



Atlee Is Gearing Up to Drop the
RAAKA Bomb in August

website: <https://skylinedaily.in/>



'More Millionaires Than Ever, But Wealth Gap Widens': UBS Global Wealth Report 2025 Highlights Rising Inequality



4pg

Minister Chirag Paswan Inaugurates MoFPI-Supported Common Incubation Center at VNMKV, Parbhani to Boost Food Processing and Entrepreneurship

5pg

US Open 2026 badminton: Kidambi Srikanth finishes runner-up after three-game defeat to Su Li-ying in final



7pg

Advocate Protection Act Likely Soon in Andhra Pradesh

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July, 1 : The Andhra Pradesh government has begun efforts to introduce a special Advocate Protection Act to ensure the safety and protection of lawyers in the state. This move is part of the implementation of another "Yuvagalam" election promise, with Minister Nara Lokesh taking steps in that direction. Representatives of the legal community met Minister Lokesh and urged the government to enact a dedicated law to prevent attacks on advocates. It is learnt that Lokesh also held discussions with Minister Farooq regarding the drafting of the legislation and its implementation framework.

"I Am Not Just a Button-Pressing Leader... I Am Among the People": CM

From Our Staff Reporter Nellore, July 1: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said his primary goal is to ensure the welfare and happiness of the poor and reaffirmed his government's commitment to both development and social welfare. Addressing the Prajavedika meeting at Punnapavaripalem on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said the government is providing pensions directly at beneficiaries' doorsteps and currently supports 62.20 lakh pensioners across the state. He stated that the government spends nearly Rs.33,000 crore annually on

pensions covering 28 categories of beneficiaries. "I am not a leader who only presses buttons to launch schemes; I am a leader who stays among the people," Chandrababu remarked, adding that beneficiaries who miss collecting pensions for a month can receive accumulated payments later. **Focus on Good Governance** The Chief Minister said he and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan are working together for the reconstruction and development of Andhra Pradesh. He highlighted the launch of the Mana Mitra App, which provides government ser-

vices digitally, reducing the need for citizens to visit government offices. He said the administration is gradually streamlining all departments and emphasized that Andhra Pradesh is emerging as a leader in industrial development. Chandrababu also expressed his vision of creating at least one entrepreneur from every household. **Water Management and Development** The Chief Minister stressed that interlinking rivers is the long-term solution to water scarcity issues. He assured that completing the Veligonda Project remains a priority for the coalition government.

He announced that 27 major industries are expected to be established in Nellore district and that a Mega Furniture Park is coming up in Gudur. According to him, Andhra Pradesh has attracted nearly 25% of the investments entering India. **Welfare and Economic Challenges** Chandrababu noted that the impact of El Niño has affected water availability this year, with delayed inflows into major reservoirs. He said the state is exploring the Godavari-Cauvery river interlinking project to address future water needs. He also pointed out that global conflicts have contributed to rising prices and

urged citizens to respond wisely during challenging times. "Instead of asking what the country has given us, we should think about what we can contribute to the country," he said. **Criticism of YSRCP** The Chief Minister strongly criticized the YSR Congress Party, referring to it as a "hatchet party" and accusing it of spreading misinformation and attempting to create divisions based on caste, religion, and region. He alleged that the opposition changed its stance on Amaravati after coming to power and said the people rejected such policies in the elections. Chandrababu asserted that



the state capital issue has broad public support except from the opposition. **Strong Warning on Social Media Abuse** Referring to the Sai Krishna case, Chandrababu accused

YSRCP supporters of targeting Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and his family through offensive social media posts. He also alleged that the opposition was backing rowdies and anti-social elements.

Sai Krishna Custodial Death Case: Two More Constables Remanded for 14 Days



From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, July 1: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Sai Krishna custodial death case has arrested two more police personnel. Constables Babu Rao and Sambayya, who were named as accused in the case, were taken into custody and produced before a district court after undergoing medical examina-

tions. After reviewing the SIT's remand report, the court ordered 14 days of judicial remand for both constables and directed that they be shifted to Avanigadda Jail. **Key Points in the Remand Report** According to the SIT's remand report: The two constables allegedly played a key role in destroying and tampering

with evidence. They are accused of replacing CCTV hard disks at the Krishnalanka Police Station. Investigators claim that different hard disks were installed to erase or conceal crucial evidence related to the case. The whereabouts of Sai Krishna's body are still unknown. The arrested accused are allegedly not cooperating with the investigation and are attempting to mislead investigators. Since they are police personnel, there is a possibility that they could influence witnesses or tamper with evidence if released. The SIT cited these grounds while seeking judicial custody, which was subsequently granted by the court.

Andhra Pradesh Sets Record in Pension Distribution, Says MP Kesineni Sivanath

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, July 1: Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) participated in the state government's door-to-door pension distribution programme in the Vijayawada West constituency on Wednesday and personally handed over pensions to beneficiaries. Speaking on the occasion, the MP said that immediately after the coalition government assumed office, leaders and workers of the TDP, Jana Sena, and BJP began reaching out to beneficiaries and delivering pensions directly to their homes, following the directions of Chief Minister N.



Chandrababu Naidu. He stated that Andhra Pradesh has created a record as the state distributing the highest number of pensions in the country. According to him, the Chief Minister increased pension amounts with the objective of bringing happi-

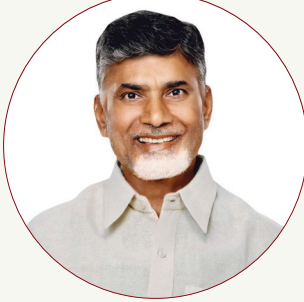
ness and financial security to poor and vulnerable families. Kesineni Sivanath said the state government spends nearly Rs.32,000 crore annually on pension payments. Despite financial challenges and other constraints, the government has ensured that pension distribution begins at 6 a.m. on the first day of every month and is largely completed by 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. He added that the programme has received a positive response from the public, with beneficiaries expressing appreciation for the doorstep delivery of pensions and the government's welfare initiatives.

Rs.1 Lakh Subsidy Released for 2026 Haj Pilgrims in Andhra Pradesh

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July, 1 : The Andhra Pradesh government has released a Rs.1 lakh subsidy for Haj pilgrims who undertook the 2026 pilgrimage, according to NMD Sharif, Advisor to the State Government on Minority Affairs. A total of Rs.3.31 crore has been directly credited into the bank accounts of 331 Haj pilgrims who traveled from Vijayawada Airport. The subsidy was provided as compensation for the additional burden of airfare expenses. Speaking on Wednesday, Sharif said, "A total of 1,987 pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh performed Haj in 2026. Among them, 331 traveled from Vijayawada and around 500 from Bengaluru. As promised by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the subsidy has been released and deposited directly into the beneficiaries' personal bank accounts."

He stated that the move reflects the coalition government's commitment to fulfilling its promises and expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister on behalf of the Haj pilgrims. Sharif also criticized what he described as misinformation regarding delays in the subsidy release, urging the YSRCP to refrain from spreading false narratives on social media.

**Sricity International University**





The Global Advisory Council & The Governing Board

are honoured to Welcome

**Shri Nara Lokesh**

Hon'ble Minister for HRD, IT, E&C, RTG
Government of Andhra Pradesh

to the Launch of

Sricity International University

Thursday, 2nd July 2026

at Sri City — An Integrated Smart City



SIU Interim Campus
Sri City, Tirupati District, AP — 517646

www.thesiu.org

*Entry Strictly by Invitation only

Pathan Khader Khan celebrated his birthday celebration at VELUGU Organization

Madanapalle, July 01(Skyline daily): On the occasion of his birthday, Pathan Khader Khan, the famous Taj Hotel owner in Madanapalle town, former Sarpanch of Pothabolu, General Secretary of Telugu Desam Party Rajampet Parliament, and Vice Chairman of AP Urdu Academy, visited VELUGU Organization located in Ammacheruvumitta, Kollabailu Panchayat, Madanapalle Mandal, and greeted the disabled and the elderly with love and inquired about their well-being. Later, Pathan Khader Khan cut a cake among the disabled and the elderly, and everyone wished him a happy birthday. On this occasion, Pathan Khader Khan said that he was very happy to celebrate his birthday among the disabled and the elderly of VELUGU Organization. VELUGU Secretary Uday Mohan Reddy, who is very supportive of the disabled and the elderly, praised the service as very commendable. Later, VELUGU Secretary Uday Mohan Reddy said that Pathan Khader Khan, with a great attitude of service, is presenting Ganesha idols every year on the occasion of



Vinayaka Chavithi festival, regardless of religion. He expressed his gratitude for celebrating his birthday in VELUGU Organization, expressing his wish that Pathan Khader Khan, who has such a great humanity, will ascend to more good positions in the future. Later, Uday Mohan Reddy and the staff honored Pathan Khader Khan with a shawl and presented a memento.

Medical profession sanctified: J K Khadar Basha



Kadapa (Skyline Daily) July 01: Youth Welfare Society for JK Janam founder Lion Patan Khader Basha said that the profession of medicine is very sacred. Lion Patan Khader Basha, the founder of Youth Welfare Society for JK Janam to Dr. Abid, son of MM Hospital head Mah bub Peera, opposite the old municipality in the city on Wednesday. On this occasion, Doctors' Day was celebrated under the auspices of Dr. He felicitated the doctor with a shawl and gave me a memento and wished him well. After that he said that it is the doctor who gives rebirth to a man and the profession of medicine is very sacred. He said that on one side he is doing medical profession and on the other side he is doing many social activities. Dr. Abid said that everyone in his family is a doctor and that is why they are known as a family of doctors in Kadapa.

SEDHAA Foundation founder Pathan Khader Khan wants students to excel in their studies

Madanapalle, July 01 (Skyline Daily): Students should excel in their studies, SEDHAA Foundation founder and Urdu Academy state vice-chairman Pathan Khader Khan said. On Wednesday morning, he distributed educational materials worth Rs. 20,000 to the students of N Kamathampalli Model Primary School in Ramasamudram mandal. Speaking on the occasion, he urged the students to show interest in studies and attend school regularly every day. He urged the parents of the students to enroll all the school-going children in schools and cooperate in building an educated society. School head master Pathan Mohammed Khan, teachers Jyothi, Lakshmi Devi, Syed Basha, foundation members Nagur Wali Ayyub, Reddy Sekhar and others participated in the program.



Applications Invited for Youth Skill Competition 2026

Registration Deadline Extended Till July 10

Skyline Daily Staff Reporter

Tirupati puthalapathu

July 01: On the occasion of World Youth Skills Day 2026, declared by the United Nations, the Government of India is commemorating the day with the theme "Empowering Youth through AI and Digital Skills." To mark this occasion, Amara Raja Skill Development Centre (ARSDC) is organizing the Youth Skill Competition

2026 to identify, encourage, and recognize the talent of young technical professionals. The competition is being conducted by Rajanna Foundation with the full support of the Amara Raja Group of Companies.

The competition provides an excellent platform for young technicians, technical trainees, and aspiring skilled professionals to demonstrate their practical abilities, compete with

the best, and earn recognition for their expertise.

Competition Categories

- PLC & HMI Programming
 - Industrial Controls – Motors & AC Drives
 - Welding
 - Pneumatics & Hydraulics
 - Plumbing
 - HVAC
 - SMT / PCB Assembly
- The competitions will be conducted at the ARSDC centres at Petamitta and

Diguvamagham. Winners will be felicitated during the World Youth Skills Day 2026 celebrations.

Registration Details

- Last Date for Registration: July 10, 2026
 - Registration Fee for External Candidates: Rs.500
- Interested candidates are requested to register on or before July 10, 2026, through the registration link below: Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/QHMwHjXGZHxR5enb6>

Sachin Ahir Elected Maharashtra Council Deputy Chairman

Mumbai: Former Shiv Sena UBT MLC Sachin Ahir was unanimously elected Deputy Chairman of the Maharashtra Legislative Council on Wednesday, just a day after switching allegiance to the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena. Ahir's elevation came after Mahavikas Aghadi (MVA) candidate JM Abhyankar withdrew his nomination for the post following a request made by Maharashtra Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandrakant Patil, as reported by Hindustan Times. The reason behind the withdrawal, however, remains unclear. The development marks another major blow for the Uddhav Sena, which is already grappling with internal turmoil following the defection of six MPs to the rival Shinde camp.

Sachin Ahir is a seasoned Maharashtra politician and former MLA from Mumbai's Worli constituency. Over the years, he has been associated with multiple political parties and was widely considered



one of Aaditya Thackeray's close confidantes within the undivided Shiv Sena. Ahir began his political career with the Congress before moving to the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). He later joined the undivided Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray. Following the massive rebellion led by Eknath Shinde in 2022, which split the Shiv Sena into two factions, Ahir aligned himself with the Sena UBT. Later, he was elected as a Member of the

Maharashtra Legislative Council. His sudden switch from the Uddhav Sena camp to the Shinde faction has triggered intense political reactions, especially given his proximity to Aaditya Thackeray in recent years. According to reports, police personnel were deployed outside Ahir's residence on Wednesday morning after his political move, while several supporters and leaders visited him following the development. Reacting sharply to Ahir's exit, Shiv Sena UBT leader

Sanjay Raut accused him of abandoning political loyalty and integrity for personal ambition. "There is something called integrity in politics and personal life. He was very close to Aaditya Thackeray. But political hunger has grown so much that loyalty and integrity have no value left," Raut said. Raut also called for introspection within the Uddhav Sena and said the party must assess whether certain leaders were given excessive importance only to eventually desert the organisation for political gains.

Devkinandan Thakur Slams Owaisi in Ram Temple Donation Row

Ayodhya / Hyderabad: Kathavachak Devkinandan Thakur on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi over his remarks on the alleged Ram Temple donation embezzlement case, saying the Hyderabad MP should refrain from commenting on matters concerning Sanatan Dharma. Thakur said Owaisi should "keep his mouth shut" on the issue, asserting that it was an internal matter for followers of Sanatan Dharma. "He should speak on the Quran and mosques. He should not unnecessarily give statements on religious issues of Hindu religion," Thakur said. His remarks came a day after Owaisi targeted the Yogi Adityanath government over the alleged donation



theft case. The AIMIM chief had claimed that if a Muslim had been part of the Ram Mandir trust, the government would have "shot him in an encounter and bulldozed his house by now." Commenting on the alleged embezzlement of

temple donations, Thakur described the issue as "heart-wrenching" for the Sanatan community but said he had full faith that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would take steps to protect Sanatan Dharma by constituting a Sanatan

Board. According to Thakur, the proposed body should include four Shankaracharyas, five Vaishnavacharyas and other religious leaders, who should be entrusted with the management of temples across the country.

Why Arunachal Pradesh Faces Frequent Floods



Keyi Panyor district: Many parts of northern India, which were suffering from scarcity of rainfall due to reports of missing clouds in the Himalayan region, are now witnessing rainfall, while many states are facing flood-like situations, especially in the north-east region of India, including

Arunachal Pradesh. In the state, floods and landslides have affected thousands across 12 districts of Arunachal Pradesh, with the death toll rising to three in Keyi Panyor district. Many houses and buildings have been washed away, submerged roads, and triggered landslides.

Heavy rainfall has triggered widespread flooding and landslides across Arunachal Pradesh, affecting thousands of people and disrupting normal life in several districts. Overflowing rivers, damaged roads, washed-away bridges, and inundated villages have forced many families to

leave their homes as rescue and relief operations continue. Arunachal Pradesh experiences frequent floods due to a combination of geographical and climatic factors. The state lies in the eastern Himalayan region, where steep mountains and deep valleys cause rainwater to flow rapidly into rivers. During the southwest monsoon, the region receives intense and prolonged rainfall, significantly increasing river levels. Major rivers such as the Siang, Subansiri, Kameng, Lohit, and Dibang originate in the Himalayas and carry enormous volumes of water downstream. When these rivers swell during heavy rains, they often overflow their banks, which leads to flooding in low-lying areas. Flash floods are also common because mountain streams rise rapidly after intense rainfall.

Aaditya Thackeray Slams Govt Over Mumbai Waterlogging

Mumbai: Following the heavy rain and waterlogging reported across the city, Shiv Sena UBT leader Aaditya Thackeray on Wednesday said that for the first time, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is being run by an administration that is unconcerned about the Mumbai rains. Speaking to reporters, Thackeray said, "It is not as if Mumbai is witnessing rainfall for the first time. However, for the first time in many years, there is an administration running the BMC that seems unconcerned about Mumbai." Mumbai, Maharashtra: Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray says, "It is not as if Mumbai is witnessing rainfall for the first time. However, for the first time in many years, there is an administration running the BMC that seems unconcerned about Mumbai. Further speaking on the Mumbai rains, he took a dig at Mumbai Mayor Ritu Tawde saying that the city's mayor



appears to be more focused on what is happening in Dhaka and other parts of Bangladesh. The arrival of the monsoon in the city has brought much-needed relief from the heat, along with misery, as several parts of the city have been flooded, causing travel disruptions for commuters. The city has been lashed by heavy rain since Tuesday night.

Several parts of the city received heavy rainfall, including Shahaji Nagar,

Trombay (191 mm), Maharashtra Nagar, Mankhurd (185 mm), LBS Mulund Check Naka (175 mm), Tagore Nagar, Vikhroli (145 mm), Collector Colony, Chembur (163 mm), Byculla Fire Station (162 mm), Nair Hospital, Mumbai Central (143 mm), Kandivali Fire Station (138 mm), Dindoshi Fire Station (136 mm) and BKC Fire Station (139 mm), among others. Due to the heavy rain, parts of Andheri, Thane and Santacruz reported se-

vere waterlogging, triggering massive traffic congestion across several parts of the city. As of now, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an Orange Alert for Mumbai, warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds in the coming hours. Authorities have also urged citizens to avoid unnecessary travel and remain cautious while commuting during periods of intense rainfall.

Two College Students Electrocuted in Waterlogged Nerul Street

Nerul: Heavy rains have lashed Mumbai and its nearby regions, impacting daily life and commute. Amid this heavy rain, a disturbing incident has come to light from the Nerul area.

A short circuit took place in a wire in front of Bikaner Sweets under the LP Bridge. According to initial information, two college girls passing by came into direct contact with the current as it spread through the water on Wednesday afternoon. This incident has triggered panic in the area. **Injured girls ad-**



mitted to the hospital

The girls can be seen lying on the road in the rain as a person can be seen using a branch of a tree to rescue them. Vehicles can

be seen stranded as the man tries to rescue the girls in the visuals that have surfaced from the spot. Both the college girls were immediately rushed to DY Patil

Hospital in a rickshaw for urgent medical treatment.

This comes a day after, Vihan Shrivastav, a 11 year old boy lost his life after a 60 year old roadside Peepal tree uprooted and collapsed on a school bus on Road number 11, Chembur East on Tuesday afternoon. Four other school kids were injured in the mishap, aged between four to 12 years, of which one is admitted in ICU and requires surgery; two others are admitted in general ward with minor injuries and one was discharged.

EDITORIAL

Not Delhi.. a crime alley

The Nirbhaya incident that took place in the national capital Delhi in 2012 has caused a sensation across the country. On December 16, 2012, a 23-year-old medical student was brutally raped by six assailants in a moving bus with an iron rod, and she died after struggling for 13 days with injuries to her head and intestines. This has brought an irreparable stain on the history of Delhi. In response to this incident, the government announced a corpus fund of Rs. 1000 crore in the Union Budget 2013 to support programs to protect the dignity of women in the country and ensure their safety. This incident also led to amendments in the Prevention of Cruelty Acts. However, cruel crimes against women are not decreasing. The incident that has given Delhi the irreparable reputation as the capital of rapes came to light last Monday. The 11-year-old daughter of a migrant worker in South Delhi was kidnapped and murdered by a 24-year-old cab driver while she was sleeping on the footpath. Despite committing such a heinous crime, it was revealed that the accused, as usual, picked up another passenger and left. The police opened fire on the accused in the legs on the charges that he was trying to escape while the police were reenacting the incident at the crime scene. This incident has not only brought a bad name to the capital, but has also created fear among the families of migrant workers that there is no safety in Delhi. Who will stand if such atrocities happen to the poor who leave their homes and migrate to towns and cities for wage work? Migrant workers, who often face difficulties in communicating their problems to anyone due to language barriers, live as second-class citizens in their own country. The central government has launched a national digital portal called Eshram Portal to support the livelihood of migrant workers in the unorganized sector. Through this, eligible persons will get Rs. 2 lakh accident insurance, social security and various government benefits. If 31.4 crore unorganized workers are registered on the Eshram Portal by the end of November 2025, it will be clear to what extent the hardships of unorganized workers in the society are. The central government will provide insurance of up to Rs. 2 lakh to those with this Shram card, even if they suffer permanent disability or death. It will provide Rs. 1 lakh for partial medical treatment. Although all this is good, it is not possible to say how much awareness the migrant workers have about this portal. If this portal is actually available at the field level, it will be a good thing for them. Otherwise, unorganized workers will inevitably become victims of atrocities like the one that took place in Delhi. In many parts of the country, migrant workers are working under duress without minimum wages or facilities. In case of accidental deaths, fellow workers have to collect donations to transport their bodies to their hometowns. The incident where five migrant workers died due to crane collapse due to unseasonal rains near Shamshabad is heartbreaking. Peddapalli district, which is recognized as an industrial area in Telangana, has NTPC, RFSEL, Singareni, paraboled rice mills, brick kilns, and petroleum stock points. If the surrounding areas of Hyderabad are excluded, this district would be in the forefront in Telangana. It is estimated that there are about 70 thousand migrant workers due to good employment opportunities. Keeping in mind the problems of these workers, the Telangana government is planning to provide protection through the Overseas Mobility Bill. If women and children of migrant workers in such a poor situation are not protected and rapes are happening, public anger is bound to erupt. A nine-year-old girl was raped by a lustful man in Pedapalli, Telangana district. The girl, who had come to her grandmother's house for summer holidays, was alone when he threatened and raped her. Despite strict punishments for such rapes, the demonic instinct is unleashed. It is known that in 2024, a 31-year-old female doctor was raped and murdered in Calcutta, and people protested in the city with intense anger. This turmoil ultimately led to the fall of the West Bengal government. Now, the pressure is increasing on the police to quickly catch the accused who committed the murder of a migrant worker's daughter in Delhi and ensure that he is severely punished. The Indian Penal Code has imposed new, harsher punishments for crimes. Protection for victims has been increased. Especially, protection of women and children has been given utmost priority. Evidence such as providing medical assistance to victims in hospitals and recording their statements through audio and video has been introduced. The harshest punishments such as life imprisonment and death penalty have been prescribed for sexual assaults on women and gang rapes of minors. Even if the accused are given severe punishments legally, people do not have faith in the law.

The Post-War Middle East May Already Be Splitting Into Two New 'Camps'

A fragile US-Iran detente is in place with the possibility that it may hold. Qatar and Pakistan are the two mediators. In an interview recently to Financial Times, Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, said regional countries are seeking to establish a new regional security framework with Tehran aimed at restoring long-term stability. Qatar is one of the Arab Gulf states that has usually had a more accommodative and conciliatory position regarding Iran, with which it also shares the Pars gas fields. Qatar is almost entirely dependent on the Strait of Hormuz for its exports and imports. But Qatar also hosts the US military's Central Command. This position, therefore, propelled it into the role of a mediator in the current conflict in West Asia. Mediation is also one of the tools of Qatar's official foreign policy. That is why the Prime Minister's words matter. A regional security makeover will surely be one of the outcomes of this war.

The US has till now been a key security partner of the Gulf states, with Iran being a major threat perception for these countries. There has, however, been an increasing perception, at least since the outbreak of the Arab Spring, that the US was not as invested in Gulf security and was increasingly pivoting to the Indo-Pacific to contain an assertive China. If the current administration of US President Donald Trump allayed these concerns for a while, then the Iran war has helped reignite them. American bases and military equipment in the Gulf countries, for instance, became a liability for

these countries as Iran repeatedly targeted them during the war. Moreover, reports emerged that the US, in fact, moved some equipment out of these states to Israel. Influences and analysts the Gulf states openly criticised the US for failing to protect its Gulf allies in the manner they needed. Now, The Wall Street Journal, quoting American officials, has again published a report that amidst the damage suffered by its base in Bahrain, the Pentagon is considering reducing its military footprint in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and shifting some of its operations to Israel. In any case, the current detente, if it endures, speaks of a drawn down US presence in the region as well as highlights the limits of American power. A resilient Iran, with sanctions lifted, able to sell its oil and gas freely on the global market, the unfreezing of its assets and funds running in the billions of dollars, as well as a \$300 billion fund for its reconstruction, in charge of the Strait of Hormuz (together with Oman), will emerge stronger from the war than any other country in the region, even if weakened economically and militarily. Most Gulf states will thus look for alternatives - as they have for a while - even as they continue their security partnership with the US. While most, if not all of them, will try to work out some kind of agreement with Iran to deter any future attacks, the mistrust now runs deep.

In such a scenario China becomes a natural choice for many of the GCC states, as well as for Iran, of course. Over the years, China has strengthened its partnership with Iran, reflected in the support it offered

in the current war, as well as with the GCC states, both at an individual level and as a bloc. China sources most of its energy needs from this region - in fact, more from the GCC than from Iran. Hence, China's role in the region is certain to expand. But while China is a major economic partner and may export arms, it is doubtful that it will enter into any military alliance with any of them, which, in turn, will make the countries look for a regional security architecture. Here, two distinct groups may emerge. Qatar, which has already faced Israeli attacks on its territory last year and also has an uneasy relationship with many of the other Gulf states, may well choose to deepen ties with Iran. In any case, Qatar has pursued close ties with Iran, which made it a trusted mediator for the Iranians, as opposed to Pakistan, which actually represented US interests. Qatar has had its own share of run-ins with countries like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Sharing the Pars gas fields with Iran as well as its dependence on Hormuz will be incentive enough to pursue closer relations with the Persian state, together with Oman. This will also neutralise any threats from Iran should conflict reignite there. Therefore, we may see a closer Qatar-Oman-Iran trilateral partnership emerging in the coming days.

As opposed to this, another grouping already in the making will be of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Egypt. The Saudi-Pakistan partnership goes back decades but received a new lease of life with the mutual defence pact signed last year. Ironically, this was driven by



Israel's attack on Qatar, reflecting that the Saudis saw a challenge in Israel, too, along with the Iranian one. Even though the Saudis had entered a 'truce' with Iran in 2023 brokered by China, the current war has laid bare the huge trust deficit between them. This is also reflected in the joint statement issued after the GCC meeting with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Bahrain last week. Iran's nuclear programme still poses a threat to GCC countries and will continue to do so till any definite resolution is achieved. The Saudis, also suffering from Iranian attacks and by the closure of Hormuz, will try to hedge strategically through defence alliances, like that with Pakistan, which, for all practical purposes, is largely one-sided. For instance, while Pakistan moved fighter jets and military personnel to Saudi Arabia during the war in preparation for any potential military activity, no Saudi effort was witnessed during Pakistan's recent con-

flict with Afghanistan. Egypt is also dependent on the Saudis economically, as is President Al Sisi for his presidency, which gives the Saudis enormous leverage over it; so, a formal alliance between the two is quite possible. This grouping may be favorable to Kuwait too, which shares a border with Saudi Arabia and is closely aligned with it both economically and security wise. Turkey, while widely touted as a member of a potential Sunni alliance, may not actually join such a front. As a NATO member state, it may not be formally possible for it to join another military alliance. Moreover, there is a trust deficit between Turkey and Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

All three countries are, however, trying to smoothen their relationships with each other. But Turkey is also closely tied to Qatar, and has tried to take a moderate position regarding Iran. It will, therefore, keep trying to balance relations with all sides.

330 Million: Why The Biggest Number In India's AI Boom Is The Most Useless One

Every few weeks a new number arrives to tell us that India has won the artificial intelligence race before it has properly begun. That we are the largest market for this X, or the fastest growing for that Y, and the second-largest base of users for nearly every model that matters. The figures are real. The story made with them is unreal. Markets exist to price things, and the market for Indian AI has the price wrong in both directions at once. The visible side is overpriced. The durable side is underpriced. We are sold a supply side story while the demand side waits in the shade, holding both the real opportunity and the real danger.

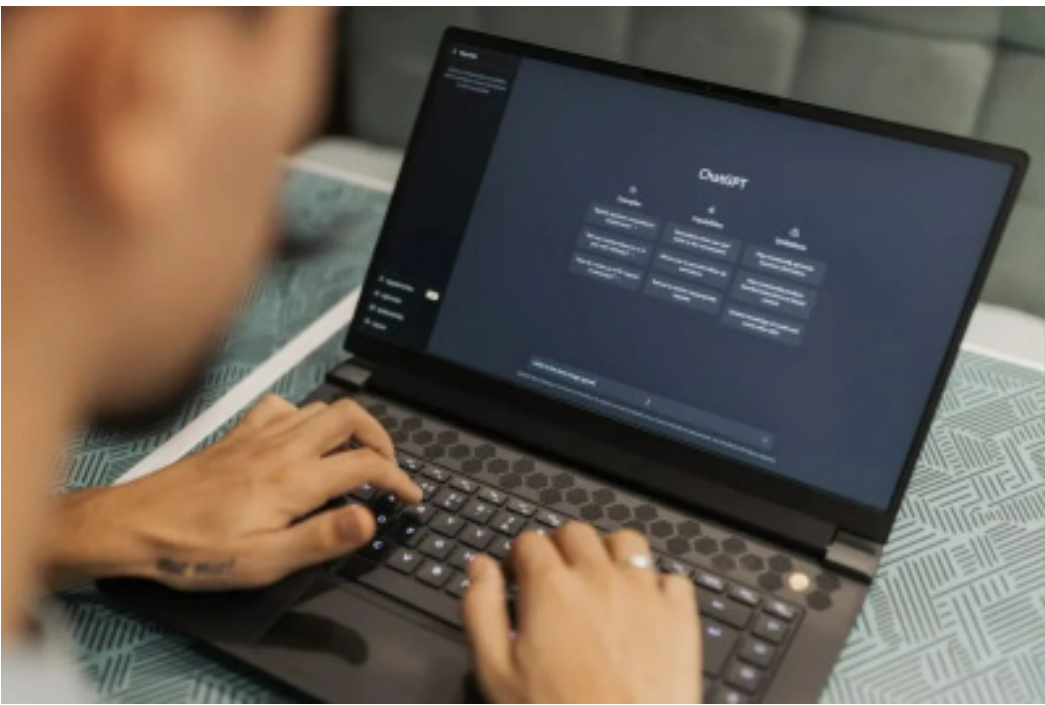
Let me start with what is overpriced. According to Sensor Tower's State of AI 2026 report, ChatGPT counts roughly 330 million monthly users in India and Gemini around 229 million. Those figures get offered as proof of demand. They measure footfall. Appetite shows itself only when there is a price to pay, and the price in India today sits close to zero, because the frontier labs are subsidising access in a land grab for the world's largest pool of users. The narrow gap between the two leaders gives the game away. It exists because Android's installed base does the distribution work that genuine preference does elsewhere. The top of our market has been won by distribution and subsidy wearing the costume of demand.

Early in my career, putting a new dishwasher liquid product into Indian kitchens, I watched free samples by the tons flowing off retailers in a week. The number that mattered arrived a month later, when a homemaker reached

for it again and paid with her own money. The first number flattered the internal review. The second one paid the salaries. WhatsApp owns near total reach in this country and has spent a decade in search of the commerce that was meant to follow. Vast usage, thin value. The capital now flooding into AI infrastructure rests on the same headcount story, on a subsidised price that still awaits its first real test. The day a real price appears, we will learn how much of that 330 million was appetite and how much was a free sample.

Turn the picture over, because the underpriced side is the richer one. Value in this technology is born at the point of use, in the hands of someone solving a real problem. Models commoditise by the quarter. The lasting surplus lives in deployment against the messy, multilingual, high-friction problems that fill Indian life be it credit for the borrower with a thin file, advice for the small farmer or public services in a dozen languages that a model trained abroad meets as strangers. This is the terrain where India is strong and where capital, mesmerised by the supply side, keeps its eyes elsewhere. The abundant thing draws the attention. The scarce thing sits unpriced. That gap is the textbook shape of a mispricing.

The clearest evidence hides inside the same data everyone celebrates. The positions worth watching grow on session depth, paid conversion and word-of-mouth, far from the headlines that cheer downloads. One cohort that opens its wallet tells you more about this market than three hundred million who only opened the app. That wallet reports demand. The



download reports distribution. There is a third element, the one that ought to keep folks up at night, because its cost still sits off the books. The value of AI in commerce and public life rests entirely on trust, and trust is a bill the current price quietly defers.

Years ago, in 2011-13, I built the case for online debit in India. As Marketing Director for Visa, I saw an entire business rest on one fragile act: a stranger's willingness to type her card number into a screen and trust that the money would behave. Reach stayed worthless until that trust arrived. The same law now governs AI. Deepfake-driven fraud, the synthetic manufacture of opinion, impersonation aimed at the retail investor who has only just entered formal markets, these are the bills that arrive later. Demand looks healthier than it can sustain, flattered by a charge we keep deferring. The day it lands, through a scandal or a market shock or a wave of fraud against ordinary savers,

the whole thing reprices, and it reprices violently. A country welcoming millions of first-time investors and first-time internet users in the same decade stands fully exposed to that reckoning.

All of which gives the phrase 'Swadeshi AI' a sharper edge than the slogan usually carries. The real question runs deeper than whether we can stamp a flag on a model. It asks whether India keeps the surplus it is strong enough to create or rents its intelligence from abroad in perpetuity while paying the trust cost at home. Building at the model layer is the smaller prize. Owning the demand layer, the interface, the deployment, the trusted relationship with the citizen, is the larger one and it currently goes cheap. A free sample is a poor trade for a civilisational asset. A mispricing earns its keep only when it tells you who collects as it corrects. The builder who designs for what Indians will gladly pay for, and earns the

wallet that a download only borrows. The policymaker who funds distribution and trust, the rails and the redress and the protection of the small saver, with the conviction now reserved for compute, because compute on its own is a tower built on sand. The investor who learns to read depth and pays for it, while the crowd still pays for downloads. I have spent a working life building categories from the demand side, in dishwasher and debit cards, motorcycles and cargo electrics, with a few sporting leagues along the way. The lesson travels intact every time. Markets go to whoever first grasps what people will gladly pay for, and why. The largest free crowd is a vanity, pleasant to report in the morning and slow to pay by evening. India's AI moment will be settled on this ground. The headcount dazzles. The economics beneath it still await a careful reading. For now, we are pricing the wrong thing. The correction, when it arrives, will reward the few who priced the right one.



Gold Falls Rs.1,300 To Rs.1.44 Lakh/10g In Delhi As Strong US Dollar Pressures Bullion Prices



New Delhi: Gold prices declined by Rs 1,300 to Rs 1.44 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital, as weak global market trends and a strong US dollar weighed on the precious metal. According to local marketmen, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity extended losses for the second straight session, depreciating Rs 1,300 to Rs 1,44,500 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had closed at Rs 1,45,800 per 10 grams. Silver, however, continued its upward momentum for the second straight day, climbing Rs 5,000 to Rs 2,35,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes). The white metal had settled at Rs 2,30,000 per kg in the preceding session. “Gold prices in the domestic market traded under pressure on Wednesday amid a

stronger US dollar and rising Treasury bond yields, which reduced the demand for the precious metal,” Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst at Lemonn Markets Desk, said. In the international markets, spot gold slipped USD 21.75, or 0.54 per cent, to USD 3,986.07 per ounce, and silver declined 1 per cent to USD 58 per ounce. “Spot gold fell for the third straight day in the overseas market to trade around USD 3,980 per ounce as the US dollar index rose 0.15 per cent to 101.34,” Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities at Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said. Analysts noted that the strengthening of the US dollar weighed on bullion prices, as gold becomes costlier for overseas buyers.

‘More Millionaires Than Ever, But Wealth Gap Widens’: UBS Global Wealth Report 2025 Highlights Rising Inequality

Mumbai: The UBS Global Wealth Report 2025 has highlighted a widening wealth gap across the world, stating that while global personal wealth has continued to grow, inequality has increased since 2020. The report said median wealth declined in most markets, even as average wealth rose. Analysing 56 markets that account for more than 92% of the world’s wealth, the Swiss bank found that personal wealth recorded its fastest growth in recent years, creating nearly one million new millionaires in US dollar terms. According to the report, total personal wealth increased by 10.8% in 2025, compared with 4.6% in 2024 and 4.2% in 2023. UBS attributed the sharp rise to strong financial markets. The report said there were “more millionaires than ever, everywhere” in 2025. The United States accounted for almost half of the increase, with more than 440,000 people becoming new millionaires in US dollar terms. In Europe, wealth in US dollar terms grew at a faster pace, largely because of last



year’s depreciation of the dollar against the euro. Despite the rise in average wealth, the report warned that inequality has intensified since 2020. Median wealth, which better represents the middle of the wealth distribution, declined in most countries, highlighting a widening gap between the wealthiest individuals and the broader population. Wealth growth in the Asia-Pacific region stood at just over 5.9% last year, lagging behind other regions. The report attributed the slower growth to currency effects and market

dynamics, while noting that the region’s long-term outlook remains positive. Most high-net-worth individuals in the region are concentrated in Greater China and Southeast Asia. The United States further expanded its share of global personal wealth to 35.7% in the UBS sample. Western Europe accounted for just under 22%, followed by Greater China at 18.5%, although its share was slightly lower than in 2024. Together, the United States and Greater China continue to account for more than half of the world’s personal wealth. The report ranked

the UAE as the world’s most unequal country based on the Gini coefficient, with a score of 0.82. Russia also recorded a score of 0.82, followed by South Africa and Brazil at 0.81, Saudi Arabia at 0.78, and the United States at 0.77. Sweden and India followed the top six countries, each recording a Gini score of 0.74. The Gini coefficient measures the distribution of wealth within a population on a scale of 0 to 1. A lower score indicates a more equal distribution of wealth, while a higher score reflects greater inequality.

India, Japan May Push Yen-Rupee Trade Settlement Plan To Cut Dollar Dependence



New Delhi: India and Japan are preparing to move forward with a proposed local-currency settlement mechanism that would enable direct trade payments in yen and rupees, reducing dependence on the US dollar in bilateral transactions, according to a Nikkei Asia report ahead of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi’s visit to India. The proposal is expected to be

discussed during the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart will meet in New Delhi. The report suggests that the framework could be formally included in the joint statement issued after the summit, marking a significant step in financial cooperation between the two countries. If implemented,

this would allow Japanese non-residents to open accounts with Indian banks, enabling financial institutions in both nations to directly settle cross-border trade and investment payments in yen and rupees. This would eliminate the need to route transactions through the US dollar, thereby improving efficiency and reducing currency conversion costs.

The initiative is designed to support smoother trade flows, particularly benefiting Japanese companies that are expanding their operations in India.

It is also expected to enhance financial integration and deepen economic ties between the two countries. The proposal builds on the 2025 Japan-India Joint Vision, which had earlier referenced the idea of strengthening currency cooperation. However, its potential inclusion in the upcoming summit statement would represent the first time that such a measure is formally endorsed at the leadership level. Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi will begin a three-day official visit to India from July 1 to July 3 at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The visit will focus on expanding bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors, including trade, investment, and defence, according to India’s Ministry of External Affairs.

Cabinet Approves Rs.6,969 Crore 6-Lane Tunnel To Connect Dwarka Expressway With Vasant Kunj

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the construction of a 6-lane tunnel worth Rs 6,969.67 crore to connect the Dwarka Expressway to the Nelson Mandela Marg at Vasant Kunj in Delhi. The 8.1-km road tunnel for NH-148AE will be constructed through hybrid annuity mode (HAM), and the project is expected to be completed in five years, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a press briefing. The project will provide faster connectivity between West and South Delhi, connecting UER 2/Dwarka Expressway to Vasant Kunj in South Delhi. It will ease traffic from Gurugram, Dwarka, IGI Airport, and West Delhi towards South Delhi, according to an official statement.

A 1.98-km section of the tunnel will pass beneath the Southern Ridge Forest. The statement said that the underground twin-tube tunnel minimises surface disruption, preserving the ridge. The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is also propos-



ing an elevated corridor between AIIMS and Mahipalpur. This link will connect the tunnel to the Barapullah elevated road, thereby connecting West Delhi, South Delhi with East Delhi, Ghaziabad and Noida, it added. The tunnel, to be constructed through a tunnel boring machine (TBM), will start from Shivmurti interchange and terminate before the intersection of Nelson Mandela Marg and Mahipalpur Chhat arpur Road. To mitigate congestion at this intersection, an elevated 1.8-km road is proposed along the Nelson Mandela Marg.

Sensex Rises 443 Points, Nifty Closes Above 24,000 As FMCG, Banking & Realty Stocks Lead Rally

Mumbai: Indian equity benchmark indices closed in positive territory on Wednesday, supported by strong buying in key sectors such as FMCG, banking, financial services and realty. The market maintained upward momentum throughout the session, helping both benchmark indices finish with solid gains. The BSE Sensex rose 443.97 points, or 0.58 percent, to close at 76,922.64. The NSE Nifty 50 climbed 140.10 points, or 0.59 percent, to settle at 24,005.85, reclaiming the important 24,000 mark. Market gains were largely driven by buying in defensive and domestic-focused sectors. The Nifty Realty index emerged as the top sectoral gainer, followed by strong gains in FMCG and Auto stocks. Banking and financial shares also saw healthy buying, which added strength to the broader market.

Tata Sons AGM On August 18 To Decide Chandrasekaran’s Board Reappointment

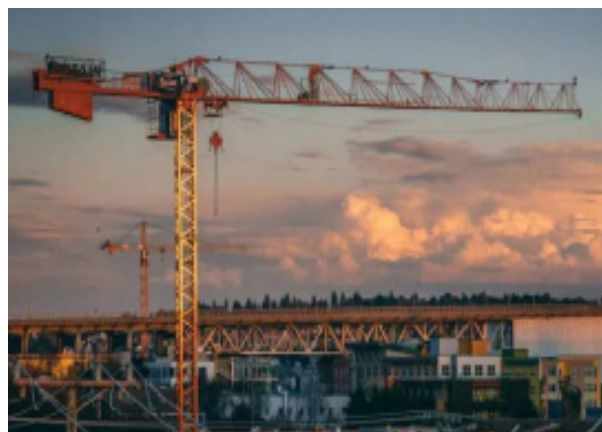


Mumbai: Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran’s reappointment as a director will be placed for approval at the company’s annual general meeting (AGM) scheduled for August 18, according to a report by The Economic Times. The approval is a crucial requirement for him to continue serving as chairman of the Tata Group holding company, particularly amid emerging differences among key stakeholders. Chandrasekaran has been a member of the Tata Sons board since October 2016 and took over as chairman in January 2017. His continuation in the top leadership position depends on retaining his position on the board. Tata Sons has not issued any official comment on the matter, ET reported. Along with the adoption of financial statements and approval of remuneration for the chairman, the AGM will also consider the reappointment of directors who retire by rotation. While such resolutions have traditionally been procedural, the report noted that they may draw heightened attention this year due to changing dynamics among shareholders. The only comparable instance of opposition in recent years occurred in 2022, when the SP Group opposed the renomination of Vijay Singh. However,

that resolution was ultimately cleared. This year’s AGM is seen as particularly significant as the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) will be the only major Tata Trust eligible to vote, following legal constraints placed on the Sir Ratan Tata Trust after action by the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner. Although SDTT holds around 27% stake in Tata Sons, sources told ET that key decisions typically require broader consensus among trustees.

According to the report, Tata Trusts led by Noel Tata had earlier passed a resolution in July 2025 supporting Chandrasekaran’s third executive term. However, Noel Tata later expressed reservations regarding the timing of the reappointment. The issue reportedly surfaced during a Tata Sons board meeting on February 24, where directors were divided over whether to proceed with his reappointment. While most board members supported putting the matter to a vote, Noel Tata reportedly advocated postponing the decision until June, citing concerns over financial performance issues at Air India and newer ventures such as BigBasket. The matter was again not taken up at the June board meeting, indicating continued lack of consensus among stakeholders, the report added.

US removes four Indian firms from sanctions list



Washington: The US has de-listed four Indian companies from its sanctions list, which were accused of supplying advanced technology and equipment for Russia’s military-industrial base. The companies have been deleted from the Office of Foreign Assets Control’s (OFAC) Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons (SDN) List.

The four companies include Hyderabad-based RRG Engineering Technologies Private Limited and Lokesh Machines Limited, Ahmedabad-based Galaxy Bearings and New Delhi-based Shaurya Aeronautics Private Limited, according to details shared by the US Department of the Treasury. The US had

sanctioned Galaxy Bearings Ltd in October 2024, accusing it of exporting dozens of high-priority dual-use equipment, including roller bearings and roller assemblies, to Russian entities. Shaurya Aeronautics Private Ltd was sanctioned for allegedly sending shipments of radar apparatus, radio navigational aid apparatus, radio remote control apparatus and electrical apparatus to Russia. The US had accused RRG Engineering Technologies of sending over 100 shipments of microelectronics to SDN-listed, Russia-based Arteks Limited Company. Lokesh Machines had been accused of sending dozens of shipments of machine tools to various Russian manufacturing companies.

Govt May Review WhatsApp Username Feature Over Impersonation Concerns

New Delhi: The government is preparing to review WhatsApp’s newly introduced username feature following concerns that it could increase the risk of impersonation. The development comes shortly after the Meta-owned messaging platform announced the feature, which allows users to hide their phone numbers and instead communicate using usernames. WhatsApp announced on June 29 that users globally will soon be able to reserve usernames. The company described the move as a major shift in how communication works on the platform, which has more than three billion users worldwide. The government’s scrutiny of the recently-announced feature comes days after restrictions were imposed on Telegram ahead



of the NEET re-examination last month. The messaging app was banned from June 16 to June 22 amid concerns that groups on the platform could be used to leak medical entrance examination papers. The government

had alleged that Telegram failed to act against such groups despite concerns raised by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The feature has been under development for several

years. Early indications appeared in May 2023, while Meta formally announced plans for username support in October 2024 and informed developers and business partners in November that a full rollout is

expected in June 2026. According to WhatsApp, the large user base has resulted in significant overlap in names, prompting the company to allow early username reservations so users can secure preferred identifiers before the feature is fully launched later this year. The rollout will be phased, and users will be notified when reservations become available. The company has positioned the feature as a privacy enhancement, aimed at reducing the need for users to share phone numbers. Unlike social media handles, WhatsApp usernames will not appear in public directories or be suggested to others. Instead, users will need to know the exact username to initiate contact. Once the feature is active, phone numbers will no

longer be visible to first-time contacts if a username is enabled. Users will also have the option to set a “username key,” which adds another layer of control over who can reach them, and this key can be changed at any time. WhatsApp also plans to support businesses by offering a privacy-focused way to interact with customers using usernames. Creators, organisations, and small businesses will be able to align their WhatsApp usernames with their existing Instagram or Facebook handles for consistency across Meta platforms. India, WhatsApp’s largest market with over 500 million users, is expected to be significantly impacted by this change, making regulatory scrutiny particularly important.

Minister Chirag Paswan Inaugurates MoFPI-Supported Common Incubation Center at VNMKV, Parbhani to Boost Food Processing and Entrepreneurship

Chirag Paswan Launches Advanced Common Incubation Center at College of Food Technology, VNMKV, Strengthening Value Addition and Farmer Empowerment



New Delhi, July, 1 (PIB): Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, an advanced Common Incubation Center (CIC) established at the College of Food Technology, Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV), Parbhani, with financial assistance from the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India, New Delhi, and in collaboration with Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani and the State-Level Nodal Agency of the Agriculture

Department, Government of Maharashtra, was inaugurated on June 28, 2026 by Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Shri Chirag Paswan.

On this occasion, a special interaction and guidance session by the Minister was organized at the Golden Jubilee Convocation Hall of the university, Minister of State for Public Health and Family Welfare, Water Supply and Sanitation, Energy, Women and Child Development, Public Works (Public Undertakings), and Guardian Minister of Parbhani District, Smt. Meghana Tai Bordikar, was



specially present for the event. The program was presided over by Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Indra Mani. Distinguished guests included Rajya Sabha Member Shri Ramrao Wadkute, Lok Sabha Member Shri Sanjay Jadhav, Director of Agricultural Processing Planning, Government of Maharashtra Shri Vinaykumar Awate, Acting District Collector and CEO of Zilla Parishad Smt. Natisha Mathur (IAS), Superintendent of Police Shri Pankaj Kumawat (IPS), and Director of Education Dr. Bhagwan Asewar.

During his inaugural address, Union Minister Shri Chirag Paswan expressed happiness after witnessing the enthusiasm of the participants present at the event. He said that the responsibility of every citizen has increased in building a Developed India (Viksit Bharat). He stated that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has entrusted him with the responsibility of this ministry, and he is carrying out this responsibility with equal enthusiasm and dedication. Seeing the enthusiasm at the university inspired him to interact directly with the audience.

He further said that India is an agriculture-based nation, and agriculture remains the primary source of income for the country. Therefore, continuous efforts will be made to increase farmers' income through the food processing industry. Initially, India focused on increasing agricultural production, and today the country has become self-reliant in production while also exporting to many countries. However, there is now a need to add value to agricultural produce and convert it into higher-value products.

He noted that tradition-

ally, Indian households processed products like curd, papad, and pickles effectively at home, and in the same way, modern agricultural produce should also undergo processing. He emphasized that food processing is essential to increasing agricultural income and should receive greater encouragement.

The Minister pointed out that many farmers own small landholdings but have larger financial needs, forcing them to sell their produce at lower prices due to inadequate storage facilities. He said it is necessary to strengthen farmers' capacities so they can store, process, and add value to their produce, thereby increasing income.

He emphasized that the industrial sector has immense strength and that youth should aspire to become job creators rather than job seekers. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing various schemes aimed at empowering stakeholders from production to marketing. Food wastage remains a serious issue, and processing is the most effective solution to minimize such losses.

Cabinet Clears Rs.7,145 Cr Kanpur–Kabrai Expressway

New Delhi, July, 1 (PIB): The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, today has approved the construction of 117.7 km Kanpur–Kabrai Access-Controlled Greenfield Highway, a four-lane access-controlled corridor with structures designed for future six-laning, forming a key segment of the Bhopal–Kanpur Economic Corridor under the National Highways (O) Programme. With an estimated total capital cost of Rs.7145.14 crore, the project will be implemented by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on BOT (Toll) mode, together with the operation and maintenance of the existing Kanpur-Kabrai section of NH-34. The project will provide seamless, high-speed connectivity between Kanpur and Kabrai, while strengthening onward connectivity to Sagar, Bhopal and other parts of Madhya Pradesh, thereby creating a modern access controlled economic corridor linking the industrial and commercial centres of Uttar Pradesh with mineral-rich, manufacturing and agricultural regions of Madhya Pradesh thereby improving. Designed for operating speeds of 80–100 kmph, the corridor will reduce travel time between Kanpur and Kabrai from 3.5 hours to 1.5 hours (58%), while improving road safety, reducing vehicle operating costs and facilitating efficient movement of passenger and freight traffic. The project will also provide strategic connectivity with NH-34, NH-35, the Bundelkhand Expressway, Kanpur Ring Road, and State Highways SH-46, SH-91, SH-10B and SH-42, thereby strengthening integration with the regional highway network. The corridor further strengthen connectivity to the Kabrai mining belt, improving the movement of minerals, industrial goods, construction materials and agricultural produce, thereby enhancing logistics efficiency, supply chain resilience and regional economic development. Aligned with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, the project will improve connectivity to 16 Economic Nodes, including the Unnao, Banther, Pankhi, Rania, Jainpur, Rooma, Chakeri, Sumerpur and Bhuragarh Industrial Areas, Trans Ganga Integrated Township, Growth Centre Jaipur, Kanpur Nagar Node and Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. It will also strengthen connectivity to 9 Social Nodes, namely Fatehpur, Mahoba, Kanpur Zoological Park, Buddha Park, J.K. Temple & Garden, Radha Krishna Temple, Siddheshwar Mahadev Temple, Gopeshwar Mandir and Mahoba Tourist Place, and 10 Logistics Nodes, including Kanpur, Ghatampur, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Kabrai, Bharwa Sumerpur and Banda Railway Stations, together with Kanpur, Chakeri and Khajuraho Airports. Overall, improve logistics competitiveness, industrial development and economic growth across Bundelkhand and adjoining regions of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, while advancing the objectives of PM GatiShakti. The project is expected to generate approximately 11,188 direct and 13,985 indirect person-days of employment per lane per km during construction and is projected to carry an Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) of about 18,069 Passenger Car Units (PCUs) by FY 2028, underscoring its long-term economic, logistics and transport significance. The proposed project will thus generate close to 1.2 Crore person-days of direct employment and indirect employment.

TRAI Assesses Mobile Network Quality Across in Udupi District, Karnataka LSA

New Delhi, July, 1 (PIB): The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released findings of Independent Drive Test (IDT) conducted across Udupi District, Karnataka LSA, during the month of March 2026, for information of general telecom consumers. The purpose of this drive test is to assess and verify real time quality of mobile network services (both voice & data) provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). During the IDT, TRAI captures performance of TSPs for key Quality of Service (QoS) parameters like Coverage, Call Drop Rate (CDR), Call Setup Success Rate (CSSR), data Download (DL) and Upload (UL) throughput etc., which are then published to inform Consumers and encourage TSPs to improve their services. These IDTs have been designed to capture on ground mobile network performance of all TSPs across diverse usages environment like cities, hotspots, public transport hubs, etc. In this type of drive testing, live data and voice sessions are established using SIM cards from all TSPs over 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G networks. Multiple advanced test handsets are used, and the sessions are monitored and analysed in real-time using advanced Software Systems. TRAI, through its appointed agency, conducted drive tests across City drive – 535.5 KMs, Hotspot locations - 15, Walk Test - 9.8 Kms and Highway drive – 103.3 Kms in Udupi District during 17th March 2026 to 20th March 2026 in Karnataka LSA. These tests were conducted under the supervision of the TRAI Regional Office Bengaluru. The observations presented in drive test reports represent the performance of the TSPs on the area/ route under test on the day/ time of conducting the drive test.

TRAI Assesses Mobile Network Quality Across in Satara District and Highway Drive from Pune to Satara, Maharashtra LSA

New Delhi, July, 1 (PIB): The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released findings of Independent Drive Test (IDT) conducted across Satara, Maharashtra LSA, during the month of March 2026, for information of general telecom consumers. The purpose of this drive test is to assess and verify real time quality of mobile network services (both voice & data) provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). During the IDT, TRAI captures performance of TSPs for key Quality of Service (QoS) parameters like Coverage, Call Drop Rate (CDR), Call Setup Success Rate (CSSR), data Download (DL) and Upload (UL) throughput etc., which are then published to inform Consumers and encourage TSPs to improve their services. These IDTs have been designed to capture on ground mobile network performance of all TSPs across diverse usages environment like cities, hotspots, public transport hubs, etc. In this type of drive testing, live data and voice sessions are established using SIM cards from all TSPs over 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G networks. Multiple advanced test handsets are used, and the sessions are monitored and analysed in real-time using advanced software systems.

Today's Horoscope



Aries

Tooth ache or stomach upset may create some problems for you. Take a physician's advice to get relief immediately. Any of your chronic diseases may bother you today, due to which you may have to go to the hospital and spend a lot of money. Spending time with children will be important. Those who stay away from their lover can miss them deeply today. Because of this, you can talk to your beloved on the phone for hours during the night. Tact will be required while handling colleagues. Someone from your past is likely to contact you and make it a memorable day. Today, you will experience that the love of your partner forgets you about the pains of life.

Remedy :- Keep water in a Copper vessel near bedside at night, and next morning, pour this water at the root of a nearest tree, for excellent health benefits.



Taurus

Your energy level will be high. There is a possibility of money loss today, hence you are required to remain alert while making transactions or signing any document. 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. Some difference may crop up with your darling-You will have difficulty trying to make your mate understand your position. Your partner will be hard to deal with. While spending free time with your spouse tonight, you will realize how important it is to give them more time. Work pressure had been hampering your married life since long. But today, all the grievances will be vanished.

Remedy :- For enhanced financial condition, plant a banana tree, tend to it and worship it.



Gemini

A beneficial day and you may be able to find relief from a prolong illness. An old friend can ask you for financial help today. However, your assistance can weaken your financial conditions. Children need to concentrate on studies and plan for the future. You are likely to be dazzled by some natural beauty today. You will make beneficial career changes if you present yourself in a professional manner. You should try to understand the things in the right manner, otherwise you'll waste your free time just thinking about such scenarios continuously. Today, you will realize that all the vows taken on your marriage were true. Your spouse is your soulmate.

Remedy :- Financial life will become better by using green vehicles.



Cancer

Misusing personal relations to fulfil your expectations would annoy your wife. You will possess a considerable amount of money today, and with it there will be peace of mind. You will also make important contacts through friends. The ecstasy of entire universe is held between the two who are in love. Yes, you are the lucky one. You need to focus on your way of working to get good results at the workplace, otherwise your negative image can get created in the eyes of your boss. Today, you will be able to spend time with your lover and put forward your feelings in front of him/her. Today, your partner might take you in the realm of a different world of love and sensations.

Remedy :- Wear Green Coloured clothes



Leo

Your mind will be disturbed with recent events. Meditation and yoga will prove to be beneficial for spiritual as well as physical gains. At the beginning of the day, you may suffer from any financial loss, which can spoil the whole day. Try to be reasonable especially with people who love and care for you. Exciting day of romance- Plan something special for the evening and try to make it as romantic as possible. Great day to implement new projects and plans. You have spare time today for socializing and follow up with things that you love doing the most. Your partner might do something fabulous unintentionally, which will be really unforgettable.

Remedy :- For a good financial life, keep green stones in flower pots, keep plants in green bottles, and also have green tiles in bathroom.



Virgo

If possible try to avoid long journey as you are too weak to travel and this could put further weaken you. Today, you are likely to attain benefits from the help of your brother or sister. Think before sharing your confidential information with your spouse. If possible, try to avoid as she might reveal it to someone else. Be careful your romantic partner may flatter you- don't leave me alone in this lonely world. Bold steps and decisions would bring favourable rewards. The natives of this zodiac sign would like to spend more time alone than meeting people today. Today, your free time can be spent by cleaning the house. Your spouse will be full of energy and love today.

Remedy :- Include use of white clothes in your daily wear for good health.



Libra

Work pressure might bring some stress and tension today. It should be well understood that in the hour of grief, your accumulated wealth will only help you tackle the situation. Hence, start saving from today and avoid excessive spending. A better understanding with your spouse brings in happiness-peace and prosperity at home. Your work will take a backseat- as you find comfort-pleasure and extreme ecstasy in the arms of your beloved. You will be in a strong position to put together a team and work toward a collective goal. Today, you would like to do all the things that you used to love during your childhood. Romantic songs, aromatic candles, good food, and some drinks; the day is all about this with your spouse.

Remedy :- Distribute sweets and savouries made of ground yellow chana dal to needy people for amazing health benefits.



Scorpio

Astrological guidance by a friend will encourage you to improve your health. Try to control your spending- and buy only the essential items today. Good time to get involved into activities that include youngsters. Erratic behaviour of your darling might make your mood upset. This is an excellent time for developing professional contacts in other countries. Good day for some recreation and entertainment. Rude behavior of your spouse might take a toll on you today.

Remedy :- Offer seven almonds and seven grains of black grams in Shani temple and build a strong love life.



Sagittarius

Outings-parties and pleasure jaunts will keep you in good mood today. Money can be required anytime, so plan your finances and start saving now as much as possible. Let family tension not divert your attention. Bad times give us much more. You will be in a loving mood- so be sure to make special plans for you and your beloved. New assignments undertaken would fall short of expectations. Travel and educational pursuits will enhance your awareness. Those who say that marriage is all about sex, they lie. Because today, you will know what true love is.

Remedy :- For enhanced career/work life/business, brush your teeth with herbal-based toothpaste such as neem and babool.



Capricorn

Your frank and fearless views could hurt the vanity of your friend. It's another high-energy day and unexpected gains are foreseen. You will upset your spouse if you spend money on things that you don't immediately require. Beloved will be in a romantic mood. Daydreaming will bring your downfall- Do not count on others to do your work. You need to remember that god helps those who help themselves. Today, you will fall in love with your spouse again.

Remedy :- Maintain harmony and balance in the family by switching on a white-light zero watt bulb in the Northwest direction.



Aquarius

Health will be perfect today. 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. Domestic work keeps you busy most of the time. Love will show positive vibes Good day for businessmen. A sudden trip undertaken for business purpose will yield positive results. Today, you can think of spending your free time carrying out religious work. During this time, do not get into unnecessary conflicts. Today, you will forget all the hardships of your life with the love of your spouse.

Remedy :- For enhancing positive experiences in the family, offer 28 drops of mustard oil near Peepal or banyan tree or in a pot filled with mud at home.



Pisces

Cheer up as good time ahead and you will have additional energy. You may get into a fight with your spouse today over money-related matters. However, you will fix everything with your calm attitude. A wonderful day to enjoy the company of guests. Plan something special with your relatives. They would also appreciate it. A good communication or a message from your beloved or spouse will enhance your morale today. Added knowledge that you acquire today would give you an edge when dealing with peers. Amidst your busy life, you will get enough time for yourself today and be able to do your favorite things. Marriage had never been so wonderful before than today.

Remedy :- Accept rice and silver from your mother and keep it in your home to improve your financial condition.

Prabhas' Fauzi Locked Its Release Date!

Prabhas and Hanu Raghavapudi's ambitious period drama Fauzi is finally gearing up for a major update. The film, set in the pre Independence era, has been carrying strong expectations ever since its title and first poster were unveiled.

After the setback of The Raja Saab, Prabhas fans have been eagerly waiting for a substantial update from Fauzi. Apart from the title poster and a brief audio glimpse, the makers have maintained complete silence, adding to the curiosity surrounding the project. According to sources, the team has now locked December 3 as the film's release date. An official announcement is expected very soon. Recent industry reports have also indicated that the makers are targeting a December release window and are preparing to kick off promotions. The film has already completed a major portion of its shoot and is now moving steadily towards the final stages. Hanu Raghavapudi is said to have blended intense emotions with a grand patriotic backdrop,



making it one of the most awaited films in Prabhas' lineup. Fans are particularly excited to see Prabhas in the role of a soldier, while debutant Imanvi's pairing with the star has also gener-

ated curiosity. Veteran actors Mithun Chakraborty, Anupam Kher and Jayapradha are playing key roles in the film. Backed by Mythri Movie Makers on a lavish budget, Fauzi prom-

ises a visually rich emotional drama. With the release date reportedly locked and promotional activities expected to begin soon, Prabhas fans finally have something big to look forward to.

Believed in Script, Meet Producer Who Spent Rs 110 Cr!



Abhishek Nama's Nagabandham, starring Virat Karma, is one of the most ambitious films to emerge from Indian cinema this year. Ahead of its July 3 release, producers Kishore Annapureddy and Nishita Nagireddy of NIK Studios opened up about the passion, faith, and vision that shaped the project. The producers revealed that filmmaking wasn't their original profes-

sion. "After building a successful software company, we wanted to diversify into new industries. Cinema fascinated us because it combines creativity with business. When Ravinder Reddy introduced us to Abhishek Nama's script, everything changed." According to them, the screenplay itself justified the massive investment. "The scale wasn't created for the sake of grandeur,

The story demanded it. Every stage of development increased our confidence, and eventually we committed more than 110 crore because we trusted the film completely." Despite making the movie with a one film old actor Virat Karma in a pan-India spectacle, they never viewed it as a gamble. "We searched extensively before finalizing Virat. Once we met him, we knew he was the

perfect choice. His commitment, transformation, and dedication have been exceptional." The producers praised director Abhishek Nama for carefully balancing practical filmmaking with visual effects. "One of our biggest challenges was deciding where to build massive sets and where to use VFX. Every ten minutes, audiences will witness something visually stunning. We wanted every frame to create wonder." Spirituality, they stated, remained central throughout production. "The Anantha Padmanabha Swamy temple set has left everyone spellbound. Many visitors said it genuinely feels like visiting the actual temple. Experiences like these strengthened our belief that divine blessings have accompanied this journey." They affirm spirituality play a role in their personal lives as well. "Coming from outside the film industry and being able to produce a film of this scale feels like divine grace. Even during the ongoing Rath Yatra, despite heavy rains, the procession has continued successfully. Those videos have gone viral on social media." It has to be seen whether the movie will live up to all the hype surrounding it.

Trivikram – Venky's Aadarsha Kutumbam Release Date Out

The wizard of words, Trivikram Srinivas returns to direction, joining hands with everyone's favourite Victory Venkatesh for a highly anticipated entertainer Aadarsha Kutumbam AK47 that promises to blend heart, humour, high emotion with lot of thrills on the big screen. The film shoot is progressing at brisk pace. This reunion marks the coming together of two powerhouse talents who have redefined Telugu family entertainment. The first look matched all the expectations and now makers are ready to impress audience with a big update. Aadarsha Kutumbam AK47 is all set for the grand release on October 2nd. Team is ready to surprise audiences. Known for his impeccable storytelling and emotional finesse, Trivikram is expected to craft yet another universally appealing family entertainer with a twist. Victory Venkatesh, the ever-charismatic star of family cinema, steps into a role shaped by Trivikram's signature writing and wit. The film is being produced by S. Radha Krishna under the prestigious Haarika & Hassine Creations banner. More details will be announced soon.



Malavika At Her Hottest Best!



One of the very beautiful and talented actresses, Malavika Mohanan is becoming the most popular face-off late. Though Malavika acted in prominent movies, yet she is more loved for her sultry hot photoshoots. The Master actress yet again gave away some super hot poses in her green revealing attire in a rustic backdrop. This could be Malavika's hottest photoplay so far. Malavika has got some arresting looks and she makes sure to catch the eye, be in it western attire or a simple native look. Malavika is busy with her eighth movie in Karthick Naren's direction right now. Her previous seven films were from four different languages.

Atlee Is Gearing Up to Drop the RAAKA Bomb in August



After the phenomenal success of Pushpa 2, Allu Arjun joined hands with Atlee for the ambitious pan Indian project Raaka. Mounted on a massive budget with extensive visual effects, the film is progressing at a brisk pace. The first look poster of Raaka came as a big surprise and instantly grabbed attention. Allu Arjun's intense makeover left fans curious, with many demanding a glimpse to understand the film's world. However, the makers have remained silent ever since the poster launch. That silence could finally end soon with a major update expected in August. According to sources, the team has now shifted its focus towards the extensive visual effects work. If everything goes as planned, the makers are likely to unveil the first glimpse of Raaka in August. The teaser is expected to offer the audience their first proper look into the film's universe. Deepika Padukone plays the female lead, while Rashmika Mandanna, Mrunal Thakur and Janhvi Kapoor are also rumored to be part of the project. Sai Abhyankar is composing the music for the film. Produced on a grand scale, Raaka is shaping up to be one of the biggest Indian films in production. The film is expected to arrive in theatres in the second half of 2027.

LA28 Olympics cricket qualification process: How teams will qualify for T20 cricket at Los Angeles Olympic Games



New Delhi: Cricket's return to the Olympic Games after a gap of 128 years took a significant step forward on Monday after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) approved the qualification system for the men's and women's competitions at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics (LA28), outlining distinct qualification pathways for the two events.

The approval confirms that six teams each will compete in the men's and women's T20 tournaments at LA28, with each squad comprising a maximum of 15 players. A total of 180 athletes — 90 men and 90 women — will feature in cricket's first Olympic appearance since the 1900 Paris Games, where the sport was contested only once.

The qualification system, published jointly by the IOC and the International Cricket Council (ICC), reveals that while both competitions will feature six teams, the qualification routes differ considerably between the men's and women's events.

For the men's competition,

four teams will qualify directly through the ICC Men's T20I Team Rankings. However, qualification will not simply be determined by the top four-ranked sides. Instead, the four highest-ranked eligible National Olympic Committees (NOCs) from four different continents at the close of the qualification window on December 31, 2026, will secure direct Olympic berths, ensuring continental representation in the six-team field.

The United States, as hosts of the Los Angeles Games, have been guaranteed a place, provided they satisfy the ICC's minimum eligibility requirement of appearing within the top 15 of the ICC Men's T20I rankings at some point during the qualification period.

The sixth and final men's berth will be decided through a Final Olympic Global Qualification Tournament (FOGQT), where the next eight highest-ranked eligible teams that have not already qualified will compete for the remaining Olympic place.

The women's qualification system follows a different model.

Instead of ICC rankings deciding the four direct qualifiers, the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup will serve as the primary qualifying event. The highest-placed eligible teams from four different continents at the conclusion of the tournament will earn direct qualification for LA28.

Like the men's event, hosts USA will receive an automatic berth subject to fulfilling the minimum ranking requirement of being ranked within the top 15 during the qualification period. The final women's Olympic spot will also be determined through a Final Olympic Global Qualification Tournament featuring the next eight highest-ranked eligible teams that have not already qualified.

One notable aspect of the qualification system concerns the West Indies.

While the Caribbean side competes as a combined team in ICC events, it is not recognised as a National Olympic

Committee by the IOC and therefore cannot compete at the Olympic Games as a single entity. If West Indies finish among the teams eligible for the Final Olympic Global Qualification Tournament, the ICC will organise a regional qualifying tournament among the constituent Caribbean nations to determine which Olympic-recognised nation advances to the global qualifier.

The qualification document also clarifies that only rankings of Olympic-recognised National Olympic Committees will be considered for qualification purposes. It further notes that, in the case of Great Britain, England alone will represent the British Olympic contingent in cricket qualification.

According to the qualification timeline, the women's qualification process effectively begins with the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, scheduled from June 12 to July 6, 2026. The men's qualification rankings will close on December 31, 2026, while the women's rankings used for allocating places in the global qualifier will conclude on March 1, 2027. Dates for both men's and women's Final Olympic Global Qualification Tournaments are yet to be announced.

The IOC said the publication of the cricket qualification system follows the approval of qualification systems across 49 sports and disciplines for LA28. Athletics and football remain the only sports whose qualification systems are yet to be finalised.

Cricket was officially added to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic programme in October 2023 alongside baseball/softball, flag football, lacrosse (sixes) and squash.

US Open 2026 badminton: Kidambi Srikanth finishes runner-up after three-game defeat to Su Li-yang in final



Fullerton (USA): India's Kidambi Srikanth ended his impressive run with a runner-up finish at the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament after three games to Chinese Taipei's Su Li-yang in the men's singles final here. The 33-year-old Srikanth, a silver-medallist at the 2021 World Championships, recovered from the loss of the opening game to force a decider but couldn't match the pace and intensity of world No. 46 Su, who is nine years his junior. Srikanth, who had claimed six Super Series titles between 2014 and 2017, eventually lost 15-21, 21-16, 9-21 in a physical battle that lasted just over an hour here on Sunday. "I could have played a little better maybe in the opening set. Otherwise, I feel I've played okay. The second half of third set it was just hitting really well all of a sudden," said the man from Guntur after the match. A Rio Olympics quarterfinalist, Srikanth also ended second at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 and Syed Modi International Super 300 last year. "I just feel like whatever I've been doing is working. I just have to keep working hard. I feel like I'm there. It's just about being able to win those crucial points," added Srikanth, who had become the first Indian to secure four Super Series titles in a single calendar year in 2017. Playing his first final of the season, the former world No. 1 was the quicker off the blocks but a rare error, where his racquet crossed the net during a rally, appeared to disrupt his rhythm as a string of unforced mistakes allowed Su to open up a 7-2

lead. Srikanth, however, regrouped to win eight of the next 11 points and draw level at 10-10 after a series of fast-paced rallies. His powerful smashes proved crucial, helping him edge ahead by a point at the mid-game interval after Su smashed wide. However, Su wrestled back control after the break, quickening the pace of the rallies and using subtle deception to force errors from Srikanth. He soon extended his lead to 17-12. A cross-court smash followed by a delicate net shot helped Srikanth reduce the deficit to 14-18, but another error handed the initiative back to Su. Su earned six game points with a thunderous smash. The Indian saved one before sending the shuttle long as Su wrapped up the opening game in 17 minutes. After the change of ends, the contest remained evenly poised with neither player giving an inch. From 4-4, Srikanth reeled off three straight points to move 7-4 ahead, capping one extended rally with a superb cross-court block at the net. Another breathtaking rally followed, with Su making the Indian cover every corner of the court before restoring parity at 8-8. A deft backhand cross-court net shot took Srikanth to 10-8, and he entered the interval with a three-point cushion after Su smashed wide. Su responded with two thunderous smashes after the break, but Srikanth's excellent net play helped him maintain a 14-10 advantage. The Chinese Taipei player broke the rhythm with a flat push into the corner to close the gap to 13-15 as Srikanth sprayed two shots wide. Su

then sent one long before Srikanth's cross-court return made it 18-13. The Indian won the next flat exchange and earned seven game points when Su again went wide. Although Su saved three game points, Srikanth forced the decider with a powerful down-the-line smash. Su came out firing in the deciding game, opening with a lightning smash before putting Srikanth under sustained pressure to race to a 4-1 lead. Maintaining his aggression and injecting greater pace into the rallies, Su surged to 7-4 before another rocket smash made it 9-5. Srikanth alternated between moments of brilliance and costly errors, often undoing his good work with loose shots. A judgment error on the baseline allowed Su to carry a four-point lead into the interval. Srikanth was then denied permission by the chair umpire to change his shirt, leaving the Indian visibly upset. Su remained firmly in the zone, continuing his aggressive approach to widen the lead to 15-7. Another pinpoint line-hugging winner was followed by a net error from Srikanth. Although the Indian produced a fine cross-court smash, it proved too little, too late as Su stretched his advantage to 18-8. Su eventually earned 12 championship points after another wide return from Srikanth. The Indian saved one before Su clinched the first BWF World Tour title of his career. "Su's been playing really well the last few months. It's another day where he played exceptionally well and during the points that really mattered," Srikanth signed off.

Women's T20 World Cup: Why India's structural failure puts Harmanpreet Kaur's T20I captaincy in doubt

New Delhi: India's elimination from the Women's T20 World Cup has inevitably put Harmanpreet Kaur's future as captain under scrutiny, and one thing appears certain — the team is staring at a reset. The six-wicket defeat to Australia on Sunday that knocked India out of contention for the semifinals only brought into sharp focus what had become increasingly evident — the women in Blue, despite being pre-tournament favourites, were a side still searching for answers. It was a second successive T20 World Cup under Harmanpreet's leadership in which India failed to reach the knockouts, reviving uncomfortable questions about the team's direction in the format.

"Rethink" was the word both Harmanpreet and head coach Amol Muzumdar used after the campaign ended. The need for a reset is difficult to ignore.

Less than a year after leading India to their maiden ODI World Cup title, Harmanpreet finds herself at another crossroads. The 37-year-old remains India's most successful T20I captain and one of the defining figures of Indian women's cricket. But yet another disappointing T20 World Cup campaign has brought her future in the shortest format into focus. Muzumdar, however, has backed the veteran. "It's up to the selectors to decide the captain. I think, yes. My short



and sweet answer would be yes," he said when asked if Harmanpreet would continue as captain. But it is hard to ignore that under her leadership, the team underperformed in all three departments in England. India entered the tournament without a settled combination, continued to shuffle personnel and batting positions, and frequently appeared reactive rather than proactive in pressure situations. Whether she continues as captain would ultimately depend on how the selectors interpret India's latest World Cup failure. Harmanpreet's own returns with the bat also merit scrutiny. Since the 2024 T20 World Cup, the India skipper has crossed the fifty-run mark only four times in 24 innings, underlining her

inconsistent form. Her fighting knock against Australia, played with India's campaign hanging by a thread, was a reminder of her class and ability to rise on the biggest occasions. Yet, it remained her only substantial contribution with the bat in the tournament. In the previous matches, Harmanpreet struggled to impose herself through the middle overs and was unable to provide both stability or acceleration expected from India's most experienced batter. For a team carrying serious title ambitions, India spent an alarming amount of time trying to identify their best XI. Questions over the pace attack, middle-order composition, and all-round options remained unresolved even in the latter stages of the tournament. The

team used multiple seam attacks during the five group games. Nandani Sharma and Kranti Gaud played three matches each, while Renuka Singh and Arundhati Reddy featured in only two games apiece. Injuries to pace-bowling all-rounder Amanjot Kaur and off-spinner Shreyanka Patil compounded the woes. While Muzumdar defended the bowling unit by pointing to a lack of experience, India's struggles cannot be attributed solely to that. Of the eight frontline bowlers in the squad, four have played more than 50 T20Is. Ironically, one of the least experienced among them, left-arm spinner Shree Charani, emerged as India's standout bowler with 14 wickets in five matches at an economy rate of 5.85. The limited use of an experienced campaigner like Renuka also raised questions.

Ireland cricket coach Heinrich Malan steps down after historic 2-0 T20I series win against India



Belfast: In a major development following their historic 2-0 T20I series triumph over India, Ireland head coach Heinrich Malan announced on Monday that he will be stepping down from his role. Malan, whose current contract was slated to run until early 2027, informed his players and support staff that he is stepping away as part of a planned transition aligned with the next ICC ODI World Cup cycle. Appointed to the role in March 2022 after Graham Ford left the job, Malan oversaw a golden period in Irish men's cricket and leaves the set-up less than 24 hours after Ireland got its

first-ever T20I series win over India in Belfast. His tenure was highlighted by three consecutive T20 World Cup qualifications, Ireland's first three Test match victories, the development of a wider pool of international-standard talent, and the just-concluded, historic maiden T20I series win over heavyweights India. "It has been an absolute privilege to work with these players, staff and the wider Irish cricket community. My family and I have had a wonderful experience living here, and we will look back on our time involved in Irish cricket with great affection. "On the field, we can

look back with great pride on our historic T20 World Cup victory against England in Melbourne, our first-ever Test victory against Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi, the first home Test win vs Zimbabwe in Belfast, the historic T20 series win at home vs India and beating Pakistan, West Indies, South Africa as well as direct qualifications for T20 WC's through our consistent ability to challenge and beat the world's top teams." "Thank you to the players, coaches and staff for believing in our shared vision — it has been a very special journey," Malan said in his farewell statement.

The MLA suggested that each student should not only plant two saplings but also protect them

Madanapalle, July 01(Skyline daily): Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan launched the Nagaravanas in a virtual manner at nine places across the state simultaneously from Wednesday on Vijayawada. To launch the Madanapalle Nagaravan, MLA Shahjahan Basha participated as the chief guest in the program organized by the Forest Department at the Forest Nursery on Punganur Road. Along with the District Forest Department officer, they planted and watered the Nagaravanas, after which Deputy Pawan Kalyan launched the Nagaravanas virtually, and Madanapalle MLA Shahjahan Basha unveiled the stone plaques. On this occasion, he spoke to the media and said that the coalition government is giving priority to the environment and is launching Nagaravanas across the state, and as part of this, he launched the Nagaravanas in Madanapalle today, and suggested that students and children plant two saplings at a convenient



place for them and grow them. Since the party came to power, a large-scale tree planting program has been underway in Madanapalle, and everyone has been urged to take up tree planting programs inspired by Chief Minister Chandrababu. Forest officials, staff, students of Abhyudaya School, and students of the Government Women's Degree College participated in this program.

Healthy 5K Run Organised Grandly at Kalikiri on Doctors’ Day



Kalikiri, July 1: On the occasion of Doctors’ Day, a Healthy 5K Run was organised grandly on Wednesday morning from Kalikiri Cross Roads under the joint aegis of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), Pileru, and Kapileswara Hospitals, Kalikiri. Around 250 doctors, dentists, medical students, healthcare workers, and members of the public enthusiastically participated in the event. Participants were registered at the venue and commenced with running bib numbers before the event commenced. Kalikiri Circle Inspector Mr. Anil briefed the participants on road safety measures and flagged off the run with a

green flag. Police personnel provided security throughout the route, while an ambulance followed the runners to offer emergency medical assistance if required. Hydration points were arranged at every 500 metres, supplying drinking water and glucose-enriched water to all participants. Medals were presented to the winners at Kapileswara Hospital after the completion of the run. The Chief Guest, Brigadier Anupam Sharma, DIG, CIAT-03, CRPF, extended Doctors’ Day greetings and praised the invaluable services rendered by doctors in safeguarding public health. Mrs. Kamalajit Kaur, First Lady of Sainik School, encouraged doctors to give equal importance to their own health. Mrs. Gulab Jan, Vice Principal of the Government Women's Degree College, said such initiatives promote a healthy lifestyle. IMA Pileru President Dr. R. Rajasahib thanked Dr. S. V. Shivaprasad, Managing Director of Kapileswara Hospitals, Dr. Y. Pawan Kumar, Medical Officer of the Government Hospital, and everyone who contributed to the success of the event. Dr. K. Lokavardhan, District NTR Medical Services Coordinator, and Dr. P. Chandrasekhar, Medical Superintendent of Pileru Area Hospital, appreciated the initiative and assured continued support for public health awareness programmes. Organised under the theme “Our Health – Our Responsibility,” the Healthy 5K Run successfully promoted health awareness and became a major highlight of the Doctors’ Day celebrations.

Special focus should be given to revenue issues



Madanapalle, July 1 (Skyline daily): District Collector Nishant Kumar has instructed the officials to pay special attention to revenue issues in the district. On Wednesday, Special Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad and Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CLA) G Jayalakshmi from the State Secretariat, along with District Collectors, participated in a video conference with District Collectors, District Collector Nishant Kumar, District Joint Collector Shiv Narayana Sarma and DRO Chandrasekhar Reddy from the mini conference hall in the Collectorate. In this video conference, a review was held on issues related to resurvey, distribution of Pattadar Pass Books (PPB), resolution of 22-A land issues, digitalization of manual revenue records, and forest lands. In the video confer-

ence, CCLA and Special Chief Secretary reviewed the progress of the work district-wise and instructed the officials to complete the pending issues within the stipulated time. He ordered to expedite the re-survey, resolution of 22-A land issues, and distribution of pattadar passbooks. He also instructed to complete the digitalization of revenue records and resolve issues related to forest lands in a coordinated manner. After the video conference, District Collector Nishant Kumar conducted a review of the situation in the district with the officials of the concerned departments and instructed to complete the work expeditiously in accordance with the targets set by the state government. Officials and staff of the concerned revenue department and others participated in this meeting.

The role of BLOs and BLAs is crucial for the success of the SIR process

Madanapalle, July 01(Skyline daily): As part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) program of the Voter List, Madanapalle Constituency Coordinator S Nisar Ahmed inspected the awareness programs being conducted by the YSR Congress Party in Madanapalle constituency. On this occasion, a special awareness program was organized at 158 ?? and 160 polling stations in the 18th ward of Madanapalle town. On this occasion, party leaders, Booth Level Representatives and activists went door to door and provided comprehensive awareness to the people on the SIR process. They explained how to fill the application forms related to voter registration, name addition, correction of details, changes and objections, and provided direct assistance to the people to complete and submit the necessary documents properly. Speaking on this occasion, S Nisar Ahmed said that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) play a crucial role in the success of the SIR process. He said that their role is very important in identifying every eligible voter and registering their details properly. He expressed concern that the digitization process of applications is not going as expected in many areas across the state, due to which many eligible voters are facing difficulties. He urged the Election Commission and the concerned authorities to further



extend the deadline for the SIR process with the aim of providing adequate opportunity to all the people. Leaders VS Reddy, Noor Azam, Eshwar Nayak, Booth Committee Presidents Nawaz, Granite Mahesh Nagamani, Ammajan, Booth Level Representatives (BLAs), party workers and local people participated in this program in large numbers.

Lights in the lives of farmers! Jaladhara program set an example for water conservation in the district

Madanapalle, July 1(Skyline daily): With the resolve that there is life only with water... there is agriculture only with water..., the Jaladhara program undertaken by Annamayya District Collector Nishant Kumar has achieved remarkable success in Annamayya district. With the vision, effective planning and continuous monitoring of District Collector Nishant Kumar, hundreds of traditional water sources in the district have been revived. By reviving the old supply canals that had been filled with silt and stopped flowing for decades, and bringing life back to the ponds, it has ushered in a water revolution in rural areas. With the success of the Jaladhara program implemented in the district and achieving remarkable results, the decision of the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, to implement this innovative program across the state is a great recognition of the success achieved by Annamayya district.

Gumma Samudram Pond – Symbol of the Success of Jaladhara..

The Gumma Samudram pond in B Kothakota Mandal of Annamayya District is today a direct testimony to the wonderful results achieved by the Jaladhara program. In the past, even when there was good rain, farmers used to face serious problems as water did not reach the pond. Due to blockage of supply canals and obstruction of water flow, rainwater used to go to waste. This led to problems such as the pond not filling up, groundwater depletion, drying up of borewells, and reduction in the cultivation area. The district administration has formulated a comprehensive plan to change this situation. About 2 km of supply canals that supply water to the pond have been completely renovated through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS). Similarly, the construction of "alugus" to facilitate the flow of water was undertaken at a cost of Rs. 30 lakhs. Due to these works, rainwater has been able to reach the pond directly without any obstacles.

8.10 to 30.05 Mcft... Amazing increase in water storage...

Before the Jaladhara program, the Gummasadam pond had a capacity to store only 8.10 million cubic feet (Mcft) of water. With the good rains after the canal renovation and construction of the alugas, the pond has reached a level of storing 30.05 million cubic feet of water. Currently, the lake is filled to 91.07 percent capacity and has become the main source of water for the village, farmers, livestock and groundwater. Rainwater that used to flow in vain in the past is now stored every water drop into the lake. The government's goal of conserving the water resources bestowed by nature and providing it to future generations has been realized through this lake.

Groundwater increase – new hopes for farmers..... The groundwater level in Annamayya district has increased by 8.59 meters due to the Jaladhara program, reflecting the success of this program. In the areas surround-



ing the Gumma Samudram pond, the borewells that were previously without water are now being recharged in abundance. With water available in borewells even during the summer, farmers are cultivating crops with courage. The increase in groundwater has also significantly reduced the problem of drinking water, bringing relief to the villagers. Families who were struggling due to water shortage are now enjoying water availability throughout the year.

Irrigation for 180 acres of land.....

The Gumma Samudram pond is currently providing direct irrigation water. In addition, with the increase in groundwater, another 90 acres are being cultivated through borewells. A total of 270 acres of agricultural land are directly benefiting from this watershed program. With the abundant availability of irrigation water, farmers are not limited to a single crop but are cultivating various types of crops. Along with the increase in crop yields, the income of farmers has also increased significantly. Many positive changes have taken place such as availability of drinking water for livestock, improvement in ecological balance, and expansion of greenery.

People's Participation...

The Jaladhara program is a symbol of the collective effort of the government machinery, villagers, farmers, public representatives, and officials of various departments. This program, which was undertaken with the aim of identifying and renovating every canal, reviving every pond, and harvesting every drop of rainwater, has set new standards for water management in the district.

Annamayya district as a model for the state.....

The state government, after examining these wonderful results achieved in Annamayya district, has decided to implement the Jaladhara program throughout the state. This water movement that started in the district is today becoming a ray of hope for lakhs of farmers across the state. The success story of the Gumma Samudram pond is not just the restoration of a tank. It is an extraordinary success story of effective governance, public participation, conservation of natural resources, government determination, and farmer welfare.

Kuruba Corporation Director Valligatla Urges APSRTC to Enhance Rural Bus Services

(By Skyline Staff Reporter)

Valmikipuram, July 1: Andhra Pradesh State Kuruba (BC) Corporation Director and former ZPTC Member Valligatla Venkataramana on Wednesday submitted a memorandum to APSRTC Tirupati Regional Manager Jagadish, urging the Corporation to improve bus connectivity in several rural areas under the Madanapalle, Sri Sathya Sai, and Anantapur depot jurisdictions. In the memorandum, Venkataramana highlighted the hardships faced by the public due to inadequate bus services, particularly affecting students, employees, farmers, and daily commuters. He requested the APSRTC authorities to ensure that buses operating along National Highway NH-79 halt at key locations to facilitate convenient travel for passengers. He also appealed for the introduction of additional bus services to underserved rural villages to address the growing transportation needs of local residents.

Venkataramana further pointed out that the operation of non-stop bus services in the Madanapalle depot limits travel options for local passengers, causing significant inconvenience. He urged the Corporation to increase the frequency of buses, establish halts at essential locations, and



strengthen rural transport connectivity by taking public requirements into consideration. Responding promptly, APSRTC Tirupati Regional Manager Jagadish held discussions over the phone with officials of the Madanapalle depot 1 & 2 and also conveyed the concerns to the managers of the Sri Sathya Sai and Anantapur depots through official communication. According to Venkataramana, the Regional Manager assured him that the issues raised in the memorandum would be examined comprehensively and that necessary measures would be initiated at the earliest to improve public transportation services in the affected areas.

Mother Teresa students rank in EAP CET exam results

K R SAI SHANMUKA RANK: 3138	M PAVANI SREE RANK: 7953	T SWETHA RANK : 8571 (BiPC)	D HARSHAVARDHAN RANK: 5813

(By our Skyline Staff Reporter)

Palamaneru, July 1: In the EAP CET results held in May 2026, Mother Teresa Junior College students achieved ranks at the state level and once again enhanced the college's prestige. RK Sai Shanmuka with rank 3,138, D.Harshavardhan with rank 5813, M Pavani Sri with rank 7953, and T. Swetha with rank 8571 achieved the best ranks at the state level. Four stu-

dents passed under 10 thousand rank, 22 under 20 thousand rank, and 62 under 50 thousand rank. College Correspondent M. Dr. Ravindra Babu said that a total of 342 students from the college appeared for the exams and 304 students qualified. College Chairman M. R. Sunil, Academic Advisor Dr. Rajender Reddy and Principal Diwakar Reddy congratulated the students, their parents and the faculty for this success.