

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY

The inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries.

WINSTON CHURCHILL, former British PM

We're All Socialists

Mandatory allegiance to socialism challenged in court

Many of us are probably aware that the preamble to the Indian Constitution says that India is a socialist — along with being a secular and democratic — republic. But have we ever thought about how seriously to take the socialist tag? A PIL filed in the Supreme Court by an NGO wants to test exactly that. The PIL challenges the insertion of the word 'socialist' in the preamble through the 42nd amendment in 1976 during the Emergency. The PIL is also challenging an amendment to the Representation of the People Act (RPA) in 1989 where it was made mandatory for political parties to swear allegiance to socialism during registration.

This is not the first challenge to the compulsory allegiance to socialism by political parties. An earlier petition by the Swatantra Party challenging the amendment to RPA has been before the Bombay high court for over a decade. What the courts now have to decide is whether forced loyalty to socialism is legitimate. One of the reasons cited by those who have filed the PIL is that the amendment violates the right to freedom of speech and expression as well as the right to form associations or unions present in the Indian Constitution.

This argument has several things going for it. In a democracy, no citizen or party should be forced to subscribe to any ideology. The presence of the word 'socialist' in the preamble could be taken to mean a broad guiding policy with which all Indian citizens need not agree. However, making it mandatory for all registered parties to pledge loyalty to socialism cuts into Article 19(c), which gives the right to form associations or unions. Indeed, it is anti-democratic to expect all parties to owe allegiance to socialism. We also need to recall that the word 'socialism' was inserted in the Constitution through an amendment that authorised authoritarian measures under the guise of social revolution.

In its first hearing of the case, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court has observed that socialism is a facet of democracy. That is arguable. But even if that were so, why shouldn't a party which believes in the free market or capitalism be allowed to register? This case is not just about legal hair-splitting. Far from it. It exposes an inherent hypocrisy in our political system where in spite of an embrace of the free market, we still feel a need to bow before the altar of socialism. It's time we shed these double standards. One way to do so would be to take a hard look at the need to have constitutionally mandated socialism.

Unsafe in India

Crime, especially against women, is getting worse

Over 32,000 murders, 19,000 rapes, 7,500 dowry deaths and 36,500 molestation cases. These are the number of violent crimes reported in the country in 2006. Reported is the operative word here as it is very likely that many instances of crime — especially against women — go unreported in India. These are figures released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) recently. While Madhya Pradesh is worst off among the states, the national capital continues to hold on to its position as the most unsafe city in India. Delhi is in consultation with the states to take steps to improve the situation.

This newspaper champions liberalism in thought and practice

Gautam Adhikari

There's a power point presentation circulating on the web. It expresses the fury of some readers at the Times of India for publishing in these columns an article by Ashis Nandy (January 8) that is severely critical of Narendra Modi and Gujaratis. It lampoons the Times, ridicules our journalists and ends by calling us a "banana newspaper". I thought this might be a good opportunity to clarify to readers what this newspaper stands for and believes in, so that you know where we come from.

But, first, some confusion needs to be cleared. One angry e-mailer calls Nandy's article an "editorial". It's not. The slot you are now reading is reserved for those writing under their names, mostly outside contributors and occasionally members of our staff. Our "leader articles" or "editorials" are written for the double column to the left, and they are always unsigned. They represent the views of this newspaper and are written by a team of editorial writers who deliberate daily in an editorial conference to determine the paper's position on a variety of issues and events that might be worth the paper's comment. In other words, what people write under their names is their business; as long as a particular piece is worth offering to you, in our considered judgment, as a viewpoint, we publish it. That viewpoint may not coincide with our position on a subject but we print it regardless.

We take this stance because we are a 'liberal' newspaper in the classical sense of the term. Our job is to offer you a wide variety of opinions to help you reflect and form your own views. When we want to express opinions as a newspaper, we do so in our editorials. Thus, we chose to publish Nandy's and Praful Bidwai's (January 2) critical views of Modi for much the same reason we carried columns favourable to Modi written by Swapna Dasgupta (December 30) and Swaminathan Anklesaria Aiyar (January 6). Our own take on the Gujarat elections we elaborated in a long editorial published on December 24.

Modi is an important politician. That importance has if anything increased after the

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Lobbying

Abolish Bharat Ratna and othe

Politicians are lobbying hard to get Bharat Ratna for their leaders. BJP's shadow prime minister L K Advani wants the highest civilian honour given by the government for Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The Left has pushed Jyoti Basu's name, but CPM leaders have since clarified that they are not interested. BSP leader Mayawati's choice for the award is Kanshi Ram. More names could figure in the race in the coming days. It is time to ask if the debate is worth it. The

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EDIT PAGE MAILBOX

MY TIMES, MY VOICE

Cricket & Tech

The Sydney Test match is not the first in which umpires have made mistake after mistake, but what was shocking was the wrong decision made by the third umpire who has technology at his disposal. It is good that the Indian team management, displaying a sporting spirit, did not complain about these horrendous decisions.

But the time has come for the ICC to start taking tough action against umpires to ensure fair play. I agree that technology should be used more often, and players should have the right to refer at least a limited number of decisions to the third umpire. Ground umpires should also take this in the right spirit rather than making it an ego issue. In such a competitive atmosphere, we should not expect everyone to behave like Gilchrist, who is known for walking out if he thinks he is out. The time has come to rope in the third umpire more often to ensure a level playing field for both the teams.

Bal Govind, BAREILLY

Farcical Clearance

It was shocking to read that the environment ministry gave clearance to a private firm for bauxite mining at Ratnagiri (Maharashtra) based on the EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) copy-pasted from a Russian bauxite mining report. Is it totally irrelevant to the ministry that that any such major mining project is detrimental to wildlife and ecology? If this is the way it works, we might as well shut it down and not waste taxpayers' money in feeding babus and their political bosses. One wonders whether the ministry cares at all for Nature conservation—for which it was constituted in the first place—or simply grant permits to industries to further plunder the resources of the earth.

G R Vora, MUMBAI

We want your views and comments. Please SMS MYVOICE <space> your comments and name to 58888. Or email mytimesmyvoice@timesgroup.com with Editor, Mumbai in the subject line. Or write to us at My Times, My Voice c/o Edit Page Editor, The Times of India, D N Road, Mumbai-400001.

te elections in which he scored a victory. Therefore, his style of serves comment from persons who are important commentators or public ls. Each one of the writers mentioned renowned public intellectual; that's views ought to be shared with you in rity. The trouble is that extremists, and the left, prefer to zero in on only s that go against their own to tar an

provider of security for life and property so that, with good governance, we can lead peaceful and prosperous lives in an interconnected world.

Strangely, in an age when you might presume it's improbable in a modern democracy, it's actually difficult to belong to our bandwidth in the Indian political spectrum. It isn't only because the extremes of a fiercely Hindu nationalist right and an obtusely Neanderthal left, with the Congress party being a muddle in the middle, leave little space for reasoned debate along classically liberal lines. In fact, a party professing market-oriented liberalism can even be termed unconstitutional. As we have argued in an editorial next to this article, you cannot under the Constitution register a party that debunks socialism or, for that matter, secularism.

A typical example of our kind of liberalism happened in 1977 in Skokie, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. A neo-Nazi group wanted to parade through the town centre arousing the wrath of others, especially members of the Jewish community, many of whom were Holocaust survivors. The Nazis claimed the right of free speech guaranteed by the US Constitution. And in their defence sprang the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the initiative being taken by David Goldberger, an ACLU attorney who happened to be a Jew. The ACLU won the case on behalf of the Nazis.

All that Goldberger wanted to emphasise was that freedom of speech must be defended, even when the beneficiaries of such defence were not the kind of individuals we would associate with out of choice. And that's the kind of liberalism we in the Times subscribe to. So, we defend the right of Taslima Nasreen to write what she likes, perhaps angering Muslim fundamentalists, as well as M F Husain to depict Saraswati as he wants, infuriating Hindu bigots, while impressing upon the state not to interfere by banning expressions of art, which are viewpoints. If people don't like what they hear or read or see, they have the option not to. Simply don't buy the book or visit the exhibition where any expression offensive to your taste is being depicted.

Similarly, angry e-mailer sir, you don't have to buy the Times of India if you find it a repulsive banana newspaper, whatever that means. Just don't try to intimidate us by ridicule or threats, though we shall defend your right to do so till we cease publishing.



paper as biased or, worse, motivated. ave a motive. It's to stick openly and o liberalism. Unfortunately, the poli- ape in India leaves little room these play of liberalism as we understand ralism compels us to be socially l economically as well as politically se'. That's why we are neither socia- tre nationalists. And that's why market forces, which are all about e continuing to believe in an effec- the state as regulator, facilitator and

for government awards begins ahead of Republic Day

state honours

uch better than the state, and h far less controversy. The ar in the field of literature is the d that is given by a private trust. nominees decide Bharat Ratna awards and their choices are ted. Awards become a tool for he hands of the government. ds are a hangover of monarchy. gs gave away titles to various ple as recognition of their

Civilian awards are essential in a democracy

Those who argue that the state must confer special titles and awards to accomplished citizens are championing a wrong case. Those upholding this view believe that this practice is against the essence of a democratic state. Their basic contention that by conferring special titles and medals to individuals in a democracy, the state shows partiality towards certain individuals is flawed. If we accept this logic, then we should

other, honour exceptional men and women. The US has its various medals among which the Presidential Medal of Freedom is its highest civilian award. The Indian government honours outstanding citizens with the Padma Shri, the Padma Bhushan, the Padma Vibhushan awards apart from the Bharat Ratna, which is the highest civilian honour. The nominees are expected to be non-controversial personalities having played a significant role in the country and the world of ideas. The president

COUNTER

pure cinema up to the point of the murders and rapes and kidnappings.

It is a telling comment on a country's law and order situation when its capital is a cauldron of crime. Instead of leading the way in tackling crime, Delhi only seems to do worse year after year. For instance, while the national crime rate (number of crimes per one lakh population) declined negligibly by .02 per cent in 2006, Delhi's rate grew to 357.2, more than double the national average of 167.7.

The most worrisome fact the report reflects is that rape is the fastest growing crime in the country today and as many as 18 women are assaulted in some form or the other every hour across India. Over the last few days, cases of rape and assault have made it to the headlines with alarming frequency. Mumbai watched as an ugly mob attacked women on New Year's eve. In Latur, a 14-year-old was raped and killed by four young men. In Konark, four men were charged with dragging a woman out of a bus and gangraping her.

Equally horrific are news reports of foreign tourists being sexually assaulted. Recently, an American was molested in Pushkar, a British journalist raped in Goa, Canadian girls attacked in Kumarakom to list a few instances. Cut it whichever way you will, the fact is we in India simply do not know how to treat our women as human beings who have a right to dignity and safety. We love mouthing 'atithi devo bhava' but the many cases of crimes against foreign nationals hardly inspire the tourist. This could eventually hurt the prospects of foreign business in India. It is all very well for us to gloat over our economy's growth rate and dream of achieving superpower status. But economic progress minus a secure law and order environment is not going to take us very far. An unsafe India will hurt us deeply in both the social and economic spheres.

Gadget Graveyard

Eduardo Porter

The Consumer Electronics Show, held in Las Vegas last week, pitched a sleek and shiny Star Trek future where myriad clever devices would satisfy our every need. Microsoft's chairman, Bill Gates, opened the show with a keynote speech touting a "second digital decade". More than 2,000 hi-tech exhibitors introduced their brand new wares to about 140,000 attendees. Browsing on the web through the list of gadgets on display, one saw a future that looked more like a necropolis: a mountain of once-promising appliances exiled to call-now commercials or an in-flight magazine. There is the "personality packed" Tribot robot, which zips around on three wheels, tells jokes and moves its eyebrows. There's the 150-inch plasma TV that can fit a full-sized image of an elephant. There's even a Taser — available in leopard print and metallic pink — with an MP3 player in the holster so you can listen to your favourite tune while you pump 50,000 volts into your unfortunate victim.

One should never underestimate the appetite of American consumers. Still, the gadget graveyard is littered with devices that got the cold shoulder. Toshiba's high-definition DVD technology just suffered what could be a mortal blow when Warner Brothers announced that it would back Sony's rival Blu-ray standard. The battle over the DVD standard recalls the video wars of the 1980s which Toshiba's VHS won over Sony's Betamax after it secured the backing of most studios. The tussle underscores how standards, as well as tastes, can make or break innovations. A successful innovation provides benefits that are greater than its costs — including the hassle of adopting a new technology. Radio expanded much faster than cloth-washers in the 1920s because people already had other ways to wash clothes. But washers eventually caught up as they were useful too. Still, this cost-benefit analysis is anything but simple. The MiniDisc looked like a sensible digital technology to replace the cassette tape, but it never caught on among consumers. There is something breathtaking about this process at the heart of modern capitalism. The promise of a blockbuster will keep driving companies to develop yet another gadget and some will hit the jackpot with an iPod or a Nintendo Wii. But most won't. Regardless of format, high-definition DVD is likely to be replaced pretty soon by movies streaming through the Internet. That robot with a personality — and the Taser with a song — will never make it to my house. — *NYTNS*

MIND OPENER

issue is not the choice for the award, but the award itself. Should we continue with state honours like Bharat Ratna and the Padma awards?

Excellence in public life and other areas of activity should be recognised, of course. But it's not the business of the government to hand out awards and honours. Let the private sector, especially peer groups, award achievers. After all, what does the government know of cinema to award film stars and directors? Or, for that matter, does it have the credentials to reward a writer or a musician? Film societies and fans can do the job of recognising talent

VIEW

few privileged and the practice. There is, instituted by a bravery. Armed their brave like corporate to evaluate gallantry award exemplary service respective orga

Let's seal the

Sumit Ganguly

Bloomington: Amidst the hoopla surrounding Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to China another issue of vital significance to the long-term future of India's foreign policy, the status of the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal, has been overshadowed. After two and a half years of painful, protracted bilateral negotiations, careful attempts in the US to placate an intransigent non-proliferation lobby and fitful efforts to deal with the opportunistic hostility of the Left parties and the BJP in India, the deal appears to be stalling at the International Atomic Energy Agency. At the moment, questions surrounding the guarantee of fuel supplies under exigent circumstances seem to be the source of contention.

There is no gainsaying the skills of the Indian negotiators in Vienna. That said, one wonders if their political masters in New Delhi are sufficiently alert to the lateness of the hour. Even after the IAEA negotiations are successfully concluded, both India and the US will need to obtain the approval of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and then seek the final nod from the US Congress. Unfortunately, the requisite time necessary to leap across all these hurdles is becoming woefully short.

The American presidential electoral season is already well under way. As it gathers momentum it will be increasingly difficult for both White House and the Congress to tend to, address and complete this bilateral accord. Once that happens, it will be inevitably postponed until the advent of a new administration and also become subject to the vagaries of electoral politics in India.

Life, as Manmohan Singh has stated, will no doubt go on. India, as most political observers know, has weathered many a political storm and has still managed to steer ahead. However, the likely costs to India, if this deal is not consummated before the Bush administration leaves office, is inestimable.

For the first time in its independent history, the country is at the cusp of a diplomatic and economic surge. During the past decade and half it has dispensed with much of its overheated political

rhetoric, its empty adopted a nimble policy. Simultaneously post-1991 economic enjoyed the substantial economic growth. In tandem, a clout that it had hitherto obtained.

Much of this has directly undermined civilian nuclear deal the wayside. Sadly, the likely impact India's emerging understood in New question that the



India's ailing nuclear be jeopardised. This would merit moving the completion of

Unfortunately, What is really a national image and able state will merit a significant far too long, has slothful bureaucratic procedures. India incapable of making effect decisions. Only policy changes an entrepreneurial this well-deserve

The failure to the remaining the most unwelcome Wall Street and lately eyeing investment destination can legitimately putting this economic growth the likely course

The writer is at Indiana Univ

to the throne. But, should races continue with this on that gives fancy titles to a citizens? It is time for India to of Republic Day honours. However, a place for awards the bodies for gallantry and forces and the police decorate n. These outfits are more institutions that have norms ellence. Police medals and are incentives that recognise e. These are internal to their isations and can stay.

also abolish all official ranks and positions like that of the prime minister, the president, the speaker, chief minister, etc.

The business of awards cannot be left to the non-state sector, as private institutions look more to their corporate interests than the national interest and contribution to public life. It is the duty of the state to recognise significant achievers among the public. They must institute awards not only to acknowledge exceptional achievers, but also to keep the light of creativity burning.

Almost all nations, in some way or the

VIEW

Rohit Viswanath

of India in consultation with the government selects the recipients.

It is unfortunate that nomination for these awards is increasingly becoming politicised. In recent times, political parties have tried to pull strings and influence the awards that are intended to serve a noble cause. The manner, in which every one with some political weight is jumping into the fray, makes a mockery of the awards. The political authorities must realise this and put an end to this travesty as soon as possible in the larger interest of the country.

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moral posturing and pragmatic foreign policy, thanks to the reforms, it has also tial benefits of robust The two transforma- ve given the country ong sought, but never in global affairs.

ard-won status will be ned if the Indo-US al is allowed to fall by the full implications of of such a failure on global profile are ill Delhi. There is little collapse of this agree- ment will have a chilling fect on the burgeoning do-US diplomatic and rategic relationship.

It will also inevitably all India's long-term test to obtain a range of al-use technology from e US since a raft of gislation that prohibits ch sales will remain in ace. Also, all the bene- fits that this agreement ould have brought to ar power industry will e considerations alone g with alacrity towards the agreement.

much more is at stake. Issue is India's inter- action effective, organised ch can forge and imple- bilateral covenant. For lks to flawed policies, a racy and cumbersome has been viewed as a state icking and putting into an pressing investment ently, thanks to dramatic the emergence of a new pirit has it started to shed image.

pull off this deal within me horizon will send the message to the scions of beyond who had been la as an attractive invest- . The prime minister, who claim the distinction of ntry on a secure path of , can ill-afford to overlook quences of failure.

professor of political science

Sacred Space

Surya Namaskar
(Salutation to the Sun)

The Sanskrit word Surya means sun. Namaskar is the Hindi word for Namaste, from the root, to bow. Namaskar means salutation, salute, greeting or praise. www.santosha.com

There are in total 124 names praising the Sun including Aditya, Savita, Surya, Khaga, Pushan, Gabhastiman, Suvarnasadrish, Bhanu, Hiranyaretas, Divakara, Haridasva, Sahasrarchish, Saptasapti, Ramchiman, Timironmathana, Sambhu, Twashta, Martanda, Ansuman, Hiranyagarbha, Sisira, Tapanas, Bhaskara, Ravi, Agnigarbha, Aditiputra, Sankha and Sisiranasa. Sage Agastya to Sri Rama before he goes to war with Ravana, Yuddha Kanda, Canto 107, Ramayana

Rising this day, O rich in friends, ascending to the loftier heaven, Surya remove my heart's disease, take from me this my yellow hue. To parrots and to starlings let us give away my yellowness, Or this my yellowness let us transfer to Haritkala trees. With all his conquering vigour this Aditya hath gone up on high, Giving my foe into mine hand: let me not be my foeman's prey.

Rig Veda

Even after all this time/ The sun never says to the earth, "You owe Me." / Look what happens with A love like that, / It lights the Whole Sky.

Hafiz, The Gift

Makar Sankranti At Sabarimala Temple

Mannil Krishnan

Makar Sankranti that occurs every January is an auspicious day for Hindus. It is also a special time for devotees of Lord Ayyappa who undertake the pilgrimage to Sabari hills where they offer prayers and converge to witness a spectacle called Makar Jyoti or heavenly light.

Ayyappa, the presiding deity at Sabarimala — situated in the Western Ghats in Pattanamthitta district of Kerala — is popularly known as Dharma Shasta. The deity is also known as Ayya, Ayyan, Appan or Kaliyuga Varadan. He is believed to be the one who protects us from all the evil propensities of Kaliyuga. He is called Sarva Roga Nivaran Dhawantharamurthi or the one who cures all diseases. Ayyappa is also known as Anna Dana Prabhu and Akhilanda Koti Brahmandanayakam. He is an incarnation of Vishnu who assumed the form of an enchantress, Mohini, and her union with Shiva led to the conception and birth of Lord Ayyappa.

Ayyappa is believed to have been born near the Pamba River. Ayyappa's avatar on earth was to annihilate the demon Mahishi who could be killed only by a confluence or coming together of the Vishnu-Shiva power. In this manner, Ayyappa is the avatar of the cosmic forces of Hari and Hara and so is also known as Hariharaputra.

The day of Ayyappa's birth is also known as Makar Vilakku day, the first day of Makar, Uttarayanam or Krishna Paksha under the star Uttar. Those who are born on this auspicious day are believed to be divya purushas of 64 kalas, blessed with great potential and promise.

Certain customs are observed when one undertakes a pilgrimage to Sabarimala. A pilgrim attending the Mandala puja observes austerities for 41 days. During this period pilgrims abstain

from non-vegetarian food and cardinal pleasures. They set out in groups with a leader and each pilgrim carries a cloth bundle called Erumudikettu, containing traditional offerings.

Sabarimala temple has no restrictions of caste or creed. The easiest route is via Chalakkayam by which one can reach the banks of River Pamba. Pamba is the main halting point on the 4-5 km long trek that takes you to the abode of Ayyappa in Sabarimala. Pilgrims climb the 18 golden steps to reach the Sannidhanam or sanctum sanctorum of the Lord and witness the divya darshanam.



THE
SPEAKING
TREE

Every year during Makar Vilakku, the golden idol of Ayyappa is decorated with ornaments specially brought in from the Pandalam Palace where Lord Ayyappa is said to have spent his childhood.

On the Makar Vilakku day, several significant and reportedly supernatural events take place, making the event at Sabarimala an incredible experience for the devotees. During the procession undertaken from Pandalam Palace to the Sabari hills each year, a Garuda bird hovers in the sky over the bejewelled caravan. Once the procession reaches Sabarimala, the Garuda hovers over the flag post overlooking the sanctum sanctorum. Another event is the occurrence of what appears to be a bright glittering star in the sky facing the sanctum sanctorum.

A holy trek to Sabarimala where pilgrims converge from various geographical, social and linguistic backgrounds for a darshan of Lord Ayyappa transforms into a joyous celebration with chants of 'Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa' renting the air. The annual trek to Sabarimala is an unusual spiritual experience for the devotee.

For similar thought-provoking articles on the art of living see 'Cosmic Uplink', published daily on the Economic Times edit page.



We were the last batch who trained under Alkazi. He was somebody we looked up to. In those days the training used to be much more focused
Anupam Kher | 1975-78



In a play in which I was expected to sing, I didn't work on my singing. I got a huge dressing down from Alkazi and even after all these years, I can't sing
Naseeruddin Shah | 1970-73



Every time I think of NSD, I can smell the place. I can easily attribute my growth to the institute. Yet, I knew that I had to make it big in Mumbai
Satish Kaushik | 1975-78



I can't forget a play I did for which I had to learn Manipuri dance.

Famous Acts | NSD has produced man



Tughlak



Ghasiram Kotwal



Set up with the aim of reviving glory five decades ago, the National School of Drama (NSD) has deviated from its path of creating a vibrant regional theatre.

50 YEARS NSD LOOKS

Meenakshi Kumar | TNN

A golden jubilee means big celebrations in some cases and quiet reflection in others. For the National School of Drama (NSD), it has been a bit of both. However, as the premier institute celebrates 50 years of existence, both its present students and alumni agree that the once glorious institution has lost much of its sheen over the years.

Set up as a centre for training students in the finer skills of theatre, NSD seems to have lost its original purpose somewhere along the way. "It should have concentrated only on training. That was why it was set up," says veteran theatre director M K Raina, a former student. "The original idea was to create regional theatre which would be as strong as national theatre. But that unfortunately has not happened." Also,



award-winning plays over the years



Look Back in Anger

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Andha Yug

SON, SES PLOT



The government, feel many, should step in to save NSD from losing its vision. "The government is ready to pump in money for festivals but it has done nothing for the infrastructure. For the last 50 years, there are only 12 teachers, with 70% visiting faculty. They don't even have a teacher for costume design," fumes Raina.

It sounds unfortunate in the light of the fact that the institute was the result of Jawaharlal Nehru's vision to revive India's lost cultural glory. Legendary directors like Ebrahim Alkazi, B V Karanth, B M Shah, Mohan Maharishi and Ratan Thiyam tried to set, and achieved to a great extent, high standards of excellence. Plays like Tughlak, Ghasiram Kotwal, Nagamandala, and Andha Yug left theatre lovers wanting more. The nuanced performances of actors such as Manohar Singh, Naseeruddin Shah, Om Puri, Surekha Sikri, Anupam Kher, Uttara Boker and Pankaj Kapoor introduced

Here I was, a young
ster doing very Indian
steps. But it was a
great learning course
Meeta Vasisht | 1984-87



In 1969 we were doing a national festival and I was working closely with Alkazi. He was so meticulous that we couldn't keep pace with him

Nadira Babbar | 1968-71

an outdated syllabus has been unsuccessful in keeping up with the times. "NSD needs to reinvent its syllabus. At the same time it also needs to market itself well," says celebrated actor Anupam Kher, a 1978 batch alumnus and, later, a director at NSD.

"A training institute should remain just that and not take up other responsibilities. Unfortunately, that's what happened at NSD. When it started to organize festivals and get into publications, its fundamental purpose got diluted," says Mohan Maharishi, who holds the unique distinction of being a student, a director and later a vice-chairman of the institute. He fears that this loss of purpose puts the institute in danger. An actor like Meeta Vasisht, of the 1987 batch, says she wished she could return to NSD to practise theatre just as actors do in the West.

One of the problems facing NSD is the lack of opportunities for its students. There are no avenues for students to make a living out of theatre. As a result, many move to films or television. Ashok Lokhande, a 1987 batch

alumnus is one of those thousands who had to turn to television for a living. "The kind of theatre that I want to do is hardly there. I want to reach out to those people whose lives can be changed by theatre. But I have never got that opportunity. I have been doing

THE FUTURE

Harish Khanna | Has put up The Glass House Project at the ongoing Bharat Rang Mahotsav. The actor lives in a glass house on the premises of NSD for 360 hours.

Abhilash Pillai | A teacher of acting at NSD, he will be staging a play in Hindi, Helen.

Roysten Abel | An alumnus of NSD, he has been regularly directing. Notable plays include Othello: A Play in Black and White, The Spirit of Anne Frank

Adil Husain | An actor who is doing some fine work

Sketch of Goa 'rapist' released



CM Kamat's govt fears a foreign bid to malign Goa

The Goa police on Monday released the sketch of the person who assaulted and raped a British tourist here even as the government alleged a foreign hand in maligning the image of the tourist state through propaganda to disturb its lifeline—tourism. "The sketches will be sent to all police stations and will be displayed at prominent places," IG Kishan Kumar said. Home minister Ravi Naik said, "There are some foreign nations who are involved in media propaganda that Goa is not safe for tourists." He, however, declined to name any country. AGENCIES

CORRIGENDUM

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of tender forms as 14/01/08 to 21/01/08

IN THE SPECIAL COURT UNDER A.P. GRABBING (PROHIBITION) ACT II FLOOR, B.R.K.R. GOVT OFFICES COMPLEX, TANKSUND ROAD Hyd-63

L.G.C. S. R. No. 1308 OF 2007

Between:

Syed Qubool Pasha Quadiri & 75 others
Rep. through their GPA Holders, Sri.
Mohd. Nizamuddin & Sri. Mohd.
Hameeduddin

Applicants

and

The Govt. of A.P. rep. by its Pri.
Secretary & 63 others

Respondents

To

M/s. Quality Constructions Co. Ltd.,
106, Ram Nimi 8, Mandlik Road, Colaba
Mumbai 400 020 rep. by its Director

Respondent No. 51

Please take notice that the petitioner
above named presented the above
case U/s. 8 (1) of the A.P. Land
Grabbing (Prohibition) Act, through his
Advocate.

The Special Court directed issue of
notice to you to show cause why the
above case should not be admitted.

You are hereby required to appear in
person or by Advocate duly instructed
on the 17th day of January 2008 at
10.30 A.M. to answer why this case
should not be admitted.

Also take notice that in default of your
appearance on the aforesaid day the
application will be heard and
determined in your absence.

//By the Orders of the Special Court//

S. ASHOK ANAND KUMAR, Advocate,
D. No. 16-11-511/D/220, Flat No. 401,
Sairam Nagisetty Nilayam,
Shalivahana Nagar
Moosarambagh, Hyderabad - 500 036.

NOTICE

In the Court of the Sub-Judge I, Bokaro

Money Suit No. 6/05

Steel Authority of India Ltd. Plaintiff.

— Versus —

Wing Commander (retd.) Shri Saban Kr. & another Defendants.
To,

- 1) Wg. Cdr. (Retd.) Shri Saban Kumar Singh
Son of Dr. Birendra Kumar Singh
- 2) Mrs. Anita Singh w/o Sri Saban Kr. Singh
Resident of C-42, Patrakar Nagar
Kankar Bagh, Patna - 20.

Whereas above named plaintiff has instituted a suit against you
for realisation of Rs. 5,20,000/- (Rupees five lakh twenty thousand)
with interest thereon, summons for your appearance were issued
through court and by post but you avoided the service of summon.
Now, the next date fixed in the suit for your appearance is
23.01.2008.

Take to your notice that in default of your appearance on that day
the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 05 day of 01.2008.

Subordinate Judge First
Bokaro

Dated : 05.01.08



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NOTICE is here
Board of Directors
Monday, January
Financial Results of
ended December 31

Place : Mumbai
Date : January 14, 20

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My client Shri Arunlal Bhanji
the Honorable High Court of B
Tara Road, Juhu, Bombay 40
the said suit, my above name
2007 for appointment of Cou
from alienating, encumberin
whatsoever. The said Notice o
High Court.

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deal with it in any manner w
notice, if any third party wil
agreement of any nature what
risk, cost and consequences a
in the Bombay High Court.

Dated this 14th day of January

television for some time now but I don't enjoy it. I never thought that I would have to do something other than theatre," he laments.

Amal Allana, the present chairperson, understands the problem well but aims helplessness. "I wish we had opportunities to employ the talent," she says. Adds director Anuradha Kapoor, "If we had options in Hindi theatre, perhaps there wouldn't have been this mass exodus to television. We don't see much movement in either Bengali or Marathi theatre. In fact, there is traffic between theatre and other forms of entertainment."

Some, however, feel that there is nothing wrong with moving to either films or television. "Even I had to move to films but I never gave up doing theatre. One has to create opportunities. We would rehearse in buses, platforms, just about anywhere. We considered it our job to do a play," says Naseeruddin Shah, who joined NSD in 1970 at the age of 20. What amazes him is that those who move to television or films today are doing theatre altogether.



whole new dimension to acting.

Meanwhile, many, including Shah and Kher, argue that the institute has not fared all that badly and the dark picture is not that dark after all. "There are many more students there and the kind of talent is amazing," says Shah. The institute, they feel, is still doing a great job. Adds Kapoor, "There is a resurgence of interest in theatre today. Many of the students who come to us want to learn specific skills. They are certainly not using it as a stepping stone to any other form of entertainment."

Interestingly, in its 50th year, the NSD has Allana, the daughter of Alkazi, as its chairperson. Both Allana and Kapoor, also a respected name in theatre, are keen to take NSD to new heights. "We are planning to start an exchange programme for students with countries like the UK, Poland and Germany. Besides, there are plans to start branches in other cities so that they can serve people in language theatre. Also, NSD has a huge archival collection of publications, costumes and films which need to be documented. The future is bright," says Allana.

JUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of India Enterprise)

Office : 17, Jamshedji Tata Road, Mumbai - 400 020.

NOTICE

By given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation will be held on 28, 2008 to consider, inter-alia, the proposed increase in the Third Quarter 2007.

N.R. Narayanan
Company Secretary

08

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Last date of sale of forms has been extended to 20.1.08. at

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2. PO, Hyderabad GPO, Ahmedabad GPO, Chennai GPO,
3. Q. Shubaneswar GPO, Faridabad NITHO, Bhopal GPO,
4. GPO

Details on the website)

Details (available on the website)

has been extended to 25.1.08

Justcareers.in or contact 09312754706

in your country.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Laxman has filed a Suit being Suit No.3461 of 2007 in the District Court at Mumbai claiming that Hotel "Ajanta" situate on 8, Juhu Road is owned by the HUF of Bhanji Laxman family. In the said suit, the plaintiff has taken out a notice of motion no. 4799 of 2007 for the appointment of a Receiver and injunction restraining the Defendants from creating third party rights in any manner. The said Motion is pending before the Honorable

Justice is warned that nobody should enter into an agreement with the said hotel on lease or on conducting basis or otherwise. Please note that in spite of the present notice, no one should enter into an Agreement for Sale or enter into any other agreement, however, he/she will be doing the same at his/her own risk and subject to the pendency of the above proceedings.

M. M. Vashi
Advocate High Court.

008

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