

SKYLINE

ENGLISH DAILY

Simultaneously published from Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Hyderabad & Vijayawada .

Vol. 21 Issue: 204 Wednesday 1, July 2026 Visakhapatnam, 8 Pages Rs.1.00

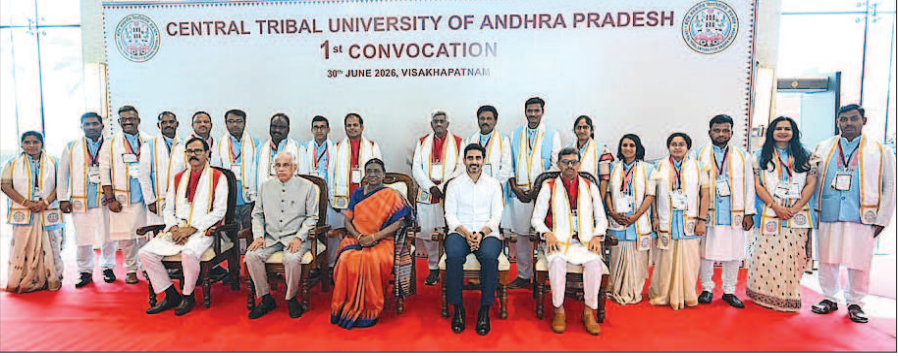
Students must strive to improve the future of society and the nation while remaining connected to their community, culture and traditions

President Droupadi Murmu

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, June 30 : The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced the first convocation ceremony of the Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh at Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh today (June 30, 2026). Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh bears several special responsibilities. It is expected to become a hub for foster-



ing self-confidence, leadership and policy-making capabilities within tribal society. Institutions established with the objective of social justice also have



a duty to work at the grassroots level for the education, health, skill development, livelihoods and forest rights of the tribal communities in their region. She expressed confidence that in the coming years, this university will make meaningful efforts towards the holistic development of youth from marginalized and tribal communities, as well as the overall development of the region. The President said that all universities, particularly Tribal Universities, should have innovative systems in place to enhance the livelihoods of tribal people, facilitating productive

(Contd. on pg.2)

PM Modi chairs high-level review with top bureaucrats; focus on reforms, governance and Viksit Bharat 2047

New Delhi, June 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting of secretaries from all Central ministries, with discussions centred on policy reforms, administrative efficiency, ease of doing business and the government's long-term vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. The meeting, attended by Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan, Principal Secretary to the Prime

Minister P K Mishra, Principal Secretary Shaktikanta Das, the Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs, and secretaries of key ministries and departments, marked one of the Prime Minister's first full-secretary-level interactions in the current financial year. According to sources, the meeting aimed to align the country's top bureaucracy with the government's policy priorities for the



second half of 2026 while reviewing progress on major governance initiatives and accelerating administrative execution. A key focus of the deliberations was improving the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) by identifying administrative bottlenecks, reducing bureaucratic red tape, simplifying regulatory compliance and enhancing India's economic competitiveness. Officials also reviewed measures to improve the Ease of Living (EoL) through citizen-centric reforms and structural changes designed to strengthen governance and public service delivery. The meeting also assessed progress under the government's ambitious Viksit Bharat 2047 roadmap, which seeks to transform India into a developed nation by the centenary of Independence. Secretaries

(Contd. on pg.2)

After Jonnagiri, AP eyes revival of Chigurugunta gold project

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Amaravati, June 30 Encouraged by the successful launch of gold production at the Jonnagiri Gold Project in Kurnool district, the state government has started efforts to revive the historic Chigurugunta-Bisanatham Gold Project in Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's Kuppam constituency of Chittoor district. Gold produced at the Jonnagiri mines has already reached several jewellery shops in Kurnool city in the form of gold bars. With the Jonnagiri project attracting attention from across the country, focus has now shifted to the long-closed gold mines at Chigurugunta, raising hopes of another major mining project in the



State. The state government has invited fresh tenders to reopen the Chigurugunta gold mines, which has remained shut since 2001. Two companies participated in the tender process held on June 25. Officials are expected to examine the bids and complete the auction process soon. The mining area, which earlier covered 263 hectares, has been expanded by another nine hectares after a recent survey. According to esti-

mates by the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), the region may contain nearly 1.8 million tonnes of gold-bearing ore. Officials estimate that each tonne of ore could yield about 5.5 grams of gold, indicating total reserves of around 8.5 tonnes of the precious metal. Officials believe the revival of the project could provide direct and indirect employment to

(Contd. on pg.2)

Telangana mulls big data centre, AI infrastructure campus

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, June 30 : The government of Telangana is exploring the possibility of establishing a big comprehensive data centre and AI infrastructure campus in Telangana, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said on Tuesday. The Chief Minister stated this when Bharti Enterprises Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal paid a courtesy call on him in Hyderabad. During the meeting, the Chief Minister emphasised the need to focus on the expansion of Airtel's digital, cloud, cybersecurity, and AI operations in Hyderabad. The CM also suggested launching the Chandanvelli data centre project soon. The Chief Minister advised Mittal to nominate a senior executive to



coordinate and work with the Telangana government on future investment opportunities and resolve the issue expeditiously. According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Mittal announced that the Bharti company was considering Hyderabad as the second headquarters for Airtel. He assured that the company will move forward to further increase data centre capacity and also expand fibre connectivity. CM Revanth Reddy briefed Mittal about the reforms introduced in the Telangana government's education sector, the establishment of Young India Skill University to enhance the skills of the unemployed, upgraded Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into ATCs (Advanced Technology Centres) and the development of the polytechnic colleges. Sunil Mittal announced that scholarships would be provided to students

(Contd. on pg.2)

IPS PV Sunil Kumar's unfulfilled relief... Retirement today while under suspension

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Vijayawada, June 30 Senior IPS officer PV Sunil Kumar has suffered a major setback in the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). The CAT on Tuesday dismissed his final petition seeking lifting of his suspension. This did not give him any relief. The tribunal, which heard the arguments on the petition today, rejected Sunil Kumar's request. Immediately after the CAT verdict, the Andhra Pradesh government took a key decision. It has decided to retire Sunil



Kumar while he is under suspension. The order in this regard will be issued today (June 30) evening after the office hours are over. Sunil Kumar, who is fac-

ing serious allegations, has challenged his suspension several times. The investigation against him is ongoing in the context of other corruption

(Contd. on pg.2)

Real education is about bringing change to people's lives: AP minister Nara Lokesh

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, June 30 : Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh said that real education is about bringing change in people's lives and quality education should reach every section of the society. Minister Lokesh participated in the first convocation of the Central Tribal University held at the Visakhapatnam Novotel Hotel. President Droupadi Murmu, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and AP Governor Abdul Nazeer were present as the chief guests at the ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Nara Lokesh said that every generation inherits a country. But education determines how that generation leaves the country. That is why universities

are not just educational institutions that offer degrees... They give shape to dreams, build self-confidence, shape leaders, and change the future of generations. Today is not just the first convocation of Andhra Pradesh Central Tribal University... It is a celebration of opportunities and inclu-



sive development. A celebration that symbolizes the belief that quality education should reach every corner of the country and every section of society. Only if all regions develop and all sections participate, the dream of a developed India will be realized. Universities in tribal areas are not

just educational centers... They are guides for social transformation and equal opportunities. If the first generation student in a family graduates... the entire family moves forward. Along with this, the country also progresses. The spirit of Vikasit Bharat is to preserve our great tribal heritage while empowering every citizen through research, innovation, and development. Today, as you receive your degrees, I would like to take a moment to look at the chief guest before you. There could be no more meaningful chief guest than our President for the first convocation of a tribal university. Her life itself is the best answer to why educational institutions like this university are needed. The

(Contd. on pg.2)

Iran agrees to forgo nuclear arms: Trump



Washington, June 30 : US President Donald Trump said Iran has agreed not to acquire a nuclear weapon ahead of fresh negotiations in Doha, expressing confidence that the US was making progress both diplomatically and militarily while insisting Tehran would not be allowed to develop nuclear arms. Speaking in the Oval Office before signing a presidential memorandum on vehicle repairs, Trump said officials were already

travelling to Qatar for talks scheduled on Tuesday. "There'll be a meeting on that tomorrow, in Doha... we'll see how that goes," Trump said. "The meeting in Doha is going to be perhaps important, perhaps not. We're going to find out." The President struck an optimistic tone about the negotiations, saying the US had gained the upper hand after recent military action against Iran's

(Contd. on pg.2)

UPI ow live in Greece as India's digital payment ecosystem expands globally: Piyush Goyal



New Delhi, June 30 : Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said that with unified payments interface (UPI) now live in Greece, eligible customers can transfer money instantly, securely, and seamlessly, with transaction costs reducing drastically to a fraction of conventional transfer costs. The increasing global

acceptance and appreciation of UPI "reflects the trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of building technology-led solutions that create value beyond borders and deepen partnerships for shared growth and prosperity," the minister posted on X. During his Greece visit, the minister met Eurobank CEO Fokion Karavias and had a

(Contd. on pg.2)

General Dhiraj Seth becomes next Chief of Army Staff



New Delhi, June 30 : General Dhiraj Seth took over as the next Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi upon his retirement on Tuesday. An officer of the Armoured Corps, Gen Seth becomes the first officer from the combat branch to head the Army since 1997 after General Shankar Roychowdhury. With nearly four decades of military service, he brings extensive operational, strategic and

organisational experience, having served in key command, staff and capability-development appointments. His tenure, which is expected to run until August 2028, comes at a critical juncture as the Army focuses on force modernisation, integrated theatre command structures, and enhanced operational preparedness along the borders with China and Pakistan. A graduate of the National

(Contd. on pg.2)

General Manager reviews worksite safety and asset failure across South Coast Railway



By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, June 29 : General Manager, South Coast Railway, Shri Sandeep Mathur, today chaired a comprehensive safety review meeting with Principal Heads of Departments (PHODs) and Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) of all four divisions to assess the Zone's safety performance with focus on worksite safety, asset failures and opera-

tional efficiency. The meeting focused on strengthening worksite safety, preventing asset failures, and further improving train punctuality across the Zone. The General Manager emphasized that safety remains the foremost priority of Indian Railways and called upon all departments to maintain the highest standards of vigilance and adherence to established safety procedures. Reviewing worksite safety,

Shri Sandeep Mathur stressed the importance of careful planning and strict compliance with safety protocols during maintenance and infrastructure works. He directed officials to ensure adequate protection at worksites, proper supervision of field activities, and continuous monitoring to eliminate unsafe practices and safeguard both railway personnel and train operations. General Manager also

reviewed the status of critical railway assets and instructed officials to adopt a proactive approach towards preventive maintenance to minimize asset failures and enhance the reliability of railway infrastructure and rolling stock. During the meeting, special emphasis was laid on improving train punctuality with proper operational planning, close coordination among departments.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Students must strive to improve the future of society and the nation

work in areas such as forest produce, handicrafts, millets, medicinal plants, eco-tourism and local entrepreneurship.

The President said that the convocation marks a significant milestone in every student's life. It is a day for celebration, but it is also a moment that inspires students to make a resolution regarding their future. She advised students to focus on the emerging horizons of skill development to remain relevant in a rapidly changing environment. She stated that they should go beyond textbook learning and should learn from their surrounding ecosystem to develop practical skills. Students must strive to improve the future of society and the nation while remaining connected to their community, culture, and traditions.

The President said that in our rapidly developing nation, there is a need to stay connected to our heritage while simultaneously extending the benefits of modern science to every section of society. She noted that with this very objective, the university is operating a 'Science and Technology Hub' to empower the tribal communities of North Andhra Pradesh. She further noted that the university has focused its efforts on both academic and grassroots level work in areas such as tribal welfare, public health, climate change, food and nutrition security and energy conservation. She expressed confidence that these dimensions will play an important role in building an equitable and developed India.

The President said that our goal is to build Viksit Bharat by the year 2047. She expressed confidence that the Central Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh will play a significant role in achieving this objective through its meaningful, inclusive, and practical teaching methodology that focuses on environmental conservation. She expressed hope that integrating tribal people with the beneficial aspects of modern education will enable the local youth to play a significant role in the country's equitable development.

PM Modi chairs high-level review with top bureaucrats; focus on

reviewed long-term developmental targets and implementation strategies across ministries.

Another important agenda item was the “52 Reforms in 52 Weeks” campaign, under which ministries are expected to implement a series of governance reforms within a fixed timeline. The Prime Minister reviewed the pace of implementation and sought updates on the initiative's execution and performance.

The integration of next-generation technologies across government departments also featured prominently in the discussions. Ministries presented updates on adopting artificial intelligence and other digital tools aimed at improving operational efficiency, speeding up decision-making and reducing delays in service delivery. Individual secretaries reportedly presented detailed reports on their respective ministries' performance, highlighting reform milestones, implementation challenges and policy outcomes.

Tuesday's meeting assumes significance as it comes amid the Centre's continued emphasis on administrative efficiency, regulatory simplification and outcome-oriented governance. It was also the Prime Minister's second major interaction with the country's top bureaucracy in less than two months.

The review follows a similar high-level exercise held on May 21, when Prime Minister Modi convened a joint meeting of the Union Council of Ministers and Central secretaries to prepare regulatory roadmaps aligned with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

During that meeting, the Prime Minister urged officials to accelerate decision-making, ensure government files moved without unnecessary delays and simplify governance through structural reforms. Stressing the importance of long-term planning, he told officials that “Viksit Bharat 2047” was not merely a slogan but a long-term commitment of the government.

The May review also included an assessment of ministries' performance, advising lower-ranked departments to take corrective measures and improve their functioning. According to sources, that exercise was viewed as a mid-term assessment of the government's overall performance.

The Prime Minister had also directed ministers during the earlier meeting to engage more actively with the public and effectively communicate the government's achievements over the past 12 years, underlining the importance of both governance delivery and public outreach.

Iran agrees to forgo nuclear arms: Trump

nuclear programme.

"We're winning militarily. It's almost won militarily, I would say," Trump said.

He described Washington's objective as straightforward. "It's really very simple; it's the denuclearization of Iran. We don't want them to have a nuclear weapon, and they're not going to have a nuclear weapon, and they've agreed to that, in all fairness," Trump said.

Trump did not elaborate on the nature of Iran's reported agreement or provide details of any understanding reached between the two sides. Nor did he specify what issues would be discussed during the Doha meeting. Before taking questions from reporters, Trump also referred to lower global oil prices, linking them to developments surrounding Iran.

"Oil prices are way down. We hit \$69 today. It was higher than that prior to the denuclearization of Iran," he said.

His remarks came as he signed a presidential memorandum directing the Environmental Protection Agency to support consumers' ability to repair their own vehicles and to expand competition in the market for aftermarket automobile parts.

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin said the memorandum would support "the freedom to fix", prevent action against Americans repairing their own vehicles and end what he described as California's monopoly over third-party certification of aftermarket parts.

The White House appearance quickly shifted to foreign policy and national security, with reporters asking Trump about Iran before moving on to domestic issues including election laws, Supreme Court rulings and immigration.

UPI ow live in Greece as India’s digital payment ecosystem expands

fruitful discussion on expanding the India-Greece economic partnership.

“Encouraged Greek businesses to invest in India and explored avenues for collaboration in manufacturing and infrastructure development in Greece, advancing our shared vision for growth and prosperity,” said Goyal.

The minister witnessed the live demonstration of the Eurobank-NIPL partnership, enabling UPI services at Eurobank headquarters in Athens, alongside its CEO Karavias, and CEO of Fairfax Digital Services, Sanjay Tugnait, marking another important milestone in the global expansion of India's digital payment ecosystem. He earlier addressed the India-Greece Business Forum alongside Harry Theoharis, Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece.

“I also had the opportunity to interact with members of the Indian diaspora community attending the event,” said Goyal.

The minister highlighted India's remarkable growth story, strong macroeconomic fundamentals and consistent economic progress, offering unparalleled opportunities for Greece.

“Also, emphasised the immense potential of the India-EU FTA in unlocking new opportunities for trade, investment and economic cooperation,” said Goyal. Commerce Minister also underscored the vast potential for collaboration across key sectors and urged businesses and investors to co-create, co-invest and co-manufacture with India, paving the way for greater investment, stronger business ties and shared prosperity between our nations, according the X post.

General Dhiraj Seth becomes next Chief of Army Staff

Defence Academy, Gen Seth was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986. Throughout his distinguished career, he has served in a wide range of operational, strategic and institutional roles, playing a key role in enhancing the Indian Army's combat capabilities and long-term transformation.

Commanding formations at every level in diverse operational environments, his assignments include heading an Armoured Regiment in the desert sector, an Armoured Brigade in the western theatre, and a Counter-Insurgency Force in Jammu and Kashmir. As a Lt General, he commanded the Sudarshan Chakra Corps, one of the Indian Army's premier strike formations.

He later served as General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area, where he oversaw important military engagements, ceremonial duties and coordination for national and international events in the capital.

Upon promotion to Army Commander, Gen Seth headed both the South Western Command and the Southern Command, becoming one of the few officers to have commanded two operational Army Commands. During more than two-and-a-half years in these roles, he provided strategic oversight across some of the country's most critical military theatres.

Beyond field command, Gen Seth has held several important staff and strategic appointments that have shaped operational planning, force management and capability development within the Army.

Widely recognised for his role in military modernisation, he has served in key positions within the Strategic Planning and Capability Development branches at Army Headquarters, where he helped formulate the Army's modernisation roadmap, capability enhancement plans and long-term force restructuring initiatives.

His work has been instrumental in aligning operational requirements with emerging technologies and the evolving demands of future warfare.

An accomplished military professional, Gen Seth has consistently excelled in professional military education. He is a graduate of the Higher Command Course and the National Defence College, and has also attended the prestigious Command and Staff Course in Paris, reflecting his broad strategic outlook and deep understanding of contemporary military affairs.

With a blend of operational experience, strategic vision and expertise in force modernisation, Gen Dhiraj Seth is set to lead the Indian Army through a period of significant transformation and evolving security challenges. He has been conferred the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM), Utam Vishisht Seva Medal (UVSM), Ati Seva Medal (AVSM) and other distinguished service awards for his contributions to national security.

After Jonnagiri, AP eyes revival of Chigurugunta gold project

nearly 5,000 people and boost economic activity in the region. The Chigurugunta and Bisanatham gold mines have a history spanning several decades. Gold deposits were first identified in the area after geological surveys. Mining operations began at Bisanatham in 1968 and at Chigurugunta in 1978 under Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL), which supplied gold ore to Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) at the Kolar Gold Fields in Karnataka.

Later, BGML took over the mining operations and continued extraction until January 15, 2001. The mines were closed after BGML suffered heavy financial losses, leaving thousands of workers and their families without jobs.

In 2011, the then Congress government drilled 150 boreholes to study the availability of gold reserves, and the survey confirmed the presence of significant deposits. Later, in 2022, the previous YSRCP government handed over the project to NMDC with an estimated investment of Rs 450 crore, though mining activities did not begin. With the commencement of the reopening process, hopes have risen among people in Chigurugunta and nearby villages as they can get more employment opportunities and boost economic activity.

Monitoring sand with technology
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has ordered that technology be used to the fullest extent to ensure transparency and irregularities in the sand policy, which is being provided free of cost to the people. "The government is giving up about Rs. 1000 crore in revenue for the benefit of the people and providing sand for free. It is the responsibility of the officials to ensure that this is not misused," he clarified.

He ordered that continuous surveillance through CCTV cameras and satellite images at the sand reaches and GPS tracking for sand transport vehicles should be mandatory. He advised the officials to ensure that maximum revenue is generated for the state by strictly managing mining operations.

Several high-ranking officials including Mines Minister Kollu Ravindra, Chief Secretary to the Government Sai Prasad, Principal Secretary to the Mines Department Mukesh Kumar Meena, Principal Secretary to the Finance Department Piyush Kumar and others participated in this review meeting.

Telangana mulls big data centre, AI infrastructure campus

studying in government schools and ATCs through the Bharti Foundation.

The meeting took place at the Bodhi Pavillion at MCRHRD Institute.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy inaugurated various development works undertaken with HDFC Bank CSR funds at another event held at MCRHRD. The event was attended by the newly appointed Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, Rajya Sabha Member Vem Narendar Reddy, Bhupalpally MLA Gandra Satyanarayana Rao, CMO OSD Vemula Srinivasulu, Telangana State Trade Promotion Corporation (TSTPC) Chairman Aita Prakash Reddy, and senior HDFC officials.

The Chief Minister flagged off two ambulances. He virtually inaugurated an MRI machine at the Government General Hospital in Bhupalpally.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister called for liberally sanctioning loans to women's self-help groups. Stating that the government is establishing logistics parks, godowns, and rice mills in collaboration with women's self-help groups, he said substantial loans needed to be sanctioned for these initiatives.

He noted that women's groups have an excellent track record of loan repayments.

IPS PV Sunil Kumar's unfulfilled relief...

Retirement today while

allegations, including unauthorized foreign trips. The government has been extending his suspension several times. The fact that he was not able to get relief from the latest CAT and was about to retire under suspension on the last day of his service was another major setback for him.

Real education is about bringing change to people's lives: AP minister

President was born in a small tribal village called Uparbeda in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. In those days, one had to walk a long distance to reach school. It was very rare for tribal girls to pursue higher education. Yet she became the first woman from her village to complete a degree. That single step she took changed not only her future, but also the aspirations of thousands of tribal girls who came after her.

On the occasion of her swearing-in as the President of India in 2022, she said that her election is proof that the poor of India can not only dream, but also make those dreams come true. These were not just words uttered in the swearing-in ceremony. They are a testament to her life, which has overcome many adverse circumstances. Today, when a tribal child sees the Rashtrapati Bhavan, it no longer seems like an institution of power far away from her. She feels the spirit of a person who studied in a rural school, worked as a teacher, traveled on rural roads, and despite facing personal hardships in life, never lost faith in education, democracy, and public service.

Today you are receiving a degree. But tomorrow life will ask you a big question. It will ask what kind of change you have made in society. The real purpose of education is not just to earn a degree... Real education is to show solutions that change people's lives. We are currently living in the age of AI. AI can provide answers. But it can never replace human values, curiosity, compassion, and individuality. These values ??are nurtured in great universities. They are what shape great people. That is why universities should not just produce skilled professionals, but also responsible citizens, humane leaders, and lifelong learners.

In the developed India dreamed of by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, quality education, innovation and research will be the focal points of building a developed India. Congratulations to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for further strengthening higher education and providing more opportunities to the youth of India. Inspired by this national vision, we are bringing radical changes in higher education in AP under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. We are building universities that create knowledge and inspire students to innovate, not just for jobs but also for leadership. Our goal is not just to produce graduates... but to shape them into future leaders. We are building universities of the future so that every student can succeed in a rapidly changing world through quality faculty, industry-relevant skills, research, and innovation. Our goal is simple yet lofty. Every student should be employable, every university should become a hub of innovation, and every researcher should be empowered. Above all, we want every youth to have the confidence to compete with the best talent in the world. Today, your parents will proudly frame your degree. But life will remember your decisions, your values, and your service to society. The standard of your success should be how many lives you have changed, how many problems you have solved, and how many opportunities you have created. Education is truly meaningful when it gives us the power to change the lives of others. As you step out of this university today... take your knowledge with confidence, your roots with pride, and your values ??with humility. A degree may get you a career... but it is your personality that earns you respect. It is your service to society that will give you a lasting legacy. I sincerely hope that your journey will inspire many more lives, the Minister said.

Earlier, President Draupadi Murmu presented gold medals to the students who showed outstanding talent. Tribal Women and Child Welfare Minister Gummadi Sandhyarani, Central Tribal University Chancellor Professor Madan Lal Meena, Vice Chancellor Professor T. Srinivasan and others participated in the program.

Pawan Kalyan and M'rashtia CM Fadnavis, discuss tigresses Transfer

Vijayawada June 30 (Skyline daily):

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan met Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in Mumbai today (Tuesday). During the meeting, the two leaders discussed tiger conservation efforts in the Eastern Ghats. Pawan expressed his gratitude to Fadnavis for providing two tigresses to Andhra Pradesh. They also discussed various issues of mutual interest between the two states. The discussions regarding tiger conservation in the Eastern Ghats and the transfer of two tigresses from Maharashtra to AP were successful. They decided to collaborate further on matters of shared interest in the future. Geographic Reference Speaking on the occasion, Pawan Kalyan noted that a significant decline in the number of tigresses in the Eastern Ghats region of AP had led to genetic issues. He stated that they are seeking cooperation from the Maharashtra government to revive the tiger population and confirmed that Maharashtra has agreed to provide two tigresses to Andhra Pradesh. Pawan



Kalyan expressed his heartfelt gratitude to CM Devendra Fadnavis for his support. Pawan Kalyan described this initiative as a significant milestone in the history of tiger conservation in the Eastern Ghats. He explained that the introduction of tigresses would help overcome inbreeding issues, enhance genetic diversity, and contribute to the long-term stability of the tiger population. They explained that this would create a healthy and self-sustaining tiger habitat within the Eastern Ghats. They noted that this joint conservation initiative reflects the commitment of both states to biodiversity conservation based on scientific approaches and sustainable wildlife management.

IMD predicts rains in AP and Telangana on Tuesday and Wednesday

Vijayawada, Jun:30

Despite the spread of the Southwest Monsoon, weather conditions across the Telugu states remain varied. Due to the impact of El Niño, rainfall has been limited; while heat persists, scattered rains are occurring. Against this backdrop, the Meteorological Department has issued a key update regarding rainfall in the Telugu states, noting that the monsoon is likely to bring rain to both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. An alert has been issued forecasting rain accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds. The Hyderabad Meteorological Centre revealed that the movement of the Southwest Monsoon has intensified over Telangana, leading to a forecast of rainfall across the state for the next four days. Consequently, a 'Yellow Alert' has been issued for several districts. Officials stated that light to moderate, and occasionally heavy, rainfall is expected in many parts of the state until July 4. On Tuesday, isolated heavy rains are likely in the Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, and



Khammam districts, with the intensity of rainfall expected to increase from Wednesday onwards. The Meteorological Department predicted rains accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning in various areas across the Adilabad, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Nirmal, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Mahabubabad, Warangal, and Hanamkonda districts. Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department has also forecast rainfall for Andhra Pradesh. APSDMA MD Prakhar Jain stated that due to the influence of surface circulation, light to moderate rains accompanied by gusty winds are likely on Tuesday in North

S r i k a k u l a m , Vizianagaram, Manyam, Polavaram, Kakinada, Konaseema, East Godavari, West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, and NTR districts, while light rains are expected in some parts of the remaining districts. He advised the public not to stand under trees or near large hoardings during rains accompanied by gusty winds and thunder. He urged people to be vigilant and stay as far away as possible from any power lines that might have snapped and fallen due to the wind. He also called upon farmers, laborers, and herders working in fields to remain extra alert and move to safe locations as soon as the sky becomes overcast and thunder is heard.

Pawan to be out of action for a Few Weeks!



Vijayawada June 30

Jana Sena Party president and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan is expected to be out of action, both in politics and films, for a few weeks, if reports from party sources are to be believed. On Tuesday, Pawan Kalyan travelled to Mumbai for a medical evaluation of persistent shoulder injuries that have been troubling him for several months. He was accompanied by his wife, Anna Lezhneva. Doctors at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital conducted a detailed examination of both shoulders and reportedly found that the injuries were more serious than previously assessed. According to the medical team, Pawan Kalyan is suffering from a significant rotator cuff injury, along with extensive damage to two shoulder muscles, requiring immediate surgery. Despite doctors recommending urgent surgical intervention, the Deputy Chief Minister has decided to postpone the procedure until he completes a series of pre-scheduled official and administrative engagements. He is

expected to undergo surgery after fulfilling his government commitments. Pawan Kalyan has reportedly been struggling with rotator cuff damage and torn shoulder muscles for some time. Since assuming office as Deputy Chief Minister, he has maintained a hectic schedule, balancing government responsibilities, party affairs, official reviews, district tours and previously committed film projects. The sustained workload is believed to have aggravated his condition. Earlier, he had undergone medical treatment and taken only a brief period of rest before resuming work. However, his physical discomfort has reportedly worsened in recent weeks. During a recent state Cabinet meeting, he is said to have experienced severe pain and was unable to remain seated for long, forcing him to leave the meeting midway. Given the deterioration in his condition, Pawan Kalyan opted for a comprehensive medical assessment in Mumbai, where specialists advised immediate surgical treatment.

CASAR Organises 'Millet Magic' Workshop



Gorantla: June 30

The College of Agricultural Science and Applied Research (CASAR) at BEST Innovation University hosted a "Millet Magic" workshop on Monday to champion sustainable agriculture.

The event, overseen by Dr Sasi Chandra, featured a "Shark Tank" agribusiness pitch panel and various student academic competitions.

security due to their low-input, drought-resistant traits.

He called on students to explore agribusiness setups. CASAR Dean Dr Ramgopal Mopuri urged a return to traditional grain systems. The event, overseen by Dr Sasi Chandra, featured a "Shark Tank" agribusiness pitch panel and various student academic competitions.

AP EAPCET 2026 results to be released at 3pm



Vijayawada, Jun:30

The results of the AP EAPCET 2026—eagerly awaited by lakhs of students in Andhra Pradesh—are set to be released today at 3 PM. Nara Lokesh, the Minister for Education and IT, will announce the results via the social media platform 'X'. The EAPCET exams were conducted between May 12 and May 20, with over 3.29 lakh students

appearing for them. Although the results were originally scheduled for release on June 1, a delay occurred; officials waited for the full declaration of results from the Second-Year Intermediate Advanced Supplementary exams and the revised CBSE results to ensure that no student would be disadvantaged, given the 25% weightage assigned to Intermediate marks.

Jana sena launches grassroots restructuring drive in Anantapur



Anantapur: June 30

Janasena Parliamentary Observer and TIDCO Chairman Vemulapati Ajay Kumar on Monday unveiled the "Membership to Leadership" drive to revamp the party's grassroots structure. Flanked by the party's 7-Man Committee, Ajay Kumar stated that applications for organizational roles across

village, mandal, and district wings will be accepted sequentially from June 30 to July 4 across Anantapur, Rayadurgam, Guntakal, and Tadipatri. The collected profiles will be forwarded directly to party chief Pawan Kalyan for final selection. He urged Janasainiks and Veera Mahilas to utilize this structural window.

Varun slams Sailajanath over hypocritical politics



Anantapur: June 30

Anantapur: Janasena District President and AHUDA Chairman TC Varun on Monday sharply retorted to Sake Sailajanath's comments, branding him the epitome of opportunistic politics. Varun pointed out that Sailajanath is desperately praising YS Jagan Mohan Reddy today despite spending years launching bitter attacks against his

family. He questioned how Sailajanath now defends the Rs 75,000 crore welfare distribution figures he once aggressively questioned. Warning YSRCP leaders to halt baseless allegations against CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, Varun stated that Janasena is fully prepared to offer stiff resistance at any level.

EAGLE transforms AP into nat'l reference model in anti-drug enforcement: Chief Ake Ravi



Kurnool: June 30

The state has emerged as the premier national model in combating narcotics trafficking and drug abuse through the comprehensive strategies of the Elite Anti-Narcotics Group for Law Enforcement (EAGLE), according to its Chief, Ake Ravi Krishna. Speaking exclusively to The Hans India over the phone from Mangalagiri, Ravi Krishna stated that the agency's roadmap aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of a Drug-Free Bharat by 2047. Established in November 2024 under Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, EAGLE has evolved into

a national enforcement benchmark. Ravi Krishna explained that while domestic commercial ganja cultivation in Alluri Sitarama Raju district has been virtually eliminated via Operation Chaitanyam—with tribal farmers successfully transitioned to sustainable alternative crops—the agency's current focus is intercepting contraband trafficked from neighboring states. Highlighting performance indices between January 2025 and June 2026, the EAGLE Chief revealed that AP Police registered 2,436 NDPS cases, arrested 6,319 accused, and seized over 60.3 tonnes of ganja

along with 1,041 transport vehicles. Striking at organized networks, the force froze traffickers' assets worth over Rs 10.4 crore. Furthermore, 128 repeat offenders have been jailed under the Preventive Detention clauses of the PIT NDPS Act of 1988, with 150 more proposals in the pipeline. The agency's success has drawn national attention; recently, the Tamil Nadu government approached AP to study the EAGLE framework for domestic replication. Citizens can report drug peddling via the toll-free helpline 1972 or confidential WhatsApp number 8977781972.

4-inch stone palm-leaf at Kalipi temple displays exquisite Vijayanagara carving

Penukonda/Roddam: June 30

In a major archaeological breakthrough, a rare Sanskrit micro-inscription bearing the sacred words "Sri Rama" has been identified at the historic Yogabhi Ramaswamy Temple in Kalipi village of Roddam mandal, Sri Sathya Sai district. Geographic Reference The discovery sheds profound new light on the elite artistic and spiritual traditions of the Vijayanagara Empire. Prominent historian MyNaa Swamy discovered and deciphered the text, which is intricately engraved on a miniature stone palm-leaf manuscript held by an idol of Hanuman seated at the feet of Lord Rama. Remarkably, the words are etched in two precise rows using Nandinagari, the sophisticated script reserved exclusively for the royal court seals of the Vijayanagara kings. Swamy noted that this technical hallmark strongly implies the temple idols were commissioned by royalty and executed by court sculptors. In Vaishnava and Madhva traditions, the name "Rama" is



revered as the ultimate Taraka Brahma Mantra. Swamy explained that by depicting Hanuman holding a four-to-six-inch stone manuscript rather than a weapon, the artisans consciously visualized the deity as "Jnana Anjaneya"—the embodiment of absolute wisdom, spiritual initiation, and Vedic knowledge rather than mere physical power. This elegant approach underscores how the empire preserved and celebrated knowledge. The discovery team, which included history lecturer Dr Pratap, was welcomed by temple committee members Radhakrishna and Sanjeevanna during their documentation visit to the site located 25 kilometers from Penukonda.

Samsung Solve For Tomorrow's Design Thinking Workshop is Inspiring Hyderabad's Youth to Solve Real-World Challenges

Visakhapatnam: June 30

As Hyderabad continues to evolve as a leading technology hub, the city is also navigating the challenges of rapid urbanisation, including river pollution and growing volumes of urban waste. Addressing these issues requires innovative thinking, local insights and a generation of young changemakers equipped to design solutions with lasting social impact.

To nurture this mindset, Samsung India hosted a specialized Design Thinking Workshop for 236 students at the Greenidhi Institute of Engineering & Technology, Hyderabad, under the fifth edition of its flagship Samsung Solve for Tomorrow initiative. The session introduced participants to human-centric Design Thinking principles, empowering them to deeply understand community needs, identify local challenges, and



engineer purpose-driven, technology-led solutions. The workshop is part of Samsung Solve for Tomorrow's nationwide outreach across 100 cities in 2026. The programme encourages young innovators aged 14–22 to transform grassroots observations into scalable ideas across themes including AI, healthcare, education, sustainability and sport-tech. Drawing inspiration from the challenges already existing around them, students in Hyderabad shifted their focus to the city's rivers. "The real danger in our rivers isn't the plastic we can see; it's the microscopic pollutants that stay hidden until the damage is already done," said A. Sharanya Rao, a third-

year Electronics and Communication Engineering student at Greenidhi Institute of Engineering & Technology. Her solution monitors water quality in real time, automatically alerting authorities the moment contamination crosses safe limits. At the same time, in order to target municipal waste management, fourth-year student V. Jyoshna engineered an intelligently dustbin that automatically segregates waste at the point of discard. She pointed that recycling often fails the moment food, plastic, and paper go into a single bin together, and by automating segregation right at the start, her team aims to drastically improve urban recycling rates.

SKYLINE

Wednesday 1.7.2026

Sacred Trust

The controversy surrounding alleged irregularities in donations to the Ram Janmabhoomi temple is no longer merely about missing cash or precious metals. It has become a test of whether India's public institutions can uphold accountability when faith, politics and national symbolism intersect. The resignations of senior office-bearers of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust while an investigation is underway have only heightened the need for a process that is beyond reproach. It is important to distinguish between allegation and proof. An FIR has been registered, arrests have been made, and a Special Investigation Team has reported preliminary findings that warranted further criminal investigation. Yet no court has concluded that embezzlement occurred or that any individual is guilty. That distinction is fundamental to the rule of law and must be preserved irrespective of the emotions surrounding the issue. At the same time, the seriousness of the allegations cannot be minimised. The Ram temple is not an ordinary religious institution. It is the culmination of one of independent India's longest and most consequential legal, political and social movements.

Its construction followed a Supreme Court judgment after decades of litigation and public mobilisation. For millions of devotees, offerings made at the temple are acts of faith. If questions arise about the stewardship of those offerings, the institution itself bears a responsibility to ensure that every doubt is answered through transparent and credible procedures. The resignations of senior functionaries should therefore not be viewed through a partisan lens. They neither establish culpability nor exonerate anyone.

Their significance lies in acknowledging that the credibility of the institution is now inseparable from the credibility of the investigation. Public confidence cannot be restored by assertions alone; it must rest on verifiable facts. The episode also exposes a larger institutional challenge. India's major temples, mosques, churches and gurdwaras today administer enormous financial resources. Many receive donations running into hundreds or even thousands of crore rupees each year.

Yet governance standards vary considerably across religious institutions. As these institutions grow in economic significance, systems for accounting, independent audits, surveillance, digital record-keeping and public disclosure must evolve accordingly. Transparency should be seen not as an intrusion into faith but as its strongest safeguard. The political implications are equally unavoidable. Because the Ram temple has occupied such a central place in India's public life, every development inevitably acquires political overtones.

That is precisely why investigative agencies must be allowed to complete their work free from both political pressure and public prejudice. Attempts either to dismiss the allegations as a conspiracy or to pronounce guilt before due process serves only to weaken institutional credibility. The real issue is larger than any individual or any political party. A temple built as a symbol of civilisational faith must also become a model of institutional integrity. For an institution sustained by the devotion of millions, transparency is not merely an administrative obligation. It is a moral one.

US ‘Scott Bessent has a new ‘doctrine’, and it leaves India with hard choices

On the fifth of December 1791, Alexander Hamilton sent Congress his Report on the Subject of Manufactures. The sentence the United States' Treasury Secretary now quotes back to the world is this one: every nation "ought to endeavour to possess within itself all the essentials of national supply." Read the next sentence, which the present Secretary does not quote. "These comprise the means of subsistence, habitation, clothing, and defence." Hamilton named four essentials, and defence came last.

Scott Bessent in his WSJ opinion piece made that first sentence the opening principle of what he called American economic statecraft. The doctrine deserves to be read structurally. **Tariffs, Reimagined** Begin with the fact that the doctrine has already outlived its instrument. On the 20th of February 2026, in *Learning Resources, Inc. v. Trump*, decided alongside *Trump v. V.O.S. Selections, Inc.*, the Supreme Court held by six to three that the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977 does not authorise tariffs, and struck down the reciprocal duties of April 2025. Within weeks the same wall was rebuilt out of older stone: Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. Bessent's own forecast was that the combination would leave 2026 tariff revenue "virtually unchanged."

What settles is a particular answer to an old question, the one every trading nation must answer. What to make at home, what to buy abroad, and what never to depend on a rival to supply. For eighty years the

Western answer was institutional. Comparative advantage, as Ricardo set it out in 1817, said buy where it is cheapest. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade of 1947 added the discipline, Article I, the most-favoured-nation rule: a concession granted to one is a concession granted to all. The new answer keeps the vocabulary and discards the discipline. From that single move, four consequences follow for the world.

4 Big Consequences For The World

First, non-discrimination is being replaced by reciprocity, which is its opposite. Article I made trade a rule. A bilateral bargain makes it a deal. Once the largest market grants access with conditions, as Bessent puts it, access becomes a lever, and a lever is pulled one counterparty at a time.

Second, the arbiter is gone and is not coming back. The WTO's Appellate Body has had no quorum since December 2019, because the United States blocked appointments under three successive Presidents. Nearly sixty members, accounting for about three-fifths of world trade, now appeal to a stopgap, the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement. The United States is not among them and does not intend to be. A court the strongest party has walked out of is not a court.

Third, finance becomes ordinance. Bessent's fourth principle names the dollar an instrument of statecraft. It is candid, and it is also an invitation. Every nation told that the payment system can be switched off will build, slowly and at cost, a way to route around it. To weaponise interdependence is to teach

everyone to reduce it.

Fourth, mercantilism becomes the norm because imitation is rational. If the largest economy redefines openness as conditional and subsidises its own semi-conductors, shipyards, critical minerals and pharmaceuticals, no second nation can keep its own market innocent. Friedrich List argued exactly this in 1841, that the nation and not the individual is the unit, and that prevailing free trade is the ladder the climber kicks away once at the top. The doctrine is contagious by design.

India Agrees, But At What Cost?

The instructive fact, for Delhi, is that India already agrees with the diagnosis. Atmanirbhar Bharat is Hamilton in another grammar, or more precisely it is Keynes, whose 1933 lecture "National Self-Sufficiency" supplied the case that a nation may rationally pay for the capacity to make what it needs. So the question is not whether the doctrine is sound, but how it cuts. It cuts four ways.

It cuts close, first, because India's dependence is sharper than America's. In 2024-2025, as much as 93 per cent of India's permanent magnet imports came from China. For bulk drugs and intermediates, the Chinese share crossed 70%, and for some antibiotic categories it reached 87%. The nation that, on Bessent's test, cannot be sovereign while it depends on a rival for critical inputs is, on that same test, India before it is the United States.

Second, India is negotiating for a thing at war with itself. The commerce minister has said the trade deal with Washington turns on a guaranteed comparative advantage, a tariff margin over competitors, built around a



rate near 18%. A guaranteed margin over others is a preference, not a rule. At the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi in 2024, India asked for the reverse: a transparent, inclusive, rule-bound reform and the restoration of the Appellate Body. One cannot defend non-discrimination in Geneva on Monday and bid for discrimination in Washington on Tuesday.

The Paradox Of Rules

Third, India loses its cheapest insurance. A middle power without a superpower's coercive reach was protected most by rules, because rules bind the strong more than the weak. In a world of deals, India bargains from weakness against the United States and China at once, and it sits outside the interim appeal arrangement that nearly 60 others have joined.

Fourth, the opening is real, the record sobering. The Union Budget of 2026-27 announced rare earth corridors in Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The REPM scheme commits ₹7,280 crore. The bulk drug PLI scheme had drawn ₹4,709 crore of investment by 2025, creating capacity for 26 active ingredients. The overall import share did not move, because China cut prices to hold

the market. Hamilton and List both knew that an infant industry carries a cost, paid by the consumer and the taxpayer, justified only if the infant grows. The gap between the announcement and the outcome is where this will be decided, as it usually is.

What, then, is the new order. It is neither free trade nor autarky. It is managed interdependence: economics subordinated to security, openness made conditional, the multilateral institution surviving as a forum but not as an arbiter, and each nation tending a portfolio of dependencies it is trying, expensively, to de-risk. The rules-based order is becoming a strength-based order. That is description, not complaint. The rules were always a bargain the strong accepted because predictability was worth more to them than the occasional adverse ruling. When the strongest decides the bargain no longer pays, the rules do not collapse. They merely stop applying to the strong, which, for the weak, is the same thing.

A rule that binds only the weak was never quite a rule. It was a courtesy. And courtesies, unlike rules, are withdrawn without notice.

China's new AI surveillance system has a chillig new mission

China's sweeping new law on "ethnic unity", which takes effect on Wednesday, has raised fears among the country's minority groups that it will further erode their culture and rights. The law also allows Beijing to target people overseas, prompting concern in Taiwan and many other parts of the world, including India, which hosts the largest Tibetan community outside China. The move is seen as the latest tool in Beijing's arsenal to suppress its minorities and dissidents. This comes amid growing evidence that China is using advanced AI not only to target its current critics but also to predict who could become one in the future.

The Ethnic Unity and Progress Promotion legislation was approved by China's National People's Congress in Beijing in March, with the stated aim of creating a "shared" national identity among the country's officially recognised 56 ethnic groups. However, the main focus appears to be assimilating minorities into the culture of the majority Han Chinese. The law mandates that Mandarin be the language of instruction in schools and official communication. It also provides a legal basis for prosecuting parents or guardians who may instil what it describes as "detrimental" views in children.

Fulfilling Xi's Vision

The new law cements President Xi Jinping's vision of a powerful China united by a single national identity. Under his rule, Beijing has already taken a harder line on dissent and protests, especially in Tibet, Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia, home to minority groups. In 2020, ethnic Mongolians in northern China staged rare protests against measures to reduce Mongolian-language instruction in favour of Mandarin. In Xinjiang, human rights groups have documented the detention of a million Uyghur Muslims in what Beijing calls "re-education" camps. In 2022, a UN report accused China of crimes against humanity in Xinjiang, including torture and forced sterilisation of Uyghurs. Beijing dismissed the report as "pure farce" and a tool to smear and slander China.

In Tibet, Buddhists are not permitted to worship their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who will

turn 91 this week. Their monasteries are now controlled by the Chinese authorities, and children are reported to have been sent to state-run boarding schools to be educated predominantly in Mandarin and to inculcate Chinese culture. Speaking in New Delhi, the head of the Tibetan government-in-exile, Penpa Tsering, condemned China's new law as "an instrument of forced assimilation, whose ultimate objective is the gradual erosion of Tibetan language, religion, culture and identity".

Beijing has defended the new legislation, which puts even foreign citizens' lives at risk. Under Article 63 of the law, people outside China can be held legally accountable for undermining "ethnic unity and progress or inciting ethnic separatism". Beijing's Vice Justice Minister, Hu Weilie, said the law was "legitimate", "lawful" and "necessary". He said the overseas provision had been misinterpreted. However, Taiwan, the UN and the European Union remain unconvinced and have expressed deep concern. In Taipei, an official feared the new law could be used to prosecute the Taiwanese as well as Hong Kongers living in Taiwan who oppose unification. Australia, which has a large Chinese community, has also registered its concern with Beijing.

The Case Of Secret "Police Stations"

Even without the new law, Beijing had been accused of targeting its dissidents in foreign countries through a network of shadow police stations. In May, a Chinese-origin American citizen, Lu Jianwang, was convicted in New York of helping run the first known secret police station in the US. The court found he operated the station in Manhattan's Chinatown in early 2022 for China's Ministry of Public Security (MPS). He was accused of targeting Chinese dissidents, including Xi Jie, a pro-Democracy activist who fled his country in 2013.

In recent months, France has dismantled nine clandestine police stations operated by Chinese nationals on behalf of their government, according to the French interior ministry. These stations were used to monitor the

Chinese diaspora, track down government critics, and forcibly send them back to China. Early in June, two Chinese men were jailed in London for running "shadow police operations" on British soil. The court heard that they assisted in efforts to track down and forcibly return Hong Kong nationals living in Britain.

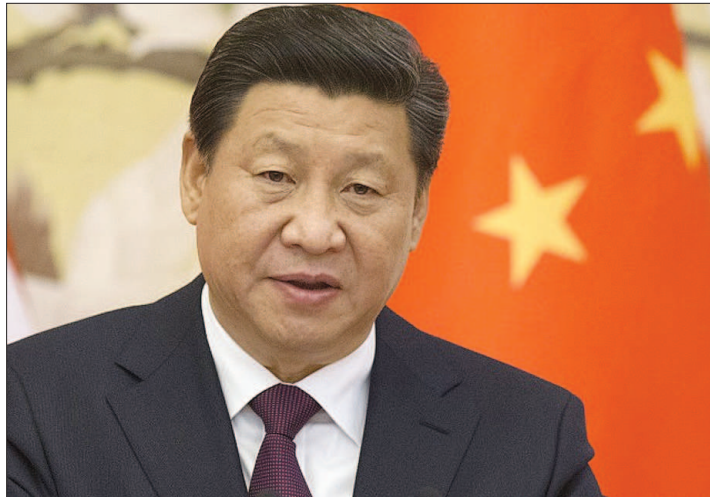
At least 100 such stations have been reported in more than 50 countries, with rights groups accusing China of using the outposts to threaten and monitor Chinese nationals abroad as well as helping Beijing identify pro-democracy activists living in the US. China has denied that the outposts are police stations, saying they are "service stations" providing administrative services to nationals overseas.

Finding Future Dissenters

In the 2022 Tom Cruise-starring Hollywood film *Minority Report*, police identify "criminals" for arrest before they have actually committed a murder. Little did the producers know that it would come close to reality, thanks to China's sustained efforts to achieve mastery in Artificial Intelligence. Leaked documents from a Chinese state-linked company have revealed that Beijing is now trying to develop technology to predict who might become a dissident.

Researchers at the US university Vanderbilt have recently found that the Chinese firm Geedge Networks is analysing vast amounts of data on individuals' daily habits, relationships, and browsing histories to predict who might say or do something critical of the government. The company already sells a commercial version of the Great Firewall, the surveillance and censorship software that China uses to control online activity. Geedge is a private company that operates in coordination with the Chinese government. It has already sold its surveillance software to Pakistan, Myanmar, Kazakhstan and Ethiopia. This "reflects longstanding concerns about covert access to personal data from Chinese telecommunications and digital infrastructure abroad", say Vanderbilt researchers.

There is no evidence that Geedge has mastered and deployed the predictive technology. One reason is export controls imposed



by the US under President Biden. But Trump has relaxed those controls and recent developments suggest Beijing is working overtime to acquire the latest AI technology. Last week, another Chinese cybersecurity firm, Qihoo360, claimed it had built an AI system matching the capabilities of Anthropic's *Mythos*, the most powerful American AI technology. *Mythos* can uncover thousands of previously unknown bugs in software and exploit them. The White House has restricted its distribution amid fears of misuse by rivals and hackers.

No Hiding From AI Surveillance There is no doubt that China is keen to deploy predictive behaviour surveillance against its citizens and will also export the technology to its friends, such as Pakistan. It is also true that the US and other powers are harvesting data to be used against their citizens, and one can't rule out their attempts at predictive surveillance. But Beijing is doing so on a different scale and with greater vigour. Early in June, Beijing hosted an international police and anti-terrorism technology expo to showcase its law-enforcement equipment. According to the *South China Morning Post*, a company at the expo, Lianxin Technology, said its AI-enabled cameras and psychological analysis use facial features to generate personality profiles. The company claims that if a person looks at the camera for 8 to 12 seconds, the system will generate a personality profile that includes emotional stability, health vulnerability, core motivations and the risk of commit-

ting a crime. It's not quite predictive technology yet, but some progress is evident.

Although China's security forces have been deploying facial recognition and other modern technologies for years, their use of AI-enabled technology serves as a warning to critics of the Chinese regime. The ethnic unity law will be enforced using these technologies. China's dissidents or critics have no hiding place from the state's surveillance net. The new law will certainly make the lives of Chinese dissidents or minorities more difficult. It will at least serve as a deterrent by exerting psychological pressure on them, even if Beijing is unable to secure their extradition.

The new law also requires parents from the country's ethnic minorities to educate and guide their children to love the Chinese Communist Party. For Xi, the party is supreme and loyalty is non-negotiable. Two weeks ago, the country's top military decision-makers completed a course for senior officers, aimed at their ideological transformation and political rectification. Speaking at the launch of the two-month course in April, Xi said that joining the military required a firm embrace of Marxism and loyalty to the party's beliefs, organisation and cause. In an apparent attempt to clarify, a commentary in the country's official *China Defence News* warned that keeping the Chinese army "pure" is fundamental to its core mission. To maintain purity, the journal stressed, loyalty to the party must be "exclusive, absolute and unconditional."

‘Last 1-2% left’: India-US trade deal nears finish line; US envoy says Trump considers PM Modi a ‘friend’

The proposed India-US trade agreement is nearing completion, with negotiators working through the final outstanding issues, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said on Monday. He also said President Donald Trump remains personally invested in strengthening ties with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, describing the leaders’ relationship as an advantage for the broader strategic partnership. Speaking at the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Leadership Summit, Gor said cooperation between Washington and New Delhi continued to deepen across trade, defence, technology and investment. He dismissed suggestions that bilateral relations had weakened and said both governments remained focused on delivering concrete outcomes.

“We are hopefully in the final steps of this deal. Most of this deal is complete. There’s a few items that remain from both sides, but it’s in the last one or two per cent of that deal,” Gor said. He noted that officials from both countries had stepped up negotiations in recent weeks. US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer visited New Delhi recently, while Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal also travelled to the United States as discussions continued.

Gor acknowledged that negotiations had taken around 18 months but said trade agreements of this scale often require considerably longer.

“People ask you, why has this taken so long? We’ve been at the trade deal for a year and a half. To put it into perspective, the European trade deal took 20 years. And so, no matter what, as long as we beat the European deal, I think we’re in good shape,” he said. Calling the proposed agreement beneficial for both countries, Gor said it would provide greater certainty for businesses engaged in bilateral commerce.

“This is a deal that is beneficial to both sides. This is not one side or the other. This is a win-win situation where both sides can do incredible things and take this relationship to the next level,” he said. India-US ties remain on strong footing

Gor rejected claims that the strategic



partnership had weakened despite commentary suggesting otherwise.

“So to all those pundits that sit online and tweet and say, this relationship is in trouble, when you look at the facts of where this relationship stands, whether it’s trade, whether it’s defense, whether it’s the people-to-people ties, the relationship is on a strong footing,” he said. He said cooperation continued to expand across sectors, including artificial intelligence, advanced technology and defence.

“In the six months that I’ve been in India, I’ve seen the incredible potential. There’s not a day that goes by that a new item pops up for our two countries to work together.”

According to Gor, India conducts more military exercises with the United States than with any other country. “Every single month there’s something happening, whether it’s Indian troops coming here, whether it’s US troops going into the region,” he said.

Trump ‘considers PM Modi a friend’

Gor said President Trump continued to speak warmly about India and retained strong personal ties with Prime Minister Modi. “The United States wants to work hand in hand with India. We care about this relationship. We have a president who deeply cares about this relationship,” he said.

Recalling a conversation with Trump before the weekend, Gor said the President continued to speak fondly about his previous visit to India.

“He has very fond memories of India. His visit last time, it was one of his most remarkable visits that he contin-

ues to talk about. He holds India a very fond place.”

The ambassador also recounted an incident from a recent Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) event in Miami, where Trump suggested calling Prime Minister Modi immediately.

“I said, ‘Sir, it’s 6:00 AM in the morning there.’”

He said, ‘He’ll be up. He’s like me.’”

Although the call was eventually scheduled for the following day, Gor said the exchange reflected the personal bond between the two leaders.

“The president truly considers the Prime Minister a friend,” he said.

Trade target of \$500 billion

Highlighting the growth in economic ties, Gor said bilateral trade had increased from around \$20 billion two decades ago to approximately \$220 billion today.

He referred to the goal announced by President Trump and Prime Minister Modi to raise bilateral trade to \$500 billion over the coming years.

“What President Trump and Prime Minister Modi announced as a bilateral trade goal of \$500 billion over the next few years, that’s an astounding number that is unmatched,” he said.

Gor said the next two years would play an important role in shaping the future of the India-US partnership.

“These next two years will set the relationship on a path for several decades ahead. So, for everyone here who participates in this, think of this as a long-term project. This is not a one-year or two-year, but what we sow now will continue to sustain us decades ahead.”

Tech tax: Donald Trump warns France ‘not to charge American companies’ or face 100% wine tariffs

Donald Trump on Monday, June 15, warned that France could be at risk of a trade war with the United States. The US President said America will be left with “no choice” but to put 100% tariffs on French wine unless Paris decides to eliminate its digital tax on American tech giants.

In an interview with the New York Post, Trump claimed that he has delivered the warning directly to French President Emmanuel Macron. He has demanded Macron to remove the 3 per cent tax on US tech giants or stay ready to face duties in the American market.

“I asked him ?not to charge American companies, and if they ?do, I have no choice but to charge a 100 per cent tariff on all champagnes and



all wines coming out of France,” Trump said. “All (Macron) has to do is get rid of the sales tax, and he wouldn’t have that kind of pressure.”

Notably the American market accounts for a fifth of the French wine industry’s global sales and is said to be worth over \$2 billion annually. As per reports, Trump’s demand sets the stage for a

bitter showdown at Monday’s G7 Summit in Évián-les-Bains. Last week, Macron’s office, the Élysée Palace, stated that the two sides have settled their long-running spat over taxing Silicon Valley.

What’s at stake?

Popularly known as the GAFAM tax, France’s digital services tax has remained on the books since

2019. Under this, the European nation imposes a 3 per cent levy on the local revenue generated by the likes of Google parent Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, and Apple. Since it targets gross revenue rather than profits, the policy reportedly hits US tech titans the hardest. As per the French finance ministry, it raked in \$700 million last year.

Alcohol is considered among the top exports to the United States from the European Union and was worth nearly \$10.46 billion in 2024, as per Eurostat data.

In October last year, France’s National Assembly had voted 296-58 to double the tax to 6 per cent and narrow the threshold to target the global players.

However, the move was later vetoed by ministers.

Sundar Pichai’s Stanford homecoming met with boos, walkout and pro-Palestine protest

A section of graduating students walked out of Stanford University’s commencement ceremony during a speech by Google CEO Sundar Pichai, turning one of the institution’s biggest annual celebrations into a platform for pro-Palestine protest.

The demonstration was organised by Stanford’s Students for Justice in Palestine chapter and allied groups, which had publicly called for a walkout ahead of the event. Protest organisers said the action was aimed at challenging Google’s ties to Israel.

Videos circulating online showed students leaving the ceremony carrying Palestinian flags and chanting “Free Palestine” as Pichai delivered his commencement address.

Ahead of the event, Stanford SJP urged students to participate in the protest and criticised Google’s role in what it described as the surveil-

lance and killing of Palestinians.

“We don’t need another tech billionaire to tell us how to get rich off of the killing and surveillance of Palestinians,” the group said. “Take a stance against war profiteering. Tell the Google CEO that he is not welcome.”

Pichai, who earned a master’s degree from Stanford in 1995 and now leads Google and its parent company Alphabet, addressed the university’s graduating class during the institution’s 135th commencement ceremony on Sunday.

Speaking to students, he reflected on pivotal moments that shape people’s lives and careers.

“If you are able to filter the signal through the noise, you can nudge your life in these moments into having the impact you want,” he said.

Pichai also encouraged graduates to remain hopeful despite global uncer-



ainty. “Choose optimism. This might not true to you at this moment. The world is going through a lot of global conflicts, economic anxiety, a rewiring of technology, information overload, all at a fast pace... We don’t get to choose the world we graduate into, but we do get to choose how we frame our circumstances,” he told the gathering.

He further urged students to pursue difficult challenges and focus on work that genuinely excites them.

According to Stanford University, more

than 20,000 people attended the ceremony at Stanford Stadium, including about 3,600 graduating students, making it one of the university’s largest commencement events.

The protest comes amid a series of demonstrations at university campuses across the United States linked to the Israel-Gaza conflict.

Student activists have repeatedly used graduation ceremonies and other high-profile campus events to voice opposition to Israel’s military actions in Gaza.

US-Iran diplomacy or deadlock? Steve Witkoff heads to Doha as Tehran rejects Trump’s talks claim

Fresh diplomatic activity between Washington and Tehran gathered momentum on Monday after reports that US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff was travelling to Doha, even as Iran maintained that no formal negotiations with the United States had been scheduled.

The latest developments come a day after US President Donald Trump announced that talks involving the two countries would take place in Qatar on Tuesday. While Washington has projected the meeting as an important diplomatic opportunity, Iranian officials continue to dispute that any formal engagement with American representatives is planned.

According to CNN, citing two US officials, Witkoff is en route to the Qatari capital. The report said it remained unclear whether Senior Adviser Jared Kushner was travelling alongside him.

Iran says commitments depend on US reciprocity

Amid the diplomatic activity, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Tehran remained willing to honour its commitments if the United States did the same.

In a post on X, Pezeshkian wrote, “Mutual understanding is a two-way street. If the American party adheres to the agreement, we will also fulfil our commitments.”



Without referring to Trump by name, the Iranian President also warned against threats.

“Our approach towards unreasonable grumbles and baseless threats relies on rationality and human dignity in decision-making, and decisive and unhesitant defence when it comes to action,” he said.

Trump pushes Doha meeting

Speaking at the White House during the signing of an executive order, Trump said the Doha meeting could prove significant and reiterated that preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon remained Washington’s primary objective.

“There’ll be a meeting on that tomorrow in Doha... we’ll see how that goes. But we’re doing very well on that front. The meeting in Doha is going to be perhaps important, perhaps not; we’re going to find

out,” Trump said.

He added, “It’s really very simple, it’s the denuclearisation of Iran. We don’t want them to have a nuclear weapon, and they’re not going to have a nuclear weapon, and they’ve agreed to that, in all fairness.”

Earlier, Trump had claimed on Truth Social that Iran had requested the meeting. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt later said the talks had been arranged at Tehran’s request.

Tehran rejects claims of scheduled negotiations

Iran, however, has continued to reject Washington’s version of events.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said an Iranian delegation would travel to Qatar, but insisted its visit was unrelated to the arrival of American officials.

“The fact that US repre-

sentatives are travelling to Qatar has no connection with the trip of the Iranian delegation,” Baghaei said.

He added that the visit was intended to implement provisions under Article 11 of an existing Memorandum of Understanding.

Baghaei also said negotiations on a final agreement had not yet begun.

“We have not yet entered the negotiation phase for the final agreement. According to Article 13 of the MoU, the start of negotiations for the final agreement is contingent upon the initiation of the implementation of Articles 1, 4, 5, 10, and 11, and the continuation of their implementation,” he said.

Qatar remains key intermediary

The diplomatic activity follows recent military tensions between the United States and Iran linked to incidents in the Strait of Hormuz.

While Washington has projected the Doha engagement as part of efforts to resolve concerns over Iran’s nuclear programme, Tehran has publicly distanced itself from claims of direct negotiations.

Despite the conflicting public statements, communication channels remain active, with Qatar continuing to facilitate contacts between the two sides.

Crude oil relief powers India outlook: Goldman Sachs projects 6.8% GDP growth in CY26, cuts inflation and CAD estimates

India’s economic outlook for the calendar year 2026 has received an upgrade from Goldman Sachs, with the global investment bank raising its growth forecast while lowering inflation and current account deficit estimates after easing crude oil prices following the recent US-Iran peace deal.

In its latest report titled India: Improved macro outlook after the US-Iran deal, Goldman Sachs said the decline in oil prices has reduced risks for the Indian economy and improved the overall macroeconomic outlook.

Goldman Sachs has raised India’s real GDP growth forecast for CY26 by 0.3 percentage points to 6.8 per cent year-on-year, while cutting its headline inflation forecast by 0.2 percentage points to 4.4 per cent and reducing its current account deficit estimate by 0.2 percentage points to 1.1 per cent of GDP.

“On balance, with the recent downward revision in the oil price forecast by our commodities team (\$82/bbl average in Q3-Q4 CY26, vs. \$92/bbl earlier and \$75/bbl average in CY27, vs. \$80/bbl earlier), we raise our real GDP growth forecast for CY26 by 0.3pp to 6.8% yoy, lower our headline inflation forecast by 0.2pp to 4.4% yoy and lower our current account deficit forecast by

0.2pp to 1.1% of GDP,” the report said.

The investment bank noted that India remained resilient despite the impact of Middle East tensions, with government measures helping reduce the impact of higher energy costs.

“The Indian economy remained resilient through the Middle-East shock, as fiscal and quasi-fiscal measures absorbed much of the increase in energy costs and limited pass-through to consumers,” the report noted.

Oil prices ease economic pressure

Goldman Sachs said stronger-than-expected economic activity in the first quarter of CY26 and softer crude prices supported the upward revision.

India’s real GDP growth in the first quarter stood at 7.8 per cent year-on-year, backed by investment and services activity.

The brokerage expects consumption growth to moderate in the second and third quarters due to earlier fuel price increases, but said lower oil prices have reduced the possibility of further retail fuel price hikes.

It also said softer global commodity prices could ease fiscal pressure.

“The sharp correction in global urea prices should reduce upside risk to the fertilizer subsidy bill versus our earlier



expectations... together with lower oil prices, should help ease near-term fiscal pressures,” it said.

External sector outlook improves

Goldman Sachs said lower oil prices and stronger remittance inflows have strengthened India’s external position.

“Overall, we lower our current account deficit forecast for CY26 further by 0.2pp to 1.1% of GDP,” Goldman Sachs said, adding that it expects a balance of payments surplus of 0.7 per cent of GDP for the year.

However, the brokerage cautioned that weather-related uncertainties and the impact of earlier fuel price increases could remain short-term challenges before growth gains further momentum later in the year.

Sensex jumps over 1,100 points as Trump’s Iran deal reshapes West Asia outlook and drags crude lower

Indian equity benchmarks posted strong gains at the opening bell on Monday after global investors welcomed reports of a breakthrough between the United States and Iran that could ease disruptions to global energy supplies.

The rally came alongside a sharp decline in crude oil prices, offering relief to import-dependent economies such as India and improving sentiment across Asian markets.

The BSE Sensex surged more than 1,100 points in early trade to touch 76,656.61, while the NSE Nifty 50 climbed 350.40 points to 23,973.30.

Earlier in the session, the Sensex had opened above the 76,700 mark, and Nifty approached 24,000.

Real estate, cement and automobile stocks led the gains. Nifty Realty rose 2.59 per cent, while Nifty Cement advanced 2.46 per cent. Nifty Auto gained nearly 2 per cent.

Consumer durables, oil and gas, and PSU banking shares also traded firmly



in the green. The broader rally was largely supported by optimism surrounding lower energy costs and improving global risk appetite.

Healthcare stocks, however, lagged behind the broader market trend. Nifty Pharma slipped 0.17 per cent, while the healthcare index was marginally lower.

Crude oil declines after Iran-US breakthrough

Investor sentiment received a boost after US President Donald Trump announced that a deal with Iran had been finalised.

Trump said on Truth Social that the agreement

would bring “peace and security” to the region.

He also announced the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and the removal of the US naval blockade, developments that markets viewed as positive for global oil supplies.

International benchmark Brent crude fell nearly 5 per cent to around \$83 a barrel. US benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude dropped more than 5 per cent to around \$80 per barrel.

Market participants said lower oil prices could ease inflationary pressures and improve growth prospects for economies heavily

dependent on energy imports.

Experts see relief for Indian economy

Market experts said the combination of easing geopolitical tensions and softer crude prices could improve India’s macroeconomic outlook.

“With the dawn of peace in West Asia, hopefully, and the consequent sharp correction in Brent crude to below \$84 in early trade, the prospects for the Indian economy and stock market have turned for the better.

The GDP growth rate and CPI inflation projections for FY27 can be revised in this changed scenario to 6.9 per cent and 4.6 per cent, respectively.

This will have positive implications for the stock market,” market experts said.

Banking and market expert Ajay Bagga said the developments had removed a major uncertainty that had been weighing on the global economy.

Telugu web series Ready for a big Battle on OTT



After the COVID-19 pandemic, web series became very popular across India. Shows like The Family Man, Mirzapur, and Scam 1992 attracted millions of viewers. Many people stayed awake late at night to watch new episodes as soon as they were released. The demand for web series was very high. However, after some time, the excitement slowly reduced because many shows had similar stories and genres. Now, the trend seems to be changing once again. Telugu web series are becoming more popular, and OTT platforms are bringing fresh content for viewers. July 3 is going to be a special day because four new Telugu web series are releasing on different streaming platforms. One of the most talked-about series is Super Subbu, starring Sandeep Kishan. The trailer shows that it deals with a sensitive issue in a fun and entertaining way. It is also the first Telugu web series from Netflix to feature a well-known hero in the lead role. Sandeep Kishan is actively promoting the series through interviews and social media. Amazon Prime Video Another interesting release is Isukapatnam, starring Samuthirakani

and Aishwarya Rajesh. It will stream on Amazon Prime Video. The series is said to be a serious political drama with elements of crime, mafia, and coastal life. The makers believe it will keep viewers engaged with its intense storyline. ZEE5 is bringing Veerabhadruni Rahasyalu, a mystery thriller inspired by the classic television serial Marmadesam. The series features many experienced supporting actors and promises suspense, mystery, and unexpected twists. ETV Win ETV Win will release Gurtukostunnayi, starring Viraj Ashwin, who became popular after Baby. The series is expected to focus on memories, emotions, and nostalgia. It aims to offer a fresh and heart-touching experience for the audience. At the same time, new movies are also arriving in theatres, giving audiences plenty of entertainment choices. OTT platforms are promoting these web series with trailers, interviews, and special events to attract viewers. It will be interesting to see which series wins the audience's hearts. The viewership numbers and public response over the coming week will reveal which Telugu web series becomes the biggest success.

New-Gen Tollywood Heroes Ready for big Test



The month of July is expected to be an exciting one for Telugu cinema. Instead of big star heroes, several young actors are ready to entertain audiences with their new films. These movies include different genres such as action, romance, fantasy, and emotional dramas. Many filmmakers are hoping to attract movie lovers with fresh stories and unique concepts. Two films will arrive in theatres on July 3. One of them is Rao Bahadur, starring Satyadev. The promotional content has already created a positive impression. The movie is said to introduce audiences to a completely new world with an interesting storyline. The second release is Nagabandham, a high-budget fantasy film featuring newcomer Virat Karna. Made with a reported budget of around Rs.80 crore, the movie has become a

major talking point. The film also promises grand visuals and impressive visual effects. On July 10, Lenin, starring Akhil Akkineni, is set for release. Akhil has been waiting for a strong commercial success for a long time, making this film one of the most important projects of his career. Fans are expecting the movie to help him make a solid comeback. Director Ajay Bhupathi, known for successful films like RX 100 and Mangalavaaram, is bringing Srinivasa Mungapuram to theatres this month. The film will also introduce a new hero from the Ghattamaneni family, creating extra curiosity among audiences. There is also speculation that Mahesh Babu may participate in the film's promotions, which could increase its reach. On July 24, Chennai Love Story, starring Kiran

Hrithik Out, Suriya In for big Production House



Actor Suriya has officially joined hands with Hombale Films for a brand-new big-budget movie. The announcement has created huge excitement among fans across India. The film will be directed by T. J. Gnanavel, who is well known for making the award-winning movie Jai Bhim. With this powerful combination, expectations for the project are already very high. The production house shared the news on social media with a special message praising Suriya's remarkable career. They described him as an actor who always chooses meaningful roles and gives honest performances. Hombale Films welcomed him by calling this one of the biggest collaborations in recent times. Before the official announcement, producer Vijay Kiragandur had hinted that a major update would arrive in the afternoon. His message increased curiosity among fans, and many started guessing what the surprise would be. When the announcement finally came, it confirmed that Suriya would lead the production house's next major film. Reports suggest that actress Kayadu Lohar is likely to play the female lead. She recently impressed

audiences with her performances and is expected to bring fresh energy to the film. Young music composer Sai Abhyankkar is expected to compose the soundtrack, while cinematographer S. R. Kathir will handle the visuals. Editor Philomin Raj is also likely to be part of the technical team. The film is expected to be made on a grand scale with high production values. Although the title and story have not been revealed yet, fans are already looking forward to more updates. At the same time, social media is buzzing with reports that the previously discussed project between Hrithik Roshan and Hombale Films has been put on hold or may no longer move forward. However, there has been no official confirmation from either Hrithik Roshan or Hombale Films regarding these reports. With Suriya now officially joining Hombale Films and T. J. Gnanavel directing the project, movie lovers are expecting a powerful entertainer with strong performances, quality storytelling, and impressive visuals. More details about the cast, story, and release date are expected to be announced in the coming months.

NTR As Muruga, but who Will play Lord Shiva?

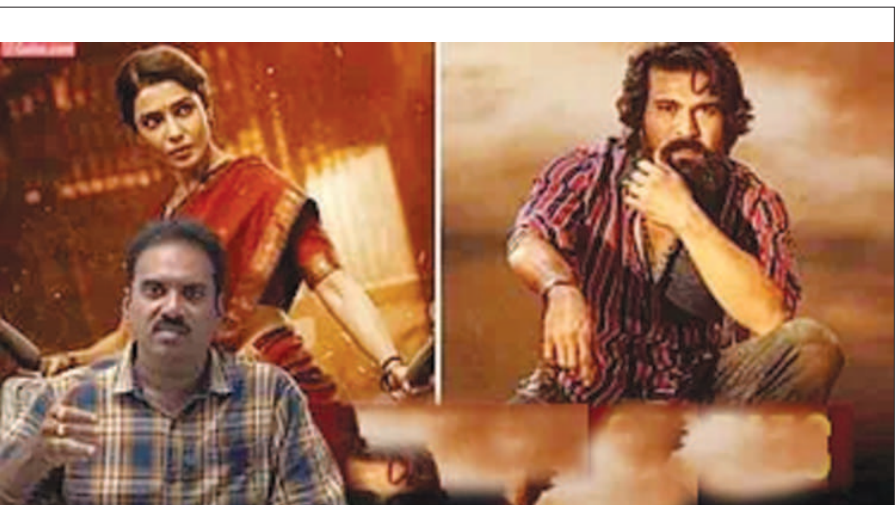


The official announcement of NTR and Trivikram Srinivas' much-awaited pan-India epic has sent fans into a frenzy. The film, inspired by Lord Muruga, marks the reunion of the blockbuster duo after Aravinda Sametha Veera Raghava. The concept poster and tagline have already hinted at a grand mythological spectacle rooted in divinity and warfare. While fans are thrilled to see NTR step into the role of Muruga, a new discussion has now taken over social media. The biggest question being asked is: who will portray Lord Shiva in the film? Since Muruga is the son of Shiva and Parvathi, many believe the character of Shiva will play a crucial role in the narrative. Fans feel that casting a power-

ful senior star in the role would elevate the film's scale and create unforgettable on-screen moments alongside NTR. Names of several veteran stars are already being floated online, with movie lovers suggesting that only an actor with immense screen presence can match NTR in a mythological setting. Social media discussions are filled with casting suggestions, making the topic one of the hottest talking points. However, the makers have not revealed any casting details beyond the core team. With Trivikram known for carefully selecting his performers, fans are eagerly waiting to see who lands the prestigious role. For now, the excitement is only growing.



MIB Crosses 75 Cr, Peddi's Run Almost Done!



In this edition of Monday Stories, we look at the Performance of Samantha's Maa Inti Bangaaram after 10 days run and Peddi after its 25 days run. Maa Inti Bangaaram had a fantastic second weekend with Saturday and Sunday numbers being better than the opening day numbers. The movie has collected 77.45 Crore Gross Worldwide and is likely to touch the magical 100 Crore Gross. It is the biggest hit this year in terms of Return on Investment. Coming to Peddi, the movie's run is almost complete. The movie has collected around 179.42 Crore Share WW.

Uttarandhra is the only area in Telugu States which will be breakeven without the Producer having to give the GST. Some areas will breakeven and some will miss by a whisker after the GST by the Producer. The movie has disappointed outside the Telugu States. Peddi has performed very well when compared to its Talk but then, the costs involved are very high and at the end, they proved to be costly. Rao Bahadur and Nagabandham are releasing this weekend. We will have to see if MIB will slow down due to their impact.

Ramba Oorvasi Menaka: Allari Naresh back with Humorous Bang

Allari Naresh has been diversified his acting choices from comedy entertainers to prove his versatility. He is back with a humorous subject, Ramba Oorvasi Menaka. The movie is directed by Chandra Mohan Chintada and produced by Razesh Danda and Prasad Nimmakayala. The movie first look has been unveiled and it presents Allari Naresh writing and thinking about Ramba Oorvasi Menaka all the time. Without revealing the actresses who are playing the roles, using just idols, makers have



created intrigue. With base in mythology and Allari Naresh in a hilarious entertainer, the makers have already created

huge excitement for the film. Movie is scheduled for a 4th September release with Annapurna Studios presenting it.

Lady director takes movie Team to Court Over Rs.8.39 Cr Dues



Director Sudha Kongara has taken legal action against the makers of Parasakthi, creating fresh uncertainty around one of Tamil cinema's most talked about projects. According to reports, the acclaimed filmmaker has approached the Madras High Court alleging that a remuneration amount of Rs.8.39 crore remains unpaid. The matter has now reached the legal stage, with Sudha Kongara seeking directions regarding the pending payment. The development has caught the attention of the film industry, especially since Parasakthi had some big names like Sivakarthikeyan and Sreeleela playing leads. During the hearing, the court reportedly indicated that the satellite release of the film should not proceed until July 8,

when the matter is expected to be reviewed further. This observation has added another layer of complexity. In addition, the plea is said to have sought restraint on the release of Idhayam Murali, which is currently scheduled to hit theaters on July 10. The legal dispute has therefore expanded beyond remuneration concerns and could potentially impact release strategies connected to the production house. The case has quickly become a major talking point in Kollywood, with fans and trade circles closely monitoring developments. While the producers are expected to present their side before the court, the outcome of the upcoming hearing could play a crucial role in determining the immediate future of the film.

Sankranthi 2027: the most Entertaining duo Joins the race!

Sankranthi 2027 box office race is going to turn exciting with multiple stars fighting it out with their films. An interesting addition to this slate is Ravi Teja and Sree Vishnu. For the first time, both the actors are joining hands for a multistarrer, and the crazy combination will be directed by Hasith Goli.



Hasith Goli has already proved his mettle with the films Raja Raja Chora and Swag. This would be his third film with Sree Vishnu, and we hear that the film will leave everyone in splits, and it also has a nice story.

The addition of Ravi Teja is also an interesting aspect as he brings the right energy to the film. Both

the actors can perform comedy very well, and their coming on board is a fun ride.

Dil Raju is producing the film under the Sri Venkateswara Creations banner. The film is currently in the pre-production stage and the team plans to hit the screens during Sankranthi. Already, we have Chiranjeevi-Bobby project, Anil Ravipudi-Kalyan Ram-Venkatesh project and King100 reportedly confirmed for a release during Sankranthi. All three are big budgeted flicks and if the new multistarrer also is slated for a release for festival, it will be a packed Sankranthi at ticket windows.

‘Vaibhav may have to wait for the first three games’: Pujara urges patience over teenager’s selection

New Delhi, June 30 : Former India batter Cheteshwar Pujara believes teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi should not allow the growing attention around him to become a distraction as he awaits a possible opportunity in India's upcoming T20I series against England. Speaking ahead of the tour, Pujara said the youngster is unlikely to feature immediately given the stability of India's current top order, while stressing that preparation and patience will be crucial to his long-term success. Pujara first advised Sooryavanshi to stay grounded despite the widespread excitement surrounding his emergence. “There is a lot of hype around Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. As a young player, he shouldn't pay attention to what is being said about him. He needs

to block out the outside noise and focus on his game,” Pujara told JioStar. While backing the youngster's mindset, Pujara explained that earning a place in the playing XI depends on more than just talent, especially with India's batting lineup already settled. “But even if he is mentally ready, selection is a different matter. I don't think he will get a chance straight away in the England series because India wouldn't want to change their top three. Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson, and Ishan Kishan are quality batters who have helped India win the T20 World Cup. So, Vaibhav may have to wait for the first three games,” he added. Pujara also outlined the approach he believes Sooryavanshi should adopt whenever his



opportunity eventually arrives. “If the opportunity arrives, the key for him will be to stay relaxed and calm. He shouldn't put pressure on himself to score big runs. He should just go out and express himself,” he said. The veteran batter cautioned that conditions in England will pose a fresh challenge, making thorough preparation essential before expecting the same level of success he enjoyed in franchise cricket.

“What he did in the IPL won't be easy to replicate in English conditions. So, he needs to prepare well and get used to the conditions. Once he has done that, it will be about watching the ball and playing it on its merit. Everything else will fall into place,” Pujara stated. India begin their T20I series in England with a settled batting unit, meaning Sooryavanshi may have to bide his time before receiving his first opportunity at the international level.

ICC rankings: Charani retains top spot, Bell-Ecclestone close in after latest update

Dubai, June 30 : India left-arm spinner Sree Charani retained her position as the world's No.1 T20I bowler in the latest rankings released on Tuesday, although England duo Sophie Ecclestone and Lauren Bell have moved closer to the summit following their impressive performances at the ongoing Women's T20 World Cup. Charani, who finished India's campaign with 14 wickets to emerge as one of the tournament's standout bowlers, continues to lead the rankings despite the team's group-stage exit. However, with several players still featuring in the knockout stages, her lead remains under threat. Ecclestone climbed one place to third after taking eight wickets in the tournament so far, while fellow England pacer Bell made an even bigger jump, rising three places to fourth. South Africa spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba also gained one place to move into

fifth, while Pakistan left-arm spinner Nashra Sandhu improved one spot to ninth. Among the other notable movers in the bowling rankings, South Africa all-rounder Marizanne Kapp jumped seven places to 14th, Scotland captain Kathryn Bryce surged 17 spots to 26th, and New Zealand seamer Bree Inling climbed six places to 31st. Australia opener Georgia Voll retained her place as the world's No.1 T20I batter despite a poor performance in the last group stage match against India. South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt moved up one place to joint third, while Sri Lanka skipper Chamari Athapaththu climbed two positions to seventh after her unbeaten century against Ireland during the group stage. England opener Danni Wyatt-Hodge, currently the tournament's leading run-scorer, gained five places to 11th. Australia veteran Ellyse Perry also rose



five spots to 17th, South Africa's Annerie Dercksen advanced four places to 24th, and Scotland's Darcey Carter jumped 13 positions to 42nd. There was no change at the top of the T20I all-rounders' rankings, with West Indies captain Hayley Matthews retaining the No.1 position ahead of New Zealand's Melie Kerr. Ireland's Orla Prendergast was the biggest mover among the leading all-rounders, climbing two places to joint third. Kapp improved to eighth, Bryce rose to 11th, while Australia's Annabel Sutherland advanced two spots to 17th.

You can only make diamonds in pressure: Root pays emotional farewell to Stokes

New Delhi, June 30 : Former England captain Joe Root paid a candid tribute to Ben Stokes, lauding the all-rounder's ability to thrive under immense pressure, describing him as a player who consistently produced match-winning moments when the game hung in the balance. Stokes, one of England's modern-day cricketing icons, has retired from international cricket after the third Test against New Zealand at Trent Bridge, bringing the curtain down on a glittering 15-year international career that began in 2011 and included four years as England's Test captain. Few players have shaped England's fortunes across formats quite like Ben Stokes. A genuine match-winner with bat and ball, Stokes delivered some of the most unforgettable moments, none bigger than his unbeaten 84 in the 2019 ODI World Cup final that helped England lift their first-ever world title. “We've been through a huge amount as two players, but one thing I've always admired about you



is, whatever's happened, you've always owned your own... But also that old saying of you can only make diamonds in pressure. Whenever the game's been in the balance, the amount of times, there are only so many players that can create moments like you have. And to say that you can count on two hands more, that your career will be remembered for that,” Root said in a video shared by England and Wales Cricket Board. Brook further recalled Stookes' legendary 135 not out at Headingley that inspired one of the greatest Ashes victories in history. m"There's so many different moments that you have done for this team across all formats but especially

in Test cricket and there'll be generations of people out there that have been inspired by what you've achieved throughout.”And we are all very lucky to have been a part of that journey and to have spent time in the same dressing room as you and everything that you've done. Whether it be winning World Cups, Ashes series, individual moments like that, ridiculous innings at Headingley in 2019,” he added. In 2022, following Joe Root's resignation as Test captain, Stokes took charge of the red-ball side and, alongside head coach Brendon McCullum, ushered in the fearless attacking philosophy that became known as “Bazball”, leading the team to 11 wins in his

first 13 matches in charge. Under their leadership, England rediscovered its identity, recording memorable series victories over New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan and others while bringing fresh excitement to Test cricket. Root concluded his speech by looking ahead to life after their playing days. “You inspired most of the lads in this room because you're so old now and they were little teenagers growing up and learning the game. It's been a hell of a ride mate, I've loved every minute playing alongside you. “I'm so grateful that I've been able to spend the journey with you, and I really look forward to just at some point, when we're dusty old veterans like the coaching staff, sitting down having a beer,” he said. He finished his Test career with 7273 runs at 34.46, including 14 centuries, and 252 wickets at 30.98, including six five-wicket hauls in 122 Tests, including 44 as England captain. In 114 ODIs, he has 3463 runs and has 585 runs in 43 T20Is.

Harmanpreet to lead India in 2026 Asian Games as BCCI names 15-strong squad

Mumbai, June 30 : The BCCI on Tuesday announced a Harmanpreet Kaur-led 15-member squad for the upcoming 2026 Asian Games. The selection committee has shown faith in the same contingent that featured in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, with left-hand batter and wicketkeeper G Kamalini's inclusion in place of Yastika Bhatia remaining the only change. India will head into the 2026 Asian Games, scheduled to be played in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4, as the defending champions, having clinched the historic gold medal in the women's cricket competition at the previous edition of the Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China. Shafali Verma and Jemimah Rodrigues will spearhead the batting department alongside vice-captain and Smriti Mandhana. Star all-rounder Deepti Sharma anchors a middle order, while the Richa Ghosh leads the wicketkeeping

duties alongside backup glove-woman Kamalini. The pace attack will be spearheaded by swing specialist Renuka Singh Thakur and the experienced Arundhati Reddy. Meanwhile, the spin department boasts the expertise of left-arm orthodox Radha Yadav and off-spinner Shreyanka Patil. However, the BCCI said Shreyanka's inclusion in the final squad remains subject to fitness clearance following a recent injury layoff. The all-rounder was ruled out of the T20 World Cup due to a twisted ankle. Cricket has been retained for the Asian Games 2026 following its successful inclusion in the 2022 edition after being dropped from the programme at Jakarta 2018. Overall, this will be the fourth time that cricket will be making an appearance in the Asian Games programme. It made a debut as a medal event in the Asian Games at Guangzhou 2010 and returned at



Incheon 2014, although the matches were not accorded international status. India's squad for the 2026 Asian Games: Harmanpreet Kaur (Captain), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-Captain), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (WK), G. Kamalini (WK), Bharti Fulmali, Sree Charani, Renuka Thakur, Kranti Gaud, Arundhati Reddy, Shreyanka Patil (subject to fitness), Radha Yadav, Nandini Sharma.

FIFA WC: Germany knocked out as Paraguay prevail 4-3 on penalties to reach last-16

Foxborough, June 30 : Paraguay knocked out four-time champions Germany with a wild penalty shootout (4-3) win after the two teams were tied at 1-1 in regulation time in the Round of 32 match of the FIFA World Cup 2026 here at Boston Stadium on Tuesday. Germany had never lost on penalties at the FIFA World Cup. After being down and out seemingly, Manuel Neuer got them back on level terms, only for Paraguay to finally seize their third spot-kick shot at reaching the last 16. Julio Enciso put La Albirroja ahead in the 42nd minute. The Germans used their own aerial prowess to equalise with Kai Havertz diverting Florian Wirtz's cross into the bottom corner. After another header, from Jonathan Tah, was ruled out, the tie went to a shootout. Gill repelled two penalties in it to leave the Paraguayans all but through, only for Manuel Neuer to inspire a remarkable fightback. Finally, with what was the third spot-kick the Paraguayans had to progress, Jose Canale kept his cool to send Gustavo Alfaro's charges through. Germany started the penalty shootout but immediately found



themselves on the back foot when Kai Havertz hit his spot-kick straight at the Paraguay goalkeeper. Mauricio capitalised on the error by burying his shot into the corner, though Joshua Kimmich quickly responded for the Germans, hesitating before confidently converting his effort. Gustavo Gomez then struck well to put Paraguay ahead 2-1, only for Jamal Musiala to level the score at 2-2 with an effortless finish. The drama intensified as Matias Galarza successfully converted to put Paraguay on the brink of victory after Nick Woltemade's subsequent

effort for Germany was saved. However, the four-time champions clung on as Antonio Sanabria saw his potential match-winning strike repelled, allowing Nadiem Amiri to step up and coolly make it 3-3. With a second chance at glory dangling before Paraguay, veteran goalkeeper Manuel Neuer delivered another clutch moment to keep Germany alive by denying Fabian Balbuena. Yet, the South Americans would not be denied a third time, as Jose Canale stepped up and buried his decisive effort to spectacularly knock Germany out of the tournament.

There’s a little bit of disbelief: Ten Doeschate after India’s maiden series loss to Ireland

India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate admitted the team's 0-2 T20I series defeat to Ireland was difficult to digest but said it exposed an important lesson: the need to adapt much quicker to unfamiliar conditions. The defeat ended India's 16-series unbeaten run in T20Is and came after the team had recently celebrated title wins in the T20 World Cup and Champions Trophy. Ten Doeschate said the players were disappointed but credited Ireland for executing their plans better. “There’s a little bit of disbelief. It’s also very hard to be critical of guys who have just won a World Cup. We’ve been outdone or outsmarted by a team who just did the basics very well,” ten Doeschate said. “So firstly, credit to Ireland, and secondly the learnings for us in terms of being able to adapt to different conditions. That’s probably the biggest takeaway from this. The guys really know how to play in India. This is a good lesson in the fact that we’re going to have to adapt and play slightly differently when we go to different countries and play against different teams.” He felt the conditions in Belfast, particularly the wind and large square boundaries, played a major role in India's struggles. “That was essentially our undoing. It's things we spoke about before, but we just didn't address it well enough out in the middle. I think the big thing was the wind,” he said. “Again, absolutely no excuses, but when presented with a different challenge we have to find solutions of playing in a different manner, in a better manner. I thought Ireland did that very



well with the ball. They never let us hit straight. In two matches, I think we hit two straight sixes. They were both off the spinner. They just did the basics really well and we couldn't combat that. “We’re probably too used to a sort of a tempo and style where you can hit sixes more freely. I think this will be the case when you go to England as well... we’re going to have to adapt and be a lot smarter about how we’d like to play if we’re going to get wins there,” he added. Ten Doeschate said India had specifically discussed avoiding hitting towards the larger square boundaries before the second game and felt the bowlers responded well, but the batters failed to adjust. “That was the central focus of our discussion, particularly for the second game,” he said. “I thought we adjusted really well as a bowling unit today... We need to learn from that. We need to adapt quicker. It is something we spoke about but, again, without being overcritical, we want the boys to make those adjustments a lot quicker.” At the same time, he stressed that the team would not move away from its aggressive approach. “It’s been a strong part of the team’s identity over the last

two years... that we really try to dominate the powerplay,” he said. “It’s easy to say sit around, but if you never swing, you’re never going to hit a six. We just want to take better options and give ourselves a better chance of dominating the powerplay.” Having represented the Netherlands during his playing career, ten Doeschate understands the challenges faced by smaller cricketing nations. Although Ireland are now a Full Member they are yet to get enough opportunities at the highest level. Doeschate believes such victories could play a significant role in their growth and confidence. “I thought the Irish were fantastic over both days... I’m pretty chuffed for them. It’s obviously super disappointing to lose, but to see them make progress like that and just win by making the most of what they have is very impressive, and we take our hats off to them,” he said. Vaibhav must wait despite being ready: ten Doeschate Ten Doeschate believes teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is ready for international cricket but insisted the 15-year-old will have to earn his place like everyone else and wait for his opportunity. Sooryavanshi earned his

maiden India call-up after a sensational IPL 2026 campaign, where he finished as Player of the Tournament with 776 runs in 16 innings at a staggering strike rate of 237.30. While selectors felt his performances demanded immediate recognition, the team management has resisted making changes despite India's shock T20I series defeat to Ireland. The former Dutch international said India remain committed to backing the players already in the side, even though opener Sanju Samson has registered golden ducks in both matches of the series. “He’s absolutely ready to play international cricket, there’s no doubt about that,” ten Doeschate said when asked how close Sooryavanshi was to making his debut. “But also, I think it’s not a question to say you can leave Sanju Samson out. A guy who went a long way to winning India the World Cup three months ago. A guy who’s had a fairly good IPL [Samson scored two hundreds for Chennai Super Kings]. “It’s important in terms of giving players confidence, and the message we’re sending to players. We want to give guys a long run in the team. So, you know, as excited as Vaibhav is and as ready as we are and you are to see him play, he’s going to have to go through the same process as everyone else and, you know, bide his time and wait. But certainly no questions about how good he is and how ready he is.” Sooryavanshi has also been picked for the upcoming five-match series in England beginning on Wednesday, followed by the Asian Games.

Can’t take anything for granted: Iyer after Ireland shock India in first T20I

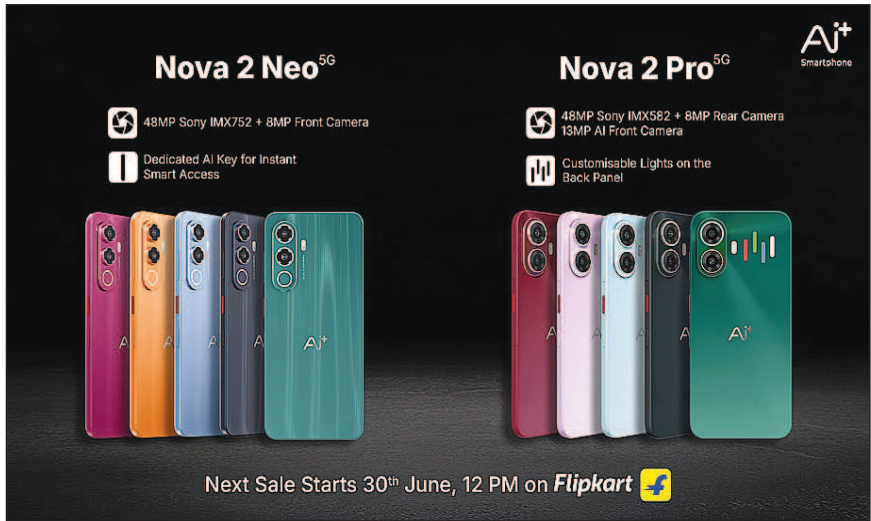
India captain Shreyas Iyer admitted his side paid the price for taking crucial moments lightly after Ireland scripted a historic 34-run victory in the opening T20I in Belfast, handing the hosts their first-ever win over India in eight attempts. Leading India for the first time in T20Is, Iyer said the defeat served as an important reminder that no opponent can be underestimated. “You can’t take anything for granted,” Iyer said after the match. “You can’t just turn up and win matches. You have to work hard and see to it that you’re in that moment. Like I mentioned earlier, you’ve got to stay in the present and see to it that if you’ve got that opportunity to squeeze the opponent, we’ve got to do that. And yeah, never take any moment or situation lightly.” India had reduced Ireland to 51/4 after an excellent opening spell from their seamers, but the hosts recovered through a 64-run partnership between captain Lorcan Tucker and Gareth Delany. Three dropped catches, including reprieves for both Tucker and Delany, proved costly as

Ireland recovered to post 182/9. Reflecting on the turning point, Iyer felt India lost control in the middle overs after making the ideal start. “I think initially, the bowlers were bowling well. They got lateral movement, and they got a couple of wickets as well. So we got a tremendous start, but in between, we lost execution. We made them hit straight down the ground, where we know that the dimensions are pretty small. But then, yeah, the bowlers, when we had to shut down the overs, they were brilliant as well. So I thought 140 would have been an amazing score considering the start that we got,” Iyer said. Irish skipper Lorcan Tucker praised India's new-ball bowlers, saying they made batting extremely difficult during the Powerplay before his side managed to shift gears. “I think India bowled really well at the start. I think they bowled really good lengths. They didn't really waver from them. They stuck at them, found it challenging to hit good shots. It nearly felt like a Test match at one stage. But I think we



tried to stay in the game, build a partnership, and then took our opportunities when they came a bit later,” Tucker said. Tucker, who led a largely inexperienced side into the game after several of the senior members of the team were injured, said it was a “pretty special thing” to beat India for the first time in internationals. “It’s pretty special thing to beat the world champions at home,” Tucker said after the game. “[It is the] first game of the season, T20 cricket, but credit is due to the lads. I think we had two debutantes there who put in absolutely outstanding performances.

Ai+ Smartphone announces next sale of Nova 2 Neo and Nova 2 Pro following complete sell-out during first sale



Visakhapatnam June 2026: Ai+ Smartphone has announced the next sale of its recently launched Nova 2 Neo and Nova 2 Pro after both smartphones witnessed a complete sell-out during their first sale on Flipkart on June 26. The devices were unveiled on June 22 at India's Got Nova, the brand's flagship launch event hosted by renowned Gadget Guru Rajiv Makhni featuring comedian & Youtuber Samay Raina alongside Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone. The event also brought together leading technology creators, reviewers, members of the media and consumers as part of Ai+ Smartphone's Open Review Program, reinforcing the brand's commitment to transparency and community-led product development. The strong consumer response marks another milestone for the growing Nova Series. The next sale of the Nova 2 Neo and Nova 2 Pro will commence on June 30 at 12pm on Flipkart. The Nova 2 Neo and Nova

2 Pro have been developed to cater to a broad spectrum of consumers from first-time 5G smartphone users to those seeking a more performance-oriented everyday smartphone. Combining dependable hardware with Android 16-based NxtQuantum OS, the devices deliver a clean software experience, reliable performance and long-lasting battery life across their respective price segments. Commenting on the response, Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies, said: "The response to the Nova 2 Neo and Nova 2 Pro has been extremely encouraging. Seeing both devices sell out during their very first sale reinforces our belief that consumers are looking for smartphones that deliver dependable performance, thoughtful design and a clean software experience at accessible price points. Earlier this year, the Nova 2 and Nova 2 Ultra also received an exceptional response, and we're pleased

to see the Nova Series continue building strong momentum. With the next sale beginning on June 30, we look forward to bringing the Nova experience to many more consumers across the country." The Nova 2 Neo is powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 6300 5G processor and features a 120Hz HD+ display, a 6000mAh battery and Android 16-based NxtQuantum OS. The Nova 2 Pro, powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 7100 processor, offers a 144Hz FHD+ display. Both the devices have 48MP SonyIMX582 Camera with fast charging and a premium design for users. The successful debut of the Nova 2 Neo and Nova 2 Pro further strengthens the momentum of the Nova Series as Ai+ Smartphone continues to expand its portfolio with products focused on delivering dependable performance, thoughtful design and a clean software experience for a wider range of consumers.

Dr Botsa Anusha felicitates retired PACS CEO Bellana Ramu Naidu

Vizianagaram (Gurla), June 30 (Skyline): A grand retirement felicitation ceremony was organised at BVA Convention Hall in Gurla to honour Bellana Ramu Naidu, who retired after serving as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Tettangi Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society (PACS). YSRCP young leader Dr. Botsa Anusha attended the programme as the chief guest and paid rich tributes to the retired officer for his sincere and dedicated service to the cooperative sector. She said Bellana Ramu Naidu had earned the respect and trust of farmers and society members through his integrity, commitment and



people-centric approach during his tenure. Extending her heartfelt wishes, Dr. Anusha expressed hope that he would enjoy a healthy, peaceful and fulfilling retired life. She felicitated him with a shawl and presented mementoes in recognition of his valuable contribution to the cooperative movement. Several leaders and coop-

erative representatives participated in the event, including Potnuru Sanyasi Naidu, Seera Appala Naidu, Thota Tirupati Rao, Varada Eswara Rao, Madhusudhan, Reddy Murali, members of the cooperative society, family members, well-wishers and local supporters, making the farewell function a memorable occasion.

Cheepurupalli Police raise awareness on Women's safety, cybercrime and drug abuse

Vizianagaram (Cheepurupalli), June 30 (Skyline): Following the directions of the Superintendent of Police, Vizianagaram, Cheepurupalli Sub-Inspector P. Uma Venkateswara Rao conducted a comprehensive awareness programme at Mettupalli High School. Addressing the students, he emphasised the importance of women's safety and encouraged girls to remain vigilant and report any incidents of harassment or suspicious behaviour to their parents, teachers or the police without hesitation. He urged students to be confident in protecting themselves and seeking timely assistance whenever required. The officer also educated students on



road safety and responsible behaviour while travelling. Highlighting the increasing threat of cybercrime, he advised them not to share personal information, passwords or OTPs with anyone and to stay alert against fake calls, fraudulent links and online scams. Students were also sensitised about the

harmful effects of ganja and other narcotic substances and were encouraged to stay away from drug abuse. The programme aimed to create awareness about personal safety, legal responsibilities and the importance of becoming responsible, informed and law-abiding citizens.

Union Minister showered praise on Bhogapuram PM Sri School

Vizianagaram, June 30 (Skyline): Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has showered praise on the Bhogapuram PM Sri School in the district, which was introduced on an experimental basis by the Prime Minister, said State Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Rural Poverty Alleviation and Empowerment of Diaspora Affairs Kondapalli Srinivas. On Tuesday, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, led by State Education, IT and Human Resource Development Minister Nara Lokesh, inspected the Bhogapuram PM Sri School. Speaking at a media briefing on this occasion, the Union Minister expressed his appreciation for the excellent services provided by the state government under the lead-



ership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Education Minister Nara Lokesh. He said that the education department and teachers are making special efforts to bring light to the lives of underprivileged students. All the departments of the school

were thoroughly inspected. On this occasion, the Union Minister asked the students several questions and congratulated them for their quick answers. Minister Kondapalli Srinivas said that Minister Nara Lokesh had advised the faculty to move for-

ward with the same spirit and achieve good results under the leadership of the missionary leader Chandrababu Naidu, who is moving forward in Vision 2047. Minister Nara Lokesh did not visit the Bhogapuram Airport due to his busy schedule and did not speak. Minister Kondapalli Srinivas advised the students to understand the difficulties of their parents and to study well with the facilities provided by the government and work hard to bring good name to their parents, their villages and the district. Along with Minister Kondapalli Srinivas, MLA Aditi Vijayalakshmi, DCCB Chairman Kimidi Nagarjuna, Mark Ped Chairman Karothu Bangaru Raju and others participated.

This Andhra Pradesh Engineer Upskilled at Scaler and Landed a 300% Hike in Just 7 Months

Visakhapatnam, 30th June, 2026: For many engineering graduates, not securing a campus placement can feel like being left behind while everyone else moves ahead. For Andhra Pradesh-based Bendu Manohar Naidu, that feeling stayed with him long after graduation. After completing his degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE), Manohar spent nearly a year trying to secure a role in the core electronics sector. Despite repeated efforts, opportunities remained scarce. As friends began settling into jobs and higher studies, he found himself grappling with uncertainty about what came

next. Determined to create a new path, Manohar began exploring opportunities in technology, he decided to transition into the field despite having no formal computer science background. To build the skills required, he enrolled in the Software Engineering programme at Scaler. The shift was far from easy. Coding concepts were unfamiliar, and competition was intense. Yet Manohar remained consistent. Even on difficult days, he made it a point to solve at least one coding problem, treating progress as a daily habit rather than a distant goal. His family supported him relentlessly throughout his



journey. Months of hard work eventually paid off when he secured his first opportunity in the technology sector. Today, he works with Swiggy as Software Development Engineer 1 (SDE 1). His compensation has grown by over 300% within a span of merely 7 months of joining. For Manohar, the achievement was about more than career progression. After spending nearly two and a half years feeling left behind while many of his peers moved ahead, it reaffirmed that persistence, patience, and the support of loved ones can help turn even the most difficult setbacks into new beginnings.

GITAM PhD Scholar Wins Prestigious Global Research Grant from ATBC to Study Impact of Pharmaceutical Pollution on Frog Breeding

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, June 30
Dhwani Dave, a PhD scholar at the School of Life Sciences, GITAM Deemed to be University, has been awarded a prestigious and highly competitive student research grant by the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC). The ATBC is a renowned, 60 year-old global society dedicated to promoting international research, education, and the conservation of tropical ecosystems. Securing this funding is a monumental milestone, underscoring the world-class quality of scientific research being fostered at GITAM. Dhwani's doctoral research delves into the fascinating and delicate world of amphibian com-

munication. Frogs rely heavily on unique acoustic signals (mating songs) to attract partners and compete for reproductive success, sometimes even utilizing their natural surroundings as amplifiers to enhance their calls. These behavioral traits have evolved over millions of years. However, her study addresses a critical and growing ecological threat pharmaceutical pollution. The research investigates how chemical residues from leftover medicines enter waterways, infiltrate frogs' bodies, and disrupt their endocrine (hormonal) systems. This hormonal imbalance severely alters both the frogs' ability to produce their distinct mating songs and their capacity to respond to them, directly threat-



ening their survival and reproduction. With the ATBC grant being intensely contested by researchers worldwide, this recognition positions GITAM at the forefront of impactful ecological research.

The findings from Dhwani's study are expected to provide vital data for environmental policymakers and conservationists working to protect freshwater ecosystems from the invisible threats of chemical and pharmaceutical waste. "The proposed work addresses a crucial, long-standing gap in tropical ecology regarding how sensitive taxa like amphibians are impacted by emerging pollutants," said Dr. Viraj R. Toraskar, who is guiding Dhwani's research at GITAM. "Amphibians are ecological indicators, and understanding how modern chemical waste disrupts their ancient evolutionary behaviors is vital for biodiversity conservation."

Godrej Pet Care Enters Andhra Pradesh & Telangana with Godrej Ninja' Pet Food Brand

Visakhapatnam, June 30, 2026: Godrej Pet Care (GPC), a subsidiary of Godrej Consumer Products Ltd. (GCPL), has entered Andhra Pradesh and Telangana with Godrej Ninja - a pet care brand offering scientifically formulated pet food for dogs, designed to enhance gut health and immunity. The launch follows its successful debut in Tamil Nadu and marks a significant step in the company's ambition to build a pan-India presence in the rapidly growing pet care segment.



Pet care is an emerging sunrise category for Godrej Consumer Products. The market is estimated at Rs.6,000 crore, of which Rs.5000 crore is estimated to be pet food. The pet care category has the potential of strong double-digit growth over the next few decades. Despite rising pet ownership in India, penetration of packaged pet food remains low. Currently, ~10% of Indians own a pet, and among them, just ~10% feed packaged food, that too only 40% of the time. Calorie conversion in India is just 5%. China, which was remarkably like India 15 years ago, has close to 20% pet ownership with a calorie conversion of 25%. South India represents an estimated Rs.1,800-2,000 crore of India's pet food market. Within the region, Karnataka is the largest pet food market, followed by Andhra Pradesh & Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala.

In terms of contribution to national pet food sales, Karnataka accounts for the highest share (15%), followed by Andhra Pradesh & Telangana (8%), Tamil Nadu (8%), and Kerala (5%). Formed in 2024, Godrej Pet Care combines the animal nutrition expertise of Godrej Agrovet with the brand-building and distribution strengths of Godrej Consumer Products. Backed by a dedicated R&D centre and the Nadir Godrej Centre for Animal Research & Development, the company is focused on building a science-led, trusted pet care portfolio for Indian consumers. Speaking on the launch, Nitin Jain, Chief Operating Officer, Godrej Pet Care, said, "South India is a key growth market for India's pet care industry and presents a significant opportunity for long-term category development. Godrej Pet Care is

democratising the pet food category by offering great quality product at an affordable price-point than those available in the market. The encouraging response to Godrej Ninja in Tamil Nadu has validated the growing demand for science-led nutrition among pet parents. With a Rs.500 crore investment in pet care over the next few years, we are aiming for rapid expansion in Southern India by making high-quality pet food nutrition accessible to a larger community of pet parents." Nitin Jain, further added, "Hyderabad, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam have emerged as a significant hub for India's pet care economy. The presence of global manufacturers, a rapidly growing base of young pet parents, and strong uptake of packaged nutrition make Andhra Pradesh and Telangana a natural priority market for Godrej Ninja. With the national pet food market growing at over 14% annually, we expect the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to outpace that trajectory, driven by the rising aspirations of urban pet parents in Hyderabad, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam." Made and tested in India, Ninja has been developed at the Nadir Godrej Centre for Animal Research & Development and is specifically designed to meet the nutritional needs of pet dogs. Dr. Ashok Pattanaik, Head, Research

& Development, Godrej Pet Care (GPC) and former Principal Scientist at Indian Veterinary Research Institute, emphasized, "As humans, we instinctively balance our diets for immunity — curd for probiotics, cereals for energy, and chicken or fish for protein. Pet dogs need something equally complete. Many pet parents express love through home-cooked meals, but these often lack essential nutrients, leading to deficiencies and imbalances, and many a times, poor health or even illnesses. With nearly 70% of a dog's immune system residing in the gut, poor nutrition directly weakens immunity. Gastrointestinal issues account for nearly 30% of vet visits — a clear signal that scientifically formulated food with the right immuno-nutrients is not a luxury, but a necessity. Ninja, therefore, is designed to improve digestive health and immunity of dogs through a scientifically formulated 3P blend of Probiotics, Prebiotics and Polyphenols, along with 37 balanced nutrients targeted to optimize the health and overall well-being." Godrej Ninja is available for puppies and adult dogs. Adult variants are priced at Rs.20 (100g), Rs.199 (1kg), and Rs.499 (3kg), while puppy variants are priced at Rs.20 (100g), Rs.219 (1kg), and Rs.549 (3kg).