

Chittaprosad caught in JU crossfire

DEBRAJ MITRA

Calcutta: A self-taught artist whose sketches of the 1943 Bengal Famine created a powerful visual record of human suffering and colonial neglect has been pitchforked into Bengal's latest political slugfest.

It involves a hostile take-over bid for one of the few remaining Left bastions in the country, fuelled by the BJP's stunning victory in the state polls.

What began with a physical attack on the campus at 1am on August 20 is now playing out on the university's walls, with the authorities wiping out students' graffiti and students returning with more.

One of the casualties of a midnight whitewash drive at Jadavpur University was a portrait of Chittaprosad (1915-1978) on the wall of an academic building. The portrait was drawn in 2022 as a tribute to the artist.

The erasure has drawn widespread criticism.

Arjun Dasgupta, a doctor, said on Facebook: "An artist who did not care for institutional rewards in his lifetime was recognised by the world decades after his death. A paint job to cover his face does not erase history. The slaked lime will dry out, the colours

will fade, but the truth that was upheld by the portrait will keep coming back."

Anushna Das, a postgraduate student of film studies at Jadavpur University, posted a video message on social media in which she stood in front of the wall bearing the remains of Chittaprosad's portrait after the whitewash.

"Imagine being so scared of love that you have to whitewash a wall that speaks of love and compassion, belonging and resistance.... It is people like Chittaprosad who have taught us that you should not remain silent when there is injustice all around... You can try and poison our minds with mindless hatred. But we will continue talking about love, compassion and resistance," she says as Bob Dylan's immortal song *Blowin' in the Wind* plays in the background.

Anushna, Dasgupta and many others pointed out that Chittaprosad dropped his Brahminical surname, Bhattacharya, as a personal and political protest against the caste system and social discrimination.

"It does not augur well for the BJP and RSS, organisations that believe in trampling Dalits and other marginalised people," Anushna told **Metro**. The devastating Bengal Famine inspired profound and harrowing responses across



The portrait of Chittaprosad on the JU campus before and (right) after it was whitewashed



visual art, literature and cinema.

Somnath Hore, Gobardhan Ash, Zainul Abedin and Chittaprosad were among the artists who documented the famine.

Chittaprosad, then a member of the undivided Communist Party of India, travelled through famine-ravaged Bengal. His stark black-and-white drawings, reportage and gut-wrenching sketches were published in the CPI weekly *People's War* and compiled into a seminal booklet titled *Hungry Bengal*. Copies of the booklet were burnt by the British after it was first published in 1943.

Chittaprosad studied at Chittagong Government College and worked as an artist for CPI publications and propaganda material. In the late 1940s, he dissociated himself from the party, but his political commentary continued

through his linocuts and cartoons.

In the 1950s, he moved to (then) Bombay and did illustrations for children's books. He also designed the poster for Bimal Roy's *Do Bigha Zamin*. He died in Calcutta in 1978.

DAG (formerly Delhi Art Gallery), which holds a major collection of Chittaprosad's works, has organised retrospectives and exhibitions on the artist.

"Humanism was the central pillar of his life and practice. One cannot separate his life from his art. When he was in Bombay, he would be fascinated but still organised puppet theatre for slum children," said an art historian who has studied Chittaprosad. He did not want to be named in this report.

The historic Jadavpur University emblem, designed by painter Nandalal Bose, was defaced, allegedly by ABVP

supporters, on August 20 during a face-off with Left-leaning student groups.

Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya, CPM leader and the party's vanquished candidate from the Jadavpur Assembly seat, said in a Facebook post that damaging the emblem portended the "desecration of great artworks by raging bulls".

"The people who came to whitewash the walls were ordinary workers. They don't know who Chittaprosad is. But the civic body, police and the university administration must answer why the portrait was erased. The BJP, the RSS and the entire Right-wing ecosystem are medieval in their thoughts. Obviously, Chittaprosad would be anathema to them," he said.

Debjit Sarkar, the BJP's chief spokesperson for Bengal, said: "We are not Right-wing. We are *rashtravadis* (nationalists). Nationalism is our currency. The CPM should not talk about casteism. All their top leaders are from the upper castes. In contrast, the BJP has made Narendra Modi, who is from a backward class, the Prime Minister."

The portrait of Chittaprosad did not deserve to be alongside walls "full of anti-national and separatist slogans", he said.

10,000 children to get eye checks

JHINUK MAZUMDAR

Calcutta: Children from pre-school to Class XII were screened for vision difficulties at a school in Howrah, where most parents lack both the awareness and the means to afford eye check-ups.

As part of the initiative, 10,000 children will be screened across Bengal over four months to ensure eye-sight problems do not stand in the way of their education, organisers said.

Three hundred children were screened on Wednesday, while the remaining 1,200 students will be checked over the next few days. "When I go on rounds, I see many children struggling to read the blackboard. If we can screen, identify and address the problem at the root instead of just the symptom, a more serious condition may be prevented," said Mohtashem Sulaiman, principal, Sir Syed Ahmed High School in Howrah.

Most parents here are daily-wage earners, masons, or e-rickshaw operators and cannot afford treatment, let alone an eye screening.

"We had to counsel the parents because most of them get scared when they hear about

a health camp. With counselling, they have been more forthcoming," said Sulaiman.

The Dawoodi Bohra community's philanthropic initiative, Project Rise, launched the Vision for Every Child in partnership with CBM India Trust, an NGO.

The four-month school eye health programme was formally inaugurated at Burhani Complex on Topsia Road and was followed by the screening at the Howrah school.

The initiative will provide glasses to children who need them and will also support surgeries for children diagnosed with conditions which require further investigation.

"A child should not fall behind in school because a treatable vision problem has gone unnoticed. Through this partnership we hope children who need eye care are identified early and receive the support and treatment they need," said Taher Totanawala, Project Rise coordinator for the Dawoodi Bohras of Kolkata.

Effective school eye health programmes need to extend beyond screening.

"Screening is the first step. What matters is ensuring that a child who needs spectacles,

specialist care or surgery receives it, along with the necessary follow-up," said Sony Thomas, executive director of the CBM India Trust.

He said digital classrooms, especially in the aftermath of the Covid pandemic, have increased children's screen time manifold.

"While children from privileged families can be taken to the ophthalmologist by their parents if they have any complaints, those from families that cannot afford that are at risk of falling through the gaps. We intend to reach out to them," he said.

Uncorrected vision problems often remain a persistent obstacle to school performance.

A child who cannot see the blackboard falls behind, loses confidence, and in some cases drops out altogether. The cause remains undiagnosed.

"Eyesight is often neglected in childhood, and problems might crop up later. There can be a few children with cataract, and timely intervention can reverse their eyesight problems," said Shakir Khambaty, a spokesperson for Dawoodi Bohras of Kolkata.

The next programme will be in Madhya Pradesh.

SPORTS, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING ENTER BOARD ASSESSMENT

CISCE makes physical education count

JHINUK MAZUMDAR

Calcutta: Senior students may no longer be able to skip the sports field, and an excuse such as an allergy may not be enough to spare them from physical drills.

From 2028, students will be graded in Health and Physical Education, similar to SUPW (Socially Useful Productive Work), with the grade reflected on the board marksheet issued by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE).

The component will cover areas such as sports and physical activities, mental, emotional and social well-being, physical literacy and active living, yoga and mindfulness, inclusion, leadership and sportspersonship.

"It is quite common for senior students to want to excuse themselves from sports. But once something is ratified by the board, the attitude and approach of students and parents change, and they start taking it more seriously," said Terence Ireland, principal of St James' School.

Once students enter Class IX, and particularly the board classes, many give up co-curricular activities, either



A sports day event at The Heritage School. File picture

voluntarily or under pressure from parents.

Participation in the annual sports day is often seen as a waste of time. Over the years, several schools, faced with a steady stream of applications from parents, have chosen to keep board-class students away from such events.

Children who remain physically active and participate in sports and games tend to have more productive study hours, said Seema Sapru, principal of The Heritage School.

"Work efficiency should be measured by how much work is completed in a given period, and not by how many hours a student sits with books," Sapru said.

Health and Physical Education at the ICSE and ISC

levels will place equal emphasis on physical activity, health awareness and responsible living, the council said in a circular issued last week.

Several school heads said the council's endorsement would make it easier for schools to implement the programme.

"The circular can be used as a tool by schools to make parents and students realise the importance of sporting activities in life," said Terence John, director of education and development, Julien Day Schools.

Parents would also be easier to convince because many understand the language of marks more than anything else, John said. "It would raise awareness among parents and

children about the importance of a healthy body," he added.

The board marksheet will carry a grade for the subject.

Applications seeking exemption from sports, particularly the annual sports day, are common across schools.

"We receive applications from parents requesting that their children be excused from sports because they have dust or heat allergies," Sapru said.

Some cases are genuine, but not all, she added.

The skills developed on the sports field can last a lifetime, teachers said. "It inculcates discipline and resilience in children," Ireland said.

Competition, learning to accept failure and working as part of a team are among the skills students acquire on the field.

"Academic excellence is not the only yardstick when students appear for college interviews. Later in life, too, many skills beyond high marks make them job-ready," Ireland said.

High marks and examination performance may help a student secure admission to a course, but life does not stop there, Sapru said.

"Life begins after admission to a reputed college, when students have to survive in different and sometimes ad-

verse circumstances for three or four years," she said.

The responsibility, however, will not rest with students alone, principals said.

"Schools will also have to be more proactive in organising sporting activities. One annual sports day may not be enough," John said.

The council has given schools flexibility in introducing physical activities in different ways.

"There is also the option of yoga, which students can take up for a healthy mind and body," said Mousumi Saha, principal of National English School.

With physical activity becoming part of the assessment framework, the role of counsellors is also expected to become more integral.

School counsellors may have to engage with every child, rather than only those who seek help, a principal said. The council has asked schools to remain vigilant for signs of stress and anxiety among students.

"The counsellor will meet each child, if not always individually, then in groups," said Sujoy Biswas, principal of Rammohan Mission High School.

Session 2027-28

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E Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets Under SARFAESI Act, 2002 and Proviso to Rules 8(6) r/w Proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the SI (Enforcement) Rules, 2002				
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit is mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.				
Date/Time of E-Auction: 06.10.2026, 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM and Last Date of Deposit of EMD: 06.10.2026 till 3:00PM ARMB, Malda, Mr Rahul Singh, Chief Manager (Authorized Officer), Mobile No.- 9119938461 E- Auction Collection A/c Details: Account Name- SUNDRY-NPA/SARFAESI/AUCTION RELATED, A/c 8275500317118A (IFSC- PUNB0827500)				
SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS				
Lot No.	Name of the Branch	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name (mortgagors of property(ies))	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount as on C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/ Physical/Constructive	A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) B) EMD C) Bid Increase Amount
1.	Netaji Market (067820)	Property-1: Schedule-A: Undivided and unspecified proportionate share over all that part and parcel of land measuring altogether more or less (3.87 +4.38)=8.25 decimal at District: Malda, P.S-English Bazar, Registry Office-A.D.S.R-Malda, Mouza-Pirojpur, J.L No. 69, Khatian No. R.S-671, L.R-P- 1917, 1918, P-1919, Plot No. R.S-619, L.R-4010 & 4009, classification -Bastu, under English Bazar Municipality, ward No. 06, Holding No. 70/29, and over the said land a building situated which is popularly known as " DWIJENDRA RESIDENCY)"Boundary as per deed (DWIJENDRA RESIDENCY): North-House of Nita Bhagat,South -Anik Sangha, East-Municipal Lane,West-House of Chitlangia Family. Schedule-B: All that part and parcel of a Residential flat bearing Flat No. 1-D at First Floor consisting of 2 bed room, 1 kitchen, 2 toilets, 1 balcony, 1 dining cum living room, measuring 713 sq.ft including super built area, situated on the North-West side of the building named as DWIJENDRA RESIDENCY, in the name of Mr. Pabitra Kumar Sharma S/o Late Ganga Prasad Sharma, together with undivided and unspecified proportionate share of land as described in the schedule-A, mortgaged through deed no. 09322/2014, registered on 01.09.2014,Boundary of Flat as per deed: North-Common Space, adjacent the House of Mrs. Bhagat,South -Stair Case & Lift,East-Flat No. 1A, West-Common Space.	A) 20.02.2026 B) Rs. 91,52,176.36 (Rupees ninety-one lakh fifty two thousand one hundred seventy six and paise thirty six only) as on 31.01.2026 with further interest wef 01.02.2026, less recovery if any + charges, as mentioned in Demand Notice, C) 08.05.2026 D) Symbolic	For Property-1 A) Rs. 23.56 B) Rs 2.356 C) Rs 0.20
2.	Netaji Market (067820)	Property-2: Schedule-A: Undivided and unspecified proportionate share over all that part and parcel of land measuring altogether more or less (3.87 +4.38)=8.25 decimal at District: Malda, P.S-English Bazar, Registry Office-A.D.S.R-Malda, Mouza-Pirojpur, J.L No. 69, Khatian No. R.S-671, L.R-P- 1917, 1918, P-1919, Plot No. R.S-619, L.R-4010 & 4009,	A) 20.02.2026 B) Rs. 45,97,166.00 (Rupees forty five lakh ninety seven thousand one hundred and sixty-six only) as on 31.01.2026 with further interest wef 01.02.2026, less recovery if any + charges, as mentioned in Demand Notice C) 08.05.2026 D) Symbolic	For Property-2 A) Rs. 31.42 B) Rs 3.142 C) Rs 0.20

3.	Netaji Market (067820)	classification -Bastu, under English Bazar Municipality, ward No. 06, Holding No. 70/29, and over the said land a building situated which is popularly known as " DWIJENDRA RESIDENCY)"Boundary as per deed (DWIJENDRA RESIDENCY):North-House of Nita Bhagat,South -Anik Sangha,East-Municipal Lane,West-House of Chitlangia Family.	A) 20.02.2026 B) Rs. 17,29,724.70 (Rupees seventeen lakh twenty nine thousand seven hundred twenty four and paise seventy only) as on 31.01.2026 with further interest wef 01.02.2026, less recovery if any + charges, as mentioned in Demand Notice C) 08.05.2026 D) Symbolic
4.	Netaji Market (067820)	Schedule-B: All that part and parcel of a Residential flat bearing Flat No. 1-B at First Floor consisting of 2 bed room, 1 kitchen, 2 toilets, 1 balcony, 1 dining cum living room, measuring 835 sq.ft including super built area ,situated on the south-east side of the building named as DWIJENDRA RESIDENCY, in the name of Mr. Pabitra Kumar Sharma S/o Late Ganga Prasad Sharma, together with undivided and unspecified proportionate share of land as described in the schedule-A, mortgaged through deed no. 9328/2014, registered on 01.09.2014,Boundary of Flat as per deed : North-Common passage & stair case,South -Anik Sangha & Common passage,East-Municipal Lane and Common Passage,West-Flat No. 1 C Schedule-C: One Covered Garage measuring 135 Sq Ft on the North-East side of the Ground Floor (Garage No. 1) of the building named as DWIJENDRA RESIDENCY, Mr. Pabitra Kumar Sharma S/o Late Ganga Prasad Sharma, together with undivided and unspecified proportionate share of land as described in the schedule -A, mortgaged through deed no. 9328/2014, registered on 01.09.2014,Boundary of Garage as per deed: North-Common Passage adjacent the house of Mrs. Bhagat,South -Garage No. 2,East-Municipal Lane & Common Space,West-Common Space (Parking Place) Property-3: All that part and parcel of land & building (Three Stores) situated at, J.L No. 69, Khatian No. R.S 780, Plot No. R.S 1060-2 No. Government Colony, Mouza- Pirojpur, P.S- English Bazar, ADSR & District- Malda, measuring total area of 2 katha 10 chhatak, classification-Bastu, in the name of Mr. Pabitra Kumar Sharma S/o Late Ganga Prasad Sharma mortgaged through Patna No. 2/1 (L.O.P 221/B), dated 31.05.2006,Boundary as per deed/patna: East-Existing colony road, West-National Highway 34,North-LOP no: 221/A, South-LOP No: 222,Boundary as per NEC dated 23.08.2010: East-Municipality road,West-National Highway 34,North-Prasanta Kumar Sharma, South-Tapan Chakraborty Note: Property number 3 is not mortgaged in account mentioned at Lot No. 4	A) 20.02.2026 B Rs. 14,72,368.61 (Rupees fourteen lakh seventy two thousand three hundred sixty eight and paise sixty one only) as on 31.01.2026 with further interest wef 01.02.2026, less recovery if any + charges, as mentioned in Demand Notice C) 08.05.2026 D) Symbolic For Property-3 A) Rs. 182.07 B) Rs 18.207 C) Rs 0.50

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:
- The properties are being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and **"WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"**
 - The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
 - The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://banknet.com> on date and time mentioned above.
 - The sale shall be confirmed in favour of the purchaser who has offered the highest sale price in his bid or tender or quotation or offer to the authorized officer and shall be subject to confirmation by the secured creditor.
 - Details of Encumbrance known to the secured creditors: case filled in DRT with case no. 224/2026, 226/2026,242/2026 & 248/2026 and CIVIL court case No. TS-23/2026
 - For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer <https://banknet.com> & www.pnb.bank.in.

Date: 02.09.2026
Place- Malda

Authorised Officer
Punjab National Bank
Secured Creditor

STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002