



6pg

Who will give Buchi Babu the next chance?

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Rupee falls 15 paise to 94.65 against US dollar on strong greenback

4pg



Regional industries must become partners in Viksit Bharat journey: Raksha Mantri at Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference

5pg

Every time he clears one level, we look for the next challenge, says Karthik on Sooryavanshi



7pg

Youth Have a Crucial Role in Building Viksit Bharat: President Droupadi Murmu

From Our Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, June 30: President of India Droupadi Murmu emphasized that educated youth have the most vital role to play in nation-building. Addressing the first convocation ceremony of the Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday, the President distributed degrees to graduating students and encouraged them to contribute meaningfully to society. Speaking on the occasion, President Murmu said, "I too was the first graduate from a remote village. It gives me immense happiness to confer degrees upon so many young students today." She reflected on her own journey and expressed pride in witnessing the achievements of the graduating class. The



President advised students not to forget the underprivileged sections of society while striving for success. She urged them to remember those who are still waiting for opportunities and development, and to extend support and encouragement to marginalized communities. "You should not only move forward in life but also look back and recognize the many poor and disadvantaged people who are still awaiting progress.

Kadapa Steel Plant Construction Set to Begin on July 3



New Delhi: The long-awaited Kadapa Steel Plant project is finally set to move forward, with construction works scheduled to commence on July 3. Nandyal MP Byreddy Shabari announced that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will officially launch the construction works on that day. Shabari stated that the Kadapa Steel Plant is a symbol of self-respect for the people of Rayalaseema and said the coalition government is demonstrating its commitment through action rather than mere promises. She criticized the previous

YSRCP government, alleging that it failed to make meaningful progress on the project over the past five years and did not even construct a compound wall. Recalling that Chandrababu Naidu had originally laid the foundation stone for the plant on December 27, 2018, she said the coalition government's goal is to transform Rayalaseema from a region perceived as backward into a truly "Royal Seema." According to her, the government is implementing plans to develop the region into a hub for horticulture, electronics, and industries.

The MP further alleged that the previous government misled the public with symbolic gestures ahead of elections without advancing the project. She emphasized that the Kadapa Steel Plant is not merely an industrial venture but a project that will generate employment for thousands of youth and provide economic security to numerous families. Shabari said construction is being launched only after ensuring the availability of essential infrastructure, including power supply, water resources, and road connectivity. She also noted that nearly 800 companies have expressed interest in investing in Andhra Pradesh since the coalition government assumed office and challenged the previous administration to explain what it had done for the development of Rayalaseema.

Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Praises Andhra Pradesh's Education Reforms

From Our Staff Reporter Vizianagaram District, June 30: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Andhra Pradesh Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh visited the PM SHRIAP Model School in Bhogapuram, Vizianagaram district, on Tuesday. During the visit, Lokesh briefed the Union Minister on the reforms being implemented in the state's education sector, the development of government schools, and the facilities being provided to students. He explained the government's efforts to transform public educational institutions into centers of excellence capable of competing with private schools. Interacting with students at the school, Dharmendra Pradhan praised their talent and confidence. He expressed satisfaction with the way students responded to questions posed by the minis-



ters and appreciated their communication skills and academic preparedness. The Union Minister also lauded the school's educational standards, teaching methods, and infrastructure. He remarked that the Andhra Pradesh government's initiatives to strengthen the public education system are commendable and appreciated its efforts to modernize government schools and provide quality education to students. Speaking on the occasion, Nara Lokesh said the state government is prepar-

ing a comprehensive action plan to implement a uniform policy for the management of school kitchens across Andhra Pradesh. He stated that standardized guidelines would be introduced to ensure students receive hygienic and nutritious mid-day meals. Lokesh further emphasized that the objective of both the Central and State Governments is to introduce more reforms through close coordination and provide students with the best possible educational opportunities.

Real Education Is That Which Transforms Lives: Minister Nara Lokesh



From Our Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, June 30: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education and Information Technology Nara Lokesh said that the true purpose of education is to bring meaningful change to people's lives. Addressing the first convocation ceremony of the Central Tribal

University of Andhra Pradesh, Lokesh emphasized that quality education should be accessible to every section of society. He stated that the vision of Viksit Bharat (Developed India) can be achieved only when all regions progress together. The minister praised President Droupadi

Murmu, describing her as an inspiring leader who rose to the nation's highest constitutional office through determination, hard work, and perseverance. He also assured that educational institutions would play a key role in shaping students into the leaders of tomorrow. Earlier on Tuesday, President Murmu attended the first convocation ceremony of the Central Tribal University in Visakhapatnam as the chief guest. During the event, she presented gold medals to 13 outstanding students in recognition of their academic achievements. The ceremony was attended by Andhra Pradesh Governor S. Abdul Nazeer, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister Gummidhi Sandhya Rani, along with the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of the university.

Pawan Kalyan Meets Fadnavis, Thanks Maharashtra for Providing Two Tigresses to Andhra Pradesh

Mumbai, June 30: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan met Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in Mumbai on Tuesday to discuss tiger conservation efforts in the Eastern Ghats. During the meeting, Pawan Kalyan expressed his gratitude to Fadnavis for Maharashtra's decision to provide two tigresses to Andhra Pradesh. The leaders also discussed several issues of mutual interest between the two states and agreed to strengthen cooperation in the future. Speaking after the meeting, Pawan Kalyan said that the declining number of female tigers in the Eastern Ghats had led to genetic concerns within the tiger population. To address this issue and support tiger population recovery,

Andhra Pradesh sought assistance from the Maharashtra government, which agreed to transfer two tigresses to the state. He thanked Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for extending support and described the initiative as a significant milestone in the history of tiger conservation in the Eastern Ghats. According to Pawan Kalyan, the introduction of female tigers will help overcome inbreeding-related challenges, enhance genetic diversity, and contribute to the long-term sustainability of the tiger population in the region. He said the move would help establish a healthier and self-sustaining tiger habitat across the Eastern Ghats. The Deputy Chief Minister noted that the joint conservation initiative reflects the commitment of both Andhra

Pradesh and Maharashtra to biodiversity conservation through scientific approaches and sustainable wildlife management practices. He further stated that this partnership between the two states would play a crucial role in ensuring the long-term conservation of tigers in the Eastern Ghats. Pawan Kalyan also conveyed his gratitude to Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav for his guidance and support in advancing the project. He affirmed that Andhra Pradesh would continue to work closely with the Maharashtra government, the Central Government, and other stakeholders to achieve broader goals related to wildlife conservation and biodiversity protection.



Andhra Pradesh Emerging as an Industrial Hub: Minister TG Bharath

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, June 30: Andhra Pradesh has achieved remarkable progress in the industrial sector, ranging from Space and Drone Cities to Green Hydrogen initiatives, according to Andhra Pradesh Industries Minister T. G. Bharath. Speaking at a meeting in Amaravati, the minister said that the state's industrial growth during the coalition government's two-year tenure has been significantly better compared to the previous five years. He noted that between 2019 and 2024, Andhra Pradesh witnessed a decline in industrial devel-



opment compared to several other states. However, following major reforms in industrial policies introduced by the coalition government, the state has attracted investment pro-

posals worth nearly ₹20 lakh crore over the past two years. Bharath stated that Andhra Pradesh has secured 24.3% of the total investment proposals received across India, making it one of the leading destinations for industrial investments in the country. The minister explained that the government has been focusing on the swift implementation of investment proposals. As part of this effort, approvals have been granted for projects worth around ₹11.77 lakh crore through 18 State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) meetings. These projects are expected to generate approximately

10.32 lakh employment opportunities for the state's youth. He further noted that the government has introduced 26 new policies across various sectors to create a business-friendly environment, including six major policies formulated by the Industries Department itself. Highlighting the state's future industrial vision, Bharath said the government is giving priority to ambitious initiatives such as Quantum Valley, the Kadapa Steel Plant, Space City, Drone City, Green Hydrogen Valley, and Circular Economy policies, with the aim of transforming Andhra Pradesh into a major industrial and innovation hub.

Tension Mounts in Sai Krishna Death Case; Court Verdict on CI Nagaraju's Custody Plea today

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, June 30: The investigation into the sensational custodial death case of Vijayawada youth Gade Sai Krishna has reached a crucial stage. Arguments from both sides have concluded in court on a petition filed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT), seeking custody of suspended Circle Inspector (CI) S.S.V.V. Nagaraju, the prime accused in the case. During the hearing, the Public Prosecutor (PP)

presented strong arguments, stating that the case is highly complex and that taking CI Nagaraju

facts surrounding Sai Krishna's death. Meanwhile, Nagaraju's counsel strongly opposed the custody

his client. The defense argued that Nagaraju had already fully cooperated with the SIT investigation, answered all questions posed by investigators, and provided all necessary information. After hearing detailed arguments from both sides, the Vijayawada Additional Judicial Magistrate (AJM) Court reserved its order. The court is expected to deliver its final verdict on the SIT's plea for police custody of CI Nagaraju on Wednesday.



into custody is essential for a deeper investigation to uncover the complete



petition, alleging that the police were seeking custody with the intention of harassing

'Operation Devendra Fadnavis': Aaditya Thackeray After MLC Sachin Ahir Joins Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena



Mumbai: Shiv Sena UBT leader Aaditya Thackeray on Tuesday broke his silence on the reports of MLC Sachin Ahir joining Shiv Sena. Slamming Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, he stated that this is not 'Operation Tiger' but rather 'Operation Devendra Fadnavis'. Speaking to reporters, he said, "This is not 'Operation Tiger' but 'Operation Devendra Fadnavis'." Further speaking to reporters, he took a dig at the BJP over the alleged Ram Mandir donation embezzlement issue. He said the BJP would face a major challenge in the 2029 elections, as the very voters who brought the party to power

would not spare those allegedly involved in corruption related to Ram Mandir donations. "The 2029 election poses a massive challenge for the BJP. The very BJP that undertook a 'Rath Yatra' over the Ram Mandir issue is today engaging in land theft and scams in Ayodhya. There will be a change in 2029, and the people of the country will not spare those who have committed corruption in Ayodhya and Ujjain," he said. **Ahir joins Shinde camp** The remarks came after Shiv Sena UBT MLC Sachin Ahir switched camps to join the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction. Ahir's move

dealt another major blow to the Shiv Sena UBT camp. Soon after leaving the Shiv Sena UBT, he filed his nomination for the post of Deputy Chairman of the Maharashtra Legislative Council as the Shiv Sena's official candidate. During the nomination filing, he was accompanied by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar. Ahir's switch comes at a time when six Shiv Sena UBT MPs were recently inducted into the Shinde-led Shiv Sena under the reported 'Operation Tiger'. **Political significance** Sachin Ahir's political ca-

reer traces back to the 1990s, when he worked as a mill workers' union leader. He later entered politics and was elected as the MLA from Worli for the first time in 1999. He was re-elected twice before subsequently vacating the seat for Shiv Sena UBT leader Aaditya Thackeray, who won the constituency in 2019. According to reports, Ahir's defection sent shockwaves through the Shiv Sena UBT faction, as he had played a key organisational role and was considered politically significant in strengthening the party's position in the state. However, several opposition leaders have condemned the move and criticised Ahir for betraying the party's trust and loyalty. **Abu Azmi reacts** Samajwadi Party MLA Abu Azmi, reacting to Ahir's move to the Shiv Sena, said that loyalty has almost disappeared from politics. He said, "Nowadays, in politics, there's no telling who will go where. Loyalty has almost completely disappeared. People only look at where they have better opportunities—whether they can become a minister or where they stand to gain more."

'NO DIGNITY EVEN IN DEATH' Dead Cow Dragged For 1 Km By Garbage Vehicle In Madhya Pradesh Village; Sparks Outrage



Betul District (Bhopal): A video from Jhallar Gram Panchayat in Madhya Pradesh's Betul district has sparked widespread outrage after showing the carcass of a dead cow being dragged by a municipal garbage collection vehicle. The footage quickly spread across social media, drawing criticism from local residents, cow protection groups, and members of the Rashtriya Hindu Sena. The

incident has prompted demands for a fair investigation and strict action against those found responsible. **Cow was reportedly killed in road accident** According to local authorities, the cow had died after being struck by an unidentified vehicle on the Paratwada Road. As the animal appeared to be stray, no owner came forward to claim the body, leaving it lying near the roadside for

nearly two days. Officials said that as the carcass remained unattended, it began decomposing and creating a foul smell, raising concerns about sanitation and public health. With no tractor or trolley immediately available to transport the carcass, sanitation workers allegedly tied the dead cow with a rope and used the village garbage collection vehicle to remove it from near a showroom to the waste disposal site. During the removal process, a passerby recorded the incident on video. Once the footage surfaced online on Monday, it quickly went viral and triggered strong reactions from the public. **Cow protection groups demand accountability** The incident has been condemned by several local organizations, including the Rashtriya Hindu Sena. State President Deepak Malviya described the handling of the animal as "in-

human" and called for accountability. "Even a deceased cow deserves to be treated with dignity and given a respectful final rite," He urged the district administration to conduct an impartial inquiry and take strict action against any officials or employees found negligent. **Panchayat issues notice to driver** Jhallar Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Manish Narware acknowledged the incident and explained that the cow had died in a road accident two days earlier. He said the administration was unable to arrange a tractor in time, prompting sanitation workers to use the garbage vehicle to clear the road. According to the Sarpanch, the garbage vehicle driver, Nikhil Baraskar, has been issued a notice over the incident. He also stated that after the carcass was removed, the cow was given a proper final disposal in accordance with local procedures.

India Defends FATF At UN, Urges Nations To Stop Sheltering Terror Networks And Strengthen Anti-Financing Compliance

New Delhi: India has strongly defended the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), saying attempts to question the global watchdog's credibility are often driven by a fear of scrutiny rather than genuine concerns over its functioning. In a pointed message widely seen as aimed at Pakistan, India also called on countries to stop allowing their territory and financial systems to be misused for terrorism. India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Parvathaneni Harish, made the remarks while speaking at a side event during the 2026 Counter-Terrorism Week on Monday. The event, titled Joining Forces to Counter Terrorism Financing in the Context of Evolving Threats and Emerging Technologies, was jointly organised by the Permanent Missions

of India and France to the UN, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), and the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT). **A strong message on accountability** Calling the FATF an indispensable pillar of the global anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing framework, Harish said its work is technical, evidence-based and based on internationally

accepted standards. He said countries unhappy with FATF assessments should address the shortcomings identified instead of attempting to politicise the issue in international forums. Harish said nations receiving adverse assessments should strengthen domestic enforcement, improve financial transparency and take irreversible action against terror-financing networks. He added that the appropriate response to FATF scrutiny is credible compliance and not attempts to undermine the institution. He also said countries that allow their territory, institutions or financial channels to be used for terrorism must stop exporting instability and fulfil their responsibilities towards international peace and security. Although Harish did not name Pakistan, the re-

marks came against the backdrop of Islamabad's previous inclusion on the FATF grey list between 2018 and 2022. Harish said India was speaking from long experience rather than theory, pointing out that the country has faced cross-border terrorism for decades. He warned that new digital technologies have made terror financing more complex by creating new sources, methods and channels for moving funds. He said crowdfunding platforms, prepaid financial instruments and digital reward systems such as tokens, stars and points on social media platforms are increasingly becoming part of the financial ecosystem exploited by terrorist organisations. Terrorists, he said, adopt technologies that are inexpensive, fast and lightly regulated, making it essential for governments to build a risk-based regulatory system anchored in FATF standards.



'I Am Done': Rahul Ravindran Leaves X

Pune: Director Rahul Ravindran recently announced that he is deleting X (formerly Twitter) from his phone after receiving abusive messages and death threats targeting his children amid the controversy surrounding his film The Girlfriend. The backlash escalated after several social media users linked the film to the Pune murder case, in which 26-year-old Ketan Agarwal was allegedly pushed off a cliff at Lohagad Fort by his fiancée, Siya Goyal, and her alleged boyfriend, Chetan Chaudhary. As the online debate intensified, Rahul and his family became targets of personal attacks on social media. On June 30, the director wrote, "I was sitting and watching the Brazil v Japan game. I wanted to check a football-related Twitter account about something, and I opened this app. Unfortunately, I made the mistake of checking my notifications too. And I came across this



tweet. I wish I hadn't." Describing his emotional reaction, he added, "I kept staring at it for a long time. I kept filling up with rage. I wanted to track this guy down and do unspeakable things to him. The urge was very real. I was, involuntarily, vividly imagining scenarios in my head." Rahul further admitted that he struggled to calm himself after reading the post. He explained that his usual response to anger is to tell

himself to calm down, but this time he did not want to. He recalled that his "head was very hot," and he remained seated for a long time, staring at the game on the television without actually watching it. Gradually, his heart rate began to slow, eventually returning to some semblance of normalcy. **'I Am Done'** Rahul reflected, "Maybe I am overreacting. Maybe it's somehow my fault.

Maybe my kids and I deserve this hate." But he quickly rejected those thoughts and concluded that he was done with the app. He explained that he had wanted to leave it for a long time but had stayed because it was his best source of sports news, particularly coverage of Indian sports beyond cricket. What ultimately convinced him to leave, however, was how the post had affected him.

Supreme Court: Mere Presence During Bribe Not Enough To Prove Criminal Conspiracy

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has ruled that merely being present when a superior officer allegedly accepts a bribe is not enough to hold a public servant guilty of criminal conspiracy. Reiterating the settled legal position, the court said the prosecution must produce clear and convincing evidence to prove that the accused shared a prior agreement or "meeting of minds" to commit the illegal act. A Bench of Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Prasanna B. Varale dismissed appeals filed by the State of Uttar Pradesh against an Allahabad High Court judgment that acquitted three Central Excise inspectors accused of being part of a bribery conspiracy. The ruling reinforces that suspicion or association alone cannot replace proof in criminal cases, particularly in conspiracy charges, Live Law reports.

Proof, not presence, is the key The case stems from a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) trap conducted in 1995. According to the prosecution, Superintendent of Central Excise R.K. Srivastava had demanded Rs.80,000 as illegal gratification for returning documents seized from a factory. Inspectors A.K. Gaba, Alok Gupta and Dushyant Kumar were accused of conspiring with Srivastava, largely because they were allegedly present when the demand for or acceptance of the bribe took place. While the trial court convicted all the officers for criminal conspiracy and offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, the Allahabad High Court later acquitted them after holding that the prosecution had failed to prove the essential ingredients of demand, acceptance and conspiracy. Upholding the acquittal, the Supreme Court observed that the prosecution had failed to produce any substantive evidence showing that the three inspectors had entered into a prior agreement with Srivastava to commit the offence. "The conspiracy cannot be inferred merely on the basis of suspicion or association and there must be cogent material indicat-

ing meeting of minds between the accused persons," the court observed. It added that knowledge of an illegal act, or a legal act carried out through illegal means, is necessary to establish conspiracy and that the offence is complete only when there is a meeting of minds. The Bench noted that, apart from alleging the presence of the respondents at certain places during the relevant period, the prosecution had not produced any material to show any concerted plan or prior understanding between them and the principal accused. **Missing evidence weakens prosecution's case** The court also found that



the prosecution had failed to establish the essential requirement of a prior meeting of minds to hold the respondents liable for criminal conspiracy under Section 120B of the Indian Penal Code. It reiterated that the mere presence of subordinate officers during the alleged acceptance of a bribe by a superior officer was not sufficient to establish criminal liability. Referring to the precedent in State (NCT of Delhi) v. Navjot Sandhu (2005) 11 SCC 600, the court observed that satisfactory evidence showing that the accused had agreed to hatch a conspiracy and acted upon it is a prerequisite for securing a conviction under the conspiracy provision. It held that the prosecution had failed to meet that standard.

Another factor that weighed in favour of the respondents was the prosecution's inability to prove that they had demanded a bribe. The court noted that even according to the prosecution's own case, the allegation of demand was only against R.K. Srivastava. No independent material was placed on record to show that the three inspectors actively participated in the alleged demand or shared the criminal intent necessary to constitute conspiracy. The Bench also drew an adverse inference against the prosecution for failing to produce a tape recording that the complainant claimed had captured the alleged demand for the bribe. Calling it crucial electronic evidence, the court relied on the judgment in Tomaso Bruno v. State of Uttar Pradesh to hold that withholding such material weakened the prosecution's case. In view of these findings, the Supreme Court dismissed the State of Uttar Pradesh's appeals, affirming the Allahabad High Court's decision to acquit the three Central Excise inspectors. The judgment underscores that criminal conspiracy cannot rest on suspicion or proximity alone and that courts

NCB Report: 747 Foreign Nationals Arrested In India In Drug Cases In 2025, Most From Nepal

New Delhi: A total of 747 foreign nationals were arrested in narcotics-related cases in India in 2025, with citizens from Nepal accounting for the highest number, according to the Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) Annual Report 2025. The report said 203 Nepali nationals were arrested during the year, followed by 143 Nigerians and 97 Myanmar nationals. Bangladesh accounted for 17 arrests, while Kenya recorded 10. Ghana saw nine arrests and Uganda six. Russia, Brazil, Israel, Senegal and Tanzania accounted for four arrests each. Smaller numbers were reported from several other countries, including Afghanistan, Cameroon, Germany, Japan, Sudan and Sweden. However, the country-wise details of about 203 foreign nationals were not specified in the report.

Foreign arrests continue upward trend The data showed that arrests of foreign nationals in narcotics cases increased to 747 in 2025 from 660 in 2024. The figure stood at 735 in 2023, 777 in 2022 and 593 in 2021, indicating that the number has remained consistently high over the past five years, Indian Express reports. The figures



suggest that foreign nationals continue to feature prominently in India's anti-narcotics enforcement efforts, with neighbouring countries and a few African nations accounting for a significant share of the arrests reported during the year. The report also highlighted a sharp increase in overall narcotics enforcement across the country. A total of 1,83,675 people were arrested in anti-drug operations in 2025, compared with 1,22,224 in 2024, making it the highest number recorded during the 2021-2025 period. Preventive action also increased during the year. The report said 810 detention orders were issued in 2025, up from 531 in 2024. Enforcement agencies also stepped up action against illegal cultivation. The area under poppy cultivation destroyed nearly doubled to 42,282 acres in 2025 from 22,512 acres in the previous year. Cannabis

cultivation destroyed also increased to 38,193 acres from 34,018 acres in 2024. The numbers indicate an intensified focus on disrupting both drug trafficking and illicit cultivation. **Global drug market remains a challenge** The NCB report said amphetamine-type stimulants accounted for nearly half of all synthetic drug seizures worldwide in 2023, with methamphetamine and amphetamine continuing to dominate the market. It said methamphetamine production remained concentrated in Mexico, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Czechia and the Netherlands, while trafficking networks expanded across Europe, Africa and the Near and Middle East. The report also flagged uncertainty over the future of the Captagon trade following political changes in Syria, warning that production could shift to other regions rather than disappear.

EDITORIAL

Will Tungabhadra water reach Telangana?

It is known that for the last few years, the interlinking of the Ganga, Cauvery, and Godavari Cauvery rivers across the country will provide drinking water and irrigation benefits to the southern Indian states. The interlinking of rivers has already begun in northern India through the Kenkhetwa project. Now, a key milestone has been reached towards the development of the Tungabhadra project in the state of Karnataka. The inauguration of the 33 crest gates of the newly constructed spillway jointly built by the Andhra and Karnataka governments at a cost of about Rs. 51 crore is a historic event. The Tungabhadra project, which has been a boon to the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka, was built 73 years ago with the foresight of the Maharaja of Mysore and the Nawab of Nizam. This project is a lifeline for thousands of acres of ayacut in Telangana. It is quenching the thirst of hundreds of villages. In Andhra Pradesh alone, 7 lakh 20 thousand acres of land in the joint Kurnool, Anantapur and Kadapa districts are being irrigated through the right canal of this project. Telangana has a watershed of 87,000 acres. However, in August 2024, the 19th gate of the project's spillway was washed away by floods, and a stoplock gate was installed at that time under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to prevent water wastage. However, after the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) submitted a report that all the spillway gates should be replaced, 33 old gates were removed and new gates were installed. The states of AP and Karnataka took the safety of this project seriously and were able to install the gates quickly. These spillway gates were inaugurated on Thursday. With this, there is hope that Telangana will get the 17.9 TMC of water from this project. Of the 17.9 TMC of water allocated to Telangana under the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS), only 5 to 6 TMC is currently being used. Under this RDS, water is to be provided to 83,987 acres of ayacut in 75 villages of Jogulamba Gadwal district. Since the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are involved in the management of the Tungabhadra Board, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is hoping that the water shares should be utilized efficiently under the auspices of the Central Water Commission. He suggests that the board should be strengthened to this extent. He suggested that the RDS dam has become dangerous and that the work that needs to be undertaken for safety reasons should be identified as urgent. The Telangana government has already deposited Rs. 59 crore with the Karnataka government for the modernization of the RDS canal. However, the Telangana government is unhappy that the work has not been completed. Irrigation officials say that the work of Package 1 and 2 has not been undertaken yet, and only the work of Package 3 and 4 has been completed. All these issues were discussed in the review meeting held on Wednesday. Due to silt accumulation in the RDS dam towards Telangana territory, water diversion is not possible as expected. Although an expert committee in 2004 recommended that the silt be removed immediately, the recommendations of that committee have not been implemented so far, it is clear what kind of attention the central government is giving to the southern states. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is determined to bring all these problems to the attention of the center. He is trying to examine the alternative of utilizing water as much as possible through the Tungabhadra lift irrigation scheme. As part of this, the Chief Minister instructed the officials to undertake work to increase the capacity of the Mallammakunta balancing reservoir, which is crucial in the movement of water through the Tummilli lift irrigation. Union Water Resources Minister CR Patil also participated in the inauguration of 33 new gates of the Tungabhadra Spillway. All these issues came to his attention. It remains to be seen what the outcome will be. There are many inter-state water disputes in the country. There are 25 major river basins in the country. Most of these are spread across multiple states. Therefore, the water issue has become a major issue and a political issue. The upstream states naturally have control over the river flows. Often, the construction of dams and barrages reduces the availability of water to the downstream states. After independence, the reorganization of states and the division of a single river across river basin boundaries have complicated water management. Since 1960, population growth, green revolution agriculture, expansion of towns and cities, and industrialization have increased the demand for irrigation and drinking water, as well as industrial water needs. In the Cauvery, Krishna, and Mahanadi basins, the problems of states undertaking the construction of dams, reservoirs, or constructing diversion canals without the approval of the downstream regions are becoming increasingly serious. Although water is usually a subject of the state list, interstate river waters fall under the purview of the central government. In this context, it is the responsibility of the center to resolve interstate river water disputes while balancing the autonomy of the states and national interests.

For The Great Passport Debate, A 'Common-Sense' Cure - By Shashi Tharoor

On a warm afternoon in late June 2026, during an otherwise standard briefing marking India's 14th Passport Seva Divas, a seemingly routine bureaucratic clarification ignited a national firestorm. A senior official from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) casually remarked that an Indian passport is "primarily a travel document" and should not be construed as definitive, standalone proof of citizenship. The public reaction was immediate, visceral, and laced with utter bewilderment. Within hours, social media platforms erupted. Renowned screenwriter Javed Akhtar took to the internet to express the collective exasperation of millions, calling the statement flatly "absurd". His logic was simple and unassailable: are authorities really issuing these highly secure documents to people without being completely convinced that they are Indian citizens? Meanwhile, political leaders like Kapil Sibal and Asaduddin Owaisi quickly pointed out the terrifying practical fallout - warning that if the country's most vetted identity document cannot establish citizenship, ordinary Indians could face arbitrary challenges to their voting rights during routine electoral roll revisions. The government quickly moved to defuse the panic, explaining that this wasn't a sudden policy shift but rather a long-standing legal reality. Officials pointed to Section 20 of the Passports Act of 1967, which gives the central government the rare power to issue a passport or travel document to a non-citizen if deemed necessary in the "public interest". They also cited a 2013 Bombay High Court precedent confirm-

ing that a passport does not automatically create or prove citizenship in a legal dispute. **The Reality On The Ground** Yet, for the average citizen, this defence feels like a classic case of legal hair-splitting - a distinction, quite frankly, without a real-world difference. To tell an individual who has survived the gruelling gauntlet of police verifications, birth certificate searches, and biometric logging that their navy-blue booklet is merely a "ticket to board a plane" and not proof of their nationality is to plunge them directly into a bureaucratic twilight zone. To understand why this controversy feels so fatuous, one only needs to look at what it actually takes to get a passport in India. The application process is essentially an exhaustive citizenship audit conducted by the state. You must produce a birth certificate, address verification, and often ancestral records, depending on your year of birth. Following that, local police officers physically visit your home, interview neighbours, and cross-reference criminal databases to verify your identity and confirm your undivided allegiance to the Republic. The state acts as a rigorous gatekeeper. If the state is not fully satisfied of an applicant's citizenship, the passport is denied. Therefore, declaring that the resulting document is not "conclusive proof" of citizenship creates a bizarre legal paradox: the government demands absolute proof of citizenship to issue the document, but refuses to accept the document as absolute proof that the citizen has citizenship. **The Case Of The Aadhaar** This paradox becomes genu-



inely alarming when you realise that India lacks a single, universally held document that legally confirms nationality. Under the Citizenship Act of 1955, citizenship is a legal status derived from facts such as birth, descent, or naturalisation, not from a piece of paper. But since those facts must be proven using documents, citizens are left chasing an ever-shifting goalpost of acceptable documentation. The issue is heavily compounded by the limitations of India's other ubiquitous identity credential: the Aadhaar card. With over 1.3 billion cards issued, Aadhaar is the undisputed foundation of daily life in India, used for everything from opening bank accounts to receiving food subsidies. However, its legal status is strictly bound. The Supreme Court has repeatedly clarified - most recently when it declined requests to mandate Aadhaar for intensive voter roll revisions in Bihar - that Aadhaar is exclusively a proof of identity and local residence, not citizenship. Because the legal requirement

for an Aadhaar card is simply residing in India for 182 days or more in the preceding year, millions of legal foreign residents, migrant workers, and expatriates legitimately hold one. As a result, the average Indian is caught in an administrative limbo: their Aadhaar card only proves where they live, and their passport only proves they are allowed to travel. As for citizenship, they are left legally exposed, with no single, unquestioned shield to verify their status as a son or daughter of the soil. **A Manufactured Crisis, But With A Simple Solution** We can easily resolve this manufactured crisis. To end this circular debate once and for all, the government must undertake a pragmatic legislative update that aligns the law with the ground reality of its citizens. The solution lies in elevating both the passport and the Aadhaar card into valid, conclusive proofs of Indian citizenship, unless explicitly cancelled, revoked, or withdrawn by a competent authority. To make this

system work without compromising national security or legal clarity, we must fix the fundamental flaw of the current Aadhaar architecture: the fact that it blends citizens and non-citizens into an identical visual template. The solution lies in the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) introducing a "two-tone" Aadhaar system, with a distinct visual variation for non-citizens. While standard citizens receive the familiar Aadhaar card, non-citizen residents should be issued a card featuring a bright, unmistakable diagonal stripe across the front. This simple design shift would preserve the core administrative utility of the system - allowing foreign residents to easily access banking, lease property, and pay taxes - while instantly stripping away any ambiguity regarding their nationality. Once this visual distinction is in place, the state can safely pass a universal mandate: every Indian national must carry either a valid citizen's Aadhaar card or a valid Indian passport at all times.

The Invisible Import In Every Indian Thali

In 2025-26, India spent over US\$ 19 billion on edible oil imports to meet 60% of its demand, making it vulnerable to global price shocks and supply disruption while straining the nation's exchequer of its forex reserves for what it could grow at home. Austerity reached Indian kitchens, when Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged its citizens to reduce edible oil consumption. The per capita consumption of edible oil stood over glaring 17 kg/year in 2024-25 (marketing year). With a large share of this demand unmet domestically, India's dependence on edible oil imports is nothing less than alarming.

The domestic production is mainly concentrated in rapeseed, mustard, and soybean, while the consumption is majorly dominated by palm oil, followed by soybean oil. Since, highly water-intensive palm oil production is not feasible in the short-run, soybean, already produced by Indian farmers across the country should be the focus to bridge this demand-supply gap. India remains the fifth largest producer of soybean oil and the largest importer of soybean oil across the globe. The production of soybean has increased from 85.7 Lakh Tonnes (LT) in 2015-16 to 152.7 LT in 2024-25. While this growth is encouraging, it is not enough for the rapidly expanding consumption demand. India currently imports soybean oil more than 2.5 times of its production, as the existing production only meets around 30% of the domestic consumption. In 2025-26, India witnessed a marked surge in soybean oil imports alongside a decline in domestic production. India primarily imports crude soybean oil from

Argentina and Brazil and in just 2025-26 itself, imports increased by 8% and 32%, respectively. Additionally, enabled by duty-free access to Nepal under the SAFTA, India's soybean oil imports from Nepal increased by staggering 147% alone in 2025-26. Further, the domestic outlook is concerning, the second advance estimates released by Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) estimated soybean production to have moderated by 16% to 127.2 LT in 2025-26. Profitability is the primary driver of declining soybean production in India. The Government guarantees minimum prices for soybean, and the Cabinet has approved Minimum Support Price (MSP) for soybean for 2026-27 well in advance, in May, with an increase of Rs.380 over the previous year and 123% over 2013-14 levels. Thus, pricing per se is not the issue. Rather, the concern lies in the relative uncertainty surrounding the procurement process. The domestic market is frequently flooded with duty-free imports of soybean oil, leading to a decline in market prices below the MSP, thereby preventing farmers from realising an effective price for their produce. Further, the intrinsic characteristic of soybean crop is a cause for concern. Its low productivity due lack of quality seeds remains a persistent challenge. According to ICAR's National Soybean Research Institute, India's average yields is stagnant at around 1,100-1,200 kg per hectare, significantly below the global average of over 2,700 kg per hectare, with considerable regional disparities. Additionally, the crop offers limited resilience, as its photoperiod sensitivity



makes it vulnerable to unseasonal weather conditions, which are becoming more frequent due to climate change, thereby increasing production risks. The single point focus should now be on increasing per-hectare productivity. India's experience with rice and wheat demonstrates that sustained improvements in productivity can not only ensure self-sufficiency but also enable the country to emerge as a net exporter. India remains wary of the GM seeds due to biosafety and health implications and thus did not replicate such model wholesale. However, now is an opportune time for India to develop its own approach to GM soybean seeds within an appropriate regulatory framework and with necessary safeguards to address productivity challenges. With India becoming the first country in the world to develop genome-edited rice varieties, Government should further accelerate plans for utilising genome editing for soybean seeds through Lab-to-Land approach and develop resistant soybean seed varieties. Global evidence suggests that, with robust safeguards and transparent institutions, GM

crops could coexist with food safety, ecological sustainability, and farmer autonomy. Ignoring these technologies comes at a cost of missed yields, rising imports and strategic autonomy. To address seed quality concerns, a structured national-level soybean seed rolling plan should be developed, supported by institutional mechanisms such as seed hubs/ seed villages. There is a need to address the trade-off between farm-gate and consumer prices in soybean, as higher crop prices directly push up edible oil inflation (with a 2.7% CPI weight), prompting import duty intervention by the government to manage domestic supply-demand imbalances, that often undermine farmer returns in domestic market. This distortion is compounded by tariff asymmetry, wherein oil imports from Nepal enter duty-free, while Indian refiners pay an import duty of 16.5% on crude soybean oil, effectively making domestically processed supplies less competitive. A more coherent alignment between the MSP and the tariff structure would help ensure balanced outcomes for farmers,

processors, and consumers. Another important initiative could be to strengthen value addition in soybean production chain. Promoting diversified uses of soybean by-products can significantly enhance farm-level profitability. Expanding processing capacity particularly for protein-based products such as tofu, soy foods, and animal feed could create sustained demand and better price incentives. Going forward, the oilseed mission must be prioritised through coordinated efforts among farmers, government, researchers, and the private sector. Greater private sector participation could bring in technology, improve processing infrastructure, and enable more efficient value chains. At the same time, institutional models need to be developed to ensure assured procurement and more predictable pricing, which can incentivise farmers to expand soybean cultivation. It is only a coordinated push that boosts productivity, ensures quality seeds, guarantees price stability with assured procurement, and builds a resilient value chain that will ultimately determine India's ability to achieve Atmanirbharta in edible oil.



US federal judge seeks Department of Justice clarification in Adani case



Experts said month-end and quarter-end dollar demand is keeping the dollar well bid. Importers, corporates, and banks typically use this period to square positions and meet payment obligations. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six cur-

change data. Meanwhile, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said on Tuesday that the US-India trade deal is in its "final steps", with only the last one per cent of negotiations left to be concluded. Addressing the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum Leadership Summit, Gor said he was determined to agree, as it would be beneficial to both nations, and it would be sealed after nearly 18 months of talks.

New York: A US federal judge's decision to seek a fuller explanation from prosecutors before approving the dismissal of criminal charges against Indian billionaire Gautam Adani is a procedural requirement and does not signal that the case is likely to proceed, according to a senior US lawyer familiar with federal criminal practice. "The judge's order is procedural," lawyer Chris Man said. Under Rule 48(a), the Department of Justice



ressed in several presentations by counsel to the government that led to the DOJ's request for dismissal. The lawyer pointed to the recent corruption case involving New York City Mayor Eric Adams as an example. In that case, the Justice Department sought dismissal of the indictment, prompting the presiding judge to seek additional explanations and hold hearings before ultimately granting the government's motion. The court did not compel prosecutors to continue with the case despite examining the reasons for dismissal in considerable detail. Legal experts say the Adams case underscored that while judges may scrutinise the government's rationale to guard against abuse, the judiciary's authority to override the executive's decision to abandon a prosecution remains extremely limited. According to Adani's letter of June 24, 2026, to the Court, the case was beyond the reach of US law. The transactions were conducted solely by non-US-based issuers and lenders. All offering documents were drafted, reviewed, and approved outside the United States, and both bond offerings were governed by English law, placing the case outside the scope of US securities law under the Supreme Court's ruling in *Morrison vs. National*. The bribery allegations could not be proven: Expert evidence from a former senior Indian regulatory official demonstrated that the allegedly illegal payments coincided with documented, lawful, and transparent price reductions that Adani Green offered to Indian state power companies to incentivise them to sign solar energy contracts—ordinary commercial concessions, not bribes. The DOJ's decision followed a thorough and exhaustive review. Adani's had submitted to the DOJ nearly 500 pages of facts, law, expert testimony, and arguments between February and April 2026, including a 118-page letter accompanied by expert reports from a securities law professor at Harvard Law School, a former SEC Commissioner, among others. They also pointed out that no investor had lost any money. The indictment does not allege any investor losses arising from any of the four transactions. The 2021 bond offering has matured with all interest paid; the 2024 bonds have missed no payments; the 2021 loan has been repaid in full; and the 2023 loan is not in default.

The court is building a record to satisfy itself that the request is being made in good faith and is consistent with Rule 48(a). Seeking additional information is part of that process. Judge Garaufis's recent order is a normal part of the Court's discharging of its obligations under the federal criminal rules to consider a prosecutor's motion to dismiss an indictment. Adani's had in their recent letter to the court the numerous fatal weaknesses in the government's case. Those weaknesses were ad-

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 fundamen-

tals 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 to the X post.

A portrait of a middle-aged man with grey hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark grey pinstriped suit jacket over a white shirt and a dark tie with diagonal stripes. He is standing with his hands in his pockets, leaning slightly on a wooden surface. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Recently, Prestige Estates Projects reported that its net profit jumped more than two times to Rs 1,195.5 crore last fiscal from Rs 467.5 crore in 2024-25. The total income rose to Rs 13,195.5 crore during 2025-26 from Rs 7,735.5 crore in the preceding year. Bengaluru-based Prestige Estates Projects Ltd is one of the leading real estate developers in the country with a presence across all major cities. The group has delivered 313 projects spanning 206 million sq ft. It has a pipeline of 128 projects across 195 million sq ft. The group develops housing, commercial (office complexes and shopping malls) and hospitality projects.

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The acquisition—which is awaiting regulatory approvals—is expected to be completed by the second quarter of the current financial year. The deal would provide Tata Motors access to advanced powertrain and next-generation technologies, strengthen its manufacturing and product portfolio, and significantly expand its international footprint, Chandrasekaran said.

istry, the decision to extend the deadline was taken after various stakeholders flagged technical issues on the GSTAT portal due to the heavy rush of appeal filings in recent days. Earlier — through a notification issued on September 17, 2025 — the government had fixed June 30 as the last date for filing appeals before the GST Appellate Tribunal. The ministry said nearly 30,000 appeals were filed during the last 15 days alone, with daily filing volumes peaking at around

5,500 appeals. Moreover, taxpayers have been advised to plan their appeal filings well in advance and avoid waiting until the last date to prevent last-minute congestion on the portal. The extension decision comes amid robust growth in the government's tax collections during the current financial year. Meanwhile, gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections rose 3.2 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1.94 lakh crore in May despite geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

Regional industries must become partners in Viksit Bharat journey: Raksha Mantri at Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference

- “Need to transform regional strengths into national capabilities, local innovations into global competitiveness & industrial growth into strategic strength”
- “Self-reliance does not mean isolation, it signifies a nation standing firmly on its own feet & engaging with the world as an equal partner”



New Delhi, June, 30 (PIB): “Viksit Bharat is not merely a goal of economic development, but a resolve to build an economically prosperous, technologically capable, and socially empowered country,” said Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh as he called upon regional industries to become partners in this journey by transforming regional strengths into national capabilities, local innovations into global competitiveness, and industrial growth into strategic strength. He was addressing industrial-

ists, entrepreneurs, young innovators and academicians during the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference in Vadodara on June 30, 2026. Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Rajnikant Patel and Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Panchayati Raj Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Minister for Women and Child Development, Government of Gujarat Dr Manisha Vakil were also present. Raksha Mantri emphasised that, in view of the rapidly changing geo-

political landscape, India’s self-reliance, technological capability, and collective resolve will determine the role it plays on the global stage in the coming decades. “History teaches us that great nations stand on three essential pillars: economic strength, technological prowess, and national security. Economic prosperity and technological advancement reinforce national security, while a secure nation provides the stability that allows industry and innovation to flourish,” he said, while under-

scoring the need for enhanced collaborations to build a country with secure borders and a robust economy. Shri Rajnath Singh underlined that the development of the defence sector is not only limited to the manufacturing of weapons and technologies; it catalyses a vast economic ecosystem. He stated that defence corridors generate new opportunities in infrastructure, logistics, industry, and employment, while emphasis on research & development, technology, and innovation strength-

ens the industrial base. He stressed the need to harness this momentum to further bolster industrial and defence capabilities. Highlighting the transformation being witnessed in the defence sector over the last decade under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s leadership, Raksha Mantri asserted that there was a time when India relied heavily on imports for its security needs, and now it is rapidly emerging as a key player in manufacturing & exports. He added that the success of indigenous plat-

forms, growing participation of the private sector, and the zeal of innovators & start-ups have collectively contributed to the creation of a robust defence ecosystem in the country. “Under ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’, we are fostering indigenous capabilities in strategic sectors such as aerospace and defence. Initiatives such as Make-in-India, review of Defence Acquisition Procedure, and Technology Development Fund are playing a pivotal role in this direction. The budgetary provisions for



modernisation and capital procurement aim to encourage domestic industries and integrate them into the global supply chain. To boost investment, we have simplified the licensing process, and liberalised FDI policy. Srijan Portal, iDEX, Defence Testing Infrastructure, Green Channel Certification, and

Self-Certification have instilled confidence in small industries and start-ups. Through transparent policies, ease of doing business, mechanisms for technology transfer, testing infrastructure, and collaborative R&D frameworks, we are supporting our industrialists across every sector.

DRI busts trans-border gold smuggling syndicate; seizes 15 kg smuggled gold; four arrested



New Delhi, June, 30 (PIB): In a major operation the officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) successfully dismantled a trans-border gold smuggling syndicate and seized 15 kg foreign-origin smuggled gold, valued at approximately Rs. 21.40 crore, operating from Delhi. DRI officers intercepted an international courier consignment originating from Thailand at Courier Terminal, Delhi. The consignment was in the name of a firm linked to a foreign national. A meticulous examination of the consignment declared as "worn gear", led to the recovery of eight disc-shaped pieces of foreign-origin gold, each weighing 1.5 kg, ingeniously concealed inside gear parts. In total, 12 kg smuggled foreign-origin gold was recovered from the courier consignment. Simultaneous searches conducted at the residence of the intended recipient and the alleged mastermind resulted in the recovery of two more identical disc-shaped pieces of foreign-origin gold, each weighing 1.5 kg. Four persons, including the mastermind, who is a repeat offender, and a foreign national have been arrested in relation with the case. Preliminary investigations also reveal that crypto-currency was being used to transfer the money across borders to finance the smuggling.

Government extends full customs duty exemption on critical petrochemical products in view of ongoing conflict in West Asia till 15th July 2026

New Delhi, June, 30 (PIB): The Government had earlier provided a full Customs Duty exemption on imports of critical petrochemical products till 30th June 2026, as a temporary and targeted relief in view of the conflict in West Asia and the consequent disruptions in global supply chains. The exemption was provided to ensure sufficient availability of petrochemicals in the domestic market as Indian petroleum companies had been asked to concentrate on the production of LPG during this period. As the situation is gradually normalizing, to ensure a smooth and non-disruptive transition for the affected sectors, it has been decided to extend the said exemption by a further period of 15 days, that is, till 15th July 2026. The list of products covered remains the same as notified earlier. The Government remains committed to supporting India’s manufacturing sector. As before, the exemption is expected to benefit a wide range of sectors dependent on petrochemical feedstock and intermediates, including plastics, packaging, textiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, automotive components and other manufacturing segments. This will also provide relief to consumers of final products.

Today’s Horoscope



Aries
Today you will have ample of the time to do things to improve your health and looks Although your financial conditions will remain strong today, but you'll have to keep in mind not to overspend or spend on unnecessary things. Good advice from family members will decrease your mental pressure. Love life will be vibrant. Professional achievement and benefits for those at work. Rituals/hawans/auspicious ceremonies will be performed at home. Bad health of a child or any elder citizen at your place might give you tensions which will directly affect your married life.
Remedy :- Reciting Sankat Mochan Hanuman Ashtak (a hymn requesting Hanuman to grant relief from suffering) for improving love life.



Taurus
Throw away the gloom-which is enveloping you and disrupting your progress. You will like to overspend on others. Domestic work keeps you busy most of the time. Your courage would win the love. Business and education benefits for some. While spending free time with your spouse to-night, you will realize how important it is to give them more time. Today, you will get to spend the best evening of your life with your spouse.
Remedy :- For more auspiciousness in your family life, recite Hanuman Chalisa, Sankat Mochan Ashtak, and Lord Ram Stuti.



Gemini
For a contented life improve your mental toughness. Certain important plans will be executed bringing you fresh financial gains. Your problems will be serious- but people around you will not notice the pain you are going through-Probably they feel it is none of their business. Look forward to new relationship for happiness It is going to be your day at work! You'll remain very busy today, but you'll find ample time in the evening to do something you like and enjoy. Today, you will forget all the sad memories about your married life and cherish the wonderful present.
Remedy :- Add a mixture of turmeric with milk to your bathing water and help gain bliss and peace in the family.



Cancer
Today you are under magic spell of hope. If you were about to take a loan and had been engaged in this work for a long time, then today is your lucky day. Auspicious day for giving and receiving gifts from those you love. Romance and socializing will rule your mind despite pending jobs. Plan out things nicely to get satisfactory results-Tension clouds your mind as you attempt to sort office problems. You will be able to make time for yourself today despite a busy routine. You can do something creative today in your spare time. Life will be really exciting when your spouse will come to you forgetting all the tiffs, embracing you with love.
Remedy :- For continued growth on the professional front, ensure that you do not change your place of worship/family altar/pooja ghar.



Leo
Best day to restart to improve your health. You may witness tremendous profit in business today. You can give new heights to your business today. Someone you live with will be annoyed if you have been ignoring your household duties. Relive your precious moments by going on a picnic with your beloved. Today, you will not feel like working in the office. You will face a dilemma, which won't allow you to concentrate on your work. Favourable planets will bring you plenty of reasons to feel pleased today. Your life-partner had never been so wonderful than today.
Remedy :- Feed Barley to Cows to achieve happy moments in the family life.



Virgo
Your generous attitude would be a blessing in disguise as you are likely to be liberated from many vices like doubt, disloyalty, depression, lack of faith, greed, attachment, egoism, and jealousy. A friend of yours can ask you to lend a big amount today. You helping him out can financially cripple you. Your family members are likely to create a mountain out of a molehill. Your partner thinks well of you, which is why s/he gets angry at you at times. Instead of responding back, it would be better to understand their words and where they are coming from. Don't take your seniors for granted. Natives of this zodiac sign should read some spiritual books in their free time today.
Remedy :- Donate white coloured clothes/fabrics to women and enhance your monetary condition.



Libra
Neglecting your parents could mar your future prospects. Good times never last too long. Man's deeds are like the waves of sound. These rebound to produce a melody or a jarring noise. They are the seeds-we reap only what we sow. You know the importance of money very well, which is why the money you save today will be useful in the future and get out of any major difficulty. Enjoy a peaceful and quiet day with family members-If people approach you with problems-Ignore them and don't let this bother your mind. You can experience the pain of love. Do not come under pressure of others when making important business decisions. A member of your family may insist on spending some time with you today.
Remedy :- Health will be wonderful by regularly watering a tamarind tree.



Scorpio
Self medication could cause drug dependency. Take a physician advice before taking any drug-otherwise chances of drug dependency are high. Investment concerning your residence will be profitable. An unexpected message from a distant relative brings excitement for the entire family. Romance suffers and even your precious gifts/presents do not do the magic today. New assignments undertaken would fall short of expectations. Today, you can make good use of your free time by chatting with the younger members of the household. You might fight with your spouse today out of your own stress and actually of no reason.
Remedy :- Having show-piece items/idols/curios made with the use of POP (plaster of paris) will result in excellent health.



Sagittarius
Your energy level will be high. The money you had saved up from a long time can come to use today. However, the expenditure can lower your spirit. Harsh treatment from father could annoy you. But you need to keep your cool to put things under control. You would be benefited by this. Problems could arise at home- but avoid criticizing your mate over small issues. Good day to send your resume or appear for an interview. As you like to carry out your favourite activity in free time, you'll think of doing something similar even today. However, you won't be able to fulfil your plan due to an uninvited guest. Rude behavior of your spouse might take a toll on you today.
Remedy :- Chant Om 28 times with a calm and peaceful mind to gain family happiness.



Capricorn
Friends supportive and will keep you happy. Financial position will improve through speculation or unexpected gains. You will also make important contacts through friends. Exciting day of romance- Plan something special for the evening and try to make it as romantic as possible. Think twice before you take on any new project. Travel will be beneficial but expensive. Women are from Venus and Men are from Mars, but it's the day when Venus and Mars will melt into each other.
Remedy :- Distribute cashew-based sweets among children successful work life.



Aquarius
Few tensions and difference of opinion could leave you irritated and uneasy. The beginning of the day may be good, but you may spend your money due to some reason in the evening, which will bother you. Your charming nature and pleasant personality would help you make new friends and improve contacts. Your day could be little upset because of interruptions of family members of your spouse. Tact will be required while handling colleagues. While fulfilling the needs of the family, you often forget to give yourself a break. But today, you will be able to take out some time for yourself and look for a new hobby. You might take your spouse wrong today, which might keep you upset all day.
Remedy :- Keep a portion of your food separate and share with cows for a healthy life.



Pisces
Your family expects a lot from you which could irritate you. You are very likely to attain monetary benefits from your mother's side today. It is possible for your maternal uncle or maternal grandfather to help you financially. You will be in the limelight at the social get-together that you attend today. Chances of meeting the loveliest bass in the lake are high on your cards. This is one of those great days when you will feel good at the workplace. Today, your colleagues will appreciate your work and your boss will also seem to be happy with your progress. Businessmen can also earn profits in business today. Today, you can make good use of your free time by chatting with the younger members of the household. Your efforts to make the marital life better will show you the colors better than expectations today.
Remedy :- Keep a green coloured glass bottle in Sun. Mix this water with your bathing water for a disease-free life.

Prabhas Hints at Baahubali 3, But Will It Materialize?

There seems to be no end to the Baahubali juggernaut. Even a decade after the introduction of the epic fictional world Mahismati by filmmaker SS Rajamouli, the emotion behind it continues to resonate with moviegoers across the globe. Also, the makers are keeping everyone immersed in one or the other way. Recently, Netflix released a special documentary series titled Baahubali: The Torchbearer. Filmed back during the production of the epic original films, this behind-the-scenes deep dive offers fans an emotional, nostalgic journey with the cast. As fans go gaga over this documentary, a promotional video featuring the core trio of Prabhas, Rana Daggubati, and Anushka Shetty has now grabbed the attention and triggered a huge discussion. This is because trio surprised the audience by dropping a crazy hint “The world is not ready for this announcement... Baahubali is coming for you all!” In the now viral video, Prabhas is seen holding up three fingers at the very end. For millions of die-hard fans, this seemed like the third installment of Baahubali



cannot be completely ruled out. But, it can also be just a tease to build anticipation for the animation spectacle titled Baahubali: The Eternal War, which is likely to hit the screens next year. Even if S.S. Rajamouli and the producers are indeed planning

a proper cinematic installment, taking it on to the floors is going to be very challenging given that all the actors and technicians who worked on the franchise are currently busy with other commitments. Given Rajamouli’s track record of

spending 3 to 4 years per film, a slot for Baahubali 3 wouldn’t open up anytime soon. Keeping aside all these inferences, it is of doubt that Baahubali 3 will create an never-before-seen hysteria if at all it materializes in the future.

Varanasi: Mahesh Babu’s Birthday Special Likely But...

SS Rajamouli gave an interview to an international publication. During course of the interview, he also revealed the progress of Varanasi. “What I can say is we have completed a major portion of the shoot, including all the important large-scale action sequences. We are now filming the smaller interconnecting scenes, so hopefully by September, or a little into October, we should be finishing the shoot,” Rajamouli said. It is a good news that the shoot will be finish by October. That is one checkbox done for the movie release on April 7, 2027. But then, there is a huge task of VFX and Rajamouli is known to be uncompromising in that department. But then, the fans will be hoping that the film would arrive on time because Varanasi will have an international release and it is important to proceed as per plan or else it will be a logistical nightmare to plan such a release. So, they are hoping that Varanasi will release as planned. Mean-



while, the update also gives hope for the fans that they can expect something from the film on August 9th as Mahesh Babu’s Birthday Special. But



then, it is not easy to give video content of the film as it is extremely laborious task. It is unlikely that Rajamouli will release any video content

until closer to the release as he already introduced the world of Varanasi with the glimpse released earlier. So, we may expect a poster that day.

When even the daring Superstar Krishna felt fear

Ghattamaneni Krishna, fondly known as Superstar Krishna, built his career on courage. He was a fearless innovator who constantly pushed boundaries in Telugu cinema. From introducing the first full-length Cinemascope film and the first 70mm film to popularizing spy thrillers and cowboy westerns, Krishna was always willing to take risks that others avoided. His daring personality extended beyond filmmaking. He never hesitated to compete with towering stars of his era, including N.T. Rama Rao. Yet, there was one phase in his illustrious career when even Krishna feared for his future. The turning point came with the release of “Alluri Seetarama Raju” in 1974. The film became a sensational blockbuster and remains one of the greatest classics in Telugu cinema. Ironically, its phenomenal success created an unexpected problem for Krishna. Recalling those days, Krishna once shared an interesting anecdote involving legendary writer-producer Chakrapani. “After the release of ‘Alluri Seetarama Raju,’ Chakrapani garu expressed a desire to watch the film. I arranged a special print for him. After seeing it, he called me to his house and asked how many produc-

ers were making films with me. I told him that five or six films were already under production,” Krishna recalled. What Chakrapani said next left him stunned. “He told me that all of them would lose money. Shocked, I asked whether he didn’t like the film. He replied, ‘No, it is a great film. That is exactly the problem. Audiences have been mesmerized by your portrayal of Alluri Seetarama Raju. They may not accept you in ordinary roles anymore.’” As it turned out, Chakrapani’s prediction proved alarmingly accurate. More than a dozen Krishna films failed one after another. “After nearly 12 consecutive flops, I began to feel that Chakrapani garu had been right. Audiences were not accepting me in regular characters after seeing me as Alluri Seetarama Raju,” Krishna said. Faced with what he described as an existential crisis, Krishna decided to take matters into his own hands. He selected a story rooted in rural life and personally oversaw the project. That film was “Paadi Pantalu.” The film was completed in a single schedule and planned for a Sankranti 1976 release. However, many advised him against the move. “My well-wisher Chandrasekhar Rao garu strongly opposed releas-



ing it during Sankranti. NTR’s ‘Vemulawada Bheemakavi,’ ANR’s ‘Mahakavi Kshetrayya,’ and Sobhan Babu’s ‘Picchi Maraju’ were all arriving for the festival. He told me I had already suffered enough losses and should avoid competing with such big releases. He suggested postponing it to February.” Krishna, however, refused to back down. “I felt it was a do-or-die situation. Whether I survived in the industry or not, I was determined to release the film for Pongal. I

went ahead with my decision.” His gamble paid off spectacularly. While the other festival releases underperformed, “Paadi Pantalu” emerged as a major success and ran for 25 weeks, reviving his career. That episode perfectly encapsulates what made Superstar Krishna unique. Even during the most uncertain phase of his life, when fear had begun to creep in, he relied on the same quality that defined his career: the courage to take risks when others would retreat.

Sobhita’s Raw Intensity Leaves Stunned



Sobhita Dhulipala has always brought an intensity to everything she does, and her latest photoshoot captures exactly that. Known for her powerful performances in Made In Heaven and The Night Manager, she most recently led the Telugu crime thriller Cheekatilo on Prime Video, playing Sandhya, a true crime podcaster who unravels a serial killer’s dark secrets set in Hyderabad. The show received strong praise and cemented her position as one of the most compelling actresses working in Indian entertainment today. In her new pictures, Sobhita lets raw, unfiltered beauty do all the talking. With tousled wet curls, barely there makeup, and a soft grey wrap dress, she leans into a mood that is deeply sensual and effortlessly cinematic. The close up frames capture the kind of brooding, magnetic gaze that very few can pull off with such ease. Sobhita has always stood apart from the crowd, choosing roles and looks that reflect depth over glamour. Her ability to command attention without saying a word, both on screen and in a photoshoot, is what makes her one of Bollywood’s most distinct and watchable faces right now.

Who will give Buchi Babu the next chance?

Ram Charan-starrer “Peddi” has almost completed its theatrical run. The actor is currently in the UK to participate in the film’s success celebrations. But was “Peddi” really a blockbuster? The answer is no. Was it a flop? The answer is also no. The actual verdict on “Peddi” is somewhere in between. The film nearly recovered its investment in the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana markets, making it a successful venture in the Telugu states. Karnataka also delivered encouraging numbers. However, the film underperformed in North India and North America, while Tamil Nadu and Kerala contributed only modest collections. Overall, “Peddi” has ended up as a mixed performer. That said, Ram Charan has enough reasons to celebrate. The film’s worldwide gross is substantial and it now ranks among the highest-grossing Telugu films globally. More importantly, after a string of setbacks, the film has helped restore confidence in his box-office pull and earned him appreciation for his performance. But what does the result mean for director Buchi Babu? Buchi Babu made an impressive debut with “Uppena”, starring



Vaishnav Tej and Krithi Shetty, which emerged as a sensational blockbuster. Following that success, he reportedly narrated a story to NTR, but the project did not materialize. He later approached Ram Charan and convinced him with the script that eventually became “Peddi”. While the film has posted respectable numbers, the director himself has not gained significant recognition from it. As things stand, it may not be easy for him to secure dates from top-tier stars such as Prabhas, Allu Arjun, NTR, Pawan Kalyan, Nani, or Vijay Deverakonda, all of whom have packed schedules and multiple options before

them. There is talk that Ram Charan has promised to work with Buchi Babu again. However, even if that project takes shape, it is unlikely to happen for another two or three years. There are also whispers that Mahesh Babu has shown interest in hearing a story from him, though nothing concrete has emerged so far. For now, Buchi Babu appears to be at a crossroads. He may have to wait patiently for another opportunity with a major star or chart a different path by collaborating with younger heroes before landing his next big project.

Is Washington Sundar a victim of role confusion under Gautam Gambhir?



New Delhi: Is Washington Sundar a batter who bowls decent off-spin? Or is he special-ist off-break bowler who can also contribute a few runs when need be? The question has circulated for some time but the way Indian team management has used the 26-year-old crick-eter, it is now being asked openly. Does Gautam Gambhir and his team of support staff have actual clarity on what ex-actly is Washington’s role? Neither in his 61 T20I appear-ances has he looked like a bat-ter, who can finish games with brute power nor has he emerged as a spinner on whom opposition coaches would be burning midnight oil. The result of mediocre performances in the shortest version is a term that once irked Ravindra Jadeja — bits and pieces cricketer. And Washington is not even close by a country mile when com-pared with Jadeja at his peak. And Washington ain’t any spring chicken. At 26, he has already spent almost decade in the senior dressing room hav-ing played his first game before

his 18th birthday. But when someone only gets to bat in 26 innings out of the 61 games with a strike-rate of less than 130, then he is certainly not a finisher. And when the same person takes 51 wickets in 57 innings with an economy rate of just over 7, it can be at best termed decent and not even good. Add to it he has deliv-ered 1049 legal deliveries which constitutes 18 balls per innings. That effectively means that on an average Washington has most of the times not given op-portunity to finish his quota of overs. With the strategic shift in T20Is powerplay batting, Washington, who entered the scene as an off-spinner who bowled with the new ball inside first six overs, isn’t being risked due to rampaging batters around the globe. On Friday, against Ireland, he bowled a solitary over and that too was introduced in the 16th over of the innings. While batting, he got stuck and managed just 9 off 12 balls coming in at No.6. But what’s more interesting is a pattern that emerged out of

these numbers: 1, 2, 4, 4, 1.2, 1, 1, 1, 2. In the last 12 T20Is that Washington played, these are the number of overs that he bowled in 10 innings (2 games in Australia were washouts). And a pattern has emerged since the time Washington has played under Gambhir. While he manages to find a place in the team, in five of those 10 bowling innings — he bowled just one over. In a match, where he bowed 1.2 overs, he had ac-tually polished off the Aussie tail getting his best T20I figures of 3/3. Among the five times, he was been given a single over, on three occasions he was brought as first change and he got a wicket too but then wasn’t given a chance to bowl. Now there is a more startling piece of analytics. Out of 57 bowling innings (in 61 games) that he has bowled, only 25 times has he been given an opportunity to bowl full quota of overs. And whenever he has got that opportunity to bowl his full quota of four overs, his average economy rate has come down to 6.65 (compared

to career ER of 7.05) and his strike-rate (balls per wicket) comes down to less than 20 compared to 22.2 when he bowls partial quota of overs. Former India great Ravichandran Ashwin’s take on his Hindi YouTube show ‘Ash Ki Baat’ also seemed to corroborate these statistics. “Washington has been backed by this team (management). He seems an automatic choice in this line-up. They are backing him but what I feel that even as they play him, there is no spec-ific role for him. There are times he is on the field, he gets one over, at times, he doesn’t even get an over. If you guys remember, during T20 World Cup, they (team management) dropped vice-captain Axar Patel to play Washington. That much back up Washing-ton is getting.” Ashwin said. Ashwin seemed a bit per-plexed that Washington is being used a finisher, a skill that perhaps doesn’t go with his domain expertise. • “Even in batting, they are using him as a finisher and he is not a finisher. He should have a floating role like Axar Patel used to be used by Rohit Sharma-Rahul Dravid duo. It feels like a wrong role utilisation of Washington Sundar. If you really want to give Washington a long rope then bring him just after end of Powerplay. You will have to give him 4 overs like Axar. If you don’t give that full quota, how will you know if he can grow into that de-pendable all-rounder,” Ashwin said and couldn’t have explained it better. While Ire-land series isn’t actually a big deal, the lack of clarity will ac-tually hurt Washington, who per-haps has more utility compared to a “bits and pieces” cricketer.

Every time he clears one level, we look for the next challenge, says Karthik on Sooryavanshi

London: Former India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik said teenage batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi thrives on challenges, adding that every time he clears one level, he’s always looking for the next thing which can challenge him in the cricketing world. Sooryavanshi, 15, is currently on his first assignment with the Indian team for the ongoing T20I series in Ireland before heading to England for a five-match series beginning on July 1 in Durham. The Rajasthan Royals batter earned his maiden India call-up on the back of a sensa-tional IPL 2026 season, amassing 776 runs in 16 innings at a strike rate of 237.30, including 72 sixes. Sooryavanshi also show-cased his pedigree at the junior level, scoring 175 in India’s victory over England in the final to clinch this year’s Under-19 World Cup in Zimbabwe and Namibia. “Vaibhav is a precocious talent at such a young age. Every time he clears one level, we look for the next chal-lenge. First, he did well in the Under-19 World Cup against smaller teams. Then he did well against major teams like Australia and England in the Under-19 World Cup knock-outs. “Then he came to the IPL 2026 league phase and dominated. Then we thought, let’s see him in big games. In the eliminator, he batted through about 12 overs. If he plays the first 10 to 12 overs,



he almost sets the game up for his team. He did exactly that. He took down world-class bowlers like Pat Cummins. “Every test you can put in front of him, he has passed with flying colours. He is extraordinary. His bat swing is beautiful. Vaibhav is a bit like Jasprit Bumrah, you don’t want to tamper with his natural bowling action and with Vaibhav, he has a great backlift. I hope whoever coaches him from here doesn’t change his bat swing,” said Karthik on Sky Sports. On how difficult it is

to bowl to Sooryavanshi, Karthik, who served as RCB’s batting coach-cum-mentor in their victorious IPL 2026 season, recalled seeing his blistering fifty at the ACA Stadium in Guwahati. “At RCB, before our game against RR, we discussed what could be a weakness for this young batter. We felt a perfect yorker or a well-directed bouncer might work. But in Guwahati, nothing worked. Neither Bhuvneshwar nor Hazlewood could get him out, no matter what they tried. Vaibhav is one of the toughest batters to

bowl to. “This IPL, he was the toughest, in my opinion. The margin for error was very small. He stands with a wide base and strong legs. Anything on the offside, he just throws his hands at it. In the powerplay, with only two fielders outside, it is very hard to stop him. “Outside the powerplay, he is smart enough to stick to his strengths. He is not a one-dimensional player. He can take singles and rotate strike, and if you bowl in his zone, he puts you away,” he added

Wimbledon 2026: Vijay Amritraj backs Novak Djokovic’s pursuit of 25th Grand Slam title



New Delhi: As Novak Djokovic prepares to chase yet another slice of tennis history at Wimbledon, Indian tennis legend Vijay Amritraj believes the Serbian’s greatest strength is not his record-breaking achievements but his unrelent-ing desire to keep pushing the boundaries of greatness. Amritraj identified Djokovic’s pursuit of a 25th Grand Slam title as the tournament’s big-gest storyline, while also weighing in on the next gen-eration led by Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz. For Amritraj, Djokovic’s sustained hunger after winning virtually every-thing the sport has to offer is what continues to set him apart. “You’re absolutely right, the first thing is we should talk about Novak Djokovic. What motivates this guy to go after everything after all that he’s won? He has won both singles titles in any other major in his-tory, and nobody is going to catch him, certainly not in my lifetime. And so I think that he’s going after 25 for no other rea-son but his entire passion and desire to put work into it,” Amritraj told IANS during JioStar Media Day ahead of Wimbledon 2026. The former Wimbledon quarter-finalist also backed World No. 1 Jannik

Sinner to remain a dominant force despite his recent disap-pointment in Paris, saying the Italian has repeatedly shown the ability to bounce back from setbacks. “Secondly, when you look at the scenario and see exactly what happened to him in Paris, I mean, it was over the top heat, but at the end of the day, from that position to actually losing five sets, but the way he has come back to the past, it happened to him in Aus-tralia when he was up against Djokovic and then eventually won Indian Wells in Miami. So I think he’s the kind of guy who’s there to stay, no ques-tion. He’s authentic, the real deal, and he’s going to Wimbledon once again for Grand Slams as well,” the re-cent Padma Bhushan awardee added. Amritraj added that the men’s draw remains wide open with Carlos Alcaraz expected to return to contention, while newly-crowned French Open champion Alexander Zverev could arrive at the All England Club carrying the confidence of finally ending his wait for a major title. He said, “And cer-tainly, we’re all waiting for Alcaraz to come back. Of course, there are going to be new confident players like Zverev, who won the French

Open. So someone like that will think to himself, today, ‘listen, the monkey’s off my back, I’ve won my first major, now I’m going to go, and I think I can win Wimbledon as well.’” Be-yond the on-court rivalries, Amritraj said Wimbledon con-tinues to occupy a unique place in world sport, describ-ing it as an event that tran-scends tennis and retains an unmatched appeal irrespective of the players competing. “This event is really not just only a tennis event, you know, it is a sporting base of the British summer here in the UK and it’s incredible because for the en-tire fortnight it’s so hard to get a ticket and irrespective of who’s playing, so it just shows the brand value of Wimbledon and the partnership that we have with Star that can ac-tually deliver the television viewership in India, which is ar-guably the largest in the world now as far as the country that gets involved in our sport, so I think when we look at both of these together, Star is carrying Wimbledon forever and I just feel that I have been there as well just as long and so I’m really excited about annually how this particu-lar event evolves from a stand-point of the players,” the JioStar expert mentioned.

Magnus Carlsen returns as Global Chess League season 4 player pool and Bengaluru dates announced



Hyderabad: The Global Chess League (GCL), a joint venture between Tech Mahindra and FIDE, will return for its fourth season with the Season 4 Player Draft set to take place in Mumbai on June 29, ahead of the league in Bengaluru from September 3–13. The player draft will feature the return of Magnus Carlsen after a season away, while reigning FIDE Women’s World Cup champion Divya Deshmukh is set to make her Global Chess League debut in Season 4. The Season 4 player pool features 36 Grandmasters across generations, including World Champions, World Cup winners, Olympiad medallists and leading names from the global chess circuit. With a mix of retained stars and players entering the draft, franchises will have a wide field to shape

balanced six-player squads across categories. Ahead of Season 4, Peeyush Dubey, Chairperson, Global Chess League , said, “Over the past three seasons, the Global Chess League has demon-strated how a franchise-based team format can bring together the world’s leading players while attracting new audiences to chess. Season 4 continues that journey with an outstand-ing player pool that reflects the quality and diversity of talent that the league continues to attract. We are excited to bring the league to Bengaluru, a city with a rich sporting tradition and a deep-rooted chess culture, and look forward to seeing the six fran-chises build squads capable of producing another highly com-petitive season.” The player draft will see teams assemble six-player squads across four cat-

egories—one Icon, two Super-star Men, two Superstar Women and one Prodigy—in the league’s six-board rapid format, where every board carries equal significance. The marquee draft list includes five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand, 2025 FIDE World Cup winner Javokhir Sindarov, Women’s World Rapid Champion Koneru Humpy, former Women’s World Champion Alexandra Kosteniuk, World Championship challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi and former World Cup champion and Olym-piad gold medallist Levon Aronian. They are joined by emerging stars, including reign-ing World Rapid Champion Volodar Murzin and Indian Grandmaster Leon Luke Mendonca, offering franchises a blend of proven champions and emerging talent as they complete their squads for Season 4.

EVM godown inspected in Rayachoty market yard by the Collector along with political parties representatives

Rayachoty, June 30 (Skyline Daily): District Collector Nishant Kumar has instructed the concerned officials to maintain continuous 24-7 surveillance at the godown where EVMs are stored in the district. As per the instructions of the Election Commission, as part of the monthly inspections, the Collector inspected the EVM godown located in the market yard of Rayachoty town along with representatives of political parties on Tuesday. On this occasion, the Collector thoroughly inspected the internal parts of the EVM godown in the presence of political parties, the respective EVM machines, BUs, CUs, VVPATs stored inside the godown, and the security measures there. Later, the Collector answered the queries raised by the political party



representatives on various issues. Rayachoti RDO A Srinivas, Tahsildar Yamini, Election Department officials, representatives of various political parties and others participated in the program.

MITS NCC cadets excel in national level Combined Annual Training Camp



Madanapalle, June 30 (Skyline Daily): 15 NCC Air Wing cadets from MITS Deemed to be University (Madanapalle Institute of Technology and Science) near Madanapalle have excelled in the national level Combined Annual Training Camp (CATC-III), Vice Chancellor Dr C Yuvaraj said. They participated in various training programmes like 0.22 rifle firing, skeet demonstration, drill, aeromodelling de-

sign, parachute training, drone piloting, etc. at the national level NCC Air Wing Attachment Training Camp held at Dundigal Air Force Academy (AFA) in Medchal-Malkajgiri district of Telangana state, he said. Competing with cadets from various parts of the country, the MITS cadets showcased their talent in the intellectual competitions like essay writing, painting, quiz, and debate conducted along with physical training and won a total of seven medals, he said. He said that this training will develop mental strength, problem-solving skills, time management and a responsible personality along with physical fitness. Group Captain RJ Atre, Commanding Officer, 11(A) Air Squadron (Technical) NCC, Tirupati, presented certificates to the meri-

torious cadets at the training camp. MITS University Founder and Chancellor Dr N Vijaya Bhaskar Chowdhary, Pro Chancellor N Dwarkanath, Executive Director Keerthi Nadella, Vice Chancellor Dr C Yuvaraj, NCC Air Wing Caretaker Officer Charan Koochie and faculty members congratulated the cadets for their outstanding performance in this training.

Pasupuleti Sasikumar's birthday celebrations were held in a grand manner at VELUGU organization

Madanapalle, June 30 (Skyline Daily): Kuravanka former Sarpanch Chalapati and his family members visited VELUGU organization located in Amma cheruvumitta, Kollabailu Panchayat, Madanapalle Mandal on Tuesday and greeted the disabled and elderly with love and inquired about their well-being. Later, they made a cake on the occasion of his son Sikumar's birthday celebration and handed over cake and fruits to the children and the elderly. Later, former Sarpanch Chalapathi said that they are very happy to celebrate our son's birthday among the disabled and elderly people of the VELUGU organization. Finally, VELUGU Secretary M Uday Mohan Reddy spoke and thanked Sarpanch Chalapathi and his family members for celebrating Sasiikumar's birthday in our VELUGU organization, honored him with a shawl and presented him with a memento. Former Sarpanch Chalapathi of Kuravanka,



Sasi Kumar, Puneeth, Chippili Venkatesh, politicians, friends, well-wishers, VELUGU Secretary M Uday Mohan Reddy, Convener R Bhagyalakshmi, Principal Leena Kumari, Social Worker Geetha, VELUGU children, elderly and staff participated in this program.

Knee and Hip Replacement Specialists - Dr. Dinesh Mani

(By our Skyline staff reporter)

Palamaneru, July 3: Now OPD services will be conducted on the first Friday of every month by the orthopedic specialists of Bangalore Manipal Hospital in Gangavaram, Palamaneru. This includes knee and hip replacement surgery, arthroscopy surgery, sports injuries, spine and nerve problems. Dr. Dinesh Mani can be contacted. He is available on the first Friday of every month. Time: Available from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Location: Sai Health Care and Diaglossis Sai Nagar, Madanapalle Road, contact for an appointments R. Kiran 9986456234.



Return Ashok Gajapathi Raju's Land, Minister Kondapalli Directs Officials

Vizianagaram: Andhra Pradesh Minister Kondapalli Srinivas has directed officials to take necessary steps to restore a piece of land belonging to former Union Minister and former Governor of Goa Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju to its rightful owner. The minister criticized the previous YSRCP government, alleging that the land was occupied during its tenure and used for the construction of a party office, describing the development as highly unfortunate. Kondapalli Srinivas said that Ashok Gajapathi Raju is widely known for his integrity and alleged that the previous government not only filed false cases against him but also encroached upon his property to build a YSRCP office. He questioned whether YSRCP leaders were unaware that the assets of the Pusapati royal family legally belong to the members of that lineage. The minister instructed officials to examine the documents and survey details submitted by Ashok Gajapathi Raju and take immediate action based on the records. He warned that strict action would be taken against officials if it is found that a valuable private property located in the heart of the city was wrongly classified as government land. He also questioned how land allegedly shown as vacant in official records could have been handed over for the construction of a political party office instead of being protected by the government. Kondapalli Srinivas further alleged that several leaders had encroached upon lands belonging to poor people during the previous administration and stated that a comprehensive inquiry would be conducted into such cases, with appropriate action taken against those found responsible.



The Special Voter List Revision Program is being effectively implemented at the field level in the district

Madanapalle, June 30 (Skyline Daily): The Special Voter List Revision Program is being effectively implemented at the field level in the district as per the guidelines of the Election Commission, said District Collector Nishant Kumar. On Tuesday, a video conference was held with the District Election Officers (DEOs) under the chairmanship of Senior Deputy Election Commissioner of the Election Commission of India (ECI) Pawan Kumar Sharma, on the progress of the Special Voter List Revision Program (SIR) in the districts of the state, on the implementation, progress and field level actions of the ongoing Special Voter List Revision Program in the districts of the state. District Collector and District Election Officer Nishanth Kumar, Sub-Collector Challa Kalyani, DRO Chandrasekhar Reddy, RDOs A Srinivas, Narayana Reddy, SDC Madhava Krishna Reddy attended this video conference from the video conference hall in Madanapalle Collectorate. In the video conference, the Senior Deputy Election Commissioner reviewed the steps being taken in the voter list revision process, field level progress, registration and verification programs, district-wise. He suggested that the special revision program should be carried out effectively, giving priority to the accuracy and transparency of the voter lists. He directed that steps should be taken to conduct door-to-door verification, register the



names of everyone eligible, and work in coordination to conduct the election process without any errors. There are 12,32,439 voters in the district, and 97.38 percent of the election forms have been distributed to 12,00,996 voters so far. He said that the mapping and digitalization processes are being accelerated. The Collector explained how a special amendment program is being carried out in the distribution of forms, mapping, digitalization process and other aspects, giving priority to transparency and ensuring accuracy in the voter list. Officials of the Collectorate Election Department participated in this VC.

Drainage of water behind Somashila should be implemented immediately: Petition to Joint Collector



Kadapa (Skyline Daily) June 30 : In Badvel Constituency, there is excessive land grabbing day by day, even though the revenue officials have put up warning boards, they are removing the boards without counting. It is said that some Revenue staff are working as advisors to these encroachers, and action should be taken against such staff and Badvel neo constituency should be made free of en-

croachment and government fruits should be given to the deserving poor. CPI ML Liberation Party district secretary Bandela Obaiah and district standing committee members S Chandrasekhar demanded. A petition was given to District Joint Collector Nidhi Meena, who attended the land issues resolution forum held in Badvel town on Tuesday. On this occasion, Bandela Obayya and S. Chandrasekhar jointly spoke that the most valuable government places in Badvel Neo Constituency, Assi gned, Gayali, ZHDC, Madiga Inam, AT Poram boku and other hundreds of acres of land are being encroached on a regular basis. Babu, Vijaya Rao, Narayana, Ganta Mahbub Bhasha, Subrah manyam, Chandrapal, Town Leaders Ishwar, Ramana, Balakrishna, Chittibabu, Chennaiah, Daivadinam, Auto Bhasha, K Vara Kumar, Y Chandrasekhar, B. Tarun and MMPS District President Shikhamani and others were present.

Field inspection for the establishment of a multi-modal logistic park at Kurabalakota railway station

Madanapalle, June 30 (Skyline Daily): Joint Collector Shiv Narayana Sarma and Sub-Collector Challa Kalyani, along with the concerned officials, conducted a field inspection on the possibilities of setting up a multi-modal logistic park (MMLP) in the vicinity of Kurabalakota railway station in Annamayya district for the purpose of transportation, storage and management of agricultural produce. Although various areas were examined in the past for the establishment of a logistic park in the Madanapalle area, the JC said that it was initially found to be suitable in terms of land, transport facilities and railway connectivity available in the vicinity of Kurabalakota railway station. On this occasion, a site inspection was conducted along with the railway department officials. The development of warehouses, logistics facilities, civil supplies storage centers and agricultural produce transportation facilities on railway land was discussed. If necessary, the JC also discussed with the officials the issue of providing the required land for the project through additional land acquisition (LA). The proposed logistic park will make the storage and transportation of agricultural products, grain and other goods more efficient and reduce the need to rely on distant locations, he said. JC said that there is a possibil-



ity of developing warehouses related to civil supplies and agricultural sectors locally. He said that the relevant departments will prepare a comprehensive report on the space requirement, area, railway connectivity and land acquisition requirements and submit it to the government. He said that further steps will be taken after the government's approval. Sub-Collector Challa Kalyani, Tahsildar Dhanunjaya, Civil Supplies District Manager, Agriculture Department officials, Railway Department representatives, Revenue Officers and other relevant department officials participated in this review.

KVK Scientists Introduce Organic Farming Practices to 9th Students



(By Skyline Staff Reporter)

Kalikiri, June 30: As part of the Government of India's "Eco Clubs for Mission LiFE-2026" initiative, Class 9 students from the Zilla Parishad High School, T. Chadivevandlapalli, located in Indiramma Colony, Kalikiri, visited the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kalikiri.

On the occasion, Dr. K. Manjula, Senior Scientist and Head of KVK, briefed the students on the training programmes conducted by the centre for farmers, women, and rural youth. She also created awareness about organic farming and sustainable agricultural practices.

Dr. Manjula explained the process of preparing vermicompost, its macro- and micronutrient content, and its application in various crops. She further informed the students that KVK had successfully achieved quality paddy yields by using organic inputs such as farmyard manure, along with biofertilizers including Azospirillum, PSB (Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria), and KSB (Potassium Solubilizing Bacteria). She added that KVK scientists have been guiding farmers across the district through various training programmes to adopt these organic farming methods and improve their profitability. Later, the scientists took the students on a tour of the

Vermicompost Unit, Integrated Farming System, Shade Net House, Azolla Unit, Custom Hiring Centre, and Soil Testing Laboratory, explaining the purpose and benefits of each facility. Guide teacher Janam Sujatha stated that the objective of the programme is to promote awareness among students about environmental conservation, organic farming, and the sustainable management of natural resources. The programme was attended by Subject Matter Specialists Dr. K. Madhuri, Dr. Y. Peeru Saheb, S. Somashekhar Babu, C. Sharath Kumar Reddy, Computer Operator Ramana, and the participating students.