

WORLD 5CHINESE ASTRONAUTS RETURN
TO EARTH AFTER 6 MTHS**MONEY 6**FUEL SALES FALL IN
APRIL ON HIGH PRICES**SPORT 7**LSG WIN BY 18 RUNS, MI SUFFER
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**CAPSULE****OVER 900 DEAD BODIES
FOUND AROUND KYIV**

Kyiv: Indignant over what it called Ukrainian strikes in Russian territory and following the stunning loss of its Black Sea flagship, Moscow threatened renewed missile attacks on Kyiv, where authorities said the bodies of more than 900 civilians were found outside the capital. Most had been shot dead, police said, and likely "simply executed." **P5**

**BIDEN NOMINATES RACHNA
SACHDEVA AS MALI ENVOY**

Washington: US President Joe Biden has nominated Indian-American diplomat Rachna Sachdeva Korhonen as his envoy to Mali, the White House has said, the third such nomination of an Indian-American in over a month.

**8 INCLUDING 2 MINORS
KILLED BY LIGHTNING**

Guwahati: At least eight people, including two minors, were killed in separate incidents of lightning strikes as severe storm accompanied with heavy rains swept Assam, an official bulletin said on Saturday.

**WBSSC SCAM: ED TO LOOK
INTO MONEY LAUNDERING**

Kolkata: The Enforcement Directorate will initiate a probe into a possible money laundering angle in the alleged irregularities in West Bengal's School Service Commission recruitment, a source in the agency said on Saturday.

**HDFC BANK Q4 NET UP
23% TO ₹10,055 CR**

New Delhi: The country's largest private sector lender HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a 23 per cent jump in standalone net profit to ₹10,055.20 crore for the March.

Delhi, Noida on alert after Jahangirpuri clash

Vehicles vandalised, cops among those hurt as miscreants target Hanuman Jayanti procession

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Violence broke out during the Hanuman Jayanti procession in Jahangirpuri area in North Delhi on Saturday evening. Several vehicles were vandalised by miscreants. Several people as well as police personnel were injured in the incident. The injured have been admitted to Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital. Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana and asked them to maintain law and order in the national Capital. Shah also directed them to take strict action against the miscreants.

After the clashes, there has been heavy deployment of the police and Rapid Action Force (RAF) in the area to maintain law and order.

Police said there was stone-pelting and some vehicles were also torched in the violence that occurred at around 6 p.m. Additional police forces have also been deployed at the other communally-sensitive areas.

The police in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar too went on a high alert and carried out intensive patrolling in the wake of the communal clashes in Delhi on Saturday evening, officials said.

Patrolling and foot marches were conducted in all three police zones — Noida, Central Noida and Greater Noida — by the police force officials on



Security was beefed up in the national Capital after violence broke out in Jahangir Puri area on Saturday
Ranjan Dimri / Pioneer

instructions of Commissioner Alok Singh, they said.

Several videos of clashes and stone pelting were doing the rounds on social media. In a purported video of the incident, several people could be seen pelting stones during the procession.

Some were seen brandishing swords on a street while others were hurling abuses and a police siren could also be heard in the background.

Following the incident Amit Shah spoke to Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana to take stock of the situation. Sources said Asthana has also briefed the officials of the MHA regarding the present situation in the violence-hit area. Meanwhile, Asthana took to Twitter and said that in the

incident in the NW District, the situation was under control. "Adequate additional force has been deployed in Jahangirpuri & other sensitive areas. Senior officers have been asked to remain in the field and closely supervise the law & order situation & undertake patrolling," he tweeted. "Strict action will be taken against rioters. Citizens are requested to not to pay heed to rumours and fake news on social media," said the CP in another tweet.

A senior police officer said that on Saturday evening there was a traditional procession, which was being escorted by police personnel, but when the procession reached Kushal cinema hall a clash between two communities erupted.

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Mann fulfils poll promise of 300 units of free power/home

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

A month after it came to power in Punjab with a thumping majority, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday kept its major pre-poll promise of providing 300 units of power "free" per month to all domestic consumers.

The "expected" decision, announced by the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann by releasing a video message on the day he completes one month in the office — is estimated to benefit nearly 62 lakh power consumers of the State, while putting an additional subsidy burden of around ₹1,500 crore on the State exchequer.

By making the announcement, the AAP Government has not only answered all its critics in Punjab, but will also give a push to the party in the neighbouring hill State, which is set to go to the polls in November-December this year.

Interestingly, the BJP-led Government in Himachal had announced 125 free units of power to all households.

"The Punjab Government would provide 600 units of free electricity to every household every two months," said Mann while making it clear that if any household consumes more than 600 units in two months, it will be out of the ambit of the free power scheme and have to pay the full bill.

At the same time, the Chief Minister further clarified that the SC and Backward Class, and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, besides the freedom fighters will now get 300 units of free power every month, and for them, "only the units 300 units will be chargeable".

Putting to rest all speculations about rationalising power subsidy, Mann made it clear that the free power scheme for farmers will continue.

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UP puts NCR districts on high alert amid uptick in Covid cases around Delhi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With a surge in Covid-19 cases in Delhi, the Uttar Pradesh Government has put the National Capital Region (NCR) districts on high alert as 70 Novel Coronavirus positive cases were reported from Gautam Buddha Nagar and 11 from Ghaziabad in the last 24 hours.

During a review of the Covid-19 situation in the State, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that genome sequencing should be done by taking samples of people found to be coronavirus positive in Gautam Buddha Nagar and Ghaziabad. "The situation should be thoroughly reviewed by talking to the District Magistrates and the Chief Medical Officers of these districts," Yogi said here on Saturday. At present, there are 507 active Covid-19 cases in the State. In the last 24 hours, 73,881 Covid tests were conducted in which 106 new

Coronavirus infected people were detected. In the same period, 37 Covid-19 patients recovered.

"The all-important Covid vaccination campaign is continuing successfully. With more than 30.56 million Covid vaccinations so far, 86 per cent of the adult population have received both the doses. The progress of immunisation in the 12-14 and 15-17 age groups is satisfactory," Yogi said and added that the vaccination campaign should be accelerated. He said the work of giving booster doses to people aged 18+ was expected to be expedited. Booster doses can be administered at 700 private immunisation centres. The general public should be made aware of the importance of these vaccination centres and booster doses, Yogi said. "It should be ensured that not a single citizen is deprived of the vaccine," he added.

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Bypolls: TMC marches ahead, BJP draws blank

RJD wins Bihar polls, Cong bags Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh seats

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP drew a blank in the bypolls to one Parliamentary and four Assembly seats, results for which were announced on Saturday.

The TMC continued its overwhelming dominance in West Bengal by wresting the Asansol Lok Sabha seat from the BJP besides winning the Ballygunge seat where the BJP candidate lost her deposit and the Left emerged as the main opponent.

The Congress won two Assembly seats, one each in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh - where it handed the BJP its fourth-successive defeat in Assembly bypolls - while the RJD trumped the BJP in Bihar.

Former film star Shatrughan Sinha, who had quit the BJP and briefly also flirted with the Congress, won from the Asansol Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal on the TMC ticket with a margin of over three lakh votes, registering the party's first-ever elec-



TMC leader and Bollywood actor Shatrughan Sinha flashes the victory sign after winning Asansol Lok Sabha seat, in Asansol on Saturday
PTI

toral victory in the constituency. He defeated BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul.

The BJP had won the Asansol Lok Sabha seat in the 2019 General elections by 1.97 lakh votes when singer-turned-politician Babul Supriyo, who was then in the BJP, bested TMC's Moon Moon Sen.

Supriyo, who too had quit the BJP and joined the TMC, won the Ballygunge Assembly seat defeating Saira Shah Halim of the CPI(M) by a margin of over 20,000 votes. The BJP's Keya Ghosh lost her deposit.

Interestingly, both Sinha and Supriyo, with a film industry background, had held ministerial positions in the BJP governments at the Centre.

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B-Y: A new caste axis in Bihar

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

For close to three decades, Bochahan, comprising a cluster of underdeveloped villages in North Bihar's Muzaffarpur district, was synonymous with Ramai Ram. The diminutive Dalit leader wielded tremendous clout in Bihar politics and represented the Assembly segment eight

times.

Ramai Ram was also a senior Minister in the Lalu-Rabri Cabinet and won one



after another poll contests by mobilising Muslim, Yadavs, and Dalit voters for the RJD.

On Saturday, Bochahan shot into the news for the birth of a new social and political combination in Bihar and the humiliating defeat of the BJP's candidate Baby Devi at the hands of the RJD's Amar Paswan. Ramai Ram's daughter, Geeta Devi, who was fielded by VIP's Mukesh Sahni, played the role of a big spoiler for the BJP.

Continued on Page 2

Cong asks poll strategist Prashant to join party

Kishor briefs top brass on strategy for 2024

New Delhi : Faced with a series of electoral drubbings and keeping the impending elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh later this

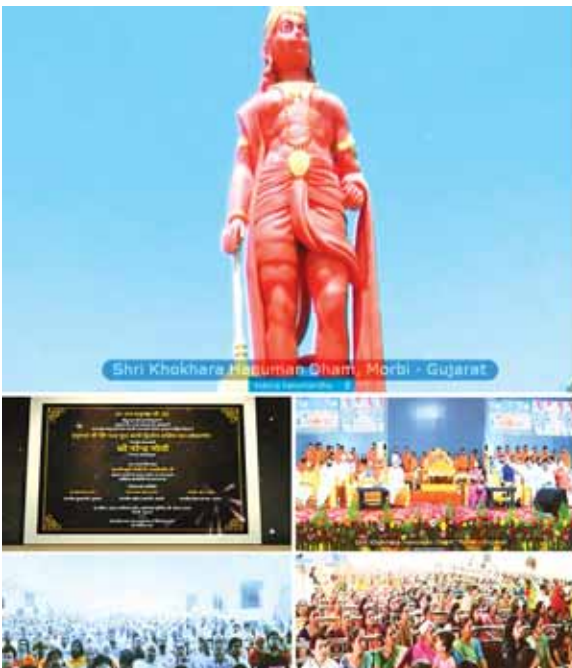
year and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in mind, the Congress on Saturday asked election strategist Prashant Kishor to "officially" join the grand old party as it prepares to take on the Narendra Modi-led BJP juggernaut.

Kishor is likely to take a call in a week's time even as he made a detailed presentation before the Congress top brass

on the way forward for the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Sources said he has not claimed any party post and the invite to him to officially join the party rather than work as a consultant came during his four-hour-long meeting attended by Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and other top party leaders. Once inducted, he

could be one of the main speakers of the Congress' proposed Chintan Shivir later this month. AICC sources said Kishor, who has had several formal and informal interactions with the Congress leadership over his joining or working for the party, has advised the Congress a "Mission 370" in the Lok Sabha 2024 elections.

Continued on Page 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Saturday, unveiled a 108-feet statue of Hanuman in Morbi, Gujarat through video conferencing, on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti. This statue is the second of the four statues being set up in four parts of the country as part of the Hanumanji Char Dham project. The first statue is in Shimla.
PTI



RSS leader hacked to death a day after SDPI man's murder in Kerala

PNS ■ KOCHI

Law and order in Kerala took a turn for the worse on Saturday as a leader of RSS S K Srinivasan (45) was hacked to death in a gruesome manner by a group of unidentified persons at 1 p.m.

Srinivasan, a former district chief of one of the RSS units, was sitting in his two-wheelers showroom when motorcycle-borne gangs charged into his shop and hacked him with swords and knives. Though he was rushed to the nearby hospital by onlookers, Srinivasan was declared dead by the doctors within minutes of his admission to the ICU ward.

"Srinivasan was murdered

by the terrorists of SDPI, an Islamic extremist outfit," said C Krishnakumar, BJP Kerala secretary, who rushed to hospital within minutes. A sobbing Krishnakumar told *The Pioneer* that Srinivasan was not active for the last two years and had no cases filed against him.

It may be noted that Zubair, the leader of the SDPI promoted Popular Front of India, was murdered on Friday at 1 p.m. in the same locality while the deceased was coming out of the mosque after offering namaz.

Zubair was hacked to death in front of his father who too was injured in the attack. While the BJP and the RSS leadership claimed that they had no role

in the attack on Zubair, the SDPI leaders had declared that the murder was the handiwork of the Sangh Parivar. At the time of going to Press, the police informed that they have taken five RSS activists into custody in connection with Friday's murder of Zubair.

Anil Kant, Police Chief of Kerala had issued a red alert all over the State in the background of the murder of Zubair, the police could not prevent Saturday's death.

It may sound strange, but the murder of Srinivasan took place while the dead body of Zubair was being taken as a procession along the route where Srinivasan had his two-wheeler show room.

Continued on Page 2

Court upholds order asking CBI to withdraw LOC against Aakar Patel

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Saturday upheld an order directing the CBI to withdraw the lookout circular against Amnesty International India Board chair Aakar Patel, saying the LOC is "bad in law" and "cannot sustain". Special Judge Santosh Snehi Mann, however, set aside the direction to the CBI Director to give a written apology to Patel, acknowledging "lapses" on the part of his subordinate.

The judge, who made some scathing remarks against the CBI, also revoked the magisterial court's direction to "fix accountability of CBI officials for issuance of the LOC".

The judge also directed

Patel not to leave country without the magisterial court's permission. The metropolitan magisterial court had on April 7 directed the probe agency to withdraw the LOC immediately and apologise to Patel and file a compliance report by April 30.

Patel had approached the magisterial court claiming that he was stopped by immigration authorities at the Bangalore International Airport, while he was boarding a flight to the US. The application had claimed that the action was taken despite an order by a Gujarat court granting him permission to travel abroad.

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Russia bans UK PM, Mins Sunak, Patel from entry

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and several top UK Cabinet Ministers and politicians are banned from Russia for their "unprecedented hostile actions" of imposing sanctions over the Ukraine conflict, the Russian Foreign Minister said in a statement on Saturday.

The full list of 13 British politicians on the so-called "stop list" issued from Moscow includes Indian-origin ministers - UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak, Home Secretary Priti Patel and Attorney-General Suella Braverman - as well as Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and



Defence Secretary Ben Wallace.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said the list will be expanded in the "near future" to include more British politicians and parliamentarians.

"In connection with the unprecedented hostile actions

of the British Government, expressed, in particular, in the imposition of sanctions against top officials of the Russian Federation, a decision was made to include key members of the British Government and a number of political figures in the Russian 'stop list'," said the statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

"This step was taken as a response to London's unbridled information and political campaign aimed at isolating Russia internationally, creating conditions for containing our country and strangling the domestic economy.

Continued on Page 2

T N RAGHUNATHA ■
MUMBAI

Reacting to the Kolhapur by-poll outcome, State BJP president Chandrakant Patil said that his party had accepted the defeat, but played down the importance of the Congress'

Patole said that Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly Devendra Fadnavis had tried to create a religious divide among the people, but the Kolhapur voters have given them a "tight slap" on his face by rejecting "communal and hatred politics" practised by the BJP.NCP's Chief Spokesperson Mahesh Tapase and Mumbai leader Clyde Crasto said Kolhapur people have strongly endorsed the issues of secularism and development and rejected the BJP's attempts to create rift among communities.

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

It is another matter however that the TMC trailed two from Muslim-dominated wards where

win the Asansol seat --- which has more than 50 percent non-Bengali voters, sources said. BJP candidate Agnimitra Paul finished second securing 32 percent votes in Asansol while CPI(M)'s Partho Mukherjee got 8 percent votes. Soon after the poll results Sinha said "BJP Khamosh" thanking Chief

The CPI(M) candidate said that the "Left's coming up replacing the BJP is a warning call ... it has proved once again the disinformation campaign -- that the BJP is the only alternative in Bengal --- false ... today we have come second here ... soon we will trounce the TMC and win.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The northwest (NW) India region that got respite from severe to very severe heat wave till last week due to western disturbance (WD) may continue to get similar respite — that of lowering of maximum temperatures by 1-2 degrees Celsius compared to

Meanwhile, IMD has introduced a revised definition of the new rainfall normal, while projecting a southwest monsoon for this year as well. It claimed that India would receive 99 percent of the long-term average (LPA) rainfall, which was modified from 89 cm to 88 cm in 2018, and then amended to 87 cm in the annual review in 2022. On the basis of new statistics out of its system of rain gauges around the country, the IMD cut the standard for defining normal southwest monsoon rainfall to 868.6 mm from 880.6 mm previously.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

This case was registered by



T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The incident took place at high-rise building "Lodha Luxuria" at around 6.50 pm on Friday, when the resident – identified as Rajesh Sharma – living in his 23rd floor flat fired five rounds from his licenced revolver at his wife and sons in a fit of rage. Sharma was reportedly under the influence of alcohol. Fortunately, the bullets did not hit either Sharma's wife or son.

From Page 1

While Kishor has, in the past, denied reports that he may join the party, a section of

Sources said Kishor has called for inducting Khodaldham Trust president and an influential Patidar leader Naresh Patel in Gujarat. In fact, another Patidar leader Hardik Patel too has been demanding Patel's induction.

From Page 1

The Congress registered

The Khairagarh bypoll was necessitated by the death of Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (Jogi) MLA Devvrat Singh on November last year. In the bypoll, Congress' Yashoda Verma won by a margin of 20,176 votes against her nearest rival Komal Janghel of the BJP. With the victory, the strength of Congress in the 90-member Assembly went up to 71. The Opposition BJP suffered a fourth-successive defeat at the hands of Congress in the Assembly bypolls held after the 2018 elections in the State. The BJP's strength stands reduced to just 14 seats in the 90-member Assembly.

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Date: April 16, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Q-74

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From Page 1

“Lalu Prasad Yadav may have done us some harm, but the NDA has inflicted on us many-

From Page 1

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor, Anil Baijal condemned the incidents of violence and stone pelting in the national Capital.

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RSS leader hacked

From Page 1

The attack was carried at 1 P.M. on Friday. The victim was murdered on Friday. The victim was under a security blanket following the murder. Krishnakumar said that had the murder would not have happened out from the district of Ernakulam. Palakkadu.

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The Chief Minister also elaborated on the Dastak campaign and stressed on increasing awareness about prevention of dengue in Agra and Lucknow divisions.

RSS leader hacked to death a...

From Page 1
The attack was carried at 1 PM, exactly the time at which Zubair was murdered on Friday. The district of Palakkadu has been brought under a security blanket following the murder of Srinivasan. Krishnakumar said that had the police taken enough precaution the murder would not have happened. Heavy posse of policemen drawn out from the district of Ernakulam have been deployed all over Palakkadu.

From Page 1

The judge said that the CBI's apprehension that Patel might not appear before the court for the trial, which the agency made a ground to issue the LOC on, did not fall in the

"So, the observation of the trial court about right of the respondent to file claim for compensation is not out of context." The judge set aside the trial court's directions to the CBI Director to give a written apology to Patel to compensate "mental harassment" caused to him.

City reports 461 Covid cases

Two deaths reported in last 24 hrs

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital on Saturday reported 461 new Covid-19 cases, from 366 a day before, and two deaths in the last 24 hours. According to the Delhi Government's health department's bulletin issued on Saturday, the daily positivity rate also increased from 3.95 per cent to 5.33 per cent during the same period.

A top private school in the national Capital has asked parents to not send their children to school on Monday after a student tested positive for Covid-19.

A total of 14 Covid-19 positive children who are



admitted to hospitals in the national Capital, most of them have comorbidities, said official sources on Saturday said. The number of school students testing positive has been on the rise in the city, raising concerns of parents.

Schools in Delhi have a four-day holiday in view of Ambedkar Jayanti, which was on Thursday, and Good Friday followed by Saturday and Sunday. "Kindly do not send your wards to school on Monday as fumigation or sanitation exercise will be conducted," the school said in a communication to parents on Saturday after the Covid positive case was reported.

As per the health department's data, the active cases stand at 1,262. Coronavirus cases and the positivity rate in the national capital have seen an upward trend over the last few days.

On Thursday, the number of home isolation cases stood at 574, while 325 new coronavirus cases were recorded with a positivity rate of 2.39 per cent. A total of 8,646 Covid-19 tests were conducted the previous day, the bulletin said.

The Delhi Government has told school authorities to close specific wings or classrooms wherever needed. Meanwhile, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday said coronavirus cases may have been rising in the national Capital, but there is no need to worry as hospitalisation is low.

Two top private schools had on Friday confirmed that each of them have received information from parents about their wards testing positive. Sisodia said instructions

have been issued to schools to follow the Government's Standard Operating Procedure if they detect any case.

"There might have been a rise in coronavirus cases but we are vigilant and the hospital admissions are low. There are only six coronavirus patients admitted at LNJP hospital," he said.

The Delhi Government on Friday announced that the precaution doses of Covid-19 vaccines will soon be provided free of cost to people at its hospitals.

Also, all hospitals in Delhi have been advised to remain alert in view of the rise in coronavirus cases in the city, said Health Minister Satyendar Jain, while asserting that they are fully prepared to tackle the situation.

Covid cases and positivity rate in Delhi have seen an upward trend over the last few days. With 366 new cases on Friday, Delhi's overall Covid tally increased to 18,67,572, while death toll stands at 26,158.

Rising Covid cases worry Delhi's business community

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid rise of Covid cases in the national Capital, traders and business communities are apprehensive that their pandemic-hit businesses might be engulfed in another wave even before recovering from losses of over the past two years.

They are hoping that the Delhi Government won't impose any kind of restrictions on their businesses. A meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has been called on April 20 to review the situation in the national Capital.

Atul Bhargava, president of the National Delhi Trade Association, expressed concern that the new surge will pour cold water on the hopes of reviving businesses. "With much difficulty, things are getting back to place and if this happens again then you know.

It will be really bad for the economy and for the business, country and traders," he said.

Asserting that people must follow all the precautions, Bhargava said, "They (the govt) should impose restrictions on the crowd, not on opening and closing of shops".

After bearing the brunt of intermittent Covid waves and subsequent lockdowns over two years, things finally started to look upside for the businesses in the Capital. However, the recent rise in cases has caused anxiety.

"During Covid, we have spent our savings to stay alive. We are trying to first recover that and then we would like to save for our future. It will be difficult for the business now," he added. Meanwhile, Sanjeev Mehra, president of Khan Market Traders Association, believes that another Covid wave and the subsequent restriction will be "purely disastrous".



"I am saying in clear worlds there should not be any restrictions on the business, the business is recovering at a very slow pace. Any kind of steps that might deter this recovery process will be purely disastrous," he said.

Mehra suggested that their precautions should be followed strictly and businesses should be allowed to remain open "as per businessmen's wish". Traders in Sarojini Nagar, another bustling market area of south Delhi, also feel that it would be disaster to impose

lock down if cases are increased. Ashok Randhawa, president, Sarojini Nagar Mini Market Traders Association, said that lockdown is not the solution for every outbreak.

The food industry was among the worst hit as lockdown and restrictions meant eateries and restaurants remained shut and suffered major losses. National Restaurants Association of India Treasurer Manpreet Singh said that any kind of restrictions on businesses will have a negative impact.



'With blessings of Lord Hanuman, Govt lessening people's troubles'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said that the Delhi Government with the blessings of Lord Hanuman tries to lessen the troubles of people by working to provide them facilities such as education, health, water, electricity and roads. Attending a 'Sundarkand Paath' and its theatrical presentation, organised by the Delhi

Government at the Kalibari here, Kejriwal said similar programmes will be held across the city to make people aware and create devotion among them towards Lord Hanuman.

"Hanuman is known as Sankatmochan who removes troubles in a family and the country. We are also trying to remove the troubles in the lives of Delhi's people, whether it's education of their children

or treatment of someone in their family... (the Government is provident) water, electricity and roads," he said at the programme.

The Chief Minister also informed the gathering about his government's free pilgrimage scheme, asking people to visit religious places in the country by availing the Mukhyamantri Teertha Yatra Yojana.

BJP honours thugs, criminals: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting out at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday alleged that the BJP is the sole political party in the entire world which openly supports molesters, and even took out a 'Tiranga Yatra' honouring these rapists.

The AAP senior leader and Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia slammed the BJP for felicitating the thugs and criminals involved in the attack on the party's National Convener Arvind Kejriwal's residence a few days ago.

"The BJP not only protects goons and thugs, but also treats them like heroes, honours them at its office. The BJP's true face is out in the open, its role models are gangsters and goons, not freedom fighters and martyrs. BJP makes politicians out of criminals who riot, rape and disrespect women," said Sisodia. "Schools-colleges are not on BJP's agenda so the larger population remains uneducated.

BJP wants people to remain uneducated so it can use them as thugs. High time the party that protects and honours is labelled as a traitor, its politicians are boycotted and the

country starts discussing science, education and employment. BJP felicitating hooligans and criminals who attacked CM Arvind Kejriwal's residence shows its true character," said Sisodia.

The AAP spokesperson, Saurabh Bhardwaj said that when someone commits atrocious acts of violence in America or Europe, they are imprisoned, while in India, they are embraced by the BJP.

"In the Unnao case, the BJP government shamelessly supported rapist and murderer MLA Kuldeep Singh Senger. On one hand, the BJP is building an army of unemployed brainwashed youths to cause riots, an atmosphere of fear, and making it difficult for the women to step out.

On the other hand, the AAP is the only party of honest, well-meaning, Deshbhakt individuals," said spokesperson. "Keeping in mind the constantly deteriorating situation of peace in our country, the AAP has felt compelled to address the recent actions of the BJP. In the past few days, we saw that the BJP goons which attacked Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal's residence were honoured and felicitated by the BJP state president and national leaders with garlands,"

AAP: Congress a dead horse, only Kejriwal can challenge Modi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a jibe at the Congress after political strategist Prashant Kishor met with Congress leaders, AAP on Saturday described the grand old party as a 'dead horse' and stated that whipping a dead horse would be useless.

The AAP also claimed that only Arvind Kejriwal can challenge Prime Minister Narendra Modi and ruling BJP and the Congress has lost all capacity to head an alternative Government in country.

AAP's leader and Rajya Sabha-elect Raghav Chadha said, "Congress Party cannot give an alternative to the country. Only Arvind Kejriwal can challenge PM Narendra Modi and BJP. Congress is like a dead horse, there is no point flogging a dead horse." He was responding to a query on Saturday's meeting at Congress president Sonia Gandhi's residence, attended, among others, by Prashant Kishor. After Congress faced humiliating defeat in recently concluded polls in five states, interim president of Congress Sonia

Gandhi held a meeting with the election strategist Prashant Kishor. In recent days, buoyed by its victory in Punjab, where it pushed Congress out of power, the AAP has proclaimed that it, and not Sonia Gandhi-led outfit, is the national alternative to the BJP, and that Arvind Kejriwal, and not Rahul Gandhi, is the prime challenger to PM Modi who, in 2024, is likely to seek a third straight term in office.

Arvind Kejriwal's party is now eyeing BJP bastion Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

said Bhardwaj. "We used to compare the country with Europe, America and Japan back seven to eight years ago, now we compare it with Pakistan and Sri Lanka. We must decide whose level we have to match, Europe or Pakistan. Which country's youth do we want ours to be compared with?" said Bhardwaj, who is also MLA from Greater Kailash. Reacting on the AAP allegations, the

Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that people of Delhi are shocked to see AAP leaders Manish Sisodia, Raghav Chadha and Saurabh Bhardwaj calling BJP workers goonda and lafanga (rouge).

"The way today AAP leaders have compared convicts of some sad rape incidents with the youth who participated in March 30 demonstration shows their political immaturity.

People fail to understand that these AAP leaders claim themselves to be highly educated," said Shankar. "Actually ever since CM Arvind Kejriwal insulted Kashmiri Hindus the AAP is being seen as an Anti Hindu Party and in today's PCs of Manish Sisodia, Raghav Chadha and Saurabh Bhardwaj the Anti Hindu mindset of the three was clearly visible. All their statements lacked logic," Shankar added.

NCR PULSE

MAKE HANUMAN JANMOTSAV AS PUBLIC HOLIDAY: CAIT
New Delhi: The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to declare "Hanuman Janmotsav" as a public holiday in recognition of devotion and dedication of Lord Hanuman towards Lord Ram. Praveen Khandelwal, Secretary General of the CAIT, as per an estimate about more than 1.5 lakh programs were organised all over the Country on Saturday to celebrate Janmotsav of Hanuman whereas in Delhi alone more than 5000 celebrations took place across the Capital.

'GOVT HAS SET RECORD IN RISE OF COMMODITIES' PRICES'
New Delhi: Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar said that the Modi and Arvind Governments have set a new record in price rise of petroleum products and all essential commodities, as after the Assembly elections to five States were over, the Modi Government regularly increased the prices of petrol, diesel, CNG, PNG and cooking gas cylinder, creating a cascading effect on all essential commodities. In a press conference, Delhi Congress president said that the hike in the prices of petroleum products pushed up the transportation cost of fruits and vegetables, and a situation has now arisen that lemon has become a precious commodity, with traders hoarding it, and thieves stealing them, resulting in FIRs being filed—an unheard of situation!

SHOBHA YATRA HELD ON HANUMAN JANMOTSAV
New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday morning organised a shobha yatra on the occasion of Hanuman Janmotsav in the Greater Kailash area. The yatra started from Sanatan Dharma Mandir in Chirag Delhi at 8:30 AM and it ended at 12 PM at the Shiv Mandir in Savitri Nagar. The AAP legislator from Greater Kailash constituency, Saurabh Bhardwaj said that the standout feature of the yatra was Muslim brothers coming out to celebrate and distribute prasad even when they were observing their Roza.

APPRENTICE FAIR HELD FOR ITI PASS-OUTS IN NOIDA
Noida: In a push to provide employment opportunities to aspirants, an 'apprentice fair' would be organized for ITI pass-outs in Uttar Pradesh's Noida on April 21. Forty major companies, including Samsung and Yamaha, are scheduled to participate in the fair that will be held at the Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) E-1, Sector 31 of Nithari in Noida, the officials said.

PIL FILED OVER PROVISIONS OF WAQF ACT
New Delhi: A public interest litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Delhi High Court challenging certain provisions of the Waqf Act which grant special status to Waqf properties. Petitioner and advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay sought a direction to the Centre to enact only Uniform Law for Trust and Trustees, Charities and Charitable Institutions, and Religious Endowments and Institutions and claimed that Waqf properties cannot enjoy any special rights which have not been given to other trusts, charitable and religious institutions being run by non-Islamic religious group.

WATER SUPPLY TO BE HIT OVER AMMONIA RISE
New Delhi: Water supply would be affected in parts of the national Capital due to high levels of ammonia pollutants in the River Yamuna at Wazirabad Pond. The DJB in a statement said that after production has been curtailed from water treatment plants at Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla, Water supply shall be affected in the morning and evening of Saturday and so on till the ammonia level in river reduces to treatable limit.

Labourer dies after falling from 9th floor of hospital building

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 24-year-old labourer allegedly fell from the ninth floor of the new building of the Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital (LBH) in the national Capital and died. Police said he was working there on Saturday when the incident occurred.

The deceased has been identified as Haradesh and he belongs to Bhojpur village in Uttar Pradesh. According to Priyanka Kashyap, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), East district, on Saturday, the Kalyanpuri police station got information from LBH regarding Haradesh being admitted at hospital after falling.

Kejriwal: AAP does not make false promises like other parties

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following the announcement of 300 units of free electricity every month by the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convener, Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said the party in Punjab has fulfilled its first poll promise of free electricity as it does not make false promises like other parties.

Kejriwal said just like how all Delhiites get free electricity, everyone in Punjab too will start getting 300 units free electricity from July 1. "We will fulfill every single promise we have made. I believe this measure will greatly help public in dealing with the crushing inflation. They will be able to spend on their families instead. In a

day and age where government policies are increasing inflation rates, I'm happy we're helping the public out," said Kejriwal.

"In the last 75 years, not one party fulfilled the promises they made. Some leaders even outright said election promises aren't meant to be fulfilled. We're not like them. AAP does not make false promises like other parties. We fulfill all promises we make. Just have faith in us," said Kejriwal.

"I can't understand why Opposition is not happy in Punjab. I expected them to be happy for public. But why are they acting like this? Why are they opposing pro-people policies? Is it because they don't want the system to ever change?" Kejriwal asked.

City's max temp 40 degrees C, 3 notches warmer than normal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital witnessed the maximum temperature of 40 degrees Celsius on Saturday, which was three notches warmer than normal temperature for season, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The IMD data showed that the minimum temperature of 22 degrees Celsius was recorded at Delhi's base station, Safdarjung Observatory, which was normal for this time of year.

The highest humidity recorded was 60 per cent at 8:30 AM in morning and lowest humidity recorded was 21 per cent at 5:30 in evening on Saturday. The weather stations at Ridge, Ayanagar, Mungeshpur, Najafgarh, Pitampura and Palam

recorded maximum temperatures of 41.3 degrees Celsius, 40.6 degrees Celsius, 40.9 degrees Celsius, 41.4 degrees Celsius, 41.1 degrees Celsius and 40.3 degrees Celsius, respectively, stated the IMD data.

A fresh heat wave spell likely to commence over Northwest India from 16th April and spread to Central India from 17th April, 2022, IMD predicted. "Reduction in rainfall intensity over South Peninsular India from 18th April, 2022 and heavy to very heavy rainfall spell likely to continue over Assam-Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh on 16th & 17th April, 2022," said IMD. For the plains, a "heatwave" is declared when the maximum temperature is over 40 degrees Celsius and at least 4.5 notches above normal. A "severe"



A woman covers herself with a scarf to avoid the scorching sun on a hot summer day in Gurugram PTI Photo

heatwave is declared if departure from normal temperature is more than 6.4 notches, according to IMD.

2 professional chain snatchers arrested in Mianwali Nagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested two professional chain snatchers on Saturday after the duo attempted to snatch the chain of a 62-year-old woman who was out on a walk with her husband in the outer Delhi's Mianwali Nagar area.

Police said that the duo was nabbed after an investigation that involved scouring of footage from 20 CCTV and analysis of over 300 vehicles.

The entire incident was captured on CCTV and was shared by many Twitter users. It showed two men on bike coming behind couple and trying to snatch woman's chain. They fled spot when her husband started chasing

them. Police said that the accused, riding a bike, were chased by woman's husband, Dr Anil Bansal, but managed to escape.

Bansal and his wife were injured in attack and approached police. According to Sameer Sharma, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer district, a police control room (PCR) call was received regarding attempt of snatching of chain of a senior citizen woman.

"During their probe police checked more than 20 CCTV cameras, prepared a likely route snatchers may have taken, shortlisted 16 known snatchers and robbers, checked over 300 vehicles, and impounded 55 of them," said DCP.

28-year-old man arrested, 15kg cannabis recovered

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi police has arrested a 28-year-old man involved in supplying drugs in Delhi and its peripherals. Police said they have also recovered 15 kilograms (kgs) of cannabis from the possession of the accused. The accused has been identified as Surjeet (28), a resident of district Etah of Uttar Pradesh.

According to Harsha Vardhan, the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, on April 15, police had received specific inputs regarding the movement of an interstate drug peddler near MB Road, Saket. "Acting on the inputs, a police team was constituted to nab the accused. The police laid a trap



at a specified location and apprehended accused Surjeet," said the additional DCP adding that during cursory frisking three packets containing total 15.300 Kgs cannabis were recovered from his possession.

"A case under section 20 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) act has been registered and further investigation is going on," said police.

40-yr-old man kills wife, son in Geeta Colony

New Delhi: A 40-year-old man allegedly killed his wife and son by smothering them in their house in Geeta Colony area of Shahdara on Saturday afternoon. Police suspect that man committed crime because of financial problems and a manhunt has been initiated to nab accused who is on run. According to R Sathyasundaram, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Shahdara district, the incident took place at around 3.40 PM on Saturday and when the police team reached Sachin's house, they found the bodies of Kanchan Arora (35) and her 15-year-old son on its second floor. SR

Recruitment of Faculty in Patanjali Ayurved College, Haridwar

Patanjali Ayurved College run by Patanjali Yogpeeth with the blessings of H.H. Yogrishi Swami Ramdevji Maharaj under the able leadership of Revered Aurodcharya Acharya Balkrishnaji, having pride of re-establishing Ayurveda at international platform requires faculties (M.D.J.S.) in following subjects :

S.No.	Teaching Department	Required Teaching Staff			
		Prof.	Associate Prof.	Assist. Prof.	Total
1	Swasthavritta	-	01	01	02
2	Prasuti Evam Stiroga	01	02	01	04
3	Kaya Chikitsa	-	01	-	01
4	Shalya Tantra	01	-	-	01
5	Kaumarbhritya (Baigoga)	01	01	01	03
Total		03	05	03	11

Candidates fulfilling eligibility criterion stipulated by C.C.I.M. may send their Bio-data on below mentioned e-mail I.D till 24.04.2022
Patanjali Ayurved College, Patanjali Yogpeeth, Haridwar, Uttarakhand
Ph. No. 01334-241050, 240008 E-mail: pacooffice@divyayoga.com

13 Opposition parties jointly appeal for peace and harmony

Opp also expresses shock and dismay over silence of Prime Minister over incidents of communal violence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of recent communal clashes across many States, 13 Opposition parties in a joint and open appeal, on Saturday, urged people to maintain peace and harmony.

They also expressed shock and dismay at the silence maintained by Prime Minister Narendra Modi over these unfortunate incidents and demanded stringent possible punishment for those responsible for inciting communal violence.

In the joint statement, leaders including Congress president Sonia Gandhi, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and her Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand counterparts M K Stalin and Hemant Soren, also raised concern over the manner in which issues relating to food, dress, faith, festivals and language "are being



used" by the ruling establishment to polarise society.

"We are shocked at the silence of the Prime Minister, who has failed to speak against the words and actions of those who propagate bigotry and those who, by their words and actions, incite and provoke our society. This silence is an elo-

quent testimony to the fact that such private armed mobs enjoy the luxury of official patronage," they said in the joint statement.

Reiterating their collective resolve to work together to strengthen the bonds of social harmony that "defined and enriched India for centuries",

the Opposition leaders said, "We reiterate our commitment to combat and confront the poisonous ideologies which are attempting to entrench divisiveness in our society."

"We appeal to all sections of the people to maintain peace and foil the sinister objective of those who wish to sharpen communal polarisation. We call upon all our party units across the country to independently and jointly work for maintaining peace and harmony," they said in the joint appeal.

Incidents of communal violence were reported from some parts of the country on the occasion of Ram Navami on April 10.

The statement also regretted saying they are extremely pained at the manner in which social media and the audiovisual platforms are being misused with official patronage to spread hatred and prejudice.

Sonia slams Govt, RSS over 'apocalypse of hate'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP Government at the Centre and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) saying that an apocalypse of hatred, bigotry, intolerance, and untruth is engulfing the country today.

In a newspaper article titled "A virus rages among us", the Congress chief slammed the ruling BJP and the RSS, blaming them for the rising communal violence in the country.

"There is much talk by the prime minister of acknowledging India's multiple diversities. But the harsh reality is that under this ruling dispensation, the rich diversities that have defined and enriched our society for centuries are being manipulated to divide us and,

worse, to harden faultlines and make them more firmly entrenched," she wrote.

She further accused the Centre of muzzling the voices of opposition and claimed that it was a conspiracy by the ruling party to keep the country in a state of permanent frenzy.

There is something more insidious in this grand, divisive plan to keep India in a state of permanent frenzy. All dissent and opinion that is opposed to the ideology of those in power are sought to be ruthlessly stifled," the Congress president wrote.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi also attacked the Modi government saying that every Indian is paying the price for the hate fueled by the BJP-RSS. "India's true culture is that of shared celebrations, community, and cohesive living. Let's pledge to preserve this (sic)," he tweeted.

BJP slams Cong chief's 'virus of hate' remarks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday came out strongly against Congress president Sonia Gandhi's "virus of hate" remark saying it was indeed the grand old party that has been "spreading hatred" since decades for vote bank politics.

"Congress kept the virus of hatred, to its zenith for decades, destroyed the country's culture for vote bank politics, that Congress is advising us today," BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh told news agency ANI.

He was responding to the article written in a newspaper by Sonia wherein she blamed the BJP and RSS for the rising communal violence in the country.

Chugh said that the party, under whose regime, there were four riots every year and the infamous Shah Bano

judgment was passed is talking about communalism today.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has a clear policy which is 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, and Sabka Vishwas'. I will make a request to Sonia Gandhi ji, choose your words as wisely as you can. If you look into the heart of the Congress, if there is any organization that spreads communalism the most, then it is the Congress," he further said.

"The task of spreading the infection is done by the top leadership of the Congress. Rahul Gandhi said that Hindutva is like ISIS and Boko Haram, the virus of hatred. Ten big riots in the country in which thousands of people died, all these riots happened during the rule of Congress party, be it in Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Bhagalpur or others," he stated.

Jaishankar discusses Ukraine, Af crisis with UN Secy General

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar discussed the ramifications of ongoing conflict in Ukraine and situation in Afghanistan during his meeting with United Nations(UN)Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

The talks took place late Wednesday in New York at a time when another resolution condemning Russia is about to come up in the UN General Assembly.

India has so far abstained from voting against Russia.

Liechtenstein has moved the latest resolution which aims to make P-5 (Permanent Five) members, who cast a veto in the UN Security Council(UNSC), explain themselves before the UN General Assembly.

This is directed at Russia and China, who have been vetoing resolutions moved by the remaining three P-5 members on Ukraine.

Announcing his meeting with the UN Secretary General, Jaishankar tweeted "A wide ranging discussion with UNSG @antonioguterres. Exchanged views on the global impact of the Ukraine conflict, especially on food and energy security.



Implications for developing countries are serious."

He also said "Spoke about latest developments in respect of Afghanistan and Myanmar. Appreciate his interest in working with India to effectively address important contemporary challenges."

Jaishankar arrived in New York on April 13 after concluding the 2+2 dialogue with US and bilateral meeting with his US counterpart Antony Blinken in Washington.

India and the US called on the Taliban leadership to abide by the UNSC resolution which demands that Afghanistan's territory must never again be used to threaten or attack any coun-

try or to plan or finance terrorist attacks.

In a joint statement issued after the fourth India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue on April 11, the two countries' Ministers urged the Taliban to respect the human rights of all Afghans, including women, children and members of minority groups; and to uphold freedom of travel.

Calling for the cessation of violence in Myanmar, the release of all those arbitrarily detained, and a swift return to the path of democracy and inclusive governance, the joint statement also called for urgent implementation of the ASEAN Five Point Consensus.

As regards the resolution in the UNGA, Liechtenstein on behalf of 38 co-sponsors tabled resolution that mandates a meeting of the UN General Assembly whenever a veto is cast in the Security Council. "The resolution is a meaningful step to empower the GA and strengthen multilateralism," it said. It is expected to be taken up by the end of the month.

Earlier this month, India abstained on the vote to suspend Russia from the UN Human Rights Council. This was the 12th time India abstained from voting at the United Nations.

Modi on 3-day visit to Gujarat from Mon

With eye on State polls this year, it is PM's 2nd visit to home State post BJP's win in 4 States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With Assembly elections in Gujarat to be held later this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a three-day visit to his home State from April 18-20.

This will be Modi's second visit to Gujarat. He had earlier been to the State soon after the BJP's victory in Assembly polls in four of the five States.

During the visit he will lay the foundation stone of various development projects worth around Rs 22,000 crore.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, on April 18, Modi will visit the Command and Control Centre for Schools in Gandhinagar and the next day dedicate to the nation and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects at Banas Dairy Sankul in Diyodar, in Banaskantha district.

He will also lay the foundation stone of WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar.

On April 20, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the Global AYUSH Investment & Innovation Summit at Gandhinagar and thereafter, attend the Adijati Maha Sammelan in Dahod and inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of various development projects worth around Rs 22,000 crore.

The Sammelan is expected to be attended by 2 lakh people. The Prime Minister will inaugurate projects worth over Rs 1400 crore. He will inaugurate Dahod District Southern Area Regional Water Supply Scheme, constructed in Narmada River Basin, worth around Rs 840 crore. It will cater to the water supply needs of around 280 villages in Dahod District and Devgadhi Baria city.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate five projects of Dahod Smart City worth around Rs 335 crore. These projects include Integrated



Command & Control Centre (ICCC) Building, Stormwater drainage system, Sewerage works, Solid Waste Management System and Rain Water Harvesting System. Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, benefits worth Rs 120 crore will be provided to 10,000 tribals of Panchmahal and Dahod districts.

Modi will also inaugurate 66 KV Ghodia substation, Panchayat Houses, and Anganwadis, among others.

HE will lay the foundation stone for manufacturing of 9000 HP Electric Locomotives at the Production Unit in Dahod. The cost of the project is around Rs 20,000 crore.

Dahod workshop, established in 1926 for the periodic overhaul of steam locomotives, will be upgraded to an electric locomotive manufacturing unit with infrastructural improvements. It will provide direct and indirect employment to over 10,000 people.

Mauritius PM Jugnauth to lead high level delegation to India on 8-day visit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth will lead a high-level delegation to India for an eight-day visit, starting Sunday, on the invitation Prime Minister Narendra Modi. His wife Kobita Jugnauth will accompany him. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Jugnauth will participate in the Ground-Breaking Ceremony of the WHO-Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar next Tuesday as well as

in the Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit in Gandhinagar on Wednesday, along with PM Modi.

The Mauritius PM will also pay a visit to Varanasi apart from his official engagements in Gujarat and New Delhi.

"India and Mauritius enjoy uniquely close ties, bound by shared history, culture, and heritage. The upcoming visit will further strengthen the vibrant bilateral ties," the MEA said.

In January this year, Modi and Jugnauth had jointly inau-

gurated the India-assisted social housing units project in Mauritius virtually. They also launched the Civil Service College and 8 MW Solar PV Farm project in Mauritius that is being undertaken under India's development support

And last week, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Secretary to the Cabinet of Mauritius NK Ballah in New Delhi and said the bilateral cooperation between the two countries was "progressing from strength to strength".

States gear up as uptick in Covid infections causes worry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Saturday reported less than 1000 cases, i.e., 975 fresh Covid-19 cases and four deaths even as Delhi and NCR districts of UP and Haryana witnessed uptick in infections, prompting the State Governments to gear up to meet any eventuality in case of fourth wave which is predicted to sweep the country in June.

The active cases comprise 0.03 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate remained at 98.76 per cent, the ministry said. An increase of 175 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. However, India's top biomedical scientist Dr Gagandeep Kang said it is not known whether the XE variant is driving the rise in cases.

"We don't necessarily know that all of the cases that are being reported are of the XE variant unless we sequence them all," Dr

Kang said. "...It is only when we have all the pieces of the picture that we can interpret the data. People's data alone isn't sufficient," she said.

Meanwhile, nearly 300 samples taken from people who had tested positive for COVID-19 in Delhi recently have been sent for genome sequencing, official from the Government said, adding that the sequencing is to be done essentially to find if any new variant, like XE, has circulated in the city or not. Delhi has been recording spurt in positivity rate, as high as 3.95 per cent recently.

The sequencing will take about 7-10 days to process, they said. As flights are operational and people are intermingling, there is always a "chance" that a variant could end up circulating in a city, even from a far off place, where they might have been detected earlier, the sources said.

In Gurugram in Haryana, the civic authorities have start-

ed a 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign in which officials will go door to door and administer vaccine doses to eligible people.

Heat-stable Covid vaccine likely soon

A heat-stable Covid vaccine that is being developed in India and does not need cold chain storage has generated a strong antibody response against coronavirus variants, including Delta and Omicron, according to a study on mice. The vaccine candidate, by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru and biotech start-up company Mynvax, uses a part of the viral spike protein called the receptor-binding domain (RBD), which allows the virus to connect with the host cell to infect it, said a statement here.

Ukraine receives heavy losses amid West propaganda drive

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI


Notwithstanding the Western propaganda overdrive of a strong resistance by the Ukrainian military against Moscow, the Russian military has so far destroyed in operations against Kyiv a total 131 aircraft and 104 helicopters, 245 anti-aircraft missile systems S-300, 448 unmanned aerial vehicles, 2,188 tanks and other armoured combat vehicles, 248 multiple launch rocket systems, 957 field artillery and mortars, as well as 2,088 units of special military vehicles of the armed forces of Ukraine.

In addition, an unspecified number of Buk-M1 surface to air missile (SAM) systems and Osa AKM, highly mobile low altitude short range tactical SAM have also been destroyed during the 50 days of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"The Armed Forces of the Russian Federation continue the special military operation in


Ukraine. During the day, operational-tactical aviation hit 7 military assets of Ukraine," according to the latest update by Dmitry A Solodov, Press Secretary of the Russian embassy here.

Among the seven Ukrainian targets hit by the Russian forces till the available updates on Friday, one missile and artillery weapons depot near Prilove, six areas of manpower and armoured vehicles concentration of the Ukrainian 54th Separate Mechanized and 128th Mountain Assault Brigades near Velikaya Novoselka, Teminovka, Ivanovka, Kramatorsk and Bogorodichnoe cities of Ukraine, were destroyed. The Russian Missile Troops and artillery also hit 132 assets, including eight command posts, 110 strong points and areas of concentration of Ukrainian manpower, four artillery batteries and one ammunition depot in a single day as on Thursday as reported by the Russian defence ministry, he said in the statement.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sunali Kirittuadan Taktawala/ LBGUR00003150789	Villa No- 4, Moira Village Bardez Taluka Casa Del Senor, Panjim, Goa- 403001/ April 12, 2022	June 24, 2021 Rs. 2,48,05,771/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : April 16, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE
**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Deepak Jain/ Rajbala Jain LBDEL00004947064	Property No-231-232, Block-C PKT-5 Sector-06 Third Floor With Roof Rights Rohini, Delhi. April 11, 2022	June 19, 2021 Rs. 18,51,903/-	Delhi

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : April 16, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Coral reef ecosystems likely to be degraded by 2050

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Coral reef ecosystems Around the globe – key to huge numbers of marine species and a source of food, livelihoods, and cultural heritage for half a billion people – are likely to become functionally degraded by 2050, if the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change are not met, a global report 'Forecasting Climate Sanctuaries for Securing the Future of Coral Reefs,' has warned.

It said that even with drastic emission reductions to ensure global warming is kept within 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, up to 90% of the world's corals could still vanish in the next three decades,

leaving behind a reef structure that will lose many of its functions.

The research by Jens Zinke is a Professor of Palaeobiology at the University of Leicester, examines large coral habitats to track environmental and climate change over the last three centuries into the modern day.

He said: "Coral reefs are the 'canaries in the coal mine' when it comes to sensing ecosystems under stress from ocean warming due to climate change. Corals can sense when ocean temperatures exceed a dangerous threshold and warn us when we need to take measures." Our research has shown that coral reefs have been severely impacted by ocean warming in the past three to



four decades, yet some reef locations show lower rates of warming or benefit from mitigating circumstances due to local oceanography.

"Some reefs have the ability to resist or recover from thermal stress faster than others, and these reefs may serve as sanctuaries under future warming. This is a major new research direction – to find

those locations and protect them before they are gone."

In 2018, the Vibrant Oceans group identified 50 reefs that are most likely to resist and survive climate change. The habitats are located largely in the Pacific and Indian oceans, with further reefs in the Caribbean and east of Africa.

Previously the 50 reefs

were mainly chosen at sites that escaped climate change. Now, the scientists call for a wider portfolio of reefs that should include resistant and fast-recovering reefs.

The group's latest recommendations, presented in the white paper include continuation of the 50 Reefs approach as 'climate change avoidance sanctuaries' as a priority for investment in coral reef conservation, expansion of the 50 reefs conservation portfolio for climate change to include coral resistance and recovery sanctuaries; increase in support for regional evaluations of the health of the 50 Reefs portfolio, and sustainable financing initiatives to support the implementation of regional portfolios.

Over 900 civilians dead around Kyiv, Russia hits 8 cities

AP ■ KYIV

Indignant over what it called Ukrainian strikes in Russian territory and following the stunning loss of its Black Sea flagship, Moscow renewed missile attacks on Kyiv, where authorities said the bodies of more than 900 civilians were found outside the capital. Most had been shot dead, police said, and likely “simply executed.”

Russian forces shelled an oil refinery in the Ukrainian city of Lysychansk on Saturday, and a large fire erupted. Luhansk regional governor Serhiy Haidai said it wasn't the refinery as the time of the attack and "the remains of oil sludge" were burning.



Ukraine's presidential office reported Saturday that missile strikes and shelling over the past 24 hours occurred in eight regions: Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv in the east, Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava and Kirovohrad in the central Ukraine and Mykolaiv and Kherson in the south. The strikes underlined that the

whole country remained under threat despite Russia's pivot toward mounting a new offensive in the east.

Fighting also went on in the pummeled southern port city of Mariupol, where locals reported seeing Russian troops digging up bodies. In the northeastern city of Kharkiv, the shelling of a residential area

killed seven people, including a 7-month-old child, and wounded 34, according to regional Governor Oleh Sinehubov.

Early Saturday, Kyiv's eastern district of Darnytskie was struck, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said in an online posting. He said rescuers and paramedics were on the scene. He warned residents who have fled the capital not to return for their safety.

In the towns around Kyiv, said Andriy Nebytov, who heads the region's police force, bodies were abandoned in the streets or given temporary burials. He cited police data indicating 95% died from gunshot wounds.

“Consequently, we understand that under the (Russian) occupation, people were simply executed in the streets,” Nebytov said.

More bodies are being

found every day under rubble and in mass graves, he added, with the largest number found in Bucha, more than 350. According to Nebytov, utility workers gathered and buried bodies in the Kyiv suburb while it remained under Russian control. Russian troops, he added, had been “tracking down” people who expressed strong pro-Ukrainian views.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russian troops occupying parts of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions in the south of terrorising civilians and hunting for anyone who served in Ukraine's military or government.

“The occupiers think this will make it easier for them to control this territory. But they are very wrong. They are fooling themselves,” Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address. “Russia's problem is that it is

not accepted — and never will be accepted — by the entire Ukrainian people. Russia has lost Ukraine forever.”

Officials think 2,500 to 3,000 Ukrainian troops have died in the war, Zelenskyy told CNN in an interview. He said about 10,000 have been injured and it's “hard to say how many will survive.”

More violence could be in store for Kyiv after Russian authorities accused Ukraine of wounding seven people and damaging about 100 residential buildings with airstrikes in Bryansk, a region bordering Ukraine. Authorities in another border region of Russia also reported Ukrainian shelling Thursday.

“The number and the scale of missile attacks on objects in Kyiv will be ramped up in response to the Kyiv nationalist regime committing any terrorist attacks or diversions on

the Russian territory,” Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said.

Russia used missiles to destroy a facility for the repair and production of missile systems in Kyiv, Konashenkov said. The Ukrainian state arms manufacturer, Ukroboronprom, said Russian forces struck one of the missile workshops at the Vizar plant, located near Kyiv's Zhuliany airport.

Ukrainian officials have not confirmed striking targets in Russia, and the reports could not be independently verified.

However, Ukrainian officials said forces did strike a key Russian warship with missiles. A senior US defence official backed up the claim, saying the US now believes the Moskva was hit by at least one Neptune anti-ship missile, and probably two. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss

an intelligence assessment.

The Moskva, named for the Russian capital, sank while being towed to port Thursday after taking heavy damage. Moscow did not acknowledge any attack, saying only that a fire had detonated ammunition on board. The loss of the ship represents an important victory for Ukraine and a symbolic defeat for Russia.

The sinking reduces Russia's firepower in the Black Sea and seemed to symbolise Moscow's fortunes in an eight-week invasion widely seen as a historic blunder following the Russian retreat from the Kyiv region and much of northern Ukraine.

“A flagship' russian warship is a worthy diving site. We have one more diving spot in the Black Sea now. Will definitely visit the wreck after our victory in the war,” Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov tweeted Friday.

PTI launches website to raise funds

Imran urges overseas Pakistanis to donate for his campaign against new ‘imported’ Govt



PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's ousted prime minister Imran Khan has appealed to overseas Pakistanis to donate money for a campaign launched by his party against the new “imported government” led by Shehbaz Sharif. In a video message posted on Twitter on Friday, Khan said a “corrupt government” was imposed on Pakistani people through a “foreign conspiracy” for regime change. “This is an insult to the

22 crore Pakistani people,” Khan asserted, nearly a week after the 69-year-old was succeeded by Sharif, the Leader of the Opposition and President of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

Terming his campaign as ‘Haqiqi Azadi’ (real freedom), Khan said his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has launched the website, namanzoor.Com, to raise funds from overseas Pakistanis for the purpose. “Let's thwart the foreign conspiracy for regime change and take the country towards elections.

Let the people of Pakistan decide their government,” he said. The PTI party also tweeted the party chairman's “message for overseas Pakistanis who also have rejected the imported government”. Khan, who came to power in 2018, reportedly with the backing of

the military, became the first due to a “foreign conspiracy”. Pakistan prime minister who was defeated in a no-confidence vote in the National Assembly on Sunday last.

Khan has been claiming that the Opposition's no-trust motion against him was the result of a “foreign conspiracy” because of his independent foreign policy. He has named the US as the country behind the conspiracy, a charge bluntly denied by Washington multiple times.

Khan has alleged that Donald Lu, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs in the Department of State was involved in the ‘foreign conspiracy’ to topple his government. Hours after his unceremonious removal, Khan in his first comments on Sunday last had said that Pakistan's “freedom struggle” has begun again

with ouster of his government due to a “foreign conspiracy”. “Pakistan became an independent state in 1947; but freedom struggle begins again today against a foreign conspiracy of regime change,” he wrote on his official Twitter handle.

Pak Nat'l Assembly Deputy Speaker resigns before no-trust motion against him

Islamabad: Qasim Khan Suri resigned as deputy speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly on Saturday, less than an hour before a session of the House where voting on a no-trust motion against him was to take place for favouring the previous Government led by Imran Khan. PTI

Russian oil ban major step to peace: Zelenskyy



AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Friday that existing sanctions on Russia are “painful” but not yet enough to stop the Russian military. Zelenskyy called for “the democratic world” to ban Russian oil. While US lawmakers and US President Joe Biden have enacted such a ban, Europe relies more heavily on Russian energy supplies, and US is working to keep India from stepping up its use of Russian energy.

“In general, the democratic world must accept that Russia's money for energy resources is in fact money for destruction of democracy,” Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address to his nation. He also said: “The sooner world recognizes that oil embargo against Russia and finish blockade of its banking sector are necessary steps towards peace, sooner war will end.”

Mysterious liver illness seen in kids in US, Europe

AP ■ NEW YORK

Health officials in several countries are investigating mysterious cases of severe liver disease in children, and they think it may be related to a kind of virus usually associated with colds.

The U.K. Has been investigating at least 74 cases in which children came down with hepatitis, or liver inflammation, the World Health Organization said Friday. Three similar cases in Spain and a few in Ireland are being investigated, the WHO said.

Meanwhile, U.S. Health officials say they are looking into nine similar cases. All were in Alabama, but officials say they are looking to see if there are more elsewhere.

“Given the increase in cases reported over the past one month and enhanced case search activities, more cases are likely to be reported in the coming days,” WHO officials said in a statement. The U.S. Children ranged in age from 1 to 6 years old, and two required liver transplants. The European cases are in a similar age range, though some have been older, WHO officials said. The WHO



first became aware of the unusual illnesses early this month, when they learned of 10 children in Scotland with liver problems. One got sick in January and the nine others in March. All became severely ill and were diagnosed with hepatitis after being taken to the hospital.

The liver processes nutrients, filters the blood and fights infections. The infections caused symptoms like jaundice, diarrhea and abdominal pain. Hepatitis can be life-threatening if left untreated. Since then, British health officials have identified at least 64 more cases. None died, but six needed liver transplants, the WHO said Friday. Laboratory testing

has ruled out the hepatitis type A, B, C and E viruses that usually cause such illnesses. Officials say they are not aware of international travel or other factors that might have put the kids at risk.

But they noted there's been a recent surge in the spread of adenoviruses. There are dozens of adenoviruses, many of them associated with cold-like symptoms, fever, sore throat and pink eye. But some versions can trigger other problems, including inflammation in the stomach and intestines. Adenoviruses previously have been linked to hepatitis in children, but mostly in kids with weakened immune systems.

Boat capsized off Libya, 35 dead or presumed dead, says UN

AP ■ CAIRO

A migrant boat has capsized off the Libyan coast, leaving at least 35 people dead or presumed dead, the UN migration agency said Saturday. The shipwreck took place Friday off western Libyan city of Sabratha, a major launching point for mainly African migrants making dangerous voyage across Mediterranean, said International Organisation for Migration.

The IOM said bodies of six migrants were pulled out while 29 others were missing and presumed dead. It was not immediately clear what caused wooden boat to capsize. The tragedy was latest to involve migrants departing from North Africa to seek a better life in Europe.

This past week alone, at least 53 migrants were reported dead or presumed dead off Libya, according to IOM. Earlier this month, more than 90 people in an overcrowded boat drowned in Mediterranean Sea, days after they left Libya, according to Doctors Without Borders aid group.

Bidens paid 24.6% taxes on \$6,10,702 earnings, returns show

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, earned \$610,702 during their first year in White House and paid \$150,439 in federal income taxes. That was a rate of 24.6% for 2021, well over average of around 14%.

The totals were similar to Bidens' 2020 returns, when they reported earning \$607,336 as he ran for president. They reported a federal income tax rate of 25.9% then. The national median household income was \$67,521 in 2020, according to US Census data. Last year was steep drops from 2019 for Bidens, when they earned nearly \$1million, primarily from book sales, speeches and their teaching positions at University of Pennsylvania and Northern Virginia Community College.

ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Manu Kant/ Kawaljeet Kaur/ LBHYD00005043051	(Particulars of Secured Property) Schedule Property All that the plots of land covered under Premises Nos. 10-5-385/1/1/14, 60/4/13, 5/1, 84, 390/9, 391/1, 390/6/10, 385/1/15 & 10-5-385/D/II, totally admeasuring 7625.5 Square Yards, equivalent to 6374.91 Square Meters, in Survey no. 129/77, T.S.No.26, Block-K, Situated at Syed Nagar, First Lancer, Hyderabad-Telangana. Second Schedule Property Sold Hereby All that the Part and Parcel of the Flat bearing No.4, on the 4th floor in Tower No.A6, admeasuring 2423 Sft (including common areas), along with undivided share of land admeasuring 51.01 Sq.yards. Out of total land area 7625.5 square Yards, equivalent of 6374.91 Square Meters, in the Apartment known as "The Valencia", situated at the premises bearing Municipal Nos.10-5-385/51, 10-5-385/84, 10-5-385/A/12, 10-5-385/1/15, 10-5-385/60/4/B 10-5-385/58/12, 10-5-390/B/10, 10-5-385/1/1/14, 10-5-385/D/11, 10-5-385/53/4/1, 10-5-390/9, 10-5-391/11 AND 10-5-385/1/19, IN Block K of Ward No.12 in T.S.No.26, corresponding to Survey No.129/77 of Shaikpet Village And Mandal, at Syed Nagar First Lancer, Hyderabad, Telangana State and bounded by: North: open to Sky South: open to Sky East: open to Sky West: Corridor/ Symbolic done on/ 11.04.2022	13.08.2021/ Rs. 1,12,20, 678.00/-	Hydrabad

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : April 16, 2022
Place: Ghaziabad

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Swadesh Mohan/ Rama Sharma/ LBGHZ00003892079	Flat No-1059, 10th Floor, Block E and F, Windsor Paradise -2, 1005-1008, Raj Nagar Extn., Village Noor Nagar Pargana Loni Tehsil And Distt Ghaziabad, U.P./ April 11, 2022	August 30, 2021 Rs. 19,77,155/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : April 16, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Jatin Verma/ Ashok/ Swarna Devi/ LBLUD00004728915	House M.C. No. B-31-7549, Comprised In Khasra No. 734-735, Khatta No.39/42-57/60 As Per Jamabandi For Year 1982-83 (Khatta No.46/50, Page No.43 As Per Jamabandi For Year 2007-08), Situated At Village Taraf Saidan, H. B.No.172 Ludhiana Punjab/ April 11, 2022	October 16, 2021 Rs. 21,53,523/-	Ludhiana

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : April 16, 2022
Place: Noida

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Office Number 201-B, 2nd Floor, Road No 1 Plot No-B3, WIFIT IT Park, Wagle Industrial Estate, Thane, Maharashtra- 400604

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Naveen Chourey & Susheel Chourey- LBIND00000803893	Unit No-29, Ashish Regency Gram, Pipiyahana, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, Indore- 122002/ April 11, 2022	June 25, 2021 Rs. 8,85,828.00/-	Indore

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : April 16, 2022
Place: Gurgaon

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Fuel sales fall in April on high prices

New Delhi: India's fuel sales fell in the first half of April as a record rise in prices in a short 16-day period dented demand, preliminary industry data showed on Saturday.

Petrol sales fell almost 10 per cent in the first half of April when compared with the same period in the preceding month, while diesel demand slid 15.6 per cent. Even cooking gas LPG, which had consistently shown growth even during the pandemic period, saw a 1.7 per cent month-on-month fall in consumption during April 1-15.

State-owned oil firms on March 22 ended a 137-day hiatus in rate revision and began passing on a USD 30 per barrel increase in cost of raw material (crude oil) during that period when five states including Uttar Pradesh went to polls.

Petrol and diesel prices rose by ₹10 per litre between March 22 and April 6 -- the highest ever increase during a 16-day period since fuel prices were deregulated two decades back.

On March 22, cooking gas



prices too were hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder to ₹ 949.50 -- the highest-ever rate for the subsidised fuel. Jet fuel prices too climbed to the highest-ever ₹1,13,202.33 per kilolitre, resulting in a 20.5 per cent fall in sales month-on-month.

In the first two weeks of March, dealers as well as the public topped up their tanks in anticipation of an increase in prices that had been on hold in the run-up to the elections in states like Uttar Pradesh.

While daily price revisions restarted on March 22, the increases were calibrated. The price increases moderated the consumption.

Petrol sales by state-owned fuel retailers, which control roughly 90 per cent of the market, at 1.12 million tonnes during April 1-15 were nearly 12.1 per cent higher than the same period last year and 19.6 per cent higher than the period in 2019, preliminary industry data showed.

ATF price up marginally, rates at record high

New Delhi : Jet fuel prices on Saturday were hiked by a marginal 0.2 per cent -- the eighth straight increase this year -- to an all-time high, reflecting a surge in global energy prices.

The price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) -- the fuel that helps aeroplanes fly -- was hiked by ₹ 277.5 per kilolitre, or 0.2 per cent, to ₹1,13,202.33 per kl (₹113.2 per litre) in the national capital, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

Meanwhile, petrol and diesel prices remained unchanged for the 10th straight day after rising by a record ₹10 per litre each.

While jet fuel prices are revised on the 1st and 16th of every month, petrol and diesel rates are revised daily based on equivalent rates in the international market.

The increase in ATF price comes on back of the steepest ever hike of 18.3 per cent (₹17,135.63 per kl) effected on March 16 and a 2 per cent (₹2,258.54 per kl) increase on April 1.

ATF in Mumbai now costs ₹111,981.99 per kl, while it is priced at ₹117,753.60 in Kolkata and ₹116,933.49 in Chennai.

Fuel rates have been increased in India because energy prices globally have risen on back of supply concerns following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and demand returning after being hit by the pandemic.

India is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs, fuel, which makes up for almost 40 per cent of the running cost of an airline, has this year surged to new highs. **PTI**

Indian automakers face heat amid global constraints; hike prices

New Delhi: It is becoming increasingly difficult for Indian automakers to control input costs as they are dependent on China and Japan which are facing supply chain woes, resulting in price hikes across vehicle ranges, according to a new report.

Indian automakers are responding to raw material price hikes by at least 2 per cent price hike on average, according to Counterpoint Research.

KIA Motors has increased prices of all its vehicles. Maruti Suzuki, India's largest passenger vehicle (PV) maker, has also increased the average price of its cars by 8.8 per cent since January.

"Toyota, Tata Motors, Hyundai and MG Motors have also increased prices for their vehicles across ranges. Even premium vehicle brands such as BMW India, Mercedes-Benz India and Audi India have announced at least a 3 per cent increase in their vehicle prices,"

said Soumen Mandal, senior research analyst.

Due to the low electric vehicle (EV) adoption, high prices of lithium and cobalt have not directly impacted the industry in India.

"The price hikes in India are mostly due to the rise in the price of steel. Steel is used in manufacturing vehicle chassis and body. Nickel-containing stainless steel is used in some drivetrain components," Mandal added.

In addition to rising materials costs, fluctuating exchange rates and rising operational costs are other factors driving price increases in the country.

With the semiconductor shortage beginning to ease, 2022 was expected to be a better year, as indicated by increased sales during the initial months.

But Russia's invasion of Ukraine and fresh Covid waves in China have further delayed the industry's recovery. **IANS**

NFR records 18% rise in freight unloading in 2021-22

Guwahati: The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has registered an increase of 18 per cent in freight unloading in the last financial year, an official statement said on Saturday.

"During the recently completed financial year from April, 2021 to March, 2022, N. F. Railway carried 13,757 rakes of freight trains as against 11,659 during the corresponding period of the previous financial year, thus registering an impressive increase of 18%," the NFR release said.

It added that NFR unloaded 1,349 freight carrying trains registering highest ever release of rakes achieved in the month of March, 2022. This is an increase of 8.8% in comparison to the corresponding period of last year.

The NFR transported goods like FCI rice, sugar, salt, edible oil, food grains, fertiliser, cement, stone chips, coal, maize, auto, container and other items during the month and unloaded them in different goods sheds within its jurisdiction. **PTI**

Vedanta calls for corporatisation of Defence PSUs

Kolkata: Vedanta chairman Anil Agarwal on Saturday pressing for further liberalisation of the defence sector and called for corporatisation of defence factories to make the country self-reliant in respect of arms and ammunition.

There are 52 defence factories for manufacturing arms and ammunition in the country but most of them are running at 10 per cent capacity, he said.

"We (India) can be the largest producer of arms and ammunition. If the defence factories are corporatised it will bring in a new way of

thinking," Agarwal said while addressing the inauguration of a post graduate programme for executives virtually from London. Vedanta is hopeful of commencing semi-conductor production in India in the next two years, he said.

Semi-conductors are like the sutradhar (facilitator) for any industry. In the next two years we should start producing semi-conductors in India," he said replying to a question.

The company had signed a MoU in February this year with Foxconn to form a joint venture to manufacture semi-conductors in India. **PTI**

HDFC Bank's Q4FY22 net profit up 22.8% YoY

Mumbai: Lending major HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a year-on-year rise of 22.8 per cent in net profit for the fourth quarter of FY22 ended March 31.

The bank's net profit increased to Rs 10,055.2 crore during the period under review over the quarter ended March 31, 2021.

Besides, the bank's net interest income (income earned less interest expended) for the quarter under review grew by 10.2 per cent to Rs 18,872.7 crore from Rs 17,120.2 crore earned during the corresponding period of FY21.

"Profit before tax (PBT) for the quarter ended March 31, 2022 at Rs 13,044.7 crore grew by 20.3 per cent over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. After providing Rs 2,989.5 crore for taxation, the bank earned a net profit of Rs 10,055.2 crore, an increase of 22.8 per cent over the quarter ended March 31, 2021," HDFC Bank said in a statement.

The bank also reported that provisions and contingencies for the quarter ended March 31, 2022 were Rs 3,312.4 crore



(consisting of specific loan loss provisions of Rs 1,778.2 crore and general and other provisions of Rs 1,534.2 crore) as against total provisions of Rs 4,693.7 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2021.

"Total provisions for the current quarter included contingent provisions of approximately Rs 1,000 crore," it said.

For the full fiscal FY22, the bank reported a rise of 18.8 per cent in its net profit to Rs 36,961.3 crore over the financial year ended March 31, 2021.

It earned a total income of Rs 157,263 crore as against Rs 146,063.1 crore for the financial year ended March 31, 2021.

The bank's net revenues (net interest income plus other income) for the financial year ended March 31, 2022 were Rs 101,519.5 crore, as against Rs 90,084.5 crore for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021. **IANS**

Alliance Air becomes Centre's independent business unit

New Delhi: Regional airline Alliance Air has become an independent business unit under the Central government's control.

Alliance Air was an erstwhile part of Air India prior to the latter's divestment. At present, it is operated as a division under the Air India Asset Holdings Pvt Ltd (AIAHL).

It was founded in 1996 as a wholly-owned subsidiary of then Indian Airlines, which later merged with Air India. The airline mainly operates on domestic regional routes as part of the government's Regional Connectivity Scheme.

Currently, it has 19 aircraft -- 18 ATR-72s and 1 Dornier-228 --

which it operates on over 100 regional routes connecting Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

In terms of financials, the airline had earned an operating profit of Rs 65 crore in 2019-20 on a revenue of Rs 1,182 crore. Notably, the Centre now has Alliance Air as the only airline under its control. **IANS**



कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, केन्द्रीय मन्त्रालय, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, जल भवन, 'बी' ब्लॉक, नेहरू कालोनी, देहरादून

पत्रांक-30/ई-निविदा/2022-23 ई-निविदा सूचना दिनांक- 16.04.2022


उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की ओर से केन्द्रीय मन्त्रालय, देहरादून द्वारा निम्न कार्यों हेतु ई-निविदा, टू-बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी बिड एवं कांमिशियल बिड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा सं.	कार्य विवरण	घरदोर घनराशि रु.	ई-निविदा पर दाखल करने की तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की प्रारंभ एवं अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा सूचना सं.सं. 7 अनुसार मूल प्रथम विमान में जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	निविदा की वैधता	बि-बिड-निविड में अंतिम तिथि एवं समय
1	वॉर्किंग दर अनुबंध पर, Cartage of store materials i.e. Pipes and Fittings, Chemicals, Pumpssets, T&P etc. from Central Store, Dehradun and Haldwani to various divisional stores of the Department including loading, unloading and stacking properly and Unloading of Material at Central Store, Dehradun & Haldwani कार्य।		18.04.2022 from 11:00 a.m.	02.05.2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 08.05.2022 upto 5:00 p.m.	09.05.2022 upto 5:00 p.m.	10.05.2022 at 11:00 a.m.	120 days	30.04.2022 upto 11:00 a.m.

अर्हता- Any company/firm/contractor having experience of carting of materials in engineering department i.e. Central Govt./State Govt./Public Undertaking and who are having minimum four (04) Heavy Vehicles (trucks) **manufacturing not older than five years from the date of opening of this tender** of 9 Metric Ton or above carrying capacity, whose R.C, fitness, insurance and all related documents are complete in all respects are allowed to take part in this tender.

ई-निविदा से सम्बंधित सहायक जानकारी व सॉफ्ट जेनरल कांन्स की वेबसाइट www.ikutenders.gov.in एवं विभागीय वेबसाइट <http://ujls.ukg.gov.in> पर ऑन लाइन देखी/प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता



Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.


As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Ajay Kataria/ Prem Kataria/ LBDL00003680051	House No-9, J P Nagar (Ansal Courtyard), Village Dehtora Sastripuram, Tehsil And District, Agra, Uttar Pradesh/ April 12, 2022	March 25, 2021 Rs. 19,83,309/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Mr. Vikas Raj/ Priya Bhatti/ LBDL00005063940	Flat No A1-905, 9th Floor, Status Residency, Tower A1, Tapukara, Bhiwadi/ April 12, 2022	June 19, 2021 Rs.25,97,329/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Dr Jayaprakash Kumar/ Tanuja Ramanna/ LBLUC00002380349	Flat No-F-0803, 8th Floor, Block-F, Kengeri Platinum Karnataka Housing Board Bangalore-560060 Karnataka/ April 12, 2022	March 25, 2021 Rs. 35,75,730/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : April 16, 2022 Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited



Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sudha Srivastava/ Rajesh Kumar Srivastava/ LBLUC00002341451	Apartment No. E-2441, 23rd Floor, Block-E, 16th Park View, Township Gaur Yamuna City, Sector-19, Jaypee Sports City East, Yeida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ April 11, 2022	July 06, 2021 Rs. 3,93,878/-	Noida/ Lucknow
2.	Sunita Mishra/ Satya Narayan Sabat/ LBRV/N00001235179	Flat No. 601, 6th Floor, Pebble Beach Tower, Putting Greens, Nari City, Omega-II, Gautam Budh Nagar, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ April 11, 2022	September 27, 2021 Rs. 11,77,011/-	Noida/ Varanasi

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : April 16, 2022 Place: Noida

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that Mr. Sandeep Gupta is owner of Entire Ground Floor, and ½ share of First Floor of Built up Property bearing no. 8-30, area 360 sq. yds., situated in the area of Village Bassa/Deharu/ Delhi State, Delhi, in colony known as Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-15, hereinafter referred to as "The said property" by virtue of GIL deed dated 04.03.2014, registration no. 4152, executed by Mrs. Indu, Gupta, (after demise of Mr. Sachin Gupta his wife and both Children) has been assigned Original GIL deed dated 07.04.2003 registration no. 3884, executed by Mr. Jywan Gupta, for Ground floor, and ½ share of Entire First floor, along with common roof rights, in the name of Late Mr. Sachin Gupta, and Entire Second Floor, ½ share of first floor and common roof rights in favor of Mr. Sandeep Gupta. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of missing document/ GIL Deed. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
206, 2nd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moh Nagar, N. Delhi-110028, Ph: 011-41112572-28, shubhankar.ksaadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General public that Mrs. Kiran Dogra is authorized to deal in respect of Second Floor with roof rights, built on Plot No. 17, Block-16, situated at Spring Field Colony, Extension-I, Faridabad, vide the registered general power of attorney and other documents dated 30.05.2007. All persons are hereby informed that Mrs. Kiran Dogra has lost Notarised 2005 General Power of Attorney and other linked document dated 30.05.2007 somewhere. General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Mrs. Prasoan Lata, Advocate, SG Associates (Law Firm)
Unit No. 7, Basement, Sector No. C-78, Sector 2, Noida, UP 201301. E-MAIL: sgassociatesp@gmail.com, Ph: 7011172764, 8130200837

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of **Mrs. Meena Devi** W/o Mr. Sadanand Chaudhary who is owner of Plot area measuring 70 Sq. Yds. out of Khewat No.91, Khatoni No.145, Mustali No.27, Kila No.16/1(6-10), 25/1(2-0) & Khewat No.146, Mustali No.27, Kila No. 25/2(6-0), Mauja Agwarpur, (Jagmal Enclave, Roshan Nagar as per Technical Report), Tehsil & District Faridabad (Haryana), vide registered General Power of Attorney (vide Registration No.100), notarized Agreement to sell & WILL dated 08.01.2016 and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 7 days at below address.

Lucern Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moh, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.-II, New Delhi-110049
Contact # 011-40046316

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that **Mr. Nafis Ahmad** (Husband of Late Mrs. Farhat), **Mr. Sameer & Mr. Shuaib** (both Sons Late Mrs. Farhat) who owned the Residential Plot of land area measuring 57 sq. yards, falling in Kharsa No.13/52, situated at Village, **Arha Pargana Loni, Tehsil and District Ghaziabad**, UP after the death of Mrs. Farhat and before demise Mrs. Farhat W/o Mr. Nafis Ahmad had purchased the subject property from **Mr. Dinesh Kumar Sharma** S/o Mr. Shri Chand Sharma through Sale Deed dated 12.03.2020 Vide Doc. No.2802, and same to be financed & mortgaged by **M/s. Exclusive Leasing and Finance Private Limited** (formerly known as Exclusive Leasing and Finance Limited). If any Person having any type of claim/right/lien/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

Lucern Legal LLP
Office No. G-03, at Ground Floor, on Plot No.61, Sector-2, Noida, UP-201301
Contact: # 0120-4130438

MAHINDRA RURAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Corporate Office:- Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. Sadhana House, 2nd Floor, 570, P.B. Marg W/o, Mumbai 400 018 India,Tel: +91 22 66523500
Fax: +91 22 24972741

SALE NOTICE

Branch Office: 3rd Floor 139-141 Mangal Pandey Nagar Opposite CCS University Meerut Uttar Pradesh 250002,
Branch Office: D-34, 3rd Floor Opp. GAUR Central MaLL RDC Raj Nagar, ABOVE MAHARANI RESTAURANT, GHAZIABAD Uttar Pradesh 201001

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION-CUM-SALEOF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

In exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (4) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (herein after referred to as "SARFAESI Act") and Rule 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "Rules")for the purpose of recovering the secured debts, the authorized officer of the secured creditor M/s Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "MRHL") has decided to sell the secured asset (immovable property), the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor under S. 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act, described herein below on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IT IS BASIS" and the public and all concerned including the concerned borrowers/ mortgagors, their representatives, as the case may be are hereby informed that the secured asset listed below will be sold, particulars of which are given below:

S.N.	Name of Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/Guarantors/ Mortgagers	Date & Amount of 13(2) Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Description of Property	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amount	Property Inspection Date & Time	Date & Time of Auction
1.	Branch: BAREILLY Borrower: BABU ALI S/O Najeeb, Partapur Chaudhary, Izzatnagar, Bareilly , Uttar Pradesh -243001 Co-Borrower: AFSARI W/o Najeeb Shah, Partapur Chaudhary, Izzatnagar, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh - 243001 LAN: 898655/ XSEMBAR00736365	12-JAN-21 & Rs. 23,41,733/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Forty One Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Three Only)	6-AUG-21 Physical Possession	Plot No.4 ,khasra No.738 Ghangara, Pipariya, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh - 243001, North - P/o Seller , South-p/o A.K Singh , East - P/o Seller , West - Rasta 15"	Rs.10,46,790/- Rs.1,04,679/- Rs.10,000/-	05/05/2022 TIME 10.00 AM TO 6 PM	9/5/2022 TIME 10:00 TO 3:00 PM
2.	Branch: GHAZIABAD Borrower: ANJU KUMAR S/o Vijay Raj Singh, H. No-54, Ghodi Bachheda Gautam Budh Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh -201301 (2nd Address)R/o 134, Ghori Bachera, Distt Gautam Buddha Nagar,up Co-Borrower: NISHA RAVAL W/o Anju Kumar, H. No-54, Ghodi Bachheda Gautam Budh Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh -201301 (2nd Address)R/o 134, Ghori Bachera,distt Gautam Buddha Nagar,up LAN: 587559/ XSEMGZB00504274	24-DEC-20 & Rs. 16,76,993/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Three Only)	12-OCT-21 Physical Possession	Plot On Khasra No-306 Chamra Wali, Ramghas Pargana, Distt-dadri Gaudam Budh Nagar, ghaziabad,uttar Pradesh - 203207 , North - Plot Of Goldi , South - Plot Of Smt Asha Devi , East - rasta, West - Plot Of Sumit	Rs. 7,29,000/- Rs. 72,900/- Rs.10,000/-	05/05/2022 TIME 10.00 AM TO 6 PM	9/5/2022 TIME 10:00 TO 3:00 PM
3.	Branch: MEERUT Borrower: NARENDRA S/o Dal Singh , H.no. 4 CC Shatabdi Nagar, Rithani , Meerut Up 250103 Co-Borrower: GEETA DEVI W/o Narendra Dharma , vill- Aasifabad Narang Pur Meerut Up 250406 (2n Address ->) W/o Narendra Dharma H.No. 4 Cc Shatabdi Nagar Rithani Meerut Up 250103 LAN: 634551/ XSEMMER00524294	3-DEC-20 & Rs. 6,80,875/- (Rupees Six Lakh Eighty Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Five Only)	22-JUN-21 Physical Possession	Plot No.179 , Khasra No. 64/1 ,mohala - Shri Ram Garden, Vill. - Dungrawali Dist. Meerut Pin Code- 251013, North - Land Of Pipeline , South- Pramod Chairman , East - Road, West	Rs. 3,90,330/- Rs.39,033/- Rs.10,000/-	05/05/2022 TIME 10.00 AM TO 6 PM	9/5/2022 TIME 10:00 TO 3:00 PM
4.	Branch: MEERUT Borrower: NIRBHAY SINGH NAGAR S/o Satpal Singh, H.no. 9 Nangla Sherkanth URF Jain Pur Meerut,uttar Pradesh -250002 Co-Borrower: AJAY SINGH S/o Satpal Singh, Racchoti, Meerut,up- 250106 GUARANTOR: SHIKHA AGARWAL W/o Rajiv Agarwal, 278/7 Jagriti Vihar Sec-7, Meerut,uttar Pradesh -250004 LAN: 582727/ XSEMMER00489862	12-JAN-21 & Rs. 7,55,797/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Seven Only)	10-APR-21 Physical Possession	Part Of Plot No 19 & 20 Khasra No 111,gram K u n d a P a r t a p u r , Meerut,uttar Pradesh - 2 5 0 0 0 2 , North - Remaining Part Of Plot No.20, South- Remaining Part Of Plot No.19 , East - Khet Of Dhanpal, West - Rasta 20~ Wide	Rs. 1,62,000/- Rs.16,200/- Rs.10,000/-	05/05/2022 TIME 10.00 AM TO 6 PM	9/5/2022 TIME 10:00 TO 3:00 PM
5.	Branch: GHAZIABAD Borrower: MUKUT SINGH Co-Borrower: KAMLESH Above At: H.No-159 Village- Ghori Bachera, Dadri , Gautam Buddh Nagar Ghaziabad 203207 LAN: 687139/ XSEMGZB00586921	13-08-2021 & Rs. 7,21,334/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty One Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Four Only)	10-01-2022 Physical Possession	Khasra No. 800 Village Piyawali, Tajpur, Dadri, gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh -203207 , North - Plot Of Mahaveer, South- Plot Of Bijendra, East - 12 Feet Road, West - Plot Of Rampal	Rs. 3,91,230/- Rs.39,123/- Rs.10,000/-	05/05/2022 TIME 10.00 AM TO 6 PM	9/5/2022 TIME 10:00 TO 3:00 PM
6.	Branch: GHAZIABAD Borrower: SANDEEP KUMAR PAL Co-Borrower: ANJU Above At: HOUSE NO 417, 3 RAMPURI MUZAFFAR NAGAR UP 251002 LAN: 1221860/XSEMMER00971410	13-08-2021 & Rs. 189020/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty One Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Four Only)	10-01-2022 Physical Possession	Plot No-32^ Khasra No 699^vill Baman Herdi M u z a f f a r n a g a r - 251002645 North -PLOT OF OWNER , south-PLOT OF SATYAJEET BHEEM SAIN AND KUNJWAL PAL, East - BOUNDARY OF RADHA KUNJ COLONY , West - RASTA 12 FT WIDE	Rs. 3,48,300/- Rs.34,830/- Rs.10,000/-	05/05/2022 TIME 10.00 AM TO 6 PM	9/5/2022 TIME 10:00 TO 3:00 PM

- MRHL acting through its Authorized Officer has now received offers to buy the same (offer amount is tabulated in the table above), and we intend to accept it, interalia considering the fact that the previous public auction held was unsuccessful.
 - To Participate in Auction intended bidder has to deposit 10 % of the Reserve Price.
 - The detail terms and conditions of the auction sale are incorporated in the prescribed tender form. Tender forms are available on www.mahindraruralhousingfinance.com as well as above branch office. The sale will be subject to terms and conditions mentioned in Tender Form.
 - For further details, contact the Authorised Officers, **Deep Joshi on Mobile 8853265434**. Last date of submission of sealed offers in the prescribed tender forms along with EMD is **06.05.2022 TIME 10.00 AM TO 6 PM** at the branch office address mentioned herein above. Tenders that are not filled up properly or tenders received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.
 - Date of opening of the offers for Property is **09.05.2022 10.00 AM TO 3 PM** at the above mentioned branch office address at the tender will be opened in the presence of the Authorised Officer.
 - Date of inspection of the immovable property is **05-05-2022 between 10.00 AM to 6.00 PM**.
 - The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) are hereby given **15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002** to pay the sum mentioned as above before the date of Auction failing which the offer received will be accepted and the immovable property will be auctioned and balance, if any, will be recovered with interest and costs. If the Borrower pays the amount due to Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd., in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.
 - The immovable property will be sold to the highest tendered. However, the undersigned reserves the absolute discretion to allow inter se bidding, if deemed necessary.
- Place : DELHI, NCR Date: 17.04.2022
- SD/- Authorised Officer Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited



sunday pioneer

INDIAN
PREMIER LEAGUE 2022

7

WE HAVE PLAYED WELL, WE NEED TO BE HUMBLE AND KEEP LEARNING. THE TEAM IS BRILLIANT AND I ENJOY SPENDING TIME WITH THEM

— KL RAHUL

RCB defeat DC by 16 runs



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Dinesh Karthik batted with authority in his unbeaten 34-ball 66 before the bowlers staged a fine comeback as Royal Challengers Bangalore defeated Delhi Capitals by 16 runs in the Indian Premier League here on Saturday. Karthik blazed away after Glenn Maxwell hit seven fours and two sixes in his 55 off 34 deliveries to take RCB to 189 for five. In reply, the Capitals could only manage 173 for seven despite David Warner's sensational 38-ball 66.

It was RCB's fourth win in six games and they are now third on the points table while Delhi slumped to their third loss in five outings. Chasing 190, DC were off to a flier with Warner and young Prithvi Shaw (16) pummeling the RCB bowlers into submission, the duo racing to 50 before Mohammed Siraj dismissed the Indian.

Warner was then joined by compatriot Mitchell March, who was playing his first match for the Capitals. The all-rounder, who is coming off a hip injury, looked rusty and struggled to hit the ball.

The 35-year-old cracked five sixes and four fours before his fiery knock was brought to an end by Wanindu Hasaranga.

The Australian's wicket signalled a shift in momentum as RCB made a strong comeback with Delhi losing a flurry of wickets.

First, Marsh's painstaking knock 14 off 24 balls came to an end thanks to a bizarre run out. Josh Hazlewood (3/28), who was exceptional, then bowled a brilliant 15th over, dismissing Rovman Powell for a first ball duck and then accounting for Lalit Yadav (1).

Delhi's hopes were pinned on the big-hitting Pant (34), who did hit some lusty blows, but his whirlwind innings was brought to an end by a one-handed blinder from Virat Kohli.

Shardul and Axar Patel managed to play some big shots but the RCB bowlers had other plans as DC fell short.

Earlier, the Capitals' bowlers performed as a well-oiled unit initially with Shardul Thakur (1/27), Khaleel Ahmed (1/36), Axar Patel (1/29) and Kuldeep Yadav (1/46) doing well but bled runs in the slog overs as Karthik and Shahbaz Ahmed (32 not out) added 74 in the last five.

Karthik, who has been revelling in his role as a finisher this season, hit five fours and as many sixes in his sensational knock.

DC made full use of the coin landing in their favour as they put pressure on RCB early on with tight fielding and good bowling. The Delhi

► pointstable

Po.	TEAM	M	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
1.	GT	5	4	1	0	8	0.450
2.	LSG	6	4	2	0	8	0.296
3.	RCB	6	4	2	0	8	0.142
4.	RR	5	3	2	0	6	0.389
5.	PBKS	5	3	2	0	6	0.239
6.	KKR	6	3	3	0	6	0.223
7.	SRH	5	3	2	0	6	-0.196
8.	DC	4	2	3	0	4	0.219
9.	CSK	5	1	4	0	2	-0.745
10.	MI	6	0	6	0	0	-1.048

► boundarymeter

4s 771

6s 414

bowlers managed to snare two wickets in the powerplay overs while giving away 40 runs. Thakur produced a beautiful inswinger that curled into Anju Rawat (0) to give Delhi the early breakthrough. Khaleel Ahmed then made it two as he accounted for the dangerous Faf du Plessis. Lalit Yadav effected Virat Kohli's run out with a brilliant direct hit to compound RCB's woes. It was then that Maxwell took the onus upon himself as he pummeled Kuldeep Yadav for 23 runs in the ninth over. His half-century came soon after as he continued to hit the Delhi bowlers all round the park.

However, Kuldeep extracted his revenge a few overs later as the ball caught the Australian's bat's toe and Lalit Yadav completed the regulation catch.

With Maxwell gone, Karthik and Shahbaz joined forces. The wicketkeeper made batting look effortless as he cracked four boundaries and two maximum off Mustafizur to plunder 28 runs off the 18th over.

LSG win by 18 runs

MI suffer sixth successive defeat



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Lucknow Super Giants beat Mumbai Indians by 18 runs in their IPL match here on Saturday.

Skipper KL Rahul scored his maiden century of the season to guide LSG to 199 for 4 after being invited to bat first. In reply, MI were restricted to 181 for nine. LSG's Avesh Khan finished with excellent figures of 3/30 in four overs.

Rahul smashed 103 off 60 balls, and his unbeaten innings was laced with nine fours and five sixes.

Manish Pandey (38) and Quinton de Kock (24) also played useful knocks.

For MI, medium pacer Jaydev Unadkat snared two wickets (2/32), while spinner

Murugan Ashwin (1/33) and all-rounder Fabian Allen (1/46) took a wicket apiece.

I take full responsibility for not putting team in position expected from me: Rohit

MUMBAI: A distraught Rohit Sharma took "full responsibility" for Mumbai Indians' dismal IPL season after they lost its sixth consecutive match, saying he is at his wits end to understand what course correction is needed to get them back on track. Skipper Rohit has himself endured a nightmare of a tournament, managing only 114 runs from six games and a highest score of 41. "If I know what's going wrong, I'd correct it but it's not coming off. I'm trying to prepare myself in the way I prepare for every game, that is no different. It's not com-

ing off." Rohit said after MI lost to Lucknow Super Giants by 18 runs here on Saturday. "I take the full responsibility of not putting the team in the situation of what they expect from me. I back myself to go out there and enjoy the game and doing what I have been doing all these years.

"It's important to keep looking forward. It's not the end of the world, we have come back before and we will try and come back again," the skipper tried to put up a brave face but the disappointment was all too palpable. PTI



Swiatek powers Poland to BJK Cup finals, Raducanu loses

AP ■ RADOM (POLAND)

Poland reached the Billie Jean King Cup finals for the first time after top-ranked Iga Swiatek overpowered Andreea Prisacariu of Romania 6-0, 6-0 on Saturday.

Swiatek needed just 52 minutes to extend her singles winning streak to 19 in her second competitive match since becoming world No. 1. "It took us a few years, step by step, to progress and qualify finally," the 20-year-old Swiatek said in an on-court interview. "Hopefully in the finals we're going to show even more progress.

"I'm really proud of us." Swiatek's victory made it 3-0 for Poland in the best-of-five qual-

ifier for the finals in November. The 2020 French Open champion beat Mihaela Buzarnescu 6-1, 6-0 on Friday. Italy and Kazakhstan also advanced on Saturday. Camila Giorgi beat Harmony Tan of France 6-2, 6-0, giving the Italians their third straight win. Elena Rybakina made it three in a row for Kazakhstan over Germany by beating Angelique Kerber 4-6, 6-3, 7-5. In Prague, Marketa Vondrousova routed U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu 6-1, 6-1 to give the Czech Republic a 2-1 edge over Britain. Raducanu, slowed by a blister on her foot, had debuted in the competition with a victory over Tereza Martincova on Friday.

HOCKEY NATIONALS
TN and Haryana
to clash in final

PTI ■ BHOPAL

Tamil Nadu and Haryana will vie for the top honours in the Hockey India Senior Men's National Championship after they registered comprehensive semifinals wins here on Saturday.

While Haryana stamped their authority with a 5-2 victory against Maharashtra in the first semifinal, in the other last four match Tamil Nadu got the better of Karnataka 3-0.

For Haryana, Deepak (21', 50'), Deepak (12'), Ravi (27') and Pankaj (45') registered their names on the scoring sheet while captain Taleb Shah (24', 52') struck a brace for Maharashtra. After a goalless first half, J Joshua Benedict Wesley (44'), Sundarapandi (50') and Saravana Kumar (54') came to the fore as their goals sealed a dominant win for Tamil Nadu.

Milan beat Genoa to maintain 2-point lead after Inter win

AP ■ MILAN

AC Milan maintained its lead in Serie A after beating relegation-threatened Genoa 2-0.

Rafael Leão and Junior Messias helped Milan move back two points ahead of Inter after the defending champion won at Spezia 3-1 hours earlier on Friday.

Inter has played a match



BCCI issues bid document for IPL closing ceremony

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI on Saturday invited bids from entities interested in staging the closing ceremony of the ongoing Indian Premier League through a tender process. The Board announced the release of Request for Proposal (RFP) for staging the closing ceremony.

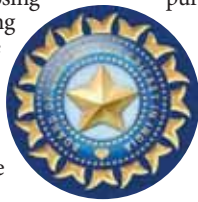
The detailed terms and conditions of the tender process, including eligibility requirements, process for submissions of bids, rights and obligations, etc. Are contained in the RFP which will be made available on

payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs 1 lakh plus any applicable Goods and Services Tax.

The RFP will be available for purchase till April 25.

"Any interested party wishing to submit a bid is required to purchase the RFP," the BCCI said in a release.

"However, only those satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in the RFP and subject to the other terms and conditions set out therein, shall be eligible to bid." The IPL began on March 26 and the final will be held on May 29.



National Under-18 Chess Championship to begin from Monday

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

The six-day MPL 31st National Under-18 Chess Championship will begin from April 18 in Pollachi with a total of 238 players, including 95 in the girls category, participating in the tournament.

The 14-year-old international master H Bharath Subramaniam of Tamil Nadu, who will be conferred with the grandmaster title later this month, is the top seed with a rating of 2,503 and the champion will represent India in the World Youth Chess Championships set to be held later this year, Tamil Nadu State Chess Association President Dr M Manickam told reporters here on Saturday.

Other top stars in the tournament are International Master L R Srihari (TN), IM-elect Avinash Ramesh (TN), FIDE Master Ayush Sharma of Madhya Pradesh, FIDE Master S Harshad of Coimbatore (TN), International Master Manish Anto Cristiana (TN), 13-year old former Under-9 national champion A R Ilamparithi (TN), Bhagyashree Patil of Maharashtra and, 2021 Under-16 national online champion Kheethi Ganta. The championship will be held at Dr Mahalingam College of Engineering and Technology in Pollachi, jointly organised with Coimbatore District Chess Association, said Manickam, who is also the chairman of Sakthi Group of Industries that runs the college.

less than Milan as it still has to play a postponed match against Bologna.

The two Milan teams also meet on Tuesday in the second leg of the Italian Cup semifinals. Genoa remained three points from safety.

Milan was again going through an injury crisis and struggling for goals ahead of the match against Genoa. It went in on the back of two

straight goalless draws and only scoring four goals in its last seven matches.

Veteran forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic was out with a knee problem, the latest in a series of injuries this season.

Milan took the lead in the 11th minute when Pierre Kalulu put in a tantalising cross from the right to the back post where Leão volleyed into the bottom far corner.



WB narrowly beat Punjab in Santosh Trophy Opener

PTI ■ MALAPPURAM (KERALA)

West Bengal kicked off their campaign in the Santosh Trophy with a narrow 1-0 victory over Punjab in the opening game of the national football championships here on Saturday.

The tournament's two most successful teams showed attacking intent right from the start, seeking to grab all three points from the Group A match. The chances flowed at both ends fairly quickly. In the eighth minute, West Bengal goalkeeper Priyant Kumar Singh made a fine save off a Jashandeep Singh free kick. The rebound was too quick for Amarpreet Singh to capitalize as the ball rolled wide.

Punjab had not conceded a single goal through their qualifying campaign, but against West Bengal, they faced their stiffest test, conceding possession often in the first half, and goalkeeper Harpreet Singh was called into action several times. In the 20th minute, Harpreet made his

first real save of the game, parrying Basu Deb Mandi's long range swerving shot to safety.

And yet, it was Punjab who could have gone into the break with the lead.

A long ball from the deep was misjudged by Bengal captain Monotosh Chakladar, and the ball fell to Tarun Slathia a few yards outside the box. Slathia collected neatly and charged in, with only goalkeeper Priyant to beat, but dragged his shot wide.

West Bengal took control of the proceedings more forcefully in the second half, holding possession for longer periods and stitching neater passes in midfield.

They got their reward in the 61st minute, with the youngster Sajal Bag, drifting wide, beating his marker and crossing into the box. His delivery found Shubham Bhowmick perfectly placed near the penalty spot and the forward's first time volley hit the inside of the far post and bounced in, leaving Harpreet Singh helpless.

Stokes obvious choice to lead England Test team: Former captains

PTI ■ LONDON

Star all-rounder Ben Stokes has a "smart cricket brain" and is the "obvious" choice to take over as England Test captain following the exit of Joe Root, according to former captains Michael Vaughan and Nasser Hussain.

Root on Friday stepped down from captaincy, ending his five-year tenure after facing criticism following England's 0-4 Ashes defeat against Australia and 0-1 series loss to West Indies.

"I don't see anyone else who could take the position and be guaranteed of their place in the side," Vaughan told the BBC.

"In Ben Stokes, you have clearly got someone who has got a smart cricket brain, he's going to give it everything, he is certainly going to have the respect of the players around him."

Hussain, who led England from

1999-2003, also backed Stokes to take over as Test captain.

"For me the obvious candidate is Ben Stokes. (He) Stokes has done some phenomenal things as a cricketer and has a very smart cricket brain. He showed that in World Cup final, he showed that at Headingley...He showed that when he's taken over occasionally from Joe Root," Hussain was quoted as saying in skysports.Com.

"People say, 'Oh, Ben Stokes, do you know what happened to Flintoff and Botham? Ben Stokes is not Flintoff and he's not Botham, don't judge him by how other

people have done."


Stokes had taken a break from cricket last year to focus on mental well-being and Hussain feels it is important that he is in the right place mentally as captaincy can take a toll.

"The difficult thing for Stokes is the point I made about the toll it takes on you as a captain. You have to be in the right place mentally and physically," he said.

Hussain, however, said Stuart Broad could also be an option in case Stokes is not up for it.

If Stokes is not in the right place, then short-term Stuart Broad has an excellent cricket brain, is a real fighter, a real competitor, and he's got a point to prove





talktime

SALMAN KHAN

Unlike Chulbul Pandey or Radhe, Inspector Rajveer in Antim: The Final Truth is calm and motivated. Find out more on April 17, 2022 on & pictures at 8 pm. He speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH about his experience playing this character among other things

'PLAYING RAJVEER WAS A COMPLETELY NEW GROUND FOR ME'

■ Mahesh Manjrekar had you in mind, right from the beginning for the film. Tell us about your thoughts on your character.

Calm and conviction define Rajveer Singh, I was a bit anxious to play such a character. While I have played a cop before, Rajveer came with an interesting mix of subtlety and aggression which was a completely new ground for me. Mahesh had a very definitive vision about this film, he wanted to play with the unexpected. So, breaking away from my image of a witty, muscular cop, Mahesh thought of a character who draws his punches motivated by justice and not anger. That narration really got to me and I decided to take on this role.

■ Inspector Rajveer's character is very different from the other cop roles that you have played before. Did you have anything specific in mind while preparing for it?

Rajveer Singh is a new addition to the cop roles that I have played in my career, but he is completely different from all of them. He is not like Chulbul Pandey or

Radhe, his mindset is a lot more simplified and motivated to bring justice in his own unique way. He knows his power and uses it to strike when the time is right with a smile on his face. As an individual character, you may see Rajveer to be a simple, regular cop but when you put him against Rahuliya (the gangster), you see the striking difference in him. I believe the highlight was my Sikh cop look and dialect that caught the attention of the audience. When we started shooting, I felt I wasn't emoting enough for the character but when I sat down with Mahesh to discuss it, he told me, I was playing Rajveer exactly how I am supposed to. Rajveer is a man of subtle movements, fewer words — larger the action.

■ Tell us about your experience working with Aayush.

I was stunned at Aayush's transformation, from Loveyatri's boy next door to Antim's deadly gangster, he has given his 100 per cent to the film. With this movie, he has displayed his range as an actor. He was completely committed physically and psychologically to bring authenticity to the character. It was amazing to see Aayush work so hard for the project. I see a lot of potential and his hard work really came through. Aayush is a very enthusiastic guy and that kind of aura on the set was refreshing. However, during the fight sequences, I had to constantly remind him to not pull his punches

●

I THINK FILMS THAT EXPLORE COMPLEXITIES OF THE STORY IN SIMPLEST WAYS, WIN THE CROWD. WHEN THE AUDIENCE FEELS AN EMOTIONAL CONNECTION WITH CHARACTERS, THEN YOU HAVE HIT THE RIGHT CHORD. A CAPTIVATING SCRIPT IS THE SUCCESS DEFINING ELEMENT, COMPLIMENTED BY PERFORMANCE OF THE ACTORS, CATCHY DIALOGUES, AND GROOVY MUSIC

”

because I was in front of him.

■ What do you think is the most crucial element for any film to become a success?

I think films that explore the complexities of the story in the simplest ways, win the crowd. When the audience feels an emotional connection with the characters, then you have hit the right chord. A captivating script is the success defining element, complimented by the performance of the actors, catchy dialogues, and groovy music. From Dabangg to Radhe to Antim, all of these films make one big cop universe where the characters and story have the same message at core but are told differently with a fresh touch. That's the magic of scripts.

■ Antim was critically acclaimed during the release. What do you think worked well for it?

I would like to believe there were multiple reasons that worked in favour of Antim. First of all, theatres were open to the audiences after a long gap and Antim was a perfect big screen movie that would deliver on the extravagance with the action sequences. Furthermore, never seen before avatars, realistic characters, massive emotional connect, not a typical cop chasing the bad guy story, worked as a hook for the audience. While the film is packed with thrilling action scenes and catchy dialogues, it offers something to everyone.

Plan Your Day

BECOME A PASTRY CHEF



Do you often wonder how people bake fabulous cakes like the ones on TLC? Are you looking to build a business out of your baking hobby? Worry not, we have got you covered! Welcome to the Ultimate Cake Baking Class. It's a 1-Day actionable class where you get to the actual step-by-step process of baking the perfect sponge for cake, the right ingredients, frosting, and more.

What: Workshop
Where: Online
When: April 17, 2022
Time: 2:30 pm

Sound of music



Music is the best medicine. Here are the top 10 songs of the week that will lift up your weekend mood

Bollywood vibes

Dafa Kar (A R Rahman)

Saamna (Akasa)

Mast Nazron Se (Rochak Kohli)

Kya Kar Diya (Vishal Mishra)

Macha Macha Re (Mika Singh)

English Vinglish

Psychofreak (Camila Cabello)

Seven Bridge Road (Jake Bugg)

Wings Of Stone (Adam Levine)

FREE (John Legend)

Crazy (Doechii)

Masterstroke

If scrubbing and/or refinishing lawn furniture isn't your idea of how best to spend the first warm weekend of spring, consider going green by purchasing outdoor furniture that's sustainable, low maintenance, and good looking. Outdoor furniture is mostly made of wood/metal or plastic, all of which is non-sustainable as these hamper the environment in one or the other way. However, sustainable furniture are those that are produced with the objective of creating minimal to no carbon footprints. Plastic waste is one such resource, which is durable, non-degradable, strong and can sustain harsh weather conditions. Hence, it is used for making low maintenance, all-weather furniture. Unlike wood or metal, these do not require regular maintenance. The furniture designed using such sustainable raw material are stylish, affordable and eco-friendly. The durable, all-weather, outdoor furniture is made of recycled post-consumer plastic waste. Available in colours that are in the range of pastel colours.

— Madhur Rathi, Founder, Econiture



CURB NOW OR CRY LATER

According to studies, only 9 per cent of plastic is recycled and 79 per cent is dumped into the ocean. Excessive use of plastics and lack of a proper waste plastic disposal system, causes huge garbage dumps, pollution in rivers and ocean and is a threat for the ecosystems, says DR MUKESH KWATRA

Plastic is everywhere so much so that humans are now vulnerably reliant on it. Decades of plastic use has contaminated our air, water, and soil. Plastics can take hundreds of years to decompose depending on the material. For instance, plastic bottles require approximately 450 years to decompose in a landfill.

Excessive use of plastics and lack of a proper waste plastic disposal system, causes huge garbage dumps, pollution in rivers and ocean and is a threat for the ecosystems. According to studies, only 9 per cent of plastic is recycled and 79 per cent is dumped into the ocean.

Innovative tech solutions can help contain this plastic pollution: to replace some plastics by natural substitutes; reduce the demand for new plastics; disposal of plastic-based goods; and collection and disposal of plastic waste.

Use of nanotechnology

Cardboard, paper etc can be used for packaging instead of plastics with the help of nanotechnology. For instance, coating cardboard with thin, water-resistant materials will prevent leaks or damage, is economical and can be recycled. Another medium through which nanotechnology can benefit us is by creating metals like aluminium and steel that are light in weight and can replace plastic.

Innovators are even looking beyond wood-pulp cardboard boxes to more ecological materials, including edamame beans, cocoa beans and waste hazelnuts.

Besides, nanotechnology is used for the production process of bioplastics, which is not limited to the composites, but also offers new techniques for blending polymers which results in polymers with better mechanical properties.

Natural substitutes to replace plastic

Finding natural substitutes to replace plastics is another way to curb plastic pollution. Genetic engineering, the process of using DNA technology

to alter the genetic makeup of an organism, also helps in creating natural substitutes of plastics. Hemp, flax and jute are a few natural fibres that are being used as substitutes for plastics with the help of genetic engineering. The bonding of jute fibre cellulose and soy resin protein has been utilised to produce a sturdy bio-composite, called jute-soy, which is also biodegradable.

Biodegradable plastics

Another important step to reduce plastic pollution is by creating plastics that are biodegradable. They decompose either under natural conditions or by processes like chemical hydrolysis, heat, photodegradation, or composting. Renewable biomass like starch, cellulose, protein or fossil fuels are the sources for creating biodegradable

plastics. Over the years, we have been using the process of mechanical recycling in which the plastic is melted, sorted and remoulded into lower grade products; however, this process is limited as the properties of the plastic keeps

degrading after every recycle. To avoid this degradation of properties implementing the process of chemical recycling will help to break the plastic immediately at a molecular level, which ensures the plastics to be recycled into a material that is useful and can hold its properties, for example, burning polythene bags having material of polyolefins produces wax and useful fuels.

Using PLA (Polylactide)

PLA (Polylactide) is a biodegradable polymer extracted from sugarcane, corn and sugar beets. This biodegradable polymer produces lactic acid which is mostly used in industries for packaging purposes. Polylactide is also used in industries such as electronics, textiles, biomedical applications, etc.

Though the production cost of using PLA in industries is high, its use benefits to replace plastic and thus deplete plastic pollution.

Effectuating packaging of recyclable plastic

The products in the market today generally use plastics that are difficult to recycle. However this can be changed by using plastic made of HDPE (High Density Polyethylene). Using this material for products like toothpaste tubes and others will help curb plastic pollution. HDPE though is not biodegradable, but it can effectively be recycled many times.

Offering Rewards

Giving rewards in return for recycling plastic is one of the innovative ways through which pollution of plastic can be reduced. Providing rewards through the medium of blockchain will motivate the individuals to change their behaviour and this in turn will help revolutionise the recycling system as it will create an impact to build an overall, circular and regenerative economy with minimal plastic pollution.

Government Policies and Support

Government support and policies are vital to curb plastic pollution. This support can take various forms. Concessional financing, aligning incentives to counteract the advantage enjoyed by the incumbent conventional plastics producers, imposing fines or taxes on their products, ensuring an effective plastic waste disposal system, etc., taking outright administrative measures, such as restricting or banning the use of conventional plastics and instead giving preference to products made with plastic substitutes and biodegradable plastics.

The massive volume of non-biodegradable plastics, its overwhelming impacts on the environment and humans needs to be controlled urgently. And these smart innovative solutions could revolutionise the burgeoning crisis.

The writer is founder of Smiling Tree

TELLY TALE

TOGETHER AFTER 10 YEARS

Making a splash together after almost a decade, the famous duo Ramgopal Varma and Isha Kopkikar are back with an MX original series, Dhahanam. The show that made headlines with the launch of the trailer, is now one of the most-awaited crime thrillers of the season. The MX Original series stars Isha Kopkikar, Naina Ganguly, Abhishek Duhan, Abhilash Chaudhary, Sayaji Shinde, Ashwatkanth Sharma, Parvathy Arun and Pradeep Rawat among others. Known for his real-life portrayals and strong content, Ramgopal Varma tops the chart in narrating spine-chilling stories that have always kept viewers at the edge of their seats. Having worked on multiple projects together, Varma and Isha Kopkikar are back together to create another best-seller with Dhahanam.



NO LESS THAN SOUL SISTERS

Sony SAB's value led show Maddam Sir continues to capture audiences' attention with its high-octane storyline sprinkled with laughter, lessons and doses of light action. Bringing this wholesome show to life are the two bravehearted cops, the calm and composed SHO Haseena Malik (Gulki Joshi) and her trusted confidant, the feisty Karishma Singh (Yukti Kapoor). In a candid conversation, the two protagonists shared how their opposing nature makes for the most iconic scenes in the show.



LEADING THE WAY

Swami Vivekananda Once said- "Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life - think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success." The idea of success is not absolute, it is subjective but one thing that remains in this idea is hard work, dedication and zeal to achieve big. Priyanka Sarmacharjee, a 25-year-old entrepreneur has already embarked on her journey to revolutionise the whole e-commerce industry when it comes to cosmetics and beauty products. Priyanka began working at the age of 19, when she learned makeup on her own and saved her pocket money to purchase her makeup products. This is how her journey began. She used to look forward to opportunities to work because she was a self-trained artist who preferred to work alone rather than assisting others. She now has two assistants and a team of twelve employees that manage her services throughout Bangalore. Priyanka is working on this endeavour and expanding her services through her company to all of India's major cities, as well as using technology to provide opportunities for other artists. She has also started taking crash courses and masterclasses all over the country and has certified more than 100 artists till now. Her brand, Feelpretty, pledges to endorse made in India as much as possible. The brand describes its motto as beauty for all colour, shape, gender, and place and believes in uplifting each other and enhancing one's natural beauty.



UNWRAPPING TRUTH

They say there is nothing more pristine than the bond between sisters. Then what prompted Kadru (Parul Chauhan) to enslave Vinta (Toril Rasputra) and vanquish her son Garud (Faisal Khan)? What transpired between the two? In one of its most awaited reveals, Sony SAB's Dharm Yodha Garud is set to unwrap the truth behind Vinta's subjugation in the upcoming episodes. As prophesied by the great sages, Vinta's son was destined to be the King of the Birds and the Conqueror of the Skies. This made Kadru insecure who devised an evil plan to entrap her sister into a lifelong bondage.



FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

Water is very much essential to our lives and livelihoods, providing us with the blessing of performing agricultural, industrial and production activities. We should take some firm steps to stop the water crisis. Water catchment systems, volunteering and being active in initiatives is a very good option. We can plant drought resistant trees and plants, put a layer of mulch around trees and plants and also check any leakage in pipes and faucets. Aarna Wadhawan (ambassador of water for Sampurna NGO) did a Water Literacy Campaign with Indian Women Wrestler Babita Phogat. Wadhawan tells us that water levels depleting day by day are creating major impacts for the earth's soil and people and if action is not taken immediately, it could fatal for our environment. The quantity and the quality of water contribute to the sustainability of life on Earth.



I do like not knowing
where I'm going,
wandering in strange
woods, whistling and
following bread
crumbs.
— Tilda Swinton



The lifeline of Mumbai is undoubtedly its ‘local’ trains, which hold a special significance in the history of Indian Railways. On the momentous day of April 16, 1853, the first-ever passenger train chugged out of Bori Bunder (now Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus) and covered a 34-km distance to Thane. The train was flagged off with wide applause and a 21-gun salute, writes SUSAN MISHRA

MUMBAI ‘LOCAL’ STATIONS: A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

The lifeline of Mumbai, a continually evolving and expanding cosmopolitan city, is undoubtedly its ‘local’ trains working round the clock, transporting lakhs of people to their desired destinations. The Mumbai ‘local’ or suburban trains hold special significance in the history of Indian Railways. On the momentous day of April 16, 1853, the first-ever passenger train chugged out and covered a distance of 34-km from Bori Bunder (now Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus) to Thane. The train was flagged off with wide applause and a 21-gun salute, and this line was to later be commonly known as the central line.

In 1867 the first suburban service was inaugurated, with one train each way, from Virar to Back Bay with halts at Neela or (Nalasopara), Bassein (Vasai), Panjo (between two creeks of Vasai), Berewla (Borivali), Pahadee (Goregoan), Andaru (Andheri), Santa Cruz, Bandora (Bandra), Mahim, Dadure (Dadar), and Grant Road and Bombay Back Bay. This was to be later known as the Western suburban line, and its Churchgate station opened in 1870. This station is named after the once existent old gate, one gate among others, of Fort George of Mumbai, which led to the St Thomas Cathedral. The gate was pulled down along with the fort in the 1860s. The Western Railways General Managers office also known as Bombarci (an acronym for Bombay, Baroda Central India) is a heritage structure set amidst a landscaped area at Altamount Road, Cumballa Hill, and was constructed in 1925 as a bungalow for Railway Agents.

What clearly strikes one's attention while traveling on the Western ‘local’ is the names of some of the stations - Jogeshwari, Mahalakshmi, Ram Mandir, and Prabhadevi. One wonders what are the legacy, myth, and historicity of these temples, which rendered their names to the railway stations. The probing unfolds interesting myths and folklore (Mahalakshmi and Prabhadevi), remains of temples destroyed (Ram Mandir, Mahim), and an ancient cave temple (Jogeshwari). Along this journey of discovery one learns of other places such as Walkeshwar and Parel that are steeped in history.

From the Charni Road station at a distance of 5 kilometers or so is the Walkeshwar temple complex. Located amidst the high-rise buildings of Malabar Hill this pilgrimage site has great antiquity. The temple complex at Walkeshwar with the Banganga has an interesting past. Legends trace the creation of the Banganga tank and the temple of Walkeshwar to Lord Ram. The name Walkeshwar is a compounded word of Valuka (sand) and Ishwar (God), and signifies the God of the Sand. According to legend, Lord Rama, when on his way to Lanka, halted on the very spot where the Walkeshwar temple stands. He made a lingam of the sand of the seashore and performed the *pranpratishtha* and consecrated it. A temple dedicated to Walkeshwar



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was built by the Silaharas of the north Konkan somewhere in the 10th -12th century CE, but it was eventually destroyed. Several richly-carved stones and other fragments, dating apparently from the 10th century CE, are reminders of the past temple. The modern temple of Walkeshwar was built in or about 1715 by Rama Kamat, and large fairs were held at Walkeshwar on the full-moon day of Kartika and on Mahashivaratri. In front of the temple is a fine masonry tank, called the Banganga or sacred stream of the arrow. It is a rectangular tank with steps on all sides leading down to the water. The story behind the creation of the sacred water tank is that Lord Ram in order to quench his thirst shot an arrow (Ban) into the ground that penetrated the earth and led to the formation of this freshwater tributary of Ganga.

The journey to unravel Mumbai's rich past continues on the Western line and after two stations the train halts at Mahalakshmi. This goddess temple at Bhulabhai Desai Road sits atop a hillock with a commanding view of the Arabian Sea. The myth or story regarding this temple is closely associated with the very first attempt at land reclamation in Mumbai. In 1782, attempts to build a causeway between the island of Bombay and Worli Island went in vain and much resources were wasted. At this juncture, the goddess Lakshmi is believed to have appeared in a vision to Ramji Shivji Prabhu, the

contractor, and promised removal of all obstacles provided he retrieves her image from the sea and places it in a temple. Accordingly, Ramji Shivji dug out her image, placed it in a temple, and subsequently achieved success and completed the causeway. The current temple structure is attributed to Dhakji Dadaji (1760–1846), a Hindu merchant, who constructed it in 1831.

The next halt is Parel, which even though does not connote any religious significance, yet this island was once crucial in the ancient past. A walk to the top of the Golanji hill, just 500 meters from the King Edward Memorial Hospital, is a small non-descript temple with sculptures of immense significance. Housed in a simple structure, is a 5th /6th century CE unfinished 10 feet image of Shiva, locally known as Baradevi. The image surfaced in 1931 when a road was being constructed. Many sculptures are still located in situ at the temple site on Golanji hill, which dates back to between the 10th and 12th/ 13th century CE. There is no doubt that at Parel there once stood a temple that survived for over 600 years.

Parel also occupied a very important position during the colonial era of Mumbai. At a short distance from the Golanji hill is the Haffkine Institute for Training, Research, and Testing. This building has a multi-faceted and interesting past covering a span of two centuries. The building was originally a Portuguese

Franciscan friary. It was taken over in 1719 and converted into the official summer home of the Governor of Bombay. In 1771, it became the Government House and the Prince of Wales took up residence here during his visit to Mumbai in 1875. The Residence was abandoned after the term of office of Sir James Fergusson due to the death of his wife during the plague of 1883. Thereafter, the Governors House/ Raj Bhavan shifted to its current location in the Malabar hills. On August 10, 1899, the present mansion was formally handed over to Dr. Haffkine and was then known as Plague Research Laboratory. In 1906, the Institute was renamed Bombay Bacteriology Laboratory. Nineteen years later, in 1925, the institute got its current name- Haffkine Institute, in the honor of Dr. Waldemar Haffkine who had developed vaccines against cholera and bubonic plague.

Parel was also a hub of industrial activities in 19th and 20th centuries with the setting up of the Central Railway Locomotive Workshop by the Great Indian Peninsular Railway in 1879, and numerous textile mills at Lower Parel. These old textile mills are now posh localities, and house offices, multi-storeyed buildings, and recreational spots.

BHARAT'S RESURGENCE— ISSUES THAT MUST CONCERN US

A compilation of articles in which the author takes on Lutyens Zone's toxicity, demographic subversion of democracy and other issues, with a huge dose of satire

BOOK REVIEW

PRASHANT PANDEY

Post-1947, India took a road that defies explanation. For a country as old, culturally rich and diverse, as deeply rooted in her own civilisational ethos as India, it is strange that we became beholden to our colonial tormentors, against whom we fought tooth and nail for freedom. Coming out of nearly eight centuries of colonial rule, our first instinct should have been to do away with the vestiges of the tormentors of our Motherland—immediately. The reverse happened.

The only explanation, then, for this unfortunate turn of events is that our colonial masters left behind an elite coterie, with tentacles spread far and wide, which knew how to cling to power, exploit it to perpetuate themselves; civilisation, culture, and heritage, of course, be damned.

Jay Bhattacharjee's book, *Resurgent Bharat and Other Issues: An Anthology of Essays*, published by Garuda Prakashan, among other things, underlines this with unwavering precision. "Witty, Acerbic, Irreverent" is how A. Surya Prakash, former Chairperson Prasar Bharati, who has written its Preface describes these articles.

The book is a collection of articles, written over a period of nearly four decades begin-

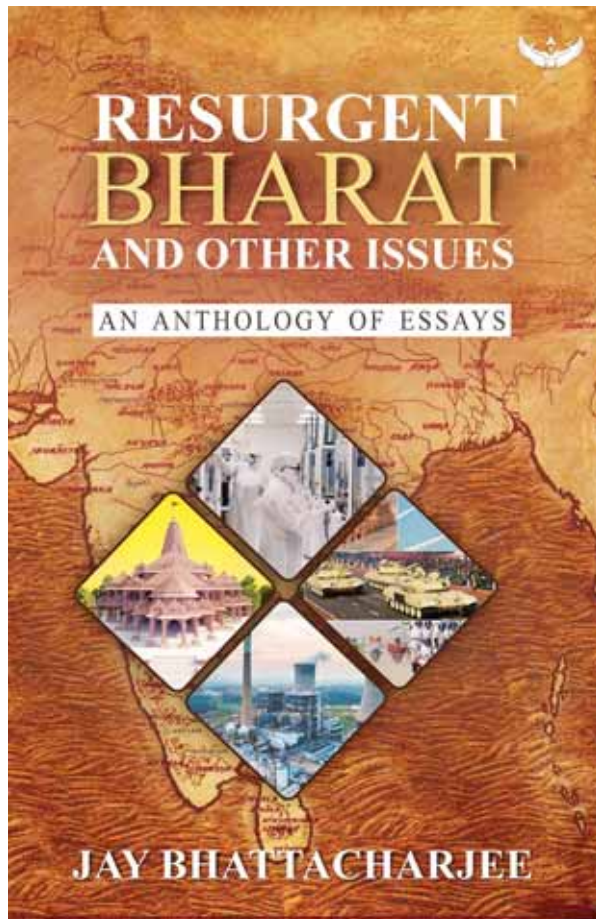
ning in the late 1980s, that appeared in different newspapers like *The Business Standard*, *The New Indian Express*, *The Pioneer*, and in several other portals like Niti Central, India Defence Review and others.

Relentless and unsparing, the author lays bare the entire intellectual, political and educational anatomy of this elite, whom he describes as "Sarkari Secularists", "the (people with) Gungadin Syndrome" and "secularist stormtroopers". Their educational excellence is encapsulated in terms like "Billy Bunter, Enid Blyton chi chi club of Gungadins" and "lifelong members of the Macaulay Fan Club". An entire section, "Lutyens Zone's Toxic Lobby", is dedicated to them.

The author's dissection of this elite is enlightening.

Sample this: "The Lutyens Zone mafia have in their fold the media honchos (particularly in the English MSM), the jholawallahs from all over the country, the Muslim-Christian clergies, the erstwhile comrades who are now confined to two backward enclaves of the country, and assorted 'intellectuals' from universities, academic/research institutions, and other talk shops, especially in the JNU and other similar cesspools. The other large component in the Lutyens Zone cabal is made up of the

BHARAT, TODAY, IS POISED AT A CRITICAL POINT. THE FORCES INIMICAL TO ITS RESURGENCE HAVE UPPED THE ANTE, EVEN AS IT TRIES TO WAKE UP AND RISE FROM ITS SLUMBER. RESURGENT BHARAT AND OTHER ISSUES: AN ANTHOLOGY OF ESSAYS BY JAY BHATTACHARJEE IS A COMPILATION OF ARTICLES COVERING A VAST RANGE OF ISSUES, RELEVANT TO THIS PHENOMENON. THE AUTHOR PUTS HIS POINTS BOLDLY AND CLEARLY, WITH A HUGE DOSE OF HUMOUR AND SATIRE



beneficiaries of the loot and corruption of the Indian economic system that was designed and run by the GNG trio." For starters, GNG stands for Gandhi-Nehru-Gandhi trio in author's 'lingo'. The second characteristic of this gang, writes the author further, is: "... their visceral animosity to this

country's ancient culture and civilisation."

Identifying this power-brokering, sap-sucking elite is important if one were to understand how these anti-Indian forces replaced what India was, with their own fake, foreign-funded 'idea of India'. Without mincing words,

and with dollops of satire, the author fearlessly takes on various other institutions and issues: The judiciary, the babudom, and one-rank-one-pension (he chastises the government for dithering on the same; it was granted later), the shenanigans of the corporate and international politics. There is also a crisp study of Nehru-Subhas Bose contrast, that makes it clear why these two were poles apart, even though they started off from similar backgrounds. The book also tells you about the first all-women military contingent in recorded history—it was Rani Jhansi Regiment of the Indian National Army.

Another relevant and grave issue, explained in detail by the author in his articles, is the demography impacting—and subverting—democracy. "... a simple motor trip along the national highways in western UP will show you... that large swathes of land have been bought over by Muslims with funds from undisclosed sources. Indeed, UP, Kerala, West Bengal, parts of Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra are seeing a replication of the Sudetenland phenomenon in pre-war Czechoslovakia..." writes the author in one of his articles. [Emphasis by the reviewer.]

For the uninitiated, Sudetenland phenomenon, the author writes, is basically this: In 1938, Nazi Germany financed the terrorist violence of minority Sudeten Germans in the Western regions of that model democratic country

(Czechoslovakia)... to destroy it. "A minority that works from inside to destroy a federal country can also be a linguistic/ cultural one and not necessarily a religious one," writes the author. Can anything be more relevant in modern India's polity?

Citing international law, and not jingoism, the author unequivocally defends India's right to "... self-defence against an imminent or actual armed attack by non-state actors. Such attacks can be one-off or a series of attacks that have a clear pattern."

Professionally from the corporate sector, the author's sharp eyes miss nothing, and he has the necessary firepower in his arsenal of words to bring out the ironies, using the sledgehammer of humour to make his point.

The article detailing the author's plight when he questioned a person sitting in a car with a red beacon on a Delhi road, as to whether he (the occupant) was entitled to use it, is an eye-opener. The occupant was a Delhi High Court judge; and, before the author could reach home, the police were waiting for him. Laughable today, but one can only imagine the author's condition that night. How the author managed to escape the wrath of the honourable offended justice makes one chuckle. But it also shows how this elite category thrust upon themselves a disproportionately unjustified sense of entitlement. Separately, the author has also penned an article "An

Ode to the Lal Batti". Apart from the important point it makes, the readers should also read it for liting humour.

In the section "Humour and Satire", the author gives a glimpse of his command over satire when he chronicles "Begum Mawmota Banerjee's England Bheejit"—in Bonglish. There are other rare gems of satire, literally a dying art in today's hotchpotch of Hinglish mixed social media lingo.

Importantly, the book chronicles, by and large, a period that has seen India change. From an economy wallowing in scarcity, to an India that celebrated a 'consumption-based economy', through to an India, where Bharat, finally, seems to be waking up from its giant slumber—there are things to be celebrated, but the challenges are daunting too. And they all find a place in this book.

In the Foreword of this book, scholar Bharat Gupta, says: "Jay Bhattacharjee issues a clarion call to his readers and to a wider audience that our ancient civilisation is on the cusp of a giant leap forward. A failure at this juncture would be cataclysmic."

Therefore, *RESURGENT BHARAT* is as much for the members of Gen Next (or whatever may be the latest nomenclature), as it is for those who have been there, done that. The issues raised in this book should be matters of concern to all the *Bharateeyas*.

(The reviewer is a former journalist)

FROM PAGE 1

Mumbai 'Local' Stations: A Journey Through Time

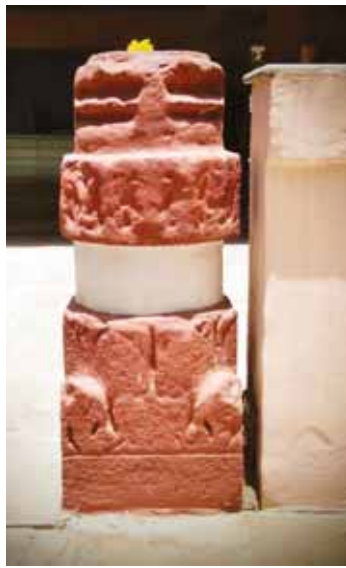


Continuing the journey, the next halt is at Prabhadevi station which was earlier known as Elphinstone Road station. The Prabhadevi temple is located at a short distance from the station and this simple temple structure speaks of the history of Mahim and the Pathare Prabhu community. While the temple dates to the 18th century CE, the image installed is believed to belong to the 12th century CE. According to local folklore, the original temple was destroyed, and to save the image from desecration the Prabhu community left it in a step-well. The deity appeared in the dream of a Prabhu devotee who then retrieved the idol and placed it in a temple in 1715 CE. As a throwback to the past, tucked in corners of temples and in the precinct of the Mahim Police Station, are sculptures and architectural elements of a medieval era temple.

The *Bimbakhyan*, an old Marathi poem that translates to 'Tale of Bimba', tells us that Raja Bimbadeva had migrated from Anahilavara or Devagiri to Mahim in the 13th century along with the Pathare Prabhus. Raja Bimba found the largely uninhabited island beautiful and was so besotted with the place that he settled there. Mahim was located along the trade route and its sheltered bay and rich hinterland made it an important place. It is believed that the Nakhodas (shipmasters) who claim descent from Arabia came to India in the 8th -9th century CE and settled here.



Proceeding further four stations d, and immediately after the Andheri station, the train halts at Jogeshwari. The temple at Jogeshwari, originally a Shiva temple, is a large rock-cut cave temple structure dating to 5th -6th century CE. Jogeshwari is considered amongst the earliest major Hindu cave temples in India and is the largest in terms of its length, measuring 250 feet east to west. The portion above the lintel of the eastern entrance has exquisite carvings of Kalyanasundara-- the marriage scene of Shiva and Parvati, Shiva and Parvati are playing dice and Shiva as Lakulisha is surrounded by his disciples. The site continues well into the 11th -12th century CE, as is amply proven by inscriptions and metal objects housed in the CSMVS and Raja



The *Bimbakhyan*, an old Marathi poem that translates to 'Tale of Bimba', tells us that Raja Bimbadeva had migrated from Anahilavara or Devagiri to Mahim in the 13th century along with the Pathare Prabhus. Raja Bimba found the largely uninhabited island beautiful and was so besotted with the place that he settled there

Dinkar Kelkar Museum - a lamp chain with an oil container of bronze, bells and silver bangles of 8th/ 9th century CE. An inscription dating back to 1137 CE mentions the temple site and attests to the continuity of worship at Jogeshwari for well over 600 years.

The next station, on the Western suburban railway line, is Goregaon followed by the Ram Mandir station. The current temple structure is relatively new, but clues to its medieval past lie in the half-broken pillars, old structural remains in the temple compound, and an animal head on the outer wall of the temple. The stones of the temple well originally belonged to a ruined temple

The train proceeds from here towards the Vasai creek. After crossing the vast mesmerizing creek, which once harbored sailing vessels

in past, the train reaches Nalla Sopara. Henry Cousens, an archaeologist writing in the late 19th century, "My visit to the place Sopara" tried to ascertain whatever 'Hindu remains' were to be found there. That ancient Hindu temples did exist in this part of the country is without a doubt. Numerous sculptural remains recovered from the lake near Chakreshwar Mahadeva temple and other locations are placed within and outside the temple. These include images depicting an array of Hindu deities- Brahma, Varaha, Gajalakshmi, Shiva, Parvati, Nandi, Surya, Mahisaarmardini (Durga), Harihara, and Ganesha. The life-size unfinished three-faced image of Brahma of the 10th -12th century CE is the most exquisite and mesmerizing amongst them all. Another beautiful image is that of



Vishnu which is currently placed in a shed along the Bolinj-Sopara road.

The train moves ahead towards its last station- Dhanau Road, and then makes the return journey to Churchgate.

The Western suburban line is not merely a railway track communing people, but a bridge between the past and the present. The station names enrich our understanding of Mumbai's past and are a constant reminder of the rich cultural landscape, well-entrenched artistic and architectural tradition, and unique heritage of the city.

(The writer is a research scholar and recipient of the Devangana Desai senior Fellowship CSMVS Mumbai. She is also the author of two books

Two-plus-two dialogue: Manifestation of consensus

There was a spiteful spate of days wherein the India Prime Minister would be castigated as a communist personage and India struggled for attaining legitimacy in the larger context of the nuclear power and energy regime not long time back. Now, the vaneer of the India-US relationship has changed and metamorphosed beyond recognition, culminating in the acme of then US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi eying for “allyhood” status for New Delhi on terms of equity and egalitarianism.

The India-US communication and intelligence treaties such as Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) and the strategic dialogue along with the two-plus-two dialogue are small baby steps in the direction towards a well-ensconced and intertwined tete-a-tete between the twin liberal democracies of the international system.

“The New Diplomacy” initiated by the Indian head of Government is deft public diplomacy which is not about a mere bland satanisation and vilification of the other, rather, it is a larger-than-life exercise to establish a national sentiment upon the vestiges of the global firmament. It definitely involves the propagation of a myth but the question which needs to be asked is what is wrong in the creation and the sustenance of a national myth with the all-apparent notion of providing an international platform for the history, tradition, economic, trade, societal and political achievements of a nation-state such as the USA and maybe India in the contemporary context of South Asia.

South Asia is a quintessential regional context in the larger context of the Asiatic tilt of a few heads of state such as former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. It's through this diplomatic legerdemain that personages such as Prime Minister Modi have navigated through a turbulent world order. Also, New Delhi has done wonders in the context of engaging in a difficult and stiff tightrope walk



US President Joe Biden meets virtually with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the South Court Auditorium on the White House campus in Washington on April 11. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar are also seen

between Kremlin and White House, which the success of the two-plus-two dialogue so engagingly reflects.

The segments and scenarios which the twin foreign affairs heads and the defence heads of India and the United States transacted ranged from confabulating on the Chinese heady engagement in Indo-Pacific to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Right now India is part and parcel of two-plus-two dialogues with four nations, including the three nations of the order of Japan, Australia and the US and not be relegated to the back-burner, the Russian federation. In the context of a world regime, the micro approach of bilateral trysts such as the two-plus-two dialogue still hold consonance with the larger dictum of peace, tranquillity and stolidity in the larger global polity and economy.

The pioneering two-plus-

two dialogue was held in the momentous times of September 2019 with the American interlocutors being American Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and Defence Secretary John Mattis; and it is to this selfsame congregation and summitry between New Delhi and Washington that the contemporary warmth and intensity of ties between the twin democracies rests conveniently. The new-found synergy between the two nations can be earmarked by the establishment of a hotline between the foreign and defence heads of both the nations which sustains a new momentum spawned by Prime Minister Modi and the deft expertise and canny manoeuvres of Indian diplomats.

Indo-Pacific has emerged as a quaint strife-torn maritime space which was underlined by both the nations but New Delhi refrained from engaging in

any Manicheistic mention of the hegemonic and incursive designs of People's Republic of China. The humanitarian disaster brewing up in the Indian neighbourhood in the form of Afghanistan was too deliberated upon between the diplomatic construct of both the nation-states. The key to the two-plus-two dialogue between the twin democracies happens to be the stature and sobriquet of strategic partners. In the second half of 2021, the icing on the cake was the enunciation of the joint declaration by Prime Minister Modi and President Joe Biden, which covered an entire gamut of issues and strategic themes which are of bilateral and global significance ranging from climate change to Covid-19 pandemic management.

The White House portal informs us tersely that, “President Biden reaffirmed the strength of the defence rela-

tionship between the United States and India and the unwavering commitment to India as a major defence partner through close defence engagements in information sharing, sharing of logistics and military-to-military interactions, strengthening cooperation in advanced military technologies, and expanding engagements in a multilateral framework, including with regional partners. The leaders welcomed the deepening of advanced industrial cooperation.”

It can be underlined and emphasised with some satisfaction that the defence partnership between the twin nations is the fulcrum of the larger strategic relationship with the newly included commercial and Atmanirbhar Bharat elements inserted by the concurrence of both the heads of states and their retinues. This transpired in 2021.

Let's surmise what lies ahead in the context of a troubled world which dithers over the precipice of a world conflagration due to the occurrence of the Russian invasion and the sovereignty of Zelenskyy's Ukraine.

India has done well to draw to its own conclusions and standpoints while navigating the western and American sanctions on trade and energy exchanges with the Kremlin. It's a deft tightrope walk which New Delhi has traversed with due diplomatic diligence and appreciable skill and finesse. In the light of the reprimand of American Deputy National Security Adviser Daleep Singh who suggested that India should think twice while navigating the sanctions regime on Moscow, the two-plus-two dialogue only seemed to cajole New Delhi concerning the Indian energy imports from

Moscow as Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar very cannily stated that in comparison with the total quantum of the oil imported by the European Union from Russia, India has only agreed upon a miniscule proportion of oil imports from Kremlin, thus asserting the difficulty India has in toeing any nation-state's line.

During the initiation of the two-plus-two dialogue, Prime Minister Modi stated that India is in the favour of direct negotiations between Vladimir Putin and Zelenskyy and aims for an immediate cessation of cadaverous hostilities between Russia and Ukraine. Thus, the Russian-Ukrainian conflagration was the key pivot upon which the entire rubric of the summitry was precariously perched upon keeping in view the Indian responses, strategic and diplomatic, in the United Nations Security Council and other global vantage points.

New Delhi was clearer and unambiguous in the context of the Chinese rise in the Indo-Pacific wherein the Indian Minister of External Affairs declared with aplomb, “Quad is the force of good and we appreciate the energy and attention paid by the United States to the development of the Quad”. Thus, energy security pips the strategic concerns to the post as far as the Indian energy exchanges with Moscow are concerned. India also labours under a military hardware dependence upon Russia and keeping this bottleneck in view, the US Defence Secretary advanced the American intent to let India become a security partner. Still, it might be a wiser and crafty manoeuvre to stay clear of being aligned at this heady and volatile phase of the Russia-Ukraine war. Indian diplomacy and refrain triumphs emphatically in the end, that, we do not earn the ire of “a near to ally, the United States of America” at this crucial cusp of the larger international system.

(The writer teaches International Relations and International Organisations at IIPA, New Delhi)

New Delhi has done wonders in the context of engaging in a difficult and stiff tightrope walk between Kremlin and White House, which the success of the two-plus-two dialogue so engagingly reflects. But at the same time, keeping India's interests at the top, energy security pips the strategic concerns to the post as far as the energy exchanges with Moscow are concerned. It's through this diplomatic legerdemain that personages such as Prime Minister Narendra Modi have navigated through a turbulent world order



MANAN DWIVEDI

PERSPECTIVE

Viktor Orban bringing illiberalism back to Europe

Orban's flirtation with Putin is sending uneasy signals to many Hungarians. It is surprising that the man who launched his political career with anti-Russian slogans has metamorphosed into a primary ally of Putin. It proves only one thing: Orban is an apt manipulator and survivor in central European politics, signalling a growing resistance against the EU and the NATO

The fourth consecutive victory of Viktor Orban is signalling the sustenance of “illiberalism” both in Hungary and in Europe. He has quelled liberalism in Hungary in the last 12 years of his reign. Now this historic win has further corroborated theories that Orban's Fidesz party is to become the centrist party of a new era.

The Fidesz won a landslide victory in the parliamentary election on April 3. In Hungary, its National Assembly has 199 seats (93 Party List seats and 106, Constituency Seats). On record, the Fidesz has been winning two-thirds majority in the Assembly. But this time with 135 seats, Orban will have a supermajority in the new Assembly. It all proves that he has been able to consolidate his power against all odds within the country and in Europe. In November 2020, Orban broke a 130-year-old record to become the longest serving Prime Minister in the country's history, which includes his first prime ministerial tenure from 1998 to 2002.

The Fidesz got 54 per cent of the votes for the Party Lists, while the United Opposition, the joint list of six biggest opposition parties of the country, won only 34 per cent of the votes.

Why did the combined opposition fail to prevent Orban's victory again? First of all, the Opposition launched an

entirely inexperienced candidate against Orban, a veteran in Hungarian politics by now. Today, instead of highlighting the rise of illiberalism in Europe, the Opposition should have gone for a detailed analysis of “Orbanomics” — his so-called unorthodox policies, the combination of his pro-market and low-taxation programmes, sometimes bold reforms, price regulations, state ownership, etc.

Second, the Opposition coalition candidate, Peter Marki-Zay, delivered long speeches and posted equally tiring videos on Facebook, making a series of scandalous comments against some sections of society. Basically, he failed to address the voters in Hungary.

However, just a month ahead of the election, Orban changed his political narrative in such a manner that it could rightly serve the long-term interests of the authoritarian rulers like him and also the ongoing war in Ukraine. He brought forward the electoral battle to his countrymen as a clear choice between peace and stability that his regime provided so far and the war and chaos that the Opposition was pushing the nation into.

After winning the parliamentary election, Orban said, “Maybe we never looked as good as we did tonight. We have achieved a victory that can be seen even from the moon

and even more so from Brussels”. Thus many say that his re-election is too dangerous for the European Union (EU), but is equally helpful for Putin. In the last 12 years, what he openly propounded is no other than what we call, ‘Illiberal Democracy’. In all these years, he cleverly amended the Constitution of Hungary to serve his interests and that of his right-wing Fidesz party. Further, he tightened his grip on the country's two most important organs: judiciary and media.

Orban projected himself as the true defender of the Hungarian nation against the Left and the EU. Finally, he also openly employed his statescraft against George Soros, a Hungarian-born Jewish philanthropist, who he accused has a grand hidden strategy for bringing Muslim migrants to the country.

What has compelled Orban to support Putin in his recent war campaign in Ukraine? He himself has become a symbol of charisma today. Orban navigates very cunningly in the faultlines of Hungarian politics. Being a brand ambassador of his populism, he has been maintaining safe distances from Brussels bureaucracy and diktats of the West for long. In such a situation, it is very natural that he goes along with Putin.

It can very well be gauged that after his grand victory,

Orban is going to continue his diatribe against the EU. And this will certainly add fuel to the fire in the Ukraine war background. Immediately after winning the election, Orban called Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy an “opponent”. In fact, he touted his electoral victory as a direct rebuke to “liberalism, EU and Zelenskyy”. Orban's flirtation with Putin is sending uneasy signals to many Hungarians today. It is surprising that the man who launched his political career with anti-Russian slogans has metamorphosed into a primary ally of Putin in the EU.

When we look back at the recent developments in the West, we observe that the global mainstream media failed to do away with the all-encompassing liberal cliches that they want to blame for the new continental right wing movements from the rise of Trump to Brexit. Many of us are rightly ignoring the fact that Orban became Prime Minister between 1998 and 2002 barely at the age of 35. And he has been at the frontline politics for the last 34 years in Hungary. Therefore, to denounce him as an under-informed and inexperienced populist would be a big mistake both for the EU and the US. After the exit of Angela Merkel in Germany, Orban is regarded as the longest serving head of state in the EU nations.

In the past, Orban has literally launched a long war on intellect in the country. He targeted almost all the government funded universities and other educational institutions that are supposed to be against the Fidesz. One glaring example was the closure of the Central European University in Budapest. In 2018, Orban forced this university out of the country.

The saddest part is that it was a university founded by George Soros, his nemesis, to promote an open society. This university was once widely considered as the most prestigious graduate school in Hungary. In fact, it offered in the past excellent training for presidents, prime ministers, diplomats and even the core members of the inner circle of the Orban administration. Sadly, this inner circle only hit back against the university. Hungary, once used to be the centre of best universities in Eastern Europe, but today most of them have come under severe control of the government, reducing qualities, research parameters and crushing an emerging democratic dialogue on campuses. *The Atlantic* writer Franklin Foer wrote: “Like Pol Pot or Joseph Stalin, Orban dreams of liquidating intelligentsia, draining the public of education and moulding a more pliant nation. But he is a state-of-the-art autocrat; he understands that

he need not resort to the truncheon or the midnight knock at the door. His assault on civil society arrives in the guise of legalisms subverting the institutions that might challenge his authority.”

Orban will be there in power for another four years. It is a long time for him to consolidate his base further. Such rulers are primarily a threat to the very ideas and practices of liberal ethos. The reason behind this is that they win open elections, but disregard most of the democratic credentials. And mostly, they pound on liberal institutions and legal mechanisms so as to promote their own brand of populism. Ironically, they find a large chunk of the population to back them to power against the liberal opposition that tries to promote universal values, reasserting their faith on democratic ideals. Further, the Orban kind of electoral victories indicate that many people like to continue their support for so-called nationalistic brand of politics and for strong leaders like him in Hungary. At any rate, he is a threat to European unity and also for the declining global liberal order. At this point, strengthening Putin and Xi Jinping would be equally dangerous for the liberal narrative. Hence, Orban's new term in Budapest would be closely watched both from Brussels and from Washington.

It's time for the liberal

pundits to analyse how Orban has changed his political viewpoints from the beginning of his career. By the middle of June 1989, barely a 26-year-old law graduate, Orban gave a historic speech at the country's Heroes Square in Budapest, demanding the withdrawal of Russian troops from Hungary. At that critical juncture, when his motherland was trying hard to come out of the shadow of Soviet dominance, he became a symbol of power and freedom for many. So, he exploited the political transition masterfully after the withdrawal of the Russian troops. And this later catapulted him to power. At the same Heroes Square, when Putin lambasted the NATO for its continued eastward expansion this February, Orban offered his full support to the former. Thus, Orban has proved himself to be an apt manipulator and survivor in central European politics, signalling a growing resistance against the EU and NATO.

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions of national and international repute after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the Journal of Global Studies, an international research journal)



MAKHAN SAIKIA

