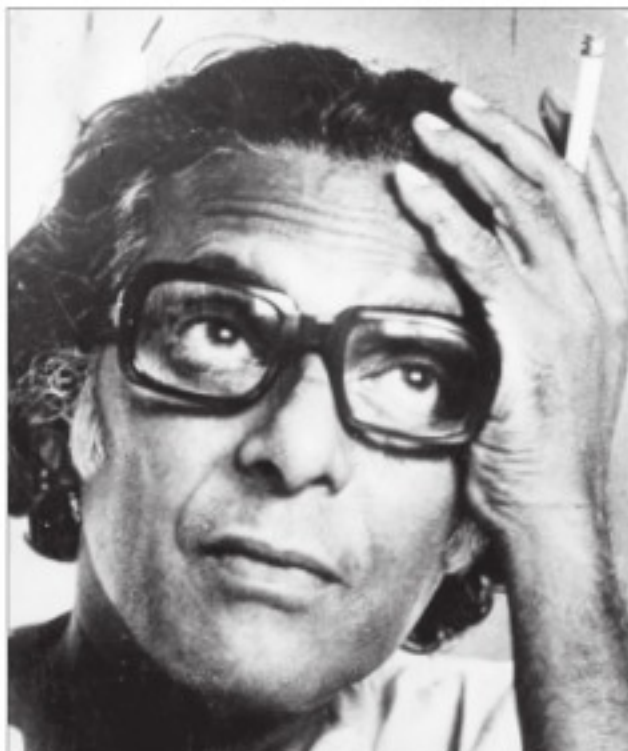


**SALIL DESAI**  
NOVELIST AND FILMMAKER

**M**RINAL Sen and Kader Khan — a most unlikely pairing! Never did their paths really cross during their illustrious careers. Sen never directed Khan, nor did the latter ever write dialogues for any of the director's films. Yet, when death claimed them in quick succession recently, one couldn't help juxtaposing the fact that they represented two completely contrasting strands of the same industry in the 1970s and 1980s — art films and commercial cinema greatly.

While pipe-smoking Sen created highly regarded, brooding, meaningful new-wave cinema, Khan was amazingly prolific both as a dialogue writer and character actor, first as a villain and then in comic roles, in innumerable commercial films for over three decades. There is no doubt that both occupied parallel universes, and yet there were two peculiar similarities with regard to their respective backgrounds. First, both were born outside India — Sen in Faridpur, located in present-day Bangladesh, and Khan in Kabul (Afghanistan). Second, both were well-qualified and did white-collar jobs before entering films. Sen post-graduated in science and took up a job as a medical representative, while Khan did a degree in civil engineering and then taught the subject at a Mumbai college.

That is where the similarity ends and the paths they took thereafter is a fascinating study of diametrically oppo-



**CHALK AND CHEESE:** Sen focused on experimentation, Khan on escapist fare.



site approaches to cinema — one focusing on escapist entertainment and the other on cinematic experimentation.

For an average moviegoer, Sen's cinema was almost anathema because of its sluggish pace, minimal dialogue, taut focus on subtle, visual storytelling and abstract, bleak or at times ambiguous subjects. It had the unmistakable intellectual imprint of the Bengal school of film-making, of which he, along with Satyajit Ray and Ritwik Ghatak, formed the 'holy trinity' for a long time. Khan's canvas, on the other hand, whether as an actor or a dialogue writer, was out-and-out formulaic Bollywood masala flicks. His real achievement lay in infusing variety and versatility and in his ability to endlessly improvise within the con-

straints of commercial entertainment and yet provide novelty in the clichés.

Sen made his directorial debut in 1955 with Bengali film *Raat Bhoire* (The Dawn) and went on to make seven more movies before gaining major national recognition with his first Hindi film, *Bhuvan Shome* (1969), starring Utpal Dutt and Suhasini Mulay. This tale of a strict government official, trapped in his own image, who goes on a bird-hunting expedition is amusing and poignant, as he morphs into a gentler, relaxed, compassionate version of himself — courtesy a petite village girl he encounters. Sen followed it up with his politically loaded Calcutta trilogy. Then came his next Hindi film, *Mrigayaa* (1976), which cap-

tures the friendship between a British administrator and a tribal youth, both fond of hunting. While the film won accolades, Sen indirectly made a lasting contribution to commercial cinema by introducing Mithun Chakraborty to Indian film audiences in the role of the tribal protagonist. His international reputation continued to soar through the late 1970s and early 1980s.

*Khandhar* (1984), which featured Shabana Azmi, Naseeruddin Shah and Pankaj Kapur, was a narrative of a sad subterfuge meant to comfort an old woman but which only heightens the sadness of the unchanged reality of her daughter's lonely existence. The crowning glory of Sen's life was the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, conferred on him in 2005. Indeed, he has left behind a remarkable body of work: 24 feature films in Bengali, Odia and Hindi, 14 shorts and five documentaries.

Khan's portfolio is equally staggering in its own way, having acted in over 300 films and written dialogues for about 250 movies. Although he had done some films earlier, his ascent started with a small character role in Yash Chopra's *Daag* (1973) and as a dialogue writer with Manmohan Desai's *Roti* (1974), both starring reigning superstar Rajesh Khanna. His ability to churn out punchy, street-smart dialogue that had the audience whistling in the aisles soon made him indispensable to all leading banners through the seventies, including sev-

eral Amitabh Bachchan films. His rich baritone and pock-marked looks catapulted him to meaty roles as a menacing villain. In the eighties, he became a permanent fixture both as an actor and script-cum-dialogue writer of South Indian remakes, starting with Jeetendra's *Himmatwala* (1983). Khan also reinvented himself as a chameleon-like character actor and even his villainy had shades of sly wit-tiness. The 1990s saw him ease wonderfully into the David Dhawan-Govinda template of earthy, screwball comedy which gave full play to Khan's flair for breezy, repartee-oriented dialogue writing as well as penchant for hilarious performances.

There is no denying that he hammed his way through more than half the films he acted in, while many of the movies he wrote dialogues for were eminently forgettable, but it is also true that Khan has left behind enough memorable work — as an actor in films such as *Do aur Do Paanch*, *Inquilaab*, *Ghar ho to Aisa* and *Bol Radha Bol* and as a dialogue writer of movies like *Amar Akbar Anthony*, *Muqaddar ka Sikandar* and *Agneepath*. He won three Filmfare Awards: two for Best Dialogue — *Meri Awaaz Suno* (1982) and *Angaar* (1993) — and one for Best Comedian in *Baap Numbri Beta Dus Numbri* (1991).

So even though Sen and Khan were as different as chalk and cheese, we must mourn them both for their handsome contribution to the magic of Indian movies.

While pipe-smoking Mrinal Sen created brooding, meaningful new-wave cinema, Kader Khan was amazingly prolific both as a dialogue writer and character actor, first as a villain and then in comic roles in innumerable commercial films for over three decades. Well-qualified, both did white-collar jobs before entering films.

### QUICK CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9			10				
12		13		14			
17		15		16		18	19
21	22						
23		24		25			
28				29			
30					31		

- ACROSS**  
1 Horrified (6)  
4 A liking (8)  
9 Show resentment (6)  
10 Fundamental (8)  
12 To converse (4)  
13 Verify (5)  
14 Likewise (4)  
17 Desperately poor (2,4,6)  
20 Quite clear (12)  
23 Close (4)  
24 Comparatively unimportant (5)  
25 Bulk (4)  
28 To set going (8)  
29 Speak ill of (6)  
30 Falling in ruins (8)  
31 Have in mind as plan (6)
- DOWN**  
1 Aspiration (8)  
2 Old family possession (8)  
3 Only (4)  
5 Liberation (12)  
6 Cipher (4)  
7 Historical records (6)  
8 Grease (6)  
11 Blindly patriotic (12)  
15 Available resources (5)  
16 Penniless (5)  
18 Tending to irritate (8)  
19 Experienced (8)  
21 Cruel (6)  
22 Salted sturgeon roe (6)  
26 Cultivate (4)  
27 Principal (4)

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**  
**Across:** 1 Set-up, 4 Supreme, 8 But, 9 Well-timed, 10 In error, 11 Fable, 13 Trophy, 15 Pledge, 18 Cedar, 19 Damning, 21 Ill humour, 23 Tug, 24 Battery, 25 Honed.  
**Down:** 1 Subsidy, 2 To the good, 3 Power, 4 Sultry, 5 Pitiful, 6 Elm, 7 Endue, 12 Badminton, 14 Hirsute, 16 Engaged, 17 Idiocy, 18 Climb, 20 Mirth, 22 Lot.

### SU DO KU

2			8			7		
				9		6		4
	4		2		1			
	6	2						3
9								7
5						2	9	
			5		8		7	
7		3		1				
		1			7			9

V. HARD

### CALENDAR

**JANUARY 4, 2019 FRIDAY**

- Vikrami Samvat 2075
- Shaka Samvat 1940
- Posh Shaka 14
- Posh Parvishite 20
- Hijari 1440
- Krishan Paksh Tithi 14, up to 4.58 am
- Vridhi Yoga up to 1.50 am
- Jyeshtha Nakshatra up to 12.53 pm
- Moon enters Sagittarius sign 12.53 pm

### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

7	4	6	9	3	1	8	2	5
9	3	5	8	2	7	4	1	6
1	2	8	5	4	6	9	3	7
5	1	3	2	9	4	7	6	8
2	9	7	3	6	8	5	4	1
6	8	4	1	7	5	2	9	3
3	6	9	7	8	2	1	5	4
4	7	1	6	5	9	3	8	2
8	5	2	4	1	3	6	7	9

### FORECAST

**SUNSET: FRIDAY 17:34 HRS**  
**SUNRISE: SATURDAY 07:21 HRS**

**CITY**      **MAX**      **MIN**

Chandigarh      20      08  
New Delhi      22      06

**PUNJAB**

Amritsar      16      03  
Bathinda      18      05  
Jalandhar      17      03  
Ludhiana      21      08

**HARYANA**

Bhiwani      21      05  
Hisar      22      05  
Sirsa      19      06

**HIMACHAL PRADESH**

Dharamsala      14      05  
Manali      11      -02  
Shimla      12      01

**JAMMU & KASHMIR**

Jammu      20      10  
Leh      04      -12  
Srinagar      08      -03

**UTTARAKHAND**

Dehradun      21      05  
Mussoorie      14      02

TEMPERATURE IN °C