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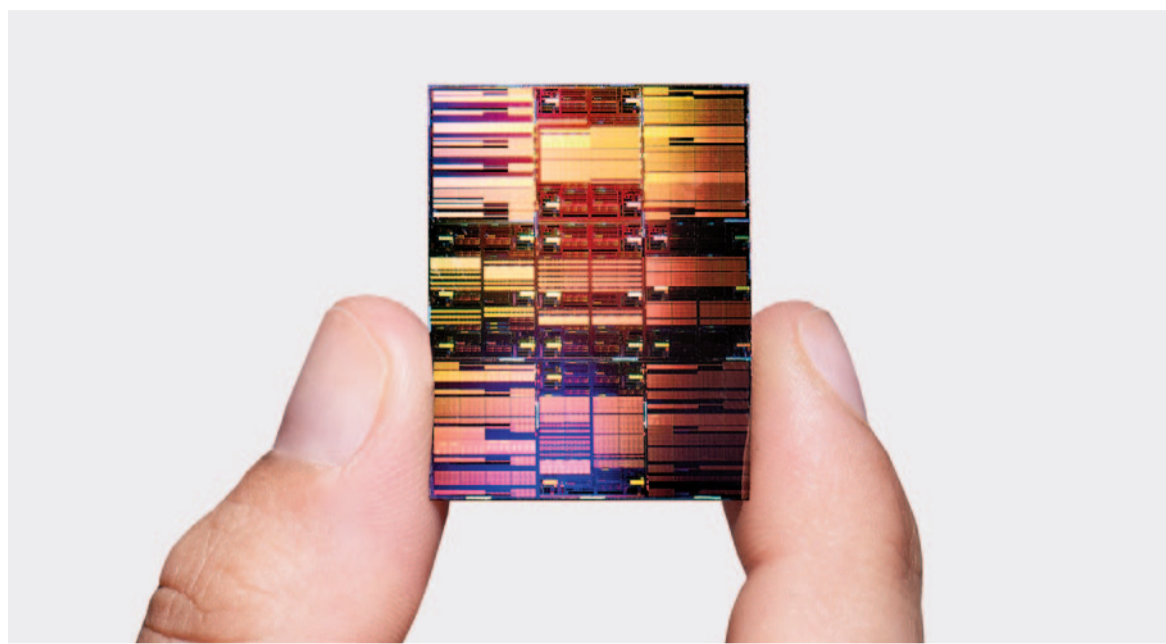
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IBM Unveils 0.7nm Chip

New Delhi, June 25: US-based technology giant IBM has unveiled what it describes as the world's first sub-1 nanometre (0.7 nm) chip technology, marking a significant milestone in semiconductor innovation as the industry approaches the physical limits of conventional chip manufacturing. The newly developed chip is built on a 0.7-nanometre (7-angstrom) process node and introduces a revolutionary three-dimensional transistor architecture known as Nanostack. According to IBM, the breakthrough enables continued improvements in computing performance and energy efficiency even at atomic-scale dimensions.

The prototype chip packs nearly 100 billion transistors into an area roughly the size of a fingernail, almost doubling the transistor density achieved by IBM's previously announced 2 nm technology in 2021. IBM estimates that the new design could deliver up to 50 per cent higher performance or 70 per cent better energy efficiency compared to chips manufactured using its 2 nm process.

The company believes this advancement will play a crucial role in powering next-generation technologies such as generative artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing infrastructure, advanced data centres and

future electronic devices. Describing the development as a landmark achievement, Jay Gambetta, Director of IBM Research and IBM Fellow, said the innovation pushes computing technology beyond the nanometre era and into the realm of atomic-scale engineering. A key feature of the technology is the Nanostack architecture, which vertically stacks and staggers transistors instead of arranging them only in a flat layout. This approach allows engineers to fit more components into a smaller space while optimising different materials independently for improved speed, power consumption and overall efficiency.

QR Codes for Medicines

New Delhi: In a major step to strengthen the safety and authenticity of medicines in India, the Central government has made it mandatory to introduce QR code-based tracking for vaccines, antimicrobial drugs, anti-cancer medicines, and narcotic and psychotropic substances. The move is aimed at curbing the circulation of counterfeit and substandard medicines while improving transparency across the pharmaceutical supply chain. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has amended the Drugs Rules, 1945, bringing these categories under Schedule H2 and expanding the existing track-and-trace mechanism. Under the new regulations, manufacturers will be required to print or affix a barcode or QR code on the packaging of these medicines. Where space on the primary pack is insufficient, the code may be placed on the secondary packaging. The QR code will contain vital product information, including the unique identification number, generic and brand names, manufacturer details, batch number, manufacturing and expiry dates, licence number, and excipient information where applicable. Consumers, pharmacists, hospitals, and regula-



tors will be able to verify the authenticity of medicines through compatible software applications. Previously, QR code requirements applied only to the top 300 pharmaceutical brands. The expanded mandate significantly broadens the government's efforts to strengthen quality control and improve traceability throughout the distribution network. Officials said the initiative would help tackle the menace of fake medicines and contribute to efforts against antimicrobial resistance by enabling better monitoring of antimicrobial

products in the market. To facilitate a smooth transition, the government has provided phased implementation timelines. QR code requirements for vaccines, anti-cancer medicines, and narcotic and psychotropic drugs will come into effect from July 1, 2027, while compliance for antimicrobials will become mandatory from July 1, 2028. The government believes the enhanced digital tracking system will improve patient safety, strengthen regulatory oversight, and ensure greater accountability across pharmaceutical sector.

Never Forget Emergency: PM Modi

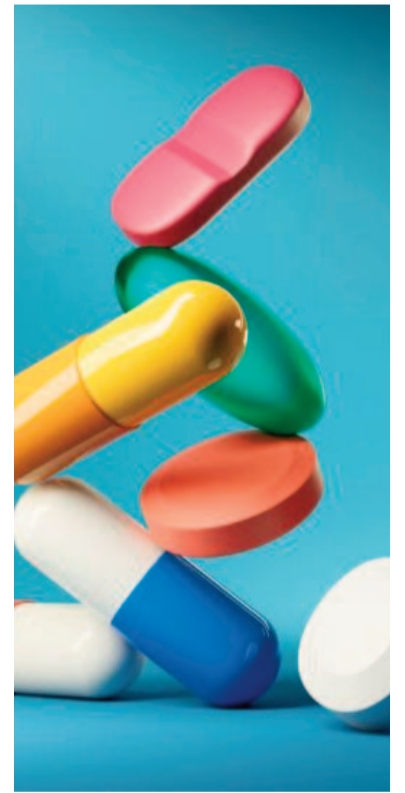
New Delhi, June 25: On the 51st anniversary of the 1975 Emergency, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the period as the "darkest chapter in the history of Indian democracy" and urged citizens to "never forgive, never forget" those responsible for imposing it. In a message shared on social media, the Prime Minister said the Emergency witnessed the suppression of democratic rights, the arrest of opposition leaders, curbs on press freedom, and suspension of fundamental rights. He alleged that political dissent was crushed, the judiciary came under pressure, and Parliament was reduced to a "rubber stamp." PM Modi paid tribute to journalists, activists, students, and ordinary citizens who resisted the Emergency despite facing imprisonment and hardship. He also noted that he had participated in the anti-Emergency movement and credited the collective struggle of the people for restoring democracy through subsequent elections. Taking aim at the Congress party, he said the decision to impose the Emergency remains a "grave sin" and a permanent stain on its legacy. The Prime Minister concluded by calling on the nation to remember the events of 1975 and remain committed to safeguarding democratic values and constitutional freedoms.



Medicine Price Portal Unified

New Delhi, June 25: In a move aimed at improving transparency and consumer access to affordable medicines, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has integrated the Pharma Jan Samadhan and Pharma Sahi Daam platforms into a single digital portal. According to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, the unified platform enables citizens to access medicine price information and lodge complaints related to pricing through one interface, making the process faster and more convenient. The integrated portal is now operational with immediate effect and is available through the Pharma Sahi Daam website and mobile application.

Users can verify whether scheduled and non-scheduled medicines are being sold within government-approved price limits and report any pricing-related grievances on the same platform. Previously, while both services were linked through mobile application, they functioned on separate web portals. The latest integration brings them together into a single digital ecosystem, enhancing ease of use and strengthening accountability in the pharmaceutical sector. The government said the initiative is expected to improve transparency, encourage public participation, and make it easier for consumers to access reliable information on medicine prices.



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Global Giants Bet India

New Delhi, June 25: India is rapidly emerging as a preferred destination for global investments, with several multinational corporations announcing multi-billion-dollar commitments across technology, manufacturing, cloud computing, and digital infrastructure despite continuing geopolitical and economic uncertainties worldwide. In one of the biggest announcements, Google unveiled a \$15 billion investment plan over five years to strengthen India's artificial intelligence ecosystem, cloud infrastructure, data centres, subsea connectivity, and digital skills development. Swiss engineering major ABB followed with a \$75 million investment to expand its manufac-

turing and research facilities in India, while Australian data centre operator AirTrunk committed \$30 billion by 2030 to build 5 gigawatts of data centre capacity, reinforcing India's growing role in global digital infrastructure. The Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) has also pledged up to ₹7,000 crore in partnership with CtrlS Datacenters to support hyperscale data centre expansion and digital infrastructure projects across the country. Meanwhile, French construction materials company Saint-Gobain announced plans to invest an addi-

tional €1 billion in India over the next five years, citing the country as one of its fastest-growing markets. Adding to the momentum, Amazon CEO Andy Jassy recently announced that the company would increase its total investment commitment in India to \$48 billion by 2030. The investments will

focus on artificial intelligence, cloud services, and digital infrastructure after discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The wave of announcements reflects growing global confidence in India's economic outlook, expanding digital economy, and manufacturing capabilities. Industry experts believe multinational firms increasingly view India as a strategic long-term market, with investments aimed at tapping future demand and strengthening their presence in one of the world's fastest-growing major economies



EDITORIAL

Can Manufacturing
Keep Exports Rising?

India's export sector has emerged as one of the key drivers of economic growth in recent years. From engineering goods and pharmaceuticals to electronics, textiles, automobiles, and digital services, Indian products are finding markets across the globe. As global companies diversify supply chains and seek reliable manufacturing partners, India has a unique opportunity to strengthen its position in international trade. However, the critical question remains: can the country's manufacturing sector sustain this export momentum in the long run? The recent growth in exports reflects a combination of policy support, improving infrastructure, and increasing global confidence in India's economy. Initiatives to promote domestic manufacturing, investments in logistics, and efforts to simplify business regulations have encouraged industries to expand production. Sectors such as electronics manufacturing have witnessed remarkable progress, demonstrating that India can compete in sophisticated global value chains when the right ecosystem is in place. Yet sustaining export growth requires more than temporary gains.

Manufacturing competitiveness depends on productivity, quality, cost efficiency, and innovation. Indian industries continue to face challenges such as high logistics costs, supply chain bottlenecks, fluctuating input prices, and uneven access to advanced technology. Small and medium enterprises, which form the backbone of manufacturing employment, often struggle with financing, modernization, and compliance requirements needed to compete internationally. Infrastructure remains another crucial factor. Efficient ports, highways, rail connectivity, warehousing, and reliable power supply reduce production costs and improve delivery timelines. Continued investment in industrial corridors and logistics networks can significantly enhance India's export competitiveness. Equally important is simplifying customs procedures and reducing bureaucratic delays that increase transaction costs for exporters.

Skilled human resources will determine the future of manufacturing. As industries adopt automation, robotics, and artificial intelligence, workers must be equipped with technical skills suited to advanced production systems. Strengthening vocational education, industry partnerships, and continuous skill development can help create a workforce capable of supporting high-value manufacturing. Global economic uncertainties also pose risks. Geopolitical tensions, trade restrictions, currency fluctuations, and changing consumer demand can affect export performance. Diversifying export destinations and expanding into emerging markets will make India less vulnerable to external shocks.

Renewables for a Stronger India

Energy is the foundation of economic growth. Every factory, farm, hospital, school, and household depends on a reliable supply of electricity and fuel to function effectively. As India continues its journey toward becoming one of the world's largest economies, ensuring adequate and affordable energy has become a strategic priority. At the same time, rising concerns about climate change, pollution, and dependence on imported fossil fuels have accelerated the country's transition toward renewable energy. The challenge before India is not merely to produce more power but to build an energy system that is secure, sustainable, and resilient. Over the past decade, India has made remarkable progress in expanding renewable energy. Solar parks have emerged across deserts and rural landscapes, wind turbines have transformed coastal regions, and investments in hydropower, biomass, and green hydrogen have gathered momentum. Falling technology costs and supportive government policies have made renewable energy increasingly competitive with conventional sources. This transition reflects both environmental responsibility and economic pragmatism. One of the strongest arguments for renewable energy is energy security. India imports a significant share of its crude oil and natural gas requirements, exposing the economy to global price fluctuations and geopolitical tensions. International conflicts, supply disruptions, or currency volatility can rapidly increase import bills and affect inflation. By generating more electricity from domestic renewable resources such as sunlight and wind, India can reduce its dependence on imported fuels and strengthen long-term energy independence. The environmental benefits are equally significant. Fossil fuel combustion remains a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. Expanding clean energy can help reduce carbon emissions, improve urban air quality, and support international climate commitments. Given India's vulnerability to extreme weather events such as heat waves, floods, and erratic



monsoons, investing in low-carbon energy is also an investment in long-term climate resilience. Renewable energy has also become an important driver of economic development. The construction of solar parks, wind farms, battery manufacturing facilities, and transmission infrastructure creates employment opportunities across engineering, manufacturing, logistics, and maintenance. Domestic production of renewable technologies can stimulate industrial growth and position India as a competitive supplier in global clean energy markets. However, the transition is not without challenges. Solar and wind power are inherently intermittent, generating electricity only when the sun shines or the wind blows. Maintaining grid stability therefore requires complementary investments in battery storage, pumped hydro projects, smart transmission systems, and flexible power generation. Without adequate storage and grid modernization, integrating large volumes of renewable energy may become increasingly difficult. Land acquisition presents another challenge. Large-scale renewable projects require substantial areas, occasionally leading to conflicts over agricultural land or ecological concerns. Policymakers must ensure that development proceeds with proper environmental assessments, fair compensation, and meaningful consultation with affected communities. Sustainable progress depends on balancing clean energy expansion with biodiversity protection and social equity. India's coal sector continues to play a major role in electricity generation and employment. While renewable energy capacity is expanding rapidly, coal remains essential for meeting base-load demand

and ensuring reliability during periods of high consumption. A practical energy transition therefore requires gradual diversification rather than abrupt replacement. Investments in cleaner technologies, improved efficiency, and responsible transition planning for coal-dependent regions will help minimize economic disruption. Grid infrastructure deserves equal attention. Renewable power generated in one region must be transmitted efficiently to demand centers across the country. Expanding transmission networks, reducing distribution losses, and modernizing electricity distribution companies are essential for maximizing the benefits of renewable investments. Digital technologies, smart meters, and advanced forecasting systems can further improve system reliability. The transportation sector is also evolving. Electric vehicles powered by renewable electricity offer an opportunity to reduce oil imports while lowering emissions. However, widespread adoption depends on charging infrastructure, battery manufacturing capacity, and reliable electricity supply. Coordinated planning across sectors will be necessary to realize these benefits. Innovation will shape the next phase of India's energy journey. Green hydrogen, advanced battery technologies, offshore wind, carbon capture, and decentralized renewable systems have the potential to transform industrial processes and heavy transport. Continued investment in research and development can help India become not only a consumer but also a global innovator in clean energy technologies. The private sector has a critical role alongside government initiatives. Investors, manufacturers, utilities, startups, and re-

search institutions must collaborate to scale up renewable deployment while maintaining affordability and reliability. Stable policies, transparent regulations, and long-term planning can encourage sustained investment and technological advancement. Equally important is ensuring that the energy transition remains inclusive. Rural communities, low-income households, and small businesses should benefit from improved electricity access, decentralized solar systems, and affordable clean energy solutions. The success of renewable expansion should ultimately be measured not only in installed capacity but also in its contribution to economic opportunity and quality of life. India's pursuit of renewable energy is about far more than environmental protection. It is a strategic effort to strengthen national security, reduce import dependence, promote industrial growth, create jobs, and build resilience against future uncertainties. Yet renewable energy alone cannot guarantee energy security unless supported by robust infrastructure, storage technologies, skilled human resources, and prudent policymaking. The road ahead requires balancing ambition with practicality. Conventional energy sources will continue to play an important role during the transition, while renewable technologies steadily assume a larger share of the energy mix. Success will depend on maintaining this balance without compromising reliability or affordability. If India continues investing in innovation, infrastructure, and sustainable policies, it has the opportunity to emerge as a global leader in the clean energy revolution. A secure energy future is not simply about generating more electricity—it is about creating a resilient system capable of powering economic growth while protecting the environment and ensuring prosperity for future generations. Renewable energy, supported by sound planning and strategic vision, can become the cornerstone of that future.

- Vedanth Reddy,
Hyderabad

EPFO Services Temporarily Suspended

New Delhi, June 25: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has announced that several of its online services will remain temporarily unavailable due to a scheduled system migration aimed at improving the speed, reliability, and security of its digital platforms. According to the EPFO, services on the Member Portal, Employer Portal, and the UMANG App will be unavailable from June 26 to June 29, with normal operations expected to resume from June 30. During the migration period, users will not be able to access key services such as online claim submission and processing, Electronic Challan-cum-Return (ECR) filing, Universal Account Number (UAN) linking for new employees, and e-passbook facilities. The organisation has advised members and employers to plan their activities in advance to avoid inconvenience. EPFO has stated that the temporary disruption is part of a planned technology upgrade designed to enhance user experience and

strengthen system performance for millions of subscribers across the country. The organisation has also provided support arrangements for users facing issues during the migration period and advised stakeholders to contact its customer helpline at 14470 for assistance. Meanwhile, users accessing EPFO services through the UMANG application have been shown a notification indicating that services are unavailable due to scheduled migration work and may resume by July 2, while expressing regret for the inconvenience caused. The EPFO manages retirement savings for millions of salaried employees and offers a range of digital services through its online platforms. Separately, the retirement fund body is expected to credit interest at 8.25 per cent for FY26 to subscribers' accounts later this month after receiving approval from the Finance Ministry, marking the third consecutive year that the same interest rate has been maintained

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Mexico Storms Into Knockouts

Co-hosts Mexico completed a flawless FIFA World Cup group-stage campaign with a commanding 3-0 victory over Czechia, sealing three wins from three matches and eliminating the European side from the tournament. After a quiet first half, Mexico took control following the break. Defender Mateo Chávez broke the deadlock in the 55th minute with a composed

finish before Julián Quiñones doubled the lead six minutes later after capitalising on a defensive lapse. Substitute Alvaro Fidalgo wrapped up the emphatic victory with a stunning strike in stoppage time. The victory marked the first time Mexico have won all three of their World Cup group-stage matches, finishing Group A with a perfect record and without conceding a

goal. The result also extended the hosts' impressive momentum heading into the knockout rounds. One of the highlights of the evening was the appearance of veteran goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa, who featured in his sixth FIFA World Cup and received a standing ovation from the home crowd. Teenage midfielder Gilberto Mora also impressed with an energetic display that

helped create Mexico's second goal. With the win, Mexico advanced to the Round of 32 and are set to face a third-placed team from another group in Mexico City on June 30, while Czechia bowed out after finishing bottom of Group A. If you'd like, I can also show the Group A standings, summarize Mexico's next match, or explain the Round of 32 qualification scenario

India Remains Global Growth Engine: IMF



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reaffirmed that India continues to be one of the world's key engines of economic growth despite global uncertainties, including the Iran conflict and rising energy prices. At a regular press briefing in Washington, IMF Communications Director Julie Kozack said India's economy has remained resilient, supported by strong domestic demand even as external challenges persist. The IMF has retained its growth forecast of 6.5 per cent for the 2026-27 fiscal year, maintaining the upward revision announced earlier this year.



Neymar Returns, Tears Flow

Miami: Brazilian superstar Neymar made an emotional return to the FIFA World Cup after 981 days away from international action, breaking down in tears as he stepped onto the field during Brazil's commanding 3-0 victory over Scotland. The 34-year-old forward entered the match in the 76th minute to a standing ovation from Brazilian supporters, marking his first appearance for the national team after a long injury-enforced absence. The emotional moment symbolised the end of a difficult period in

which recurring injuries sidelined one of Brazil's greatest-ever players. Once regarded as the natural successor to Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar has spent the last few years battling fitness issues that disrupted his career and forced him to miss more than 100 matches for club and country. His return to the World Cup stage was therefore celebrated as much for its emotional significance as for its sporting value. Brazil had already established control of the match before Neymar's introduction.

India Women's squad Announced for T20 World Cup

New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) today announced the Indian women's squad for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026. Harmanpreet Kaur will lead the side, with Smriti Mandhana named as vice-captain. The tournament will be hosted by England, beginning on 12th June, with the final scheduled at Lord's Cricket Ground on 5th July. India's 15-member squad features a strong batting lineup, including Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Bharti Fulmali, and Richa Ghosh. Yastika Bhatia and Radha Yadav have returned to the side, while uncapped pacer Nandini Sharma has earned a surprise call-up. India has been placed in Group 1 alongside Australia – the most successful team in Women's T20 World Cup history with six titles – along with South Africa, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the Netherlands.

India's squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (captain), Smriti Mandhana (vice-captain), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Bharti Fulmali, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh, Shree Charani, Yastika Bhatia, Nandini Sharma, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh, Kranti Gaud, Shreyanka Patil, and Radha Yadav.

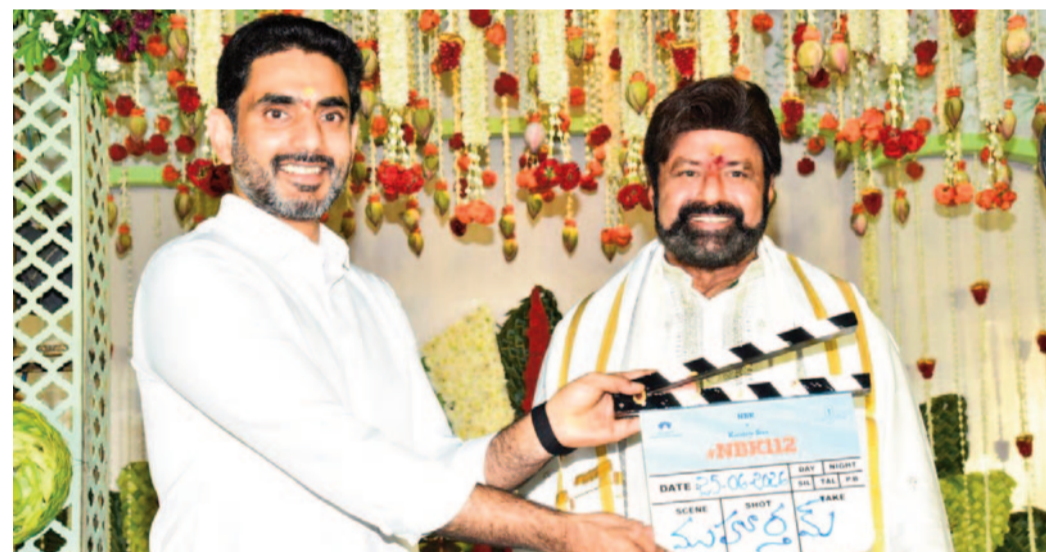


India Keeps Hopes Alive

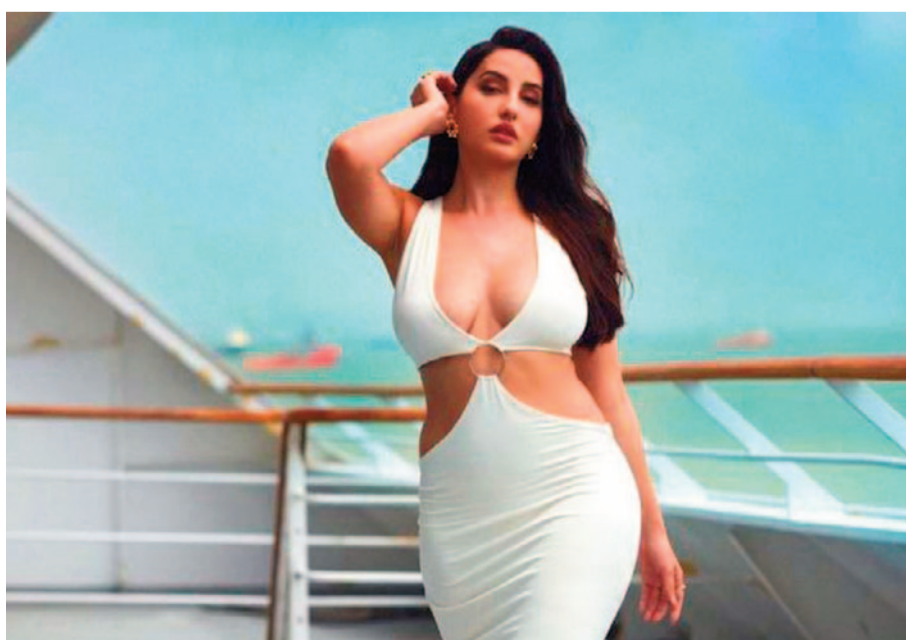
Manchester, June 25: India registered a crucial five-wicket victory over Bangladesh in the Women's T20 World Cup 2026 at Old Trafford, keeping their hopes of reaching the semi-finals firmly on track. Chasing a target of 137, India rode on an aggressive half-century from opener Shafali Verma, who scored 53 runs off just 34 deliveries. Her attacking knock provided the perfect platform for the chase after Bangladesh posted 136/8 in their allotted 20 overs. Although India lost Smriti Mandhana early, Shafali dominated the bowling and reached her fifty in only 29 balls. After her dismissal in the ninth over, Bangladesh attempted a comeback by claiming wickets in the middle overs. However, Jemimah Rodrigues contributed a quick 26 off 15 balls, while captain Harmanpreet Kaur played a composed innings to guide India safely to victory. Earlier, Bangladesh struggled to build momentum after electing to bat first. Returning pacer Renuka Singh made an immediate impact by dismissing opener Dilara Akter in her opening spell. While Juairiya Ferdous and Sobhana Mostary stitched together a 51-run partnership, India's bowlers maintained pressure throughout the innings. Spinner Radha Yadav turned the match in India's favour with a brilliant spell of 3 wickets for 28 runs, removing key batters including Sobhana Mostary and Bangladesh skipper Nigar Sultana. India's disciplined bowling in the closing overs prevented Bangladesh from posting a bigger total.



Balakrishna-Koratala Film Begins



The much-anticipated collaboration between actor Nandamuri Balakrishna and director Koratala Siva officially commenced with a grand pooja ceremony in Amaravati on Thursday. Tentatively titled #NBK112, the film is being produced by SLV Cinemas and Yuvasudha Arts. The launch event was attended by several prominent personalities, including Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh and Minister Kandula Durgesh, who participated in the ceremonial proceedings. Speaking at the event, Nara Lokesh said the Andhra Pradesh government aims to develop Amaravati into a major hub for the film industry by creating world-class infrastructure and encouraging large-scale productions. Balakrishna echoed the vision, expressing confidence that more films would begin their journey from the state in the coming years. Director Koratala Siva described the project as a dream collaboration and promised a powerful entertainer that would appeal to both Balakrishna's fans and general audiences. Balakrishna also revealed that significant portions of the film would be shot across Andhra Pradesh, highlighting the state's potential as a premier filmmaking destination. The project marks the first-ever collaboration between Balakrishna and Koratala Siva and is expected to blend commercial entertainment with strong emotional storytelling. Music and additional cast details are expected to be announced in the coming months.



Nora Revives Childhood Melody

Nora Fatehi has unveiled her latest musical offering, "Ya Baba," saying the song reconnects her with cherished childhood memories and her North African roots. The track, performed by Nora alongside Shilpa Rao and produced by Sunjoy, draws inspiration from the traditional Tunisian folk song "Sidi Mansour." Sharing the story behind the release on social media, Nora revealed that the melody was a familiar part of her upbringing and was often played at weddings and community celebrations. Calling the project a nostalgic journey, the actress encouraged fans to reflect on songs that evoke memories from their own childhoods. She described "Ya Baba" as a tribute to a timeless cultural classic that continues to resonate across generations. Nora, who is of Moroccan descent, first gained popularity in Indian cinema through her special dance appearances in Telugu films before expanding her career across Hindi and Malayalam industries. She later appeared in reality shows such as Bigg Boss and Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa and featured in films including Street Dancer 3D and Bhuj: The Pride of India.



Idupu Kayitham Launched Grandly

Actor Priyadarshi Pulikonda's upcoming Telugu film "Idupu Kayitham" was launched with a traditional pooja ceremony in Hyderabad. The family drama, set against a Telangana backdrop, is being produced under Sukumar Writings and Bunny Vas Works by Bunny Vas and Sukumar. The film is directed by Vamsi Reddy Dondapati and stars Priyadarshi alongside Telangana folk singer and actress Nagadurga, who makes her debut as a lead actress. Acclaimed filmmaker Lokesh Kanagaraj unveiled the first-look poster at the launch event, which was attended by several leading personalities from the Telugu film industry. Speaking on the occasion, the makers described the movie as an emotionally engaging family entertainer with universal appeal despite its strong Telangana roots. Priyadarshi expressed confidence that the story would resonate with audiences across regions.

Jacqueline Withdraws SC Plea

Jacqueline Fernandez has withdrawn her petition before the Supreme Court challenging proceedings against her in the ₹200-crore money laundering case linked to alleged conman Suresh Chandrashekar. Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi on Thursday permitted the actress to withdraw her special leave petition, which had contested a Delhi High Court order refusing to quash the Enforcement Directorate's prosecution complaint and a trial court's decision framing charges against her under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The matter had earlier been listed before another Bench, but was reassigned after Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra recused himself due to a conflict involving his son's appearance in a related case. Earlier this month, Jacqueline pleaded not guilty before a Delhi court and chose to face trial in the money laundering case.

