

Assam floods: Diary from a deluge



Night was falling on the skyline of Silchar. The mighty Barak had by then made its detour through the second-largest urban conglomeration of Assam. Turbid waters were gushing through the breached portion of an important embankment. Three-fourths of the 27 square-kilometre landmass that makes Silchar had been completely submerged. The Barak was seen flowing with gusto at more than 1.5 meters above the danger level. And waters were rising thick and fast to make things even more horrific in the engulfing doom and despair.

In the heart of the town, euphemistically known as the "push" enclave, where the real estate prices are perhaps some of the highest in the country, 18 families including ours were huddled in a five-story housing complex to see before our disbelieving eyes how ravaging the river could be. But the day started on an otherwise normal note for us, even as reports of waters sneaking into the low-lying areas of the town had been pouring in since the previous evening. There were incessant rains over the past few days.

Old-timers of the town were trying to recall if they had ever experienced downpours of such lethal intensity in the Barak Valley. Weather offices confirmed that Assam and Meghalaya had by then recorded the highest June rainfall in 121 years with 858.1 mm, breaking the earlier record of 789.5 mm in 1966. Not to miss the matter of fact statistics, flash flood had lashed Silchar in 1966 as well. To put things in perspective, the government initiative to build embankments along the Barak to save Silchar from frequent floods was first seen in the aftermath of the devastating inundation of 1966. Various dykes along the town-side of the course of the river continued to be constructed in intervals from the Sixties till the Eighties.

The entire Barak Valley in general and its headquarters, Silchar, have always been vulnerable to recurring floods due to the Barak going in spate resulting from heavy rains upstream, around Manipur and Mizoram. The recorded history provides information on the mammoth flooding in 1916, 1929, 1966, 1985, 1986,

1989, 1990, 1991 and 2004. On other occasions too, the Valley went through minor floods. Partial accounts of the deluge of 1929 are available in two important individual memoirs. Both from the Silcharer Kadcha (Silchar Diary) by Kalirasanna Bhattacharjee (ed. Amitabha Dev Choudhury, 2008) and a report on the great floods of 1929 by Sundari Mohan Das, published in the renowned Bengali periodical from the then Calcutta, Prabasi, edited by Ramakanada Chatterjee in the same year, we come to know of the degree of devastation caused by the river systems of the Barak-Surma twin Valley. The similarity between the two great floods, separated by seven-years-less-than-a-century, mainly lies in the fact that both the Surma and the Kushiara rivers in Sylhet were equally in spate as the Barak. Also, both the natural disasters happened in June. Some archival photographs reproduced in the memoirs by Bhattacharjee along with his narration tell us how waters were flowing at the first-storey height along the Central Road of Silchar. There are

ghastly stories of corpses floating on the water. There was death, squalor and devastation all along. That was 1929. That was India under British rule. That was the time when the Barak had no dykes to stop surging waters. But more than nine decades on, in the third week of June 2022, we, the residents of a middle-class housing society, were experiencing a chill down the spine when waters were inching up, one after another of the staircase leading up to the first floor of the building. The ground floor of our housing complex, Sukumari Apartment, a 15-year-old building located in the lane that ends at the south Assam headquarters of the indomitable Rashtriya Swamivasek Sangh, was already submerged. Marauding waters had filled the lift shaft of the building and five steps of the staircase went under the water. The central power panel of the housing society was just four inches above the water level. The whole area had plunged into darkness as the APDCL office had disconnected supply fearing short circuits.

That was the beginning of the travail for survival for us, like at least four lakh other Sikkharites. The town which started as a municipal administration as far back as 1882, and which was recently declared as a municipal corporation by the Government of Assam, saw the fury of nature at its worst. The people of the town were yet to recover from the fear and losses inflicted by the first round of floods just a month back. Communication and connectivity systems went haywire. The May floods from torrential rains and the resultant heavy landslides in the Dima Hasao district had already thrown life out of gear.

Rail communication in the Lumding-Badarpur section of the North East Frontier Railway remained stopped since the May mayhem. Severe landslides on the national highway in Meghalaya closed the surface transport as well. When the Valley was under siege and its hapless dwellers in a beleaguered spot, in came the second round of floods. The stock of water in the overhead tank of our building was fast depleting. Inverter batteries were being dried in the flats. Mobile towers were not working. Internet connectivity got a beating as there was no power to supply electricity to the modems. The middle-class has long forgotten the use of lanterns and candles. Kerose is no more a lighting fuel. Nights in the marooned people getting drowned. With the sky loaded with dark and heavy clouds overhead, the meteorological department forecasting more rains and babbling waters underneath, we were hearing stories about people getting drowned. With an uncanny resemblance to the anecdotes of 1929, we saw the visuals of abandoned dead bodies looking for a piece of dry land. The government machinery got activated to look for the "miscareans" who had dug the dyke. A credible segment of the local media reported that a canal had been cut through the embankment on May 22, in the aftermath of the first round of floods to allow the stagnant waters in the Mahisha Beel (a natural reservoir where the town canals offload their water flow back to the river as there was no sluice gate to do so). That the locals had breached the dyke was no state secret. It was already in the public domain and the line agencies were very much in the loop. The good 20-odd days in the

interregnum could easily be used to refill the canal and mend the dyke. But that was not to be. Those who pierced the protection of the town and those who almost oversaw the deed were equally convinced that the problem of regular inundation of the catchment area had a solution. The ruling political class in the district knew of the development. And none of them, it appears, had any idea as to what was in store for Silchar. But the disaster was a "manmade one", they began to say, when the deluge set in. The name of

an otherwise obscure location — "Bethukandi" where the dyke had been breached — suddenly became a global cynosure as the people who did the damage to the dyke and the majority of the townsfolk swept by the floods belong to two different communities.

Flood waters will recede, life will reboot losses and pains will remain mere accounts in the annals of history. But elections will surely arrive. And, unfortunately, they will usher in a new tagline — flood jihad. Hopefully, the state that failed to guard the river will succeed in saving the social fabric.

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION
VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS
TENDER NOTICE NO. DRM-BRC-2022-23
Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (W) Western Railway, Pralaparag, Vadodra-390 004 for the following works: Sr. No. Tender No. DRM BRC 092 of 2022-23. Name of Work: Vadodra Division. Fabrication of Clused Joints under the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (SE) Vadodra. Approximate Cost of the work (in Rs. 75,750.00). Bid Security to be deposited (in Rs. 11,600.00). Sr. No. Tender No. DRM BRC 093 of 2022-23. Name of Work: Vadodra Division. Restoration of rain cut and damages to track between Chhuchhuchh station on DB-CTD-ARPR section. Approximate Cost of the work (in Rs. 1,03,36,815.23). Bid Security to be deposited (in Rs. 2,01,730.00). For all Tenders, Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Tender to be submitted on or before 20/12/2022 before 15:00 hrs. and is to be opened on same date at 15:30 hrs. Website particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen & Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased: Western Railway, Pralaparag, Vadodra-390 004. Website: www.westernrailways.gov.in. Western Railway Manager (W) Western Railway, Pralaparag, Vadodra-390 004. Like us on: Facebook.com/WesternRly Follow us on: Twitter.com/WesternRly

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION				
E-AUCTION FOR THE CONTRACT OF 'ATM'				
LETTER No. COMWR/RCR/Auction/2022/11				
Ref.: RB's Letter No. 2022/72 (FM)/1004 dt 13-06-2022				
With reference to above, e-Auction for the contract of 'ATM' Contract has been invited. The catalogue has already been published on IRIS/RS website. The details are furnished as under:-				
Catalogue No.	Type Contract	Lot No.	Contract Period	Date & Time of start of e-Auction for all Lots
		ATM-BRC-BDE-Gen-14-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-CYI-Gen-16-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-PLU-Gen-29-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-ND-Gen-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-BH-Gen-13-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-CBY-Gen-24-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-AKV-Gen-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-BRC-Gen-10-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-CYI-Gen-17-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-DK-Gen-15-22-2	03 Years	
C4-ATM-BRC-26	ATM	ATM-BRC-KM-Gen-25-22-2	03 Years	27-12-2022
		ATM-BRC-PAV-Gen-30-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-BRY-Gen-21-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-KSB-Gen-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-AKV-Gen-1-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-BRY-Gen-8-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-BJV-Gen-11-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-DRI-Gen-19-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-ENR-Gen-21-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-BRY-Gen-13-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-AKV-Gen-6-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-BH-Gen-12-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-CTD-Gen-15-22-2	03 Years	
		ATM-BRC-MYG-Gen-27-22-2	03 Years	

FULLERTON INDIA HOME FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Off: H-5, 5 & 6 Wing, Supreme City, Supreme City Road, Mumbai - 400 076
Regd. Off: High Tower, 3, 3rd No. 307, New No. 165, Poonamal High Road, Maharashtra, Chennai - 600 095

POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMovable PROPERTY (As per Rule 8(1))
WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Fullerton India Home Finance Company Limited a Housing Finance Company (fully registered with National Housing Bank (Fully Owned by RBI)) (hereinafter referred to as "FHFL") having its registered office at Megh Towers, Floor 3, Old No. 307, New No. 165, Poonamal High Road, Maharashtra, Chennai, Tamilnadu - 600095 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(1) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated mentioned below under sub-section (1) of the said Act calling upon you to pay the borrowed sum mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers mentioned herein below having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned herein below and to the public in general that the undersigned is taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrowers mentioned herein above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with said property and any dealings with the property will be at their own risk and the charge of Fullerton India Home Finance Company Limited for an amount as mentioned herein under and interest thereon.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) with Leasehold/Title.	Description of Secured Assets (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Symbolic Possession
01	LAN: 600307210527103 & 600307510528964 (1) MOHESH DALVI 51010 NANDKISHOR RAMCHANDRA DALVI (2) ANITABEN SOLLANI Add: 1-301 SUGSINGH ROAD, VILLAGE VADODRA, RAJMAHA ROAD, VADODRA, GUJARAT - 390001 OPP. GURUDWARA RAJMAHA ROAD, VADODRA - 390001	NON-AGRICULTURAL PLOT OF LAND IN MAJEE BABAJIPUR, VADODRA LYING BEING LAND BEARING CS, VIBHAG B, TIRKA No. 70-349 Sd.MTRS. ADEMASURING 72.74 31 SQ.MTRS. KNOWN AS "SAR SUKUMARI APARTMENT" SECOND FLOOR FLAT NO. 201 CONSTRUCTION ADEMASURING 41.81 SQ.MTRS. AT REGISTRATION & SUB DISTRICT VADODRA, BOUNDRIES - NORTH: BY HOUSE OF SONL SOUTH: BY FLAT NO.022 EAST: BY MAIN ROAD, WEST: BY COMMON BUILDING FLAT NO. 203.	Date: 21.09.2022 Rs. 10,42,013/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs) Forty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Thirteen only along with interest as on 20.09.2022	17.12.2022 (Symbolic Possession)

G20 Sherpa briefed the media on the G20 Development Working Group Meeting in Mumbai, Maharashtra from 13-16 December 2022



In connection with the first Development Working Group Meeting in Mumbai from 13-16 December 2022, G20 Sherpa Shri Amitabh Kant addressed media persons today and outlined India's DWG G20 priorities and approach. Since 2010, the Development Working Group has been acting as a custodian of the development agenda in the G20. After the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals in 2015, DWG has steered the alignment of the development agenda of the G20 with the SDGs. Given the nature of its work, the DWG has dealt with several different issues over the last

decade depending on the priorities of the Presidency. Shri Kant emphasized that the challenges the world faces today can only be solved by working together. Our priorities reflect not only the aspirations of G20 Members, but also of the Global South. India is pursuing an inclusive, ambitious, decisive and action-oriented approach. Shri Kant outlined India's DWG priorities as (i) Green Development including climate action and financing, just energy transitions and LIFE (LifeStyle for Environment); (ii) Accelerating implementation of SDGs; and (iii) Digital Public Goods/Data for Development. His address to DWG conversations would also include debt distress, reformed multilateralism and women-led development, and that India will highlight the importance of inclusive growth and collective action to achieve it. Shri Kant recalled that a new workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction has been established under India's Presidency to encourage collective work, multi-disciplinary research and exchange of best practices on disaster risk reduction. In addition, a new Startup20 Engagement Group has also been initiated under India's G20 Presidency to recognize the role of Startups in driving innovation that responds to a rapidly changing global scenario. The three-day meeting will focus on G20 collective actions for accelerating progress on the indigenous people of Assam countries in dealing with immediate concerns relating to food and energy security and debt distress, and a 2023 G20 New Delhi Update on SDGs. Cultural programs showcasing

Maharashtra's rich cultural heritage have been arranged for the G20 delegates with the help of the State Government. Further, an excursion to Kanheri Caves in Mumbai has also been planned for the visiting delegates.

In Ahmedabad, two men duped jeweller out of Rs 2.8 lakh

A jeweller from the Naranpura area of the city on Monday filed a complaint at Sola police station, alleging that two men cheated him of Rs 2.80 lakh, by selling him a necklace which they said was made of gold. He later learned that only one bead of it was gold, and the other 107 were not. Arpit Shah, 36, a resident of Sundarvan Apartments on Sola Road, in his FIR said that two men, around 30 years old, came to his jewellery shop in Chandlodia on November 19. One of them showed him a necklace of gold beads and told him that he

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal observes Swahid Diwas in Goa; pays tributes to martyrs of the historic Assam Movement

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal paid glowing tributes to the martyrs of the historic Assam Movement in a solemn programme in Goa today marking Swahid Diwas, the martyrdom day of Khageswar Talukdar in 1979, the first martyr of the Assam Movement. The Union Minister is on a three day visit to the coastal state. The programme held at Francisco Luis Gomes Garden in Panjim was organised by the Assam Society of Goa and was attended by members of the Assamese community and a host of dignitaries and locals. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister reminisced the six-year long Assam Movement from 1979-1985. "Today, on

SHRIRAM HOUSING FINANCE
Head Office: Level -3, Wockhard Towers, East Wing C-2 Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051; Tel: 022-40081572; Website: http://www.shriramhousing.in
Registered Office: Office No. 123, Angappa Nalokan Street, Chennai 600 001; Branch Office: 403-404 4th Floor 3rd E Building, Beside Hotel Radisson Blue, Panchwati Cross Road, C G Road, Ahmedabad-Gujarat-380009

APPENDIX-VII(A) (SEE PROVISION TO RULE 8(6)) SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMovable PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (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 properties mortgaged/charged to The Shriram Housing Finance Limited, The Physical possession of which have been taken by the Authorized Officer of The Shriram Housing Finance Limited, will be sold on "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis in e-auction for recovery of the balance due to the Shriram Housing Finance Limited from the Borrowers And Guarantors, as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrowers and Guarantors, amount due, Short Description of the Immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, resale price and earnest money deposit, Date and Time of Auction are also given as:

Name of Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Mortgagors	Date & Amount of 13(2) Demand Notice	Total Outstanding Amount	Description of Property	Reserve Price (Rs.) & Bid Increment	Earnest Money Deposit Details	Date & Time of Auction	Contact Person and Inspection Date
1. Vhora Nafishaben Turabhai,	(Rs. 11,43,312/-)	Rs. 20,39,379/-	Non-agricultural plot of land in Maajee & Anand lying being land bearing T.P.Scheme n.o.3, F.P.no.2,05 a de measuring 1683 Sq.Mtrs., paiki admeasuring 404.68 Sq.Mtrs., known as "LAXMI VILLA" paik 6th Floor, Flat no. 601 Construction admeasuring 60.41 Sq. Mtrs., i.e.650 Sq.Fts., Super built up a de measuring 74.35 Sq.Mtrs., i.e.800 Sq.Fts., Registration District - Sub-District Anand District Anand.	Rs. 12,00,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Only)	EMD amount to be deposited by way of RTGS/ NIFT to the account details mentioned herein below:	25th Jan. 2023	Mohammed M. Shaikh Mobile No. 9978624614
2. Vhora Turabhai Fakrudin,	Three Thousand Three Hundred Twenty One only as on 04/01/2019	Thirty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Nine only as on 17.12.2022	404.68 Sq. Mtrs., known as "LAXMI VILLA" paik 6th Floor, Flat no. 601 Construction admeasuring 60.41 Sq. Mtrs., i.e.650 Sq.Fts., Super built up a de measuring 74.35 Sq.Mtrs., i.e.800 Sq.Fts., Registration District - Sub-District Anand District Anand.	Bid increment Rs. 10,00,000/- in such multiples	EMD amount to be deposited by way of RTGS/ NIFT to the account details mentioned herein below:	11.00 a.m.	Mahesh Bangera and Bangera No. 09004173256 p.m. Customer Care Number - 022 - 40081572
	Further interest at the contractual rate, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.	13(2) Notice.	Boundaries of the property North: By 100 Fts Road South: By Flat no.604 East: By Amina Hills Complex West: By Flat no.602	Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Thousand Only)	BANK NAME - AXIS BANK L I M I T E D B R A N C H - BANDRA KURLA C O M P L E X , MUMBAI	15 Dec 2023	Inspection Date: 11th January 2023, Time: 11.00 p.m. to 1.00 p.m.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, bid form, training & others may also visit website of Shriram Housing Finance Limited at http://shriramhousing.in/e-auction-Residential provided in the Shriram Housing Finance Limited website.
STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE FOR SUBSEQUENT SALE UNDER RULE 8(6) AS PER AMENDED SARFARSI ACT, 2002. The mortgagors/borrowers are given a last chance to pay the total dues with their preferred before auction, failing which secured assets will be sold as per above schedule. The mortgagors/borrowers are Request to take back all movable items which are inside the property. NB: Please note that the secured creditor is going to issue the sale notice to all the Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors by speed/ registered post. In case the same is not received by any of the parties, then this publication of sale notice may be treated as a substituted mode of service. Sd/- Authorised Officer Shriram Housing Finance Limited