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Published From DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

NEW DELHI, SUNDAY JUNE 16, 2024; PAGES 8+4 ₹5



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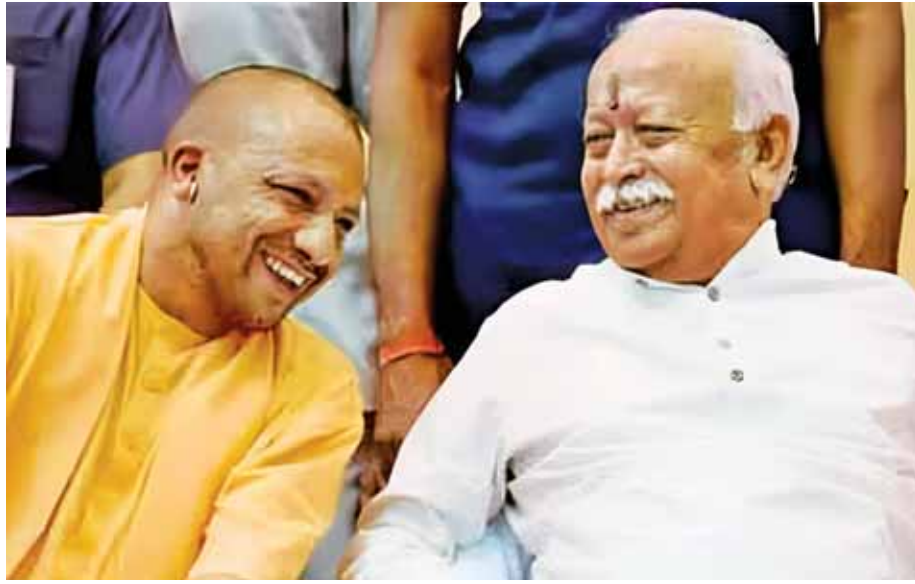
Highly anticipated Yogi, Bhagwat meeting deferred

BISWAJEET BANERJEE/SATISH TRIPATHI ■ GORAKHPUR

The anticipated meeting between Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan Bhagwat had to be deferred as several 'political permutation and combinations' were doing the rounds and neither of the side thought it wise to escalate the visible "rift" and difference of opinion post the Lok Sabha results between the ruling BJP and the Sangh parivar.

Sources said the meeting between the two did not take place on Saturday due to the "tight schedule of the RSS chief." This would have been their first interaction since the Lok Sabha election results were declared on June 4. Sources indicated that Bhagwat, who was in Gorakhpur for an RSS event, was expected to meet Yogi, offering the CM moral support following a contentious election campaign where Arvind Kejriwal suggested that Yogi would be replaced post-election.

The Chief Minister's office clarified there was no scheduled meeting for today. "As Bhagwat is in Gorakhpur till June 17, they may meet tomorrow," a spokesperson said. However, Yogi's arrival



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan Bhagwat (File photo)

from Varanasi to Gorakhpur added fuel to the speculation about an imminent meeting. The absence of this meeting is notable given Bhagwat's comments post-election, where he stressed that a true 'sevak' should not be arrogant and should serve people with dignity. These remarks followed the Narendra Modi-led-NDA Government's victory, securing a third term but with a reduced mandate. The BJP suffered significant losses in Uttar Pradesh, dropping to 33 seats from 62

in 2019, a sharp decline from its 2014 peak of 72 seats out of 80. Thus, the optics of a Bhagwat-Yogi meeting carried substantial weight. Bhagwat's recent speech in Nagpur, implicitly criticising the election campaign's conduct, was seen as a precursor to this expected meeting. He questioned the behaviour of political leaders and the erosion of decency during the campaign. Senior RSS leader Indresh Kumar was more explicit, criticising the party's

perceived arrogance despite its devotion to Lord Ram, particularly in light of the Ram Temple construction in Ayodhya, which was expected to secure a landslide victory for the BJP. During the election, the RSS was notably less engaged than usual. A report by *The Pioneer* on May 16 highlighted the RSS's apparent absence from the political scene in Uttar Pradesh, citing a decline in coordination meetings between RSS and BJP leaders. **Continued on Page 2**



NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and Congress leaders Balasaheb Thorat and Prithviraj Chavan during a joint Press conference, in Mumbai, on Saturday PTI

MVA to take on Maha Yuti with vigour, vows Uddhav

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Fresh from the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)'s success in the recent Lok Sabha polls, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said here on Saturday that having exploded the myth that the BJP was invincible, the MVA constituents would take on the ruling Maha Yuti jointly in the forthcoming Maharashtra Assembly polls, with renewed vigour.

Interacting with media persons, along with NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar and senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan, after their first formal meeting post the Lok Sabha polls, a buoyant Uddhav said, "The BJP had created an impression that no party can take it in the polls... The people of the State have proven how hollow is the myth of the BJP's invincibility. The Lok Sabha poll victory is not the end but just the beginning. The

MVA will take on the BJP-led Maha Yuti with renewed strength." "After our first formal meeting in the wake of the Lok Sabha polls, we have chosen to address a joint Press conference to announce that the MVA constituents (Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP (SP) and Congress) — along with smaller parties and social organisations — will contest the State Assembly polls jointly," Uddhav said. Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making the atmosphere conducive for the MVA during the Lok Sabha polls, Sharad Pawar said, "Wherever Modi had addressed rallies or held roadshows in Maharashtra, the MVA candidates won. That's why I consider it my duty to thank the Prime Minister." Senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan said after the Lok Sabha poll outcome, the change of Government had become imminent in Maharashtra.

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CPM to brainstorm Lok Sabha poll rout

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The high-power committees of the CPI(M) will hold a five-day "chintan baithak" at Thiruvananthapuram from Sunday to take stock of the post-Lok Sabha election situation. The CPI(M), described as the world's largest Marxist organisation, lost 13 of the 14 Lok Sabha seats it contested in Kerala despite the claim by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and party State secretary MV Govindan that it would make a clean sweep in all the seats. The meetings have been convened as a follow up to the Chief Minister's statement in Assembly that despite the good works done by the Government, the party machinery failed to disseminate the information to people. **Continued on Page 2**

Sitaram Yechury, the general secretary of the CPI(M), has reached Kerala and it is widely expected that he would crack the whip in association with Govindan on those who did not work for the success of the party. It is an open secret in Kerala that Yechury and Vijayan do not see eye to eye on any issues. "Yechury will not hesitate to openly tell Chief Minister Vijayan to move over in favour of the youth leaders like Industries Minister P Rajeev or Finance Minister KN Balagopal if it is found that a leadership change is the only option to save the party," said a senior CPI(M) leader. Vijayan in his post-poll analysis has said the Congress won the maximum seats in the election because of the cadre's trust in Rahul Gandhi.



Jawan martyred, 8 Naxalites killed in encounter

PTI ■ NARAYANPUR

Eight Naxalites and a jawan of the Special Task Force (STF) were killed in an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district on Saturday, police said. Two other STF personnel sustained injuries in the incident, they said.

A huge cache of weapons and other materials belonging to Naxalites were recovered from the encounter site, they said. Chief Minister Vishu Deo Sai said his Government is fully committed to eliminate Naxalites, and it will not sit quiet till it achieves the goal.

The gunfight broke out at 7 am in the forest of Abhujmad, where a joint team of security personnel from four districts — Narayanpur, Kanker, Dantewada and Kondagaon — was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range Sundarraj P said.

Metro corridor to boost Delhi, Ghaziabad, Kundli connectivity

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Finance's Project Investment Board (PIB) has approved the extension of Rithala-Bawana-Narela corridor till Kundli under Delhi Metro Rail Project Phase-IV, which would cost ₹6231 crore.

The corridor will ensure seamless connectivity between Ghaziabad (UP), Delhi and Kundli (Haryana) and is estimated to have a daily ridership of 1.26 lakh by 2028 when it is completed and 3.8 lakh by 2055. The corridor is planned as an extension of existing Red Line (line number 1) and is 26.463 km long out of which 25.483 km is elevated and 0.980 km is at-grade.

Interestingly, this corridor was the part of the Shahdara-Bawana corridor in 1998 during the first phase of Delhi Metro project, which was restricted to Rithala. The proposal corridor will help to connect Delhi to rural areas of the national Capital, who were waiting to get connect the metro for the past 20 years.

As per the approved proposal, the Rithala-Narela-Kundli Metro Corridor will be constructed at a cost of ₹6231 crore with the Delhi

RITHALA – NARELA – KUNDLI CORRIDOR



portion estimated at ₹5685.22 crore and the Haryana portion at ₹545.77 crore. Nearly 40 per cent of the cost of the Delhi component will be borne by the Central Government, of which the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) alone will be putting in a grant of ₹1,000 crore. Of the remaining cost, 37.5 per cent

will come from bilateral/multilateral loans and about 20 per cent from the Delhi Government. For the Haryana portion, while the Haryana Government will provide grants amounting to 80 per cent, the remaining 20 per cent will come through grants by Centre. **Continued on Page 2**

Delhi thirsts for water

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

The narrow lanes of Ghitorni village, straddling the border of Delhi and Haryana, paint a distressing picture of deprivation. Amidst the relentless heatwave sweeping the national Capital, residents find themselves bereft of basic necessities like water.

In an interaction with *The Pioneer*, villagers recount how the affluent, leveraging their connections with officials from the Delhi Jal Board and the Delhi Government, secure water from DJB tankers.

Meanwhile, the less fortunate are forced to rely on costly private tankers and motors, a burden that digs deep into their pockets. The water crisis is so severe that many are



Villagers gather to fill water from private tankers as Delhi Jal Board tankers make no appearance in the Ghitorni area Saumya Shukla/ The Pioneer

abandoning their homes in search of better living conditions. The stark disparity in access to this essential resource underscores a troubling

narrative of inequality and neglect.

A 65-year-old Batti said her tenants, who helped to add to the family's income, are gone and no one is ready to stay because of such scarcity of water. "Pyas se mar rahe hai hum (We are dying of thirst). Let alone DJB tankers, we are not even getting private tankers despite we are ready to pay for it. The DJB only gives water to those who have connections and settings with them," she said.

The old lady shared her plight of standing in the scorching sun to collect water, which still is not sufficient for the family the whole day. "There is no water in Ghitorni. Why won't people leave if we are living in such bad conditions," she said. **Continued on Page 2**

Delhi seeks more water from Haryana

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has appealed to Haryana to discharge additional water into the Yamuna on humanitarian grounds amid water crisis in the national Capital. Delhi's Water Minister Atishi said Delhi is facing a shortage of 70 million gallons per day (MGD) in production due to lack of raw water in the Munak canal and Wazirabad reservoir. Senior Delhi Government officials will meet Haryana government officials on Sunday. **Detailed report on Page 3**

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Nadda forms four-member panel to look into political violence in Bengal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

BJP president J P Nadda on Saturday formed a four-member committee to look into the alleged political violence in West Bengal, as the party accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of remaining a mute spectator.



The committee includes Biplab Kumar Deb, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Brij Lal and Kavita Patidar, all BJP MPs, with Deb as its convener. In a jibe at the BJP, Trinamool Congress spokesperson and former Rajya Sabha MP Santanu Sen said the BJP is now hunting for excuses after being rejected by the people of West Bengal in the Lok Sabha polls. Of the 42 Lok Sabha seats, the TMC won 29, the BJP 12 and the Congress 1. A BJP statement said, "Mamata Banerjee remains a mute spectator, while criminals of her party attack and intimidate

opposition workers and voters with impunity. Even the Calcutta High Court has taken note of these excesses and extended deployment of CAPF till June 21 and has listed the matter for hearing on June 18." The BJP said the Lok Sabha elections were held across the country and no instance of political violence was reported from anywhere except West

Bengal. "It continues to be in the vice grip of post-poll violence, the kind we saw post-2021 assembly elections," the BJP alleged. In response to the allegation, the TMC leader said BJP candidates had "described polls as free and fair. But after the dismal show, they are now inventing excuses and weaving false narratives of post-poll violence." "There could have been

stray incidents, which were the results of family or local disputes," he said. Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suwendu Adhikari met BJP workers, who have been affected by alleged attacks by the TMC after the polls, in Coochbehar district. "If Governor CV Ananda Bose gives me time, I will meet him at Raj Bhavan on Sunday with 100 people who became homeless due to the TMC attacks," he said. Adhikari said he has sought permission from Kolkata Police to stage a sit-in for five days outside Raj Bhavan with those affected by post-poll violence. "It will be the same spot where TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee staged a sit-in with his party supporters in November 2023. If police can permit the TMC to demonstrate at the same spot, there should not be any differential treatment to BJP," he added.

Modern warfare no longer solely physical domain, says IAF chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD

Modern warfare is no longer a solely physical domain, but a dynamic and ever-evolving landscape increasingly influenced by complex data networks and advanced cyber technologies, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari said on Saturday. Addressing the Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) of the 213 Officers' Course at the Air Force Academy (AFA) at Dundigal near here, Chaudhari also said tomorrow's conflicts cannot be fought with yesterday's mindset. "Modern warfare is a dynamic and ever evolving landscape. It is no longer solely a physical domain. It is increasingly influenced by complex data networks and advanced cyber technologies. As leaders, you all need to adapt, innovate and leverage technology effectively for



proving decisive in winning wars," the Air Chief Marshal said. He further said professionalism, aggressiveness and initiative are the three most admired qualities of a leader and at the same time, leaders who are thinkers are also needed. "As you embark on this extraordinary journey, let the core values of the Indian Air Force - mission, integrity and excellence be your guiding beacon," he advised the newly commissioned officers. "For us, the men and women in uniform, mission

accomplishment is of utmost importance. It is vital for maintaining the direction, efficiency and overall success of an organisation," he said. He also suggested that they must cultivate the habit of reading and that it would bear rich dividends. "The more you read, the better you will understand the complexities of your field. A well read mind is capable of adapting and leading with clarity in the face of the unknown," he said. While gaining professional knowledge is paramount, the

newly commissioned officers should hone their skills in other areas as well, he said. On integrity, he brought out how making ethical choices, upholding the highest standards of conduct and leading by example will inspire trust and loyalty with the team members. Speaking on the IAF's vision statement of 'People First, Mission Always', Chaudhari urged newly commissioned officers to earn the respect of their subordinates and peers through professional competence, physical and moral courage, character and empathy. The CGP marks the successful culmination of training of 235 flight cadets of flying and ground duty branches of the Indian Air Force. Chaudhari, who was the Reviewing Officer, conferred the Presidents' Commission to the graduating flight cadets on successful completion of their training.

Tesam Pongte elected unopposed as Arunachal Pradesh Assembly Speaker

PTI ■ ITANAGAR

BJP MLA Tesam Pongte was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Arunachal Pradesh Assembly on Saturday. Immediately after taking charge, Pongte, the Changlang North legislator, told the members of the House that he would perform his duty without any bias and give an equal opportunity to all to participate in debates and deliberations, irrespective of political affiliation. BJP's Likabali legislator Kardo Nyigyor was also elected as the Deputy Speaker of the House. Both Pongte and Nyigyor were lone contestants for their respective posts. Pongte, who was the Deputy Speaker in the previous Legislative Assembly, expressed his gratitude to the members for reposing faith in him and said he would uphold the dignity of the House. "I am for all and assure you that I will not let your expectations down and will give equal opportunities to all



to present their voices," Pongte said. Chief Minister Pema Khandu congratulated Pongte and assured him that he along with all BJP MLAs would cooperate to ensure smooth conduct of business in the House. Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein and several ministers and MLAs from all parties congratulated Pongte for being elected as the Speaker. The Changlang North legislator, who started his political journey as a student and community leader, proved his mettle by winning for a third consecutive term from the constituency.

Pawakhali, Thakurganj section railway line approved for commissioning

PNS ■ MALIGAON

The Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety (CCRS) after having completed the statutory inspection of the newly laid railway line of 23.242 km between Pawakhali and Thakurganj stations of the Araria - Galgalia New Line Project on June 12, 2024, has accorded his sanction for commissioning of the section. The entire project comes under Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway. The newly constructed broad-gauge line is opened with the primary objective to further strengthen the existing railway network in the chicken neck portion and improve efficiency of the entire railway operation in that portion. This line will be helpful for carrying more freights and passenger traffic through this route towards northeast region. The Araria -Galgalia New Line Project is of 110.75 Km out of which 23.242 Km rail line is opened from Pawakhali station to Thakurganj station via Kadogaon, Bhogdabar halts.

Soaring temperatures may lead to increased risk of migraine attacks: Scientists

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

As heat waves sweep major parts of the Northwest and Central India leaving many heart-stricken, scientists have found a link between increased headaches and hot temperatures for individuals with migraine, saying that as mercury soars, so do chances for migraine attacks. Changes in barometric pressure, extremely high temperatures and the threat of dehydration can increase the frequency of headaches, they said. The observation calls for health authorities to be on alert given that people with migraine face additional risks in the heat. Majority of Indian cities are already witnessing above 45 degree Celsius temperature owing to climate change. "Weather change is one of the most common trigger factors for migraine," said Vincent Martin, director of the Headache and Facial Pain Center at the US-based University of Cincinnati. The study looked at the use of Fremanezumab drug and whether it could prevent headaches caused by high temperatures. Approved by the FDA,



Fremanezumab is administered by injection under the skin and is part of a set of monoclonal antibodies that have hit the market in the past six years to treat migraine in patients. Researchers cross-referenced 71,030 daily diary records of 660 migraine patients with regional weather data and found that for every temperature increase of 0.12 degrees Celsius, there was a 6 per cent increase in the occurrence of any headache. However, during the periods of Fremanezumab treatment, the association completely disappeared. "This study is the first to suggest that migraine-specific therapies that block Calcitonin Gene-

CPM to brainstorm...

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"It is another thing that the Congress could not cross thematic figure of 273 seats in the Lok Sabha. But the death knell of the BJP rule has been sounded and it is a matter of time before we bury the Hindutva party once and for ever. The CPI(M) has erred prior to the polls and the meetings to behold next week is a prelude to cleansing of the party structure," said Govindan. He also agreed that both leaders and cadres have made mistakes and the party's State Secretariat and State Committee would analyse the same. "Our top priority is to find out the mistakes and to rectify the same. If the party is of the view that a change in leadership is the need of the hour, we will not hesitate to resort to that also," said Govindan while addressing the EMS Memorial Day at Perinthalmanna. The upcoming local body election and the 2026 Assembly election are matters of urgent concern for the CPI(M). Despite the party losing all seats except one it contested in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Vijayan led the CPI(M) back to power in the 2021 Assembly polls.

Restoration of road connectivity to North Sikkim underway: BRO

PTI ■ GANGTOK

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on Saturday said it has mobilised huge manpower and machinery to restore road connectivity to North Sikkim. At least six people have been killed as landslides and heavy rain impacted the Himalayan state severely, damaging properties and disrupting road connectivity, power and food supplies and mobile networks in several areas. Multiple landslides at various stretches, including Dikchu-Sanklang-Toong, Mangana-Sanklang, Singham-Rangrang and Rangrang-Toong, besides collapse of the vital Sanklang suspension bridge, resulted in the severing of connectivity to North Sikkim, leaving around 1,200-1,500 tourists stranded. "The BRO under Project SWASTIK has swung into restoration efforts," it said in a statement.

Highly anticipated Yogi, Bhagwat meeting...

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A BJP leader noted that 'samanvayak baithaks' (coordination meetings) were once routine but had not occurred recently. Some speculate that the RSS was displeased with the personality-centric campaign that elevated Modi's image. Others argue that the RSS cannot afford to distance itself from Modi, given his implementation of key Sangh agenda items like the Ram Temple construction, Article 370 revocation, and the potential Uniform Civil Code. Despite these speculations, the RSS dismissed any notion of a rift with the BJP. Senior RSS leaders asserted that there was no split between the Sangh and the BJP, and that Bhagwat's comments were not directed at the party leadership or Prime Minister Modi. They described such interpretations as speculative and out of context. "Bhagwat ji has always addressed issues of national

importance in his speeches. Given the recent elections, he mentioned what he felt was best for society," an RSS leader explained. Media speculation also surrounded Bhagwat's presence in Gorakhpur, Yogi Adityanath's home city. However, Bhagwat's visit to the Sangh Karyakarta Vikas Varg Camp at SVM Public School in the Chiutaha area was planned months in advance. Bhagwat had previously met with around 280 volunteer workers responsible for the Sangh's activities in Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, and Awadh districts. During the training session, Bhagwat emphasized the need to increase the number of branches and expand the organization, while also providing suggestions for various ongoing projects. As of now, any meeting between Bhagwat and Yogi remains speculative, with the possibility of it occurring before Bhagwat's departure on June 17.

Will work towards fulfilling semiconductor related initiatives of Modi: Kumaraswamy

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's semiconductor-related initiatives, Union Heavy Industries and Steel Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Saturday said he will work towards fulfilling them through his ministry. His remark comes a day after he reportedly raised questions about the US-based semiconductor manufacturer potentially receiving Rs 3.2 crore subsidy for every job it creates in Gujarat. "Semiconductor is a strategic industry. It is a basic requirement for electronics and automobile manufacturing. Both these sectors generate lots of employment. I greatly appreciate the semiconductor-related initiatives taken by @PMOIndia and will work towards fulfilling them through my ministry," Kumaraswamy posted on 'X'. Later, addressing reporters here, the JD(S) leader stressed on the need for

creating more jobs along with attracting investments to the country. "Why has our PM given me this big portfolio? Why he has confidence in me? It is a big responsibility that the PM has given me. My work is to bring investors in a big way. Not only bringing investors, parallelly, we have to create more jobs. By creating more jobs, I have to come to the expectations of the PM," he added. "Terming as 'unjustifiable' the central government subsidy given to US-headquartered semiconductor maker Micron for every job it creates in Gujarat, Karnataka Minister for Large and Medium Industries MB Patil on Saturday said Kumaraswamy's question on this matter is appropriate. "If this is applicable to Gujarat, then the same formula should be followed for other states to create opportunities," said Patil. He expressed his opinion in a post on 'X', seconding Union Minister Kumaraswamy's remarks.

DMK blames testing agency for NEET issue

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK on Saturday accused the National Testing Agency of spoiling the sanctity of NEET and blamed the BJP-led government at the Centre for being a 'spectator' and backing coaching centres that earned in crores. Yet again, the DMK sought scrapping the national test, saying it alone would protect the sanctity of education sector. Referring to the Centre telling the Supreme Court days ago that the grace marks of 1,563 students would be cancelled, DMK's Tamil mouthpiece 'Murasoli' said the BJP government would not have done this if the matter had not been taken to the apex court. Over the years, several irregularities have been happening in NEET and the BJP government did not take note of it, the daily in an editorial on June 15 alleged. The irregularities and scams that happened in 'secret' so far in the conduct of NEET was held in 'open' this year. Only to hide this, the test result that was scheduled to be released on June 14 was advanced to



June 4, when the result of Lok Sabha polls was declared. However, the scam got exposed. "We have heard about grace marks, it will be one or two marks. But, how could 70 and 80 marks be termed grace marks? The NTA awarded full marks and this is national injustice." The BJP government remained 'servile' to coaching centres that earned crores every month and it 'established' the 'rule of corporates' in the education sector too. Right from the beginning, Tamil Nadu and key political parties including the DMK have been opposing NEET and the Assembly passed a Bill to exempt the state from the purview of the exam and it was sent to the Centre to secure Presidential assent.

Delhi thirsts...

From Page 1

Sanjeev, a 40-year-old man, was near tears narrating how he tried to approach everyone, including AAP's Chattarpur MLA Kartar Singh Tanwar about the scarcity of water but nothing happened except fake promises. He said he was left with no option but to start buying water from private tankers, which cost Rs 6,000 for 1,000 litre of water to be shared by three families of 15 members for a week. He said his two children, between the age of 10 and 12, also help him in his work. "Look at our conditions. DJB tankers come for the people that have contacts. This whole Bansh Mahaula is suffering due to water woes and this is not the story of one lane, many are without access to water in the area. We buy water from private tankers to sustain ourselves but tell me how long can a common man afford this?" the man said, who just returned from his night duty in the morning and got busy with arranging water for his home. A 62 year old Kamlesh asked if this is her age to stand in the heat and fill water. "Tell me, should I be standing here doing this in such bad heat or resting? These little kids should be enjoying their summer holidays, instead of lifting such heavy vessels," she said, while questioning the government over not fixing the situation despite it recurring year after year. Anvesh, another resident, stated how two neighbouring families have shifted to Noida because of the water shortage, while sharing how there is corruption in getting water from DJB tankers. "Ofcourse, these people are given some

money in exchange for bringing water for the few families here. Do you know two families living just near to me have shifted to Noida and why shouldn't they? Even we will go if this doesn't end soon," he said. Vessels containing water were kept at a place just near the drains, which were clogged and unclean, at a time when vector borne diseases are at their peak. Anvesh shared how the sanitation workers rarely visit and when they do, they hardly clean the area. Amid dozens of electricity wires and motors, where one motor was even having a short circuit, people gathered around to fill as much water as they could. Shubham, a 20 year old boy, said despite many requests to the government and the concerned authorities, no water tanker has come for them. Pondering on the same, he said he remembers that the last tanker that came to the village was last summer. Manuved, 60 years old, shared that he received a bill of 3,050 rupees because he is forced to fill water from the motor while he watches government tankers coming for some influential people. "Only some houses receive water from the DJB tankers because they have their contacts. We are living in hell," he said. Anita, 49 years old, stated, "Previously, the water tankers did come sometimes but this time around no one has come for over two months. Our landlord gives us some water to fulfil our needs. We did face some problems in the summer but this time it's far more serious. We also have to arrange water from other places as well though."

Metro corridor...

From Page 1

This 26.5 km line with 21 stations, to be completed within four years after sanction, will massively improve connectivity of the Narela-Bawana-Alipur areas with the remaining city and

bring about an infrastructure boom in the area. The 26.5 km long corridor will be completely elevated and is likely to have the following stations: Rohini Sector 25, Sector 26, Sector 31, Sector 32, Sector 36, Barwala, Rohini Sector 35, Sector 34, Barwala Industrial Area, Bawana JJ Colony, Sannoht, New Sannoht, Depot Station, Bhorgarh, Narela Anaj Mandi, Narela DDA Sports Complex, Narela, Narela

Sector-5, Kundli and Nathupur. The project will provide impetus to growth and development of the Narela-Bawana Sub-city and also address the long-pending requirements of the Rohini Sub-city. The Narela Sub-city, where DDA under direct supervision of Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena is developing an education hub with campuses

of seven institutions including Delhi University, Multi-Modal Logistic Park along UER-II, Corporate Offices / IT-ITeS Parks, an AIIMS and IGTUW Medical Campus, will get a major boost with the construction of this lifeline by Delhi Metro. The Phase IV project involves development of 103.93 km long metro rail network comprising six corridors with an investment of Rs 468 billion. The three corridors to

be developed on priority basis are Maujpur-Mukundpur (12.31 km), Janakpuri West-RK Ashram (29.26 km) and Aerocity-Tughlakabad (23.62 km). The area already houses Delhi Technological University, NIT Delhi, National Institute of Homoeopathy, Raja Harish Chandra Hospital, Anaj Mandi, Smriti Van and various DDA Housing Projects. With the coming of this Metro Corridor, all these

institutions will get much-needed connectivity with other parts. Similarly, in the Rohini Sub-city, the Helipad at Sector-36, Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre, Ambience Mall, Swarn Jayanti Park, Sport Complex in Sector-14, the Rohini District Court Complex and the Forensic Science Laboratory, will get further connected to the Metro Network.

Release water in Yamuna on humanitarian ground, Atishi urges Haryana

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has appealed to Haryana to discharge additional water into the Yamuna on humanitarian grounds amid water crisis in the national capital. Delhi's water minister Atishi also told a press conference here that the capital is facing a shortage of 70 million gallons per day (MGD) in production due to lack of raw water in the Munak canal and Wazirabad reservoir. While informing that senior Delhi government officials will meet Haryana government officials on Sunday, AAP leader said, "In such a situation, we (Delhi) have requested Haryana on humanitarian grounds to give some additional water to Delhi. The Upper Yamuna River Board has advised Delhi and Haryana to hold a bilateral meeting and consider whether Haryana can give some extra water to Delhi. Also, Delhi government officials have talked to Haryana government officials. A delegation of senior Delhi government officials will go to Chandigarh on Sunday and meet Haryana officials." "We appeal to the Haryana government on humanitarian grounds that, considering the current situation in Delhi, the Haryana government should give some extra water to Delhi," she appealed and added that issues related to share of Yamuna water can be discussed



after heatwave conditions abate. The Minister also shared that the capital is facing a shortage of 70 million gallons per day (MGD) in production due to lack of raw water in the Munak canal and Wazirabad reservoir. The normal water production of around 1,002 MGD in Delhi went down to 932 MGD on Friday because of lack of raw water, she said, "In response to the emergency, the Delhi Jal Board has connected borewells in West Delhi to underground reservoirs and increased the number of tanker trips to 10,000 daily." Atishi has also called for an emergency meeting with officials to address the crisis and secured a promise of assistance from Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. "I had a phone conversation with Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh 'Sukhu' on Saturday

morning. In this conversation, the Chief Minister of Himachal has assured that Himachal is ready to provide whatever information the Upper Yamuna River Board needs from Himachal as soon as possible. He said that Himachal Pradesh has extended a helping hand to Delhi. It may take some time for the Upper Yamuna River Board to make a decision," she said. In a meeting with Delhi Jal Board officials on Saturday, it was decided that an assessment be done of areas not getting any water and the number of water tankers be increased, she said. Currently, DJB tankers are making around 10,000 trips in water scarce areas supplying 10 MGD of water per day. In some other areas like Bawana, Dwarka and Nangloi, emergency tube wells have been started to provide water to the local residents, she said.

AAP indulging in melodrama: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP on Saturday accused the ruling AAP of indulging in melodrama instead of fixing issues of theft and leakages in the pipelines to address water crisis faced by people in the city. Citing Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs' letter to Union Jal Shakti minister C R Patil for his intervention to solve the water crisis in Delhi, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva on Saturday claimed that the national capital is getting almost full quantity of raw water from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh while stating that even Delhi Water Minister Atishi admitted that there is hardly 0.5 to 7 per cent shortfall in drinking water production. He said people fail to understand what it will achieve. "Despite the Supreme Court's directive to the Delhi government to approach the Yamuna River Board for extra water, the Aam Aadmi Party is now creating a new political drama of approaching Union Water Minister C R Patil," the Delhi BJP chief said in a statement. It is beyond comprehension why the AAP leaders are indulging in "melodrama" over the water crisis in Delhi instead



of fixing the issues of water theft by tanker mafia and leakages that account up to 70 per cent of water produced in the city, he said. "The Delhiites fail to understand why the AAP MLAs are approaching the Union water minister when the Supreme Court has said only Upper Yamuna River Board can give extra water to Delhi," Sachdeva said. Highlighting Supreme Court's directive to Delhi Government to approach Yamuna River Board for extra water, he said that the AAP is now creating a new political drama of approaching the Union Water Minister C.R. Patil. "Delhiites fail to understand that when the Supreme Court has said that only Yamuna River Board can give extra water to Delhi then why is AAP going to the Union Water Minister," he questioned. Sachdeva, while asserting there

is no water shortage in Delhi, challenged Atishi for an open discussion on raw water availability for Delhi at Munak Canal in presence of water department officials of both Delhi and Haryana. Several parts of the national capital are reeling under acute shortage of water amid heatwave and power cuts. Delhi gets most of its water from the Yamuna, Ravi-Beas, and Ganga rivers. From the Ganga, via the Upper Ganga Canal in UP, Delhi receives 470 cusecs (roughly 254 MGD) of water. Two channels entering Delhi from Haryana — the Carrier Lined Channel (CLC) and the Delhi Sub Branch (DSB) — supply Delhi with water from the Yamuna and Ravi-Beas rivers. Delhi receives 719 cusecs of water through the CLC, a lined channel meant to reduce seepage-induced water loss, and 330 cusecs through the DSB (total of roughly 565 MGD). The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) also takes water directly from the Yamuna to try and meet demand. AAP Timarpur MLA Dilip Pandey has written to Union Minister for Jal Shakti C.R. Patil seeking intervention and coordination with North Indian states to provide more water to Delhi amid water crisis in the national capital.

Congress holds matka phod protest in Capital



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress on Saturday held 'matka phod' protests across the city accusing the Arvind Kejriwal government and the BJP in view of the water crisis here. The protests were held in all 280 blocks in the capital city. Carrying earthen pots on their heads and Congress flags, the protesters raised slogans against the Delhi government and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Later, they threw the pots on the ground displaying their anger against failures of the Delhi Government and the indifferent attitude of the Delhi Water Board. Hitting at their alliance partners of Lok Sabha 2024 elections, former MLA Jai Kishan said, "In the midst of severe water crisis and dirty water in

Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is fooling the public while staying in jail and ordering Water Minister Atishi that there will be no shortage of water in Delhi. When the head of the state is in jail, who will instruct the officials? CBI and ED raids and investigations are going on in all the departments of Delhi Government. In such a situation, the water crisis should also be investigated by the CBI." Meanwhile, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva announced that on Sunday all district units of the party in Delhi will protest at prominent spots in their districts against the AAP government creating a water crisis in Delhi. Several Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) will also join protests with BJP workers.

AAP MLAs write to Jal Shakti Minister seeking his intervention BNP MP visits Munak Canal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP MLAs have written a letter to Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil urging his intervention to solve the water crisis faced by the national capital amid the prevailing intense heatwave. Calling the situation "very critical", AAP's chief whip in Delhi Assembly Dilip Pandey on Saturday said the Yamuna

water issue was an inter-state issue that required coordination of the Jal Shakti Ministry. Pandey said that in the letter from the AAP MLAs, time has been sought to meet the minister for a discussion on the matter. In his letter, the AAP leader stated that the city is yet to receive support from the BJP led Central government and said, "I am writing this letter to appraise you of the gravi-

ty of the water shortage issue in the national capital. Delhi is witnessing an unprecedented heat wave that has resulted in severe shortage of water in the national capital. Demand for water is at an all-time high." Pandey further wrote, "Delhi is the national capital with people from all over India coming here seeking better opportunities. We have always accommodated every indi-

vidual with love and care. However, it's disheartening to note that at such a time of crisis we are yet to receive adequate support from the Centre." "We are very grateful to Himachal Pradesh for agreeing to share its excess water with Delhi. However, due to interstate dynamics Delhi is unable to receive the water. The situation has become so grave that

intervention from the Centre is required on an urgent basis to resolve this issue. I humbly request you to please coordinate with all North India states for us to get more water," he said. Pandey too accused the BJP government of indulging in politics over the issue. He said that illegal sand mining in the river in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh was obstructing flow of water through tiny dams.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

North West BJP MP Yogendra Chandolia visited Munak Canal on Saturday to inform Delhiites about the ground reality in order to expose the AAP's dirty politics over the ongoing water crisis in the national capital. Through a video showing the continuous flow of water, Chandolia claimed to expose the lies of senior AAP leader



and Delhi Water Minister Atishi. He stated that she has been misleading the public by repeatedly claiming that the

Haryana government is not providing sufficient water despite it being a clear lie. "The Delhi government lacks storage facilities for the water provided by the Haryana government and is blaming Haryana to hide its own deficiencies. Its negligence has made residents suffer from a lack of water, as water coming from Haryana for Delhi is being stolen by tanker mafias along the way," he said.

MCD set to make tendering process more transparent, efficient

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is set to make the tendering process more efficient and transparent by introducing GepNIC-PRICE software integration and an automated Post-Tendering module, officials said here on Saturday. The integration of Project Information and Cost Estimation (PRICE) software application with GepNIC- a Government eProcurement System, which MCD Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti launched Friday, is set to minimize human interference and bring transparency in the tendering process of engineering and allied departments of MCD, they said. Additional Commissioner (Engg.) Tariq Thomas, Engineer-in-Chief K.P. Singh, Engineer-in-Chief P. C. Meena, Director (IT) Sumit Kumar and other senior officials of MCD were present on the occasion. The GepNIC integration module and Post tender module are being developed through joint efforts of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the IT department of MCD. The PRICE application has been customized and inte-



grated with the e-tendering /GepNIC portal to achieve an end-to-end online process from estimate creation to tendering to the award of contract. Earlier, tenders were called on the GepNIC/CPP portal by manually uploading the Notice Inviting Tender (NITs) and Bill of Materials (BOQs). Now all the required details of the tender will be automatically transferred from PRICE software to GepNIC/CPP portal. After finalisation of the bidder through the tendering process, all the details of the tender like the Bidder name, Bidder address, quoted BOQs and comparison of all bidders, can be transferred to PRICE Software for further process-

ing of Post Tender activities and their approvals. A Letter of Award (LOA) can be generated online and provided to the finalised bidder. The Pre-Tender process of Estimate creation and their approvals was already being done with the help of PRICE software by the MCD. Now the data of NITs and tender approvals will be captured from PRICE to GepNIC and Vice versa. PRICE Post-tender module comprises the preparation of Justification of Rates based on Local Market Rates, Negotiation permission if required, financial concurrence, Rate and Agency approval, Letter of Intent and Letter of Award.

HC orders removal of Kejriwal's court video from social media

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Saturday issued notice to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal, and social media platforms like Facebook and YouTube, to delete posts and/or reposts, of a video of the AAP leader addressing the court on March 28. The high court was hearing a petition moved by Vaibhav Singh, an advocate, which sought the formation of an SIT to investigate and register an FIR against the "alleged conspiracy of recording and sharing the audio and video" of the court proceedings and "putting the life" of the trial court judge at "risk". In the video, Arvind Kejriwal, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener, is seen addressing a trial court. In an impassioned speech, Kejriwal addressed the court directly, and accused the Enforcement Directorate of trying "to crush" his party. He pointed out - as the AAP had, and continues to do so - that no 'bribes' allegedly received by his party had been recovered. A bench of justices Neena Bansal Krishna and Amit Sharma issued notices to six people, including Sunita



Kejriwal, and social media intermediaries X (formerly known as Twitter), Meta and YouTube on a petition alleging violation of the video conferencing (VC) rules of the Delhi High Court. "Prima facie it is observed that the court proceeding recording is violative of Rule 3(vi) of Delhi High Court Video Conferencing Rules, 2021 and cannot be permitted to remain in public domain," the bench said in its 6-page order. The West Delhi BJP MP Kamaljeet Sehrawat said that making a political statement in court on March 28 and recording it was a premeditated conspiracy by the Aam Aadmi Party, an attack on the court system. "The entire AAP is nurtured by Marxist

ideology and such people neither respect the court nor the administration, which is why there is corruption and anarchy everywhere in the Delhi government," she stated. The high court directed the social media intermediaries to forthwith take down the audio or video recording from their respective platforms. During the hearing, the bench asked the respondents, including the six individuals, to take down the content from social media platforms. However, the order uploaded on the court website said, "The social media platforms namely X (formerly 'Twitter'), Meta (formerly 'Facebook'), Instagram and YouTube are hereby directed to remove forthwith the audio/ video recording from their respec-

tive platforms". The court also mentioned the list of URLs to be removed and said it should be ensured that the audio/ video is not re-uploaded on their platforms till further orders. The court passed an ex-parte ad-interim order and listed the matter for further hearing on July 9." Notice of the petition no.1 to 7, to be served through ordinary post and electronic mode, returnable for the next date of hearing. The order be communicated within 48 hours to the respondent (s)," the bench said. In his petition, Singh claimed that when Arvind Kejriwal was produced before a trial court on March 28 after his arrest in the Delhi excise policy case, he chose to address the court in-person, and the video recording of the proceedings was posted on social media platforms which is prohibited under the High Court of Delhi Rules for Video Conferencing for Courts, 2021. According to the Rules, there shall be no unauthorised recording of the proceedings by any person or entity. The video was allegedly re-posted by Sunita Kejriwal and the others.

MCD Education Department opens bank accounts of 89 per cent school students



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is fully committed to provide every facility to students studying in its schools. Working in this direction, MCD's education department has opened a bank account of 89 per cent students studying in its schools, officials said here on Saturday. Giving details, they said after opening the bank accounts of students it will be easier to send amounts of various heads directly into their account through DBT. Due to persistent efforts of MCD more and more students are opening their bank account. Municipal Corporation of Delhi is continuously working in the direction of opening of students bank accounts and hopefully bank accounts of 100 % students will be opened after opening of schools after summer vacations.

Metro timings of last, first Yellow Line trains on Sunday, Monday to change for work, says DMRC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

There will be some changes in the last and first train timings on Sunday and Monday respectively in view of the ongoing work on a 490-metre section of Janakpuri West to R K Ashram corridor of Phase-IV of Delhi Metro's Yellow Line. The alignment in the stretch, which crosses over Haiderpur Badli Mor Metro station, is adjacent to the existing operational Yellow Line and is critical as the corridor reaches a height of about 28.36 metre, the highest rail level ever of the Delhi Metro in the entire network, Delhi Metro officials said. Delhi Metro's principal exec-



utive director corporate communications, Anuj Dayal, said on Sunday, the last train will depart at 10:45 pm instead of 11 pm from Samaypur Badli to Millennium City Centre Gurugram and at 9:30 pm instead of 11 pm from Millennium City Centre Gurugram to Samaypur Badli. On Monday, the first train service will start at 7 am instead of 6 am from Samaypur Badli to

Millennium City Centre Gurugram. There will be no train services available between the small section of Samaypur Badli and Jahangirpuri after 11 pm on Sunday and before 7 am on Monday, he said. However, normal train services will continue to remain available on remaining major section of Yellow Line from Jahangirpuri to Millennium City Centre Gurugram during

this period, Dayal said. To avoid any inconvenience to the passengers during these late night and early morning hours on non-working days of Sunday and Monday, announcements will also be made at the stations and inside the trains on Yellow Line about the destination of trains and respective platforms for change over during this period, he said. The Delhi Metro always gives top priority to passenger convenience whenever such challenging engineering works, requiring passing over or under already-operational corridors, are scheduled, Dayal said. The work sequence is meticulously planned and special-

ly taken up during night only in a very limited window of few hours when passenger services are almost over. It is finished by the time passenger services are scheduled to commence the next day, he stated. The construction work on this Phase IV section can only be done during night time shutdowns between Samaypur Badli and Jahangirpuri section of the operational Yellow Line. The same revision of timings may be required over the coming weekend too in order to finish off the remaining work as the DMRC avoids taking up such works during weekdays for larger passenger convenience, he added.

Heatwave conditions prevail in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital sizzled as South Delhi's Aya nagar area recorded maximum temperature at 46 degrees Celsius on Saturday amid heatwave conditions prevailing in most places in the city and severe heatwave conditions in isolated parts with strong surface winds. Safdarjung weather station, considered as a parameter for the whole of Delhi, recorded a maximum temperature of 44.6 degrees Celsius, six notches above the season's average. The minimum temperature settled at 32.4 degrees Celsius, five degrees above the normal. The maximum humidity level recorded was 43 per cent while the minimum was 22 per cent. As per India Meteorological Department (IMD), the heat



index or feel like temperature stood at 45.6 degrees Celsius in the city while many people shared that the temperature felt like 48 degrees or above. Other stations also recorded temperatures that hovered around 45 degrees Celsius. Palam recorded a maximum temperature of 45 degrees Celsius, Lodhi road 44.7 degrees Celsius, and Ridge

45.4 degrees Celsius. Temperatures for the rest of the weather stations, including Narela and Najafgarh which have been recording highest temperatures in the city, were not available in the regional met websites. Mungeshpur and Delhi University's temperature have not been published on the IMD website for more than two weeks.

Modi returns to Delhi after presenting India's vision at G7

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to New Delhi on Saturday after concluding his day-long visit to Italy.

Session at the G7 Summit in Apulia, Italy on Friday, Modi elaborated on India's energy transition pathway noting that its approach was based on availability, accessibility, affordability and acceptability.



Both leaders look forward to joint activities to be implemented under the Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative framework to fulfil their shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

India, the United States and Europe to ensure integration among Asia, the Middle East and the West.

The two leaders noted with satisfaction the regular higher political dialogue and reviewed the progress of the India-Italy Strategic Partnership.

The MEA said the two sides discussed bilateral defence and security cooperation and hoped to further enhance the defence-industrial collaboration.

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The G7 Summit to be concluded on Saturday was hosted under the presidency of Italy and attended by the Group of Seven Industrialised nations - the US, UK, Japan, Canada, Germany and France, and the European Union.

advance ties in infrastructure and cultural linkages," he said. In a readout of the meeting, MEA said the Prime Minister thanked the Japanese counterpart for his congratulatory wishes on his re-election and affirmed that bilateral ties will continue to receive priority in his third term.

Shah to take stock of security situation in JK after terror attacks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will take stock of the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday in the wake of the recent terror attacks there and is expected to give broad guidelines to intensify counter-terror operations.

terror incidents, including an attack on a bus carrying pilgrims.



Jammu and Kashmir, the deployment of forces along the International Border and Line of Control, infiltration attempts, the status of ongoing anti-terror operations and the strength of terrorists operating in the Union Territory, sources said.

encounter with security forces in Kathua district and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

On Friday, the home minister was briefed by the officials of the ministry, Intelligence Bureau and other security agencies about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the steps taken following the terror incidents, sources said.



Govt's responsibility to ensure that competition among corporates not stifled: Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday said it is the Government's responsibility to ensure that

competition among corporates is not stifled, oligopolies or monopolies do not emerge and corporate takeovers are free and fair.

It is also the government's responsibility to ensure that undue advantage arising out of access to political power is not exercised, party general secretary Jairam Ramesh said.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (EAP) ARR&TI COMPLEX: FATASIL AMBARI: GUWAHATI-25, Email: as-ce.asbp@assam.gov.in

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (Consulting Services-Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS-Time Based) INDIA: ASSAM RESILIENT RURAL BRIDGE PROGRAM (ARRBP) Project ID: IBRD Loan No. 9632-IN

CAPITAL CGHS LTD. Plot No.03, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-110096 Mob. 9811663789

PROVISION OF RUB AT KATHIAR DIVISION E-tender Notice No. KIR/GSU/11 of 2024 Dated: 13-06-2024.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

LOST & FOUND I, Raman Kumar S/o Late Shri L.P. Shrivastava, R/o 57-A, Leiah CGHS, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-110096, have lost Possession Letter, Ref.No.LGH/91-92/505 dated 08.10.1991 issued in the name of my father Shri L.P. Shrivastava. Contact: 9213349324.

CHANGE OF NAME I, Shiv Pujan, S/o, Mishri Lal Verma, F-40, KH-748, Swami Shradhanand Park Bhalswadiya Delhi 42, have changed my name to Shiv Pujan Verma.

LOST & FOUND I, BAL KISHAN alias BAL KISHAN KUKREJA S/O Late Sh. Giridhar Lal Kukreja R/O C-62, Dayanand Colony, Lalpata Nagar-I, New Delhi-110024 and others have lost our original Lease Deed and Conveyance Deed both dated 29.11.1968 duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, New Delhi pertaining to property No. C-62, Dayanand Colony, Lalpata Nagar-I, New Delhi-110024, measuring 100 sq. yards, on 10.06.2024 in the area of Dayanand Colony, Lalpata Nagar-I, New Delhi in this regard we have lodged a NCR with P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi, vide LR No. 1804634/2024, dated 10.06.2024. Founder May Contact Mobile No. 9810617500

PUBLIC NOTICE It is hereby informed to general public by Surbhi Hospital Sector-35, Noida (B744002892) that all documents pertaining to patient care before 31st March 2019 are going to be destroyed by shredder on 31/07/2024, any claimant after that shall not be able to get any documents pertaining to Hospital care. Hospital will in no way be responsible for any eventuality.

By Order Medical Superintendent Surbhi Hospital Pvt. Ltd. Noida, U.P.

PUBLIC NOTICE General Public is hereby informed that the Unit/ Flat No.1407, (having a total area of 1450 Sq. Ft.), in the Project SG Homes, Sector-3, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, allotted jointly to Mr. Praveish Kumar Sinha & Mrs. Aruna Sinha, both R/o House No.40/44, Sector-16, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, allotted vide Builder Buyer Agreement Dt.19.09.2013, was cancelled by the Promoter Company (M/s SG Estates Pvt. Ltd.) on 06.03.2019, on account of continuous default in payment of the agreed price of the unit, despite several opportunities and repeated reminders and communication sent to the above-said persons. Therefore Mr. Praveish Kumar Sinha & Mrs. Aruna Sinha, persons above-named ceased to have any right, title or interest on the abovementioned Unit/ Flat No.1407, SG Homes, Sector-3, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad. It is again informed to Mr. Praveish Kumar Sinha & Mrs. Aruna Sinha, both R/o House No.40/44, Sector-16, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad (as per address available with the Company) that the amount paid is lying in the account of the company and they may approach to the company for refund, which shall be refunded subject to deductions and compliances as per terms of the booking.

Rajnish Kumar SG Estates Pvt. Ltd. Email ID: info@sgestates.in GF03, Uppal Plaza, M-6, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi-110025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI PROCLAMATION OF SALE Execution Petition No. 1 of 2023 (Arising out of Judgment/Final Decree dated 20/02/2023 passed in CS(05) No. 1214/2014)

Deepak Chawla Vs. Judgment Debtor The General Public Whereas the above noted execution petition has been filed by the applicant Deceased Holder for realization of the Judgment/Final Decree dated 20/02/2023 passed in CS(05) No. 1214/2014 for recovery of amount and whereas this Court has ordered to sell the property bearing No. E-84, G.K. Enclave, Part-I, New Delhi-110024, measuring 100 sq. yards, on 10.06.2024 in the area of Dayanand Colony, Lalpata Nagar-I, New Delhi in this regard we have lodged a NCR with P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi, vide LR No. 1804634/2024, dated 10.06.2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is hereby informed to general public by Surbhi Hospital Sector-35, Noida (B744002892) that all documents pertaining to patient care before 31st March 2019 are going to be destroyed by shredder on 31/07/2024, any claimant after that shall not be able to get any documents pertaining to Hospital care. Hospital will in no way be responsible for any eventuality.

CONDITIONS OF SALE The sale of property shall be subject to usual terms and conditions mentioned in relevant rules of Order XXI, including the sale to be made in the name of the Auctioneer, Delhi High Court, the Auctioneer, Mr. Yudvir Singh Chauhan, Advocate (Mobile: 9810153709, Email: yudvir_singh@rediffmail.com, Address: Chamber No. 276, Block-II, Delhi High Court, New Delhi-110003) on 12, 13 July, 2024 between 02.00 PM to 05.00 PM.

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR (D) for REGISTRAR GENERAL

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given to public at large that my client SH. ASHOK KUMAR S/O SH. SOM NATH LUDHU alias ASHOK KUMAR BHATTI R/O PLOT NO.166-B, VIPIN GARDEN, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059 is the owner of PROPERTY BEARING PLOT NO. 188-B, AREA MEASURING 75 SQ. YDS., KHARSA NO. 157, SITUATED AT VILLAGE NAWADA, VIPIN GARDEN, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059

PUBLIC NOTICE I, Amit Anand Advocate acting on behalf of my client Mrs. Puspita Bhasin, W/o Late Shiv Kumar Bhasin, R/o D-1101, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110024. That my client is a national resident of this country. That my client is very distressed and anguished about continued misbehavior and irresponsible conduct of her son and his children. He has mentally, emotionally and financially tormented my client for many years and shown complete disregard and disrespect towards my client. My clients son namely Neelesh Bhasin was beyond her control and supervision so my client is severing all relations with her above named son and decided to give a public notice to disown her son Mr. Neelesh Bhasin (Divorced from his wife Sumana Bhasin) along with his children namely Pranav Bhasin and Vishnu Bhasin from ALL her movable and immovable assets, financial belongings and inheritance absolutely and forever hereafter. And whatsoever deals with him, will be doing so at his/her own risk and responsibility. My client and her family shall not be liable for any act of the above-named son and grandchildren.

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT E-Procurement Tender Notice No: TMC/UTV/AMC/2024-25; dated: 12.06.2024. Tender through E-Procurement System are invited by the undersigned for the following Work: Annual Maintenance Contract for repairing, maintenance, servicing and spare parts requirement of 9 no. UV/UV machines for the period of 1 year.

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT E-Procurement Tender Notice No: TMC/UTV/AMC/2024-25; dated: 12.06.2024. Tender through E-Procurement System are invited by the undersigned for the following Work: Annual Maintenance Contract for repairing, maintenance, servicing and spare parts requirement of 9 no. UV/UV machines for the period of 1 year.

Zelenskyy eyes 'history being made' at Swiss-hosted Ukraine peace meet

AP ■ OBBERGEN (SWITZERLAND)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Saturday predicted "history being made" at the Swiss-hosted conference which aims to plot out the first steps toward peace in Ukraine even though experts and critics say little substance or few big breakthroughs are expected because Russia is not attending. The presidents of Ecuador, Ivory Coast, Kenya and Somalia joined dozens of Western heads of state and government and other leaders and high-level envoys at the meeting, in hopes that Russia — which is waging war on Ukraine — could join in one day. In a brief statement to reporters alongside Swiss President Viola Amherd, Zelenskyy already sought to cast the gathering as a success, saying: "We have succeeded in bringing back to the world the idea that joint efforts

can stop war and establish a just peace." "I believe that we will witness history being made here at the summit," he said. Swiss officials hosting the conference say more than 50 heads of state and government will join the gathering at the Burgenstock resort overlooking Lake Lucerne. Some 100 delegations including European bodies and the United Nations will be on hand. Who will show up — and who will not — has become one of the key stakes of a meeting that critics say will be useless without the presence of Russian President Vladimir Putin's government, which invaded Ukraine in February 2022 and is pushing ahead with the war. As US Vice President Kamala Harris arrived at the venue, shuttle buses rumbled up a mountain road that snaked up to the site — at times with traffic jams — with police along the route checking journalists' IDs and helicopters ferry-

ing in VIPs buzzed overhead. Meanwhile, Turkiye and Saudi Arabia have dispatched their foreign ministers while key developing countries like Brazil, an observer at the event, India and South Africa will be represented at lower levels. China, which backs Russia, is joining scores of countries that are sitting out the conference, many of whom have more pressing issues than the bloodiest conflict in far-away Europe since World War II. Beijing says any peace process needs to have the participation of both Russia and Ukraine, and has floated its own ideas for peace. Last month, China and Brazil agreed to six "common understandings" on a political settlement of the Ukraine crisis, asking other countries to endorse them and play a role in promoting peace talks. The six points include an agreement to "support an international peace confer-

ence held at a proper time that is recognised by both Russia and Ukraine, with equal participation of all parties as well as fair discussion of all peace plans." Zelenskyy has recently led a diplomatic push to draw in participants to the Swiss summit. Russian troops who now control nearly a quarter of Ukrainian land in the east and south have made some territorial gains in recent months. When talk of a Swiss-hosted peace initiative began last summer, Ukrainian forces had recently regained large swaths of territory, notably near the cities of southern Kherson and northern Kharkiv. Against the battlefield backdrop and diplomatic strategising, summit organisers have presented three agenda items: nuclear safety, such as at the Russia-controlled Zaporizhzhia power plant; humanitarian assistance and exchange of prisoners of war;

and global food security — which has been disrupted at times due to impeded shipments through the Black Sea. That to-do list, encapsulating some of the least controversial issues, is well short of proposals and hopes laid out by Zelenskyy in a 10-point peace formula in late 2022. The plan includes ambitious calls, including the withdrawal of Russian troops from occupied Ukrainian territory, the cessation of hostilities and restoring Ukraine's state borders with Russia, including Crimea. Putin's government, meanwhile, wants any peace deal to be built around a draft agreement negotiated in the early phases of the war that included provisions for Ukraine's neutral status and limits on its armed forces, while delaying talks about Russia-occupied areas. Ukraine's push over the years to join the NATO military alliance has rankled Moscow.

US military targets Houthi radar sites in Yemen

AP ■ DUBAI

The United States military unleashed a wave of attacks targeting radar sites operated by Yemen's Houthi rebels over their assaults on shipping in the crucial Red Sea corridor, authorities said Saturday, after one merchant sailor went missing following an earlier Houthi strike on a ship. The attacks come as the US Navy faces the most intense combat it has seen since World War II in trying to counter the Houthi campaign — attacks the rebels say are meant to halt the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. However, the Iranian-backed rebel assaults often see the Houthi target ships and sailors who have nothing to do with the war while traffic remains halved through a corridor vital for cargo and energy shipments between Asia, Europe and the Mideast. US strikes destroyed seven radars within Houthi-controlled territory, the military's Central Command said. It did

not elaborate on how the sites were destroyed and did not immediately respond to questions from The Associated Press. "These radars allow the Houthis to target maritime vessels and endanger commercial shipping," Central Command said in a statement. The US separately destroyed two bomb-laden drone boats in the Red Sea, as well as a drone launched by the Houthis over the waterway, it said. The Houthis, who have held Yemen's capital, Sanaa, since 2014, did not acknowledge the strikes, nor any military losses. That's been typical since the US began launching airstrikes targeting the rebels. Meanwhile, Central Command said one commercial sailor from the Liberian-flagged, Greek-owned bulk cargo carrier Tutor remained missing after an attack Wednesday by the Houthis that used a bomb-carrying drone boat to strike the vessel. "The crew abandoned ship

and were rescued by USS Philippine Sea and partner forces," Central Command said. The "Tutor remains in the Red Sea and is slowly taking on water." The missing sailor is Filipino, according to the state-run Philippine News Agency, which cited Migrant Workers Secretary Hans Leo Cadac. He said most of the Tutor's 22 mariners were from the Philippines. "We're trying to account for the particular seafarer in the ship and are praying that we could find him," he reportedly said Friday night. The Houthis have launched more than 50 attacks on shipping, killed three sailors, seized one vessel and sunk another since November, according to the US Maritime Administration. A US-led airstrike campaign has targeted the Houthis since January, with a series of strikes May 30 killing at least 16 people and wounding 42 others, the rebels say.

Iran swaps EU diplomat, another man for Sweden freeing Iranian convict

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran and Sweden carried out a prisoner swap on Saturday that saw Tehran release a European Union diplomat and another man for an Iranian convicted in Stockholm of committing war crimes over his part in 1988 mass executions in the Islamic Republic. The arrest of Hamid Nouri by Sweden in 2019 as he travelled there as a tourist likely sparked the detentions of the two Swedes, part of a long-running strategy by Iran since its 1979 Islamic Revolution to use those with ties abroad as chip in negotiations with the West. As Iranian state television claimed without evidence that Nouri had been "illegally detained," Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson described the detentions of diplomat Johan Floderus and Saeed Azizi as a "hell on earth" the two men faced. "Iran has made these Swedes

pawns in a cynical negotiation game with the aim of getting the Iranian citizen Hamid Nouri released from Sweden," Kristersson said. "It has been clear all along that this operation would require difficult decisions, now the government has made those decisions." Oman, a sultanate on the eastern edge of the Arabian Peninsula, mediated the release, its state-run news agency reported. Oman long has served as an interlocutor between Iran and the West. In 2022, the Stockholm District Court sentenced Nouri to life in prison over his role in the executions. It identified him as an assistant to the deputy prosecutor at the Gohardasht prison outside the Iranian city of Karaj. The 1988 mass executions came at the end of Iran's long war with Iraq. After Iran's then-Supreme Leader Ruhollah Khomeini accepted a United Nations-brokered cease-fire,

members of the Iranian opposition group Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, heavily armed by Saddam Hussein, stormed across the Iranian border in a surprise attack. Iran ultimately blunted their assault, but the attack set the stage for the sham retrials of political prisoners, militants and others that would become known as "death commissions." International rights groups estimate that as many as 5,000 people were executed. Iran has never fully acknowledged the executions, apparently carried out on Khomeini's orders, though some argue that other top officials were effectively in charge in the months before his 1989 death. Late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, killed in a helicopter crash in May, also was involved in the mass executions. Floderus' family said he was arrested in April 2022 at the Tehran airport while returning from a vacation with friends.

Floderus had been held for months before his family and others went public with his detention. Azizi's case was not as prominent as Floderus'. In February, the group Human Rights Activists in Iran reported that the dual Iranian-Swedish national had been sentenced to five years in prison by Tehran's Revolutionary Court on charges of "assembly and collusion against national security." The group said Azizi has cancer. The EU's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, praised the release of the two men. "Other EU citizens are still arbitrarily detained in Iran," he wrote on the social platform X. "We'll continue to work for their freedom together" with other EU states. Iran long has contended it doesn't hold prisoners to use in negotiations, despite years and multiple swaps with the US and other nations showing otherwise.

Cyril Ramaphosa re-elected South African president

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has been reelected by lawmakers for a second term after his African National Congress and the Democratic Alliance struck a historic deal to form a coalition government by setting aside their rivalry. Ramaphosa's ANC lost its parliamentary majority for the first time in 30 years in last month's elections. It got 40 per cent of the vote, while the Democratic Alliance (DA) came second with 22 per cent. The new government of national unity combines Ramaphosa's ANC, the centre-right DA and smaller parties. Ramaphosa, 71, easily won the late Friday vote against Julius Malema, leader of the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF). Ramaphosa got 283 votes and Malema just 44. Parliament earlier in the day also elected Thoko Didiza of

the ANC as Speaker and Anelie Lotriet of the DA as Deputy Speaker. Ramaphosa is expected to announce his new Cabinet after his inauguration on Wednesday. In his victory speech, Ramaphosa hailed the new coalition, and said voters expected the leaders to "act and to work together for the good of everyone in our country". His election, which ended days of speculation, came close to midnight on Friday with last-minute inter-party discussions to establish a government of national unity (GNU). The Parliament session witnessed frequent interruptions and long voting processes. The ANC teamed up with the largely-white DA, and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), which came fifth, as well as the minority party Patriotic Front (PF), drawing mixed reactions from both members of their respective parties and citizens.

Some welcomed the alliance as a new era in South African politics which would send a strong message of reconciliation and bolster the ailing economy, especially after Mkhonto we Sizwe (MK) - the new party started by ousted former president Jacob Zuma - and the EFF, which came fourth, refused to work with the DA. Others said the ANC had sold out the citizens of the country by partnering with the DA, which had been the official opposition and opposed several ANC policies since the latter first came to power under Nelson Mandela in 1994. The GNU partners however were unanimous that the coalition was in the interests of the people of South Africa. "We were voted for by six million people who want us to continue the transformational agenda to changing the lives of the people for the better," ANC Secretary General Fikile Mbalula said at a media confer-

ence as the voting inside Parliament continued. He conceded that the ANC could not do it alone. "We are in no position to govern this country alone. We need to work with others," Mbalula said. DA leader John Steenhuisen was also buoyant. "The statement that emerges from the past two weeks of intense but very mature negotiations charts a new course for our nation. "At the heart of this statement is a shared respect in defence of our Constitution and the rule of law, including the Bill of Rights, in its entirety," Steenhuisen said. IFP spokesperson Inkosi Mzamo Buthelezi said the party had agreed to vote for the candidates proposed by the ANC. "As leaders, the people of this country entrusted us and it is up to the 400-member who are in the house to decide as to how they take the country forward," Buthelezi said.

Indian-origin manager wanted in Canada's largest gold heist to turn himself in

PTI ■ OTTAWA

A 31-year-old Indian-origin former Air Canada manager wanted in connection with Canada's largest gold and cash heist worth CAD 22.5 million is preparing to surrender in the next few weeks, his lawyer has said, according to a report on Saturday. Simran Preet Panesar, wanted in the brazen multimillion-dollar gold heist at Toronto's Pearson International Airport last year, is "very confident in the Canadian justice system," his lawyer, Greg Lafontaine said in a statement to Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) News. "When this prosecution is over, he will have been absolved of any wrongdoing," the report quoted him as saying. On April 17, 2023, an air cargo container carrying more than 22 million Canadian dollars worth of gold bars and foreign currency was stolen from a secure storage facility using

fake paperwork, according to the police. The gold and currency had arrived on an Air Canada flight from Zurich, Switzerland, to Pearson International Airport in Toronto. Shortly after the flight's landing, the cargo was offloaded and transported to a separate location on airport property. It was reported missing to the police a day later. Police have arrested six people involved in the theft, including Indian-origin people. Canada-wide warrants were also issued for Panesar, from Brampton, who was also an Air Canada employee at the time of the theft. Lawyer Lafontaine said Panesar retained him as soon as he learned he was wanted on charges in Canada, according to the report. The lawyer then contacted police and the Crown prosecutor to tell them Panesar planned to return voluntarily to Canada in the next few weeks. "He is anxious to have an

opportunity to demonstrate his absolute innocence," Lafontaine was quoted as saying. He added that Panesar is "tidying up his affairs abroad in preparation for his return to Canada." The lawyer did not disclose Panesar's locations, citing safety concerns. On May 6, 2024, investigators arrested and charged Indian-origin Archit Grover at the airport in Toronto as he flew in from India, according to the police. The police issued a Canada-wide warrant against his arrest earlier in connection with the theft. In April, two persons of Indian origin — Parmal Sidhu, 54, and Amit Jalota, 40 — both from Ontario, were arrested in connection with the case along with Ahammad Chaudhary, 43, Ali Raza, 37, and Prasath Paramalingam, 35. Peel Regional Police has said it is "following all investigative leads" to find the remaining suspects.

Philippines seeks UN intervention in South China Sea dispute

AP ■ MANILA

The Philippines has asked a United Nations body to formally recognise the extent of its undersea continental seabed in the South China Sea, where it would have the exclusive right to exploit resources, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Saturday, in a move that rejects China's vast territorial claims to the region. The Philippine government submitted information to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf on the extent of its undersea shelf in the South China Sea, off western Palawan province, after more than a decade and a half of scientific research, the department said. China did not immediately comment but it will likely contest the Philippine move. The undersea region where the Philippines seeks to formally establish its sovereign rights under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, or UNCLOS, covers the Spratlys, a chain of islands, islets, reefs and atolls that has been fiercely contested over the years by China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan. Indonesia has also confronted Chinese coast guard and fishing fleets in the gas-rich Natuna sea in the fringes of the South China Sea. "Incidents in the waters tend to overshadow the importance of what lies beneath," Philippine Foreign Assistant Secretary Marshall Louis Alferez said.

All eyes on Kate as she returns to public view after cancer diagnosis

AP ■ LONDON

Britain put on a display of birthday pageantry Saturday for King Charles III, a military parade that marked the Princess of Wales' first public appearance since her cancer diagnosis early this year. The annual event was also a show of stability by the monarchy after months in which both the king and Kate, wife of heir to the throne Prince William, have been sidelined by cancer treatment. Kate joined other members of the royal family on a Buckingham Palace balcony at the end of the King's Birthday Parade. The family and crowds outside the palace watched a flyby of military aircraft to cap ceremonies marking the monarch's official birthday. Kate announced Friday that she would attend the royal birthday celebrations after making progress in her treatment. She disclosed in March that she was undergoing chemotherapy for an unspecified form of cancer. It was her first pub-

lic appearance since December. "I am making good progress, but as anyone going through chemotherapy will know, there are good days and bad days," Kate said in a statement, adding that she faces "a few more months" of treatment. The 42-year-old princess travelled in horse-drawn carriage from Buckingham Palace down the grand avenue known as the Mall with her children George, 10, Charlotte, 9, and 6-year-old Louis. Bystanders cheered as they caught a glimpse of Kate, dressed in a white dress by designer Jenny Packham and wide-brimmed Philip Treacy hat. She watched the ceremony with the children from the window of a building overlooking Horse Guards Parade, a ceremonial parade ground in central London. Louis yawned broadly at one point in proceedings but mostly watched intently. Kate said in her statement that she is "not out of the woods yet" and officials stress that Saturday's engagement does not herald a full return to public life. Huge crowds turn out

each June to watch the parade, also known as Trooping the Color, which begins with a procession involving horses, musicians and hundreds of soldiers in ceremonial uniform from Buckingham Palace. Prince William, in military dress uniform, rode on horseback for the ceremony, in which troops in ceremonial finery parade past the king with their regimental flag, or "colour." The display of precision marching and martial music stems from the days when a regiment's flag was an essential rallying point in the fog of battle. Charles, who also is being treated for an undisclosed form of cancer, travelled in a carriage with Queen Camilla, rather than on horseback as he did last year. The king inspected the troops from a dais on the parade ground, saluting as elite regiments of Foot Guards marched past. Five regiments take it in turns to parade their colour, and this year it was the turn of a company of the Irish Guards, which has Kate as its honorary colonel.

Muslim pilgrims converge at Mount Arafat for daylong worship

AP ■ MOUNT ARAFAT (SAUDI ARABIA)

Following the footsteps of prophets beneath a burning sun, Muslims from around the world congregated Saturday at a sacred hill in Saudi Arabia for intense, daylong worship and reflection. The ritual at Mount Arafat, known as the hill of mercy, is considered the peak of the Hajj pilgrimage. It is often the most memorable for pilgrims, who stand shoulder to shoulder, feet to feet, asking God for mercy, blessings, prosperity and good health. The mount is about 20 kilometres southeast of Mecca. Thousands of pilgrims walked to the mount through the predawn darkness. On the slopes of the rocky hill and the

surrounding area, many raised their hands in worship with tears streaming down their faces. "For sure it is something great. It is the best day for Muslims during the year, and the best feeling that anyone can experience," Hussein Mohammed, an Egyptian pilgrim, said as he stood on the rocky slopes at dawn. "It is the best place for anyone hoping to be (here) on this day and at this moment." It's believed that Prophet Muhammad delivered his final speech, known as the Farewell Sermon, at the sacred mount 1,435 years ago. In the sermon, the prophet called for equality and unity among Muslims. Ali Osman, a Spaniard pilgrim, was overwhelmed, as he stepped down the hill of mercy. He said he felt that he gained

spiritual and physical strength at the sacred site. "The place, thank God, (gives) very good energy," he said. "I came here, thank God. It is my first time. I hope to come again in the future." Hajj is one of the largest religious gatherings on earth. The rituals officially started Friday when pilgrims moved from Mecca's Grand Mosque to Mina, a desert plain just outside the city. Saudi authorities expect the number of pilgrims this year to exceed 2 million, approaching pre-coronavirus pandemic levels. The pilgrimage is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. All Muslims are required to make the five-day Hajj at least once in their lives if they are physically and financially able to



make the demanding pilgrimage. The rituals largely commemorate the Quran's accounts of Prophet Ibrahim, his son Prophet Ismail and Ismail's mother Hajar — or Abraham and Ismael as they are named in the Bible. This year's Hajj came against the backdrop of the raging war in the Gaza Strip between Israel and Hamas, which pushed the Middle East to the brink of a regional war between Israel and its allies on one side and Iran-backed militant groups on the other. Palestinians in the coastal enclave of Gaza were not able to travel to Mecca for Hajj this year because of the closure of the Rafah crossing in May, when Israel extended its ground offensive to the strip's

southern city of Rafah on the border with Egypt. Staving off potential protests or chants about the war during the Hajj, Saudi authorities said they won't tolerate politicising the pilgrimage. Col. Talal Al-Shalhoub, a spokesperson for the Interior Ministry, told reporters Friday evening that the Saudi government "will not allow any attempt to turn the sacred sites (in Mecca) into an arena for mob chanting." The time of year when the Hajj takes place varies, given that it is set for five days in the second week of Dhu al-Hijjah, the last month in the Islamic lunar calendar. Most of the Hajj rituals are held outdoors with little if any shade. When it falls in the summer months, temperatures can

soar to over 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit). The Health Ministry has cautioned that temperatures at the holy sites could reach 48 C (118 F) and urged pilgrims to use umbrellas and drink more water to stay hydrated.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE No. EM/WS/TECH-07/2024/834 Date: 10.06.2024 Name of the work: "Mechanized Dust Suppression System on roads from Gate No.1 to Gate No.11 inside Port Prohibited Area". Estimated cost: Rs. 9,03,95,324/- excluding GST. Last date & time of submission of bid: dt. 15.07.2024 up to 1800 Hrs. Refer our Website for details: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Sd/- Executive Engineer (M) Workshop Division-I, Paradip Port Authority PPA/PR/15/2024-2025 dtd. 12.06.2024

Modi to release ₹20,000 crore for farmers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit his parliamentary constituency Varanasi on June 18 for the first time after assuming office for a third consecutive term, during which he will release the 17th installment of PM-KISAN scheme amounting to over Rs 20,000 crore for 9.26 crore beneficiary farmers across the country. Modi will also confer certificates to more than 30,000 members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) who have been trained as 'Krishi Sakhis' to work as para-extension workers, supporting fellow farmers with agricultural practices. Briefing the media, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan highlighted the government's commitment to the agriculture sector. "Agriculture has always been a priority for the PM in his last two tenures. He took several key decisions in the interest of farmers. After taking oath as PM, Modi ji first signed a file related to the release of the 17th installment of the PM-KISAN scheme," Chouhan said. Launched in 2019, PM-KISAN is a direct benefit transfer (DBT) initiative under which beneficiary



farmers receive an annual sum of Rs 6,000 in three equal installments to supplement their financial needs. Chouhan noted that the Centre has disbursed over Rs 3.04 lakh crore to more than 11 crore farmers across the country since the scheme's inception. Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and various state ministers are expected to attend the event in Varanasi. The agriculture minister also shed light on the Krishi Sakhi scheme, a collaborative effort with the rural development ministry. The scheme aims to train 90,000 women from SHGs as

Petrol, diesel to get costlier in Karnataka as Govt hikes sales tax on fuel



PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka government on Saturday hiked sales tax on fuel which will make petrol and diesel costlier. According to official sources, petrol will now go up by Rs 3 and diesel by Rs 3.5 per litre. In a notification issued by the Finance Department, the government has hiked sales tax on petrol by 3.92 percentage points, from 25.92 to 29.84 per cent. On diesel, the hike is 4.1 percentage points, from 14.34 to 18.44 per cent. This notification shall come into force with immediate effect, it said. The decision comes days after the Lok Sabha poll results, in which NDA got 19 out of 28 seats in Karnataka, with BJP winning 17 and JD(S) with 2. The ruling Congress in the state has won nine seats. The move, aimed at resource mobilisation, comes after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is also the finance minister, reviewed the state's revenue generation and fiscal position. During the meeting, the CM asked officials to work harder towards meeting revenue collection targets.

Godavari Biorefineries files IPO papers; eyes ₹325 crore via fresh issue

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ethanol and bio-based chemicals maker Godavari Biorefineries Ltd on Saturday filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The proposed initial share-sale is a combination of fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 325 crore and an Offer-for-Sale (OFS) of 65.27 lakh equity shares by promoters

and an investor according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). Private equity firm Mandala Capital AG Ltd is offloading 49.27 lakh shares through the OFS route. Proceeds from the fresh issue to the tune of Rs 240 crore will be used for debt payment and the remaining amount for general corporate purposes. The Maharashtra-based Godavari Biorefineries is one of the prominent

manufacturers of ethanol-based chemicals in India. The company's diversified product portfolio comprises bio-based chemicals, sugar, different grades of ethanol and power. These products find application in a range of industries such as food, beverages, pharmaceuticals, flavours & fragrances, power, fuel, personal care and cosmetics. According to Frost & Sullivan Report, the bio-based chemicals market has

been growing exponentially owing to the increasing need for environmentally sustainable solutions. The market for bio-based chemicals in 2023 was valued at USD 97.2 billion, and is expected to be growing at a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 10.4 per cent, for the next five years from 2023 to 2028. SBI Capital Markets and Equirus Capital Markets are the book running lead managers of the public issue.



Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers Jagat Prakash Nadda chairs a review meeting with senior officials of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, in New Delhi, on Saturday. Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Anupriya Patel is also seen. PTI

Pakistan announces ₹10.20 reduction in petrol price ahead of Eid

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

In a major relief for inflation-hit masses in cash-strapped Pakistan, the government has slashed the prices of petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs 10.20 and Rs 2.33 per litre respectively ahead of the Eid ul Adha festival. The price cut, effective from Saturday, will bring the price of petrol to Rs 258.16 per litre while the price of HSD will be Rs 267.89 per litre, The Express Tribune newspaper quoted a statement from the Prime Minister's Office on Friday. The Finance Division, which usually reviews the fuel prices every 15 days, issued an official notification for the latest price cuts and said the new prices would be applicable for the next fortnight. The notification said that the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) had worked out the consumer prices, based on the price variations in the international market. The move to slash the prices of petroleum would benefit the Pakistani people who have been hit by double-digit inflation. Pakistan has been hit by inflation of above 20 per cent since May 2022 as the cash-strapped country navigated reforms as part of an International Monetary Fund bailout programme. However, annual inflation slowed for the fourth month to 17.3 per cent in April, the



lowest level in nearly two years and significantly less than the record 38 per cent recorded in May 2023, according to official data. "The prices of petroleum products have seen a mixed trend in the international market during the last fortnight," it said. On May 31, the government reduced the prices of petrol and HSD by Rs 4.74 per litre and Rs 3.86 respectively, Geo News reported. The fuel prices have been witnessing a downward trend and have been reduced thrice consecutively in the last one-and-a-half-month due to the reduction in global oil prices, it said. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced a significant reduction in electricity tariffs for industries cutting rates by Rs 10.69 per unit. The reduction, made on the recommendation of the National Electrical Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra), aims to boost exports and industrial production. PNS

Experts project telemedicine to reach USD 5.4 billion by 2025

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With healthcare becoming one of India's largest sectors, driven by expanded coverage, improved services, and increased investments from both public and private sectors, experts in the sector here projected telemedicine to reach USD 5.4 billion by 2025, with AI growing at a robust 45 per cent annually currently, creating substantial job opportunities in health tech sector. Yogesh Mudras, Managing Director of Informa Markets in India, highlighted the rapid growth and transformative potential of India's healthcare sector during the launch edition of mega India Health Expo here, He said, "India's Medical Device industry, currently valued at USD 11 billion, is growing at a

staggering CAGR of 18-20 per cent. At the forefront of this growth are initiatives like the PLI scheme and Atma Nirbhar Bharat, driving innovation and international collaborations." Organised by Informa Markets in India, the event brought together a multitude of industry stakeholders, spanning biomedical engineers, pathologists, radiologists, hospital consultants, medical device distributors, clinicians, procurement managers, R&D professionals, and regulatory representatives. The event was inaugurated in the presence of luminaries such as Istvan Szabo, Ambassador of Hungary, Jagnath Sami, High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji, Dr Girdhar Gyani, Director General of the Association of Healthcare Providers India, Siddhartha



Bhattacharya, Secretary General of the Healthcare Federation of India — NATHEALTH, Abhinav Thakur, MD, Accurex Biomedical, Peter Hall, President, Middle East, India, Turkey and Africa, Informa Markets. Dr Gyani said, "Healthcare is now a significant priority for the government. Currently, India has around 1.5 beds per

thousand population, but the aim is to reach 3 beds per thousand. This disparity in healthcare infrastructure across states presents a substantial investment opportunity. From 2014 to 2024, the number of MBBS seats has doubled from 50,000 to 100,000, indicating a growing influx of healthcare professionals. However, until the demand for postgraduate

doctors, nurses, and paramedics is met, healthcare technology and information technology will drive the sector. India remains a vast and promising market for healthcare advancements." Peter Hall, President, Middle East, India, Turkey and Africa, Informa Markets felt that with the rising disposable incomes and increased government expenditure worldwide, public health systems are enhancing their capabilities and infrastructure to develop robust healthcare risk management systems, pharmaceutical products, medical equipment and supplies, and hospital services. "Additionally, with the global population aged 65 years and above expected to increase by 16% by 2050, there is a pressing need to enhance well-being and extend human longevity." While Istvan Szabo,

Ambassador of Hungary, Delhi, gave insight into his country's healthcare sector, exporting 80-90 per cent of its production, making Hungary the 20th largest pharmaceutical exporter globally. At the India Health exhibition, 4 Hungarian companies, specializing in diagnostics, oncology, nuclear medicine, and incubator manufacturing, showcase their solutions for the Indian market. At the same time, Abhinav Thakur, MD, Accurex Biomedical and Former Secretary for the Association of Diagnostic Manufacturers of India (ADMI), said "In Vitro diagnostics industry is a USD 80 billion global market, with India contributing USD1.5 billion, making it the fourth largest in Asia after Japan, China, and South Korea."

Essar sees growth potential for its IT firm Black Box amid AI boom, says Prashant Ruia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Essar Group sees huge growth potential in its IT firm Black Box with boom in artificial intelligence (AI) technology driving demand for new data centres and managed services across the globe, a top official of the multinational conglomerate said. In an exclusive interview with PTI, Prashant Ruia, director of Essar Capital, which manages the group's portfolio of investment, expressed confidence in the sector. "This is a company which can see tremendous growth, because the kind of growth taking place in data centres and managed services globally is exponential," he said. Black Box, listed on the Indian stock exchanges, has

operations spread across 35 countries, but its major business comes from the US. "It's obviously listed in India, but its primary headquarters, main operations are in the US. We currently do about USD 800 million of revenue in Black Box... About 75 per cent of the market for us is the US. We have a very large operation headquartered in Dallas, we have close to 3,000 people," he said. More than USD 200 billion/year of data centres are getting built in America alone, he said. He attributed this to the growth of Artificial Intelligence, which has "dramatically" increased the requirements for computing power. "People are building massive data centres in the US to manage this requirement.



And that's a huge market opportunity. I think even in India, a very large number of data centres are coming up," he said. Ruia, however, noted that the company is not investing in data centres, but helping build and manage them. Black Box reported a multi-fold ascent to Rs 138 crore in its profits for FY24, while its revenue remained flat at Rs 6,282 crore.

Founded by brothers Shashi Ruia and Ravi Ruia in 1969, the Essar group, which once owned Hutchison Essar (now Vodafone-Idea), has no plans to re-enter the telecom market due to a lack of growth potential, said Ruia. The group ventured into the telecom space in 1995, with Essar Cellphone, and started GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) operations from Delhi in the

Hyundai Motor India files draft IPO papers with Sebi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HML), the Indian arm of South Korean automaker Hyundai, has filed preliminary papers with Sebi to launch an initial public offering (IPO). The company's IPO, if it goes through, would be the largest in India, surpassing LIC's share-sale of Rs 21,000 crore. The proposed IPO is entirely an offer for sale (OFS) of 142,194,700 equity shares by

Hyundai Motor Company, with no fresh issue component, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). In February this year, sources had confirmed that the parent, Hyundai Motor Company is looking to raise at least USD 3 billion (around Rs 25,000 crore) through an IPO. It may dilute 15-20 per cent stake in HML to raise funds, the sources added. Since the public issue is completely an OFS, Hyundai

PFC signs agreement with CVPPPL

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chenab Valley Power Project Private Limited (CVPPPL), a Joint Venture of NHPC LTD (51 per cent) and JKSPDC (49 per cent) has signed an Agreement with Power Finance Corporation Limited, (PFC) a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise and leading NBFC under the Ministry of Power, for Term Loan of Rs 1869.265 crore (rupees one thousand eight hundred sixty nine crore twenty six lakh fifty thousand only). With this agreement, the Financial Closure for Kiru HEP for Rs 3738.53 crore has been



achieved. As per the Agreement, the Loan will be used to Develop and Construct the Greenfield Kiru Hydro Electric Project (4x156 MW) on the River Chenab in the Kishtwar District of Jammu & Kashmir.

Godavari Biorefineries files IPO papers; eyes ₹325 crore via fresh issue

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ethanol and bio-based chemicals maker Godavari Biorefineries Ltd on Saturday filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The proposed initial share-sale is a combination of fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 325 crore and an Offer-for-Sale (OFS) of 65.27 lakh equity shares by promoters and an investor according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). Private equity firm Mandala Capital AG Ltd is offloading 49.27 lakh shares through the OFS route. Proceeds from the fresh issue to the tune of Rs 240 crore will be used for debt payment and the remaining amount for general corporate purposes. The Maharashtra-based Godavari Biorefineries is one of

the prominent manufacturers of ethanol-based chemicals in India. The company's diversified product portfolio comprises bio-based chemicals, sugar, different grades of ethanol and power. These products find application in a range of industries such as food, beverages, pharmaceuticals, flavours & fragrances, power, fuel, personal care and cosmetics. According to Frost & Sullivan Report, the bio-based chemicals market has been growing exponentially owing to the increasing need for environmentally sustainable solutions. The market for bio-based chemicals in 2023 was valued at USD 97.2 billion, and is expected to be growing at a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 10.4 per cent, for the next five years from 2023 to 2028.

been growing exponentially owing to the increasing need for environmentally sustainable solutions. The market for bio-based chemicals in 2023 was valued at USD 97.2 billion, and is expected to be growing at a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 10.4 per cent, for the next five years from 2023 to 2028. SBI Capital Markets and Equirus Capital Markets are the book running lead managers of the public issue.

HOST GERMANY KICKS OFF EURO 2024 BY OUTCLASSING 10 MEN SCOTLAND 5-1

AP ■ MUNICH
Host Germany opened the European Championship with a confidence-boosting 5-1 win over 10-man Scotland on Friday. Goals from Florian Wirtz and Jamal Musiala had Germany firmly in control within 20 minutes, and the duo - both 21 - also became their team's two youngest goal-scorers in Euro history. The first half ended in the worst possible way for Scotland when defender Ryan Porteous was sent off and Kai Havertz converted the resulting penalty kick. Substitute Niclas Füllkrug came off the bench to score Germany's fourth in the 68th, and Emre Can netted in stoppage time as the hosts recorded their largest margin of victory in a European Championship. Scotland, which hadn't had a shot on goal all match, managed to give its raucous fans something to cheer about moments earlier when the ball was bundled into the back of the net off Germany defender Antonio Rüdiger for an own goal. Steve Clarke's side will have to do better against Hungary and Switzerland if it is to get



out of Group A and reach the knockout stage for the first time. Germany, tied with Spain, is bidding for a record fourth European Championship title. Scotland's support, the Tartan Army, numbered in the thousands in Munich and started the match in fine voice but the travelling fans were swiftly quietened when Wirtz scored in the 10th. Toni Kroos picked out Joshua Kimmich with a brilliant crossfield lob and he rolled it across for Wirtz to fire in. Scotland goalkeeper Angus Gunn got a hand to it but could only push it against the post and the ball rolled over the line. Wirtz became Germany's youngest Euros goal-scorer. Musiala, 67 days older than Wirtz, doubled Germany's tally nine minutes later. Ilkay Gündogan threaded the ball to Havertz, who raced onto it into the penalty area and held it up before locating

Musiala in the middle of the box, where the midfielder blasted it into the back of the net. Right on halftime, Gunn only parried a header from Gündogan, but just when the captain appeared set to tuck home the rebound, he was upended by a thunderous challenge from Porteous. After reviewing the incident on the pitchside monitor, referee Clément Turpin showed Porteous a straight red card and awarded Germany a penalty, which Havertz converted. Scotland managed to limit the damage at the start of the second half but again came undone when an attempted exchange between Musiala and Gündogan fell kindly for Füllkrug. The substitute, who had come on only five minutes earlier, unleashed a thunderbolt into the top right corner. Germany had another goal disallowed before Scotland scored a late consolation when Kieran McKenna's header from a free kick went in off Rüdiger. Can, who was brought into the squad only two days ago as a late replacement for the ill Aleksandar Pavlovic, curled in the fifth for Germany in stoppage time.



Messi scores twice in return to Argentina lineup in 4-1 win over Guatemala

AP ■ LANDOVER (US)
Lionel Messi scored twice and assisted on another goal in his first international start since November and Argentina outclassed Guatemala 4-1 to complete its 2024 Copa America preparations. Messi went the full 90 minutes for manager Lionel Scaloni after playing 35 off the bench in a 1-0 win over fellow Copa America contenders Ecuador on Sunday in Chicago. He previously missed a pair of international friendlies in March with a hamstring issue that has also contributed to his half-dozen absences for Inter Miami in MLS play. But his sharp performance Friday - in which he also struck the woodwork with a free kick and contributed to a sequence leading to a penalty kick goal - should ease Argentine concerns ahead of next Thursday's group play opener against Canada in Atlanta. Lautaro Martinez also scored twice for the defending Copa America and World Cup champions against a Guatemala side that sits 108th in FIFA's world rankings. That included Argentina's goal from the penalty spot, a role Messi typically assumes during tournament play. Guatemala took a surprise lead in the fourth minute when Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez redirected a chance resulting from a free kick only as far as defender Lisandro Martinez, who inadvertently bundled the ball across the goal line. The lead lasted only eight minutes before Messi tied it when Guatemala goalkeeper Nicholas Hagen's errant pass found the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner directly in front of an open goal about 12 yards out. In the 38th minute, Messi's feed sprung Valentin Carboni into the right side of the penalty area, forcing Guatemala defender Nicolas Samayoa to haul down the winger with a sliding challenge that resulted in Lautaro Martinez's penalty. Martinez had his second in the 66th minute after Enzo Fernandez's ball over the top found Messi, who provided a perfect, one-time service back across goal. Messi finished the scoring in the 77th, chipping Hagen after playing a slick give-and-go with Angel di Maria.

Unsafe levels of E Coli found in Paris Seine River less than two months before Olympics

AP ■ PARIS
Water in the Seine River had unsafe elevated levels of E. Coli less than two months before swimming competitions are scheduled to take place in it during the Paris Olympics, according to test results published Friday. Contamination levels in the first eight days of June, after persistent heavy rain in Paris, showed bacteria such as E. Coli and enterococci beyond limits judged safe for athletes. The report was published by monitoring group Eau de Paris one day after a senior International Olympic Committee executive said there were "no reasons to doubt" races will go ahead as scheduled in a historic downtown stretch of the Seine near the Eiffel Tower. The first Olympic event in the cleaned-up Seine is men's triathlon, including a 1.5-kilometer (under 1 mile) swim, on the morning of July 30. The women's triathlon is the next day and a mixed relay event is on Aug. 5. Marathon swimming races over 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) for women and men are scheduled on Aug. 8 and 9, respectively, in waters that were historically polluted before a \$1.5 billion investment ahead of the Olympics. "We are confident that we will swim in the Seine this summer," IOC official Christophe Dubi said



Thursday at an online briefing after hearing an update Paris from city officials and Olympic organizers. Despite the IOC's publicly expressed confidence, the final decision on approving the events safe for athletes should rest with the governing bodies of individual sports, World Aquatics and World Triathlon. The safety of the Seine water for the Olympics has been in doubt since some test events scheduled last August were cancelled, also after unseasonal heavy rains. According to European standards, the safe limit for E. Coli is 900 colony-forming units per 100 milliliters. The World Triathlon Federation uses the same criteria to determine sufficient water quality for competitions. During the first eight days of June, test results showed that E. Coli levels frequently exceeded these thresholds. Enterococci levels were better, mostly staying within safe limits. The tests indicated an improvement, from high contamination levels on June 1 to more acceptable levels by June 9, mainly due to improved weather. Rainwater infiltrates the sewer system, and to prevent street flooding, the excess water, carrying fecal bacteria, is diverted into the Seine. To address this, a massive reservoir capable of storing 50,000 cubic meters of water during heavy rainfall was inaugurated in May. Water quality of rivers in major cities can be impacted by many things, from runoff to dumping of chemicals, sometimes illegally, and boat traffic. Earlier this week, Paris' mayor Anne Hidalgo doubled down on her promise to take a dip in the river before the start of the competition. On Tuesday, she confirmed that her swim was postponed until after the snap elections in France, which end on July 7.

Indian men archery team qualifies as top seed in Final Olympic Qualifier

PTI ■ ANTALYA (TURKEY)
Indian men's recurve archery team of Tarundeep Rai, Dhiraj Bommadevara and Pravin Jadhav entered the 24-team elimination round as the top seed in the Final Olympic Qualifier here on Saturday. The trio shot a total of 2018 points to claim the pole position in the leaderboard ahead of Chinese Taipei (2008) and Germany (1998). The top-24 made the cut for the elimination round which is a draw of 32. A total of 46 teams competed. By virtue of finishing on top, India got a bye into the last-16 where they will face 17th seed Luxembourg. The top-three ranked nations in the elimination round will get the Paris Olympic quota places in the men's recurve team event. India will get their individual quota upgraded to team quota should they finish in the top-three.



Dhiraj had bagged the individual quota earlier. Meanwhile, Indian women's recurve team of Deepika Kumari, Bhajan Kaur and Ankita Bhakat on Friday failed to get the quota after suffering a shock 3-5 loss to lower-ranked Ukraine in the pre-quarterfinals. The women's team can still qualify based on their rankings ahead of the Paris Olympics cut-off date.

England, Serbia Euro 2024 match is deemed high risk but messages mixed

AP ■ GELSENKIRCHEN (GERMANY)
Because England vs. Serbia has been tagged high risk by police, it's the only Euro 2024 game where fans in the Gelsenkirchen stadium are restricted to low alcohol beer. Yet, elsewhere in the city on Sunday, organizers are preparing for a festival atmosphere despite police concerns about potential crowd violence. "We've plenty of alcohol," Wilhelm Weßels, head of the city of Gelsenkirchen Euros office, said on Friday. To be precise, he said 80,000 liters of beer. If it sounds like the messages to fans in Gelsenkirchen are mixed, it is because they are. Being a host city for the European Championship is a big deal to Gelsenkirchen, and the fan zone and bunting set up in its center is ready to welcome an expected 20,000 England fans and around 10,000 from Serbia. But the potential for problems has been highlighted as the game has edged ever closer. "Between the police forces of the federal states, the national associations and UEFA as the organizer, we came to the conclusion that this match would be classified a so-called high-risk match," said Peter Both, chief police director of Gelsenkirchen.



For historical reasons, that tag doesn't surprise. English fans have a notorious reputation going back decades, while Serbian supporters caused a Euro 2012 qualifier against Italy to be called off when they threw flares and fireworks. The effectiveness of the low alcohol measure is questionable, given how readily available full-strength

beer will be outside of the stadium ahead of kickoff at 9 p.m. Local time. "If someone arrives so drunk that they are barely able to hold their ticket, I would expect them to be denied entry to the stadium," Both said. "I firmly believe that there is a connection between excessive alcohol consumption and the willingness to become violent. If that no longer exists, we will have to rewrite all the biology books on the subject." While alcohol has felt like the main topic of debate ahead of the match, Weßels was keen to point to other options available for fans, including 32,000 sausages and 7.

Brazil goes to Copa America sans Neymar

AP ■ SAO PAULO
Whatever Brazil does at the Copa America in the United States it will come as a surprise to many. Dorival Júnior, who took over as coach in January, has been in charge for only two friendlies and his squad for the South American soccer championship so far has provided little evidence of his plans. Added to that is the absence of aging superstar Neymar, now 32, who is out with an ACL injury. A few Brazil team traits have been easily recognizable over the last decades. Win or lose, there's often sharp dribblers up front, right and left backs that play from one end to the other, and strong defenders in place to score goals. Not this time. The one exception is Vinicius Júnior, one of the favorites for the Ballon d'Or after winning the Champions League with Real Madrid and scoring in the final against Borussia Dortmund. He will be Brazil's main star at the tournament from June 20 to July 15. Brazil watchers don't expect the Copa America to provide much evidence of what the

team will look like at the 2026 World Cup - and to most in the country, that is the only tournament that matters. But the continental tournament is likely to give the new coach a chance to test young talents like strikers Endrick, who will be wearing the team's historic No. 9, and Rodrigo as starters. "It is utopia to say we are not thinking about results," Júnior said last month, adding he has enough players to pick from despite the absences of Casemiro, Richarlison and recently injured goalkeeper Ederson. "It doesn't matter the age, the club, or anything else that is not each athlete's moment. We lost 14 players to injury in the previous call, some more after they came to us. Those who played gave a great response then." Brazil beat England 1-0 at Wembley Stadium in March, and a few days later drew 3-3 with Spain at the Santiago Bernabeu. Júnior's team looked quicker in transitions than the team assembled by predecessor Fernando Diniz throughout 2023. Still, those two matches did not give any hints about the team's future.



After upcoming friendlies against the United States and Mexico, Brazil will face Costa Rica, Paraguay and Colombia in Group D at the Copa America. Endrick scored Brazil's winner at Wembley and also netted in Madrid, which will become his home next season. The 17-year-old striker is widely expected to be in the starting lineup at Copa America, his first major event with the senior team. "I am glad for the person I am becoming. I don't put my head down, I never give up easily,"

If things don't work out, Júnior might be forced to use Rodrygo as a center forward. He could also assemble a Real Madrid trio up front, with Vinicius and Rodrygo on the wings and Endrick as a center forward. With Neymar out and several inexperienced players in the squad, midfielder Lucas Paquetá has a chance to carry the team to the title and, maybe, revive his chances of leaving West Ham for Manchester City, as initially planned last year. Paquetá, however, was charged with misconduct by English soccer authorities on May 23 after being accused of deliberately receiving yellow cards during Premier League matches to influence betting markets. The case centers around four matches from November 2022 to August 2023. The midfielder received a yellow card in each of them. Júnior has repeatedly said he sees the 26-year-old Paquetá as one of the potential foundations of his team, but Diniz did not include the midfielder in three previous national team callups because of the investigations in England.

Diksha off to strong start, lies fourth in Italian Open

PTI ■ ROME
Indian golfer Diksha Dagar made good use of a hat-trick of birdies at the start of the back nine to compile a solid 5-under 67 and be one shot behind the trio of leaders at the Ladies Italian Open. After the opening day, Diksha trailed Australian Kirsten Rudgeley, Spain's Fatima Fernandez Cano, and Swiss Tiffany Aرافي by one shot. The leaders shot 6-under 66 each on a sun-soaked Friday at Golf Nazionale. Diksha at sole fourth was best among the five Indians in the field, while Vani Kapoor (72) was T-30, Pranavi Urs and Tvesha Malik with 73 each were T-41 and Ridhima Dilawari (75) was T-76. Diksha, who had a rare missed cut at the Scandinavian Open Mixed last week, opened strongly on the tenth with birdies on her first three holes. She added a fourth on the par-4 16th to turn in 4-under. Two more birdies on the first and the third took her to six under. A dropped shot on the par-4 fourth brought her back to 5-



Pranavi has three birdies against four bogeys and Tvesha had two birdies against three bogeys. Ridhima had two birdies and five bogeys. Rudgeley set the early standard signing a bogey-free card which included a wonderful chip-in on the par-4 18th, which was her ninth hole. She is chasing a maiden Ladies European Tour (LET) win. Rudgeley was followed by Fernandez Cano moments later after the Spaniard bounced back brilliantly from a bogey on the par-4 1st to post seven birdies. The duo was joined by Switzerland's Aرافي, who continued her excellent momentum having finished runner-up on the LET Access Series (LETAS) last week. All three players are yet to record a victory on the LET. The bruised leaderboard saw the trio being chased by Diksha (67) and Czechia's Sara Kousskova (68), who played together and were fourth and fifth respectively. Six players share sixth on three-under par to round out the top-10.

RAMPANT AUSTRALIA WARY OF SCOTLAND THREAT

PTI ■ GROS ISLET (ST LUCIA)
Rampant Australia will be wary of Scotland threat when the two teams clash in a crucial Group B encounter in the T20 World Cup here with the outcome set to influence Super Eight qualification. With Australia having already booked one spot for the Super Eight from Group B, Scotland and England are in race for the second position. Scotland will go through if they beat Australia or even if their contest is washed out, but in case of a defeat to the Mitchell Marsh-led side and England winning against Namibia hours earlier, the Scots would miss the bus. For England, a win over Namibia is a must and if the Australians do them a favour by beating Scotland, chances will only brighten up. A washout in England-Namibia game in the same group will see Scotland go through. Australia have been in top-form with hardly any serious concern. Nathan Ellis is expected to continue featuring in their playing XI since the Australians tend to rest one of their big three fast bowlers - Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc - in such contexts. Hazlewood had earlier mentioned

about Australia manipulating their approach against Scotland to keep England threat at bay, but Jos Buttler's team have done themselves a massive favour by improving their Net Run Rate immensely with a dominant victory over Oman. For the Scots, beating former champions Australia is 'a hell of an opportunity' in Michael Leask's words and they would want to give their best, or maybe even hope that rain gods do them a favour, since they are still second on the points table with five points compared to England's three.

SQUADS:
Australia: Mitchell Marsh (c), Ashton Agar, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis (wk), Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade (wk), David Warner and Adam Zampa.
Scotland: Richie Berrington (c), Matthew Cross, Brad Currie, Chris Greaves, Oli Hairs, Jack Jarvis, Michael Jones, Michael Leask, Brandon McMullen, George Munsey, Safyaan Sharif, Chris Sole, Charlie Tear, Mark Watt, Brad Wheal.
Match starts at 6:00am IST.



IRELAND BUT RAIN THREAT LOOMS: Babar Azam's Pakistan will look to restore some pride when they take on an under-firing Ireland in their final Group A



Pakistan have been confined to some introspection and relook at their T20 game. But before all that, Babar's side will have to first thwart the Irish challenge.

Ireland had beaten Pakistan comprehensively in a bilateral game in days leading to the T20 World Cup and the contest - if at all it happens - could see both the

teams in green fighting hard for a final laugh. Ireland are the only team without a win in Group A and they will be inspired to sign off with their account opened, riding on Pakistan's lack of confidence, their trait of being fallible at crucial stages and a unified effort. But all that will come to fore only if the rain stays away to allow play to happen as Florida has witnessed a flood-like station amid heavy downpour in the last few days. In fact, co-hosts USA's unexpected qualification happened only after their contest here against Ireland was washed out, which had also ensured Pakistan's exit in the first round.

SQUADS:
Pakistan: Babar Azam (c), Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan (wk), Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usman Khan.
Ireland: Paul Stirling (c), Mark Adair, Ross Adair, Andy Balbirnie, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Graham Hume, Josh Little*, Barry McCarthy, Neil Rock (wk), Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker (wk), Ben White, Craig Young.



New Zealand register first win, hammer Uganda by 9 wickets

PTI ■ TAROUBA (TRINIDAD)
New Zealand put up a clinical performance to notch a comprehensive but a consolatory nine-wicket win over minnows Uganda in the T20 World Cup here. Left-arm pacer Trent Boult (2/7) and fellow veteran quick Tim Southee (3/4) wrecked havoc as Uganda folded up for a mere 40 in 18.4 overs, missing the lowest total in the T20 World Cup by just a run. Uganda had been bowled out for the joint-lowest team total of 39 against West Indies last week. The gulf between them and top nations has been pretty evident in the tournament. Opener Devon Conway (22 not out off 15, 4x4s) then fuelled New Zealand's first win of the tournament with the Kiwis knocking off the target in 5.2 overs. Having lost their opening two games to Afghanistan and hosts West Indies, New Zealand finished outside of the semifinals for the first time in 10 years. "It was obviously a pretty clinical performance, nice to get a win. Extremely disappointed to play ourselves out of the tournament," player

of the match Southee said. "You look at the side, plenty of experience and we were not at our best in the first two games. We have a proud record in World Cups in the last 10 years and it has now come to an end," he added. The Kiwis flexed their muscle against debutants Uganda, whose batters continued to struggle in the tournament. The African side has not gone beyond the 80-run mark in the tournament and conclude with three losses and a win. "It has been a wonderful experience for us. Obviously, being here first time at this level, just the exposure to the quality players... It has done wonders for the game back home. The whole country has been following our progress, staying up late to watch games. Hopefully, it is a platform we can build on," Uganda skipper Brian Masaba said. "I have tried to interact as much as I can with the top players, trying to pick their brain. Asking questions like what they did to get better. We are looking forward to what happens next for us, and hopefully this can help get it done," he added. With the ball swinging

prodigiously in the powerplay, New Zealand made the most of it, giving away just 9/3. Boult set the tone of the match with twin strikes in the first over. He swung the ball away from a clueless Simon Ssesazi to trap him leg before wicket on the third ball of the innings. Boult then knocked over Robinson Obuya's stumps on the very next delivery. The 34-year-old, however, was denied a hat-trick by Alpesh Ramjani, who negotiated an out-swinging yorker. Southee claimed Uganda's third wicket fell in the fourth over, as he trapped Ramjani in front of the wickets. Wickets continued to tumble for Uganda as spinners Mitchell Santner (2/8) and Rachin Ravindra (2/9) and pacer Lockie Ferguson (1/9) joined in on the action. Southee then returned in the 18th over to claim two more wickets, trapping Fred Achelam and Juma Miyagi leg before wicket on consecutive deliveries. But like Boult, he too was denied a hat-trick. Kenneth Waiswa (11) was the only Ugandan batter to reach a double digit score with four of them returning to the dug out without opening their account.

Nepal have showed in T20 World Cup that they belong here: Skipper Rohit Paudel

PTI ■ KINGSTOWN (ST VINCENT)
Skipper Rohit Paudel believes Nepal have done enough in the T20 World Cup to show they belong at the highest level even though they have fallen out of reckoning for Super Eight round. Nepal fell agonisingly short of realising their dream of beating a full member side when they lost to South Africa by a mere run in a low-scoring thriller here. With two runs needed off the last ball, Gulsan Jha (6) was run-out as the Proteas notched up their fourth consecutive win in the tournament. "The way we played today; it shows that we belong here. The way we bowled and the way we batted also, I think we belong here. This will give good

confidence to us for the next game against Bangladesh," Paudel told the media here after Nepal's heartbreaking defeat. "I am very proud of the unit, especially the way they played today. The way we bowled in the first innings and the way we batted, especially in the last few moments where we could have capitalised on our side, but it went their way," he said. Paudel remained nonchalant even though he watched his team coming close to a historic win but failing to get over the line. "I didn't feel anything. I was just there in the moment," he said. "Everyone was excited, two runs were needed in two balls. T20 is a fast game. The game shifts with two good balls or



even a boundary. Being present is essential, especially in T20, because the momentum shifts a lot," he added. "We missed nothing. We played good cricket but still we went on losing side. But overall, we played very well," Paudel added

Nepal lost their opener to Netherlands before their game against Sri Lanka was washed out. The would have remained in contention for a Super Eights berth had they defeated South Africa but they will now play for pride. "We are aware of that situation, especially if we won today's

game, it would be a very clear knockout game for Bangladesh and our games. The next game, we'll play for pride. We wanted to beat a Test playing country. Eventually, it didn't happen today so we want to do that in the next game." Paudel also thanked Nepal's plethora of fans at each game in this World Cup, which shows the rise in popularity for the game in the Himalayan nation. "We feel very grateful to them, especially the way they come and support us. We wanted to give a gift to them today, but it didn't go our way. This exposure will help us in coming matches and if we play regularly these tournaments and these type of games, it will work for us for next games," he added.

New Zealand ace Trent Boult confirms ongoing T20 World Cup will be his last

PTI ■ TAROUBA (TRINIDAD)
Veteran pacer Trent Boult has confirmed the ongoing T20 World Cup will be his final appearance for New Zealand in the marquee-tournament. Since his debut in 2011, Boult has been a key member of the BlackCaps' golden generation, participating in multiple finals across all three formats for New Zealand. Additionally, the left-arm pacer has featured in four editions of the T20 World Cup since 2014. "Speaking on behalf of myself, this will be my last T20 World Cup. That's all I have to say," Boult said at the press conference after New Zealand's nine-wicket win over Uganda. Whether Boult will continue to play for New Zealand in any capacity remains uncertain as he had opted out of a central contract in 2022, choosing to play T20 franchise cricket



around the world instead. Despite the huge win against Uganda and a game left in hand, New Zealand have already been eliminated from the race to Super Eight with Afghanistan and West Indies clinching the two spots from Group C. Effectively, New Zealand's last

group game against Papua New Guinea will be the 34-year-old's last T20 World Cup outing. "Definitely (it was) not the start we wanted in the tournament. A hard one to take. Just gutted we're not going any further. But any time you get to represent the country, it's a proud moment." New Zealand have been a picture of consistency, having qualified made the semifinals of the showpiece every time since 2014. "There's a lot of pride in the dressing room and in playing for the country, we've had some great records across however many years. Unfortunately we've been off the ball the last couple of weeks and that's what it takes to not qualify. "It's unfortunate, but there's still some tremendous talent inside that dressing room and coming through the ranks in

New Zealand cricket, so we're a proud nation and we'll continue to go that way," he said. Meanwhile, bowlers have had a successful run in the tournament at the expense of batters' misery on tough wickets in the T20 World Cup, which has had just one 200 plus score thus far. Boult has made the call for restoration of the balance. "Yeah, it's been a challenge, there's no doubt about it. There's been some very low scores. I've played cricket all around the world recently and you come up with a lot of different conditions. "It's always a challenge in adapting to conditions, but I think the balance has been far too much on the bowler's side, but they just haven't been very good wickets. It's been a good challenge for bat and ball but it's interesting to see in a world tournament.



Afghanistan spinner Mujeeb ruled out of T20 World Cup, Zazai named replacement

PTI ■ GROS ISLET
Off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman has been ruled out of the T20 World Cup due to a finger injury with batter Hazratullah Zazai replacing him in the Afghanistan squad. The 23-year-old Mujeeb, who has injured his right index finger, has played only one of Afghanistan's three games in the tournament so far, at Gros Islet in the opening fixture against Uganda. "The Event Technical Committee of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 has approved Hazratullah Zazai as a replacement for Mujeeb ur Rahman in the Afghanistan squad," the ICC said in a media release. Afghanistan, who have already qualified for the Super Eight round, will play their final group match against the tournament co-hosts West Indies. "The big-hitting Zazai, who has played 43 T20s, is not a like-for-like replacement for Mujeeb. However, the Afghans have 19-year-old left-arm spinner Noor Ahmed in the squad, who is likely to fill the void left by Mujeeb. The replacement of a player requires the approval of the Event Technical Committee before the player can be officially added to the squad.

Washout shatters Pak dream, US reaches Super 8

RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI
The dream run continues for the underdog USA cricket team, but not in the way they might have preferred. Their crucial T20 World Cup match against Ireland on Friday, June 14th, at the Central Broward Park Stadium in Florida, was completely washed out due to persistent rain. The skies opened up early in the day, drenching the outfield and making it unplayable. Despite valiant efforts from the ground staff, the umpires had no choice but to abandon the match with not a single ball bowled. This washout, however, proved to be a double-edged sword. While both USA and

Ireland shared a point each, it was the American team that benefitted the most. With their previous victories over Canada and the mighty Pakistan, USA secured a historic qualification for the Super Eight stage of the World Cup. The rain, however, had a devastating impact on Pakistan's campaign. Their only hope of progressing hinged on an Irish victory against the USA. With the match being abandoned, Pakistan were officially knocked out of the tournament even before their final group match against Ireland. This unexpected turn of events left Pakistani fans heartbroken and sparked debate about the team's performance.



The USA, meanwhile, celebrated their historic achievement. This group stage qualification marks a massive leap for American cricket, showcasing the sport's growing

popularity in the country. While the washout might not have been ideal, the USA team can now prepare for the Super Eight stage, aiming to continue their dream run in the World Cup. The USA will move ahead to co-hosts facing West Indies, South Africa along with Qualifying teams of group B. This was not the first match in which rain has wreaked havoc on matches scheduled in Florida on 12th June Sri Lanka Nepal contest got abandoned due to rain. The crucial encounter between USA and Ireland was completely washed out, highlighting the unpredictable weather patterns in the region. This has sparked calls from fans and some veterans to relocate matches

to venues with more reliable weather conditions. USA vice-captain Aaron Jones has communicated certainty in his team's capacity to trump any full part side given they play 'proper cricket' and up to their potential. The competition co-hosts USA's dream run at the T20 World Container proceeded on Friday when their Super Eight capability was affirmed after their game against Ireland was washed out, with the two sides sharing a point each. USA vanquished neighbors Canada by seven wickets some time recently edging out previous champions Pakistan in an exciting Super Over wrap up to form their make a big appearance appearance

within the competition a vital one and marked their name in world cricket. This young American team has captured the imagination of fans worldwide with some prominent performances with Bat and Ball, vice captain Aaron Jones struck 10 sixes in the world cup opening game and U19 Indian National Saugarbh Neyravalkar scalps of Indian Captain rohit shrama and virat kohli in the same game in Newyork and defending 18 runs in Superover against Pakistan which shook the entire cricket world. This qualification to super eight for co hosts has automatically qualified for the 2026 T20 World Cup in India Srilanka.

"The use of travelling is to regulate imagination by reality, and instead of thinking how things may be, to see them as they are"

— Samuel Johnson



EXPLORING MOSCOW

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

Moscow is a city that captivates the senses and enriches the soul, offering a journey through history, culture, and modern marvels.

Whether you're exploring its grand landmarks, indulging in its vibrant festivals, or simply soaking in the atmosphere, Moscow promises an unforgettable adventure writes **DIVYA BHATIA**

Moscow, the pulsating heart of Russia, is a city where history and modernity dance together in a spectacular ballet. From the majestic Kremlin to the lively boulevards, every inch of Moscow whispers tales of its storied past and bustling present. My exploration of this enigmatic city was nothing short of magical, packed with cultural delights and historical wonders that left me spellbound.

Moscow greets its visitors not just with its iconic landmarks but also with a vibrant cultural scene. The Moscow Tea Time project, for instance, offers a taste of local tradition with its distinctive red and gold porcelain teapots, serving up an array of tea blends and traditional pastries. It's a cozy experience that warms you from the inside out. Meanwhile, the Moscow Estates project hosts festivals in historic estates, offering a chance to immerse yourself in Russia's rich heritage through everything from ancient games to modern concerts. These experiences transform a visit to Moscow into a journey through time, leaving you enriched and enchanted.

Moscow's storied past breathes life into its present

Moscow, the capital of Russia, boasts a rich history that continues to shape its vibrant, modern identity. First mentioned in 1147, Moscow began as a modest settlement but quickly grew into a significant trade and political hub. By the late 13th century, it became the centre of a principality, eventually transforming into the heart of the Grand Duchy of Moscow. Its rise continued solidifying Moscow's status as the capital of a centralized Russian state. Despite Peter the Great shifting the capital to St. Petersburg in 1712, Moscow remained crucial, playing a key role in Russia's national identity and resilience, particularly during the Napoleonic Wars in 1812. Following the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, Moscow resumed its role as Russia's capital and became the epicentre of the Soviet Union. The city experienced vast industrialization and became a symbol of Soviet power, marked by landmarks such as the Kremlin and the Lenin Mausoleum. Post-Soviet Moscow, emerging after 1991, embraced economic transformation and cultural revitalization, becoming a dynamic metropolis that intertwines historical richness with contemporary life. Moscow's history is vividly present in its architecture, such as the Kremlin and St. Basil's Cathedral, and its cultural

institutions like the State Historical Museum and the Bolshoi Theatre. Monuments and public spaces commemorate significant events and figures, creating a living narrative that enriches the daily lives of Muscovites. Historical districts like Kitay-Gorod preserve the city's heritage while coexisting with modern development. Through its streets, buildings, and public events, Moscow's past remains an integral part of its vibrant present, making it a city where history and modernity coexist harmoniously.

Moscow is a traveller's paradise Moscow today is a vibrant and welcoming city that offers a rich blend of history, culture, and modernity, making it a friendly destination for visitors from around the world. The city's efficient public transportation system, including its world-renowned metro with opulent stations, ensures easy navigation through its many attractions. Tourists can explore iconic sites such as the Kremlin, Red Square, and Saint Basil's Cathedral, while also enjoying the city's diverse culinary scene, which ranges from traditional Russian fare to international cuisines. Moscow's green spaces, like Gorky Park and the Moscow River embankments, provide tranquil settings for relaxation and recreation. Additionally, the city's hospitality industry offers a wide array of accommodations, from luxurious hotels to cozy boutique options, all known for their warm service. The cultural landscape is rich with theatres, museums, and galleries that cater to a

variety of tastes, ensuring that every traveller finds something to marvel at. Whether one is drawn to the grand architecture, the bustling arts scene, or the vibrant nightlife, Moscow is a city that warmly embraces its visitors, making it a must-visit for any avid traveller.

MUST-SEE ATTRACTIONS

The Moscow Kremlin and Red Square

The Kremlin and Red Square are the heart and soul of Moscow, a UNESCO World Heritage site that dazzles with its grandeur and historical significance. From the moment you lay eyes on the Kremlin's ruby stars and ancient tiles, you're transported back in time. The Tsar Cannon and Tsar Bell greet you as you enter, relics of Russia's imperial past that stand as a testament to its powerful history. The Armoury Chamber, brimming with treasures like the

Fabergé eggs and royal regalia, offers a glittering glimpse into the opulence of the czarist era.

Red Square

No visit to Moscow is complete without a stroll through Red Square, where the whimsical domes of St. Basil's Cathedral create a fantastical skyline. Lenin's Mausoleum, where the Soviet leader rests, adds a poignant touch to the experience. The Historical Museum and the Cathedral of the Intercession of the Most Holy Theotokos on the Moat add layers to the rich tapestry of Russian history.

Zaryadye Park

Just a stone's throw from Red Square, Zaryadye Park blends natural beauty with futuristic architecture. This modern park offers breathtaking views of the Kremlin and the Moskva River,

making it a perfect spot for a leisurely afternoon.

Church of the Ascension in Kolomenskoye

Venturing beyond the city center, the Church of the Ascension in Kolomenskoye stands as a marvel of Russian architecture. Built to commemorate the birth of Ivan the Terrible, this church is one of the first hipped roof temples in Russia and offers a serene escape from the city's hustle and bustle.

Kolomenskoye Museum-Reserve

Even with the Church of the Ascension under restoration, the Kolomenskoye Museum-Reserve provides a rich array of historical treasures. The palace of Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich, the Falcon Court, and the beekeeper's estate are just a few of the attractions that make this verdant park a delightful retreat.

VDNKh

Don't let the acronym fool you—VDNKh, or the Exhibition of Achievements of National Economy, is a must-see. This sprawling complex is a testament to Soviet and Russian progress, featuring exhibitions that span from agricultural innovations to space exploration. Pavilion 75, with its focus on the diverse regions of Russia, and the Cosmonautics and Aviation Centre, with its detailed exhibits on space travel, are particularly captivating.

The Moscow Eye

For a panoramic view of Moscow, the Moscow Eye is unbeatable. This Ferris

TRAVELLER'S TRIVIA

WHERE TO STAY

Baltschug Kempinski Hotel

Located along the Moskva River, Baltschug Kempinski Hotel offers a blend of historical charm and modern luxury. With stunning views of the Kremlin and Red Square, it provides an ideal base for exploring Moscow.

Lotte Hotel Moscow

Situated in the city center, Lotte Hotel Moscow combines elegance with convenience. Its spacious rooms, excellent dining options, and top-notch amenities make it a standout choice for both leisure and business travellers.

Visa Information

Getting a visa for Moscow is a straightforward process, and there are plans to introduce visa-free group tourist exchanges soon. For more details, visit https://electronic-visa.kdmid.ru/index_en.html

Traveling Within Moscow

The Moscow Metro is a marvel in itself, with ornate stations that are a joy to explore. Each station is a work of art, reflecting the grandeur and cultural heritage of Russia. From the neoclassical splendor of Komsomolskaya to the sleek elegance of Mayakovskaya, traveling on the metro is an experience in its own right.

DINING DELIGHTS

Tajj Mahal Restaurant

For a taste of India in Moscow, head to Tajj Mahal on Arbat Street. The restaurant offers a delightful blend of Indian flavors that feels like a slice of home.

SIXTY Restaurant

Perched high in the Federation Tower, SIXTY offers panoramic views of Moscow along with an unforgettable dining experience.

Pushkin Restaurant

Known for its traditional Russian cuisine, Pushkin Restaurant is a must-visit. Themed rooms like the Garden Setting and Library add to its unique charm.

Briquette Market Food Court

Located in the vibrant Tsvetnoy Boulevard area, this food court offers a variety of gourmet options, including delicious Indian cuisine.

"Vse Len" Restaurant

Within the VDNKh complex, this restaurant is a beautiful spot surrounded by natural beauty, offering a perfect midday break with delightful dishes.

BAGEBI Restaurant

For an authentic Georgian dining experience, BAGEBI in Moscow is the place to be. With warm hospitality and traditional Georgian dishes, it's a culinary gem not to be missed.

wheel provides a bird's-eye view of the city, offering a unique perspective on its sprawling urban landscape and architectural marvels.

Kolomenskoye Estate

This former royal estate is a beautiful blend of gardens and ancient structures, offering a tranquil escape steeped in history and charm.

ACTIVITIES TO ENJOY

Crave Theatre

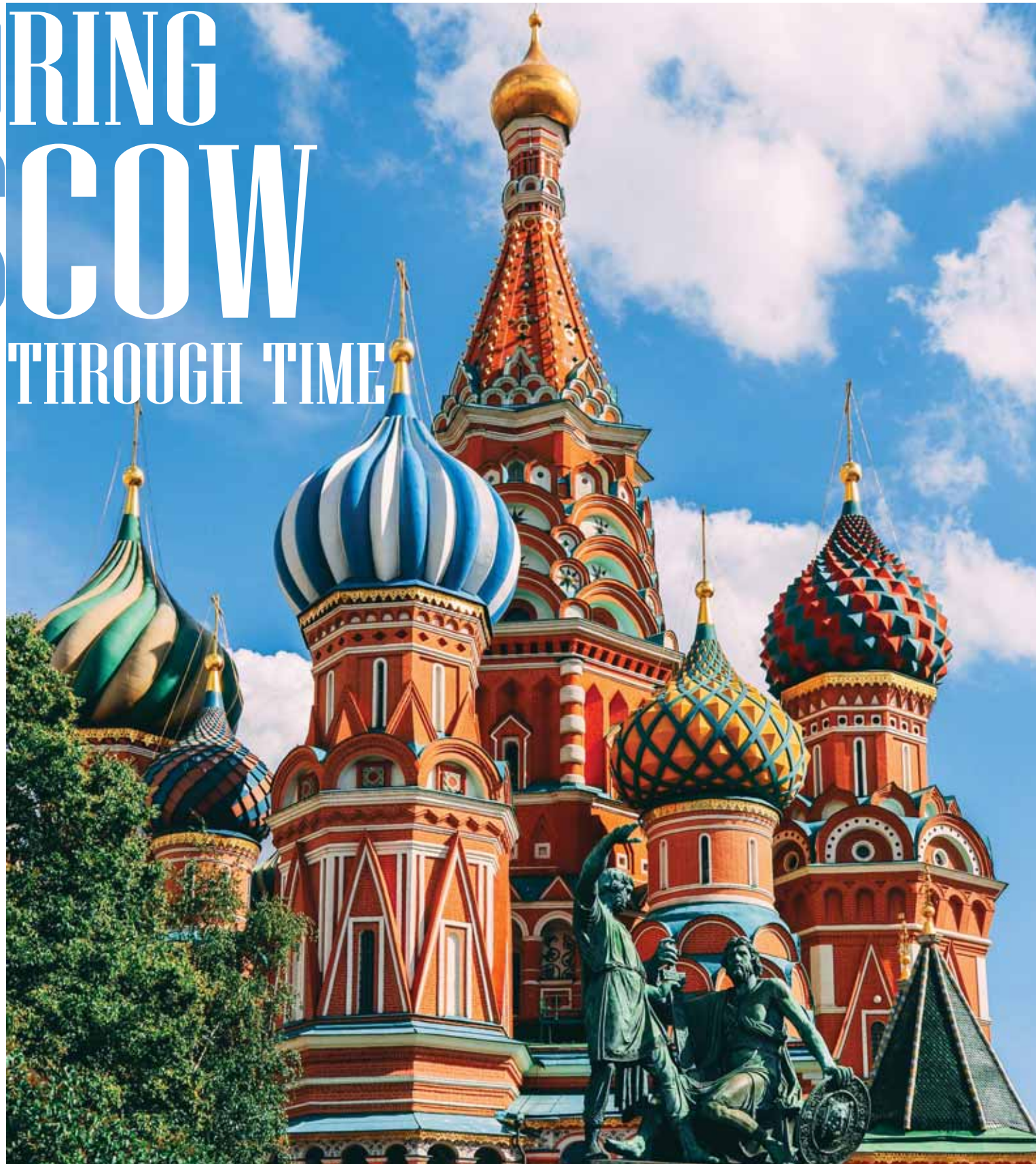
In the heart of Moscow, Crave Theatre stands as a beacon of contemporary theatrical arts. Known for its innovative and avant-garde performances, this intimate venue is a must-visit for culture enthusiasts. Be sure to book in advance, as tickets sell out quickly.

Shopping in Moscow

Moscow is a shopper's paradise, offering everything from high-end boutiques to traditional markets. Explore GUM and TSUM for luxury brands, or head to the "Made in Moscow" shop for unique local goods. The Tsvetnoy department store is perfect for cutting-edge fashion, with regular events and pop-up markets that attract the city's fashionistas.

Boat Trip on the "Erwin River" Yacht

An evening cruise on the Moskva River offers a magical view of Moscow's landmarks. The yacht provides a luxurious setting to enjoy the cityscape, from the Kremlin to the modern skyscrapers of Moscow City, all bathed in the glow of sunset.





CELEBRATE THE GHOST FESTIVAL IN TAIWAN

SHARMILA CHAND remembers her last supper with ghosts in Taiwan during The Ghost Festival !!

Tables are set up with plenty of colorfully packed gifts and eatables at every corner, especially in front of the temples. I observe the setting is uniform everywhere with two tables. However one table looks weaker in terms of goodies displayed. I ask and the reply leaves me quite aghast - "One table with plenty of eatables and goodies is for spirits of our family, friends and ancestors and the other one is for our enemies' spirits."

Why I wonder ...
"We feed enemies spirits also so that they don't haunt or trouble us." Even if I have my pulse racing the moment I hear the word 'ghost', in Taiwan I had to show a brave front as I was there to attend 'The Ghost Festival.' And I landed on the first day of the Festival when the 'Ghost Gate' is opened.

During the Ghost month which falls on the seventh month of the Lunar calendar, they believe the spirits of the deceased return to meet and bless their loved ones. Hence the elaborate preparations to welcome their 'ying world' to the 'yang world' of the living. But their feasting comes to an end on the 30th ie last day of the month and they must return to their ying world. Party is over, tables removed, 'Gate' closed until the following year!

In the middle of the celebrations, I kept wondering about the wandering spirits near me and the thought made me

uneasy. But my local friends explained their philosophy and traditions very well. "According to our history, when people came to Taiwan, they faced several challenges in settling down. Some died homeless, with no one to take care of their last rites. It is believed their restless spirits started disturbing people hence the tradition of looking after their spirits, honouring 'brothers' as they were called and paying tributes to them started." That explanation helped my peace of mind. And I was back amidst the celebrations, lighting incense for the honourable spirits. Entertainment was full on with fancy dress parades, drumming troupes, folk operas, lion - parades, stilt walking and a lot more.

Temples are the hub of all activities. They are all decked up with colorful pretty lanterns, bunting, bamboo trees, plants and goodies. The air is festive amidst chanting, people lighting incense sticks and burning paper money.

'Celebrate Zongyuan' is written on top of the poles so that spirits can locate their address easily and not get lost!

THE GRAND FINALE & BALLE BALLE
During the day, we saw locals were all rushing towards the Taipei County port of Keelung, the centre of spectacular extravaganza. When we reached it seemed the entire city had landed there, waiting for lion-parade, singing and dancing troupes, fireworks and a lot



more activities. Salute to the President official ceremony and then three hour long delightful show appeasing visiting ancestors and the ghost's spirits! Guess what, there was an Indian troupe too, singing and dancing to balle balle and that gave so much joy.

RELEASING OF WATER LANTERNS!
The celebrations do not get over yet. In the evening, the scene shifts to the Port of Keelung for another beautiful Ceremony called 'Releasing Of Water Lanterns'. As the night progresses, the beach gets packed with people carrying paper houses which are full of offerings



like fake money, furniture, and other utility items, of course all made of paper. At midnight, they light these house models with a flaming torch, line up at the shores and gently release them in water. They look pretty floating on the waves before disappearing in oblivion. The philosophy behind this tradition is again very interesting - 'these homes are sent to the spirits with a message that they have homes in this world so they need not get restless and lost.'

SNATCHING OF FLAG COMPETITION
I thought the midnight ceremony would be the grand finale, sending off the well fed ghosts and spirits. But no, Gates are not closed yet! There is another ceremony called 'The Snatching Of The Flag Competition with the Ghosts' at Toucheng, Yilan County. In this 'Grappling With The Ghosts', as they call it, the groups, mainly enthusiastic youngsters climb up tall Flag towers and poles made of latticed bamboo to ward off the ghosts.

BID FAREWELL!
Finally the time comes to give the spirits a 'farewell meal'. So more food and more goodies in the last supper, signalling Gate Closing! This lavish farewell party is to indicate their moment has come to return to their world. A special deity is invited in the temples, Zhongkuei who is supposed to escort the spirits back to their zone and

not disturb the living ones till they are welcome next year. And to ensure they do not return before their allotted month, lot of taboos are followed. All auspicious events like weddings, buying new cars, are a complete no. Even surgeries are not undertaken by many. More important, no swimming in the lake, river or sea as ghosts may kidnap you. No whistling in the night as the spirits may follow your sound. And leaving no clothes outside as ghosts may take them. Stay away from late night parties as you may bump into them.....!!!!

And most importantly, For God's sake, don't call them Ghosts at this time of the year, remember they are good brothers. Or else, they will not leave you.

The whole experience touched a common chord somewhere. Back home in my part of the country, we follow 'Shraadh', paying homage to our ancestors' spirits. Away from home, in this Asian country, I am thinking of the common faith and profound cultural values. Though not to the generous level of feeding dead enemies! Or abstaining from late parties! I have been fortunate to witness the fascinating Festival twice in Taiwan. July - August is the Ghost Month, oh no no, 'Good Brothers' Month. Remember to meet them kindly if you visit around this time!

Sharmila Chand is an author and independent journalist

Heading Towards South Of India? BookMark These Idyllic Destinations

By **Sharmila Chand**

Waking up to the gorgeous sun rays on your bed, invigorating aroma of fresh coffee beans, gentle chirping of birds and a subtle sound of the nearby stream, can be your memorable experience in the southern hills of the country.

ECO RETREAT - THE TAMARA COORG
Sprawling in 180 acres, perched at a height of about 3,500 feet above sea level, The Tamara Coorg is a luxury eco - retreat nestled in the heart of the hills. Staying in this charming property means a memorable experience that combines stunning natural beauty with world-class amenities and services. You are in the middle of idyllic surroundings with lush greenery, aromatic coffee, cardamom, and pepper plantations, beautiful streams, and cascading waterfalls-all within a breathtaking eco resort. Stunning views are nothing short of magical, and the resort offers multiple vantage points to enjoy them. The tranquil silence of the hills is broken only by the chirping of birds and the rustling of leaves.

60 luxe cottages are well equipped with all modern comforts while the architecture looks very earthy and eco-friendly. Swish low beds, big flat screen TVs, power showers, wooden flooring and contemporary lamps and furniture with plenty of nature light, complete the cottage decor beautifully.

What sets The Tamara Coorg apart is its philosophy, deeply embedded in its mission and vision to balance people, planet,

and profit through a responsible hospitality model characterized by warmth and integrity. The team at The Tamara Coorg is dedicated to providing heartfelt service, fostering strong collaboration to leverage intelligence and creativity, pursuing continuous improvement, upholding social responsibility, and maintaining integrity in all actions.

While relaxation is paramount, the resort also offers numerous activities to keep you engaged and entertained. Forest Therapy is very popular amongst guests, where they like to immerse themselves in the deep environs of forests, have a conversation with the trees and draw positivity from nature. Trekking and Plantation Tours are very exciting to look forward to. There are several stunning trail points overlooking the mountains, while plantation tours provide a close look at the coffee, cardamom, and pepper plantations. From Malabar Trogons and Laughing-Thrushes to woodpeckers and Whistling-Thrushes, birdwatchers have a rewarding treat!

Culinary experiences such as 'Hornbill Hi Tea' and 'Kodava Style Meals' are the highlights. Explore the local Coorgi dishes like Pandi Curry, Kadumbuttu, Akki Roti and different styles of curries like Bimbale Curry, Kummur Curry, Koli Curry and many more available at 'The Fall' Restaurant. The Falls caters to diverse palates with a menu featuring local Coorgi specialties, classic Indian dishes with the magic of international ambiance. The restaurant boasts a unique bridge structure with a stunning glass floor revealing a waterfall below. Elegant decor, comfortable



furniture, and warm service create a luxurious atmosphere.

Whether it's indulging in yoga or meditation session, working out at the fitness studios, enjoying a candlelit dinner, or simply listening to the gentle stream as you relax amidst pine and eucalyptus trees and chirping birds for company, every moment here is precious. It's a destination that defines the dream of a perfect blend of nature and luxury, crafting lasting memories.

To reach The Tamara Coorg from Delhi or Bangalore, the nearest airport is Kannur & from airport to property it takes 2hr 27 minutes. Total distance from airport to The Tamara Kodai is 84.4 km.

EXPERIENCE BACK TO SCHOOL ETHOS AT EVOLVE BACK, COORG
Situating amidst 300 acres of coffee and spice plantations Evolve Back resort is a perfect getaway. Enjoy the daily live sessions on the art of making gourmet coffee or opt for a guided walking or jeep tour around 300 acres of coffee and



spice plantations. Bird lovers have a memorable sighting while others go for coracle ride on the Cauvery. Explore nearby villages on electric cycles, or just walk with a naturalist; every activity is full of fun and excitement. Families, friends, and couples can opt for the heritage-inspired Kodava-style Heritage Pool Villas or the plantation-style Lily Pool Villas which ensure maximum tranquility.

The resort features Kodava-style Heritage Pool Villas, built with the design ethos and traditional



homes of Coorg, while the Lily Pool Villas are crafted in a plantation style with tall roofs, rooms with an extended area of living space leading to an open shower one can bathe in under the stars.

Pure Nature and Culture at Evolve Back is a blend with nature and art. Among other activities, guests can explore a coffee plantation, go bird watching, and enjoy cultural performances, ones that will help you truly appreciate the Coorgi way of living.

This hill retreat with stunning plantations to explore, beautifully combines luxury with the charm of the region making it no to be missed destination.

To reach, best option is to take a Delhi-Bangalore flight and a six-hour road journey to Coorg from Bangalore. The car journey is long, but the highways and roads are in excellent condition, and the scenic beauty of Karnataka is not to be missed.

IN THE LAP OF NATURE AT XANADU COONOOR
With a spectacular location, serene views and stunning vistas of the Nilgiris range, The Xanadu

in Coonoor is an ideal secluded getaway. A comfortable two hour drive from the Coimbatore International airport takes you to Scandinavian chic designed villa. Xanadu is about 6 kms from the heart of Coonoor town so while you are here nicely tucked in the cosy hills, yet you are not far away from the town.

Wooden flooring, a high vaulted roof and floor-to-ceiling windows accentuate the magnificent views from the cozy comfort of the villa. Well equipped with all modern comforts, en-suite bathrooms and Jacuzzi in the Premium room promise blissful indulgence. Sit in the lush blooming garden, savour the beauty of the mist covered hills and if you like, pick a book from their well stocked library and enjoy reading.

Activities are plenty here to engage you. There are trekking trails, walks through tea gardens or visiting nearby forests, lakes and tribal communities. You can also register for tea tasting sessions. Bird lovers are profoundly moved by the sightings here. Coonoor is a paradise for birdwatchers and Xanadu offers nature walks with

knowledgeable local birding enthusiasts. You might spot some rare birds among the 60 species that call the Nilgiris home including the Nilgiri shortwing and the black and orange flycatcher.

For yoga lovers, the landscaped gardens and scenic surroundings provide perfect immersion sessions. If you taking it easy, no worries, capture sunrise and from your room, rather than your bed. Engage in star gazing in the night as stars twinkle like shining jewels in the sky.

You give bonus points to the team here as the focus on dining is on local and seasonal produce. Sumptuous breakfast choices include South Indian signature dishes and western staples with plenty of fresh juices. The team is happy to cook home style food on order with special preferences.

What better time to visit these destinations than the scorching heat of the plains? So brace yourselves for an unforgettable experience through an indulgent, immersive getaway in the heart of the hills, down South.

Sharmila Chand is an author and independent journalist



STAY FIT FOR A KING LUXURY STAYCATIONS FOR DADDY

Celebrate Father's Day in urban luxury with lavish accommodations, spa indulgence, fine dining, and beyond, pampering the special man in your life like royalty

BY **AKANKSHA DEAN**

THE IMPERIAL NEW DELHI
Imagine stepping into The Imperial New Delhi, a majestic 19th-century Indian palace that flawlessly fuses Victorian, Lutyen, and Art Deco architectural styles. As you wander through white marble colonnades and lush gardens, you'll encounter rooms and suites adorned with Italian marble floors, polished Burma teak, Persian hand-knotted carpets, antique chandeliers, and exquisite rosewood furniture. The hotel's rich history marries tradition with modern luxury, making it a stay haven in the bustling heart of India's capital. Nestled on an expansive eight-acre estate, The Imperial is a retreat from the city's hustle and bustle. It houses the world's largest private collection of over 5000 invaluable Indo-European artworks and has been the revered venue for the capital's most prestigious social events. Authentic Indian curry shines at The Imperial, setting a new standard. From lavish local breakfasts to innovative treats at tea time, culinary delights abound. Dining at 1911 is a sensory journey. Sip a custom Patiala Peg cocktail at the sophisticated bar, honouring

historic origins. San Gimignano offers Italian flair, and The Spice Route presents a delectable Thai-Indian fusion. A courtyard nightcap completes this gastronomic adventure at The Imperial. The spa is a tranquil retreat offering rejuvenating treatments in a beautifully illuminated atmosphere. It combines unique customs, special oils, and timeless traditions. Influenced by intricate Moroccan architecture blended with Moghul and Indian designs, featuring stunning tikri work adorning its walls, creating a mesmerizing labyrinth of passageways. Immerse yourself in the enchanting tales of the 1930s and experience the heightened elegance and grandeur of Delhi's renowned 'Grand Dame' at The Imperial.

THE LEELA PALACE BENGALURU
Once upon a time, this land was home to a pulp factory, with wild timber growing freely. Then came the Late Captain Nair, who acquired the land, deliberated over it contemplatively, and enlisted the renowned designer, Don Siembieda, after drawing inspiration from various Mysore palaces. What followed is now history. Today, standing proudly is a six-story edifice made of pink sandstone, topped with gentle



green domes, serving as a remarkable luxury and business hotel that complements the city filled with palaces and gardens. Taking cues from the magnificent Mysore Palace, the structure has become an icon itself. Upon entering the property, you are greeted by a palm-fringed entrance that leads you past a magnificent marble fountain into a breezy lobby overlooking lush gardens, waterfalls, and serene day lily ponds. The 357 spacious rooms, reminiscent of mini art deco palaces, including the 24 opulent suites, left a lasting impression. The bathrooms,

styled in a blend of traditional and contemporary design, showcase locally made Tishya products. For those seeking regal opulence, the Royal Suites with private balconies overlooking the gardens are a must-book. Indulging in culinary delights, the signature Indian Restaurant, Jamavar, offers a tantalizing array of dishes inspired by royal Indian kitchens. Citrus, designed as a 'theatre of food', presents a fusion of modern global cuisine, authentic Indian flavours, and Mediterranean dishes, making it a unique dining destination in the city. Zen, on the other hand,

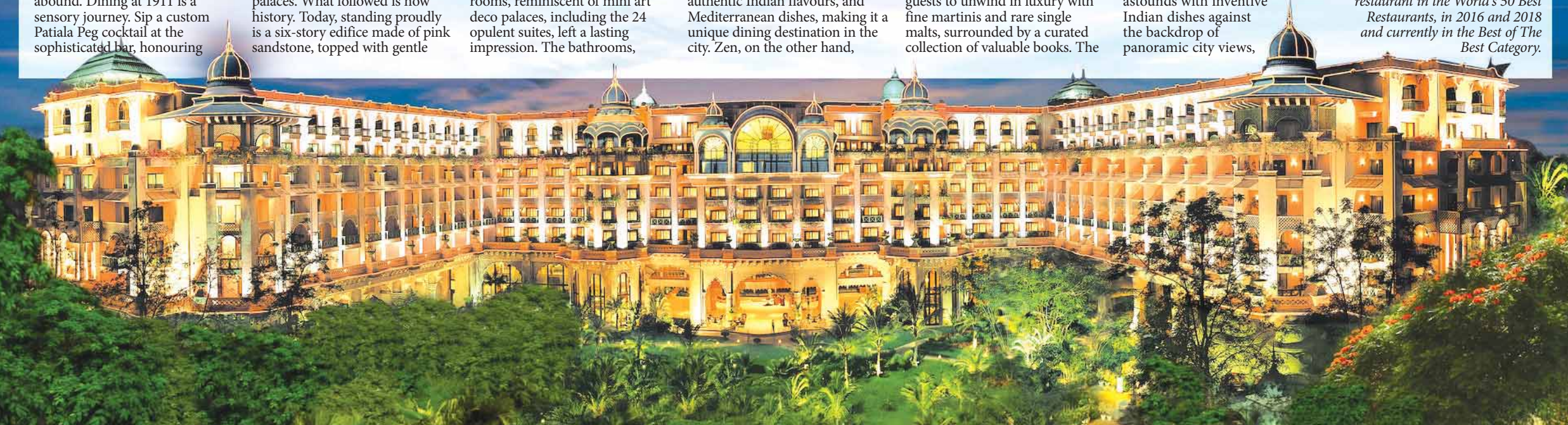
tantalizes with a diverse range of Asian cuisines, blending ancient and modern gastronomic cultures. The interior of Le Cirque Signature, designed by the esteemed Wilkes from Malaysia, exudes style and vibrancy, offering a taste of French and Italian culinary excellence. The bar within, known for its signature cocktails and two lovely patios, is a sight to behold. A nod to old-world English lounges, the library bar and lounge invite guests to unwind in luxury with fine martinis and rare single malts, surrounded by a curated collection of valuable books. The

spa at the hotel is beautifully equipped with a jacuzzi, treatment sauna, and steam rooms. In summary, the hotel is splendid: welcoming, elegant, cosy, efficient - exactly what we desire today.

THE RITZ CARLTON PUNE
Immersing oneself in the opulent embrace of The Ritz-Carlton, Pune is an experience beyond mere indulgence; it is a journey into a realm of unparalleled lavishness. Nestled within the vibrant heart of the city, this establishment masterfully intertwines refined splendour with the vivacious pulse of downtown life. From the moment you step into this exquisite haven, a sense of serenity envelops you, offering a respite from the hustle and bustle outside. The elaborate design elements of the hotel are a testament to its dedication to creating an urban sanctuary that exudes sophistication while exuding tranquillity. Culinary delights abound within its walls, where each dining venue is a testament to culinary artistry. Ukiyo delights with modern Japanese flavours, Aasmana astounds with inventive Indian dishes against the backdrop of panoramic city views,

and Three Kitchens Restaurant & Bar offers a global culinary journey in a stylish and cosy ambiance. The elegant Ritz-Carlton Tea Lounge and the al fresco Alta Vida beckon guests to savour artisanal delicacies and craft cocktails in style. The indulgence continues at The Ritz-Carlton Spa, a sanctuary dedicated to holistic well-being and rejuvenation. Here, the fusion of natural elements, luxurious scents, and top-notch facilities beckon guests to unwind and rejuvenate at their own pace. The menu of treatments, expertly delivered by skilled therapists, promises a bespoke experience that rejuvenates the body, mind, and soul, leaving guests refreshed and renewed. In summary, the hotel is a sublime fusion of luxury, refinement, and tranquillity, where every moment is crafted to offer an unforgettable experience of indulgence and rejuvenation.

AKANKSHA DEAN is an independent food & travel writer, a chef and a catalyst and is the first Indian to have trained at Osteria Francescana, in Modena, Italy, rated as the world's best restaurant in the World's 50 Best Restaurants, in 2016 and 2018 and currently in the Best of The Best Category.



DADDY'S EVENING OUT

From a hearty dinner with beer to saying cheers at India's first Agave Bar and celebrating over a yacht soiree, here are some of the best bars in India to take your Dad out this Father's Day evening!

BY **RUPALI DEAN**

AGAVE BAR AT AASMANA, THE RITZ-CARLTON, PUNE

Where? Golf Course Square, Airport Rd, Jayprakash Nagar, Yerawada, Pune
In a nutshell, Agave Bar at Aasmana is a fantastic spot to celebrate Father's Day with your dad. This special place offers a selection of carefully crafted cocktails made from agave; a unique spirit known for its rich flavours. Among the highlights are drinks like 'Quiote', a bold mix of Tequila reposado, mezcal, fruity and spicy ingredients, and grapefruit soda for a refreshing taste. The menu also features Plantinotos, Penca, Cacyas, Flora, and 'Semillas cocktails', each with its own distinct flavours and ingredients, providing a wide range of options for those looking to explore the world of Tequila. Blending traditional Mexican cuisine with a modern Mexican twist, Agave Bar serves up a fusion of flavours that are sure to impress. From spicy mirchi wada filled with feta and chili to tangy tamarind and date chutney, to Chatpata corn on the cob with a burst of spices, there's something for every taste. For a unique twist on a classic favourite, try the Crispy guacamole chaat, which combines creamy guacamole with crispy elements. Meat lovers can enjoy the Cajun-spiced tandoori chicken tikka, offering bold flavours and tender juiciness that will satisfy any craving. Indulge in the exquisite Pulled Sikandari Raan, featuring



succulent meat paired with pickled onion, gherkins, and methi thepla for a delightful play of flavours. The Poblano prawn Koliwada adds a twist to coastal cuisine, blending rich prawns with subtle poblano pepper heat. At Agave Bar, Aasmana, The Ritz-Carlton, Pune, enjoy a culinary adventure set against Pune's scenic skyline. Discover refined agave-based cocktails curated by the expert Tequila Sommelier in this stylish haven redefining Pune's nightlife.

HOPS 'N' GRAINS AT PANCHKULA & MOHALI IN THE TRICITY

Where? SCO 358, Sector 9, Panchkula & SCO - 26, S.A.S. Nagar, Sector 67, Mohali
Indulging in a tale that commenced in 2010, synonymous with the mastery of craft brewing in India, is an experience beyond

mere beer sampling at Hops n Grains. Nestled as the fifth microbrewery in India initially, it has since evolved into the second oldest operational microbrewery in the country, setting a special stage for Father's Day celebrations. Embracing the narrative woven by founders Amritanshu Agarwal and Priyanka Gupta, Hops n Grains stands tall across three floors, a masterpiece sculpted by acclaimed designers Nikhil Pratap Singh and Suvrita Bhardwaj. The interiors, a fusion of contemporary elegance and timeless allure, beckon patrons into a cosy sanctuary,

ideal for shared evenings of conviviality with loved ones. Guided by the skilled hand of master brewer Dr. S Cariappa, Hops n Grains weathered storms like the highway liquor ban and the tumult of the COVID-19 era with unwavering dedication. The saga of perseverance paved the path for expansion, birthing The Great Bear in Chandigarh and a counterpart in Mohali. Pioneering a renaissance in the Tricity's beer culture over a decade, this haven transcends mere libation, artfully blending superb brews with gourmet delights. Earning accolades such as Best Trendsetter Microbrewery in North India and



the prestigious title of Best Brew master North at the Brewer's World Awards, Hops n Grains showcases an unyielding commitment to quality and avant-garde craft in the brewer's art. Each sip at Hops n Grains is a symphony of barley, hops, and the painstaking craft of brewing, enticing guests into a connoisseur's realm where each moment whispers tales of dedication and innovation. In a changing craft beer scene, Hops 'n' Grains shines bright with its blend of tradition, quality, and innovation. Here's to many more years of crafting exceptional brews!

YACHT SOIREE AT AER, FOUR SEASONS MUMBAI

Where? 1/136, Dr Elijah Moses Rd, Gandhi Nagar, Upper Worli, Worli, Mumbai
In Mumbai's dynamic skyline, AER shines as a standout gem. Known for its chic setting and captivating sunset rituals, this spot is the ultimate Father's Day destination. This year, AER takes celebrations up a notch with a Yacht Soiree, offering a luxurious tribute to fatherhood against Mumbai's breath-taking sunsets. Step aboard the yacht, a haven of

opulence with lavish interiors and expansive decks overlooking the Arabian Sea. Raise a toast to all fathers with a selection of premium beverages, from signature cocktails to fine wines and refreshing mocktails. Let expert bartenders craft the perfect drink, tailored to every dad's taste. Delight in a culinary journey with gourmet dishes curated by top chefs, showcasing a variety of delectable treats from fresh seafood to sumptuous desserts, all made with the finest ingredients. Join a masterclass led by Vineeth Krishnan, the esteemed Beverage Manager, known for his creativity and expertise in mixology. Vineeth's rich background in bar management and mixology from India's leading hospitality venues promises an enlightening experience. The evening's aura is amplified by the soulful tunes of a violinist and the lively beats of a DJ, creating a magical atmosphere against the backdrop of the mesmerizing sunset. Enhancing the charm of the bar, esteemed industry experts will take charge. Myles Carroll, the Brand Ambassador for Dewar's whisky, and Pearl Fernandes, the Portfolio Trade Ambassador for West India, will craft exceptional cocktails for the special event. This Father's Day at AER promises to be unforgettable, combining luxury, education, and festivity in perfect harmony.

(Awarded the "Best food writer in the country" by the Indian culinary forum, WACS and the ministry of Tourism, Rupali Dean writes on food and travel.)

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week starts on a high note, filled with accolades and triumphs. Your workplace becomes a vibrant hub of respect and admiration as your innovative ideas and cutting-edge approaches gain widespread acceptance. You excel in various facets, driving progress and creativity forward. Midweek brings a nostalgic element into your life as you reconnect with a past acquaintance or revisit your childhood surroundings, adding a layer of warmth to your experiences. Family gatherings further enrich this period, making it a truly memorable time. However, as the week draws to a close, a mix of fatigue and concern may surface. Despite these feelings, your resilience shines through, equipping you to tackle any challenges with unwavering determination. Enjoy this dynamic and fulfilling week as you navigate through its ups and downs with grace.

Lucky number 18 | **Lucky colour** Magenta
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week unfolds with a surge of creativity and affection, enriching your life with significant emotional and familial growth. You possess a keen intuition, allowing you to perceive issues and their solutions instinctively, as if by second nature. Your empathetic approach makes you a natural source of guidance and healing in matters of home and relationships. Midweek, you'll find yourself buoyed by fresh hopes and potential actions, a time when your deepest aspirations begin to find their footing in reality. Financial prosperity is likely to greet you, stemming from diligent work or unexpected channels, such as a financial windfall. As the week closes, you might find your thoughts lingering on bygone times. Embrace the present's gifts, leaving the past to rest, and savor the moments life presents.

Lucky number 13 | **Lucky colour** Amber
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week begins on a challenging note but concludes with uplifting events that will boost your spirits. Early in the week, you may encounter hurdles and disagreements that could dampen your morale. Despite these initial setbacks, you'll find opportunities for a fresh start, though it won't be without its challenges. Focus on sharpening your mental agility during this time—engage in reading and explore ways to improve your communication skills. Midweek brings a shift in focus towards familial responsibilities, particularly concerning the younger members. Ensuring their successful enrollment in prestigious institutions or guiding their career paths will require your dedicated involvement. As the week draws to a close, a sense of joy and warmth within the family prevails, fulfilling your personal aspirations and contributing to a sense of robust health.

Lucky number 28 | **Lucky colour** Mustard
Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week holds promising developments for you. Expect potentially significant professional news, such as a promising job interview or an encouraging salary increase. For those who have recently celebrated a marriage, there may be joyful news about a new beginning. A journey could be on your horizon, so it's wise to be travel-ready. This trip may bring fruitful financial opportunities, but caution is advised, as there are hints of potential loss or deceit during your travels. You may feel that not all intentions around you are benevolent. As the week concludes, a sense of security and happiness will envelop you, bolstered by support and cooperation from your family. Reflective moments about your past may surface, bringing a mix of nostalgia and joy.

Lucky number 30 | **Lucky colour** Olive
Lucky day Saturday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week promises a blend of dynamic activity and leisure. Expect to be on the move with an engaging new venture or assignment that will require your full attention to ensure its successful completion. Midweek brings a shift towards social celebrations, including hosting gatherings and enjoying communal events like weddings or anniversaries. Despite ongoing challenges, this period offers a chance to set aside daily concerns and cherish moments with friends and family. As the week closes, be prepared for increased competition or opposition in your professional sphere. Disagreements may arise, potentially leading to stress. It's crucial to respond thoughtfully rather than impulsively to maintain the integrity of your efforts and navigate through any adversities with care.

Lucky number 19 | **Lucky colour** Coral
Lucky day Tuesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week finds you embodying a serene demeanor, patiently pursuing your aspirations with a gentle resolve. You seem to lean on destiny more than action to shape your outcomes. As the week progresses, a significant financial gain brings a surge of joy, heralding a period of prosperity. Your business ventures are poised to thrive, and multiple income streams will begin to flow. You're inspired to undertake new ventures, and you'll find yourself drawn to reflective activities that nourish your spirit. This fortunate phase signals a convergence of positive developments in various aspects of your life. Your health remains robust, family dynamics are harmonious, and financial abundance enhances your well-being. As the week closes, your dreams will paint a perfect picture, momentarily blurring the lines between reality and fantasy.

Lucky number 17 | **Lucky colour** Orange
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week heralds unexpected financial rewards and the introduction of an exciting work opportunity that promises substantial benefits. Your innovative ideas may receive recognition, enhancing your professional journey. Enjoyment of life's luxuries will be a notable feature of your days ahead. Your determination and perseverance enable you to ascend new heights of success, supported by a wave of spiritual enlightenment. This spiritual surge might inspire you to engage in reflective activities, contributing to personal growth and community well-being. As the week concludes, a long-anticipated opportunity will emerge, urging you to commit fully to realize your ambitions. Embrace this chance with enthusiasm, as the rewards match your efforts and dedication, reflecting a fruitful period of realization and achievement.

Lucky number 23 | **Lucky colour** Lavender
Lucky day Thursday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you may find your financial foundation becoming more robust, supported by either a surprising boon or the fruits of your diligent efforts. Your discipline and determination are paying off, and you're likely to gain recognition for your achievements. Now is an opportune time to venture into new business endeavors or to forge new personal connections. You will navigate any partnership challenges effectively, using your keen understanding of interpersonal dynamics. However, as the week winds down, you might find your mental clarity giving way to some confusion, potentially causing you to doubt your path forward. It's important to resist reacting impulsively with frustration or aggression, as these could complicate matters further. Embrace serenity and let go of your apprehensions.

Lucky number 15 | **Lucky colour** Indigo
Lucky day Sunday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week begins amid unresolved challenges, casting a shadow of tension over you. Feelings of isolation and a sense of gloom may be prevalent, leaving you confused and searching for a path to clarity. Now is a crucial time to reflect on your past actions and future direction. Achieving mental clarity will help pave a smoother journey from a negative to a positive state. Embrace rather than suppress your emotions, recognizing their significant influence in your life. Leveraging these emotions can become a powerful tool for progress. Striving for harmony between your physical and mental well-being can set the stage for remarkable achievements. As the week closes, anticipate significant changes that promise some solace and potentially joyful events like personal or professional milestones.

Lucky number 25 | **Lucky colour** White
Lucky day Saturday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, your mind might feel scattered as you face multiple challenges requiring urgent attention. Amidst this mental unrest, it's crucial to avoid attempting too much simultaneously, which could hinder your ability to discern and prioritize essential tasks. A lack of decisiveness could impede your progress, so maintaining focus is vital. Incorporating spiritual practices such as meditation or yoga can significantly improve your mental stability and clarity. Additionally, a reunion with a long-time acquaintance could bring joy and comfort, rekindling pleasant memories. Support from a mentor or a paternal figure in your life could prove invaluable, offering guidance that helps clarify your direction. By week's end, you are likely to experience a sense of increased stability and fulfillment, both emotionally and financially, paving the way for smoother progress.

Lucky number 22 | **Lucky colour** Teal
Lucky day Sunday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, you're quickly adapting to significant changes, which could include an unexpected offer to join a new organization or company. As you face multiple options, you may feel overwhelmed and unsure about which path to choose. A decision is imminent, and the week promises to be filled with action and creativity. You are at the threshold of concluding one phase and stepping into another, more elevated phase of your personal development. This transition invites you to leave the past behind and focus on the future. It's essential to make a clear, committed choice now. By week's end, you'll achieve a harmonious balance between your thoughts and emotions, enabling you to tackle your circumstances with a sharp and beneficial focus.

Lucky number 20 | **Lucky colour** Turquoise
Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

A journey may be on your horizon, possibly a significant one involving various events or gatherings that you'll participate in. Challenges may arise, particularly in your professional environment where competition could intensify. Emotionally, it's wise to tread carefully as difficulties in relationships could lead to stress. Remember to look after your health during this period, recognizing that any discomfort is only temporary. As the week progresses, expect a return to equilibrium and a more orderly existence. Positive shifts are likely to occur, enhancing your overall outlook. You may experience nurturing connections, either by receiving support akin to maternal affection or by embodying those nurturing qualities yourself. If you're seeking to initiate or nurture new ventures, whether in love, career, or business, giving them the necessary time and attention is crucial for their development.

Lucky number 11 | **Lucky colour** Pink
Lucky day Monday

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Personality traits influence the course of destiny

The freedom of making choices can serve both an enabler as well as a trickster, is what comes out of the previous issue. Should we just get carried away by the usual promptings of our mind, it just becomes a matter of chance whether we strike success or fail. When we succeed, we feel being a doer in one's own right. But in the event of failure, we prefer to conveniently shift the blame on the call of destiny. Our ego doesn't allow acknowledging truth. Do we deserve being helpless subject to chance? Certainly not, provided we try to know our true self. We, however, seldom remain conscious about exploring our own inherent strengths and weaknesses. And being unaware, our indwelling potential goes unutilised. We won't correct our weaknesses either. Truth remains that at the core level, we carry limitless potential, which if unfolded in full will know no limits. For, the wholesome powers of mind, which drives all actions on our part, becomes available. The paradox, however, is that we enter the world with a clouded mind as a

sequel to karmic carryover from the past birth. It needs to be appreciated here that life runs in succession. During the journey of life, our impressionable mind comes under the influence of good or bad experiences that we go through, be they of our own making or external promptings. And the fact that our choice option binds us to the laws of causation, the impressions that we pick up in life, continues to have far reaching consequences. It stretches on to even the next life. How? Going by ancient Indian philosophic perception, every being is structured in three layers – causal, astral, and gross, bodies. On death, it is just the gross-body that meets its end. The causal and astral bodies, that are pure energy dimensions, are not bound by the gross-body. So, they remain intact. They then become available to their next incarnate body, carrying along all the memory imprints from the past birth. These impressions vary from person-to-person depending on varied experiences one would have gone through. They involuntary build individual specific belief pattern,



which playing from the front defines how we conduct in life. Caught up in this bind, ordinarily we get carried away by the promptings of our mind, hardly allowing any scope to look beyond for a better lead. With such a clouded vision, our mind power gets compromised.

Here again comes the role of our choice option. Applying this exclusive human privilege, we could self-reflect to figure out and acknowledge the fault-lines. And then reshape the mind with the help of fresh educative inputs. That may help expand our vision, which in turn, shall improve

our mind-power. Following which, one shall be able to have better control over our actions. So, we are very much empowered to reshape our destiny. The paradox, however, is that caught up in the usual mills of life, we seldom remain conscious about exercising this option. Also, our ego doesn't let us acknowledge our inherent weaknesses. Here, astrology may prove handy in dispassionately identifying limitations of our mind. A case in point is that of a person having blind faith in destiny. He holds the view that when time turns favourable, everything will fall in place. So, for quite some time, he has been chasing different astrologers trying to find out the probable timeline when life begins to move to his asking, but in vain. He never paid any attention to work upon his fault-lines, carrying the blind belief that unless time becomes favourable even attitude won't change. Let us give a look at his astrological pointers. Born with Aries lagna, by itself enough to make him aggressive, impulsive, commanding, demanding, dominant, impatient, and an intolerant person.

He wishes to be at the head of everything, and habitually jumps into action without applying proper forethought. These tendencies get further compounded because lagna lord Mars is ill-disposed to restive Rahu. That makes him unthinkingly misdirect his energies towards unproductive ends. He, thus, fails to process his thoughts objectively. Mind-signifier Moon in debilitation is conjunct mischievous Neptune, and opposite limiting Saturn. It implies that with his hardened attitude he remains stuck to self-delusional perceptions, often distant from ground realities. He won't acknowledge truth on its first appearance and will rather continue pursuing his beliefs, until pushed to the wall. He has a swaggering ego, as would the Sun locking horns with Jupiter mean. That further limits his scope of vision. And the result is there to see.

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