

Letters to the : F.W. de Klerk's posthumous apology a reminder for former oppressors



Sir — The last white president of South Africa, F.W. de Klerk, has left behind a posthumous message of apology for the "pain and indignity" suffered by the people of colour under the apartheid. Klerk, who ordered the release of Nelson Mandela from prison and negotiated a peaceful transfer of power to a government led by people of colour, has an uneven legacy. He is still criticized for some actions, including the failure to curb political violence in those turbulent years. However, his posthumous apology is a reminder for former oppressors that the acknowledgement of and atonement for past crimes is a constant process and must never be forgotten.

Sir — In the last few years, there have been numerous tragic fire accidents in hospitals across the country. In spite of that, nothing seems to have changed; this is evident from the outbreaks at a Covid ward in Ahmednagar and a neonatal unit in Bhopal, both of which led to tragic losses. There is an urgent need for the strict enforcement of fire safety guidelines in hospitals across India. Hospitals found to be in violation of the norms should be penalized immediately. Sir — The loss of lives in hospital fires is a blot on our health care system. The electrical wiring in most government hospitals is outdated and the staff is ill-equipped to handle a sudden outbreak of fire. Hospital managements across the country must review and update their infrastructure so that such events do not recur. Sir — The Twenty20 World Cup semifinal match between Pakistan and Australia was thrilling. There were many talented players on both sides and they brought their best to the game. The Pakistan team put up a good fight, but Australia won the match by five wickets. The partnership between Marcus Stoinis and Matthew Wade — they scored 81 runs in just 6.3 overs — tilted the game in favour of the Australians. Cricket fans around the world are now waiting with bated breath for the final match between New Zealand and Australia on Sunday. There is no doubt that it will be quite a treat. Sir — Kangana Ranaut has always made inflammatory statements, but this time, she went a step too far. She said at an event that India attained "real freedom" in 2014 — that is, when Narendra Modi came to power — and that independence from the British in 1947 was "bheek" or alms. This is a grave insult to all the freedom fighters of our nation and has been rightly criticized by many, including the Bharatiya Janata Party member of parliament, Varun Gandhi. Ranaut must be penalized for her statements. Sir — No one is surprised that Kangana Ranaut forgot all propriety in her rush to sing praises of the prime minister and said that the country attained real freedom only in 2014 and belittled the sacrifices of the martyrs of the freedom struggle. The BJP must know that this is a faux pas; even its most ardent supporters will condemn this statement. The party high command needs to immediately condemn Ranaut's comments. Sir — The repeated flooding of Chennai, among other things, has been attributed to faulty city planning. Furthermore, experts are of the opinion that an improvement in the piped supply of water — this reduced dependence on groundwater, resulting in the groundwater table remaining stable — may also have played the culprit. The state government needs to overhaul the infrastructure of the city if it hopes to reduce the miseries of the people.

Yorkshire County Cricket Club mired in race row

EYE ON ENGLAND: Young India's Beatles fascination, Sir Cliff Richards walks across to Surinder Arora's new luxury hotel

Yorkshire County Cricket Club is tearing itself apart after dressing allegations by the 30-year-old, Pakistani origin off-spinner, Azeem Rafiq, that he was subjected to such racism that he once considered taking his own life. He is being offered £200,000 by way of compensation, while the reputations of many players and officials, past and present, are being shredded. This is sad because in the annals of English cricket, no club has had a more glorious history than Yorkshire. For long, only players born in Yorkshire could play for the county but this strength became its weakness as its cricket culture became inbred.

I remember being very excited when its eligibility rules were liberalized in 1992 when Sachin Tendulkar, then only 19, became Yorkshire's first overseas signing. A publicity gimmick had him wearing a flat cap and holding a glass of beer provided by Tetley, Yorkshire's main sponsor, even though he didn't drink. "Everybody loved him to bits," recalled Chris Hassell, then Yorkshire's chief executive, who had flown to Mumbai to sign his prize catch. A decade later when Tendulkar was inducted as one of five great Yorkshire players, he said wistfully: "I will always remember this as one of the greatest four and a half months I've spent in my life."

On visits to Yorkshire, I found an apartheid system had developed in cricket. Since Pakistani immigrants were mostly of white clubs, they played with each other and formed their own leagues. However, despite the very real racism faced by Rafiq, Pakistanis are now flourishing in English cricket — demonstrated by the presence of Moeen Ali and Adil Rashid in the England team. And Indians? Alas, they have become almost an extinct species so far as first class cricket is concerned. Perhaps young Indians, having invested heavily in going to top public schools and universities, feel they can have more fulfilling careers outside the humdrum of county cricket. Much has been written about the time that John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr spent with the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in Rishikesh in 1968. Nevertheless, I was gripped by an interview of Ajoy Bose, the co-director of a new film, *The Beatles and India*, last week on the BBC Radio 4's *The World Tonight* by the presenter, James Comarasamy. Bose spoke of how contemporary musicians in India have been influenced by a band which was active half a century ago. "I think the most incredible thing is how these young musicians venerate a band which was in the last century and, in India, when you hear these musicians talk about how much The Beatles still mean to them. To talk with such passion is really touching." Bose said that "step by step India pulled in George and along with him the rest of The Beatles. Something happened to George after he fell in love with India, because George's stature suddenly



grew in the band. And he was bringing in something very new to the band." After looking at the credits, I contacted an old friend, Reynold D'Silva, the London-based CEO of the Silva Screen Music Group, who enthused: "Yes, I'm the producer of the film. It's been a long journey." Along with the documentary, he is issuing a companion album, *The Beatles and India: Songs Inspired by the Film*, "which will feature interpretations of Beatles' songs that they were inspired to write from their time in India from contemporary Indian artists".

Indian newspapers routinely use the word, 'Pak', as an abbreviation for Pakistan. But add the letter, 'i', at the end and it becomes a term of abuse in England. Sometimes, Indians, who have this insult hurled at them, react indignantly: "I'm not Pakistani — I'm Indian!" This is missing the point. In the eye of the abuser, there is no distinction between Indians and Pakistanis. The "P" word is no longer used in media coverage or in everyday conversations. Last week, on the talk radio, LBC, which was analysing the race row at Yorkshire, the presenter, Iain Dale, read the riot act to any listener calling in: "I will not allow you to use the 'P' word even in a discussion. The attitude of many Indians in Britain towards Pakistanis is surprisingly multi-layered. On Kashmir, the division remains deep. But there is seldom any crowd trouble

during India-Pakistan matches in England. After India was eliminated from the T20 World Cup, I suspect many Indians instinctively supported Pakistan — although they, too, have been knocked out now. I think it's a kith and kin thing. The knock-on effect of Virat Kohli hugging Mohammad Rizwan in the Indian and Pakistani areas of Britain cannot be underestimated. A few days ago when Surinder Arora inaugurated his new luxury hotel, Fairmont Windsor Park — the Queen can stroll across from Windsor Castle for a morning cappuccino if Her Majesty so wishes — the honours were done by one Harry Webb, who was born in Lucknow in 1940, grew up in Hovrah, and emigrated with his parents to England in 1948. He is now 81 and better known as the pop legend, Sir Cliff Richard. Both Cliff and Surinder are due congratulations. This is useful intelligence for members of single malt clubs in Calcutta, Mumbai and other cities in India. I have just been given a tour of Jasminder Singh's new £500m "super boutique" hotel, The Londoner, in Leicester Square, which is eight stores up and about six down. One reviewer called the hotel "a work of art" while another gave it 9 out of 10. Deep down, there is a whisky room accessible only to residents, with one wall lined with 100 bottles of whisky, including a "very, very rare Macallan 38".

Aromatic strategy

Can the odour of hollow political symbolism be masked by a drop of scented socialism

Gucci, the whispers in the corridors of power suggest, is suffering from sleepless nights. Its Indian cousins — Aamod Luxury Fragrances, Bombay Perfumery, Embark and Perfum — are competing for a share of the competition. For the Samajwadi Party — wedded to socialist principles — has decided to launch its own perfume with an eye on the assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. However, this unique aroma — a mixture of 22 indigenous ingredients apart from, presumably, those of dreamy socialism and, ironically, the Market — would not be put on sale. It would be distributed in bottles — they would sport the SP's signature red-and-green shades and have the symbol of the "bicycle" embossed on the glass — so that the scent of socialism, memorably described as a "cry of pain" by the sociologist, Emile Durkheim, manages to remove the odour of divisiveness that has spread far and wide under the watch of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Akhillesh Yadav, the SP's head-honcho, is hopeful that the aam aadmi would get the message contained in the bottle. But purists, including Lohiaites and other patrons of an uncontaminated socialism, could well be turning up their nose at the idea. This is because the noble intentions



notwithstanding, socialism in a perfumed — superficial? — avatar is the very antithesis of the ideal that had held sway over pre-liberalized India's political landscape. That ideal had a distinct, but different, fragrance: it smelt of the blood, sweat and tears of the teeming millions who were taught to dream of an honourable, equitable life. That vision of a larger fraternity cannot be, socialists would argue justifiably, conjured by a few drops of Mr

Yadav's newly-launched Eau de Cologne. That kind of transformation in the political air is only possible through inventive mass mobilization. The larger point, in this context, concerns the potency of political symbolism. In other words, the hollowness of it. The medium, alas, is seldom the message. There is a tragic but all-too-palpable gap that separates political parties from their own symbolic outreach. The BJP's rath, usually an air-conditioned luxury vehicle, rolls in and out before every election but the ache in promised by the prime minister are yet to arrive. The Congress's health has stopped — for long — being the assuring hand meant to protect the vision of the founders of the republic. The communist star is on the wane, save for Kerala, now that the promise of Revolution has started to emit a stench. There is a sickly smell to Indian democracy as well. The ingredients of this miasma could well be the rot in ideological roots, the infidelity of politicians towards public welfare, criminalization of public life, capitulation of democracy's vanguards to political masters, renewed casteism and communalism as well as a deepening social and economic chasm.

Ajay Mishra Teni's position is untenable

It speaks to the essential fickleness of our newsrooms and the short-lived length of public outrage that the most damning developments in the Lakhipur Kheri case have barely attracted our national attention. But if you follow what's happening in the Supreme Court (SC), in the pursuit of justice for the farmers crushed under a car owned by the son of minister of state for home, Ajay Mishra Teni — and in the pursuit of justice for the three Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers subsequently killed by an irate mob — the incontrovertible conclusion is that the minister must be sacked. To start with the minister, who holds a constitutional post and a portfolio related to the most sensitive issues of national security and law and order, seems to have lived on record to the Indian people.

On October 5, Teni asserted that his son Ashish Mishra (now in custody), was not even present at the spot in Uttar Pradesh (UP) where the ghastly tragedy unfolded. In fact, he went on to argue

that had his son been present in their car (the ownership was never disputed), he would never have survived the mob attack that followed. BJP spokespersons took their cue from these statements and began echoing the line in public. By the admissions that have been made in court and reported widely, the UP government's probe has now established that there is "convincing evidence" of Ashish Mishra's presence at the site in Lakhipur Kheri. Investigators have spoken of how there is an entire hour that day that Mishra junior is unable to account for. Several witnesses have also made a record to talk of how Mishra junior escaped into the sugarcane fields right after the Thar vehicle mowed down the farmers walking on the narrow, dusty pathway ahead.

You could argue that the minister did not wilfully lie and claim that he was misled by his son. Even so, the fact that his statements, repeated multiple times, have been found to be falsehoods, casts a shadow over both his

credibility and authority. Worse, in a clear contravention of his position as the Union minister of state for home, he publicly criticised the UP police, blaming them both for allowing a pathway to the protesting farmers and for the death of Shyam Sundar, one of the BJP workers who was killed. I have always argued that Teni should have been asked to go right at the beginning, if the BJP wants to do right by its men who were beaten to death by an angry mob after the minister's son's car ran their comrades over.

But now even the lawyer for Sundar, Arun Bhardwaj, has expressed a lack of faith in the probe being run by the special investigations team in UP, demanding a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry instead. The other claim made in the immediate days after the incident — that journalist Raman Kashyap was killed by the farmers who turned violent — has also been outed as a fact as a lie. Kashyap's father had said from the first day that his son's body bore the bruises of having been dragged under the same vehicle responsible for the murder of the four farmers. And there are now reports that the forensic study shows that the weapons

of three of the accused were discharged, although the time at which they were used is not clear. But this too overturns the claims made initially that no firearms were discharged. The court has been scathing in its observations, pointing to the confusion created by filing two different but overlapping First Information Reports (FIRs). The bench, headed by the

Family tests Covid positive in Surat, society lane sealed

Ahmedabad: The entire lane of a residential society Pavitra Row House was declared as duster quarantine by the health department of Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) after five members of a family tested positive of Covid 19. The infected people who have minor symptoms are on home isolation. A 66-year-old male member of the family had returned from Mahabaleshwar on November 11 after a two-day trip, said sources. He developed fever on Friday after which he went to Pal health centre of SMC and was tested positive. Other family members, including a 35-year-old man, his 31-year-old wife and two three-year-old children later tested positive on Saturday. Other family

members too caught infection after staying in the same house for 24 hours with the senior citizen. The family is in home isolation at present since they have mild symptoms, said a health official. After the senior citizen tested positive in the RT-PCR test, SMC tested other family members too. Meanwhile, the number of positive persons in the city have increased to eight on Saturday. Till now, the number of cases had remained below five.

Health officials informed that the cases are rising as the travellers are returning from vacation. The civic body has increased testing to 7,000 daily in the city and the number of tests at entry points too has been doubled to 3,000 from the earlier 1,500.

chief justice, has remarked that the way the evidence is being collected seems designed to protect the "main accused". The court is leaning towards deploying judges from outside the state to monitor the probe. We forget now about the minister's own speech warning the protesting farmers — who had put up posters against him — that he could "discipline them

in two minutes". It was an address made roughly a week before the vehicles mowed through the farmers. In it, Teni can be heard saying that if he wished, he could ensure that

the farmers would have to leave "not only Palia, but Lakhipur itself". Even then, the language used by the minister was unconvincing. But with the SC's criticism and the hollowness of his claims having been shown up by a judicial process, Ajay Mishra Teni cannot — and must not — continue as minister of state for home.

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EXTRACT FROM THE STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED ON 30.09.2021 (Rs. In Lakhs)

Sr no	Particulars	Quarter ended on 30th September, 2021	For the half year ended on 30.09.2021	Corresponding 3 Months Ended on 30th September, 2020
1	Total Income from operations	1894.27	2427.83	1538.46
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	24.05	86.91	42.16
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	24.05	86.91	42.16
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	2.18	65.83	31.56
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/ (loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	2.18	65.83	31.56
6	Equity Share Capital	352.64	352.64	352.64
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of Previous Year	-	-	-
8	Fairings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) for continuing and discontinued operations)	0.66	1.84	0.89
	Basic:	0.66	1.84	0.89
	Diluted:	0.66	1.84	0.89

Notes:
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full format of the financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on the Company website (www.hawaengltd.com)
2 The result of the Quarter ended on 30th September, 2021 were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Director at its meeting held on 30th November, 2021.

Place : Ahmedabad
Date : 13.11.2021

For, Hawa Engineers Ltd
5d/-
Asst. Mgr. K. K. Kadi
Managing Director
DIN-0006879