

Infrastructural projects pose threat to Goa Wildlife.

Page No: 03



Highlights of Union Budget 2021

Page No: 02



The White Tiger - Reviewed

Page No: 06



Uttarakhand: Breach, avalanche? Cause of flood divides scientists

Priti Sinha (UG 1)

It seems that the most beautiful, blissful and blessed state of India faces the most horrifying consequences from nature. After almost seven years yet again most of the Uttarakhand is destroyed. This incident took place on 7th February, 2021 due to the breaking off of the Nanda Devi Glacier which resulted such a massacre. Because of the two ongoing projects NTPC'S TAPOVAN-VISHNUGAD PROJECT and RISHI-GANGA HYDEL PROJECT most of the trees were cut down and no nature was left around the area, so when the water burst out even one percent of nature was not left to hold its force. According to reports, the Rishiganga power plant on the Rishiganga river, a tributary to the Dhauliganga river was damaged and 35 labours working on the project are missing. Chief Minister of Uttarakhand TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT stated that flash floods also impacted a much larger hydro project owned by the NTPC with around 176 labours working on a project which had two tunnels where those workers were trapped. After the whole massacre PM Narendra Modi urged an ex-gratia of Rs.2 lakh each from PMNRF for the next

kin of those who have lost their lives due to the tragic avalanche caused by a Glacier breach in Chamoli, Uttarakhand and Rs.50,000 would be given to those who are seriously injured. As most of the residents of the village is



still missing and some were rescued by the workers of the relief project. "Before we could make out what was happening, the raging muddy waters of Rishi Ganga had devastated the landscape," says 50 year old Dharam Singh, a resident of the village. The Himalayas have been warming at an alarming rate for years, melting ice long trapped in glaciers, soil and rocks elevating the risk of devastating floods and landslides, scientists have warned repeatedly. Nearby populations were vulnerable, they said that

the region's ecosystem had become too fragile for large development projects. But the Indian government overrode the objections of the experts and started new hydrolic power plants underground inspite the risk

was 100%. Officials said on Monday about 26 bodies of the victims have been recovered and still more than 200 are missing. Villagers have allegedly said that the authorities overseeing the expensive development projects had not prepared them about the after affects of those power plants. This massacre have reminded the villagers and as well as the whole county of the Kedarnath incident of 2013, which took really lot of time to normalise the situations all over the place and now this massacre. Just like the previous one this massacre is also going to take a lot of time to normalise its situation and hope the government now take some lessons from this incident and act according to the natural creation of God.

Indian short film Bittu shortlisted in Oscars 2021



Bittu has been directed by Karishma Dev Dube.

Indian short film 'Bittu' has been shortlisted for the 93rd Academy Awards in the Live Action Category. It is a short film, directed by Karishma Dev Dube, and is based on a true story about the heartwarming friendship between two school-going friends. Bittu has emerged amongst the Top 10 candidates after the first round of voting, competing amongst 174 films from across the globe. The film will now be subjected to the votes of members of the short films and animation branch to determine the shortlists and the nominees. The second round of voting will commence on March 5, 2021 and would decide the top 5 films across the globe, making it to the final nominations to be announced on March 15. The official synopsis of Bittu reads, "Based on a true story, Bittu is a short film about a close friendship between two girls, eclipsed by an accident."

Aritra Basu Roy (UG 5)

REOPENING SCHOOLS - GUIDLINES ARE MAINTAINED IN WELL MANNERED

Reopening schools are the greatest relief and joy for the pupils. Not only students but teachers and staffs are very glad and excited to be back to their 'Second Home'. But many parents are anxious as well as keen. From February 12 most of schools has reopened for classes IX-XII. Few students stated they have been counting hours since the reopening announcement was made. They expressed themselves by saying the feeling of returning to school after 11 months is indescribable. On the first day of school after the pandemic, only half of the students have come to attend the classes. Parents

are sending children because clearing doubts of subjects are important. Moreover, the practical classes of class XII are going on. As the board-year students could not attend practical classes earlier due to pandemic. On February 12, the same day of reopening school, a 12-hours strike has been called by Left Organization. However, the school bus operators did not reported any bandh-related problem. There was not any difficulty to pick up and dropped the students. Keep in mind the Guidelines, school authorities put the social distancing protocols and arrangements of sanitisation. Whither, masks have become a part of school uniform. But always

wearing a mask may occur suffocation. Thus, School authorities have given students a 10-minute break after every periods, when students are allowed to take off the mask and breathe freely. And keep in mind the safety of children, the schools are allowed only 10-12 students in one classroom. For any kind of emergency the schools are ready with doctors and primary precaution. A city school named St. Augustine's Day asked students to smell the coffee when they returned to the campus. To make sure that pupils have not lost their senses of smell - a symptom of Covid - coffee beans will be placed in container at the

entrance. Each student must smell them before being allowed inside. Furthermore, school authority said it is own choice of parents whether they want their child to attend classes offline or online. Because school will not be responsible for any child's health condition. Moreover, Partha Chatterjee denied to reopen the colleges and universities. The final exams of college students will be held online. He also stated before the new semesters, a meeting will be held to discuss whether colleges will reopen or not. The decision may depend on the situation of pandemic.

Deepti Mandal (UG-1)

Budget in a Demand-constrained Economy

The Finance Minister expects that the nominal GDP of India would increase by 14.5 per cent in 2021-22. The grim reality is that even with a 14.5 per cent increase in nominal GDP, the GDP of India in 2021-22 is only expected to attain the level where it had been at the end of the fiscal year 2017-18. We are not expected to get back the pre-Covid economy in 2021-22 even if the economy grows by 14.5 per cent in the next fiscal year. The reality is that we are far away from quick recovery. Since the size of the GDP is expected to decline compared to what we had in 2020-21, the revenue collection in the next fiscal year will be lower. The Finance Minister proposes to mobilise additional Rs 10 lakh cores through borrowing. As the relevant data indicate, this will mostly be utilised to meet the revenue gap. The Central Government cannot spend much, under such a dispensation, on additional income (and employment) generation. A Covid tax on higher income group, a surcharge on Corporate Tax (incidentally, next year, the Corporate will pay less than what it has paid in the current fiscal year) a tax on assets of the super rich might have spinned a different story. The borrowed fund of Rs,10 lakh cores could then largely be spent for demand generation by accelerating the spending power of the poorer section of the income earners whose marginal propensity to consume is higher. Evidently, the Central Government does not believe in demand side management, Supply side orthodoxy rules to roosts which is why the revenue deficit in this budget is met by borrowing, and not by taxing the supply side agents. The Union Government never recognised that there exists any demand side problem in Indian economy. Even during Covid, in India, the government intervention in the form of Covid package came from the supply side considerations. The whole world was then busy with finding proper demand side stimulants to meet the Covid-in-

flicted challenges No wonder that India experienced the highest rate of decline in GDP in this period, far worse than Germany, U.K. or the USA. in a demand-constrained economy, the supply-side instruments fail to accelerate the GDP. The more you spend on rejuvenating the supply-side instruments, more funds would be transferred to asset market because of lack of demand in the commodity market. This has very little power to generate fresh income and employment. Asset inequality will mount up amidst mass unemployment, a reality which India is facing now. The budget addresses this issue in a wrong way. This year, the Government expects that an acceleration in income and employment will take place due to bud-



get's emphasis on infrastructure building. Additional 28 lakh crores of rupees are expected to come as contribution to GDP from this effort. With a government allocation of just Rs.1.5 lakh crore for infrastructure building it is unlikely to happen so. The story is built up again on private investment. The

Government expects that the private players will come up in a big way, as the Government would set up a new institution for long term lending for infrastructure development. This institution is expected to mop up Rs.5 lakh crores from the capital market and lend it as long-term borrowing to private investors for new projects in infrastructural sector. The likely outcome is that the fund would be looted by the crony capitalists and much of it would be diverted to create further bubbles in the asset market without having any significant contribution in income and employment generation. The logic is as follows. In a demand-constrained economy, investment in infrastructure is unlikely to ap-

pear remunerative, which is why the logical destiny of this fund is asset market where price bubbles can make it remunerative. The budget is based on some wrong premises, as Chidambam has rightly pointed out. In the short run, a demand-constrained economy needs state intervention in a big way. One should not expect that the private investors shall have to adhere to the logic that 'supply creates its own demand' which is true only in the long run. They would rather believe that 'in the long run, we are all dead' and in the short run supply does not create its own demand. The Finance Minister appears to be the only person who does not understand the short run logic of private investment. Or, should we believe that she is dancing to the tune of crony capitalism of India? Huge disinvestment in public sector undertakings, as proposed by the Finance Minister, is meant to transfer huge assets to the crony capitalists. Disinvestment in bank and other financial institutions including LIC will pave the way for uncertainty and volatility in the financial market. The victim will be the household sector that contributes most in the savings of the society which are mobilised by these institutions. Bank deposit up to Rs.5 lakhs remains insured and the Finance Minister has assured us that the insurance claim will be settled speedily, as a commercial bank fails. India is experiencing the worst kind of neo-liberalism at a time when efficacy of neo-liberalism itself is being questioned even in the western world.

Prof. Ratan Khasnabis
 Director
 Business, Management, Commerce, Economics and Social Sciences

West Bengal State Assembly Elections 2021

The West Bengal assembly conducted its final session on 8th February before the state goes into polls. Earlier this month the Chief Minister introduced the state budget in the assembly following the union government's budget on February 1. Policies like the distribution of tabs to over 9 lakh students and the 'Duare Sarkar' schemes are being alleged to give a push to the campaign of the ruling Trinamool Congress. However the opposition has called these as mere election stunts and doubted their operational efficiencies once the elections

are over. Horse-trading of leaders has been prevalent in the Indian political scenario for the last few years. The recent phenomenon of leaders and MLAs changing their political parties before the 2021 elections has left the average voters of Bengal confused. The political parties have hit the streets, with huge rallies and processions happening almost each day. Medical experts have raised concerns about the social and physical distancing norms. The Election Commission is likely to announce the election schedule by the second week of Feb-

ruary. The Election Commission has given hints of holding the election a month or two earlier due to school exams. Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora, along with other commissioners visited Bengal in January to take stock of the ground situation. Deployment of troops in large number is supposed to be expected during the polls. 2021 would see Kerala, Assam and Tamil Nadu go into polls along with West Bengal.

Soham Banerjee (UG-1)



#SaveMollem: Within the race to save Mollem National Park in Goa

Do you know that certain people have only been detained in Goa Police because they wore a t-shirt that said "Save Mollem"? It is probably not known to many people because it is a topic about which our national media have not spoken much. Thousands of people have been protesting against a critical environmental issue for the last several months, the Mollem National Park. December 19 is celebrated as the Goa Liberation Day because on this very day in 1961, the Indian government threw Portuguese settlers out of Goa. On this occasion, several demonstrators had sign boards with t-shirts saying "Save Mollem" on December 18, 2020. They did not do anything, and some children stood with their posters and were arrested by the police. So why, in the first place, is this whole protest happening? In simple terms, the government wants to clear forests in an ecologically sensitive region in the name of growth without consulting the public. In this case, the Bhagwan Mahavir Sanctuary and Mollem National Park, the pride of Goa, are an ecologically sensitive area. Spread over 240 sq kms, it is the largest protected area in Goa. It is one of the world's 8 hottest biodiversity hotspots. That means that there is a wide variety of plant and animal life here, such as those found in very few places in the world. There are also several fantastic tourist attractions here, such as the Devil's Canyon, the Dudhsagar Falls. There is a temple too so it is quite a popular destination for tourism as well. So, what is the improvement here that the government needs to do? There are three projects: the first is a four-lane highway that the government needs, and the other is a railway line, and the third is a power transmission line. All these three ventures are moving through the core of this sanctuary of wildlife. Geographically, if you look at it on a map, these three projects would look this way - a railway line goes from the lower region, a highway crosses from the centre, and the power transmission line is in the upper region. So, trees will be cut down for all three pro-

grams. It has been estimated that about 20, 000 trees would be felled for the railway line, 40,000 for the highway and about 5,000 for the power transmission line. In total, it is being estimated that 60,000-80,000 trees are to be felled. The question now is, what's the damage? For a little bit of growth, those trees would have to be felled. There are three key problems: The first problem is that the government did not do any evaluation before approving these projects, did not follow the correct process and did not even consult the public. In fact, because of Covid 19,

state precisely the inverse, and after being referred to the National Wildlife Board, the project was eventually approved. The second issue is that environmental activists and demonstrators claim that not just a few trees are involved, but that the whole of Goa is being made into a coal center. The expansion of the railway line and the highway is not for the public's convenience, but rather for big companies' convenience. It is being done so that it is easier to move coal. Savio Correia, an RTI activist and lawyer, says that all three projects are part of the

the train, the coal dust will fly up to 5-15 kms. This coal dust is a threat not only to the environment, but also to the fisheries, agriculture, tourism and public sectors. If Goa really turns into a coal hub, then think about it. Would people rather go to the beaches of Goa as a tourist to find coal dust in the air? Perhaps that is why the then CM of Goa, Manohar Parrikar, rejected this railway project in Goa in 2013. This is why the demonstrators are standing with banners saying "Goyant Kollso Naka." It basically means that 'we don't want coal in Goa'.

The third issue is that if any railway line or highway passes through a sanctuary of wildlife, then it results in fragmentation of habitat that can ultimately lead to the extinction of several species of animals and birds. Fragmentation of habitat essentially means that you break a large ecosystem into small parts so animals are unable to interact from one piece to another. This normally occurs if a highway passes through a sanctuary of wildlife. The first issue resulting from this is that if the minimum number of any animal does not occur in any section, due to inbreeding depression, the entire species will become extinct. This can also happen in a large forest, but if you start separating the forest from the center and making fragments of it, there are several chances of it happening. Ultimately, the wildlife sanctuary will be divided into three



two out of three projects were approved during the lockdown. The National Board of Wildlife approved these projects by video conferencing in the month of March. When asked if this was approved by the central government, they said that the state panel approved it, so we also approved it. The news is that some 5-6 state panel members alleged that they had not even been contacted. Probably, they didn't even know that they had already been granted clearance. Omkaar Dharwaskar, a naturalist who also attended the State Wildlife conference, said that at that meeting they had not given any permission. It was not approved for this project. But the minutes of the meeting

Sagarmala government initiative, which was approved by the central government in 2016 to build the port of Goa. The objective of this project is to build Goa into a corridor for coal transport. The port of Mormugao is a port in South Goa and is expected to import 51.6 million tonnes of coal for the Adani Group, the JSW Group and Vedanta by 2030, according to the projections of its trust. While the Adani group denies it, the names of these groups have arrived here. This is the reason that Adani has also been pointed out by many Goa protestors. If this railway is primarily used to transport coal, then mind one thing: because of the wind and depending on the speed of

sections by the highway and the railway line. This raises to three times the likelihood of any animal extinction. The public, by various ways, has expressed its opposition. On the other hand, there are numerous movements on social media, while there are protests on the ground. In these protests, even children took part. More than 150 scientists have written letters to the government to tell them why this project should not be carried out. Even emails to the government have been written by the public as to why this initiative must not be implemented. In order to pressure the government, Goa's young people also wrote letters to their respective MLAs. What is the government's re-

action to all of this? The government has said that the opposition is financing these demonstrations and all these demonstrators are deceived. Under several FIRs, the prominent leaders of this protest have been booked, detained and

even children have been detained by the government. But, the good news is that at least one of the three projects has remained in the High Court. The High Court suspended the power transmission line project on 8 December. But the gov-

ernment will also undertake the rest of the two programs. This is why it is important to raise a voice regarding this, whichever way we can do it. Because, our voice raised reaches the government and pressurizes them to stop these projects for the

sake of climate and the public. The good news is that when the public raises a voice then it does create pressure on the government.

Banani Mandal(UG-1)

Mamata Banerjee launches 'Maa' scheme to provide meals at Rs 5 to poor people

Initially, Maa scheme would be launched in Kolkata where 16 common kitchens have been set up. The meal would comprise rice, dal, a vegetable and egg. With an eye on the coming assembly elections, the West Bengal government is set to provide meals at a nominal cost of ₹5. The scheme will be launched by chief minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on Monday. The "Maa" scheme gets its name from Trinamool Congress's (TMC's) slogan of "Ma, Mati, Manush (Mother, soil, people)". "Initially, Maa scheme would be launched in Kolkata where 16 common kitchens have been set up. The meal would comprise rice, dal, a vegetable and egg and would be served at ₹5 per plate. The food would be available at a fixed time," said a senior official of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. The scheme would gradually be extended to other towns and cities in the state. The state government has already allocated a budget for this. Earlier, the TMC had started a community kitchen, "Didir

Rannaghar" (Mamata's kitchen) to support migrant workers who were hit due to job losses due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The CPI (M) too had started a few hundred "Sramojibi canteen" (community kitchen) to serve vegetarian food to the poor. The party had also initiated 50 health clinics and safe houses for those who cannot afford healthcare facilities. Even in schools, closed during the pandemic, while mid-day meals were not served, the state government continued to provide ration to the students' families. The state assembly elections are due in March – February this year. The BJP which had made deep inroads in the state in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls is now posing a major challenge to the ruling TMC. The BJP has set a target to win more than 200 seats in the 294-seated assembly.

ABHRAJIT DAS (UG-1)



ISL | EB fluffs it up again

The result takes Hyderabad to the third spot and extends its unbeaten run to nine games, while SC East Bengal (SCEB) moves to ninth.

SC East Bengal's defensive frailties at the death continued to haunt it as it conceded a stoppage-time goal, for the fourth time this season, to settle for a 1-1 draw with 10-man Hyderabad FC in an Indian Super League clash at the Tilak Maidan, Vasco, on Friday.

left-footed strike that seemed destined to find the top corner. Laxmikant Kattimani, though, pulled off a stunning one-handed save to parry it away. The Red and Gold Brigade began the second half with great vigour and stormed ahead at the hour mark. It was a goal that came against the



The result takes Hyderabad to the third spot and extends its unbeaten run to nine games, while SC East Bengal (SCEB) moves to ninth.

The first real chance of the game fell to Joel Chianese in the 21st minute. Luis Sastre threaded a delectable through ball that released Chianese on goal. The Australian tried to place it beyond Subrata Paul but the 'keeper made a sprawling save.

SCEB's Anthony Pilkington produced a moment of magic in the 42nd minute when he nearly gave his side the lead. The Irishman received a lob on the right flank and weaved his way into the box before unleashing a fierce

run of play as Aridane Santana's shot bounced off the post and SCEB went on to score at the other end. Pilkington flicked the ball in Bright's path and the Nigerian sprinted 50 meters before putting it past Kattimani. The switch of play was completed in all of 11 seconds.

SCEB looked set to secure its fourth win of the season but it wasn't to be as Aridane struck in stoppage-time. Substitute Fran Sandaza flashed a teasing low cross across the goal and Aridane slotted it home to earn his side a crucial point. Mohammad Yasar was sent off soon after for a rash tackle on Wahengbam Luwang, but it had no bearing on the result.

Surbhi Sinha (UG-1)

What's in the all-new Whatsapp Privacy Policy?

Can all our messages be read by Whatsapp? Can our data be given to Facebook by Whatsapp? On social media, in news bulletins, there was a lot of debate on this topic and there were a lot of misunderstandings as well. Let's get to know about the privacy policy of Whatsapp in depth and how it will affect us and how, regardless of this policy, we can protect your privacy. So many of you must have noticed and received a new notification of the new Whatsapp Privacy Policy with a "agree" option at the end of the page. There is no other choice here than "agree". This policy can't be disagreed with. There is a cross button at the very top of the notification if you want to close it. If you click on it, this message will continue to show up until you agree with it. So many of us have this habit that whenever there is a notification we blindly click to agree. But, truly, this is not the right thing to do. After all, it's about our privacy and security, so it's important to understand these things better. So what's in Whatsapp's new privacy policy and why do people feel so concerned about it? The biggest thing is : Whatsapp is openly telling us that it will share some of our data with Facebook companies. What are the companies? Facebook, Facebook Messenger and Instagram! Basically, all those companies that are owned by Facebook. But there's nothing new about this. Whatsapp did this before, as well. But there's a big difference here. Under the Whatsapp Privacy Policy of June 2020, we could opt out of it. We could check out an option in the settings if we don't want to share our information and data with Facebook companies. And if we were to check it out, then Whatsapp wouldn't have done that. But we don't have an option in the new privacy policy. Either we're going to agree to it or we can stop using Whatsapp. The second biggest thing: What is the data that will be shared with Facebook? Some people will say whatever we text someone, the links we share; all this information will be shared with Facebook, and Facebook will be able to read all of our messages. But this is wrong, though. Whatsapp will remain encrypted end-to-end. What is end-to-end

encryption? In simple terms, end-to-end encryption means that when you send a message, apart from you and the receiver, no one will know the contents of the message, i.e. what is written in that message. No third party will know what message you typed. In fact, Whatsapp itself will not know what message you typed. End-to-end encryption will remain in Whatsapp right now. It's not going anywhere, so we don't need to worry that a third person will read our messages, or that our messages won't be read by Facebook. In fact, even after the implementation of the current privacy policy, Whatsapp is a better messaging service than Facebook Messenger or Instagram Messenger. Because Facebook and Instagram messages have no end-to-end encryption. That is, if Facebook and Instagram want, they can see the contents of our messages. What we're writing to our friends on Facebook Messenger and Instagram Messenger, Facebook and Instagram can read this. They say they don't read anyone's message, but they can read it if they want to! You might have noticed that if you're sending a message to your friend on Facebook that you want a t-shirt, you might have seen t-shirt ads appear on Facebook the next day. This is how the system works. Whatever messages you send to someone, keywords will be chosen from there and targeted ads will be displayed accordingly. This is the business model of Facebook and Instagram. They're basically selling ads to advertisers. They say, we've got data from so many people, and we know what this person likes, what this person's message to another person today, what this person needs. So, advertisers can come and we're going to show these people ads about the products you want to sell. So, the question that arises here is how is Whatsapp going to help out with this Facebook business model? Because Whatsapp chat is end-to-end encrypted, so the contents of the messages can't be read. So, by what means will Facebook benefit from the data it receives from Whatsapp? Here we come back to the original question: what is the data that Whatsapp is going to pro-

vide to Facebook? In fact, this data is almost anything that Whatsapp can extract from our phone other than our messages. For example, the type of mobile phone, operating system, battery life, signal strength, time zone, IP address so that our approximate location can be known, our profile picture, Whatsapp status, Whatsapp name, contact details, our names, phone numbers and profile pictures. All of these data will now be provided to Facebook. Now you can imagine the rest of the data that this list includes how useful it will be for Facebook to sell to advertisers. Many people are particularly angry with Whatsapp because it gave a promise when Facebook purchased Whatsapp in 2014 that they would attempt to collect minimal data. 'We consider privacy as a right and respect everyone's privacy. We're not going to show ads on our platform.' Although Whatsapp has said they would not display any advertising, they have modified the language of the current privacy policy. It says that they would certainly let people know in the future if they show any ads. It seems that Whatsapp will also feature advertisements in the coming future because of the wording shift. And that's not going to be shocking, because, if you remember, when Facebook acquired Whatsapp in 2014, it spent \$22 billion. They had to recover this money from one location or another if they invested too much money and if we look at it from a pure business perspective. Other than taking user data and selling it to marketers, what other way is there to recover money from Whatsapp? The third most dangerous thing is : Whatsapp has included in its privacy policy that not only can Whatsapp share our information with Facebook, but also with any Facebook-related third party or business or use of its services. The knowledge may also end up with them. When we speak to our friend, the end-to-end encryption works perfectly, but if we chat with a Whatsapp business account, it will not work. This is because the message will be available to us and the business account will be able to access it. Behind the Whatsapp business ac-

count, there could be lots of people. There could be an entire business. So, for their own good, they can use our texts. Basically any third party or any other company has a business account on Whatsapp and if you chat with them they can even take your message history and use your message content for their own benefit. And this is something that can open a Pandora's box. Into the picture come grave possibilities. Remember that through a business account such as your bank account details, you provided your personal data to a third party and if that organization goes through a data breach, then that data leak will be public and all your account information will be exposed. If there is a data breach from every company in the world and if that company has a Whatsapp business account, then your information is at risk. Cambridge Analytica is the second example. Say a business like that is coming up in the future that uses our confidential data in political campaigns, i.e. to brainwash us politically, something that Cambridge Analytica did. Basically, our data can be taken from the business account of Whatsapp or Facebook in such a way that it was done by Cambridge Analytica to compelyou to show you fake news. For all these things, we could be manipulated. Owing to the latest privacy policy, possibilities are infinite. In fact, because of the new privacy policy, if the government wants to target us, it will also become simple. Cybersecurity expert Jitin Jain said that surveillance can easily be carried out by the government because what Whatsapp has done so far is that they have denied all details. Whenever the government asked Whatsapp for any data, Whatsapp used to say that "We do not have any data because we do not collect any data. Therefore we cannot give you any data." But now, if the government asks me to send me this and that information, then Whatsapp can't claim we don't have any data. Here, the privacy policy itself states that this information will be obtained by Whatsapp. So, the information can be provided to the government very easily. So, what are the solutions we've got?

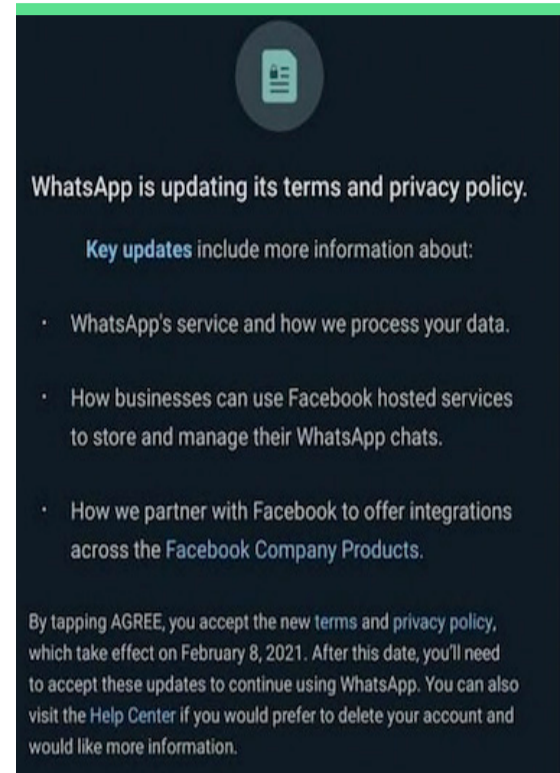
One choice is to fully avoid using Whatsapp and begin to use an alternative app like Signal or Telegram. How do you do it, while maintaining your privacy, for anyone who wants to still use Whatsapp? Let's recall the list of the data which Whatsapp collects, and let's get rid of them one by one. Firstly, don't write anything in your about section. Don't give any Whatsapp status. Do not position a Whatsapp profile image and do not write your true name, too. Write down an entirely different name. Whatsapp won't have your profile, age, details or real name in this way. Then Whatsapp will see your mobile device, the time zone, the frequency of the signal and the life of your battery. These are not items of great importance. Everyone has a phone and a battery life. Even if Whatsapp has this data, nothing is being lost. But one important thing is the IP address. Whatsapp can identify your position by means of the IP address. By using VPN, you can mask your IP address. Whenever you use

Whatsapp, turn on the VPN to keep Whatsapp from knowing its exact location. Your IP address would also be obscured. The Whatsapp business loophole! Here, it is advised that you do not text message on Whatsapp with any company account. Do not talk with any organization that texts on Whatsapp. Only use it for personal communication. So, you can use Whatsapp if you are careful about all this while optimizing your privacy. However, the easiest way is to start using Signal or Telegram and to quit Whatsapp. Signal has been made by a Non-profit. Thus, it will never happen that the app says, "We want to make more money, so we'll be displaying this advertisement on our platform." This program does not collect our data at all. The Telegram app is the second choice. It is also a safe choice, because the person who has developed the Telegram app has consistently shown that it is not going to genuflect before any government. The Telegram app has unique anti-censorship features that were used when

demonstrations against their tyrant were used in the Belarus protest. The Telegram app publicly embraced the protestors. The same thing was also seen during the Hong Kong Rally. Against the tyrant, the Telegram app displayed its full support. Possibly because the Telegram app's developers were openly opposed to the Russian dictatorship. There is also a section of the update that will also appear surprising to you as well, as the new privacy policy of Whatsapp is totally different for people living in Europe. Whatsapp would not, for European users, send its data to Facebook at all. And this is only in Europe because, there is a strict law on data protection; the GDPR. This shows us how critical laws created by the government protect the public's privacy in this whole case. To establish a good data protection law, we should also pressurize the Indian government



Message us on WhatsApp



Banani Mandal (UG-1)

Film Review - The White Tiger

THE WHITE TIGER

GENRE: Drama/Crime

RUNNING TIME: 2 hours 15 minutes

DIRECTOR : Ramin Bahrani

CAST : Adarsh Gourav, Priyanka Chopra, Rajkumar Rao, Naleneesh Neel

PRODUCER : Priyanka Chopra, Ramin Bahrani, Mukul Deora

“You ask 'Are you a man or a demon?' Neither, I say. I have woken up, and the rest of you are sleeping, and that is the only difference between us.”

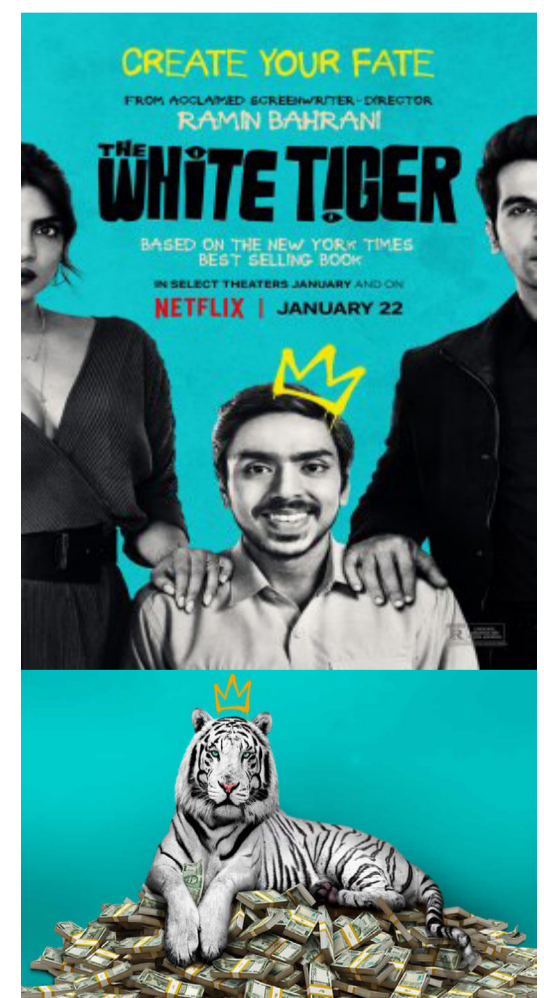
Aravind Adiga's novel 'The White Tiger' is the dark, satirical opposite of the ending to Slumdog Millionaire, and was released the same year the film premiered. The film was much awaited ever since the release of its trailer on Netflix platforms. The White Tiger much like the Slumdog Millionaire discovers the dark underbellies of

the poor India exploited for decades by the rich, corrupted, powerful and sometimes 'caste'. The film has been receiving positive responses ever since its release.

The White Tiger is framed around a letter written by the fictional Balram Halwai (Adarsh Gourav) to a Chinese government official, which narrates his rise from rags to riches. Through the letter we are introduced to the different characters and Balram's rise from an ever obeying servant to a white tiger, once born every five generations. Balram like many other Indian kids had to dropout of school and indulge in child labour, despite being a quick learner at academics. In his adulthood he manages to find a job as a driver in the house of the village's Godfather styled landlord called Stork. Balram finds in Ashok the Stork's younger son, the elements of a perfect master. Unlike others Ashok (Rajkumar Rao) and his wife Pinky (Priyanka Chopra) never treats Balram as a for granted servant. Rather they always opposed the humiliation meted out to Balram by the landlord's family. But once in Delhi, a drunk Pinky accidentally hits a slum dweller kid by car, with her husband at her side and Balram at the back seat. From here we see how quickly the rich uses and disposes of the poor as mere commodities. The next morning Ashok's family comes to the rescue and makes Balram read a confession

letter, of him committing the accident and thereby fleeing away from the spot in panic. As nobody reported the crime with the help of police sources the family gets away with the case and so does Balram. However they keep Balram's confession letter as source of blackmail in the near future. Pinky fails to tolerate all these and she leaves to return back to the USA where she had spent her childhood. Before leaving she grants Balram some cash in hand and remarks that the door was always open Balram just needed to find the right keys. This marks the rise of the entrepreneur and an ambitious Balram. In the latter half Balram kills his master Ashok with a broken glass bottle and runs away with a red bag of cash, which was being used by the landlord's family to bribe various government officials. Balram along with a nephew of his runs away to the silicon valley of India, Bengaluru and starts taxi drivers service named 'The White Tiger Drivers'. Ashok used to talk about how outsourcing to foreign multinationals will eventually lay down tracks for India's economic rise. Balram took account of all these and expands his business. Like his masters he uses bribing as a way of clearing off his rivals. All the actors outdid themselves. Adarsh Gourav playing the protagonist was beyond words. The film only intensifies with every passing scene. The brilliance of the film lies in the awe striking dialogues. "The future of the world lies with

the yellow man and the brown man now that our erstwhile master, the white-skinned man, has wasted himself through buggery, cell phone usage, and drug abuse". The White Tiger is sly, crooked, rebellious, beautifully written and well placed on the silver screen.



Soham Banerjee (UG-1)