

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 35° C

L 21° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 36° C

L 23° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 23° C



### TDP Clinches Kondapalli Municipality

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### Chandrababu, Jr. NTR Will Not Come Again...

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### AP to Launch New Defence Policy...

- Targets ₹30,000 Cr Investment
- Govt plans 15,000 acres acquisition
- Four defence industrial nodes to be set up
- Major node between Lepakshi and Orvakal to boost industrial growth

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh government is set to unveil a new defence policy with the ambitious target of attracting ₹30,000 crore in investments into the defence manufacturing sector. As part of this initiative, the state is preparing to acquire nearly 15,000 acres of land to facilitate large-scale industrial development, particularly for units aligned with defence production. Officials revealed that the new policy includes comprehensive guidelines to establish four defence industrial nodes across the state. Among them, a significant defence node is planned to be developed between

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## Is Nagababu Getting a Ministerial Post or Not? Clarity Please...

- CM publicly promised Nagababu a ministerial post
- Caste dynamics, internal group politics stalling his elevation?

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh



Uncertainty continues to loom over Jana Sena leader Nagababu's long-promised ministerial post, despite Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu himself announcing it publicly. Even after three months since Nagababu was elected as an MLC, no step has been taken to induct him into the cabinet, sparking widespread speculation, social media uproar, and internal discomfort within the ruling coalition.

Nagababu, also known as Mega Brother, had initially stepped back from a Rajya Sabha opportunity when Sana Satish, reportedly close to TDP General Secretary Nara Lokesh, entered the scene. Though the Kakinada seat was initially meant for Satish, Pawan Kalyan ended up contesting from there, pushing Uday to Kakinada and creating dissatisfaction within Satish's camp. It is now believed that Lokesh compensated by offering Sana Satish a Rajya Sabha seat. In return, Pawan secured a ministerial assurance for Nagababu—an announcement that Chandrababu Naidu himself made on record. However, the promise has since remained unfulfilled. While Jana Sena secured three ministerial berths—Pawan Kalyan, Kandula Durgesh, and Nandendla Manohar—any further expansion appears to have been stalled by alleged caste-based calculations. With two Kapu ministers (Pawan and Durgesh) already in the cabinet, critics argued that adding Nagababu, also a Kapu, would imbalance the social representation, as Manohar is from the Kamma community. This argument fueled a social media storm, with Jana Sainiks questioning whether the same caste equations apply to TDP and if Pawan's own brother would be denied a post based on such criteria.

Pawan Kalyan attempted to quell the controversy by clarifying that Nagababu earned his place through party work and that appointments were not made based on family or caste. Yet, speculation continued. Matters escalated when a leading pro-TDP newspaper carried a front-page report that Nagababu was unwilling to become an MLC or take up a ministerial role—claims which Jana Sena leaders swiftly denied. The very next day, the party officially announced Nagababu as its MLC candidate, issued a B form, and he subsequently won the seat. Despite this, no cabinet expansion has taken place. Political observers now say that the delay is causing disillusionment within Jana Sena ranks. A new campaign alleges that Nagababu was sidelined due to remarks made about filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma at the Jana Sena Foundation Day event in Pithapuram—

though party insiders insist this is a baseless smear campaign orchestrated by a specific group. With rumors now swirling that if Nagababu is brought into the cabinet, Kandula Durgesh might be removed to maintain the “three-minister limit” for Jana Sena, frustration is mounting. Critics argue that such an approach undermines the party's sacrifices and questions the sincerity of coalition promises. At the heart of the storm lies one big question: If a Chief Minister makes a public commitment, should it not be honored? The silence and inaction are now being interpreted as disrespect—not just toward Nagababu but also toward Pawan Kalyan and the Jana Sena as a whole. If this issue remains unresolved, political analysts warn that it could mark the beginning of friction within the TDP-Jana Sena alliance. Whether Nagababu is ultimately made a minister—or sacrificed in the name of political arithmetic—could have serious consequences for the coalition's image and cohesion.

## Census from October 2026, to Include Caste-Wise Data

- Union Home Ministry issues Gazette Notification
- Census to be conducted digitally in two phases
- Citizens can self-register via special portal and app
- Caste-wise data to be collected for the first time




TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Union Home Ministry has officially issued a gazette notification for the commencement of the 16th nationwide Census, setting the stage for India's first fully digital enumeration. The Centre aims to complete the entire process in two phases by March 1, 2027. Notably, this will also be the first Census since Independence to include caste-wise data collection. According to the notification released on Monday, the first phase of the Census — House Listing Operation (HLO) — will begin from the midnight of

October 1, 2026, in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and the states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The rest of the country will begin enumeration from the midnight of March 1, 2027. In this large-scale effort, around 34 lakh field-level enumerators and supervisors will be deployed across India, assisted by an additional 1.34 lakh staff members. They will use tablet devices to collect data digitally — a major departure from the traditional pen-and-paper model. To improve accessibility and transparency, citizens will also be given an option to self-register their details through dedicated online portals and mobile applications.

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## Ready For World Record: CM

- International Yoga Day event on June 21 in Visakhapatnam
- CM oversees preparations for Yogandhra program
- Target set to involve 3.4 lakh participants and break 22 world records

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has announced that the state is fully geared up to host a historic yoga event in Visakhapatnam on June 21, marking International Yoga Day. The event, named ‘Yogandhra,’ is being planned on an unprecedented scale with the aim of securing a place in the Guinness Book and World Book of Records by attempting to set 22 different world records.

Ahead of the program, the Chief Minister personally inspected the venue at RK Beach and conducted a high-level review with top officials. He emphasized that the ultimate goal is to make yoga a regular part of every citizen's lifestyle. He directed the officials to ensure seamless arrangements and also mandated regular yoga training programs, both online and offline, across the state.

Special Chief Secretary Krishnababu briefed the Chief Minister on the ongoing arrangements, while DGP Harish Gupta provided insights on the elaborate security measures. Addressing the media later, CM Chandrababu stated, “We are organizing the biggest yoga event in the country in a decade. Our target is to register 22 records. This program is being conducted with utmost precision and planning.”

Chandrababu revealed that nearly 3.4 lakh participants are expected to perform yoga simultaneously at a single venue — a feat designed to create history. To manage the crowd effectively, 34 barricades have been arranged, each with a capacity to hold 1,000 people. Volunteers, coaches, and medical teams will be stationed at each zone to assist participants.

Learning from past experiences, the Chief Minister announced that one toilet is being set up for every 100 participants, correcting previous shortcomings where only one facility was available for every 1,000. “We are giving utmost importance to sanitation and participant comfort,” he said. He also stated that travel arrangements have been clearly mapped out, with specific schedules provided for participants coming from various parts of the state. “From planning to execution, every detail has been accounted for, including rain precautions,” he assured.

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## Census...

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The first phase of the Census will gather information on household assets, housing conditions, and available amenities. The second phase — the Population Enumeration (PE) — will collect demographic, socio-economic, and cultural data about individuals. Crucially, this phase will also include caste information, making it the first caste-wise enumeration since Independence under the national Census framework. The Home Ministry emphasized that robust digital security protocols will be in place to protect the sensitive information being gathered. All stages of data collection, transmission, and storage will be executed with high-level cybersecurity standards, ensuring confidentiality and integrity. After a 15-year delay — the last Census was held in 2011 — this upcoming enumeration is expected to provide vital insights for policy formulation, development planning, and welfare distribution across the country.

## Ready For...

Continued from page 1

All participants in the program have been training for several weeks to ensure synchrony and discipline during the performance. Chandrababu said, “Our vision is to not just break records but to inspire a cultural and health movement through yoga.” He concluded by reiterating the commitment of the government to make the event a landmark on the global stage and confirmed that the Secretariat Unit and police are working in coordination to handle operations efficiently. “This is not just a celebration of yoga, but a demonstration of Andhra Pradesh’s organizational excellence,” he declared.

## AP to Launch...

Continued from page 1

Lepakshi in Anantapur district and Orvakal in Kurnool district, taking advantage of its strategic location along the national highway. This corridor is expected to become a central hub for defence-related industries and allied manufacturing units. One of the primary locations identified for immediate land acquisition is Donakonda in Prakasam district. The government aims to accelerate the process to ensure timely allotment for interested industrial entities. The decision reflects the state’s broader strategy of combining industrial development with job creation, technology transfer, and economic growth in backward regions. Officials indicated that the upcoming defence policy will provide industry-friendly incentives, faster clearance processes, and infrastructure support to attract top companies in aerospace, electronics, weapons, and ancillary services. With this policy, Andhra Pradesh seeks to position itself as a key player in the country’s growing defence manufacturing ecosystem, aligning with the Centre’s vision of ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ (self-reliant India) in the defence sector.

# Chandrababu, Jr. NTR Will Not Come Again...

- Hand Over Responsibilities to Lokesh: Owaisi
- Owaisi’s remarks spark political debate in Andhra Pradesh

TPN Correspondent | Kurnool

MIM party chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi has stirred a fresh political debate in Andhra Pradesh with his sensational remarks targeting Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and his son, Minister Nara Lokesh. Speaking at a public meeting held in Adoni, Kurnool district, on Sunday night, Owaisi made direct comments urging Chandrababu to retire from politics and officially transfer leadership responsibilities to Lokesh. “Chandrababu Naidu, I’m telling you... You’re destroying Lokesh’s political future. After you, your son will take over, right? Jr. NTR will not come, right? Then why are you confusing Lokesh?” Owaisi questioned in a bold tone during his address. He took a dig at the internal dynamics of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), especially highlighting the absence of Jr. NTR in party affairs and raising doubts over Nara Lokesh’s leadership abilities. Owaisi recalled Chandrababu’s long political innings, stating, “You served as Chief Minister for



9 years in united Andhra Pradesh and for 5 years in the newly formed state. That’s enough. Now it’s time to take care of your son and give him full responsibility.” The MIM chief also criticized Chandrababu Naidu’s alliance with the BJP, questioning the TDP’s ideological clarity and consistency. His comments come at a time when the TDP-BJP-Jana Sena alliance is riding high after their massive victory in the recently held Andhra Pradesh elections. Owaisi’s remarks have triggered heated discussions in political

circles and among party cadres, especially TDP supporters, as he openly touched on speculations around Jr. NTR’s possible political comeback, a subject that has often been debated in Andhra politics but never officially confirmed. The TDP leadership has yet to respond officially to Owaisi’s comments. However, political analysts believe that these remarks are likely aimed at creating confusion within the TDP camp and undermining Nara Lokesh’s growing presence in state politics.

## Minister Nadendla Donates ₹10 Lakh for Kolakalur Factory Complex

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

State Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Nadendla Manohar has announced a donation of ₹10 lakh from his family for the development of a Flatted Factory Complex planned under SERP (Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty) in Kolakalur Gram Panchayat of Tenali Mandal. The announcement was made during a key event held at the Minister’s camp office in Tenali on Monday. This upcoming Flatted Factory Complex, which aims to provide local employment opportunities—particularly for women—is expected to serve as a hub for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the region. The project took a significant step forward with the donation of one acre of land by the Ponnekanti family of Kolakalur village. The land, valued at ₹1 crore, was handed over to SERP officials in the presence of Minister Manohar. The donation was made through the Ponnekanti Pothuraj Trust in memory of their family legacy.



Minister Manohar congratulated the Ponnekanti family for their generous contribution, describing it as a reflection of the growing trust and participation of people in the government’s mission for rural development. He noted that his family’s financial support of ₹10 lakh was a small gesture towards making Kolakalur village a model panchayat in the state. “The goal is to create job opportunities for local residents, especially women, and make them economically self-reliant,” the Minister said. He further explained that the Flatted Factory Complex will not only generate

employment but also offer skill training and marketing support to promote the manufactured products in domestic and export markets. He affirmed that such partnerships between government and citizens are the foundation for sustainable rural progress. Tenali Sub-Collector Smt. Sanjana Simha and various SERP and local officials were present at the event. Minister Manohar expressed confidence that with the cooperation of the public and local leadership, Kolakalur will soon emerge as an exemplary panchayat across Andhra Pradesh.

## Over 67,000 teacher transfers and 4,477 promotions completed

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Department of School Education has successfully completed the teacher transfer and promotion process for 2025 across the state. The large-scale exercise, overseen by the Director of School Education, covered Headmasters, School Assistants, Language Scholars, Physical Education Teachers, and Secondary Grade Teachers (SGTs) serving in Government, Zilla Parishad, Municipal Corporation, and Municipal schools. According to the officials, a total of 67,732 transfers and 4,477 promotions were carried out statewide. Among them, 1,494 Grade-II Headmasters were transferred, and 1,375 were promoted. Similarly, 5,717 Model Primary School Headmasters were transferred with 1,592 receiving promotions. The largest group impacted was School Assistants, with 27,804 transfers and 1,510 promotions. Additionally, 31,174 SGTs, 1,199 Language Scholars, and 344 Physical Education Teachers were transferred, though no promotions were made in these three categories. The Director stated that the process was carried out as per government norms, ensuring transparency and fairness. Teachers or Headmasters with grievances related to transfers or promotions have been advised to approach the designated Problem Resolution Committees at the district or zonal level. These committees, established under government guidelines, will address objections based on proper documentation and evidence. The Director of School Education V Vijayarama Raju said that all objections will be reviewed thoroughly, and appropriate solutions will be provided in line with existing rules and regulations.



## CM Chandrababu Inspects Yoga Day Arrangements in Vizag

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday visited Visakhapatnam to personally oversee the preparations for the prestigious ‘Yoga Andhra’ program to be held on June 21 in celebration of International Yoga Day. The mega event will be held at RK Beach in Visakhapatnam, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi expected to attend as the chief guest. With the state government estimating a participation of nearly five lakh people, Chandrababu took stock of the arrangements at various points along Beach Road. He reviewed the progress of works, traffic management, security plans, and seating arrangements being coordinated across 607 village and ward secretariats. YogaAndhra 2025 Nodal Officer MT Krishnababu briefed the Chief Minister about the measures taken to ensure smooth conduct of the event. Visakhapatnam District Collector also detailed the infrastructural preparations underway at key locations. CM Chandrababu issued clear instructions to officials to ensure that registered participants do not face any inconvenience. He emphasized the need for smooth entry, water and sanitation facilities, and timely information for all attendees. He specifically asked for mock yoga sessions to be conducted ahead of the main event, from 6:30 am to 8:00 am, to avoid confusion on the day of the program. The Chief Minister also reviewed security arrangements in light of the Prime Minister’s participation. He directed police and district administration to ensure public safety without affecting regular traffic. Officials were asked to prepare alternative traffic routes and make adequate parking facilities available for visitors arriving from across the state. After the RK Beach inspection, CM Chandrababu also visited Andhra University Grounds to assess the additional facilities being arranged as part of the Yoga Day preparations.

## Nagababu hails Pawan as a leader like nuclear energy

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Member and Jana Sena Party General Secretary K. Nagababu likened Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan to nuclear energy, highlighting his multifaceted leadership and commitment to state development and welfare. Speaking at a virtual meeting with NRI Jana Sainiks and Veera Mahilas from Perth, Australia, Nagababu thanked the expatriate supporters for their continued financial and moral backing of the party. “The general perception is that nuclear means explosive, but nuclear energy is also clean, efficient, and beneficial in many ways. Like nuclear energy, Pawan Kalyan is a leader of diverse impact, powerful, transformative, and essential,” said Nagababu. He said that under the NDA coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, governance has reached the grassroots within just one year of assuming office. Nagababu praised Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav for effectively implementing the “Talliki Vandanam” scheme, under which Rs 10,091 crore was directly deposited into the accounts of mothers of 67 lakh students in a single day. Education Minister Nara Lokesh was lauded for ensuring that 80% of students received Sarvepalli Rad-



hakrishnan Vidyarthi Mitra kits on the first day of the academic year. He also acknowledged Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar for streamlining the mid-day meal program and other welfare measures, including the procurement of 55 lakh metric tons of paddy. Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh highlighted

new reforms in tourism to attract both national and international visitors. On the local front, Nagababu pointed out that Rs 308 crore has been allocated specifically for the development of Pithapuram constituency, thanks to Pawan Kalyan’s personal efforts. He also explained the focus on improving rural infrastructure, including road repairs and the construction of water tanks in tribal areas. Sarpanchs were given funds, Rs 10,000 at the village level and Rs 25,000 at the mandal level, for celebrating national festivals, reflecting grassroots governance. Reviewing the broader achievements of the NDA government, Nagababu said key welfare initiatives like ‘Pedala Sevalo’, ‘Deepam-2’, ‘Anna Canteens’, ‘Talliki Vandanam’, and ‘Matsyakara Sevalo’ have been rolled out despite financial challenges. Over 16,000 teacher posts will be filled by the government soon through Mega DSC, major irrigation projects resumed, and work on the state capital and Polavaram project was revived along with He said that achieving the railway zone and protecting the steel plant was possible only under the coalition government. He concluded by stating that the coalition government is committed to welfare, development, and transparency under the principle of “Praja Palana” (people’s governance).



# TDP Clinches Kondapalli Municipality

- High Court upholds ex-officio vote, ensures TDP majority
- TDP wins Kondapalli chairman post with crucial 16th vote
- Kesineni Nani’s ex-officio vote declared valid by High Court
- Independent councillor Sridevi elected vice-chairperson

TPN Correspondent | NTR District

In a significant political development, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has secured the chairman’s seat in Kondapalli Municipality, NTR district, with the decisive ex-officio vote cast by former MP Kesineni Nani. TDP candidate Chennuboyana Chittibabu has been officially declared as the municipal chairman, while independent councillor Sridevi, who supported the TDP, has been elected as vice-chairperson. Kondapalli Municipality has 29 wards, and the previous elections saw a neck-and-neck contest with TDP and YSRCP



each winning 14 seats. The lone independent winner, Sridevi, backed the TDP, taking its strength to 15. Meanwhile, former YSRCP MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad exercised his ex-officio vote in support of the YSRCP, also bringing its total to 15. The balance shifted due to former Vijayawada MP Kesineni Nani, who cast his ex-officio vote in favor of the TDP during the 2021 municipal chairman elections. The YSRCP challenged the validity of this vote in court, creating a legal impasse over the final outcome. However, the Andhra Pradesh High Court recently concluded its inquiry and issued

a sealed order validating Kesineni Nani’s vote. This verdict effectively gave the TDP the 16th and decisive vote needed to claim the chairmanship. Following the court’s directive, election officials opened the sealed orders amidst tight security and announced Chennuboyana Chittibabu as the elected municipal chairman. Sridevi, who played a crucial role in supporting the TDP, was elected as vice-chairperson. Celebrations erupted in Kondapalli and across NTR district as TDP cadres hailed the verdict and the win. This victory is being seen as a symbolic and strategic boost for the TDP in the region.



## TDP Is Synonymous With Welfare: MLA Nasir Ahmed

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

Guntur East MLA Nasir Ahmed has declared that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is now a synonym for welfare, citing the success of the newly launched ‘Thalliki Vandanam’ scheme by the coalition government. Addressing a press conference at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri on Monday, Nasir Ahmed lauded the initiative, crediting it for creating a celebratory atmosphere in every household across the state. He highlighted that on the very first day of school reopening, Rs. 718.95 crore was credited directly into the bank accounts of mothers of 4.81 lakh students, along with the distribution of school kits and bags. The MLA commended the efforts of Minister Nara Lokesh, stating that such a large-scale and inclusive initiative was historic and unmatched. Nasir Ahmed pointed out that the ‘Salute to Mother’ scheme is more inclusive than the previous YSRCP government’s ‘Amma Vodi’ program. “While the previous government restricted benefits to one child per household, we are supporting every child. A mother with five children has received Rs. 65,000, and a family with 12 children received Rs. 1.56 lakh,” he stated. He further added, “In five years, Jagan Reddy’s government spent Rs. 24,000 crore under Amma Vodi. But our government, within just one year, has allocated Rs. 10,091 crore under Thalliki Vandanam.” He described the scheme as a “death sentence” to the inefficiencies of the previous regime. The MLA also emphasized the impact of the initiative on minorities, claiming a 54% increase in benefits to them under the coalition government. “Only 42 lakh students benefited under Amma Vodi, but now, 67.27 lakh students are being supported,” he explained. Nasir accused the YSRCP of neglecting education and restricting welfare in the name of politics. “Chandrababu Naidu is driving the state with a vision of a poverty-free society through his P4 policy,” he added.



## Ambati slams attempts to obstruct Jagan's visits

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

YSRCP senior leader and former minister Ambati Rambabu has come down heavily on the NDA coalition government, accusing it of deliberately attempting to hinder YSRCP Chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy’s public tours. He stated that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and his son Lokesh were trying to create disturbances during Jagan’s visits and alleged that the government’s actions reflect an authoritarian approach. Addressing the media, Ambati lashed out at the police for what he termed as unjust and excessive restrictions on Jagan’s movements. Referring to the tragic death of YSRCP leader Nagamalleshwara Rao—who allegedly died by suicide due to police harassment—Ambati said, “When Jagan went to visit the bereaved family, the police created hurdles as though Jagan should not step out at all. This is nothing but crazy governance.” He said the role of the police was to provide security, not to obstruct a former Chief Minister’s movements. “Saying that Jagan shouldn’t travel is undemocratic and unconstitutional,” Ambati remarked. Taking a dig at the current leadership, he said, “Chandrababu and Lokesh seem to want to provoke violence by encouraging people to throw eggs and tomatoes during Jagan’s visits. It is cruel to try to do that at the expense of public peace and safety.” Ambati further asserted that the YSRCP will not be intimidated by such fear tactics. “We have seen Chandrababu’s politics since our childhood. We are not scared of him. The people of the state are watching,” he said, warning the government against resorting to oppressive tactics.



## Chinta Mohan Demands Construction of Duggarajupatnam Port

- Congress holds protest in Naidupeta over stalled project
- Chinta Mohan blames Modi and Chandrababu for delay

TPN | C Shekar

Tirupati: Former MP Dr. Chinta Mohan has strongly demanded the immediate commencement of the Duggarajupatnam port construction, a long-pending project included in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. Speaking at a media conference near the Ambedkar statue in Naidupeta on Monday, he launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, accusing them of being responsible for the prolonged delay in initiating the port work. Dr. Chinta Mohan alleged that Chandrababu Naidu deliberately obstructed the port’s construction for personal and political gains. He emphasized that the port, if built, would bring tremendous benefits to farmers and the unemployed in the region, especially in Gudur and Sullurpet constituencies. “This is not just a port. It is a lifeline for lakhs of people in southern Andhra Pradesh,” he said. He further criticized the current coalition government, claiming corruption has become widespread across all departments. “Development has taken a backseat while corruption flourishes under this regime,” he remarked. Highlighting the socio-economic importance of the Duggarajupatnam port, Chinta Mohan said that its construction would generate massive employment opportunities and provide much-needed financial support to farmers. He demanded that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu immediately hold talks with the Centre and begin the port’s construction without further delay, keeping the welfare of the state in mind.

## We must Permanently Drive out Jagan: Kolusu Parthasarathy



TPN Correspondent | NTR District

A high-energy political gathering unfolded at the Agricultural Market Committee (AMC) premises in Gollapudi on Sunday evening as Narra Vasu officially took oath as the Chairman of the Vijayawada AMC. The ceremony, attended by a large number of NDA coalition leaders and workers, transformed Gollapudi into a hub of political enthusiasm. State Housing, Information, and Public Relations Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy, who was the chief guest, delivered a fiery address, emphasizing the need for unity within the NDA family to ensure another term in power in 2029. “We must permanently drive out the ghost of Jaganmohan Reddy. The state cannot afford another setback,” he declared. Minister Parthasarathy praised Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Venkata Krishnaprasad for his courageous stance during the three capitals movement and credited him for opposing what he called the “dictatorial and destructive regime” of Jagan. He also criticized the former CM for burdening Andhra Pradesh with ₹10 lakh crore in debt. “Despite that, our coalition government is not only paying interest but also actively implementing welfare schemes by generating wealth,” he said. The minister’s remarks were echoed by MLA Vasantha Krishnaprasad, who outlined the coalition’s welfare achievements within a short span. He highlighted flagship schemes like Talliki Vandanam, which has credited over ₹10,000 crore to mothers statewide, Deepam-2 offering 3 free gas cylinders per year, renovation of 204 Anna canteens, and NTR Bharosa Pensions worth ₹34,000 crore annually. He also announced that Annadata Sukhibhava funds for farmers and free bus travel for women would be launched by August 15 under the government’s P-4 poverty elimination agenda. The event was marked by a massive rally organized by NDA family members, which commenced from One Center in Gollapudi and culminated at the AMC premises. The rally was led by MLA Krishnaprasad, AMC Chairman Narra Vasu, and other NDA leaders including Bommasani Subbarao. The crowd paid homage at the statue of NTR before proceeding to the swearing-in venue.

## We Are Committed to Development: MLA Prashanthi Reddy



TPN | Seshu

Nellore: Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy has reiterated her commitment to the development of Buchi Reddypalem Panchayat, stating that necessary infrastructure will be provided to the people in a phased manner. On Monday, she laid the foundation stone for a new drainage system worth ₹10 lakh in Ramachandrapuram, Ward 20, and interacted with local residents. She was given a warm welcome by TDP leaders and local citizens upon her arrival. During the visit, the MLA inspected ongoing civic conditions and assured the residents of her support in improving basic amenities. Speaking on the occasion, she emphasized that SC and ST colonies would be developed according to public needs and that her priority is meeting minimum infrastructure standards in the ward. She also promised to look into the appointment of a cemetery guard after locals raised concerns over the lack of maintenance. Responding to the complaints about the absence of a local secretariat, she stated that she would consult with government officials to explore possibilities of establishing one for the convenience of residents who currently travel long distances for administrative needs. In a health initiative, she announced that eye check-up camps will soon be organized under the auspices of the VPR Foundation, urging all residents to utilize the free service. The event was attended by Buchi Chairperson Morla Supraja, Municipal Commissioner D Balakrishna, Tahsildar Ambati Venkateswarlu, Councilors Sridevi and Belum Mallareddy, TDP leaders Bezawada Jagadish, Tanguturi Mallareddy, Erram Reddy Govardhan Reddy, former Jonnavada Temple Chairman Putta Subrahmanyam Naidu, MV Sessaiah, Bathula Harikrishna, Morla Murali, Koduru Kamalakara Reddy, Penchalayya, and others.



# Midnight Illegal Mining in Thotlavallur Quarry

*Collector's orders flouted; quarry faces serious allegations*

**TPN Correspondent | Krishna**

In a blatant violation of district administration orders and mining regulations, illegal sand excavation is being carried out at midnight in North Vallur, Thotlavallur mandal of Pamarru constituency. The quarry, reportedly operated by Gottipati Sri-dhar, has once again come under fire for defying rules during the monsoon season.

According to local reports, large-scale illegal sand mining is taking place under the cover of darkness. Despite clear instructions from the District Collector to halt mining during the monsoon, operations are continuing at full scale, with hundreds of lorries being used to transport the sand extracted from the site. Eyewitnesses allege that sand is being excavated indiscriminately and without any regard for environmental or legal constraints.

Sources say this is not the first time the said quarry has violated norms. There have been several instances in the past where rules were disregarded and excessive sand mining was car-



ried out beyond the permitted limits. Reports suggest that hundreds of cubic meters of sand have been mined illegally, far exceeding the allocations given under the mining license. Environmental and local activists are questioning the silence of the authorities and calling for immediate action. "If vigilance officials inspect the site sincerely, this quarry would be shut down within no time," a local

resident stated, urging the government to intervene before irreversible environmental damage occurs. There is now growing pressure on mining and revenue department officials to take strict action against the violators and ensure the enforcement of monsoon mining restrictions. All eyes are now on the quarry officials—will they act or continue to ignore blatant violations of law?

# Foundation stone laid for 72-feet Ganesh Statue

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**

The foundation stone for a grand 72-feet Mahamatti Ganesh statue was laid with much fervour in Vijayawa-

da on Sunday under the aegis of the Dundi Ganesh Seva Samiti. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from leaders, dignitaries, and the public.



da on Sunday under the aegis of the Dundi Ganesh Seva Samiti. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from leaders, dignitaries, and the public.

Kesineni Venkat, son of MP Kesineni Shiva-nath, and renowned film actor Suman were the chief guests at the ceremony. Both expressed their happiness in taking part in the foundation laying ceremony of what is set to become a spiritual and cultural landmark in the city. Speaking on the occasion, Kesineni Venkat and actor Suman extended their best wishes for the smooth and unhindered completion of the Amaravati capital city project. They emphasized the significance of cultural projects like this Ganesh statue in inspiring unity and devotion among people.

On the sidelines of the event, Kesine-ni Venkat also urged citizens to protect the environment by using clay

people to avoid plaster of Paris idols that harm water bodies.

The event was graced by several dignitaries including Argavaishya Corporation Chairman and Dundi Ganesh Seva Samiti founding president Dundi Rakesh. Executive members of the Seva Samiti, NDA alliance leaders, and a large number of activists and devotees also participated.

The construction of the 72-feet tall Mahamatti Ganesh statue is expected to enhance the spiritual prominence of Vijayawada and become a major cultural attraction in the region.

## Modernized Women's Police Station in Vijayawada



**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**

City Police Commissioner Shri S.V. Rajasekhara Babu IPS inaugurated the newly reconstructed Women's Police Station on Bandar Road in Vijayawada on Monday. The police station, previously located in the old control room building, has now been upgraded with modern facilities aimed at improving women-centric policing and ensuring quicker, more compassionate responses to complaints.

The renovated facility houses separate officers' rooms, a courtroom, reception area, women's help desk, a counseling center, an Anti-Human Trafficking wing, and dedicated playrooms for children under a child-friendly corner. These additions aim to create a welcoming environment for victims, particularly women and children, seeking support and justice.

DCPs Smt. K.G.V. Saritha IPS, Sri Tirumaleswara Reddy IPS, Sri ABTS Udayarani IPS, along with officers Sri Krishnamurthy Naidu, Sri SVD Prasad, ADCPs Sri AVL Prasanna Kumar, ACPs Smt. Latha Kumari, Smt. Sravanthi Roy, Sri Pawan Kumar, inspectors and staff were present at the inaugural event.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Rajasekhara Babu emphasized the crucial role of women's police stations in protecting women and girls. "Victims who walk into the station should feel respected and protected. Our officers must act with empathy and determination," he said.

He stressed that swift and evidence-based investigation is essential, urging staff to use technology to trace perpetrators and ensure they are identified within 24 hours of a crime being reported. "The fear of law must be instilled in offenders. Our presence should be a source of confidence for victims and a deterrent for criminals," he added.

## Over 400 Jobs Up for Grabs at AP CRDA's Amaravati Job Mela on June 18

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (AP CRDA), in collaboration with the Department of Skill Development and Training, will conduct a 'Job Mela' on June 18 at the CRDA Skill Hub Center in Tullur. The event aims to provide employment opportunities to youth in and around the Amaravati region. Several reputed firms including MVR Infra Project Ltd., Varun Motors Pvt. Ltd., Skillcraft, KVM Projects Ltd., and Shriram Finance Ltd. will participate in the fair, offering roles in the construction and service sectors. Vacancies include Safety Officers, Trainee Engineers, Surveyors, Service & Sales Engineers, Assistant Technicians, Soft Skills Trainers, and Recovery Operators.

Eligible candidates, ranging from SSC, ITI, Diploma, B.Tech, any degree to PG, can apply. Both freshers and experienced individuals are encouraged to attend. Selected candidates will receive salaries between Rs 12,000 and Rs 30,000, with some positions offering additional incentives and allowances.

"This job mela is a golden opportunity for the youth of Amaravati and surrounding areas," the Commissioner of APCRDA K Kannababu stated in a release. Interested candidates must register on the Naipunyam skill portal (<https://naipunyam.ap.gov.in>) and may contact CRDA village facilitators or call Shankar (9848424207) or Srikar (9963425999) for further details.



## Fr. Dr. Melchior assumes charge as Principal of Andhra Loyola College

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**

Rev. Fr. Dr. S. Melchior, SJ, officially assumed office as the new Principal of Andhra Loyola College (ALC) during the institution's Annual Faculty Orientation Programme held at the college seminar hall. The event marked a significant leadership transition and reaffirmed the Jesuit mission of academic excellence and holistic education. Fr. Melchior was welcomed by the Correspondent, Rev. Fr. Dr. M. Sagayaraj, SJ, who lauded his dedication to Jesuit education. With postgraduate degrees in Management and Psychology and a Ph.D. in Human Resource Management, Fr. Melchior brings over a decade of administrative experience, having served as Vice Principal, Sports Director, ALCAA Director, Hostel Warden, and Professor of Management. In his inaugural address, Fr. Melchior explained Jesuit values such as cura personalis (care for the whole person). Rector Rev. Fr. Dr. P.R. John, SJ, praised Fr. Melchior's previous leadership in various seminars and capacity-building initiatives. Dr. G. Sahaya Baskaran, Chairman of the Staff Association, extended greetings on behalf of the faculty, assuring full support to the new leadership. An orientation session by Rector Fr. John focused on leadership and collaborative pedagogy. APSCH Academic Officer Srirangam conducted a session on the Two-Major System and NAAC Binary Accreditation, offering insights into evolving academic frameworks.

The entire teaching staff participated in the sessions.

# Five-Day Wedding Scam Shocks Vijayawada

*Man cheated by brokers, bride turns out to be married with two kids*

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**

A bizarre marriage scam has come to light in Vijayawada, where a young man from Karnataka was lured into a staged wedding with a woman who was already married and had two children. The five-day wedding arrangement, orchestrated by a group of brokers, involved multiple layers of deception and left the victim's family shocked and cheated of over Rs. 4 lakhs.

According to Krishna Lanka police,

the victim is a 34-year-old man from a Telugu-speaking family based in Gangavathi, Karnataka. Facing repeated difficulties in finding a bride, the man's family sought help from a local broker named Sridevi. She in turn connected them to a matchmaker named Thayaru from Vijayawada. Thayaru, along with her accomplices Parvathy, Vimala, and an auto driver named Apparao, introduced the family to a woman identified as Pallavi from Krishna Lanka. The groom was

convinced she was a suitable match, and a traditional wedding was conducted on June 5 at Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada. A grand reception followed in Gangavathi, Karnataka, on June 7.

Prior to the wedding, the groom's family was reportedly convinced to hand over Rs. 3.5 lakhs for the "bride's parents' medical treatment." After the reception, a man introduced as the bride's brother, Harish, allegedly took another Rs. 50,000 claiming the

bride's mother had fallen ill.

However, soon after reaching Karnataka, the bride started distancing herself from the groom. Sensing something amiss, the family questioned her, and the shocking truth came out. The woman, whose real name is Aamani, confessed that she was already married and had two children. She claimed that brokers had promised her Rs. 50,000 to act as a bride for five days and only paid her Rs. 35,000, pocketing the rest.

A stunned groom's family immediately approached Krishna Lanka police and filed a complaint. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation to trace all those involved in this unusual and fraudulent marriage racket.

The case has sparked widespread outrage and raised concerns over the unchecked operations of marriage brokers exploiting emotionally vulnerable individuals for monetary gain.



# Suspicious Intrusion Alert at SHAR

Combing operations conducted overnight, no suspects found yet  
Centre under tight surveillance; agencies continue monitoring

**TPN | C Shekar**  
**Sriharikota:** Heightened security measures were launched at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR) in Sriharikota following an alert from Chennai Police about the presence of a suspicious individual inside the high-security facility. According to official sources, a caller had phoned the Tamil Nadu State Police Security Control in Chennai late on Sunday, claiming to have seen a person behaving suspiciously within the SHAR premises. Acting swiftly, Chennai Police relayed this information to the Naidupeta Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), prompting immediate coordination between state police and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel. From midnight, a joint combing operation was conducted in and around the SHAR facility, one of the country's most sensitive and vital space establishments. As of Monday morning, officials

confirmed that no suspicious individuals have been located so far. However, the search and monitoring efforts continue. Authorities stated that the entire SHAR campus remains under strict surveillance and that no chances are being taken regarding its security. Central security agencies have also been alerted and are reportedly closely observing the situation in coordination with local police and CISF. The alert has caused a wave of concern considering the strategic importance of the SHAR facility, which serves as the launch site for India's space missions. Officials are treating the information with utmost seriousness, although they have yet to confirm any breach. Security protocols at SHAR have since been further tightened, with all entry and exit points being closely monitored. More details are awaited pending further investigation by the concerned agencies.



## Let's Take TDP's Failures to the People: YSRCP

Party vows to expose coalition's one-year failures across the district

**TPN Correspondent | Kadapa**  
The YSR Congress Party launched a scathing attack on the one-year rule of the TDP-led coalition government, accusing it of betraying the public, dismantling welfare schemes, and targeting YSRCP leaders with vendetta politics. At the district general meeting held at Meda Convention Center in Kadapa on Monday, YSRCP leaders called on the party cadre to take the failures of the government directly to the people. Addressing the meeting, YSRCP district president Ravindranath Reddy and Kadapa MP YS Avinash Reddy alleged that the coalition has failed on every front and that corruption, irregularities, and injustice have marked its first year. "The coalition promised 143 initiatives including the Super Six schemes, but has ignored them all. They came to power promising good governance but have only betrayed the public," Avinash Reddy said. He added that the government had failed to allocate funds for the 'Salute to Mother' scheme, resulting in injustice to lakhs of students. He also slammed the coalition for framing illegal cases against YSRCP workers, social media activists, and leaders, accusing them of using police force to suppress opposition. Ravindranath Reddy emphasized, "The Annadana Sukhibhavva scheme promised ₹20,000 to farmers, but they too have been cheated. If it weren't for police interference, the people would be holding the coalition leaders by the collar to question them."

Adding to the charged atmosphere, former



Prodduturu MLA Rachamalla Sivaprasad Reddy made emotionally charged and sensational remarks. "I live only to take revenge on my political enemy—TDP. My blood boils seeing how our party workers are being harassed. Power or no power, I will stand by my cadre with dignity and even sacrifice my life for them," he declared. The event was attended by ZP Chairman Rama Govinda Reddy, MLAs Akepati Amarnath Reddy and Dr. Sudha, MLCs Rama

Subbareddy, Govinda Reddy, and MV Ramachandra Reddy, former Deputy CM Amzath Basha, former MLAs Raghurami Reddy, Kamalapuram YCP in-charge Naren Ramanjulareddy, and several party leaders and activists. The meeting ended with a strong resolve to begin a district-wide campaign to expose what the YSRCP calls "a government of betrayal and chaos," and to prepare the cadre to take the message to every doorstep.

## Free Cancer Screenings in Tirupati Villages

Mammograms, oral & cervical cancer tests via Pink Bus  
Camps held in Kondagunta, Vendodu; next on June 17 & 19  
SVIMS & Health Dept. drive early cancer detection for women



**TPN | C Shekar**  
**Tirupati:** Dr. M. Jyothi, Medical Officer at Chennur PHC, has urged all women above 35 years of age to avail themselves of the free mammogram

services offered through Pink Bus cancer screening camps being organized by the Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS), Tirupati. On Monday, these camps were

held in Kondagunta and Vendodu villages under Chennur PHC. The cancer awareness and mobile screening initiative is being conducted as per state government directions, in collaboration with the District Medical and Health Department, utilizing two specially equipped Pink Buses. These buses offer BP and sugar tests, oral cancer screening for both men and women, mammograms for breast cancer detection, and Pap smear tests for cervical cancer screening. Dr. Jyothi emphasized the importance of early detection in fighting cancer, especially among women above the age of 35. The medical camps saw active participation from villagers who underwent the free diagnostic tests.

As per the schedule, the upcoming Pink Bus camps will be held at Mekanur and Vinduru on June 17 and Mitta Atmakur on June 19. The initiative is being carried out under the instructions of SVIMS Director and Vice Chancellor Dr. R.V. Kumar, and under the supervision of Dr. K. Nagaraj, Head of the Department of Community Medicine. Medical Officers Dr. Salma, Dr. A. Leelakrishna, Dr. Haritha, Dr. Chaitanyabhanu, and local leaders Ch. Ravikumar Reddy, B. Bhaskar, and other field staff including Supervisor Mastanayya, CHOs Manjula and Vishnuvardhan, ANM D. Ratnakumari, ASHA workers, and secretariat staff actively contributed to the successful conduct of the camps.

## We Promised, We Delivered: Srinivas Reddy

67.27 lakh mother's benefit; slams YSRCP for misinformation



**TPN Correspondent | Kadapa**  
TDP Polit Bureau Member and Kadapa District President Srinivas Reddy asserted that the alliance government has fulfilled its pre-election promise by implementing the 'Thaliki Vandanam' scheme for all eligible students in households across the state. Addressing a press conference on Monday, he stated that the government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu delivered on its word with sincerity and speed. He criticized the previous YSRCP regime, stating that they extended financial aid under this scheme to only one student per family, which often led to internal disputes. In contrast, the new alliance government has ensured that the benefit reaches every student pursuing education within a family. The scheme was rolled out on June 12, just as schools reopened for the academic year. Srinivas Reddy highlighted the significant scale and intent behind the scheme. "Using advanced technology, ₹8,750 crore was credited to the accounts of 67.27 lakh mothers in a single day," he said. He lauded Minister Nara Lokesh for executing the financial transfer efficiently and questioned the YSRCP's criticisms over an alleged transfer of ₹2,000 to Lokesh's account. "Let them first reveal whose accounts their funds were credited into when they were in power," he countered. "We saluted the mother of every child studying in the household—not just one," Srinivas Reddy said, emphasizing the inclusivity of the scheme. The TDP leader stated that students entering Intermediate will also be covered under the scheme shortly. He pointed out that while only 42 lakh students benefited under the previous government, the current coalition government has expanded the scope to 67 lakh beneficiaries. He further added that the Super Six welfare schemes announced by the government were underway, starting with the ₹4,000 pension, three free gas cylinders per year, the Rythu Bharosa scheme for women from August 15, and free RTC bus travel. Despite financial constraints, he said, the government is not compromising on welfare. Srinivas Reddy announced that the TDP will launch a massive awareness campaign across Kadapa district from June 23 to showcase the implementation of these schemes and reaffirm public trust. He expressed confidence that the people's support will only grow and that the opposition will be decisively rejected.

## Kuppadam Sarees Get National Status | Collector Felicitated

Bapatla Collector J. Venkata Murali honored by weavers

**TPN Correspondent | Bapatla**  
Bapatla District Collector J. Venkata Murali said that the national recognition for Kuppadam silk sarees marks a new chapter of hope and prosperity for handloom weavers. On Monday, leaders of handloom cooperative societies met the Collector and felicitated him for his role in securing this prestigious recognition from the central government. The handloom leaders expressed their gratitude to the Collector for diligently presenting the case for recognition, fulfilling the long-pending dream of thousands of weavers. As a token of respect, they honored him with shawls and shared that years of hard work have finally paid off. Speaking on the occasion, Collector Venkata Murali said that this recognition will lead to increased demand for Kuppadam sarees, benefitting the entire handloom sector. "The dreams of weavers waiting for decades are now becoming a reality," he said, adding that the sarees' growing popularity will bring new economic opportunities for the artisans and help resolve many of their long-standing issues. He also encouraged the weavers to leverage government schemes and expand economically, utilizing the recognition to further strengthen the handloom sector in the district. "Kuppadam silk sarees have become popular today due to the dedication of every weaver. This is your achievement," the Collector remarked. District Revenue Officer G. Gangadhar Goud, Assistant Director of Handlooms and Textiles K. Nagamalleshwara Rao, and leaders of various handloom cooperative societies including Divi Ramababu, G.V. Nageswara Rao, K.V. Nancharayya, Srinivasa Rao, and P. Venkata Subbarao were present at the event.





# From 129 Million to 75 Million: Understanding India’s Poverty Recount



India continues to hold the unenviable distinction of having the largest number of poor people in the world, even as it competes with nations like Japan and Germany to become the third-largest economy globally. The World Bank’s latest poverty update has significantly revised India’s poverty numbers, sparking widespread discussion on the accuracy and implications of these figures.

In its 2024 report, the World Bank estimated that India had 129 million people living in extreme poverty, defined as surviving on less than \$2.15 per day (2017 PPP). However, the recent 2025 update drastically lowered this figure to 75.2 million, based on a higher poverty line of \$3 per day (2021 PPP). This sudden drop of nearly 54 million poor

people within a year raises questions about the methodology and assumptions behind these statistics.

The key reason for this revision is the World Bank’s acceptance of India’s new consumption survey conducted in 2022–2023, which replaced the previous 2016–2017 survey deemed unreliable. India’s updated methodology, known as the Modified Mixed Recall Period (MMRP), significantly reduces reported poverty levels compared to the older Uniform Recall Period (URP) method.

While the government has touted this drop as a major success, the World Bank cautions that the traditional extreme poverty benchmarks of \$2.15 and \$3 per day are not fully applicable to

middle-income countries like India. Instead, a more realistic poverty threshold for such nations is \$6.85 per day (2017 PPP), which accounts for modern essentials like electricity, healthcare, and digital access.

At this higher poverty line, India’s poor population remains staggering—over 1.17 billion people or 82% of its population in 2022. This means India still has the highest absolute number of poor people globally, surpassing even Sub-Saharan Africa. In summary, while India’s extreme poverty figures have been revised downward, broader poverty challenges remain immense, underscoring the complexity of measuring poverty in a rapidly developing nation.

## A Decade Later, Telangana’s Battle for Krishna River Water Continues



More than ten years after Telangana split from Andhra Pradesh, the state’s struggle to secure its rightful share of Krishna river water remains unresolved, exposing deep political and administrative challenges.

The Krishna river, flowing through Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka, is central to this dispute. Telangana and Andhra Pradesh share two major dams on the river: the Srisailem and Nagarjunasagar projects. The Srisailem dam regulates about 811 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of water, with Telangana allocated 299 TMC and Andhra Pradesh receiving the remainder. At Nagarjunasagar, which holds 285 TMC, Telangana’s share is 90 TMC.

Despite clear allocations, Andhra Pradesh has frequently been accused of exceeding its water share, hurting Telangana’s agricultural and developmental prospects. In November

2023, tensions escalated when Andhra Pradesh authorities released over 2,000 cusecs of water from the Nagarjunasagar dam—beyond its entitlement—while Telangana was focused on elections. The incident sparked a police standoff, highlighting the fragile nature of water sharing between the two states.

The Centre established the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) to oversee the equitable distribution of water between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The KRMB, comprising officials from both states and the central government, was expected to settle disputes and ensure compliance with the agreed 66:34 water-sharing ratio. Yet, a decade on, its effectiveness remains limited as disputes persist.

Water issues are deeply intertwined with politics. At Telangana’s formation, the rivalry between Telangana’s first Chief Minister K Chandrashekar

Rao (KCR) and Andhra Pradesh’s then-leader N Chandrababu Naidu added fuel to the dispute. Naidu’s party had to share Hyderabad, the joint capital, with Telangana for ten years after bifurcation, complicating relations.

Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh continues to advance its own projects, such as the Polavaram irrigation project on the Godavari river, aimed at irrigating millions of acres and supplying drinking water to Visakhapatnam.

With the Congress now in power in Telangana—a party historically opposed to Andhra Pradesh’s TDP—the political divide remains a significant barrier to resolving the water dispute. For a fair and lasting solution, the KRMB must be empowered and allowed to function effectively, ensuring both states receive their rightful share and protecting the interests of millions dependent on the Krishna river.



## Is America Still Worth It? Indian Students Begin Looking Elsewhere

For decades, American universities have been the gold standard for Indian students seeking world-class education and global career opportunities. Names like Sundar Pichai, Raghuram Rajan, Indra Nooyi, and Amartya Sen owe a part of their global success to the academic grounding they received in the US. Indian students have not only studied at top American institutions, but also contributed to them through philanthropy and research.

However, that long-standing appeal is now under pressure. The Trump administration’s crackdown on academic institutions—citing antisemitism, “anti-white racism,” and political activism—has created a hostile environment for both universities and international students. Elite campuses like Harvard and Columbia are facing political heat, while US embassies have halted student visa interviews, citing enhanced social media scrutiny. Indian applicants must now disclose years of online activity, leaving many uncertain about what could jeopardize their future.

For Indian families, where sending a child to the US is often a long-term investment, this is more than a policy change — it’s a dream deferred. The US had over 3.3 lakh Indian students in 2023, making them the largest international student group. They contribute significantly to STEM fields and university funding. But the political message is clear: global talent is no longer welcome without conditions.

This has already sparked a shift. A 28% drop in Indian student enrolments is forecast for 2025, with more turning to the UK, Canada, and Australia. These countries may not offer the same prestige, but they aren’t undermining their universities or politicizing student mobility. India, in turn, finds an opportunity in this disruption. With institutions like IITs, IIMs, and emerging private universities like Ashoka, India can become an academic hub—if it invests in research, academic freedom, and global partnerships.

The world may see fewer Indian success stories shaped in America in the coming years. But if India seizes this moment, it could become the new destination for intellectual ambition — not just for Indians, but for global talent disillusioned with America’s shifting values.

## Is Airbus Safer Than Boeing? The Truth Behind the Debate



Last week’s crash of a Boeing 787 Dreamliner in Ahmedabad shook the aviation world and reignited fears about Boeing’s safety. For Air India, it was a devastating blow to their brand revival. For Boeing, it reopened painful wounds from the 737 MAX disasters, which severely damaged its reputation due to flawed software and safety shortcuts. But does this mean Airbus is safer?

Globally, Boeing and Airbus dominate the aircraft manufacturing industry, shaping air travel for decades. Between 2013 and 2022, Boeing had 60 accidents and Airbus 50, but Boeing operates more planes. When adjusted for flight numbers, their fatality rates are almost identical. Aviation expert Richard Aboulafia sums it up: statistically, flying on either is equally safe. The plane itself is rarely the problem.

Boeing’s recent troubles are not just technical—they’re moral. The 737 MAX crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia, caused by faulty software, revealed a corporate culture prioritizing profits over safety. Airbus hasn’t been perfect either, with incidents like the 2009 Air France A330 crash and a \$4 billion corruption settlement. As one insider put it, “Airbus sins in boardrooms; Boeing sins in cockpits.”

Beyond safety, Boeing and Airbus are geopolitical rivals tied to the US and Europe respectively, fueling trade disputes and lobbying battles. Despite Boeing’s rough decade, including the 737 MAX crisis and other incidents, its 2023 record was strong, with just 11 non-fatal accidents in over 31 million flights.

Flying remains incredibly safe: in 2023, there was one major accident for every 5.3 million flights. Most accidents stem from pilot error, not plane design. Modern aircraft, including Boeing’s Dreamliner and Airbus’s A320, are marvels built with multiple redundancies.

So while emotions flare after crashes, data shows commercial aviation is safer than ever. The choice between Boeing or Airbus is often less about safety and more about perception. In reality, flying any modern aircraft means trusting an industry that’s a technological wonder, despite its flaws.





## PM Modi Conferred Cyprus’ Highest Civilian Honour: A Proud Moment for India

**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded Cyprus' highest civilian honour, the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III, in recognition of his global leadership and diplomatic contributions. This marks the 23rd international honour conferred upon PM Modi, making it a significant milestone in his tenure and a moment of immense pride for India.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has hailed this achievement as a symbol of India's growing stature on the global stage. Union Minister Bhupender Yadav highlighted the award as a testament to

Modi's decisive global influence, saying no previous Indian prime minister has commanded such international respect. He emphasized that this recognition reflects India's emergence as a powerful and respected voice in global affairs.

Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Dharmendra Pradhan, and Kiren Rijiju echoed similar sentiments. Gadkari noted the award symbolizes the strong and enduring ties between India and Cyprus, based on mutual respect and shared values. Pradhan called it a moment of "great pride and joy for India and her people," while Rijiju described Modi as a leader who commands

worldwide admiration.

BJP leaders underscored that the honour reflects the transformation of India's foreign policy under PM Modi—bold, confident, and centered on national interest. "India's diplomacy today is firm, fearless, and focused," the party stated, attributing this shift to Modi's visionary leadership and the trust of 140 crore Indians.

The recognition from Cyprus, the party added, is not just about one leader but represents the rise of a "resurgent Bharat," driven by strategic foresight, economic strength, and global diplomacy.

## MK Stalin Renews Demand for Tamil as Official Language in Supreme Court and Madras HC

**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has reiterated the demand for Tamil to be recognized as an official language for conducting arguments in the Supreme Court and the Madras High Court. Speaking at a wedding in Thanjavur, Stalin emphasized the cultural and historical significance of Tamil and called for greater support from the judiciary to promote its use in court proceedings.

Recalling the legacy of the Dravidian movement and DMK founder CN Annadurai, Stalin highlighted the 1967 reforms that recognized self-respect marriages—secular unions without religious rituals—as a major milestone for social justice. He also praised the contributions of former Chief Minister Karunanidhi, who secured classical language ("Semmozhi") status for Tamil.

"We are proud to be Tamizhars," Stalin said. "It is time the judiciary recognizes Tamil as a court language. Kalaignar even passed a resolution for this

demand during his tenure." He appealed to the judges present at the event to support the ongoing efforts to include Tamil in judicial proceedings.

Stalin cited recent instances of progress, such as Tamil speeches delivered by Supreme Court Justices R Mahadevan and MM Sundresh, as evidence of growing acceptance of the language in legal spaces. However, he noted that while thousands of court judgments have been translated into Tamil, the language is still not allowed for arguments in court.

According to data shared by Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal in the Rajya Sabha, over 2,500 Supreme Court and nearly 900 Madras High Court judgments had been translated into Tamil as of September 2024. In a broader cultural appeal, Stalin also encouraged young couples to have more children, expressing concern that Tamil Nadu might lose parliamentary representation due to declining population growth.



## 460 Sprinkler Machines With Smog Guns To Hit Delhi Streets Soon: Rekha Gupta



**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
In a major initiative to curb air pollution, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced the deployment of 460 water sprinkler machines integrated with anti-smog guns across the city. This move is part of a comprehensive dust control and cleanliness plan approved by the Cabinet, aimed at improving air quality and reducing pollution-related health risks in the capital.

CM Gupta stated that over 1,000 water sprinklers will operate year-round—excluding the monsoon season—to consistently suppress dust and maintain cleaner streets. Each of Delhi's Assembly constituencies will soon receive advanced air pollution control equipment.

The announcement followed a demonstration at the Delhi Secretariat, showcasing high-tech machines including electric and CNG mechanical road sweeping machines, litter pickers, and water jetting units. The Chief Minister was joined by Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa and senior officials from the Environment Department.

CM Gupta emphasized that air pollution, particularly from road dust, remains a severe threat to public health. "To tackle this, the Delhi government has made special budgetary provisions for advanced street-cleaning machinery," she said.

The plan also includes the deployment of 70 mechanical road sweeping machines, 70 litter picker machines, along with water tankers and dust dump vehicles. All these machines will be outfitted with modern technologies such as GPS tracking, CCTV cameras, AQI (Air Quality Index) monitors, video analytics, mobile app integration, and IoT sensors for real-time monitoring and optimal performance.

A central control room will oversee and coordinate the operations of these machines to ensure they are deployed efficiently and effectively.

"This initiative is a step toward a cleaner, healthier Delhi," said Gupta, underlining the government's commitment to long-term environmental management and sustainable urban living.

## India Begins Relocating Citizens in Iran, Considers Exit Routes from Israel Amid Escalating Conflict

**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
As tensions escalate between Iran and Israel, the Indian government has begun relocating its citizens in both countries to safer areas, though full-scale evacuations have not yet been initiated. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is closely monitoring the situation, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in regular contact with regional counterparts.

In Iran, the Indian embassy in Tehran has coordinated with local authorities to shift citizens—especially students—from high-risk areas. Buses have begun transporting students from universities such as Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Islamic Azad University, and Iran University of Medical Sciences to safer cities. A similar effort is being prepared for students at Shahid Beheshti University and Urmia University, near Iran's border. Over 7,500 Indian students are currently studying in Iran, and the embassy has urged them to leave Tehran using the arranged transport.

Meanwhile, in Israel, where airspace has

been completely shut down due to daily aerial attacks, Indian citizens are being advised to move toward land border crossings with Jordan and Egypt. Embassy officials in Tel Aviv have conducted Zoom calls, issued advisories, and are guiding citizens—many of whom are recent migrant workers—on exit options. The Indian population in Israel has grown to around 25,000 following a surge in skilled labour recruitment.

India has also coordinated with Armenian authorities to facilitate border crossings from Iran, particularly at Agarak. While routes to Türkiye and Azerbaijan remain technically open, they are less favored due to strained relations following Operation Sindoor.

The Indian embassies in Tehran and Tel Aviv have launched registration drives via Google forms and are maintaining communication with citizens through hotlines and social media. The government continues to assess evacuation needs, emphasizing caution and limited movement.





# "He's Enemy Number One": Israeli PM Says Iran Wants To Kill Donald Trump

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has alleged that Iran's Islamic regime actively sought to assassinate former U.S. President Donald Trump, labeling him "enemy number one" due to his aggressive stance against Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

Speaking to Fox News, Netanyahu said, "They want to kill him. He's enemy number one. He's a decisive leader who refused to appease Iran." Netanyahu praised Trump's decision to withdraw from the 2015 nuclear agreement and his role in eliminating top Iranian general Qasem Soleimani. "He made it clear — no nuclear weapons for Iran, no uranium enrichment. That kind of clarity is why they fear him," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu also claimed he himself has been targeted, citing a missile strike that narrowly



missed his home and entered through a bedroom window. Referring to Trump as his "junior partner" in confronting Iran's nuclear capabilities, he underscored the personal risks leaders face when standing up to Tehran.

The Israeli Prime Minister described the threat from Iran as

"dual and existential," pointing to Tehran's nuclear enrichment program and rapid buildup of ballistic missile capabilities. "We were facing an imminent threat — atomic bombs with a declared goal of destroying Israel, and 10,000 ballistic missiles in just three years. No country can survive that, especially not one the size of Isra-

el," he said. In response, Israel launched Operation Rising Lion, which Netanyahu described as "one of the greatest military operations in history." The offensive, he claimed, has significantly set back Iran's nuclear and missile development programs. Iran has retaliated with a wave of ballistic missile strikes targeting Israeli cities, though many were intercepted by air defenses.

Netanyahu reiterated that Israel's actions are not only for its own survival but also in defense of global security. "We're protecting the world," he said, criticizing ongoing diplomatic efforts with Iran as fruitless.

Addressing the Iranian people directly, Netanyahu called out the regime for "50 years of oppression" and maintained that Israel will take all necessary steps to neutralize the nuclear and missile threat posed by Tehran.



## Iran's Supreme Leader Hiding in Bunker as Israeli Airstrikes Kill Top IRGC Officials

TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a dramatic escalation of the regional conflict, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his family have reportedly taken shelter in an underground bunker in northeastern Tehran amid intense Israeli airstrikes, according to The Times of Israel. The strikes follow heightened tensions and retaliatory attacks between the two countries.

Iranian state media confirmed that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) intelligence chief, Brigadier General Mohammad Kazemi, his deputy Hassan Mohaqiq, and a third intelligence officer, Mohsen Bagheri, were killed in the Israeli strike in Tehran.

The strikes mark a significant military operation by Israel, with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) claiming it launched an "extensive" wave of airstrikes targeting Iran's weapons manufacturing infrastructure. The IDF said the offensive focused on facilities linked to the IRGC, its Quds Force, and other armed forces installations. "Numerous weapons production sites across Iran were targeted," the military said in a statement.

Khamenei reportedly relocated to the Lavizan bunker shortly after the strikes began. He had also used the same shelter during Iranian offensives against Israel in April and October 2024. According to Israeli sources cited by The Times of Israel, Israel intentionally refrained from targeting Khamenei directly during the initial phase of its operation, in an apparent bid to give him a final chance to abandon Iran's uranium enrichment efforts.

Meanwhile, the conflict continues to have repercussions inside Israel. Magen David Adom, Israel's emergency medical service, reported eight injuries following the latest Iranian missile attack. In Haifa, one person was moderately injured and six others sustained light injuries. Another individual was lightly wounded in Kiryat Gat. Additionally, several people were treated for acute anxiety after missile impacts.

The IDF also revealed that Iran launched over 100 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) toward Israel, all of which were successfully intercepted. Amid these developments, Iranian media, quoting IRGC-linked Tasnim News Agency, reported that Iranian forces discovered a secret three-story Israeli drone manufacturing facility operating inside Iran, though the claim remains unverified.

Tensions remain at a boiling point as the region braces for further conflict.



## Germany, France, and UK Offer Immediate Nuclear Talks to Iran Amid Middle East Tensions

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Germany, France, and the United Kingdom have offered to hold immediate negotiations with Iran regarding its nuclear program in a bid to ease escalating tensions in the Middle East. German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepful, currently visiting the region, emphasized the urgency of de-escalating the conflict between Israel and Iran through diplomatic engagement.

Speaking to German broadcaster ARD on Saturday, Wadepful expressed hope that Iran would accept the offer for talks, despite Tehran's previous reluctance to engage constructively. He stressed that resolving concerns over Iran's nuclear ambitions is crucial for achieving lasting peace and ensuring the safety of Israel, the wider region, and Europe.

"The conflict will only end when pressure and influence are applied to both Iran and Israel from all sides," Wadepful said during his visit to Oman on Sunday. He added that there is a shared expectation that serious efforts must be made in the coming week to interrupt the ongoing spiral of violence.

When asked if he believed Iran's government might fall amid the crisis, Wadepful stated that he did not think Israel intended to bring down Tehran's administration.

Turning to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Wadepful described the situation as "unacceptable" and called on Israel to allow unrestricted access for aid organizations. He highlighted the severe hunger and suffering of civilians in the enclave and urged an end to their plight.

Wadepful also blamed Hamas for sparking the conflict and insisted that the Islamist group must release hostages it has held since militants launched attacks on Israel in October 2023. The offer by Germany, France, and the UK for renewed nuclear talks signals a push by European powers to bring diplomacy back to the forefront amid a volatile and dangerous regional conflict.

## Iran Accuses Israel of Sabotaging Nuclear Talks Amid Rising Conflict

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi accused Israel of deliberately trying to derail ongoing nuclear negotiations with the United States as tensions between the two nations escalated sharply. The comments came after Israel launched deadly strikes on Iranian nuclear and military sites, killing several and sparking retaliatory missile attacks by Iran on Israeli territory.



Araghchi stated that Iran's missile barrages on Israel would cease only if Israel ended its military campaign against Iran. He emphasized that Iran's actions were purely in self-defense and that Tehran did not seek to expand the conflict to neighboring countries unless forced. However, he warned that Israeli strikes on the South Pars gas field—shared by Iran and Qatar—were a dangerous provocation aimed at widening the war beyond Iranian borders.

The foreign minister condemned Israel for crossing

a "new red line" by attacking Iran's nuclear facilities, which he said was a blatant violation of international law. He further accused Israel of sabotaging the sixth round of Iran-US nuclear talks, which had been scheduled for Sunday but were postponed due to the recent escalations. Araghchi insisted that Israel does not want a diplomatic resolution or an agreement on the nuclear issue.

Araghchi also accused the United States of backing Israel's military campaign, claiming Iran has solid evidence that American forces and bases supported Israel's attacks. He

expressed skepticism over U.S. denials and called on Washington to condemn the Israeli strikes on Iran's nuclear sites to demonstrate true goodwill.

Finally, the Iranian minister criticized the United Nations Security Council for its perceived indifference toward Israel's attacks. He said Western nations have unfairly condemned Iran instead of Israel, despite Iran being the party whose sovereignty was violated.

The escalating conflict continues to cast a shadow over delicate nuclear negotiations and regional stability.

## PM Modi Makes Historic First Visit To Cyprus, Gets Warm Welcome

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a rousing and emotional welcome from the Indian diaspora upon arriving in Cyprus on Sunday, marking the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the Mediterranean island nation. The visit is part of PM Modi's ongoing three-nation diplomatic tour, which also includes Canada and Croatia.

The Prime Minister was greeted with bouquets, chants, and applause by members of the Indian community as he arrived at his hotel in Limassol. Modi warmly interacted with the diaspora, expressing gratitude for their continued support and contributions to strengthening India-Cyprus relations.

PM Modi landed at Larnaca International Airport, where he was received with full ceremonial honors by Cyprus President Nicos Christodoulides and Finance Minister Constantinos Kombos. Calling it a "special gesture," the Prime Minister



took to X (formerly Twitter) to thank the Cypriot leadership and highlight the significance of the visit.

"Landed in Cyprus. My gratitude to President Nikos Christodoulides for the special gesture of welcoming me at the airport. This visit will add significant momentum to India-Cyprus relations, especially in

areas like trade, investment, and more," PM Modi posted.

During his visit, PM Modi is scheduled to hold high-level bilateral talks with President Christodoulides. Key areas on the agenda include boosting cooperation in trade, investment, IT and innovation, renewable energy, defence, shipping, and cultural exchanges. The two leaders

are also expected to discuss maritime security and regional developments, particularly in West Asia.

The visit comes as India and Cyprus mark over six decades of diplomatic relations, established in 1962. Cyprus has been a strong supporter of India's stance on international issues, including Kashmir, and has backed New Delhi at various global forums like the United Nations.

Despite being a small community, the Indian diaspora in Cyprus plays a significant role in education, healthcare, and business. PM Modi is expected to address this community during a special event.

Cyprus, a member of the European Union, is set to assume the EU's rotating presidency in early 2026. PM Modi's visit is seen as part of India's continued diplomatic outreach to Europe.

From Cyprus, Modi will proceed to Canada for the G7 Summit and later travel to Croatia.



# Markets Rebound Sharply as Inflation Cools; Sensex Soars 677 Points, Nifty Reclaims 25,000

Domestic stock markets rallied on Monday. They recovered the losses of the last two sessions. Today, benchmark indices gained heavily. Despite the ongoing tensions in West Asia and the war between Iran and Israel, the indices started with a huge gap-up. They gradually recovered. Wholesale price inflation fell to a 14-month low and the country's economy remained strong. Dollar inflow also contributed to this. Nifty again reached the 21-day EMA and 25000 level. IT and CPSE shares rose. Overall, Nifty gained 227 points and Sensex gained 677 points.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 81,118 in the previous session, opened at 81,034 on Monday. It touched an intraday low of 81,012. It reached an intraday high of 81,865. It finally closed at 81,796 with a gain of 677 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,732, reached a low of 24,703 and a high of 24,967. It rose by 227 points in total and closed at 24,946. The Nifty Bank rose by 417 points and settled at 55,944.

In the Nifty50, 46 companies gained while 4 lost. BEL, HDFC Life, UltraTech SEM, Tech Mahindra were the top gainers. Tata Motors, Dr. Reddy's, Sun Pharma, Adani Ports, Jio Finance were the biggest losers. All sectoral indices were mixed today. IT, CPSE, Realty, Oil, Commodities, Infra, Metal, PSE, Private Bank, Finance, FMCG indices rose more.

Market breadth turned in favor of



buyers on NSE today. Out of 3021 stocks traded, 1483 gained and 1448 lost. 66 shares touched their 52-week high and 27 shares touched their 52-week low. 85 shares reached the upper circuit and 80 shares reached the lower circuit.

Oswal Pumps IPO received a response of 1.32 times on the second day in the afternoon. The rupee strengthened further against the dollar and settled at 86.06. Kotak Institutional has given a sell rating to NMDC with a target price of Rs.55. Jefferies maintains buy rating on Max Finance with a target price of Rs 1830. InterGlobe Aviation has been given a buy rating at Rs 6300. 44 lakh shares changed hands in two block deals in ONGC. HDFC Bank shares can rally by 23% from the current price, Jefferies said. Biocon plans to raise Rs 4500 crore through QIP. Omaxe shares rose 13% after acquiring 260 acres to develop a new township in Amritsar. Capri Global Capital raised Rs 2000 crore by issuing shares to QIBs. Wholesale price inflation in May fell to a 14-month low of 0.39%.

## Cipla

Q4 FY25 Performance: Cipla reported a strong Q4 FY25, with net profit rising 30% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹1,222 crore. Revenue from operations increased by 8.45% YoY to ₹6,597.72 crore. Cipla has generally outperformed sector averages in profitability, supported by efficient cost controls and segment expansion. However, some brokerages like InCred Equities have recently turned selective, exiting Cipla from their high-conviction list due to “near-term margin pressure stemming from its product mix.” Despite this, analysts largely maintain a “Buy” rating on the stock with target prices ranging from ₹1700 to ₹1830.



## Voltas

Voltas saw its total income for Q4 FY25 rise by 14% to ₹4,847 crore compared to the previous



year. The company's EBITDA surged by 74.6% to ₹332.8 crore, and the operating margin improved to 7% from 4.5% a year ago, though slightly below expectations. Voltas closed flat on a weekly basis (as of June 13, 2025). Technically, the stock faces immediate support at ₹1,250.13 and immediate resistance at ₹1,316.13. A close below the support could lead to a sharp breakdown, while a close above resistance could indicate a sharp breakout. The trading range for the week of June 16-20, 2025, is projected between ₹1,184.13 and ₹1,382.13.

## HCLTech

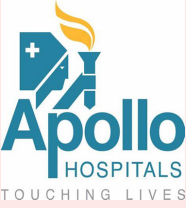
HCLTech reported an 8% year-on-year (YoY) increase in consolidated net profit to ₹4,307 crore for Q4 FY25. HCLTech also reported strong new bookings of \$3 billion in the quarter, driven by AI propositions. HCLTech's CEO & MD expressed confidence in the company's growth outlook despite global headwinds, anticipating strong opportunities. Recent news indicates a partnership with UiPath to drive AI automation and an expanded partnership with Volvo Cars for engineering services. Technical charts suggest that IT stocks, including HCLTech, might face further losses in the near term.



## Apollo Hospitals

Q4 FY25 Performance: Apollo Hospitals delivered strong performance is attributed to leadership in healthcare services, growth in digital platforms, focused execution, and cost optimization. The healthcare sector in India is experiencing rising demand, ben-

efiting large hospital chains like Apollo from operating leverage, digital health integration, and increasing patient volumes. Apollo Hospitals plans to continue building on its integrated care ecosystem (hospitals, diagnostics, pharmacies, and digital engagement through Apollo 24/7) to drive future profitability. Ongoing investments in specialty care, regional expansion, and technology adoption are key pillars of its FY26 strategy. Brokerages like Citi and Goldman Sachs have maintained “Buy” ratings with price targets of ₹8,260 and ₹7,850, respectively.



## KPIT Technologies

KPIT Technologies reported strong Q4 FY25 results, with net profit growing by 41.2% YoY and meeting its increased EBITDA outlook of 21%. Revenues stood at \$177 million with constant currency growth of 15% YoY. KPIT Technologies is confident in its future growth trajectory, driven by its strong focus on the mobility sector, consistent leadership among passenger car OEMs, deepening relationships with commercial vehicle players, and expansion in China and India. The company has made investments in leadership training, mobility-specific AI solutions, automation, platforms, tools & accelerators, and new markets. Strong deal wins and potential acquisitions of specialized companies are expected to contribute to medium-term growth.



## India's Exports Rise 2.8% in May; Trade Deficit Narrows to \$6.6 Billion

India's export performance showed positive momentum in May 2025, with combined merchandise and services exports reaching \$71.12 billion, a 2.77% year-on-year increase, according to data from the Union Commerce Ministry released on June 16. In May 2024, the total exports stood at \$69.20 billion.



While merchandise exports dipped slightly from \$39.59 billion in May 2024 to \$38.73 billion in May 2025, services exports surged from \$29.61 billion to \$32.39 billion during the same period — an encouraging sign of India's growing strength in its services sector.

On the import side, India brought in goods and services worth \$77.75 billion, marginally lower than \$78.55 billion in May last year. This helped narrow the trade deficit for the month to \$6.62 billion, down from \$9.35 billion a year earlier — signaling a healthier trade balance.

For the fiscal year so far (April–May 2025), total exports stood at \$142.43 billion, marking a 5.75% increase year-on-year. Imports during the same period also grew, rising 6.52% from \$149.81 billion to \$157.57 billion. This brought the two-month trade deficit to \$17.14 billion, compared to \$15.12 billion during the same period in 2024.

India's exports for the full fiscal year 2024–25 had already hit an all-time high of \$824.9 billion, surpassing the government's target of \$800 billion. This reflected a 6.01% growth from \$778.1 billion in 2023–24. Of this, services exports contributed \$387.5 billion, a 13.6% jump, while merchandise exports rose marginally to \$437.42 billion.

Despite the record export numbers, India's total trade deficit widened to \$94.26 billion in 2024–25, up from \$78.1 billion the previous year.

Government initiatives, particularly the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, appear to be supporting export growth across sectors like electronics, helping boost global competitiveness and attract foreign investment.

Interestingly, market sentiment is optimistic — prediction market platform Probo currently places a 45% probability on India reaching \$950 billion in exports in FY 2025–26, signaling strong expectations from the trade and investment community.

## SBI Slashes Lending and Deposit Rates After RBI's 50-Basis Point Rate Cut

Following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) surprise 50-basis point policy rate cut on June 6, the State Bank of India (SBI) — the country's largest lender — has reduced its lending and deposit rates, bringing welcome relief to borrowers.

With effect from June 15, 2025, SBI's Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) has been slashed by 50 basis points to 7.75%, while its External Benchmark Based Lending Rate (EBLR) has also been reduced by the same margin — from 8.65% to 8.15%. This move will result in cheaper loans for both new and existing customers across segments like housing, auto, and personal finance.

The reduction comes as a direct response to the RBI's recent monetary policy decision, where the benchmark repo rate was lowered from 6% to 5.5%. The decision, supported by five out of six members of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), aims to revive eco-



nomie growth, which has fallen to a four-year low of 6.5% in FY25.

Additionally, the RBI cut the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 100 basis points to 3%, injecting an estimated ₹2.5 lakh crore into the banking system, increasing liquidity ahead of the year-end.

In tandem with lending rate cuts, SBI also revised its fixed deposit (FD) rates

downward by 25 basis points across various maturities for deposits up to ₹3 crore. For example:

1–2 year FDs now earn 6.50% (down from 6.75%),  
2–3 year FDs fetch 6.45% (down from 6.70%),  
3–5 year FDs offer 6.30%,  
5–10 year FDs drop to 6.05%.

SBI's special 'Amrit Vrishti' 444-day scheme has also seen its rate reduced from 6.85% to 6.60%.

Senior citizens continue to receive an additional 50 basis points, while super senior citizens (above 80 years) enjoy a 60 basis point premium over standard rates.

More banks are expected to follow SBI's lead in revising their rates, as the impact of the RBI's monetary easing ripples through the financial system.

## Vehicle Sales Mixed in May: Passenger Vehicle Wholesales Dip Slightly, Two-Wheelers Up

India's automobile sector witnessed mixed performance in May 2025, with passenger vehicle wholesales registering a slight dip, while two-wheeler dispatches saw modest growth, according to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). Domestic passenger vehicle (PV) wholesales — which include cars, utility vehicles, and vans — stood at 3,44,656 units, marginally down by 0.8% compared to 3,47,492 units in May 2024. The dip, though not sharp, reflects sluggish consumer sentiment, supply-side constraints, and a possible delay in purchase decisions amid expectations of upcoming new model launches and discounts.

In contrast, two-wheeler sales in the domestic market showed signs of recovery. Dispatches from manufacturers to dealerships rose 2.2%, reaching 16,55,927 units in May 2025, compared to



16,20,084 units in the same month last year. The increase is attributed to strong rural demand, easing input costs, and higher mobility needs driven by schools and offices reopening at full scale. However, three-wheeler sales — a critical segment for last-mile transport — declined 3.3%, dropping to 53,942 units from 55,763 units a year earlier. Indus-

try analysts point to elevated fuel prices, tighter financing conditions, and increased competition from electric three-wheelers as contributing factors behind the slowdown. Despite the mixed trend across vehicle categories, overall vehicle wholesales across all segments rose by 1.8%, reaching 20,12,969 units in May 2025, compared to 19,76,674 units in May 2024. This slight uptick suggests a gradual recovery in the broader automotive sector, though growth remains uneven. SIAM officials noted that while the domestic auto industry continues to navigate challenges such as fluctuating raw material prices, inflationary pressures, and global supply chain disruptions, the medium-term outlook remains cautiously optimistic — especially with expectations of policy support, better monsoon prospects, and festive season demand in the coming quarters.





## Father’s Day Cake Listed for Rs 5 Lakh Sparks Internet Frenzy: Glitch or Gourmet?

A Father’s Day surprise turned into an online sensation when a food delivery platform seemingly priced a 500-gram Hazelnut Chocolate Cake at an eye-watering Rs 5 lakh. The now-viral screenshot, which made rounds on social media platforms like X (formerly Twitter) and Reddit, left users stunned and amused. While most cakes on the same page were priced normally—such as a Butterscotch Cake at Rs 400 and a Red Velvet Cake at Rs 599—the Hazelnut Chocolate Cake stood out for its absurd cost. Many netizens believe the pricing was either a typo or a technical glitch, but that didn’t stop a flurry of hilarious online reactions. One user joked, “Do not complain. At least they gave you 40% off!” Another quipped, “For Rs 5 lakh, I could buy an entire bakery in my village!” Social

media was flooded with comparisons—ranging from buying iPhones to starting a business—instead of splurging on one small dessert. Some users rationalized it as a clear system error, while others couldn’t help but poke fun at the situation, even pointing out that the delivery charge listed alongside was Rs 8000+. The listing has since become a humorous case study in e-commerce mishaps, reminding users and developers alike how a simple error can take the internet by storm. Whether it was a test item, a backend mistake, or someone having a bit of fun, the Rs 5 lakh cake has certainly earned its moment of viral fame—just not for its flavor. As Father’s Day approaches, this odd pricing saga proves once again that the internet never misses a crumb of absurdity.

## Meta Sues Developer Behind AI ‘Nudify’ Apps Amid Surge in Misuse



Meta has taken legal action against Joy Timeline HK Limited, a Hong Kong-based company behind AI-powered “nudify” apps, in a bid to halt the spread of unethical content generated using artificial intelligence. These apps are designed to create fake, sexually explicit images of individuals—often without their knowledge or consent—by digitally removing clothing from photos.

The lawsuit, filed by Meta, is part of the company’s broader campaign to combat the abuse of generative AI, particularly tools that violate privacy and promote harmful or exploitative behavior. Meta stated that Joy Timeline’s CrushAI app and others like it were using its platforms—Facebook and Instagram—to advertise such services, which directly violate Meta’s community standards and advertising policies.

In its complaint, Meta accuses the company of leveraging deceptive practices and targeting users through misleading advertisements, posing significant risks to individuals’ privacy and dignity. The tech giant emphasized

that it is not only removing the offending content and ads but also pursuing legal action to set a precedent for responsible AI usage.

The rise of nudify apps has sparked growing concern worldwide, with AI-generated deepfake content becoming increasingly realistic and accessible. Lawmakers and tech leaders have voiced alarm about the psychological and reputational damage caused by such tools, especially when used to target women and minors.

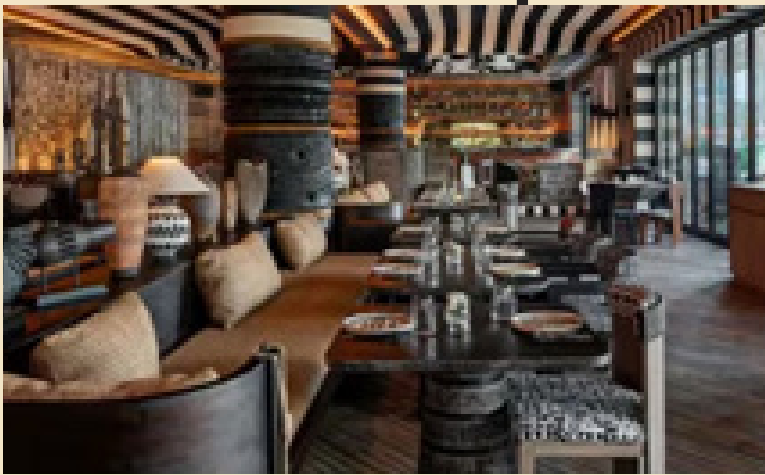
Meta’s move reflects an increasing urgency among major platforms to implement stronger safeguards against AI misuse. The company also called for collaboration across the tech industry to combat the harmful use of generative technologies and to hold developers accountable.

This lawsuit may mark a turning point in how companies approach the legal and ethical responsibilities surrounding AI, as the lines between innovation and exploitation continue to blur.

## Believe It or Not: This French Restaurant Charges ₹1,500 Fine for No-Shows and Surprise Guests

A French restaurant’s strict new policy is stirring debate online after the owner announced fines for customers who don’t show up as expected. L’îlot, a cozy 20-seat restaurant in Amboise, is run by chef and owner Olivier Vincent, who recently introduced a ₹1,500 (15 euros) fine for any guest who arrives with a different number of people than stated in their reservation.

Vincent explained that this policy came about due to repeated frustrations caused by no-shows and unexpected extra guests turning up without prior notice. Such changes disrupt the restaurant’s smooth operation, seating arrangements, and food preparation, which are all carefully planned for each reservation.



In a Facebook post, Olivier Vincent made it clear that any change in party size without warning would result in a fine of €15 per missing or extra person. His caption read simply: “Without warning obviously.....”

Despite this strict stance, L’îlot enjoys an impressive

4.7-star rating on Google, reflecting the high quality of its dining experience and the respect many customers have for the restaurant.

The fine aims to encourage responsibility and better communication from diners, helping the small restaurant avoid last-minute disruptions and losses. It also re-

flects a growing trend among popular eateries worldwide that face similar challenges with no-shows and unpredictable guest numbers.

While some patrons have supported the decision as fair and necessary, others have criticized it as too harsh. Still, Vincent remains firm, emphasizing that the policy ensures the restaurant can continue to provide excellent service to all guests without the stress of unexpected changes.

In a world where dining spots are in high demand, especially intimate ones like L’îlot, clear communication and respect for bookings have become essential — and this French chef is making sure his guests understand that.

## What Is the ‘Pizza Index’ Theory, and Why It’s Trending After Israel’s Strikes on Iran

As global attention turns to the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran, an unusual theory known as the “Pizza Index” is once again making waves on social media. The theory proposes a strange yet intriguing connection: a spike in pizza orders near the Pentagon could indicate an impending military action or global crisis.

The theory gained renewed attention after reports emerged that pizza orders from three restaurants near the U.S. Department of Defense in Washington, D.C., saw a sudden surge just before Israel launched airstrikes on Iran. The information was shared by a popular X (formerly Twitter) account called Pentagon Pizza Report, which has been tracking unusual food delivery patterns around the Pentagon.

The idea behind the Pizza Index is simple: when major decisions or operations are underway, staff and analysts working late at defense-related offices tend to order food—often pizza. Therefore, a noticeable uptick in orders could hint at high-level activity or imminent action.

While this theory might sound far-fetched, it’s not entirely new. Similar trends were



observed before past international military operations, though the data has always been anecdotal and never officially confirmed.

The recent spike in deliveries before Israel’s reported airstrikes has led to a flurry of speculation and memes online. While some treat it as a humorous conspiracy theory, others view it as a quirky but possibly insightful indicator of military

movement.

In a world increasingly driven by open-source intelligence and unconventional data tracking, the Pizza Index adds an unexpected slice of speculation to the way we interpret geopolitical signals. Whether coincidence or pattern, it’s once again caught the internet’s attention in a big way.

## Air India Crash: Netizens Spot Possible RAT Deployment as Investigation Probes What Went Wrong

The tragic crash of Air India Flight AI171, en route from Ahmedabad to London, has left the world in mourning after all 241 passengers on board were confirmed dead. The Boeing 787 Dreamliner went down shortly after takeoff, marking the first fatal accident involving this aircraft model and triggering an urgent investigation into what caused the disaster.

While authorities continue to examine the aircraft’s black box, theories are swirling online as netizens and experts alike analyze video footage of the crash. A prominent theory gaining traction involves the suspected deployment of the RAT (Ram Air Turbine) — a small emergency turbine that activates automatically in case of critical system failures.

A YouTube analysis by Captain Steve Scheibner, a former US Navy pilot and aviation analyst, has fueled the RAT theory. Initially skeptical of an engine failure due to the absence of smoke, fire, or sparks, Scheibner revised his stance after reviewing new visual and audio cues from crash footage.

On the Boeing 787, the RAT deploys in three extreme situations: electrical system failure, hydraulic system failure, or dual



engine failure. Scheibner now strongly leans toward the dual engine failure theory, stating, “The RAT’s presence points to a catastrophic systems breakdown — most likely both engines failed.”

He also previously considered other possibilities, including fuel contamination, bird strike, or incorrect flap settings, but now cites multiple indicators that suggest a more serious emergency took place.

As social media debates intensify, officials urge patience, emphasizing that the final cause will only be determined through black box data and a detailed technical investigation. Meanwhile, Air India and aviation authorities have yet to officially comment on the RAT theory.

The crash has sparked renewed focus on air safety, and the world waits for clarity on what went wrong aboard Flight AI171.



## West Indies Crush Ireland by 62 Runs, Seal T20 Series with Record-Breaking Batting Display

The West Indies delivered a dominant performance to defeat Ireland by 62 runs in the third and final T20I at Breda Cricket Club, clinching the rain-affected three-match series 1-0. The first two games were abandoned due to bad weather, making this decisive clash the only completed match of the series.



Batting first after being sent in, the West Indies posted a massive 256-5, marking their second-highest total in T20 internationals. The innings was led by an explosive 122-run opening partnership between Evin Lewis, who smashed 91 off 44 balls, and captain Shai Hope, who contributed 51 off 27.

The team hit a staggering 20 sixes — Lewis accounted for eight of them, while Hope and Keacy Carty added four each. Carty remained unbeaten on 49 off just 22 deliveries, capping off a ferocious batting effort that left Ireland chasing a mountain.

In response, Ireland managed a respectable 194-7, but never quite kept up with the required run rate.

Openers Ross Adair (48 off 36) and Harry Tector (38 off 25) built a solid foundation, guiding Ireland to 114-1, but a quick collapse saw them slide to 116-4 in just 12 overs, effectively ending their chase.

Reflecting on the win, Hope said, “Nice to take something back to the Caribbean,” following a disappointing 3-0 series loss to England earlier in both ODIs and T20s. The West Indies had previously drawn the ODI series against Ireland 1-1 in May.

The Caribbean side now prepares to host Australia for a three-match Test series beginning June 25 in Barbados, followed by a five-match T20 series. Australia will arrive fresh from their recent defeat to South Africa in the World Test Championship final in London.

## Tatjana Maria, 37, Wins Queen’s Club Final to Claim First WTA 500 Title

In a stunning display of resilience and experience, 37-year-old German qualifier Tatjana Maria captured the biggest title of her career by winning the WTA 500 Queen’s Club final in London. Maria defeated eighth-seeded Amanda Anisimova of the United States with a commanding 6-3, 6-4 victory on grass, just weeks ahead of Wimbledon.



With this triumph, Maria — a mother of two and currently ranked No. 86 in the world — not only secured her first WTA 500 title, but also became the oldest WTA singles champion since Serena Williams won the Auckland Classic in 2020 at age 38.

Celebrating her win with her daughters, Charlotte and Cecilia, and her husband-coach Charles-Edouard Maria, the emotional champion proudly declared, “I’m the Queen of Queen’s.” She added, “It means a lot to me. I’m a good example that even at my age, you can still win big trophies. I’m super proud of myself.”

Maria’s journey to the title was nothing short of remarkable. En route to the final, she defeated four top-20 players, including

Karolina Muchova, Elena Rybakina, and Madison Keys, showcasing her grit and grass-court expertise.

This marks Maria’s fourth WTA title overall, having previously claimed titles on grass in Mallorca (2018) and back-to-back victories on clay in Bogota (2022 and 2023). A former Wimbledon semifinalist, Maria is known for her unique playing style and tenacity, making her a fan favorite, especially on grass courts.

With this victory, Tatjana Maria will soar to World No. 43 in the updated rankings on Monday, just in time for another potential deep run at Wimbledon 2025.

## India vs Pakistan Set for Explosive Showdown in Women’s ODI World Cup on October 5 in Colombo

A high-voltage encounter awaits cricket fans as India is set to take on arch-rival Pakistan in the Women’s ODI World Cup on October 5 at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. The tournament, jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka, will begin on September 30, featuring eight top teams battling for the coveted title.



The opening match will see hosts India face Sri Lanka at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, while defending champions Australia kick off their campaign on October 1 in Indore against New Zealand.

Due to the ongoing political tensions between India and Pakistan, the Pa-

kistan women’s team will play all their matches in Colombo under a hybrid model agreed upon by the BCCI and PCB. Pakistan’s campaign begins on October 2 against Bangladesh, followed by key fixtures against England, New Zealand, South Africa, and Sri Lanka — all in Colombo.

Meanwhile, India will play most of its matches across Bengaluru, Guwahati, and Visakhapatnam, including a much-anticipated clash with Bangladesh on October 26 in Bengaluru.

England will face Australia in a fiery rematch of the previous final on October 22 in Indore, while also meeting South Africa, Sri Lanka, and New Zea-

land in the group stage.

The tournament runs through November 2, with semi-finals scheduled for October 29 and 30 in Guwahati/Colombo and Bengaluru, respectively. The final will be held in either Colombo or Bengaluru, depending on which teams make it through — especially if Pakistan qualifies, as it will influence the choice of neutral venues.

Eight teams — India, Pakistan, Australia, England, South Africa, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh — will compete across five venues, promising an action-packed tournament with fierce rivalries and unforgettable cricketing moments.

## PSG Dominate Atletico Madrid 4-0; Bayern Munich Thrash Auckland City 10-0 in FIFA Club World Cup Opener

Paris Saint-Germain and Bayern Munich announced their intentions loud and clear in the opening matches of the FIFA Club World Cup on Sunday. PSG showcased their attacking brilliance with a commanding 4-0 victory over Atletico Madrid at the iconic Rose Bowl in Pasadena, while Bayern Munich crushed New Zealand’s Auckland City 10-0 in Cincinnati.



PSG, fresh off their Champions League triumph, wasted no time asserting dominance despite the sweltering 31°C heat. Goals from Fabian Ruiz and Vitinha in the first half set the tone, and late strikes from Senny Mayulu and Lee Kang-In sealed a comprehensive win against an Atletico side unable to match their multi-dimensional offense. PSG coach Luis Enrique praised his team’s hunger and ambition, emphasizing their goal to continue winning on the global stage.

Meanwhile, Bayern Munich put on a goal-scoring clinic against Auckland City, an amateur side making a Cinderella run in the tournament. Jamal Musiala stole the show with a second-half hat-trick after coming off the bench. Kingsley Coman, Michael Olise, and Thomas Mueller each scored twice, while Sacha Boey added another goal, pushing Bayern’s tally to a staggering 10-0. Coach Vincent Kompany highlighted the importance of starting strong but acknowledged tougher challenges lie ahead against Boca Ju-

niors and Benfica.

Auckland’s interim coach Ivan Vicelich expressed pride in his players for stepping up against one of football’s giants, despite the heavy defeat.

Atletico Madrid manager Diego Simeone refused to blame the defeat on the heat, admitting PSG’s superior quality was the key factor.

The tournament continues with Palmeiras and Porto playing to a goalless draw in Group A, while Botafogo will take on Seattle Sounders in Group B later.

PSG and Bayern’s emphatic wins mark a thrilling start to the inaugural 32-team FIFA Club World Cup.

## Lionel Messi Kicks Off Historic 32-Team Club World Cup in Miami

The much-anticipated first edition of FIFA’s expanded 32-team Club World Cup began in grand style on Saturday, as Lionel Messi led Inter Miami against Egypt’s Al Ahly at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami. The opening clash marked the beginning of a new era for the tournament, now modeled after the FIFA World Cup and featuring top clubs from every continent.



Despite initial concerns over attendance, the 64,000-seat venue — home to the NFL’s Miami Dolphins — was nearly full at kickoff. Fans arrived in droves, especially supporters of Al Ahly, the most successful club in African football history with 12 CAF Champions League titles and 45 Egyptian league championships. Their vibrant energy and early arrival created a festive atmosphere for the tournament opener.

Security measures were noticeably tighter this year, following chaotic scenes during last year’s Copa America final between Argentina and Colombia at the same venue. This time, organizers implemented a well-structured filter system for ticket and security checks, positioned far from the stadium’s perimeter. As a result, the matchday experience remained smooth and safe, with no major issues reported.

This inaugural edition of the revamped Club World Cup marks FIFA’s most ambitious attempt yet to globalize club competition. The tournament features 32 teams from across the globe, with clubs representing every confederation. Over the coming weeks, matches will be held at various venues across the United States, culminating in the final at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey on July 13.

For Inter Miami, the spotlight remains on Messi, whose presence adds global allure to the event. As the tournament unfolds, fans can expect a celebration of world-class football — one that began with the roar of thousands in Miami and a global icon leading the charge.





# The Raja Saab Teaser: Prabhas Shines in a Spooky, Stylish Spectacle Packed with Thrills and Laughs

The wait is finally over for fans of Prabhas, as the teaser of his upcoming film *The Raja Saab* has been officially unveiled — and it's everything fans hoped for and more. With a run-time of 2 minutes and 28 seconds, the teaser blends horror, humor, and vintage charm into a gripping cinematic experience.

The teaser kicks off with Sanjay Dutt, portraying a mysterious and powerful figure determined to enjoy the riches of his ancestral fort — even in the afterlife. Enter Prabhas in a classic lover-boy avatar, exuding old-school charisma with a modern twist. He's seen living the high life until he stumbles upon a seemingly abandoned, yet treasure-laden fort.

Convinced he's found the jackpot, Prabhas and his gang set off on an adventurous hunt, only to discover that the fort hides dark supernatural secrets. Sanjay Dutt reappears — this time



as a menacing ghost — fiercely protecting his haunted domain. The teaser offers glimpses of crocodile-infested waters, demonic creatures, eerie giant claws, and a maze of deadly traps, setting the tone for a high-stakes horror comedy.

What sets *The Raja Saab* apart is its stylized vintage aesthetics and Prabhas's refreshing screen presence, which adds a fun, nostalgic layer to the thriller. The background score by Thaman perfectly balances eerie undertones with energetic beats, adding depth to every frame.

Produced by People Media Factory on a grand scale, *The Raja Saab* promises to be a mass entertainer that blends thrills, chills, and laughs in just the right proportions. With a global release set for December 5, 2025, in multiple languages, the film is already shaping up to be one of the year's most awaited blockbusters.

## Keerthy Suresh & Suhas's Uppu Kappurambu Skips Theatres, Set for Direct OTT Release



Star actress Keerthy Suresh and talented actor Suhas are teaming up for a quirky rural comedy-drama titled *Uppu Kappurambu*. Directed by Ani Sasi, known for the heartfelt film *Ninnila Ninnila*, this upcoming entertainer is skipping theatrical release and will premiere directly on Amazon Prime Video.

Slated for a July 4, 2025 release, the film will stream in five languages — Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi — as part of Amazon's growing catalog of original regional content.

*Uppu Kappurambu* is produced by Radhika Lavu under the Ellenar Films banner. Set against the unique backdrop of a cemetery, the movie promises a blend of comedy, emotion, and rural charm. The official first-look poster was unveiled today, generating buzz across social media. Fans were especially excited to see Keerthy back in Telugu cinema after nearly two years.

Though both Keerthy and Suhas are widely admired for their award-winning performances, the decision to forgo a theatrical release surprised some fans. Given the film's promising theme and star appeal, many believe it could have benefited from at least a limited theatrical run before heading to OTT.

This project marks a crucial return for Keerthy Suresh, whose recent releases haven't lived up to expectations. Audiences are eager to see if *Uppu Kappurambu* can mark a strong comeback for her.

The film's music is composed by Sweekar Agasthi and Rajesh Murugesan, while Sreejith Sarang handles the editing. With the teaser and trailer expected to drop soon, *Uppu Kappurambu* is shaping up to be a light-hearted, emotionally rich film with wide appeal across audiences.

## Manchu Lakshmi Faces Backlash Over Controversial Scenes and Mythology Blunder

Actress and TV personality Manchu Lakshmi, daughter of veteran actor Mohan Babu, has found herself at the center of a social media storm. Known for her bold choices and dynamic career — from hosting shows to acting in diverse roles — Lakshmi is now facing severe criticism for two separate controversies that have recently resurfaced.

The first concerns her role in the Malayalam suspense thriller *Monster*, starring Mohanlal. In the film, Manchu Lakshmi and actress Honey Rose portray lesbian characters. A lip-lock scene between the two actresses in the film's climax has reignited online attention, with clips going viral once again. Some critics, especially from conservative circles, have accused Lakshmi of



“damaging the dignity of Telugu culture” due to her bold portrayal. Despite the movie being part of her artistic journey, the backlash suggests lingering discomfort over LGBTQ+ representation in mainstream Indian cinema.

Adding fuel to the fire, Lakshmi

recently appeared on the Indian version of the reality show *The Traitors*, hosted and produced by Karan Johar. In a widely circulated clip from the show, she was involved in an argument where she confused details from Indian epics, mistakenly attributing a Mahabharata event to

the Ramayana. Specifically, she claimed Lord Rama shot a fish in the water after looking into it — a tale not found in the Ramayana but often linked to Arjuna in the Mahabharata.

This slip has drawn sharp criticism from both North Indian and Telugu audiences. While North Indian viewers questioned her knowledge of mythology, Telugu netizens expressed embarrassment, with many accusing her of misrepresenting cultural icons and making uninformed statements on national platforms.

As debates rage on, Manchu Lakshmi remains silent, but the controversies continue to spark online outrage and introspection over public figures' responsibility in media representation.

## Dulquer Salmaan's Period Drama Kaantha Set for August 1 Release

Mollywood heartthrob Dulquer Salmaan, known for his versatile roles across Indian cinema, is gearing up for his next major release — *Kaantha*, a period drama filmed as a Tamil-Telugu bilingual. The film has generated considerable buzz, not just because of Dulquer's involvement in front of the camera, but also behind the scenes, as he co-produces the project alongside Telugu star Rana Daggubati.



According to fresh industry reports, the makers have finalized August 1, 2025, as the official release date for *Kaantha*. While no formal announcement has been made yet, sources close to the production confirm that the team is preparing for a wide theatrical release and that promotional activities will intensify in the coming weeks. Directed by Selvamani Selvaraj, *Kaantha* is set in a historical backdrop, promising an intense narrative woven with rich visuals and powerful performances. Dulquer, who has repeatedly proven his mettle in period films and multilingual projects, is expected to portray a layered character in this high-stakes drama. Adding further depth to the cast is Bhagyashri Borse, who plays the female lead. Her pairing with Dulquer is being touted as fresh and promising. Veteran actor Samuthirakani will also be seen in a pivotal role, expected to bring gravitas to the storyline. The film's technical crew adds

to its appeal. Music is composed by Jhanu, with expectations of a rousing soundtrack that complements the film's period setting. Acclaimed cinematographer Dani Sanchez-Lopez, who has previously worked on visually arresting films, is in charge of the visuals, ensuring *Kaantha* will be a treat for the eyes. With the Tamil and Telugu film industries increasingly intersecting, *Kaantha* represents a collaborative effort that bridges regional boundaries. For Dulquer Salmaan fans — especially those in the Telugu states — this release is highly anticipated. With its mix of historical intrigue, strong cast, and technical finesse, *Kaantha* could emerge as one of the most talked-about films of the season. Keep an eye out for the official release announcement and teaser drop in the days to come.

## “Thammudu” Gears Up for Musical Launch with First Single ‘Bhuu Antu Bhuutham’



The excitement around Nithiin's upcoming film *Thammudu* continues to build as the makers gear up to release the first single from the film's soundtrack. Titled *Bhuu Antu Bhuutham*, the track is scheduled to drop on June 17, 2025, at 5 PM, marking the beginning of the film's musical promotions.

Directed by Venu Sriram and slated for a theatrical release on July 4, 2025, *Thammudu* stars Nithiin in a lead role, alongside Kantara fame Sapthami Gowda, who plays the female lead. The film has already garnered significant attention thanks to its gripping trailer, which hinted at an emotionally rich and action-packed storyline. Now, with *Bhuu Antu Bhuutham* set to be unveiled, expectations are high for the soundtrack, especially with acclaimed composer Ajaneesh Loknath onboard. Known for his ability to blend emotion and energy through music, Ajaneesh's score is an-

anticipated to play a crucial role in enhancing the film's overall impact. Produced by Dil Raju and Shirish under the prestigious Sri Venkateswara Creations banner, *Thammudu* also features a strong supporting cast that includes Laya, Swasika, Varsha Bollamma, and Saurabh Sachdeva. Each character is expected to bring depth and variety to the narrative, which appears to focus on family dynamics, personal transformation, and resilience.

As the release date approaches, the team is set to intensify promotional efforts, with music being a key driver of pre-release buzz. The launch of the first single is likely to give fans a taste of the film's emotional tone and musical richness. With its intriguing storyline, strong cast, and promising soundtrack, *Thammudu* is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Telugu releases of the year.