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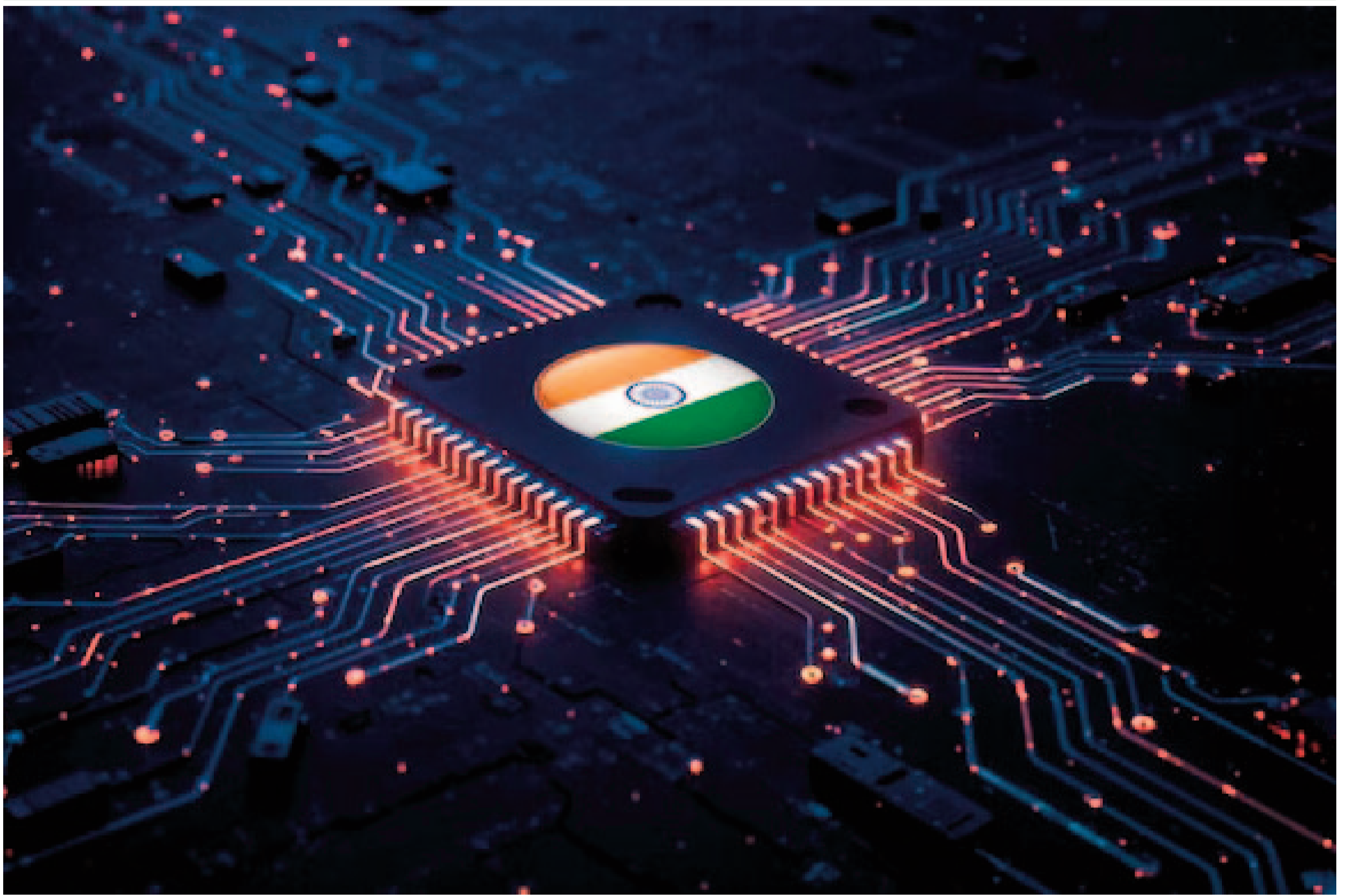
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Rs.1.25 Lakh Crore for Semiconductor Mission

New Delhi, June 30: The Union Finance Ministry's Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has approved an outlay of ₹1.25 lakh crore for the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0, providing a major boost to the country's semiconductor manufacturing ambitions. According to reports, the proposal received the committee's approval last week and will now be placed before the Union Cabinet for final clearance. The proposed allocation is significantly higher than the ₹76,000 crore earmarked under ISM 1.0,

through which the government approved ten semiconductor projects covering chip fabrication, assembly, testing and design.

The second phase of the mission aims to strengthen the entire semiconductor ecosystem by extending support to industries involved in industrial gases, specialty chemicals, capital equipment, MSMEs and ancillary suppliers, thereby creating a robust domestic supply chain.

The government expects the expanded programme to enable India to meet nearly 75 per cent of its domestic semiconductor demand by 2030, reducing dependence on imports while supporting the country's goal of becoming a global electronics manufacturing hub. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had already completed inter-ministerial consultations for the scheme and was awaiting financial approval before moving the proposal to the Cabinet. India's electronics sector has

witnessed rapid growth in recent years. The country now has over 65 crore smartphone users, while annual electronics manufacturing output has reached nearly ₹12 lakh crore. Growing demand from sectors such as artificial intelligence, data centres and electric vehicles has further increased the need for domestically produced semiconductor chips. Under the existing India Semiconductor Mission, construction is progressing on ten approved semiconductor facilities across the country. A

pilot production line has already commenced operations at a unit in Sanand, Gujarat, while four more facilities are expected to begin production within the next year. Several global technology companies, including Applied Materials, Lam Research, Merck and Linde, are also investing in supporting infrastructure and supply chains, further strengthening India's semiconductor ecosystem.



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Telangana Eyes AI Hub

Hyderabad, June 30: The Telangana government is exploring the establishment of a large integrated data centre and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure campus in the state as part of its efforts to strengthen Hyderabad's position as a leading digital technology hub. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy discussed the proposal during a meeting with Bharti Enterprises Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal, who paid a courtesy call on him in Hyderabad on Tuesday. During the meeting, the Chief Minister urged Bharti Enterprises to expand Airtel's digital, cloud computing, cybersecurity and AI operations in Hyderabad. He also suggested that the proposed Chandanvelli data centre project be launched at the earliest. The Chief Minister requested the company to nominate a senior executive to coordinate with the Telangana government on future investment opportunities and facilitate speedy resolution of issues. According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Sunil Bharti Mittal



informed the Chief Minister that Bharti Enterprises is considering Hyderabad as Airtel's second headquarters. He also assured that the company would increase its data centre capacity and further expand fibre connectivity across the state. The Chief Minister briefed Mittal on the state's education and skill development initiatives, including reforms in the education sector, the

establishment of the Young India Skill University, the upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs), and improvements to polytechnic colleges. Mittal announced that the Bharti Foundation would provide scholarships to students studying in government schools and Advanced Technology Centres in Telangana. The meeting was held at the Bodhi Pavilion of the MCRHRD Institute. Later in the day, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy inaugurated several development projects funded through the HDFC Bank Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. He flagged off two ambulances and virtually inaugurated an MRI facility at the Government General Hospital in Bhupalpally. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister urged banks to extend greater financial support to women's self-help groups. He said the government is promoting logistics parks, warehouses and rice mills in collaboration with women's groups and called for liberal sanction of loans, noting their strong record in timely loan repayments.

EDITORIAL

Preparedness
Over Panic

Extreme weather events are no longer rare occurrences—they have become a defining feature of the 21st century. Across the globe, rising temperatures are triggering more frequent and intense heatwaves, floods, cyclones, droughts, landslides, and wildfires. India, with its vast geographical diversity and dense population, is particularly vulnerable. From devastating floods in the Himalayas and the Northeast to cyclones along the eastern coast and prolonged heatwaves across central and northern India, the country faces an increasing climate challenge. The question is no longer whether extreme weather will strike, but how prepared we are to face it. Climate change has significantly altered weather patterns. Rainfall is becoming more erratic, with cloudbursts and flash floods replacing steady monsoon showers. Heatwaves are arriving earlier and lasting longer, placing enormous pressure on public health systems, agriculture, and energy supplies. Rising sea levels and stronger cyclones threaten coastal communities, while droughts continue to endanger food security and rural livelihoods. These events are no longer isolated disasters; they are recurring realities demanding long-term planning. India has made notable progress in disaster management. Improved weather forecasting, satellite monitoring, and early warning systems have helped reduce loss of life during cyclones and floods. Timely evacuations and better coordination among disaster response agencies have demonstrated that preparedness can save thousands of lives. However, preventing fatalities is only one part of the challenge. Economic losses, damaged infrastructure, disrupted livelihoods, and long-term displacement continue to impose enormous costs on communities.

Disaster preparedness must therefore move beyond emergency response. Governments need to invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, stronger drainage systems, flood-resistant housing, drought management, and sustainable urban planning. Local bodies should regularly conduct disaster preparedness drills, while schools and communities must be educated about emergency response measures. Public awareness is as important as technological advancement. Technology can further strengthen resilience through artificial intelligence, real-time weather monitoring, drone-based damage assessment, and mobile alert systems. At the same time, protecting forests, wetlands, rivers, and coastal ecosystems can reduce the impact of natural disasters by serving as ecological buffers. Every citizen also has a role to play. Following official advisories, avoiding construction in high-risk zones, conserving natural resources, and supporting community preparedness can significantly reduce disaster risks. Building resilience is a shared responsibility.

Beyond Tax Returns: The Silent Role of CAs

Every family dreams of a secure and prosperous future. Some aspire to own a home, others hope to provide quality education for their children, build a successful business, or enjoy a financially independent retirement. While these aspirations differ, they all depend on one common factor—making informed financial decisions. In today's rapidly evolving economy, financial choices are no longer simple. They involve taxation, legal compliance, investment planning, regulatory requirements, and long-term wealth management. This is where the role of Chartered Accountants (CAs) becomes indispensable. Every year on July 1, India celebrates Chartered Accountants' Day, marking the establishment of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in 1949. While the occasion recognizes one of the country's most respected professions, it also reminds society of the vital contribution Chartered Accountants make in strengthening the nation's financial and economic framework. Their work extends far beyond preparing balance sheets or filing tax returns. They serve as trusted advisors who help individuals, businesses, and institutions make sound financial decisions before problems arise. In earlier times, financial planning was relatively uncomplicated. People primarily relied on savings accounts, fixed deposits, pensions, and limited investment options. Today's financial landscape, however, is vastly different. Digital banking, online investments, mutual funds, insurance products, stock markets, start-ups, cryptocurrencies, and evolving tax laws have transformed the way people manage money. Alongside these opportunities come greater risks, making professional financial guidance more important than ever before. Whether purchasing a house, starting a business, investing retirement savings, planning succession, or managing taxation, every financial decision carries long-term consequences. Unfortunately, many people continue to rely on informal advice from friends, relatives, or social media rather than consulting qualified professionals. Such decisions often result in avoidable financial losses, legal



disputes, tax complications, or regulatory issues. In most cases, professional advice is sought only after mistakes have already occurred. Preventing these mistakes is one of the greatest contributions of the Chartered Accountancy profession. Contrary to popular perception, the work of a Chartered Accountant does not begin with tax filing or auditing. It begins much earlier—before an investment is made, before a business is established, before a property is purchased, or before an important financial agreement is signed. Their expertise enables individuals and organizations to identify risks, comply with legal requirements, optimize taxation, and make informed financial choices. Their objective is not merely compliance with the law but the creation of long-term financial stability and confidence. The significance of Chartered Accountants extends beyond individual financial planning. They play a crucial role in strengthening businesses, supporting entrepreneurship, promoting transparency, and ensuring accountability in financial reporting. Investors depend on reliable financial statements to make investment decisions. Banks rely on accurate financial information while extending credit. Governments require transparent reporting for effective taxation and policy implementation. Businesses need sound financial systems to sustain growth and attract investment. At every level, Chartered Accountants con-

tribute to building trust—the foundation upon which every successful economy is built. Behind the designation "CA" lies a journey of extraordinary dedication and perseverance. Becoming a Chartered Accountant requires years of rigorous academic study, practical training, demanding examinations, and continuous professional development. Even after qualifying, learning never stops. Tax laws, accounting standards, auditing practices, corporate regulations, and financial technologies continue to evolve. Chartered Accountants must constantly update their knowledge to provide accurate advice in an increasingly dynamic economic environment. The emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital technologies is transforming the financial profession. Routine accounting tasks are becoming automated, data analysis is becoming more sophisticated, and compliance processes are becoming faster and more efficient. However, technology cannot replace professional judgment, ethical decision-making, or human accountability. While AI can process information rapidly, it cannot fully understand the unique circumstances of a family, evaluate complex legal situations, or accept responsibility for financial decisions that affect people's lives. These remain the responsibility of skilled professionals guided by competence, ethics, and experience. As India moves towards be-

coming a developed economy, discussions often focus on infrastructure, manufacturing, technology, exports, and industrial growth. While these sectors are undoubtedly important, sustainable economic progress ultimately depends on public trust. Trust encourages investment, strengthens financial institutions, supports entrepreneurship, and promotes economic stability. Chartered Accountants contribute significantly to building this trust through integrity, transparency, professional competence, and adherence to ethical standards. Their contributions may not always attract public attention, but they quietly strengthen the nation's financial ecosystem every day. Chartered Accountants' Day is therefore not merely a celebration of a profession but an opportunity to recognize the importance of informed financial decision-making. Every family, entrepreneur, farmer, investor, salaried employee, and retiree faces financial choices that shape their future. Seeking qualified professional advice before making significant financial decisions can prevent costly mistakes and create lasting financial security. In the end, wealth is not protected merely by earning more—it is protected by making wiser decisions. Better decisions are built on knowledge, guided by integrity, and supported by professional expertise. That is the enduring contribution of Chartered Accountants to society. They are not merely professionals who deal with numbers; they are guardians of financial discipline, public trust, and economic stability. As India continues its journey towards inclusive and sustainable development, the role of Chartered Accountants will remain central in shaping a transparent, resilient, and prosperous economy.



CA Manishankar P,
Chartered Accountant
(B.Com, LL.B, MFT,
DISA,CISA,DIRM)

Gen Dhiraj Seth Takes Charge

New Delhi, June 30: General Dhiraj Seth on Tuesday assumed charge as the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi, who retired from service. An officer of the Armoured Corps, General Seth becomes the first officer from the combat arm to head the Indian Army since General Shankar Roychowdhury in 1997. With nearly four decades of military service, General Seth brings extensive experience in operational command, strategic planning and force modernisation. His tenure is expected to continue until August 2028, during which the Army is set to focus on modernisation, integrated theatre commands and strengthening operational readiness along the borders with China and Pakistan. A graduate of the National Defence Academy, General Seth was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986. During his career, he has commanded an Armoured Regiment in the desert sector, an Armoured Brigade in the



western theatre, a Counter-Insurgency Force in Jammu and Kashmir, and the prestigious Sudarshan Chakra Corps. He has also served as the General Officer Commanding (GOC), Delhi Area, overseeing military operations, ceremonial responsibilities and coordination of major national and international events in the capital. After being promoted as Army Commander, he headed both the South Western Command and the Southern Command, making him one of the few officers to have commanded two operational Army Commands.

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PoK Protests Intensify

Islamabad, June 30: Protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) intensified on Tuesday as thousands of demonstrators gathered in Rawalakot, demanding greater political rights and raising slogans against Islamabad's control over the region.

for reforms but has since expanded into a broader movement challenging Pakistan's administration in the occupied territory. During the protest, Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) leader Sardar Aman Khan alleged that continued suppression of the movement and restrictions on essential supplies could further deepen the crisis.

ence around the protest venue, including surveillance drones and armed personnel. Activists and members of the Kashmiri diaspora alleged that authorities were attempting to suppress the demonstrations through force.

governance and political representation in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. They contend that local administrations have remained largely dependent on Islamabad, limiting the region's political autonomy.

rying out a crackdown on protesters, while Islamabad has maintained that its actions are aimed at maintaining law and order in the region.



Australia Enter T20 Final

London, June 30: Australia stormed into the final of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup with a dominant eight-wicket victory over the West Indies, chasing down 126 in just 13 overs in the semi-final.

contributed a quick 16 as Australia completed the chase in emphatic fashion. Earlier, West Indies struggled to build on a promising start after opting to bat.

after being carried off during the pre-match national anthems. Australia's bowlers dominated proceedings, with Ashleigh Gardner claiming 2 for 13 and Georgia Wareham picking up 2 for 17 to restrict the West Indies.

US Court Blocks Trump's Order

Washington, June 30: The US Supreme Court has struck down President Donald Trump's executive order seeking to end automatic birthright citizenship for children born in the United States to undocumented immigrants and many temporary visa holders.

WhatsApp Introduces Usernames



New Delhi, June 30: WhatsApp is set to introduce a new 'username' feature that will allow users to communicate without sharing their mobile numbers, marking a major step towards enhancing privacy on the Meta-owned messaging platform.

to communicate through these usernames. According to the company, usernames must contain between three and 35 characters.

Global rollout

WhatsApp has announced global reservations for usernames and is expected to begin the registration process shortly. According to reports, registrations could commence as early as this week.

How the feature works

Under the new system, users will register a globally unique username, which will become their primary identity on WhatsApp.

₹9,000 Crore For Farmers

Hyderabad, June 30: Telangana government will deposit ₹9,000 crore into the bank accounts of farmers over the next nine days under the Rythu Bharosa investment support scheme, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced on Tuesday.





Darsha Gupta

Rakul Celebrates YouTube Milestone

Rakul Preet Singh has expressed gratitude after her 2017 Telugu film "Jaya Janaki Nayaka" became the highest-watched Indian film on YouTube. Sharing the achievement on social media, Rakul said the character of Janaki would always remain special in her career. "Some characters stay with you forever, and Janaki will always be one of them. Thank you for all the love you've shown and for making Jaya Janaki Nayaka the highest-watched Indian film on YouTube ever. This is a special feat," she wrote. The actress also thanked director Boyapati Srinu and the entire team for being part of the memorable journey. Directed by Boyapati Srinu, Jaya Janaki Nayaka was produced by Miryala Ravinder Reddy under the Dwaraka Creations banner. The film stars Bellamkonda Sreenivas and Rakul Preet Singh in the lead roles, with Jagapathi Babu, Tarun Arora, Pragya Jaiswal, Sarath Kumar, Nandu, Suman, Jayaprakash, and Vani Viswanath playing important supporting roles. The film's music was composed by Devi Sri Prasad, while Rishi Punjabi handled cinematography and Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao was the editor. Released on August 11, 2017, the romantic action drama has continued to enjoy immense popularity among digital audiences, culminating in the latest YouTube milestone. On the professional front, Rakul Preet Singh will next portray Surpanakha in director Nitesh Tiwari's mythological epic "Ramayana." The film features Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Ram, Sai Pallavi as Sita, Yash as Ravana, Sunny Deol as Hanuman, and Ravi Dubey as Lakshman. The ambitious project is being produced by Prime Focus Studios, DNEG, and Monster Mind Creations.



Angry Birds 3 Trailer Unveiled

Mumbai, June 30: Paramount Pictures has unveiled the official trailer of "The Angry Birds Movie 3," introducing a new chapter in the popular animated franchise with Red taking on his biggest challenge yet—fatherhood. The trailer reveals a fresh storyline in which Red, after defending Bird Island from the green pigs, must now balance the responsibilities of being a parent while embarking on another global adventure. Sharing the trailer on social media, Paramount Pictures wrote, "Parenthood is a game-changer. Watch the new trailer for The Angry Birds Movie 3." According to the official synopsis, Red's latest mission is not only about saving the world but also learning that being a father can be just as demanding as being a hero. Directed by John Rice from a screenplay by Thurup Van Orman, the film is produced



by John Cohen, Dan Chuba, Carla Connor, and Namit Malhotra. The voice cast includes Jason Sudeikis as Red, alongside Josh Gad, Emma Myers, Rachel Bloom, Walker Scobell, Danny McBride, Marcello Hernandez, Tim Robinson, Anna Cathcart, Maitreyi Ramakrishnan, Nikki Glaser, MrBeast, Salish Matter, Psalm West, Sam Richard-

son, James Austin Johnson, Lily James, and Keke Palmer. Based on Rovio's globally popular Angry Birds video game franchise, the film continues the adventures of the iconic birds while introducing an emotional family angle to the story. "The Angry Birds Movie 3" is scheduled to release in India in English and Hindi on January 1, 2027.

Triptii Shares Style Evolution

Bollywood actress Triptii Dimri says authenticity has become the defining element of her fashion journey, as she reflected on becoming Victoria's Secret's first-ever Indian brand ambassador. In an interview with The Free Press Journal, the actress described the milestone as both "emotional and exciting," saying it was a dream come true to represent a brand she had admired for years. "I've admired the brand for years, so becoming its first Indian Brand Ambassador felt incredibly special and

meaningful," she said. Triptii revealed that her personal style has evolved alongside her career. Rather than following fashion trends, she now prefers outfits that genuinely reflect her personality. "I've moved away from chasing trends and focus more on pieces that feel authentic to me. My style today is a reflection of who I am," she said, adding that comfort and confidence remain her top priorities. The actress noted that while she works closely with her styling team, she likes to be ac-

tively involved in choosing every outfit to ensure it aligns with her personality. Calling fashion another form of storytelling, Triptii said she does not worry about stylish promotional appearances overshadowing her acting. "For me, fashion is another form of storytelling and self-expression. People may talk about what you're wearing during promotions, but audiences ultimately remember the characters and stories you bring to life," she explained. Speaking about individuality in fashion, she observed that today's actors enjoy greater creative freedom than previous generations. "Fashion today is much more about individuality than following a fixed formula. That's incredibly empowering," she said. When asked which classic Bollywood look she would love to recreate, Triptii chose Madhuri Dixit's iconic appearance in Hum Aapke Hain Koun, calling it timeless and elegant. "She is the OG when it comes to style," she remarked. Discussing her role as Victoria's Secret ambassador, Triptii said she particularly likes the brand's Signature Collection, Cool Bra Collection, and Iconic Heritage Collection, describing them as a blend of comfort, confidence, and timeless design. The actress also shared her monsoon fashion preferences, saying relaxed denim, oversized shirts, and breathable clothing are her wardrobe essentials during the rainy season. "My priority is comfort. Monsoon dressing should feel easy, comfortable and make you feel confident, no matter what the weather is like," she added.



Akanksha Chamolas is Bisexual: Shreya Kalra



A dramatic moment unfolded in Netflix's reality show "Lock Upp" after contestant Shreya Kalra disclosed a deeply personal detail about fellow contestant Akanksha Chamola during a conversation with Sufi Motiwala. The incident occurred after Akanksha filed a chargesheet against Shreya. While discussing the situation with Sufi, Shreya questioned whether revealing a secret would make her "a bad person." After Sufi replied that it was part of the game, Shreya claimed that Akanksha is bisexual. The revelation left Sufi surprised. Initially suggesting that the information should remain private, he later listened as Shreya argued that since the secret had now been disclosed on the show, Akanksha had effectively lost two of her three "lifelines" under the game's format. However, neither Akanksha Chamola nor the makers of "Lock Upp" have issued any statement outside the episode regarding the claim made by Shreya.