

# Sushil Ansal moves High Court to stop release of *Trial by Fire*, Netflix show on Uphaar blaze

MALAVIKA PRASAD  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

SUSHIL ANSAL, the 83-year-old real estate tycoon, convicted by the trial court in the evidence tampering case in connection with the Uphaar Cinema fire case, has moved the Delhi High Court seeking a permanent restraint on the release of the Netflix show *'Trial by Fire'* set to be out on January 13.

Ansal has also sought a restraint of the further publication of the book *'Trial by Fire - The tragic tale of the Uphaar tragedy'* authored by Neelam and Shekhar Krishnamoorthy published by Penguin Random House India Private Ltd on which the said series is said to be based. The matter is listed before Justice Yashwant Varma for hearing on January 11. Apart from the main lawsuit, Ansal has in the interim sought an "ex-parte interim" restraint on the release of the book and the web series.

Ansal's lawsuit claims that



Neelam and Shekhar Krishnamoorthy, parents of two who died in Uphaar Cinema fire, wrote the book in 2016. Abhinav Saha

the official teaser of the web series, produced by Endemol India Pvt Ltd, was released on January 4 and shows "direct references" to Ansal and his dramatised role in the June 1997 Uphaar Cinema fire and its aftermath. It has been further stated that his portrayal in the trailer and teaser of the web series has caused and has the propensity to cause "im-

mense and irreparable harm" to his reputation and his right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution as well as his privacy.

Ansal has claimed that he has been punished "both legally and socially" for his association with the Uphaar tragedy.

"The family of the plaintiff has also suffered extensively on

account of the incarceration of the plaintiff. Further, the plaintiff has struggled to achieve a semblance of normalcy in his life along with the lives of his family members in light of the mammoth effects of the tragedy, the conviction, and the social ramifications thereof," the suit stated.

The book was stated to have been released in 2016 when the review petitions in the main Uphaar case were still pending before the Supreme Court. As many as 59 people were killed in the fire.

"The plaintiff had apologised before the Hon'ble Supreme Court to the families of the victims and had expressed deep remorse towards the unfortunate incident. While the plaintiff is sympathetic towards the pain and grief caused to defendant 4 and 5 (Krishnamoorthys) along with several others who lost their loved ones, the defendants ought not to make the plaintiff perpetually liable to be rebuked by the public time and again, especially after having served the

sentence and complying with the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court," the plea states.

The lawsuit states that when he found out that the web series is based on the book authored by the Krishnamoorthys, he bought a copy and was shocked to find that the book entails "a one-sided narration of the unfortunate incident" and that its tone is "highly emotional" and has instances of exaggerated, prejudicial and hyperbolic statements made against Ansal.

Neelam and Shekhar Krishnamoorthy, parents of 17-year-old Unnati and 13-year-old Ujjwal, who died in Delhi's Uphaar Cinema fire in June 1997, wrote the book in 2016. The couple had said that they hope the series will illustrate the truth of the tragedy to generations who have only read or heard of it.

Although the Ansals' conviction in the evidence tampering case was upheld by a sessions judge in July last year, it reduced the duration to the period they had already spent in jail.

## HC SEEKS RESPONSES ON GOPAL'S PASSPORT RENEWAL PLEA

THE DELHI HC Tuesday sought responses from Delhi Police and Association of Victims of Uphaar Tragedy (AVUT) on a plea moved by 74-year-old real estate tycoon Gopal Ansal seeking renewal of his passport for 10 years.

A single judge bench of Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani, while issuing a notice to the AVUT, referred to a 2022 judgment of the Supreme Court in Jagjeet Singh & Ors v Ashish Mishra wherein "a victim was accorded a right of hearing in criminal proceedings". The counsel appearing for AVUT opposed Ansal's renewal plea before the High Court.

# 'Truckload' of records go missing from sub-registrar's office, HC expresses shock

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

EXPRESSING CONCERN at the volume of documents and land records that allegedly went missing from the sub-registrar's office in the national capital, the Delhi High Court Tuesday directed the physical presence of Inspector General (IG) Registration, Department of Revenue (Delhi government), in the court.

Justice Prathiba Singh said, "This is very very shocking. I may direct a CBI enquiry. It is not possible that a truckload of documents from the sub-registrar's office can go missing like this." She observed that the issue cannot be treated in a cavalier manner as it proves that the documents were not kept in safe custody.

Justice Singh thereafter observed, "I want a complete list of all sub-registrars and other officials deputed in the office of sub-registrar 3, District Central since January 1, 2005. The status of police investigation and FIR registered be also placed on record." The matter is next listed on February 8.

The HC further directed the IG to physically remain present on the next date of the hearing. The court also directed Principal Secretary (Revenue) to join the proceedings virtually.

The High Court was hearing a plea moved by Monk Estates Private Limited, claiming that in 1994, it registered six sale deeds for agricultural land. It was argued that mutations were carried out in favour of the company in February 1995, after which it obtained the original sale deeds.

It was argued that in 2013, the company lost the registration documents and sought certified copies of the same from the office of the sub-registrar after depositing the requisite

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charges. In December 2013, the office of the sub-registrar told the company that they did not have the documents. The company then approached the Department of Delhi Archives, which also denied having the said copies.

It was argued that in September 2021, the company filed a Right to Information (RTI) application that revealed that the documents were not available.

Subsequently, in May 2019, an FIR was registered.

Perusing the plea, the HC observed that the facts showed that the officials had knowledge that these documents had gone missing but chose to report it to the police 14 years later.

"Considering that these documents could be misused for sale and purchase transactions, also raised serious concerns about the credibility and integrity of preservation of land records related to citizens itself. Despite having knowledge of all the facts, none of the authorities appears to be taking any action in this regard," the court said.

# Man dragged on road in Gurgaon after accident with SUV, wife hurt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GURGAON, JANUARY 10

A 34-YEAR-OLD man was killed after being dragged for a few metres by an SUV in IMT Manesar's Kasan, said police Tuesday. The victim's wife, who was seated pillion on the motorcycle, also suffered injuries, said police.

Police said the accused car driver is yet to be arrested.

According to police, the incident took place on Sunday night. Police identified the deceased as Sardeep, a shopkeeper. In the police complaint, his wife Sameena said that the duo had gone to the market on their motorcycle.

"We were returning to our

plate. She added that their family members rushed them to a private hospital in sector 87, where her husband died during treatment. She said she suffered injuries on hands and arms and other parts of body.

Police said the accused is yet to be traced. "A probe has been initiated. We are checking CCTVs to trace the accused." An FIR was registered under IPC sections 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way), 304-A (death by negligence), 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), and 427 (mischief causing damage), said police.

house. Around 9.45 pm, when we reached a lane close to the house, we saw a Scorpio car coming towards us at high speed. My husband tried to move out of the way, but the car rammed into us. Due to the collision, he got stuck underneath the car and was dragged for a few metres," she said in the complaint, adding that the car did not have a number

plate. She added that their family members rushed them to a private hospital in sector 87, where her husband died during treatment. She said she suffered injuries on hands and arms and other parts of body.

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# Woman Uber driver injured after her vehicle is pelted with stone

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

AN UBER driver was allegedly attacked with stones by an unidentified person while she was driving in North Delhi's Kashmere Gate area early Monday.

The driver, identified as Priyanka Devi, was on duty around 2 am when a man pelted stones at her car and tried to snatch her phone.

Police said Devi sustained minor injuries on her chest but managed to escape. She was rushed to the hospital and discharged after primary treatment.

Sagar Singh Kalsi, DCP (North), said, "We received a call around 2 am regarding a robbery attempt by breaking the glass of a car. Police rushed to the spot and found a woman cab driver, named Priyanka who lives in Samaypur Badli. She said the glass of her cab was broken and an attempt was made to snatch her mobile. She saved her mobile from being robbed and the attacker fled from the spot."

"We are investigating the matter and will soon nab the accused," he added.

"Later on, she refused to tender any complaint. We contacted her but she said she doesn't wish to file a complaint. However, we took suo motu cognizance of the

issue and a DD entry was made. Based on the entry, a case has been registered under sections of attempted robbery," added the DCP.

The woman said she was driving near ISBT, and waiting to pick up a passenger when an unidentified man allegedly came near the car.

"He...came by foot. He had a stone and broke the glass of the window. I sustained injuries. He threatened to take my phone and tried snatching it. There was a bus driver nearby who saw all this and came to help me. The man fled after seeing him. I called the police and told them everything" alleged the woman.

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# POLAND

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## Creating value and building a sustainable future

ADVERTORIAL

As a purposeful organisations, a world-class sustainable chemical company and an industry leader, Indorama Ventures has an arsenal of strengths, which, along with its strategic direction, continues to steer its ambitious business plans to fruition in Poland and the world over.

WITH AN inspirational success story, presence spanning 146 sites in 35 countries, 21 recycling facilities, total revenue of USD 14.6 billion in 2021 and prestigious titles galore in various business segments, the burgeoning business journey of Indorama Ventures (IVL) has been driven by its vision - "To be a world-class sustainable chemical company making great products for society."

Within sixteen years of establishing its first PET resin facility in Thailand, IVL set foot on the Polish soil with Indorama Venture Poland (IVP) PET Plant in Wloclawek in 2011, amidst the country's steadily growing economy and a promising future for business ventures. Apart from the inherent advantage offered by Poland as a strategic location, the availability of a highly skilled labor force having the required expertise along with lower operating costs, ease of operations, economic stability, foreign direct investments, large market, quality raw materials and efficient supply chain has cemented the fruitful decision of IVL to continue to invest in Poland.

Poland currently has four IVL sites, including bottled PET in Wloclawek, PET Recycling facilities in Bielsko Biala and Leczyca and a wool yarn production facility in Lodz that was acquired in 2022. With a total investment of over USD 110 million in Poland as of 2021 and FY21 revenue amounting to USD 287 million, a slew of factors has propelled IVL's business growth



Wloclawek site family

in Poland, including its purpose - "Reimagining chemistry together to create a better world" and its focus on sustainability and recycling.

Since beginning its operation in Poland until 2021, IVL has recycled 72 billion

post-consumer PET bottles and reduced 2.4 million tons of carbon footprint from the product lifecycle while preventing 1.6 million tons of plastic waste from going to landfill.

IVL's 'Vision 2030' heavily implemented

### IVL'S PRESENCE IN POLAND

| YEAR | ASSET  |
|------|--|
| 2011 | IVP Wloclawek - PET Resin                      |
| 2019 | IVRP Bielsko Biala and Leczyca - PET Recycling |
| 2021 | Tollegno Lodz - Wool Fibers                    |



in PET Plant in Wloclawek through investments aimed at advancing sustainability. The Meltzer Project (SPS) - system which allows reuse PET flakes from recycled bottles and solar panels of a total capacity of 50 kWp, will further bolster its global position as a successful and responsible industry leader.

IVL's laudable spectrum of CSR activities in Poland by educating and promoting proper waste separation and PET recycling in the community, supporting nursing homes and hospitals, donates schools and promotes talented secondary schools students

Wloclawek site (IVP) is certified as a Great Place to Work® for the period of June 2022-2023 due to its unique workplace culture. This coveted status makes IVP one of Poland's best employers and the only certified place Wloclawek city.

## From the Desk of Raghu C Rajappa, Hon. Consul of the Republic of Poland in Bengaluru

In what ways does the bilateral relationship between Poland and India important in this year as both countries will be celebrating 70 years of diplomatic relations in 2024?

Poland and India have a long-term relationship dating back to the World War era when Indian Maharajas looked after more than 2000 Polish children for about five years. Since India is organising the G20 Summit, Poland will be engaging with Indian sectors like climate change, information technology, Fintech, packaging industries, waste management, water management, education, commerce & trading, health technology, etc. Poland and India will have a strong diplomatic relationship and both countries will prosper in the coming years.

What investment opportunities exist for Indian investors in Poland?

There are many IT companies from India such as Infosys, Wipro, Tech Mahindra and L&T, etc. in industries like Uflex, Canpak, etc. from education. A number of Indian universities have signed an MoU or partnered with Polish universities. The Infrastructure sector is growing gradually in Poland and many Indian companies are active in this sector.

How do you see the business ties developing in the future



### between Poland and India?

First and foremost, Poland and India must have bilateral relations and free trade agreement should be implemented. In the education sector, there should be student exchange programmes and cultural activities that need to be set up between both countries. In the waste management sector, there are opportunities for India to adopt the advanced technologies which are present in Poland. Also there must be direct flights from metropolitan cities like Bangalore, Chennai, etc. to Warsaw.

### What are the future plans of your company?

Our company is based in Poland, and SmartWaste Technology is present in seven different countries globally. We have been present for seven years by the name of Ekolog India Pvt. Ltd. Ekolog India is looking into the Sludge management sectors both in EPC & Technical partners in India. In education I am looking forward to signing up MoUs with major Polish universities.

# POLAND

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## MESSAGE

**H.E. ADAM BURAKOWSKI**

AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND TO INDIA, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, NEPAL, SRI LANKA, MALDIVES AND AFGHANISTAN



**INDIA AND POLAND** from the political standpoint and trade exchange perspective share a good bilateral relationship. The latter can be clearly seen in numbers of 2021 when we saw the record high bilateral trade exchange – around \$4 billion, but there is still untapped potential to be exploited in our economic relations. India is a number one country in Asia for Polish investors, the trade between our countries has grown seven-fold over the last decade and we are striving for more. Prospective areas in

that regard are agricultural and food products, food processing, energy, green technologies, smart cities, cybersecurity, fintech and water management.

We have good political relations with India. In 2022 Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs Prof. Zbigniew Rau visited India. He participated in Raisina dialogue and had very productive meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar. We however look forward to many more such interactions on top political level.

Our priority should be to build relations that are long lasting. We also strive to introduce Poland and the opportunities to the young generation of Indians. We are very proud to maintain plenty of academic ties and endeavour to build on them.

In 2021, Poland advanced Bloomberg Innovation Index at 23rd place, overtaking other countries from the Central and Eastern Europe. It is important that India continues to see us as the technology hub in the EU and the friendly place to do business. Poland's economy is fast and stable, we are part of the EU and despite today's turbulent times, we have been the third preferred location in Europe for foreign investments.

There are several hundreds Indian companies active in Poland in various sectors, mostly in advanced production technologies, IT, Research & Development and consumption goods. Indian investors also recognise and appreciate the human capital, well-educated and competitive labour force as well as great work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit of Polish citizens.

## Bilateral relations reach new heights

**P**OLAND AND India have many things in common. We are both democratic countries, in the past we were both victims of foreign imperialism, we both fought for freedom for a long time and now we are both thriving economies that attract capital from all over the world. Our bilateral relations are reaching new heights in terms of trade exchange, connectivity and people to people interactions.

Our historical connections are unique. In 19th century Polish scholars became interested in Sanskrit and Indian culture. Polish nationals contributed to the Indian struggle of Independence – in this context we can name Wanda Dynowska, philosopher and social activist who cooperated with leaders of the independence movement in India. During World War II Indian maharajas received Polish refugees in their soil: in Jamnagar, Gujarat there was a shelter for c.a. 1000 Polish children and in Kolhapur, Maharashtra there were c.a. 5000 Polish citizens, mainly adults, who stayed in buildings erected especially for them. All of this was done in cooperation with Polish government in Exile and Polish Consulate in then Bombay run by Consul Eugeniusz Banasinski and his wife Kira Banasinska. To honour the deeds offered by the Good Maharajas, as they are called in Poland, there are several places and one high school named after them in Warsaw.

In 1954 Poland and India established diplomatic relations. During next decade many Polish engineers participated in many projects across India, there was also cooperation in many other fields. In 1989 Poland liberated itself from Soviet Russian domination, terminated the criminal communist system and



On the sidelines of Raisina Dialogue 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met H.E. Zbigniew Rau, Hon'ble FM of Poland

### IN ONE YEAR, WE WILL BE CELEBRATING 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHING THE BILATERAL RELATIONS



launched pro-market reforms. India liberated its economic life in famous reforms inaugurated by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in 1991. These events opened a new chapter in bilateral relations. In 2004 Poland joined the European Union, which also gave a new boost for the relations with India.

Our political contacts are also entering a new phase. In 2019 Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar, visited Warsaw, in 2022 Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs Prof. Zbigniew Rau visited New Delhi, where he participated

in Raisina Dialogue and had fruitful meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Minister S. Jaishankar. Recently we had a next round of Foreign Office Consultations on the Deputy FM level. However we need more interactions on top political level between our countries.

Poland is first to help. We are always ready to offer assistance to our Indian friends. In May 2021 when India was hit by a wave of COVID-19 pandemic, Polish government donated 100 oxygen concentrators to Indian Red Cross, and a month later Polish community in India and friends of India in Poland added 18

more oxygen concentrators. In February 2022, when Russia launched a full-scale military invasion on Ukraine, Poland was also first to help. Polish state institutions as well as Polish society helped Indian students to escape from the Russian aggression. In frames of the Operation Ganga c.a. 6000 Indian students left Ukraine via Poland. Poland, together with many countries all around the world, stands for Ukraine and for global peace and stability.

Our bilateral relations are reaching new heights. Nowadays, after two difficult years of COVID-19 pandemic, we observe record trade exchange which surpassed \$4 billion in 2021. We have new cooperation in the defence sector. Polish companies are more and more interested in investment in India and the feeling is mutual – Indian companies are more and more present on Polish market. We look forward to more openness in terms of trade between European Union and India – it could be a new factor to Polish-Indian bilateral relations.

We are now in a new era in terms of connectivity and people to people interactions. LOT Polish Airlines operates from Warsaw to Delhi and Mumbai and we hope that new destinations will be soon added to this schedule. Indian community in Poland is growing. Indian cuisine is becoming very popular in Poland, in Warsaw alone there are more than 100 Indian restaurants. Also there is cooperation in culture, especially in film industry. Indian movie producers eye at Polish market and they are ready to make more films in our country.

In one year, we will be celebrating 70th anniversary of establishing the bilateral relations. All this that we presented here allow us to expect a bright future.

## Fastest growing economy in EU

Poland is a country with numerous business opportunities. Exporters and investors globally are drawn to this country due to its large population, well-educated, talented and competitive workforce, immense potential for economic growth, and location thus allowing for unlimited access to the EU market



### Success story

**P**OLAND is one of the most economically stable countries in Europe. Poland's economy is the largest economy in Central and Eastern Europe region and the sixth largest economy in the European Union, with GDP per capita being above 70% of the EU average (in terms of purchasing power parity).

Poland is, indeed, among the fastest-developing economies not only in Europe, but also around the world. Poland's transition from post-Soviet country to a liberal and vibrant democratic state, an EU and NATO member has been remarkable. Over the last three decades, Poland's GDP has grown faster than any other in Europe. In addition, Poland comes only second, after China, in the list of biggest 25 economies GDP

change between 1990-2020. According to International Monetary Fund, Poland's economy grew by 857%, in comparison China grew by 3593%, in the past 30 years.

And according to the World Bank, Poland's well-diversified economy was among EU's least affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which makes it a safe haven for business in today's turbulent times.

### Heart of Europe

**NESTLED IN** the heart of Europe, Poland's strategic location at the crossroads of the main transport routes on both the east-west and the north-south lines makes it a perfect investment location. In Poland, the East meets the West, and the North meets the South. Transit traffic between Western, Eastern and Southern Europe in fact runs through Poland.

Poland, being also the 6th most populous country in the EU, has a large internal market of over 38 million consumers and enjoys an unlimited access to the European Union market of over 500 million consumers.



### Business Harbour

**POLAND HAS** earned its reputation for innovation-friendly environment and business-friendly policies. Poland ranks above the majority of countries and is the Central and Eastern Europe region's leader, which has been confirmed by various international reports, including the „Global Competitiveness Report 2019, „Doing Business 2020“, „Corruption Perception Index 2021“ or „EY Attractiveness Survey Europe 2021“.

Poland has also advanced in the latest innovation ranking compiled by *Bloomberg*, scoring particularly well when it comes to manufacturing value-added and high-tech density.

Ranking 23rd in the 2021 Bloomberg Innovation Index, Poland advanced by two places since last year's ranking, putting it ahead of several other EU countries in the Central and Eastern Europe region, including the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia but also Greece and Spain.



### Polish Food sector – apples and blueberries

**POLISH FOOD** products are well known and valued all over the world. Their export has increased by 250% since 2009. The Polish food market ranks 8th in Europe. Poland has two wonderful fruits to offer: apples and blueberries.

Poland is one of the leading producers and exporters of apples – the largest producer in the EU, and fourth largest in the world. Fragrant and juicy apples are Poland's national treasure. In 2020 Poland exported over 1 million tonnes of fruit to 79 world destinations. In 2020, Poland exported 660 thousand tonnes of



apples, worth 303 million euros.

In addition, Poland is the second largest blueberry producer in the European Union after Spain, contributing 30% of the Union harvests of this fruit. In terms of global production, Poland comes sixth, and between 2012 and 2020, Polish blueberry

exports increased almost eightfold. Poland is a synonym of innovation, high quality and stable development. Poland is your business partner. We hope to welcome you in Poland soon.






As we commemorate **10 years** of successful operations in the Republic of Poland, we would like to thank our employees, business partners, customers, stakeholders, and the Government of Poland for all their support.

We look forward to strengthening our presence in the **Republic of Poland** and taking our business to even greater heights in the coming years.



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