

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

**To,**  
**The Secretary**  
**Listing Department**  
**BSE Limited**  
P.J Towers, Dalal Street, Fort,  
Mumbai - 400 001  
**Scrip Code:531723/570005**

**To**  
**The Manager,**  
**Listing Department**  
**National Stock Exchange of India Limited**  
Exchange Plaza. 5th Floor, Plot No. C/1, G Block  
Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E)  
Mumbai-400051, Maharashtra.  
**Symbol: STAMPEDE/SCAPDVR**

**Dear Sir/Madam,**

**Sub: Intimation copy of Newspaper Publication as per Regulation 30 and 47 read with Schedule III of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements Regulations, 2015 for Un-Audited Results for Quarter and half Year ended September 30, 2020.**

Pursuant to provisions of Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015 please find enclosed the copy of newspaper publications in the following newspapers pertaining to Un-audited Financial Results for the quarter and half Year ended as on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 to be considered by Board of Directors in its meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2020:

1. Financial Express (English)
2. Navatelangana (Telugu)

Kindly acknowledge the receipt of the same.

Thanking you.  
Your faithfully

**For and on behalf of Stampede Capital Limited**

Abhishek Jain  
Stampede Capital Limited  
100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

**Abhishek Jain**  
**Company Secretary and Compliance Officer**

**Date:** 16.10.2020  
**Place:** Hyderabad

**Enclosed:** As afore-said

## Proposed mining reforms in a month: Pralhad Joshi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, November 15

THE CENTRE IS planning to come out with proposed mining reforms in a month or so and the auction of mineral blocks will kickstart two to three months after the amendments take place. Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi has said. The mines ministry had earlier sought suggestions from the general public, the mining industry and other stakeholders on the proposed reforms in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

"We want to bring these reforms very shortly... In another month or so reforms (proposed mining reforms) should come out," Joshi said in an interview to PTI.

The government, he said, is looking into the feedback it has received on the proposed reforms and stressed that the Centre wishes to auction at least 500 mineral blocks in two to three years.

The slew of reform proposals include amending the contentious provisions of 10A(2)(b) and 10A(2)(c) of the MMDR Act, a move that would pave the way for auctioning of around 500 potential leases stuck in legal limbo.

Section 10A(2)(b) deals with leases where reconnaissance permit or prospecting licences were granted, while 10A(2)(c) relates to grant of mining leases. Joshi said there is mixed opinion on the two sections of the Act, and stressed that it does not want to go into the details of the same.

## MARKET DYNAMICS EVOLVING

# Direct purchase rates marginally higher than local mandi prices

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, November 15

TRADERS AND CORPORATE houses are purchasing from farmers at rates marginally higher than the local mandi prices in the case of many crops such as paddy, bajra and soybean. At least a part of the savings on mandi fees/taxes and arhatiya commission are being passed on to farmers by them.

The entire benefit, however, is not transferred to farmers as the outside-mandi transactions involve higher expenses on labour, cleaning and grading of commodities and commission to the village-level aggregators. In mandis, the labour charge is shared by traders and farmers in 50:50 ratio, while traders are bearing these costs when buying at the village level.

"We are paying at least 1% more than the local mandi rates wherever we are buying outside mandis. The rates are even higher depending on the location of the collection centres and quality of the crops," said Kapil Biyani, a trader in Haryana. Farmers are also saving on hamali charges and freight when they are selling crops at their villages, he said. Mandi tax has been reduced to 1% about a month ago from 4% (market fee and development cess 2% each) earlier in



Haryana, while Punjab continues to levy 3% each as market fee and rural development fee.

Currently, there are apprehensions among traders and corporate firms after farmers' protests over the Centre's laws in Haryana and Punjab. Corporate entities have not shown adequate interest as they do not want to get into any controversy, said Biyani, who has been into buying paddy for large corporate.

"Farmers are getting ₹1,400/quintal outside while mandi rate is about ₹1,350/quintal in the case of bajra," said RK Bansal, a commission agent in Hathras mandi of Uttar Pradesh. He admitted that there was a decline in mandi arrivals of bajra last month. According to Agmarknet portal, the bajra arrivals dropped 67% to 1,075 tonne from the

year-ago period in Hathras during October.

Traders are perplexed as to why bajra rates are depressed — 38% below MSP in October — when there is also speculation that the kharif output this year would be lower than last season. Prices of bajra could be depressed due to drop in business at mandis, which are helping the cattle feed manufacturers even if they pay higher than mandi rates outside, said a trader in Alwar. Some other traders said that farmers were holding up the crops in expectation of higher rates after a few months (last year the bajra price was over ₹1,700/quintal in October). The arrivals of bajra in Alwar mandi last month was over 50% lower than the year-ago period, while daily arrivals now recorded at an average 1.25 tonne.

"I was offered a higher rate than the price in mandi and sold some of my crops to the gramyapari (aggregator). I also checked the rate from the arhatiya," said Rajendra Tomar, a farmer in Alwar, one of the leading mandis of bajra.

Even in the case of soybean, farmers producers' organisations (FPOs) are paying higher than mandi rates to the farmers. For instance, Ranban Agro Producer Company, an FPO, paid farmers at ₹4,020/quintal last month when soybean was traded at ₹3,980 in Latur APMC mandi in Maharashtra. Local processors in Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan, are paying ₹6,700/quintal for moong on direct purchase whereas the average rate in local mandi is ₹6,600. Sri Ganganagar is a major producing hub in Rajasthan, which is India's biggest producer of moong.

"Unless the government provides credible alternative to farmers to check the benchmark rates, the reforms will be incomplete and the growers will be exploited," said the Alwar-based trader, who is now ready to buy directly from farmers outside mandis for large traders on commission basis. He said Rajasthan's bajra producers are getting higher prices for their produce from Haryana's cattle feed manufacturers as the state

government started buying bajra at MSP. Farmers across the country have been protesting against the laws demanding incorporation of minimum support price (MSP) as a legal right. Already Punjab, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have passed Bills in their respective assemblies to negate the impact of Central laws. Some other states like Jharkhand, West Bengal and Maharashtra are said to have been mulling to pass similar Bills.

Mandi prices of seven among the 10 key summer-crop crops like jowar, bajra, maize, moong and soybean were 8-38% below their minimum support prices (MSPs) during first fortnight of last month, indicating that procurement by the designated agencies hasn't yet gathered momentum after kharif harvesting season started from October 1. However, prices of soybean inched up later and currently at par with its MSP of ₹3,880/quintal or higher in most of the places. Though the all-India weighted average mandi rate for paddy (common variety) is at par with MSP of ₹1,868/quintal, in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar farmers are selling at ₹1,100-1,300 and in Chhattisgarh and Odisha ₹1,400-1,550.

## India rate cuts bets fall as gains hold

SWATI BHAT  
Mumbai, November 15

NEGATIVE REAL RATES in India and recovering growth alongside high inflation suggest its central bank has little room for more monetary stimulus, but policy is likely to stay accommodative, economists and analysts said.

Industrial production in September grew for the first time in six months while green shoots are also visible in rising goods and services tax collections, higher energy consumption, and an uptick in the purchasing managers' index, among other gauges.

With inflation staying above 7% in October for a second straight month, well above the RBI's medium-term target of 4%, views that India is near the end of the current rate-cutting cycle have become more pronounced. "The inflation rate has been consistently ahead of not only your target rate but the upper end of your target range as well. Ideally, you should be looking at rate hikes right now," said Sameer Narang, chief economist at Bank of Baroda.

Though the central bank is unable to hike rates due to the impact of the pandemic economic activity, it would still be mindful of the long-term impact of negative real interest rates on the economy, economists believe. High inflation is a risk the RBI cannot afford to ignore, Nomura economists wrote in a note. REUTERS

STANDARD SURFACTANTS LIMITED				
Registered Office: 8/15, Arya Nagar, Kanpur-208002 (India) Tel: 0512-2531762				
E-mail: headoffice@standardsurfactants.com. Website: www.standardsurfactants.com				
Corporate Identity Number: L24243UP1989PLC010950				
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE RESULTS FOR QUARTER ENDED ON 30.09.2020				
(Rs. in Lacs)				
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended 30.09.2020 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 30.09.2019 (Unaudited)	
1.	Total Income from Operations	2309.29	2165.43	
2.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional Items)	89.58	23.69	
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional Items)	89.58	23.69	
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional Items)	62.95	37.93	
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period	62.95	37.93	
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital	711.26	711.26	
7.	Earning per share (Face value of Rs. 10/- each):			
1.	Basic	0.89	0.53	
2.	Diluted	0.89	0.53	

Notes: 1. The above standalone financial results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in their respective meetings held on November 13, 2020. The statutory auditors have carried out limited review of these financial results.

2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the standalone quarterly financial results are available on stock exchange websites and on Company's website.

For Standard Surfactants Limited  
Pawan Kumar Garg  
Chairman & Managing Director  
DIN-00250836

Place: Kanpur  
Date: 13.11.2020

## SARASWATI COMMERCIAL (INDIA) LIMITED

CIN: L51909MH1983PLC166605  
Regd. Office: 209/210, Arcadia Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 195, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021. Telephone: 022-40198600, Fax: 40198650. | Email Id: saraswati\_investor@cvcl.in.

### NOTICE OF THE THIRTY SEVENTH (37TH) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Thirty Seventh (37th) Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company will be held on Wednesday, 16th day of December, 2020 at 02.30 P.M. via Video Conference / Other Audio Visual Means in compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 read with General Circular Nos. 14/2020, 17/2020 and 20/2020 dated April 8, 2020, April 13, 2020 and May 5, 2020 respectively, issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020 to transact the business as set out in the notice convening the AGM ("Notice").

The Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2019-20 will be sent only by electronic mode to members whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Depositories Participants ("DPs")/Registrar and Transfer Agent viz. TSR Darashaw Consultants Private Limited ("RTA"), in accordance with the aforesaid MCA Circulars and SEBI Regulations. In case members who have not registered their e-mail address are requested to register the same in respect of shares held in electronic form with the Depository through their Depository Participant(s) and in respect of shares held in physical form by writing to the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, TSR Darashaw Consultants Private Limited at 6-10 Haji Moosa Patrawala Industrial Estate, 20 Dr. E. Mosses Road, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai-400011.

The Notice and the Annual Report will also be available on the website of the company at www.saraswaticommercial.com, website of the Stock Exchange i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com. Members can attend and participate in the AGM only through VC/OAVM. In case of any queries write an email at evoting@nsdl.co.in or contact NSDL team - Mr. Sagar Ghosalkar or Ms. Sarita Mote at Tel no.: 1800-222-990 who will also address the grievances connected with the voting by electronic means. Members may also write to the Company Secretary at the above mentioned email address or the registered office address.

The procedure and instructions for joining AGM through VC/OAVM and detailed procedure and instructions for casting votes through remote e-voting or e-voting during the AGM for all Members (including the Members holding shares in physical form/ whose email addresses are not registered with the DPs/Company/RTA) are stated in the Notice.

For Saraswati Commercial (India) Limited  
Avani Sanghavi  
Company Secretary

Place: Mumbai  
Date: 16th November, 2020

## QUINT DIGITAL MEDIA LIMITED

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS GAURAV MERCANTILES LIMITED)  
CIN: L74110MH1985PLC176592  
Regd Office: 3rd Floor, Tower 2B, One Indiabulls Centre, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400 013 | Tel. No.: 020 45404000  
Corporate Office: Carnousties Building, Plot No. 1, 9th Floor, Sector 16A, Film City, Noida - 201301 | Tel. No.: 0120 4751818  
Website: www.quintdigitalmedia.com | Email: cs@qimumbai.com

### EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020				
₹ ('000)				
Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter ending September 30, 2020	Half year ending September 30, 2020	Corresponding 3 months ending September 30, 2019
1	Total Income from Operations	52,397.91	83,444.11	34,284.00
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	7,191.02	(28,404.91)	(62,117.37)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	1,455.02	(34,140.91)	(62,117.37)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	10,842.80	(24,800.00)	(62,665.78)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	10,533.93	(25,108.21)	(62,666.95)
6	Equity Share Capital	40,000.00	40,000.00	20,000.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-
8	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10 each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -			
1) Basic		2.63	(6.28)	(15.67)
2) Diluted		1.38	(6.28)	(15.67)

Note: a) The above is an extract of unaudited financial results for the quarter and half year ending September 30, 2020, filed with the BSE Limited under Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. b) Full format of the Quarterly and Half year financial results are available on the websites of the BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com) and the Company (www.quintdigitalmedia.com). c) The above results are duly reviewed by the Audit Committee and have been approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on November 14, 2020.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors  
Sd/-  
Parshotam Dass Agarwal  
Chairperson  
Din: 00063017

Place: Delhi  
Date: 14-11-2020

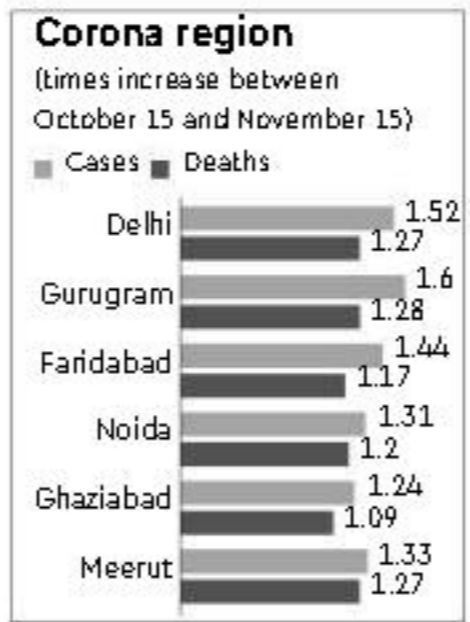
## Infections in Gurgaon rising faster than Delhi

ISHAAN GERA  
New Delhi, November 15

GIVEN THE DRAMATIC rise in Covid-19 infections in Delhi, the capital is now in focus. However, a closer analysis reveals adjoining cities are facing as much a crisis.

While Delhi certainly has a larger number of infections than its adjoining regions, the rate of growth is lower than that in Gurgaon.

Infections in Delhi increased 1.52 times in the last one month from 3,17,548 to 4,82,170, whereas in Gurgaon, which has one-tenth the cases than the national capital the growth was 1.60 times from 24,334 to 38,886. On Friday,



while Delhi had a positivity of 14.8%, Gurgaon recorded a higher 17% positivity.

Cases in Faridabad grew a bit lower 1.44 times between

October 15 and November 15, but the average positivity was a higher 18%. While deaths in the capital increased 1.27 times over a month, in Gurgaon, the increase was 1.28 times.

On the Uttar Pradesh side, while the case growth was not as high as in Delhi, but still the growth in cases of areas adjoining Delhi was higher than the rest of the state. Since October 15, while cases in UP have risen 1.15 times, in Noida, the case growth was 1.31 times. It was 1.24 times in Ghaziabad and 1.33 times in Meerut.

Meerut had a higher rate of increase in deaths than Delhi, despite having a lower-case growth during the period.

## 'India remains supportive of Palestinians' aspirations'

INDIA REMAINS SUPPORTIVE of the aspirations of Palestinians in their pursuit of statehood, peace and prosperity, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said as he wished the state of Palestine on their Declaration of Independence Day. On November 15, 1988, the

Palestine National Council, the legislative body of the Palestine Liberation Organization, issued the Palestinian Declaration of Independence. The announcement of Palestinian Declaration of Independence was made by then Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat from Algeria.

"Greetings to FM Dr Riyad Al-Maliki and the Government and people of the State of Palestine on their Declaration of Independence Day. India remains supportive to the aspirations of Palestinians in their pursuit of statehood, peace and prosperity," Jaishankar tweeted. PTI

## End of an era: Ray's go-to actor to our everyman

IT WAS hard to believe that this glamour-oozing Chatterjee was the same person we had grown up watching, perfectly embodying the everyman in film after film.

The 85-year-old actor passed away on Sunday morning after over a month long battle with multiple ailments, including Covid-19. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee visited the hospital where Chatterjee was admitted on hearing of his death.

The thing is, Chatterjee himself may have quirked a disbelieving eyebrow at that red-carpet look, as he was convinced he was "no overly photogenic." Whether that was a forgivable conceit of a legendary actor, or that he genuinely believed so, was never contested, because it came from a man whose sincerity was never in question. Right from his 1959 debut *Apur Sansar*, the final part of Ray's iconic Apu trilogy (after *Pather Panchali* and *Aparajito*), Chatterjee's quality of sincerity was his most abiding trait.

Of course it had to be Ray who gave Chatterjee his first film. Between the two men, there was a startling similarity of thought. The director with an unerring eye for creating instantly believable landscapes and characters needed a leading man who matched the setting. Their long, fruitful collaboration resulted in 14 memorable features, which include, apart from *Apur Sansar*, *Charulata*, *Chhaya*, *Aranyer Din Ratri*, the *Feluda* films (*Sonar Kella* and *Joi Baba Felunath*), *Ashani Sanket*, *Hirak Rajar Deshe* and *Ganashatru*.

In *My Years With Apu*, Ray writes about how he passed on Chatterjee, then "a radio announcer but with an intense interest in acting", for the adolescent Apu in *Aparajito* because he looked "too old". He was then 20 and just out of college, so I sent him away. Then I sent for him again, and offered him the lead role in *Apur Sansar*. An early scene, in which the penniless, jobless Apu is using a fly-flecked mirror on a wall to shave, is done with economy: a landlord demanding his dues enters the frame, Apu fends him off; the landlord leaves, snapping up the light-switch; Apu walks up to the door, switches it back on, greeting the light with the faintest hint of smile. Round one, to Apu.

This playfulness was part of Chatterjee's arsenal, especially when essaying the part of Feluda, the beloved sleuth. We see Chatterjee donning a series of outandish disguises, sporting patently false-looking

## From the Front Page

beards, and solving quirky cases with the help of his two faithful associates, and it is all a lot of fun. In a very different film, *Aranyer Din Ratri* (1970), where he is one of four young men, clearly the most sophisticated in his spiffy dark shades, this streak shows up again, most clearly when he is trying his luck with the lovely Sharmila Tagore in her very up-to-the-minute bouffant updos and cat-eyed liners.

Chatterjee's own deep sense of innate decency seeped into some of his most complex characters, especially in his playing of Ray's interlopers, who act as disrupters in the households they enter, more so in *Charulata*, than in *Chhaya*. Both are chamberpieces based on works of Rabindranath Tagore, both look at the upliftment of women, and in both Chatterjee shows up as the third wheel. As the youthful, poetry-loving Amal, who has much more in common with his sister-in-law *Charulata*, than her husband, and as the revolutionary Sandip in *Chhaya*, who attracts his best friend Nihiles' wife Bimala, with his fiery ideals and animation, both characters are shown stepping into forbidden territory, but neither crosses the line.

Chatterjee worked with a clutch of other respected directors, too: in *Mrinal Sen's* *Aakash Kusum* (1965) he is a middle-class executive trying, duplicitously, to better his station. In *Tapan Sinha's* *Kshudhita* *Pashan* (1960), based on a Tagore story, he plays a tax collector posted in a small town, grappling with a haunted building, and old wives' tales. And yes, he has famously sung-and-danced too, in *Teen Bhubaner Pare* (1969), directed by *Ashutosh* *Bandyopadhyay*: that litching song *Jiboney ki paabo na* invariably finds its way into any boisterous guitar-strumming-sing-along get-together even today, and not just in Bengali households.

But there was no doubt in his mind, as well as ours, that his work with Ray is what gave him wings, and that's the body of work we remember him most for. There was just one role that got away from him, though: he didn't get the coveted lead in *Nayak*, which went to Uttam Kumar, whose position as Bengal's hugely popular star remained unchallenged by Chatterjee's strong but quieter presence. If you had to cast someone whom delirious young women would throw themselves at, whom would you choose? Ray was right to opt for Uttam Kumar as the charismatic matinee idol, and though Chatterjee always claimed he understood why, his words were laced with a tinge of regret.

Chatterjee's long years as a performer, both on stage (he never gave up theatre) and on screen, were studded with awards: two National Awards, the *Padma Bhushan*, the *Sangeet Natak Akademi*, the *Dada Saheb Phalke*. He was also the first Indian actor to receive the *French Legion of Honour*. But he wore his honour lightly, and continued to work, in some films which were good, some plain indifferent. In the 2015 *Belaashe*, a high-on-melodrama family drama, he was the marquee name along with his *Chhaya* co-star *Swatilekha Sengupta*. When asked why he did certain films, he would say, with grace, that he was just doing his job: acting, after all, is a great deal of jobbery. And that's what he was, an actor at work, right till the end.

## New central laws: Corporate entities scale up crop purchases from farmers

SINCE ITC already has its e-Choupal network, it is easier to scale up operations. The company has also started buying paddy through e-Choupal, he added.

However, most of the other large trading companies like Adani group, Cargill and Glencore do not have e-Choupal infrastructure and are currently availing the services of traders, who in turn are directly buying from farmers.

"We already have a network of traders through which we have been buying commodities. While earlier we were buying 100% from mandis, we have now decided to buy at least half of the requirement directly from the farmers," a senior executive of a global trading firm having large presence in wheat, cotton and pulses trading said, requesting not to be identified. "Depending on the situation, we are planning to shift from mandis completely as there will be a savings on market fees and arhatiya commission," this source said.

Many other corporate firms are on wait and watch mode in Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab after farmers' protests against the Centre's three laws and given the Bills passed by Rajasthan and Punjab assemblies, ostensibly to counter the central laws. While Punjab and Haryana are two major producers of paddy, Rajasthan is the top producer of bajra and moong among kharif crops.

"I think mandis will become irrelevant in two years. Existing licence holders will start dealing outside APMC under central law," said food policy expert Vijay Sardana.

