



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
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BIG BLOW TO ANDHRA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

HIGH COURT STALLS APL TENDER PROCESS AMID CONTRACT DISPUTE

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Andhra Cricket Association (ACA) has landed in a major controversy after the Andhra Pradesh High Court issued an interim order halting its tender process for the Andhra Premier League (APL), following a legal challenge by six existing franchises.

The dispute emerged after ACA's recent leadership changes, where the newly elected Vijayawada MP assumed the role of ACA President through the Kurnool District Cricket Association—raising eyebrows across cricketing circles. The President further appointed his Chartered Accountant as Treasurer, while Sana Satish was named Secretary and Prashanth, linked to MLAs from Bhimavaram and Visakhapatnam, became Vice President. This sparked serious concerns about rising political interference in cricket administration.

Despite an 18-year agreement with the franchises, ratified last year by the General Body and Governing Council, ACA invited fresh tenders for APL. In response, franchise owners—who have together invested over ₹30 crore without returns—moved the High Court on June 5. The Court issued a stay on June 6 and extended it on June 19 for another 10 days. The franchises, credited with sustaining the league and nurturing IPL-level talent, now face uncertainty. The move has triggered public outrage, with many questioning the sidelining of long-term investors. Fans and stakeholders are calling for transparency, fairness, and accountability to protect Andhra cricket's credibility.

What is wrong with the construction of Banakacharla...?

Water dispute between the two states again

- Telangana objects to the construction of Banakacharla
- Letters to the Centre not to give permissions
- AP says it is building on floodwater
- Budget allocation of Rs. 80 thousand crores



TPN | Kishore Katta

Amaravati: The Banakacharla project is causing a rift between the two Telugu states. AP's claim that the goal is to use floodwater...! According to the official presentation from Andhra Pradesh, the Banakacharla officials are arguing that they have no connection with Telangana. "Are we going to be the ones to protect your projects?" AP is clearly questioning. If a project is built in the lower state, what is the objection from Telangana located upstream? It has said that its goal is to divert the 3,000 TMC floodwater that flows into the sea in the Godavari River every year to Rayalaseema, Nellore, and Prakasam districts for drinking and irrigation purposes. AP Irrigation Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu has clarified that providing water to low rainfall areas like Anantapur should be considered a mandatory measure and that it is not wrong.

ates. The Telangana government is responding strongly to this matter. An all-party meeting has already been organized on this issue under the leadership of State Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy. The minister said that several letters have already been sent to the Centre against this project. The Telangana government is making it clear that it will not give permission to the Banakacharla Link project proposed by AP under any circumstances.

The budget of Rs. 80 thousand crores on the Banakacharla project...!

The AP plan is to build the Banakacharla project at a cost of Rs. 80,000 crores. It has already applied for permission from the Centre for this link project, which is an annex to the Polavaram project. AP mentioned that former Telangana CM KCR

AP's claim that the goal is to use floodwater...!

According to the official presentation from Andhra Pradesh, the Banakacharla officials are arguing that they have no connection with Telangana. "Are we going to be the ones to protect your projects?" AP is clearly questioning. If a project is built in the lower state, what is the objection from Telangana located upstream? It has said that its goal is to divert the 3,000 TMC floodwater that flows into the sea in the Godavari River every year to Rayalaseema, Nellore, and Prakasam districts for drinking and irrigation purposes. AP Irrigation Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu has clarified that providing water to low rainfall areas like Anantapur should be considered a mandatory measure and that it is not wrong.



Jagan hasn't changed much...!

"Rapa Rapa Narukutam" poster Jagan said it was good

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The developments that took place during the two visits of former AP CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to Palnadu district have become highly controversial. It surprised everyone that Jagan visited a person who had incurred debts due to betting and even unveiled a statue.

Jagan's speech there, in a way that seemed to appeal to the Kamma community, also surprised many. The loss of two lives during Jagan's visit has become a controversial issue. TDP leaders extended significant help to the families. Meanwhile, there was a lot of chaos caused by YCP workers and fans during Jagan's tour. Girls were seen filming themselves riding bikes and challenging the police. Some even went a step further by putting up posters with movie dialogues — this has now turned into the most controversial point.

A placard with the "Rapa Rapa" dialogue during YS Jagan's Palnadu tour has stirred up a storm. As soon as he comes to power in 2029, a YCP fan named Ravi Teja displayed a placard saying he would "chop the heads of the hunters just like they chopped the heads of the hunters at the Gangamma Thalli Jatara." This went viral on social media.

TDP leaders reacted strongly to this. "Who will be chopped? Why will they be chopped?" they asked. At the same time, Home Minister Anita also commented that the entire "psycho batch" is behind Jagan. During the same tour, another placard stating that "Raja Reddy's constitution started from Palnadu" also became controversial.

In this context, YS Jagan held a press meet in Tadepalli following the arrest of Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy. He claimed that the government had arrested Chevireddy by filing false cases. As an opposition leader, he questioned why the TDP was afraid of the PAR activists. He also questioned why the police had set up barricades. Jagan criticized Chandrababu for implementing diversionary tactics and said that false cases were being filed against YSRC leaders and that people around him were being arrested through intimidation. He alleged that there was a conspiracy to destroy the properties of witnesses. He warned that if this tradition continued, then who would be spared tomorrow? Jagan also responded to a question asked by reporters about the

Happy Nest Project Resumes...

A Dream Come True for Middle-Class Families in Amaravati

TPN | MAHESH ARN

Amaravati: After years of uncertainty and political setbacks, the much-anticipated Happy Nest project in Amaravati is finally back on track, bringing new hope to thousands of middle-class families and NRIs who invested in their dream homes. Launched on 1st November 2018 by the then TDP-led government under the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA), the Happy Nest project consists of 1,200 modern 2 & 3 BHK apartments. The public response was nothing short of overwhelming—during the first and second phases of online bookings held on 9th November and 10th December 2018, 1,185 flats were sold within minutes, leaving only 15 units unsold.



However, with the change in government in 2019, the YSRC-led administration under Mr. Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy deprioritized Amaravati's development, proposing a controversial three-capital model that pushed Amaravati into the

background. All construction activities related to the capital—including Happy Nest—came to a halt. The government even offered flat buyers a refund option. Out of the 1,200 buyers, only 185 opted for cancellation, while the remaining 1,000 steadfastly held on,

hoping for political change and revival of the capital city. With the new alliance government assuming power recently, CRDA has resumed capital development activities at full pace. Under the active leadership of Mr. K. Narayana, Minister for Municipal Administration & Urban Development, tenders have been floated and budget approvals expedited. The Happy Nest project has also been revived with NCC Ltd., the original contractor, continuing the construction work. Given the passage of time and increase in material costs, the project costs have been reassessed and revised, triggering criticism from YSRC leaders and their aligned media outlets. Ironically, it was their own halting of the project that

led to the delays and cost escalations, which they are now blaming on the present administration. Despite the political noise, construction has resumed with renewed vigor. The project is slated for completion within one year. The remaining 200 flats, including the previously unsold 15 units and 185 cancelled ones, are expected to be made available for fresh online bookings in the coming months. The pricing will likely reflect current market rates. The buyers from 2018 are jubilant. After a long wait, they are finally seeing their dream of living in Amaravati—a modern capital city—become a reality. For them, Happy Nest is not just a housing project; it is a symbol of hope, patience, and victory.



Jagan hasn't changed...

Continued from page 1

"Rapa Rapa" placard. He claimed that the activist holding the placard belonged to the TDP. He wondered aloud whether even a TDP supporter would switch to PAR out of anger at Chandrababu. However, referring to the dialogue taken from the movie Pushpa, he questioned whether it was wrong to use it. He did not deny the controversial message on the placard. In fact, he appeared to justify it, stating that the TDP people would be beheaded like rams — and called it a good thing. With this, it appears that Jagan was indirectly saying that attacks might be inevitable once he returns to power. Instead of condemning the extremist language, he seems to be encouraging it — this is the accusation now making rounds on social media. Phrases like "they will be beheaded... my sons... we will see" are being circulated as if they were movie dialogues. In short, a major tussle is now unfolding between the TDP and YSRCP leaders.

What is wrong with the...

Continued from page 1

had supported this project in the past and said, "If you are going to make Rayalaseema Ratnalaseema, why would I say that..?" Moreover, Jagan also mentioned the comments made by KCR at that time on his generosity, Minister Nimmala mentioned in his presentation. With this, he himself questioned why BRS is not speaking out against this project now.

Opposition response in Telangana...!

The BRS party in Telangana is expressing strong objections to this. It is being branded as a project like Pothireddypadu in the waters of Godavari in Banakacharla, and is trying to usurp the rights of the state. Former Irrigation Minister Harish Rao is speaking out and warning that this could cause serious damage to Telangana. Union Minister Kishan Reddy, however, has made it clear that the Chief Ministers of both states should hold direct talks and that the Centre will not act unilaterally.

Are permissions required...? What do experts say...?

Experts have different opinions on this issue. Despite Telangana having four pending DPRs on Godavari, AP irrigation experts say that central approvals are not required for the Banakacharla project. They point out that this is part of the river linking plan formulated in 1980 and that Modi also supported river linking. They say that this project is not against the 1980 tribunal judgments and the 2014 Reorganization Act because this project is entirely based on floodwater use. Over a crore people were inundated by the massive floods in 1986. This, they argue, is to prevent such floods. What is the end of this dispute? The key question now is where this dispute will go. Clarity and transparency are needed in water sharing. A direct meeting between the Chief Ministers of the two states, the intervention of the Union Ministry of Water Resources, and ways to lead to a permanent solution are needed. Otherwise, there is a risk that this divisive dispute will end up in

We Are Working with Sincerity: Pawan Kalyan

- AP will be a model for development under NDA rule, says Deputy CM
- Releases progress report on completion of one year in office

TPN Correspondent |
Amaravati

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan reaffirmed the Andhra Pradesh government's commitment to good governance, transparency, and development on Thursday, marking one year since he assumed office. On the occasion, he released a detailed progress report highlighting the achievements and developmental milestones reached by the departments under his charge — Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, Rural Water Supply, Environment, Forests, and Science & Technology. "This report is a moral responsibility," Pawan Kalyan stated. "It reflects our efforts to restore accountability in politics and government after five years of oppressive and regressive rule." He also released a heartfelt letter addressed to the people of Andhra Pradesh, thanking them for the overwhelming support in the 2024 general elections that brought the NDA alliance to power with a resounding majority of 164 assembly seats. Pawan Kalyan alleged that between 2019 and 2024, Andhra Pradesh suffered under dictatorial governance that eroded law and order, left youth hopeless, and women vulnerable. He criticized the previous administration for stalling Amaravati's capital development and failing to initiate real progress. In contrast, he said the coalition government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has already showcased substantial progress in just one year. "We have shown that development which did not happen in five years can be achieved in one," he said. "Our aim is to rebuild Andhra Pradesh into a prosperous and people-centric state." He emphasized that the central government has recognized the state's renewed governance model and is extending its full support. "With this partnership, we are moving confidently toward our vision of 'Swarna Andhra 2047', ensuring inclusive development across all sectors," he added. Highlighting the performance of his departments, Pawan

Kalyan encouraged citizens to examine the report closely. "This is not just a review, but a demonstration of our resolve to live up to the faith you placed in us," he said. The Deputy CM asserted that the NDA government has restored investor confidence through its transparent administration and stability. "Under the able leadership of CM Chandrababu Naidu, an experienced and visionary leader, the state is back on the track of growth and progress," he noted. He concluded by stating, "In the coming four years, we will transform Andhra Pradesh into a symbol of development. We are working with sincerity, and we are accountable to the people who trusted us."

Let Us Uphold the Values of Public Service...

Revenue Day must reflect commitment, transparency, and accountability, says AP Revenue Services Association

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

On the occasion of Revenue Day, celebrated annually on June 20, the Andhra Pradesh Revenue Services Association has extended warm greetings to all employees of the department and urged them to reaffirm their commitment to public service, transparency, and proactive administration. In a statement released jointly by Bopparaju and Ramisetty Venkata Rajesh, the association leaders emphasized that the Revenue Department has played a vital role in public welfare and state development for over two centuries. It has been the backbone of numerous citizen services, touching every individual from birth to death. "Revenue Day celebrations are meaningful only when every employee commits to serving the public interest with dedication and responsibility," the statement read. "Let us work with integrity, driven by the trust the government and citizens have placed in the department, and further elevate the stature of the Revenue Department." The association called upon all Village Revenue Assistants, Village Revenue Officers, Revenue Staff, Tehsildars, Deputy Collectors, and other personnel to take part in the Revenue Day programs and use the occasion to rededicate themselves to the values of good governance. Highlighting the importance of ethical and responsive administration, the statement stressed that revenue employees should strive to be citizen-centric in every interaction. "Transparency in all our actions and prompt resolution of public issues must be our guiding principles," it noted. The association also pointed out that the true success of Revenue Day lies in proactive planning and delivery of services ahead of time. "Let us move forward with greater dedication to uphold the excellence of our Revenue Department by providing accountable, fast, and transparent governance," they urged.

Minister Lokesh Meets Tony Blair in Delhi

- Tony Blair agrees to support AP in AI-led governance and education
- AP, TBI to jointly establish Global Institute for Good Governance

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh met with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair in New Delhi on Wednesday to discuss a range of collaborations between the state government and the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI). The meeting was held at the Taj Palace and marked a significant step forward in the state's push toward AI integration, education reform, and skill training. Tony Blair, who also heads the global think tank TBI, agreed to deepen cooperation with Andhra Pradesh, especially in using artificial intelligence tools across government services and the education system. The leaders reviewed the outcomes



of a memorandum signed in December 2024 between the AP Education Department and TBI aimed at modernising education and boosting employment opportunities for youth through technology. As part of the ongoing partnership,

TBI has already stationed an embedded team in Vijayawada. The team is currently working on two key initiatives: Reforms in Higher Education in Andhra Pradesh And Establishment of the Global Institute for Good Governance (GIGG). The discussions also included technical support for the state's broader skill development agenda, including a skill census and expanding international employment pathways for AP's youth. Minister Lokesh and

Tony Blair also evaluated the current progress of these initiatives and discussed ways to further enhance collaboration. In a major development, Lokesh extended an invitation to Tony Blair to join the Advisory Board of the Global Institute for Good Governance. The former UK Prime Minister agreed that the Tony Blair Institute would be a key partner in the upcoming Conclave of State Education Ministers scheduled to be held in Visakhapatnam in August. Education Secretary Kona Shashidhar and representatives of TBI were also present during the meeting, which is being seen as a strategic milestone in Andhra Pradesh's governance and educational transformation agenda.

WB, ADB Team Visits Amaravati to Review Capital Construction

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

A high-level delegation from the World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) visited Amaravati to assess the progress of capital city construction and review the implementation of environmental and social safeguards. The team commenced their visit with an orientation session at the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) office in Vijayawada. CRDA Additional Commissioner G. Suryasai Praveen Chand IAS welcomed the team and briefed them on environmental protection measures, worker health and safety protocols, and welfare initiatives for residents and workers in the Amaravati capital region. He emphasized that the construction is



being carried out without any gender bias or child labor and outlined how the CRDA addresses grievances from farmers and residents under the Grievance Redressal Management (GRM) system. Senior Social Development Specialist

Bayana Venkata Rao elaborated on the assessment processes of environmental and social systems integral to the Amaravati project. He discussed the resettlement action plan, while Rangan Verma, Social Protection Operations

Advisor, outlined the roles and responsibilities of WB and ADB and stressed the importance of environmental and social policies. Joseph, Senior Environmental Specialist, and Damanjit Singh Minhas, Environmental Operations Advisor, detailed the safety protocols and environmental guidelines contractors must adhere to, including immediate procedures in case of any incident. Jaya Sharma, the female representative of the delegation, explained measures for ensuring confidentiality and support mechanisms in the event of sexual harassment or violence. Following the orientation, the team, accompanied by CRDA and Amaravati Development Corporation Limited (ADCL) officials, visited key project sites in Amaravati, including MLA and MLC

residential complexes, the Sakhamuru Reservoir, LPS Zone 2A, and workers' camps. The delegation interacted directly with laborers to evaluate the facilities provided at the sites and camps, including sanitation, safety, and housing conditions. CRDA and ADCL Chief Engineers CH. Dhanunjaya, N. Srinivasulu, M. Prabhakara Rao, SE R. Hanumantha Reddy, DE P. Venkateswarlu, EE K. Srinivasa Rao, and other engineering and administrative staff were present throughout the inspection. The visit marks a significant step toward securing sustained international support for the Amaravati capital project, as CRDA officials reiterated their focus on inclusive growth, transparency, and compliance with international development standards.

Everyone is excited...

- Kadapa Municipal Corporation general meeting today...
- General meeting after six months...
- YCP corporators to be provided with protection...
- Court orders to ensure smooth conduct of the meeting...
- YCP corporators request to prevent outsiders from entering the meeting...
- Leaders of both parties to ensure availability of activists...

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

The Kadapa Municipal Corporation general meeting will be held after six months. The controversy that started with the mayor and MLA Madhavi Reddy being seated on the stage in the general meeting hall eventually turned into a storm of chaos. As a result, three meetings turned into heated debates, and on December 30, 2024, Kadapa MLA Madhavi filed a complaint with the Chief Minister and DGP offices, accusing Mayor Suresh Babu of corruption for assigning work to his family members. Vigilance officials conducted an investigation and found that Mayor Suresh Babu had violated the provisions of the Municipal Corporation Act. The investigation revealed that Vardhini Constructions, which belongs to his family members, had completed seven out of ten tenders for the works and received bills worth Rs. 33.65 lakhs. Based on this report, the Municipal Administration Department disqualified him. The Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration Department Chief Secretary issued orders to this effect, stating that Suresh Babu was being removed from the post of Kadapa Mayor based on the vigilance report. However, the YSRCP approached the court on this matter. The High Court refused to interfere with the order given by the Chief Secretary of the Municipal Administration Department. However, Suresh Babu got relief after the Division Bench stayed the verdict given by the Single Bench.



General Assembly Meeting Not Held for Six Months: The general assembly meeting has been turning into a heated affair due to the ongoing row in the Kadapa Municipal Corporation. As a result, the meeting has not been held for six months. But as per the rules, if it is not held again within six months, the governing body is likely to be dissolved. Now, with the deadline approaching, the current developments are creating great excitement. Municipal Department Sends Notices Again: The office had stated earlier that the orders would come into effect two weeks after the mayor was removed from office. The mayor appealed to the High Court Division Bench regarding this. The Division Bench ordered that he be given another opportunity to present his case. Accordingly, the municipal department sent another notice to the mayor on June 16, but Suresh Babu refused to accept it. It is reported that he said he would accept it on Wednesday. However, it is also reported that he took his lawyer with him and presented his case to the municipal department. Since the matter is within the jurisdiction of the court, the municipal department cannot take further action at this stage.

YCP Corporators' Plea for Security: As per the YCP's plea, the court has issued orders to provide security to the corporators and ensure that the meeting runs smoothly. Following the court's orders, it is the responsibility of the authorities to ensure that

the general meeting of the municipal corporation is conducted in an orderly manner. The YCP corporators have already submitted a petition to the Collector and SP, requesting security arrangements to ensure a smooth meeting. They alleged that the authorities have been acting as puppets of the TDP by not organizing the municipal corporation's budget and general meetings for the past six months, and that they have not responded to repeated requests for access to the council meeting hall over the past two months. They accused the authorities of acting in a dictatorial manner by allowing the commissioner to retain control over the council meeting hall. They said the authorities are acting as they please, without implementing decisions made in previous meetings, and claimed that not a single rupee has been sanctioned to the municipal corporation since the coalition government came to power. They also criticized that the tax paid by the public through the General Fund is being diverted for other programs. Both Parties Ready for the General Meeting: While the general meeting of the Kadapa Municipal Corporation has become a hot topic since the coalition government came to power, both parties are now prepared for the meeting scheduled on Friday. With the court issuing orders to conduct the meeting smoothly, both parties have instructed their workers to be available. The YCP corporators brought to the court's attention that TDP workers were entering the meeting hall and obstructing the proceedings. The court, in response, ordered that the YCP corporators be provided with protection. In this context, the authorities and police have become the focus of attention in how they will handle the conduct of this crucial meeting.

Chevireddy appears in ACB court in AP liquor scam case

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a surprising turn in the AP liquor scam case, YSR Congress Party senior leader and former Chandragiri MLA Chevireddy Bhaskara Reddy personally argued his case before the ACB court. Produced by the SIT officials on Wednesday, Chevireddy contested several claims made against him and requested the court for certain facilities in jail due to health reasons. During the proceedings, Chevireddy clarified that Balaji, who the SIT claims to be his personal assistant, is actually a government employee. He also highlighted that those in nominated posts are not permitted to use official vehicles during elections, adding that the Election Commission closely monitors such violations. Chevireddy further stated that he frequently travels to Colombo as part of his export business and was unaware of any legal case against him. He claimed he was stopped at the Bangalore airport by immigration authorities who informed him about a Look-Out Circular (LOC) in his name. Alleging coercion by the police, Chevireddy said that his gunman Giri was pressured into giving a statement favorable to the SIT, while another gunman, Madan Reddy, was assaulted for not complying and is currently receiving treatment in hospital. Following the arguments and submission of the remand report by SIT, Chevireddy pleaded with the court for special facilities in jail, citing severe back pain. Considering the request, the ACB magistrate granted him permission to have a bed, pillow, blanket, and mosquito net during his remand period.

Amararaja Was Driven Out Due to Caste Hatred: Kanna



TPN | Sumanth Jangam

Palnadu: TDP MLA and senior leader Kanna Lakshminarayana launched a scathing attack on YSR Congress Party chief and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy over his recent visit to Palnadu district. Addressing the media, Kanna alleged that Jagan's visit, which was meant to be a condolence trip, resembled a war campaign.

Kanna directly blamed Jagan for the suicide of Nagamalleswara Rao in Rentapalla village, stating, "Jagan is 100% responsible for his death. It's not police harassment, but YSRCP's political cruelty that pushed him to this." He described the rally held during Jagan's visit as anarchic, claiming that it led to chaos and the death of two individuals. "This is not democracy; this is demonic behavior," he said.

Referring to Jagan's statements about democratic rights, Kanna compared them to "demons chanting the Vedas," pointing out that during Jagan's rule, opposition leaders like Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan were obstructed and confined. "Now he talks about democracy?" Kanna questioned. The TDP leader also accused Jagan of acting out of caste hatred. "It was because of his hatred towards the Kamma community

that Amararaja was driven out and Amaravati was deliberately stalled," he alleged. Kanna demanded that Jagan take full responsibility for the violence and deaths that occurred during the YSRCP rally. He concluded by warning that no number of threats or drama would shield Jagan from public backlash, stating that the people of Palnadu are watching and will respond to this "politically orchestrated spectacle."









కోలా ఆనంద్

జ.జె.పి. రాష్ట్ర కార్యదర్శి

జన్మదిన శుభాకాంక్షలు

- కోలా ఆనంద్ మిత్రబృందం

భారతీయ జనతా పార్టీ

శ్రీకాళహస్తి నియోజకవర్గం



JUNE 20th



Second Round RTE Lottery Results to Be Released Today

Final selection list for 2025–26 admissions under 25% RTE quota

Over 28,000 students eligible, fresh SMS alerts to be sent
Admissions to be confirmed by June 30 at allotted schools

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh
The final selection list of students under the second round of the lottery process for free admissions into private schools through the Right to Education (RTE) 25% reservation will be released today (June 20, 2025). This was announced by B. Srinivasa Rao, IAS, State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha. As per the notification, the RTE admissions were open for Class 1 from May 2 to May 19 for the 2025–26 academic year. Out of 37,427 applications received, 28,561 children were found eligible after verification. In the first round of the lottery, 23,118 students were allotted seats, and 15,541 of them have already joined their respective schools. Now, in the second round, the remaining eligible students have been selected through a new lottery draw. The details of selected candidates will be communicated to parents via SMS. The complete list will also be made available on the official website: <https://cse.ap.gov.in/>. Parents of selected children are required to visit the respective allotted schools with the necessary documents and complete the admission process on or before June 30, 2025. For additional information, the public can contact the toll-free helpline: 18004258599.



Relief For PSR In Kadambari Jethwani Case

High Court stays action, merges petition with other accused

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
In a major relief to IPS officer PSR Anjaneyulu, the Telangana High Court has issued interim orders staying all further proceedings against him in the Kadambari Jethwani case. The case, which was registered by the Ibrahimpatnam police, involves serious allegations made by the film actress against several police officials, including three IPS officers. Justice N Harinath, who issued the interim orders, also directed the High Court Registry to merge PSR Anjaneyulu's petition with the pending petitions of other accused officers in the same case — IPS Kantirana Tata, Vishal Gunni, ACP K Hanumantha Rao and CI M Satyanarayana. The court had already granted a stay on proceedings against them in May this year. The case stems from a complaint lodged by actress Kadambari Jethwani, who alleged that the Ibrahimpatnam police filed a false case against her based on a complaint by YSR Congress Party leader Kukkala Vidyasagar. She accused the police of harassing her and acting in coordination with political interests. Unlike the others, Anjaneyulu had earlier been denied anticipatory bail and was subsequently arrested and sent to judicial remand as per court directions. With the latest High Court order, he now gets temporary relief from further legal proceedings in the matter. The High Court's decision to club all related petitions for a consolidated hearing is seen as a significant step in addressing the allegations comprehensively. Further hearings in the case are expected to take place in the coming weeks.



Collector Launches Awareness Drive to Eliminate Sickle Cell Disease

TPN Correspondent | NTR District
District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha emphasized that sickle cell anemia can be eradicated through widespread awareness and timely medical intervention. Speaking on the occasion of World Sickle Cell Day, the Collector inaugurated a district-wide awareness campaign at the Kondapalli Tribal Welfare Girls' School on Thursday, organized under the auspices of the District Medical and Health Department. As part of the program, the Collector unveiled informational posters, brochures, and manuals related to

the "Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission," a nationwide initiative aimed at eliminating the disease by 2047. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Lakshmi Sha explained that while healthy red blood cells are round, sickle cell disease causes them to take a crescent or sickle shape. He clarified that the disease is genetic, not contagious, and can be identified through a simple blood test. The Collector reassured those diagnosed with the condition that there is no need to panic. "If identified early and treated appropriately, patients can lead a healthy and im-

OSD to Nara Lokesh Secures 147th Rank in LAWCET

Kasireddy Varaprasad scores 86 out of 120 marks
Around 20,826 candidates appeared for the exam

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh
Kasireddy Varaprasad, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Andhra Pradesh Education, IT, Electronics, and RTGS Minister Nara Lokesh, has secured an impressive 147th rank in the Andhra Pradesh LAWCET (Law Common Entrance Test) results released on Thursday. In the results officially announced by Education Minister Nara Lokesh, Varaprasad

emerged among the top 150 out of 20,826 candidates who appeared for the exam. He scored 86 marks out of the total 120. His performance is drawing attention as a reflection of the kind of personnel working under Minister Lokesh—qualified, academically strong, and result-oriented. Observers say this reinforces the perception that Lokesh prefers to work with highly educated individuals in his key departments.

Results for AP LAWCET & AP PGLCET - 2025	
LAWCET Hallticket No	: 3570090043
Stream	: PGLCET (ENTRANCE TEST FOR ADMISSION INTO TWO YEAR LL.M/ML COURSE)
Candidate's Name	: KASIREDDY VARA PRASAD
Father's Name	: K SATYANARAYANA
Part - A	: 29
Part - B	: 57
Total	: 86
Rank	: 147



Minister Nara Lokesh, who himself released the LAWCET results, reportedly expressed his happiness over the achievement of his OSD. The development has sparked positive discussion in official circles, with many praising the seriousness with which government staff are pursuing continuous learning and academic growth.

Heavy Penalties for illegal Dumping in Krishna River basin

Swachh Andhra Chairman inspects site in Ramalingeswara Nagar

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Swachh Andhra Corporation Chairman K. Pattabhi Ram has issued a stern warning against the illegal dumping of construction waste in the Krishna River basin at Ramalingeswara Nagar in Vijayawada. Following reports in the media, the chairman conducted a surprise inspection of the site today, accompanied by senior officials of the municipal department. He visited the area near the retaining wall below the cemetery, where large-scale dumping of construction debris was found. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Pattabhi Ram said the practice was dangerous to the environment and public safety, especially with the onset



of the rainy season, as it would obstruct river flow and pollute clean water. He announced that heavy penalties will be imposed on those responsible for the illegal dumping and warned that officials who failed to act on time would also face disciplinary action. To address the

issue systemically, he said a meeting with the Builders Association in the city will be held on June 23, where strict guidelines will be issued to prevent such violations. He further stated that the Construction and Demolition Waste Processing Plant established during Chandrababu

Naidu's previous tenure would be revived soon, after it was left inactive due to the negligence of the former government. "The processed waste will be used to produce paver blocks, manhole covers, and other items," Pattabhi Ram noted. He emphasized the importance of community and administrative cooperation in achieving Swachh Andhra, saying Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is working tirelessly towards that goal. He also thanked the media for bringing the issue to light, stating that such alerts help the government take swift action. The inspection was attended by Executive Engineer Samajyam, Sanitary Inspector Satyanarayana, and CMHO Gopal Nayak.

Yoga Day Celebrations Held by Sarvodaya Trust in Vijayawada



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
On the occasion of the 11th International Yoga Day, Sarvodaya Trust, in collaboration with the Freedom Fighters Association and Krishna NTR District Yogasana Sports Association, organized a special Yoga Sadhana and Yogasana competition at the Freedom Fighters Association premises in Vijayawada on Thursday, June 19. The event, held from 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM, witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 150 individuals, including children and adults. NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha graced the event as the chief guest and actively participated in the yoga practice session. Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the physical and mental health benefits of yoga and encouraged everyone to make it a regular part of their lives. Sarvodaya Trust President G. Mohan Prasad, Secretary M. Venkateswara Rao, and Krishna NTR District Yogasana Sports Association Secretary L. Muralikrishna were also present and played key roles in organizing the event. The organizers announced that the prize distribution ceremony for the winners of the yoga competitions will be held at the same venue at 9:00 AM on Friday, June 20. Sarvodaya Trust has requested all winners to attend and collect their merit certificates during the event.

Drones Used to Boost Greenery in Amaravati

ADC begins vermiwash spraying along capital roads
Plan to expand activity to N-9 road and other routes soon

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati
In a fresh initiative to enhance greenery in the capital region, the Amaravati Development Corporation (ADC) has begun using drones to spray vermiwash, an organic nutrient solution, on flowering plants along major roads in Amaravati. With the onset of the rainy season, the ADC has intensified its efforts to maintain and nourish the plants lining the Seed Access Road, one of the primary connecting roads to the capital. Officials stated that using drones allows for uniform spraying of vermiwash from top to bottom of the plants, ensuring better nutrient absorption. So far, vermiwashing has been completed for a 10-kilometre stretch along the Seed Access Road. ADC plans to extend the process to the N-9 road in the coming days. The initiative focuses on spraying nutrients in the center median and on both sides of the roads, which officials say will result in more vibrant flowers and visually appealing landscapes throughout Amaravati. Authorities believe this effort will not only improve the aesthetic appeal of the capital but also promote sustainable and organic plant care using modern technology.



proved quality of life," he said, urging families to get tested and seek timely treatment. Sha further informed that the district administration will prioritize awareness and screening programs

in tribal areas where the disease prevalence is higher. He called upon local bodies, health workers, and educational institutions to actively support this mission. Municipal Chairman Chennuboyana Chittibabu, Vice Chairperson CH Srinivas, DMHO Dr. M. Suhasini, DTWO Vijayashanti, Program Officer Dr. Madhavi, Medical Officers Dr. Padmavati and Dr. Vijayakumar, Nodal Officer Dr. Navina, and several local officials took part in the event.

High Court’s Jolt to Harsha Kumar in Pastor Praveen PIL

Bench questions need for fresh PIL, asks for ₹5 lakh deposit

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh
The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Wednesday delivered a significant blow to former MP Harsha Kumar over his public interest litigation (PIL) filed in connection with the controversial death of Pastor Praveen Pagadala. The court, while admitting the PIL, raised serious concerns over its maintainability and questioned the necessity of filing a new PIL when two others on the same matter were already pending. The division bench compris-

ing Chief Justice Dheeraj Singh Thakur and Justice Chimalapati Ravi heard the arguments presented by Harsha Kumar’s counsel. During the proceedings, the bench critically examined the basis of the petition, asking whether there was any concrete evidence that Pastor Praveen was murdered. Referring to photographic and situational evidence showing Praveen visiting a liquor shop and driving a vehicle afterward, the bench remarked that such actions were a “dangerous combination,” suggesting

that conclusions should not be drawn without facts. The judges also questioned Harsha Kumar’s locus standi in the case, noting that he was neither a family member nor directly connected to the deceased. “Why is a third PIL necessary on the same issue when two others are already under consideration?” the bench asked. In a move that surprised many, the court ordered Harsha Kumar to deposit ₹5 lakh with the High Court Registry within two weeks if he wished to pursue the matter.

The bench made it clear that the PIL would be considered for hearing only after the amount is deposited. Additionally, the court directed the Registry to club this PIL with the previous ones filed regarding Pastor Praveen’s death. This development comes amid ongoing public and legal attention on the mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of Pastor Praveen Pagadala. The High Court’s questioning has cast a shadow on Harsha Kumar’s petition, raising doubts about its intent and legal merit.



Post Office Services Win Hearts in Mandapeta

Thalki Vandanam beneficiaries praise faster payments ₹1 crore disbursed in 3 days to 7,912 beneficiaries

TPN Correspondent | Mandapeta
In Mandapeta town, the local post office has become a symbol of efficiency and public service, drawing praise from beneficiaries and residents alike. The recently launched Thalki Vandanam scheme by the state government has seen faster disbursement of funds through the Mandapeta Post Office than in nationalized banks, much to the delight of locals. In a span of just three days, the post office has successfully disbursed over ₹1 crore to 7,912 beneficiaries, ensuring timely financial support to eligible women. What makes this feat more commendable is the smooth, crowd-free execution, thanks to four special counters set up exclusively for scheme payments. Acting on the instructions of Rajahmundry Divisional Postal Superintendent Keshesha Rao, Postmaster MS Subba Reddy, along with KV Narayana Rao (Bobby), Kondapalli Suryanarayana, and their team, have earned accolades for their dedication and seamless service. Beneficiaries said that while many face hurdles and long waits at banks, the Mandapeta Post Office has provided quick and hassle-free



access to their funds. The staff’s commitment didn’t stop at Mataliki Vandanam – arrangements are already in place for immediate disbursement of other welfare schemes like Rythu Bharosa, Gas Subsidy, and Vidyarthi Deevana. Locals are expressing gratitude and satisfaction with the postal services, which have proven to be more reliable and people-friendly than many banking institutions. The Mandapeta Post Office stands as a model of how government schemes can be efficiently delivered with proper planning and dedicated staff.

Varada making baseless accusations: Rachamallu

- Says he never took money for jobs or grabbed land

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa
YCP state spokesperson and former Proddatur MLA Rachamallu Sivaprasada Reddy has strongly countered the allegations made against him by current MLA Varadarajula Reddy. Speaking to the media on Thursday, Rachamallu said that the accusations of corruption during the YSRCP regime are baseless and politically motivated. He challenged MLA Varada to call for a thorough investigation into the claims that he collected money in the name of jobs and grabbed people’s properties. “Now that the TDP government is in power, if he really believes the allegations, let him initiate an investigation instead of making repeated statements in the media,” he said. Rachamallu denied taking even a single rupee from anyone and asserted that the jobs provided to current TDP councilors—who were previously YSRCP council-



ors—were based on merit and within his capacity. “I helped as much as I could. I didn’t seek any benefit,” he clarified. Taking a dig at MLA Varadarajula Reddy’s political journey, Rachamallu said, “Yes, Varada won six times, but he also lost three times. Shouldn’t people see that as a rejection too?” He added that Varada had vanished from politics for over 15 years, whereas he himself stood firmly with the people during difficult times. “Even Utku Praveen once supported the opposition. So what is this victory worth? It’s not a real victory,” he remarked, dismissing Varada’s win as hollow and devoid of people’s genuine trust. Rachamallu’s comments reflect growing tension between local YSRCP and TDP leaders in the wake of the recent elections, with accusations and political jabs heating up the atmosphere in Kadapa district.

Ministers Review Yogandhra Arrangements in Visakhapatnam

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam
With Visakhapatnam set to host the grand Yogandhra program, several ministers from the Andhra Pradesh government held a key review meeting at the TDP office to finalize arrangements and ensure mass participation. The meeting was attended by Ministers P. Narayana, Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy, Vangalapudi Anitha, Anagani Satya Kumar, Parthasarathy, Savita, and BC Janardhan Reddy, among others. The ministers discussed comprehensive strategies to ensure the success of the Yogandhra program, which will be held in the early hours of the morning. Special focus was laid on facilitating transportation and accommodation for participants arriving from distant areas. Revenue and Municipal Minister P. Narayana stated that the program will begin sharply at 6:25 AM, and stressed that all participants must arrive by 5:00 AM. “Since the Hon’ble Prime Minister will be attending, no one will be permitted after 5:30 AM due to security protocols,” he said. He added that arrangements have been made to provide all necessary amenities for those attending. The ministers instructed public representatives, coalition leaders, and officials to actively coordinate in mobilizing crowds, ensuring smooth transportation, and setting up basic facilities like water, sanitation, and seating. The leaders emphasized that this major Yoga Day celebration, hosted by the coalition government, should serve as a model for coordination and execution. With the PM’s presence expected to draw national attention, the ministers reiterated that all departments must work together seamlessly. Efforts are now underway across the district to spread awareness and ensure high participation to mark the event’s success.



Modern Tools Must Reach Every Farmer: Collector Anand

TPN | Seshu Nellore: District Collector KVN Chakradhar Babu Anand emphasized the need to bring scientific and technological advancements in agricultural mechanization closer to farmers to boost productivity and reduce labor dependency. Speaking after distributing farm machinery at the district-level event held at the Agricultural Research Center in Nellore on Thursday, he called upon agriculture department staff to master and promote new technologies widely. As part of the Agricultural Mechanization Scheme for 2024–25, a total of 1,452 farm machines will be distributed to farmers across Nellore district. The total cost of these tools stands at ₹6.80 crore, of which



₹2.86 crore has been earmarked as subsidy, the Collector informed. He stressed the importance of soil testing and region-specific strategies to guide farmers at various crop stages. “Staff should support farmers in adapting these technologies and help them understand the benefits of using mechanized equip-

ment, from soil preparation to harvesting,” he said. Collector Anand also directed the Agricultural Research Center to design tools that meet local agricultural needs and suit specific crops grown in different mandals. District Agriculture Officer P. Satyavani presented a detailed report on the distribution of machinery, listing the number of tools allotted to each constituency and the corresponding subsidy amounts. She noted that these steps aim to reduce physical strain on farmers and encourage precision in farming practices. Agros Regional Manager Vidyasagar, Assistant Agriculture Director, Agriculture Officers, and Village Agriculture Assistants were also present at the event.

Yoga Should Be Part of Daily Life: MLA Nelavala Vijayasree

TPN | C Shekar Tirupati: To mark the 11th International Yoga Day, a large-scale yoga program was held at the Bivipalem tourist center in Tada mandal of Tirupati district. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of around 500 individuals from across the region. Local MLA Nelavala Vijayasree, Revenue Divisional Officer Kiranmayi, and several district and mandal-level officials were present as chief guests. The event began with a ceremonial lamp lighting by MLA Vijayasree, who emphasized the importance of incorporating yoga into daily life. “Yoga is a natural remedy for a healthy life. It brings both mental and physi-

cal well-being and is especially beneficial for women and children. Everyone should make it a part of their routine,” said MLA Vijayasree. She further mentioned that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a massive yoga program titled ‘Yogandhra’ will be held in Visakhapatnam on June 21. She urged the public to actively participate in the event, which aims to gather around five lakh participants and set a world record. The program saw active participation from women, children, local TDP leaders, and activists, reflecting the growing awareness and enthusiasm for yoga across the district.



Is the US Planning to Attack Iran?



Tensions between the United States and Iran have reached a boiling point, especially following recent statements by US President Donald Trump. On Tuesday, Trump took to social media, calling for Iran's "UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER" and even threatened Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, stating that the US knew where he was hiding but "didn't want him killed for now." These alarming threats came shortly after Trump cut short his participation at the G-7 summit in Canada, focusing instead on America's strategy in Israel's ongoing conflict with Iran.

The United States has already ramped up its military presence in the Middle East, with the deployment of a US Navy Carrier Strike Group, led by the USS Nimitz, and

B-2 Spirit bombers stationed at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. These bombers are capable of carrying massive bunker-buster bombs, specifically the GBU-57 MOP, which can be used to target Iran's underground nuclear facilities.

This escalation comes amid growing fears of a broader conflict. Trump's rhetoric has sparked speculation that the US might launch airstrikes on Tehran or other key locations in Iran. Trump's call for the evacuation of Tehran has led to massive congestion on the city's roads as citizens scramble to flee. Many countries, including India, have issued advisories urging their citizens to leave Iran.

A key factor fueling these tensions is the

ongoing conflict between Israel and Iran. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently launched military operations against Iran, which many analysts believe could have been carried out with Trump's tacit approval. While Trump has distanced himself from Israel's actions, some believe that Netanyahu has long sought a military solution to Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Despite the hardline rhetoric, there is speculation that Trump's actions may be part of a pressure tactic to force Iran into concessions, especially regarding its nuclear program. With both Israel and the US intensifying military pressure, the situation in the region remains precarious, and the world anxiously awaits if diplomacy can still defuse this growing crisis.



PM Modi's Canada Visit: A Diplomatic Reset Under Carney's Leadership

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Canada has marked a significant diplomatic shift between New Delhi and Ottawa, with India's firm stance and patient diplomacy finally yielding results. Following a period of strained relations under Justin Trudeau, Canada's new Prime Minister, Mark Carney, has made crucial moves to recalibrate ties, signaling a thaw in what was once a frosty relationship.

The turning point came with Carney's recognition of India's concerns regarding terrorism, particularly the activities of Khalistani extremists within Canada. Unlike Trudeau, whose rhetoric often fueled tensions, Carney adopted a more pragmatic approach. During Modi's visit, Carney acknowledged issues of "transnational repression" while also addressing the sensitive Nijjar case with caution. This careful tone was a stark contrast to Trudeau's earlier political theatrics, which had caused a significant rift.

One of the major outcomes of the summit was an agreement between the two countries to resume regular diplomatic services, including the designation of new high commissioners. This deal also included a pact for intelligence sharing on terrorism and organized crime, directly addressing India's longstanding concerns about Khalistani militants and other extremists operating in Canada.

Modi's diplomatic approach, focusing on clear red lines without responding to provocations, has proven successful. His steady, non-confrontational stance ensured that India's core concerns—security, terrorism, and criminal activities—were front and center in discussions. By not engaging in unnecessary theatrics, Modi allowed the facts to speak for themselves, compelling Canada to acknowledge the reality of the situation.

Why It's Best To Expect the Unexpected From Israeli Warfare



One of the most crucial lessons in understanding conflicts in the Middle East is that conventional wisdom often fails when it comes to Israel. Time and time again, Israel has defied expectations with its audacious and unorthodox military strategies, demonstrating a unique approach that reflects its existential need for survival.

The 1967 Six-Day War is perhaps the most glaring example of Israel's ability to turn the tide in its favor against seemingly overwhelming odds. At the time, most Indian and international publications, particularly those sympathetic to the Arab cause, were confident that Israel would soon be crushed by the combined might of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. Yet, within six days, Israel had transformed the Middle East's map, capturing Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and the Sinai Peninsula. The decisive factor was Israel's preemptive strike, which wiped out the Egyptian air force, ensuring the conflict was all but won in the first hours of the war.

Since then, Israel's military actions have been marked by a consistent pattern of doing the unexpected, whether through the swift retaliation against Palestinian terrorists responsible for the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre or the surgical

strikes against Hezbollah's leadership in recent years. These operations are not just about military might but reflect a deeper survival instinct—Israel operates under the constant threat of annihilation, and its unorthodox tactics reflect this existential struggle.

The current conflict with Iran underscores Israel's strategic unpredictability. Despite not sharing a common border with Iran, Israel views the regime in Tehran as a grave threat to its existence. Iran's ambitions, particularly its nuclear program, are seen as a direct challenge to Israel's security. Israel's goal, however, extends beyond merely dismantling Iran's nuclear capabilities. It seeks the overthrow of Iran's theocratic regime, a shift towards democracy, and the end of Iran's hegemonic ambitions in the Middle East.

What's particularly alarming is that Israel's air force enjoys almost complete dominance over Iranian skies, and with its reputation for boldness, one must expect the unexpected in the coming phases of this conflict. The outcome remains uncertain, but Israel's drive to survive will likely ensure that its strategies remain unorthodox and surprising.



Is India Addressing Inequality Amid Economic Growth?

India has achieved remarkable economic milestones, surpassing Japan with a GDP of \$4.19 trillion in 2025, making it the world's fourth-largest economy. While this is a significant achievement, there is a pressing question: Is India's growth truly inclusive, or is inequality widening?

The Gini coefficient, a key indicator of inequality, suggests mixed trends. According to the Economic Survey of 2024-25, inequality has been declining in both rural and urban areas, with the Gini coefficient for rural areas dropping from 0.266 in 2022-23 to 0.237 in 2023-24, and urban areas seeing a similar reduction. However, some experts argue that the Gini coefficient, based on consumption, fails to capture long-term wealth inequality, as high-income households tend to save more than they spend.

Reports such as Bhalla Surjeet's "Pandemic, Poverty, and Inequality" (2022) indicate that inequality has actually decreased in recent years, but concerns remain about the concentration of wealth among the top 1%. According to the World Inequality Lab, the top

1% in India holds 40.1% of wealth, while the bottom 50% holds only 6.4%. This disparity is consistent with global patterns, where the richest 10% in India earn a larger share of the national income compared to countries like the USA and China.

While inequality is often seen as a byproduct of free-market economies, it is essential to understand that some degree of inequality is inevitable. However, India must focus on reducing socio-economic vulnerabilities—such as poor health, education, and skill levels—especially among marginalized communities. Policies like the 'Ayushman Bharat' health initiative and 'Poshan' food schemes have significantly reduced the vulnerability of low-income groups, providing a better safety net and enhancing upward mobility.

The government's focus on empowering the poorest, improving education, healthcare, and skill development can help ensure that growth is more inclusive. India's future lies in creating opportunities for all, ensuring that even the most marginalized can contribute to and benefit from the nation's economic rise.

PM Modi to Launch ₹9.5 Crore Projects, Address Rally in Poll-Bound Bihar’s Siwan

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Patna, June 19, 2025 — In a significant move ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in Bihar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Siwan on June 20, where he will inaugurate developmental projects worth ₹9.5 crore and address a public rally. He will also flag off a new Vande Bharat Express train connecting Patliputra Junction in Patna to Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh.

This marks PM Modi’s fourth visit to Bihar in 2025, underscoring the political weight the State carries in the upcoming electoral battle. His previous visits were on January

24, April 24, and May 29-30, which included a high-profile roadshow in Patna and a rally in Bikramganj, Rohtas district.

Siwan, a traditional stronghold of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), holds strategic importance due to its sizeable Muslim, Yadav (OBC), and Scheduled Caste population. The district also shares borders with Saran and Gopalganj, where BJP leaders have been actively mobilizing support ahead of the PM’s visit. Siwan also holds historical significance as the birthplace of India’s first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, a legacy PM Modi is likely to reference during his speech.

Apart from infrastructure and transportation, Modi’s visit is being seen as an attempt to counter the RJD’s strong base and consolidate BJP’s reach in the region. Opposition leader Tejashwi Yadav, however, accused the PM of using the visit to “cheat Bihar,” alleging that Modi would avoid core issues like unemployment and migration while attacking political opponents. Meanwhile, tensions rose in Patna after Yadav reported a firing incident near his official residence, raising security concerns. As Bihar heads into a heated election season, Modi’s outreach in Siwan could set the tone for BJP’s campaign in the months ahead.



Justice Yashwant Varma Faces Impeachment Call Over Cash Scandal

SC Panel Finds Misconduct Proven

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
New Delhi, June 19, 2025 — A Supreme Court-appointed panel has found serious misconduct against Justice Yashwant Varma, currently serving in the Allahabad High Court, and recommended his removal over the discovery of a large amount of half-burnt cash at his official residence. The inquiry, led by Chief Justice Sheel Nagu of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, concluded that Justice Varma and his family had “covert or active control” over the store room where the money was stored.



The three-judge panel—comprising Justices G.S. Sandhawalia and Anu Sivaraman alongside Justice Nagu—conducted a 10-day investigation, recorded statements from 55 witnesses, and reviewed surveillance and physical evidence. The blaze that uncovered the scandal broke out on March 14 at 11:35 p.m. at Varma’s residence at 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi.

In its 64-page report, the panel cited “strong inferential evidence” proving that the charred currency was removed from the store room in the early hours of March 15. It stated the misconduct was grave enough to warrant impeachment.

Acting on this, former Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna wrote to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi recommending Justice Varma’s impeachment.

The report emphasized that judicial integrity is held to a far higher standard than civil service,

stating, “Probity is the most important and indispensable attribute of a person holding judicial office.”

Firefighters and police officials testified to witnessing charred stacks of ₹500 notes. The panel also criticized the testimony of Justice Varma’s daughter, calling her statements implausible.

Rejecting Varma’s claim that security and CCTV footage ruled out tampering, the panel concluded that the breach of public trust was significant and called for stringent action to uphold judicial credibility.

‘Razor Blade Throat’ Covid Variant Nimbus (NB.1.8.1) Spreads In Indian

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
New Delhi, June 19, 2025 — A new COVID-19 subvariant, NB.1.8.1 — nicknamed Nimbus or the “razor blade throat” variant — is rapidly gaining attention globally and in India. This emerging strain is known for its particularly painful sore throat symptom, which some patients have described as feeling like “swallowing razor blades.”

Although the World Health Organization (WHO) has designated Nimbus as a “variant under monitoring,” current data suggests it may not be more severe than previous strains. However, it is spreading swiftly across multiple regions and contributing to a noticeable uptick in COVID-19 cases.

Where Has Nimbus Spread?
Originally detected in parts of China and Hong Kong, Nimbus has since spread to several U.S. states including California, Washington, Virginia, and New York. Australia and the United Kingdom have also reported cases. In the UK alone, 13 cases were confirmed in early June, accompanied by a 10% increase in COVID-related hospitalisations, as per The Independent. In India, doctors have also identified cases with similar symp-



toms, prompting increased surveillance.

By mid-May 2025, the Nimbus variant accounted for approximately 11% of all sequenced COVID-19 samples worldwide — a clear indication of its rising prevalence. Key Symptoms of NB.1.8.1 (Nimbus)
Intense sore throat, often described as “razor blade” pain
Fever
Fatigue
Headache
Nasal congestion or runny nose
Occasional cough and muscle aches

Indian health professionals have noted that while most cases remain mild, the sore throat symptom stands out as particularly distressing.

As India reports over 7,000 active infections and 70 recent deaths, public health experts urge continued vigilance, mask use in crowded places, and updated vaccinations for those eligible.

Health authorities continue to monitor Nimbus’s spread and mutation pattern, with emphasis on controlling outbreaks through early detection and timely medical intervention.

India’s ICE Dominance Shields Auto Sector from China’s Rare Earth Export Curbs

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
India’s automotive sector is expected to remain largely unaffected by China’s recent restrictions on rare earth material (REM) exports, thanks to its overwhelming reliance on internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. According to a report by Nuvama, over 95% of vehicles in India are ICE-powered, which drastically reduces the country’s vulnerability compared to nations with higher electric vehicle (EV) adoption. China’s April 2025 decision to restrict the export of seven critical rare earth elements—including samarium, dysprosium, and scandium—was primarily targeted at the defence sector. However, the impact is expected to ripple through the auto, aerospace, and industrial sectors globally, especially in EV manufacturing.

The report highlights that REMs are essential for producing permanent magnets used in EV motors, especially Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motors (PMSMs). These motors depend heavily on rare earths



to function effectively at high temperatures. REM demand varies by vehicle type—electric vehicles use around 0.8 kg per unit, hybrids 0.5 kg, and ICE vehicles just 0.1 kg.

As a result, India’s EV and hybrid segments will bear the brunt of the supply restrictions. However, with EV penetration still low—about 7% in two-wheelers and 3% in passenger vehicles—the overall impact on the auto sector is expected to be minimal. EV sales have grown at

a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 25% between FY23 and FY25, but this growth comes from a relatively small base. Automakers relying on rare earth-based components will now be required to secure end-user certifications from the Chinese government, a process estimated to take up to 45 days. Despite these hurdles, India’s current vehicle mix and slow EV transition act as a buffer against potential supply chain shocks caused by China’s REM policy shift.

‘Forgotten Osama Already?’ Shashi Tharoor On Donald Trump-Asim Munir Lunch

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor issued a sharp rebuke to the United States following President Donald Trump’s controversial lunch meeting with Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir, warning Americans not to forget Pakistan’s past duplicity—particularly in harboring Osama bin Laden. “Remember Osama bin Laden—the Al-Qaeda leader behind the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people—was found hiding near a Pakistan Army camp,” Tharoor reminded, underscoring the country’s historical ties to terrorism.

Speaking amid widespread Indian outrage over the Trump-Munir meeting, Tharoor said, “Some US lawmakers may have welcomed the Pakistani delegation, but surely the American people have not forgotten how Pakistan shielded bin Laden.” His message was clear: Pakistan cannot be trusted, given its track record of supporting cross-border terrorism, including attacks in India.

The Thiruvananthapuram MP added that he hoped Trump used the meeting to firmly warn Munir against supporting terrorist operations targeting India. “I hope

while the General was being wined and dined, he got all these messages... because that would also be in America’s interest,” Tharoor said.

The timing of the meeting has raised concerns in India, especially after General Munir’s incendiary remarks calling Kashmir Pakistan’s “jugular” and boasting about a “superior culture” just days before the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar condemned Munir’s extremist rhetoric, attributing the deadly Pahalgam assault to the Pakistani Army chief’s radical influence. The Indian government claims to possess clear evidence that the attack was orchestrated by Pakistan’s deep state.

Further reports suggest Pakistani-backed terrorists were also behind recent attacks in London and Moscow. India has reiterated its stance that Kashmir is a bilateral issue and rejected third-party mediation, with Prime Minister Modi firmly conveying this to President Trump during a recent phone call. Despite this, Trump continued to claim credit for a ceasefire in the region—drawing criticism for undermining India’s position.

Trump Acknowledges India-Pakistan Ceasefire Was Their Decision, Not His

TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a rare shift from previous statements, U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday acknowledged that the decision to halt the recent military conflict between India and Pakistan was made by the two nations' leaders themselves—Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir.

Speaking after hosting General Munir for lunch at the White House, Trump said, "I want to thank him for not going into the war, for ending the war. And I want to thank Prime Minister Modi as well. Two very smart people decided not to keep going with that war. That could have been a nuclear war."

This marks the first time Trump has publicly refrained from tak-



ing credit for the May 10 ceasefire between the nuclear-armed neighbors. Previously, he had repeatedly claimed to have brokered peace and suggested the U.S. role was central to defusing tensions. On several occasions, he linked the de-escalation to potential trade deals with both India and

Pakistan.

Trump added that the U.S. is "working on a trade deal" with both countries, underscoring Washington's broader diplomatic and economic interests in South Asia. The statement came just days after Indian Foreign Secre-

tary Vikram Misri released a video clarifying India's stance. Misri said that during a 35-minute phone conversation between Modi and Trump—held while Trump was attending the G7 Summit in Canada—Modi made it clear that India had not discussed any U.S. mediation in the conflict, nor was a trade deal linked to military de-escalation.

"India will never accept third-party mediation on issues with Pakistan. This position has full political consensus in India," Misri emphasized.

Tensions between India and Pakistan had flared during Operation Sindoor earlier this year, raising fears of a wider regional conflict. The May 10 ceasefire appears to have brought a tentative calm to the region, now acknowledged as a diplomatic effort led independently by the two nations.



"Won't Surrender": Iran Warns US Of 'Irreparable Damage' If It Intervenes

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

As tensions escalate between Iran and Israel, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has issued a defiant warning to the United States, vowing never to surrender and threatening "irreparable damage" if Washington intervenes. The statement came in direct response to U.S. President Donald Trump's call for Iran to surrender unconditionally amid an intensifying regional conflict.

Speaking from an undisclosed location, Khamenei addressed the Iranian public and sent a clear message to the U.S. and Israel. "Tehran will never surrender," he declared, reinforcing Iran's resolve in the face of mounting pressure and military threats. His warning came after President Trump publicly stated that the U.S. knows Khamenei's location and could target him, "but not yet," urging Iran to halt missile attacks on civilians and American personnel.

President Trump, in a series of remarks and a Truth Social post, accused Iran of squandering opportunities for diplomacy. He warned that the U.S. possesses unmatched military capabilities and that Israel, heavily armed with American technology, "knows how to use it." Trump further reminded Khamenei that other Iranian hardliners "spoke bravely" before being eliminated, suggesting Iran's leadership could face a similar fate.

The crisis erupted on Friday when Israel launched airstrikes targeting Iran's military and nuclear sites. Iran retaliated by firing hundreds of ballistic missiles into Israeli cities, including Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, many striking civilian zones. In response, Israel warned Tehran of more strikes, urging civilians to evacuate areas near military infrastructure.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz emphasized that civilians were not Israel's intended targets but warned that those near regime facilities in Tehran could be at risk. "We will continue to protect our citizens," he said, underscoring Israel's readiness for prolonged conflict. The situation remains volatile as both nations prepare for further military action and diplomatic options narrow.

Israel Strikes Iran's Nuclear Reactor After Missile Attack Hits Hospital

Netanyahu Vows Retaliation

TPN Correspondent | Iran

Tensions between Israel and Iran escalated sharply on Thursday after a barrage of Iranian missiles struck residential areas near Tel Aviv and severely damaged Soroka Medical Centre in Beersheba. In response, Israel launched airstrikes targeting Iran's Arak heavy water reactor—an integral part of its nuclear infrastructure.

According to Israel's Health Ministry, over 240 people were injured in the Iranian missile attack, including more than 70 patients from the hospital, although no serious casualties occurred at the medical facility. Soroka Hospital, which



serves nearly one million people, was forced to limit services to life-threatening cases after an old surgical wing sustained damage.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz blamed Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei directly, stating, "The military knows that this

man absolutely should not continue to exist." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also condemned the strike and promised, "We will exact the full price from the tyrants in Tehran."

Israel's retaliation focused on the Arak reactor's core components to prevent plutonium production, an alternative route to nuclear weapons. Though Iran claimed there was no radiation leak or civilian casualties, the symbolic and strategic nature of the strike sends a strong warning.

The attack comes amid a wider military campaign initiated by Israel on June 13, which has already targeted

Iran's Natanz enrichment facility, nuclear scientists, and high-ranking military officers. In retaliation, Iran has launched more than 400 missiles and drones into Israeli territory, resulting in at least 24 deaths and hundreds injured.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had recently inspected Arak, but admitted it lost "continuity of knowledge" due to Iranian restrictions. Iran maintains its nuclear program is peaceful, though it enriches uranium up to 60%, nearing weapons-grade.

Diplomatic talks involving European nations are now expected in Geneva as the crisis deepens.

SpaceX Starship Explodes During Test in Texas, No Injuries Reported



TPN Correspondent | KYIV

A SpaceX Starship rocket exploded late Wednesday night during a routine ground test at the company's Starbase facility in Boca Chica, Texas, sending a massive fireball into the night sky. Fortunately, no injuries were reported, and an investigation into the incident is currently underway.

The incident occurred around 11:00 p.m. on June 18 as the spacecraft was undergoing pre-flight checks ahead of its planned tenth test launch. According to a statement from SpaceX, the vehicle "experienced a major anomaly" while on the test stand.

"A safety clear area around the site was maintained throughout the operation and all personnel are safe and accounted for," SpaceX confirmed on its official X (formerly Twitter) account. The company emphasized that there is no danger to nearby communities and urged the public to avoid approaching the test site.

The dramatic explosion lit up the skies above the Texas coastline and was visible for miles, sparking concern among local residents and space enthusiasts. Law enforcement and emergency services were on-site quickly, but no evacuations or road closures were necessary.

This marks a setback for SpaceX's ambitious Starship program, which aims to revolutionize space travel with a fully reusable launch system capable of carrying both crew and cargo to the Moon, Mars, and beyond. The Starship vehicle involved was preparing for what would have been its tenth flight test—part of ongoing efforts to refine the rocket's design and performance.

Despite the explosion, SpaceX remains committed to the Starship program. The company stated that it is working closely with local authorities and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to determine the cause of the failure and to prevent future incidents.

Israeli Forces Kill Over 50 People Near Gaza Aid Site Amid Escalating Crisis



On June 17, 2025, Gaza's civil defense agency reported that Israeli forces killed more than 50 individuals near an aid distribution site in the southern city of Khan Yunis, marking the latest in a series of deadly incidents near humanitarian facilities in the Palestinian territory. The attack is a grim reminder of the worsening situation in Gaza, which has been embroiled in over 20 months of intense conflict between Israel and Hamas.

The ongoing war has left the region devastated, with critical shortages of essential resources such as food, fuel, and clean water. As the humanitarian crisis deepens, the United Nations and various global aid organizations have repeatedly raised alarms about the dire conditions faced by Gaza's population. Despite efforts to provide relief, the conflict continues to obstruct aid deliveries and exacerbate the already dire situation on the ground.

In early March, Israel imposed a total blockade on aid entering Gaza, further complicating efforts to alleviate the suffering of the local population. Although the blockade was partially eased in late May, restrictions on the delivery of essential supplies have remained in place, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. The Israeli military has repeatedly targeted areas near aid sites, citing security concerns related to Hamas's presence in these regions.

The latest attack in Khan Yunis has sparked international condemnation, with human rights groups calling for an immediate ceasefire and greater protection for civilians. As the violence continues, both sides of the conflict face increasing pressure from the international community to engage in meaningful negotiations and find a path toward peace. However, with no clear resolution in sight, the people of Gaza continue to endure the devastating consequences of this prolonged conflict.

Markets End Lower Amid Crude Spike and War Tensions; Nifty, Sensex See Mild Losses

Domestic stock markets were in a red zone on Thursday. Except for the benchmark indices, all sectoral indices were down. Negative signals from global markets, the intensification of the war in West Asia, and a sudden increase in crude oil prices are the reasons for this. On the other hand, US Fed Chair Jerome Powell's prediction that inflation will increase further due to Trump's tariffs added fuel to the fire. All sectoral indices except auto fell as investors sold shares. The Sensex and Nifty rose 82 points and 18 points respectively as they fluctuated in the range.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 81,444 in the previous session, opened at 81,403 on Thursday. It touched an intraday low of 81,191. It reached an intraday high of 81,583. It ended at 81,361, down 82 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,803, touched a low of 24,733 and a high of 24,863. It closed at 24,793, down 18 points. The Nifty Bank fell 251 points to settle at 55,577.

In the Nifty50, 22 companies gained while 28 lost. Tata Consumer, Eicher Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Wipro, Dr. Reddy's were the top gainers. Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance, Shriram Finance, Tech Mahindra, and Adani Enterprises were the biggest losers. All sectoral indices, except auto, rose today. PSU Bank, Media, Realty, Finance, Defense, Metal, Energy, and Consumer Discretionary indices were volatile.

Market breadth on NSE today completely shifted in favor of bears. Out of a total of 2954 stocks traded, only 516 gained. 2363 lost. 35 stocks touched their 52-week highs and 43 stocks touched their 52-week lows. 46 reached the upper circuit and 107 reached the lower circuit.

Nestle India will decide on the issue of bonus shares on June 26. It is learned that HDFC Finance subsidiary HDB Finance will come up with an IPO on June 25. The rupee fell 0.3% to settle at 86.72 against the dollar. M&M increased its stake in Mahindra Life Space to 52.43 percent. The IPO of Ares Infra Solutions was subscribed by 88% by the afternoon of the second day. HCL Tech has partnered with Just Energy for AI-related changes. Ashoka Buildcon has won an order worth \$ 67.2 million from the Guyana government. Crude oil prices have further deteriorated due to increased Israeli attacks on Iranian nuclear plants. It is known that Rs. 58000 crore of cash is stagnant in some mutual fund companies. It is noteworthy that this value is 30 percent of the entire industry.

Wipro
Wipro reported a strong Q4 FY25 with a 26%



year-on-year (YoY) jump in net profit to ₹3,588 crore, its highest in eight quarters. Revenue, however, remained modest. For the full FY25, Wipro is considered a fundamentally strong, low-risk IT stock offering value at a reasonable valuation. While revenue growth has been muted, operational recovery and enhanced profitability are positive signs. The company recently extended its partnership with Metro AG and Wipro Infra is set to acquire a majority stake in French aerospace major Lauak Group, signaling strategic moves. Analysts have a consensus "Hold" rating, with target prices varying, reflecting a cautious yet attractive opportunity in the IT sector.

Eicher Motors
Eicher Motors saw a strong Q4 FY25, with consolidated net profit jumping 27.3% YoY to ₹1,362 crore, beating analyst estimates. This was primarily driven by higher volumes, particularly in its Royal Enfield motorcycle segment. Eicher Motors remains a market leader in the mid-weight motorcycle segment through its Royal Enfield brand, and analysts are positive due to its strong positioning and new launches like the Hunter 350. The company is outpacing peers in the two-wheeler space and is leveraging its brand value in international markets.

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M)
M&M delivered solid results in Q4 FY25 and for the full FY25 across its multiple businesses. Standalone revenue grew 24% in Q4 FY25, and consolidated revenue for FY25 was up 14%. M&M is poised for continued growth, driven by strong demand for its automotive and farm equipment, and the scaling up of its "Growth Gems" (e.g., financial services, Tech Mahindra). The company remains pos-

itive about the farm sector's potential, fueled by above-average monsoon forecasts and increased agricultural spending. Analysts generally have a "Strong Buy" rating with an average 12-month price target indicating significant upside.

Grasim Industries
Grasim Industries reported robust Q4 and full FY25 results. Consolidated revenue for FY25 hit a record ₹1.48 lakh crore, up 13% YoY. While adjusted net profit for the year was ₹3,902 crore (down 37% YoY due to strategic investments in new businesses), Q4 FY25 saw a 17% YoY revenue growth. Grasim is strategically investing in new growth avenues like paints (Birla Opus) and B2B E-Commerce (Birla Pivot), which are showing promising early results. While increased capital expenditure has led to higher debt-to-EBITDA, the company's diversified portfolio and strong market positions across various segments are expected to drive future growth. Analysts have a consensus "Buy" rating, with an average target price suggesting upside.

Titan Company
Titan Company reported a strong Q4 FY25, with standalone net profit rising 11% YoY to ₹870 crore and revenue from operations increasing 25% YoY to ₹12,581 crore. Titan's growth is driven by a recovery in consumer demand, strong festive season sales, and its premium positioning in the jewellery and lifestyle segments. The company plans to continue its expansion strategy by opening new retail outlets for its Fastrack and CaratLane banners. While the P/E ratio is high, it reflects the market's long-term confidence in Titan's consistent growth and strong brand value under the Tata Group's legacy. Analysts generally have a "Buy" rating with an average price target indicating potential upside.

ICRA Projects India's Real GDP Growth to Exceed 6.5% for FY26



ICRA has forecasted a strong economic performance for India in FY26, with real GDP growth expected to exceed 6.5%. The credit rating agency also predicts a robust Gross Value Added (GVA) growth rate of over 6.3% for the same period, signaling a continued upward trajectory for the Indian economy.

The optimism surrounding India's economic outlook stems from several key factors, including strong domestic demand, robust consumption, and improved industrial activity. The country's economic recovery is expected to gain further momentum, driven by infrastructure development, digitalization, and an expanding services sector. Additionally, government initiatives to boost manufacturing and attract foreign investments are expected to continue contributing positively to the overall growth prospects.

While ICRA's projections indicate strong growth for FY26, inflation remains an important factor to monitor. The agency forecasts that Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation will likely remain within the targeted range, though external factors such as oil prices and global supply chain disruptions could impact domestic price pressures. Despite these potential challenges, India's overall economic fundamentals are seen as solid, positioning the country for sustainable growth.

ICRA's projections align with a broader trend of optimism within the Indian economy. India is expected to continue being one of the fastest-growing major economies, buoyed by demographic advantages, a growing middle class, and an increasing focus on technological advancements.

For the Indian government, these projections reinforce the importance of sustaining growth-supportive policies and reforms that target productivity improvements, fiscal discipline, and infrastructure investments. With the global economic environment presenting both opportunities and risks, India's economic growth in FY26 will likely serve as a key indicator of the country's resilience and ability to weather global uncertainties while driving domestic progress.

Overall, ICRA's forecast underscores India's bright economic future, underpinned by a diverse, expanding economy and the continued success of its policy reforms.

Gold Prices May Fall 10% in Two Months and Up to 30% in a Year, Say Experts

Gold prices, after soaring nearly 30% this year to above \$3,350 per ounce, are showing signs of losing steam. According to financial experts and market analysts, the yellow metal may be heading toward a significant correction, with predictions of a short-term dip of 8-10% and a possible long-term decline of up to 30% over the next year.

Despite rising geopolitical tensions—particularly conflicts in the Middle East and the Black Sea—gold has remained relatively flat in recent weeks. Experts believe this indicates that the metal has already factored in major global risks, including central bank buying, ETF demand, and the trend of de-dollarisation. Ajay Kedia of Kedia Advisory noted that while gold briefly surged following the outbreak of the Israel-Iran conflict, it failed to maintain momentum despite worsening conditions. He emphasized that gold would need to cross \$3,500 per ounce to regain bullish momentum but warned that a near-term correction to around \$2,700–\$2,800 is highly likely. In a scenario where global tensions ease, gold could even drop to \$2,400—more than 30% below current levels. Adding to the cautious outlook, Citibank



has revised its gold forecasts downward, trimming its 3-month target from \$3,500 to \$3,300 and its 6–12-month outlook to \$2,800. Retailers are already seeing a shift in consumer behavior. Shreyansh Kapoor of Kashi Jewellers said high prices are driving more people to sell old jewelry, with return rates jumping from 5–7% to 25%. He added that wedding budgets are also being squeezed due to elevated prices. Quant Mutual Fund echoed these sentiments in its June factsheet, projecting a 12–15% decline in gold prices in the short term. Still, the firm maintains a positive long-term view, advising investors to maintain some allocation to precious metals. Currently, spot gold trades around \$3,371 per ounce, reflecting heightened investor demand driven by global uncertainty.

India's Inflation Falls to 2.8% in May, But Rising Core Inflation Raises Concerns: CRISIL

India's retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), dropped to 2.8% in May 2025, signaling a positive development for the economy. This marks one of the lowest inflation readings in recent months, driven largely by a slowdown in food and fuel prices. However, according to CRISIL, the moderation in headline inflation may be masking a more complex picture — a rise in core inflation that could pose fresh macroeconomic challenges.

While the decline in headline CPI offers relief to policymakers and consumers alike, core inflation — which excludes volatile food and energy prices — is showing signs of upward movement. CRISIL has cautioned that this could complicate the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approach to interest rates and monetary policy.

The drop in overall inflation reflects easing prices in key sectors such as vegetables, cereals, and edible oils, as supply-side



conditions improved and global commodity prices softened. Fuel inflation also moderated due to relatively stable international crude oil rates. These factors contributed to the broader decline in consumer prices, offering some respite to households struggling with the cost of living.

However, the concern lies beneath the surface. Core inflation, typically seen as a more stable indicator of long-term inflation trends, is edging higher, suggesting underlying price pressures are building up in non-food, non-energy segments such as health, education, housing, and

personal care.

According to CRISIL, this divergence between headline and core inflation could lead to policy dilemmas for the RBI. A soft headline number might call for a more accommodative monetary stance to support growth, but rising core inflation may prevent any aggressive rate cuts.

Economists also note that sticky core inflation could erode purchasing power in the long term and limit the effectiveness of short-term fiscal measures aimed at boosting consumption.

Going forward, CRISIL advises close monitoring of inflation trends, especially in the services sector, and suggests that any monetary easing should be approached cautiously to avoid fueling underlying inflationary pressures. While the current figures are encouraging on the surface, persistent core inflation may indicate that the inflationary battle is far from over.

Nutella Unveils First New Flavour in 60 Years – Can You Guess What It Is?

For the first time in six decades, Nutella has introduced a brand-new flavour — and it’s a game-changer. Since its launch in 1964, Nutella’s creamy blend of hazelnuts and cocoa has remained unchanged and loved by millions. But now, Ferrero, the company behind the iconic spread, has announced the release of a new variant: Nutella with Peanut.



This new flavour blends Nutella’s signature chocolate-hazelnut spread with the rich, roasted taste of peanuts — combining two of the most beloved spreads in the world. The addition of peanuts is expected to appeal to fans of both chocolate and peanut butter, offering a familiar yet exciting new twist.

In a statement, Ferrero described the new spread as “a combination of the distinctive creaminess of Nutella with the delicious taste of roasted peanuts.” While the spread retains Nutella’s classic dark brown color, the packaging will look different — featuring a yellow lid and label in place of the usual white, symbolizing the peanut element.

However, there’s a catch. This new flavour will only be available in North America, and not until Spring 2026. Details about the price and exact

launch date have yet to be revealed.

Nutella fans may remember Francesco Rivella, the man credited with developing the beloved spread. Rivella, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 97, initially created a hazelnut chocolate stick called Giandujot before refining the formula into the creamy version we now know as Nutella.

While the new peanut flavour marks a major shift in Nutella’s product line, it remains to be seen how fans across the world will react — and whether it might eventually roll out globally. For now, it’s a North American exclusive that promises to shake up breakfast tables and dessert recipes alike.

iPhone 17 Pro Geekbench Scores Leak: A19 Pro Chip Outpaces Snapdragon 8 Elite SoC

Apple’s upcoming iPhone 17 Pro series is generating major buzz ahead of its expected September launch. The latest leak, coming from tipster Digital Chat Station on Weibo, reveals alleged Geekbench scores for the iPhone 17 Pro and iPhone 17 Pro Max—and they appear to outperform both Apple’s current A18 Pro and Qualcomm’s flagship Snapdragon 8 Elite chipsets.



According to the leak, the A19 Pro SoC—expected to power the iPhone 17 Pro series—will retain the 3nm fabrication process seen in its predecessor but deliver significantly better performance. The benchmark scores suggest a single-core score exceeding 4,000 and a multi-core score surpassing 10,000, representing a notable leap over the iPhone 16 Pro Max’s Geekbench scores of 3,203 (single-core) and 7,846 (multi-core).

In comparison, the Samsung Galaxy S25 Ultra, equipped with the latest Snapdragon 8 Elite SoC, scored 3,054 (single-core) and 9,832 (multi-core). While Qualcomm’s chip remains highly competitive, Apple’s A19 Pro appears to take a slight lead in raw processing power, according to these early results.

Beyond performance, design leaks suggest the iPhone 17 Pro models may feature a thicker chassis—possibly to accommodate

a larger battery or a VC (vapor chamber) cooling system, which would be a first for Apple. Rumors also hint at a redesigned camera module and enhancements to display technology across the lineup, including the new iPhone 17 Air, a lightweight model poised to rival Samsung’s Galaxy S25 Edge.

These upgrades are expected to complement Apple’s recently announced Liquid Glass UI, a visually immersive interface that increases processing demands with transparency effects and transitions.

If the leaks hold true, Apple’s iPhone 17 Pro series is shaping up to deliver both style and substance in its next-generation flagship smartphones.

Underwater Yoga in Visakhapatnam Makes Waves Ahead of International Yoga Day

In a breathtaking display of harmony and innovation, an underwater yoga session was conducted today off the coast of Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal. The event, led by renowned diving instructor Balaram Naidu, brought together 10 professional divers, including members of the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP), the tourism department, and wellness group Yogandra, to perform yoga beneath the sea surface.

This one-of-a-kind initiative was organized as a prelude to International Yoga Day on June 21, and aimed to spread awareness and mobilize mass participation across the nation. The session also served as a symbolic welcome ahead of the anticipated visit of both the Prime Minister and Chief Minister

to the region.

The underwater yoga sequence, performed in unison, highlighted not only the mental focus and breath control yoga demands but also showcased Visakhapatnam’s unique coastal culture and adventure tourism potential.

B.R. Setty, CEO of Dive Adda, along with SAAP Water Sports Coach K. Girish, and dive masters Hemanth, Satish, and Naresh, joined the initiative to show strong support from the local diving and fitness community.

“Holding steady beneath the waves is much like mastering calm in life—it’s about focus, breath, and balance,” said Balaram Naidu. “We hope this deep dive into the spirit of yoga inspires nation-

wide enthusiasm on International Yoga Day.”

The session also feeds into India’s ambitious plan to set a Guinness World Record with over 500,000 people participating in yoga on June 21.

Event Snapshot:

What: Underwater Yoga Session
Where: Bay of Bengal, Visakhapatnam
Who: Yogandra, SAAP, Dive Adda, 10 certified divers
When: June 19, 2025
Why: Promote International Yoga Day and highlight wellness tourism in Andhra Pradesh

For details, contact Balaram Naidu, founder of Livein Adventures.



Swiggy’s ‘Dilli Se Hu BLCK’ Ad Sparks Backlash Over Slang Reference

Swiggy’s latest ad campaign to promote its premium membership service, One BLCK, in Delhi has stirred controversy rather than celebration. The food delivery platform recently ran a full-page newspaper ad featuring the bold tagline “Dilli Se Hu BLCK” — a play on a well-known Hindi slang phrase. While intended to grab attention, the phrase drew sharp criticism online for its perceived insensitivity and suggestive language.



The phrase appeared on the front page of a prominent newspaper, prompting outrage among many Delhi residents and social media users who found the ad inappropriate and offensive. Journalist Sanket Upadhyay voiced his disapproval on X (formerly Twitter), describing the advertisement as “notorious” and accusing it of normalizing abusive language in mainstream media. He questioned how such messaging was deemed acceptable in a reputable publication.

His post quickly gained traction, with many agreeing that Swiggy had crossed a line. One commenter stressed the need for clear advertising guidelines to prevent such messaging, while another argued that the primary responsibility lies with advertisers, not just publishers. “Normalising bad is the new good,” one user remarked, referencing a growing trend of

provocative marketing.

However, not everyone saw the issue the same way. A few users defended the campaign, suggesting the outrage was exaggerated. “This is the most non-issue issue,” one user commented, criticizing the backlash as misplaced.

Swiggy’s One BLCK is positioned as an elite, invite-only service that builds on the existing Swiggy One membership. It offers premium benefits such as faster deliveries, complimentary add-ons during dine-outs, and dedicated customer support.

Despite the marketing misstep, the service aims to appeal to high-end customers seeking enhanced convenience. However, this incident has reignited the debate over the limits of creativity in advertising and cultural sensitivity.

Friday the 13th: Where the ‘Curse’ Comes From and Whether You Can Avoid It

Friday the 13th has long been regarded as a day of misfortune in many Western cultures. The superstition surrounding this particular date combines fears tied to both the number 13 and Fridays — a duo many believe brings bad luck. While some brush off the notion as mere myth, others actively avoid travel, important decisions, or even stepping outside on this day.



The number 13 itself has been viewed as unlucky for centuries. It breaks the completeness of the number 12, which is often seen as a symbol of order — 12 months, 12 zodiac signs, 12 apostles. According to Christian tradition, Judas Iscariot, the betrayer of Jesus, was the 13th guest at the Last Supper. Jesus was said to be crucified on a Friday, further fueling the superstition, although historical accuracy remains debated.

Some biblical stories also tie Fridays to misfortune — including the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Eden, Cain’s murder of Abel, and the onset of the Great Flood. Roman legends contributed as well, with beliefs that witches gathered in groups of 12, with the 13th being the devil

himself.

Modern pop culture has only amplified these fears. The Friday the 13th horror movie franchise and novels like Dan Brown’s The Da Vinci Code have embedded the superstition deeper into public consciousness. The day is also remembered for real-life tragedies — plane crashes, accidents, and other eerie events — further stoking fear.

Despite a lack of scientific proof, many still take precautions on Friday the 13th. Whether avoiding black cats or postponing major life decisions, believers continue to treat it as a date best approached with caution — just in case the curse holds some truth.

Aryna Sabalenka Frustrated After Berlin Open Match Halted Due to Poor Light and Dew



World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka expressed her frustration after her second-round match at the Berlin Open against Switzerland's Rebeka Masarova was suspended on Wednesday due to poor light and dew. Sabalenka had dominated the first set 6-2 and appeared to be in control before the umpire decided to halt the match, citing slippery conditions on one side of the court.

Clearly unhappy with the decision, Sabalenka questioned the call, saying, "You are stopping the match because she says that side is slippery? I just played two games on that side." The match will resume on Thursday.

The lengthy previous match

between Liudmila Samsonova and third seed Jessica Pegula likely contributed to the late scheduling. That encounter lasted three hours and 21 minutes, with Samsonova eventually defeating Pegula 6-7 (8/10), 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) in a tightly contested thriller that included two tie-breaks.

Sabalenka's irritation comes shortly after her emotionally charged French Open final loss to Coco Gauff. Following that match, she sparked controversy by saying, "I don't think she won the match because she played incredibly well, but because I made all those mistakes." She later retracted those comments in an interview with Eurosport, calling them "completely unprofessional" and

admitting she let her emotions take over.

Despite her world No. 1 ranking, Sabalenka is still chasing her first WTA title on grass and has never reached the final at Wimbledon.

Elsewhere at the Berlin Open, former finalist Ons Jabeur cruised past Jasmine Paolini 6-1, 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals — her first win over a top-five player since Wimbledon 2023. Eighth seed Paula Badosa also advanced with a 7-6 (7/2), 6-3 win over Emma Navarro.

The Berlin Open, one of the oldest women's tennis tournaments, switched to grass courts in 2021 and now serves as a key Wimbledon warm-up event.

SKPVV Student B. Kumar to Represent Andhra Pradesh at U-15 National Wrestling Championship

Rajahmundry – B. Kumar, a talented young wrestler and student of SK P V V Hindu High School, has earned the honor of representing Andhra Pradesh at the Under-15 National Wrestling Championship, scheduled to take place in Nagpur from June 20 to 23.

Kumar secured his spot on the state team after clinching the gold medal in the 41 kg weight category at the recently concluded state-level wrestling championship in Rajahmundry. His performance stood out among fierce competition, showcasing not only technical skill but also determination and discipline.

The school's Principal, K. Srinivasa Rao, officially announced Kumar's selection and praised his commitment to the sport. "This is a proud moment for our school. Kumar's achievement reflects his hard work and the guidance he has received from his mentors," he said.

The school management also extended their heartfelt congratulations. Committee President T. Seshaiah, Correspondent Gopisetty Mallaiah, Treasurer G. Baba Vijay Kumar, Secretary K.L.V. Mohan Rao, and Physical Education Teacher M.V. Satya Prasad all joined in celebrating Kumar's success and wished him the very best for the upcoming national tournament.

Kumar's selection is being hailed as a significant milestone not only for SKPVV Hindu High School but also for the wider Andhra Pradesh wrestling community. His



performance at the nationals is being eagerly anticipated, with hopes that he will bring further accolades to the state.

This achievement underscores the importance of nurturing young sporting talent at the grassroots level and highlights the growing strength of wrestling in Andhra Pradesh. With his eyes set on the national stage, Kumar is poised to make a strong impression and continue his upward journey in Indian wrestling.

ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026: Full Schedule Unveiled, India-Pakistan Set for Edgbaston Clash



The International Cricket Council (ICC) has officially announced the schedule for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, set to take place from June 12 to July 5 across seven iconic venues in England. The upcoming edition will be the largest in the tournament's history, featuring 12 teams – up from 10 – and 33 matches over 24 days.

Group 1 includes powerhouses Australia, India, South Africa, Pakistan, and two qualifiers. Group 2 features hosts England, defending champions New Zealand, West Indies, Sri Lanka, and two more qualifiers. England will open the tournament on June 12 against Sri Lanka at Edgbaston. Defending champions New Zealand begin their title defense versus the West Indies on June 13 in Southampton. That same day, Australia takes on South Africa in a blockbuster encounter at Manchester.

One of the most anticipated fixtures – the India vs Pakistan rivalry – is scheduled for June 14 at Edgbaston. India will also face South Africa on June 21 in Manchester and five-time champions Australia at Lord's on June 28 in what will be the final group-stage clash. Pakistan's group campaign includes key matchups against South Africa on June 17 at Edgbaston and Australia on June 23 in Headingley. In Group 2, England will play across five venues – the most for any team. After the opener, they will face the West Indies at Lord's on June 24 and New Zealand at The Oval on June 27. Other key fixtures include Sri Lanka vs New Zealand on June 16 and Sri Lanka vs West Indies on June 21. The top two teams from each group will progress to the semi-finals, scheduled for June 30 and July 2. The grand finale will be held at Lord's on July 5.

Basketball Team LA Lakers To Be Sold For Rs 86,000 Crore

In a historic move that has stunned the sports world, the Los Angeles Lakers are being sold in a record-breaking \$10 billion (₹86,000 crore) deal, making them the most valuable sports franchise in U.S. history. According to ESPN, the Buss family, who have owned the Lakers for 46 years, will hand over their controlling stake to billionaire Mark Walter, the CEO of TWG Global.

Despite the sale, Jeanie Buss will remain as the Lakers' governor, preserving some continuity. However, this transaction marks the end of an iconic era that saw the Buss family transform the Lakers into a global sports powerhouse.

Mark Walter, already a minority owner of the Lakers since 2021, is known for his strong track record in sports management. His company, TWG Global, holds ownership stakes in several major franchises including the Los Angeles Dodgers (MLB), Los Angeles Sparks (WNBA), and English Premier League club Chelsea FC. TWG also



owns the Billie Jean King Cup and the Cadillac Formula One team.

Lakers legend Magic Johnson, a business partner of Walter, praised the deal on social media, calling Walter "driven by winning and excellence." Johnson pointed to Walter's success with the Dodgers, who have won multiple World Series titles under his leadership and signed major talents like Shohei Ohtani in a massive \$700 million deal.

The Lakers were purchased in 1979 by Jerry Buss, who built the team into an 11-time NBA champion dynasty. From the "Showtime" era led by Magic Johnson to the early 2000s dominance under Kobe Bryant, and more recently the 2020 title win with LeBron James, the Buss era defined generations of basketball excellence.

This \$10 billion deal eclipses previous U.S. sports team sales, surpassing the \$6.1 billion paid for the Boston Celtics earlier this year and the \$6.05 billion Washington Commanders sale in 2023.

Gennaro Gattuso Confident Italy Will Qualify for 2026 FIFA World Cup

Rome — Gennaro Gattuso expressed strong confidence on Thursday that Italy can qualify for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, as he officially begins his tenure as head coach of the Azzurri following the dismissal of Luciano Spalletti.

Italy's World Cup hopes have been hanging by a thread after a poor start to their qualifying campaign. They currently trail Group 1 leaders Norway by nine points, with only the group winner guaranteed automatic qualification. Despite playing two fewer matches, Italy's 3-0 defeat to Norway earlier in June and a goal difference 12 goals worse than the group leaders leave the four-time world champions with a tough road ahead.

Still, Gattuso remains optimistic. "It's not just



hope — it's conviction," he stated at his introductory press conference. "We have a solid team with four or five players who are among the best in the world in their positions. My belief is in the collective, not individuals. We have the quality to reach our goal."

The 47-year-old World Cup winner emphasized the importance of reigniting passion and unity in the national squad. "The objective is to rebuild a winning mentality, create a sense of family at Coverciano, and bring back enthusiasm," Gattuso said.

With automatic qualification unlikely, Italy may again be forced to rely on the play-offs, which saw them miss the last two World Cups. Nevertheless, national team legend Gianluigi Buffon, now head of delegation, endorsed Gattuso, praising his tactical identity and work ethic.

Although Claudio Ranieri declined to return from retirement, the Italian Football Federation turned to Gattuso, whose managerial career includes stints at AC Milan and Napoli, where he won the Coppa Italia.

Gattuso will lead Italy for the first time in September, when they face Estonia in Bergamo and then travel to play Israel in Hungary.



‘Kuberaa’ Set for Grand Release on June 20; Ticket Prices Hiked in Andhra Pradesh

Director Shekhar Kammula’s much awaited pan-India film Kuberaa is all set to hit the big screens on June 20, 2025. Featuring a powerful star cast that includes Tamil superstar Dhanush, Tollywood veteran Nagarjuna, and popular actress Rashmika Mandanna, the film has already created significant buzz across regional and national circuits.

With just a day left for the release, the Andhra Pradesh government has approved a temporary hike in ticket prices for the film. The revised ticket rates will be in effect for the first 10 days following the release. Under this special permis-

sion, ticket prices in multiplexes can go up to ₹270, while single-screen theaters can charge up to ₹240. The base price including GST has also been increased to ₹75 for both formats.

This move comes in the backdrop of high expectations surrounding Kuberaa, which is being promoted as a grand-scale production with strong performances and high production values. The film has a runtime of approximately three hours and is being released in multiple languages including Tamil and Telugu, appealing to a wide audience base.

The story, visuals, and ensemble cast

have already sparked anticipation among moviegoers, and the advance bookings indicate a promising opening at the box office. Industry analysts expect the film to perform well, especially over the opening weekend, thanks to the elevated ticket prices and the star power behind it.

With Shekhar Kammula’s track record of delivering critically acclaimed and commercially successful films, Kuberaa is being seen as a potential blockbuster. The strategic pricing move in Andhra Pradesh is likely to boost early revenue collections and reflect the strong market confidence in the film’s success.

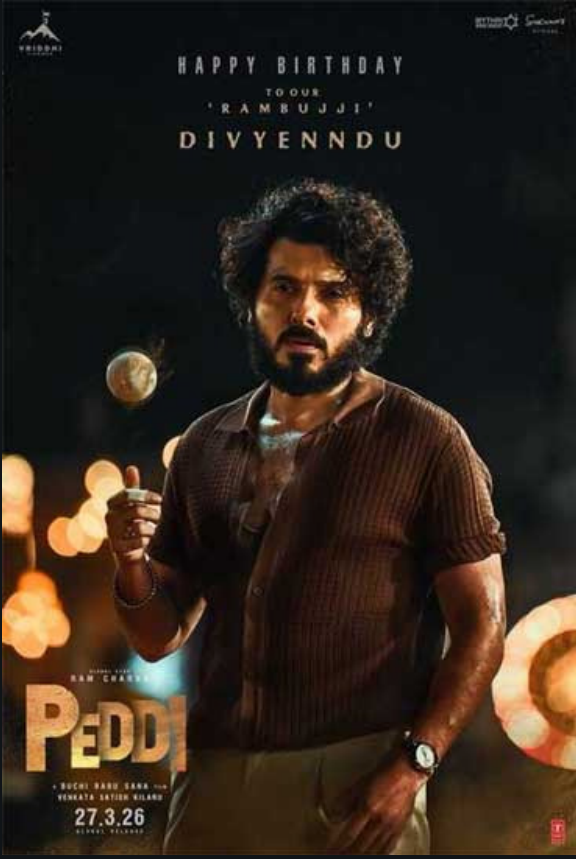
Divyenndu Sharma’s First Look from Peddi Unveiled on His Birthday

On the occasion of his birthday, actor Divyenndu Sharma has been introduced in a powerful new avatar from the upcoming sports drama Peddi. The makers released a striking first-look poster of the Mirzapur star, showcasing him as a fierce and intense character named Ram Bujji.

Directed by Buchi Babu Sana and headlined by Global Star Ram Charan, Peddi is a rural sports-based film being mounted on a grand scale. In the unveiled poster, Divyenndu is seen spinning a cricket ball with a steely, focused gaze — hinting at a character filled with grit and determination. The reveal has created a buzz among fans and has raised curiosity about how Buchi Babu will shape Divyenndu’s powerful role in the narrative.

Peddi is scheduled for a theatrical release on March 27, 2026, and is being made as a multilingual project to cater to audiences across India. Apart from Ram Charan and Divyenndu, the film also stars veteran actors Shiva Rajkumar and Jagapathi Babu in prominent roles.

The film is being produced by Vriddhi Cinemas and features



music by the iconic A.R. Rahman, further adding to the film’s massive appeal. With a combination of intense storytelling, a star-studded cast, and world-class music, Peddi is being positioned as one of the most anticipated films of 2026.

Divyenndu’s transformation and the tone set by his character reveal have already sparked excitement across social media. As anticipation builds, fans are eager to see how this rural sports saga unfolds on the big screen, blending raw emotion, action, and drama under Buchi Babu Sana’s direction.

‘Son of Sardaar 2’ Announced: First Look of Sequel to Maryada Ramanna Remake Unveiled

Bollywood is bringing back the laughter and action with the announcement of Son of Sardaar 2, the sequel to the 2012 hit film Son of Sardaar, which itself was a Hindi remake of the Telugu blockbuster Maryada Ramanna. The first look of the upcoming film has just been released, sparking excitement among fans.

The original Maryada Ramanna, directed by ace filmmaker S.S. Rajamouli, starred Sunil and Saloni in lead roles and was produced by Shobu Yarlagadda and Devineni Prasad under the Arka Media banner. Set against the backdrop of Rayalaseema factionalism, the film was both a commercial and critical success when it hit theaters in 2010.

Ajay Devgn later adapted the story for the Hindi audience as Son of Sardaar, infusing it with a Punjabi cultural backdrop and delivering a high-octane mix of comedy and action. The film was well-received and developed a loyal fan following, making the sequel a much-anticipated project.

Now, over a decade later, the sequel Son of Sardaar 2 is officially underway. The film promises to retain the



comedic flavor of the first part while bringing a fresh storyline and new characters. Directed by Vijay Kumar Arora, the sequel is expected to blend humor, family drama, and action in a similar entertaining format.

Adding to the excitement is the casting of Mrunal Thakur as the female lead. Known for her strong performances, Mrunal is set to bring a new dynamic to the franchise.

With its vibrant first look and promise of nostalgic fun, Son of Sardaar 2 is gearing up to win hearts all over again. More details about the release date and supporting cast are expected to be revealed soon.

Mega157: Chiranjeevi-Anil Ravipudi Film Wraps Up Second Schedule in Mussoorie

Mussoorie, Uttarakhand – The much-anticipated Telugu film tentatively titled Mega157, starring Mega-star Chiranjeevi and directed by Anil Ravipudi, is progressing at an impressive pace. The team recently concluded its second shooting schedule in the scenic hill station of Mussoorie.

Director Anil Ravipudi, known for his commercial entertainers, successfully wrapped up the latest leg of filming in just about a week. Key scenes featuring Chiranjeevi and leading lady Nayanthara were shot during this schedule. To update fans, the makers shared a blurred be-



hind-the-scenes image of the iconic duo, adding to the mounting excitement surrounding the project. Mega157 is slated for a grand release during Sankranthi 2026, positioning it as one of the most eagerly awaited releases of the festive season. The film is expected to be a wholesome family enter-

tainer, combining Ravipudi’s trademark humor and emotional depth with Chiranjeevi’s unmatched screen presence. The film is being produced by Sahu Garapati under Shine Screens and Sushmita Konidela under Gold Box Entertainment, ensuring a high production value and strong creative

backing. Music is being composed by Bheems Cetroleo, promising a lively and engaging soundtrack.

Adding to the star power, Catherine Tresa has been cast as the second female lead, bringing additional glamour and talent to the ensemble. With its promising cast, experienced crew, and swift progress, Mega157 is shaping up to be a major box-office contender. Fans are eagerly awaiting more updates as the team prepares for the next schedule, and expectations are high for Chiranjeevi’s performance in what could be yet another blockbuster addition to his illustrious career.

Abhishek Bachchan’s ‘Kaalidhar Laapata’ Skips Theatres, Premieres on Zee5 This July

Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan is back in the spotlight with his upcoming film Kaalidhar Laapata, which is all set to premiere directly on the OTT platform Zee5. Skipping a theatrical release, the emotional drama will be available for streaming starting July 4, 2025, as officially announced by the actor on his social media handles. Directed by Madhumita and produced under the banner of Zee Studios, Kaalidhar Laapata features Abhishek Bachchan in the lead role, supported by talented actors Daivik Bhagela and Zeeshan Ayyub in pivotal characters. The film’s production has been recently wrapped up, and the makers have chosen to reach audiences digitally, targeting a wide viewership across urban and rural demographics.

Set in a rustic, rural backdrop, the film weaves a heartwarming narrative around an elderly man who discovers his family wants to abandon him. Disturbed and hurt, he attempts to run away from home. During his journey, he crosses paths with an eight-year-old orphan named Ballu, leading to an unexpected companionship. The story unfolds through their bond, struggles, and the profound impact they have on each other’s lives. ‘Kaalidhar Laapata’ promises to be an emotional rollercoaster highlighting themes of abandonment, unlikely



friendships, and re-discovered purpose. Known for choosing content-driven roles in recent years, Abhishek Bachchan’s performance is expected to resonate deeply with viewers. This direct-to-OTT release continues the growing trend in Bollywood of bypassing traditional cinemas for streaming platforms, offering audiences access to fresh content from the comfort of their homes. With its poignant storyline and strong performances, Kaalidhar Laapata could be a standout drama in the digital entertainment space this year.