

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

# UNENDING HONEYMOON FOR AP EMPLOYEES, WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF HYDERABAD

## The Persistent Burden of Employee Incentives

TPN | Sumanth Jangam

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act of 2014 bifurcated the erstwhile state into Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, designating Hyderabad as the joint capital for both states for 10 years, until June 2, 2024. During this period, Andhra Pradesh was permitted to use Hyderabad's Secretariat and government offices while developing its new capital in Amaravati. However, with the transition to a temporary Secretariat in Amaravati, over 8,200 Secretariat and Heads of Departments (HoD) employees were required to relocate from Hyderabad. To ease this shift, the state introduced special benefits, which, despite the completion of new office buildings in Amaravati and the expiration of the 10-year agreement, continue to burden the state's finances, raising questions about their necessity.



The Andhra Pradesh government implemented a range of benefits to support relocating employees, including a five-day workweek, a 24% House Rent Allowance (HRA) as per the latest Pay Revision Commission (PRC), subsidized train travel for weekend commuters to Hyderabad, and 146 hostel rooms in premium locations like Raintree Park in Gollapudi and Ibrahimpatnam. These measures were designed to address the challenges of

moving to Amaravati, which initially lacked urban infrastructure. However, with modern office buildings now operational in Amaravati, the continued provision of these benefits—costing the state an estimated hundreds of crores annually—has sparked debate. Many employees, having established lives in Hyderabad, resist permanent relocation, citing inadequate housing, schools, and healthcare facilities in Amaravati as reasons for retaining these incentives. The persistence of these benefits, even after the 10-year agreement's end and the establishment of new office infrastructure, highlights a disconnect. The government's investment in Amaravati's administrative facilities was expected to encourage employees to settle in the new capital, yet many prefer to commute, relying on the five-day workweek and train subsidies to maintain ties with Hyderabad. The 146

hostel rooms, while helpful, indicate a temporary mindset rather than a commitment to making Amaravati home. Financial analysts argue that the state's budget, already stretched by capital development and welfare programs, cannot sustain these benefits indefinitely, especially when office infrastructure is no longer a barrier. The government's decision to continue these costly incentives suggests a reluctance to enforce full relocation, possibly to maintain employee morale or avoid administrative disruptions. However, this approach raises concerns about fiscal responsibility, as Andhra Pradesh grapples with the challenge of developing Amaravati into a fully functional capital. With modern office buildings in place and the Hyderabad agreement expired, why is the government still footing the bill for these extra benefits?

## Funds Given to Kapu Corporation Rs. 0/-

- No funds for Kapu Corporation even after a year of coalition rule
- Not a rupee released; office lies empty
- Kapu community questions Chandrababu and Pawan Kalyan
- Growing unrest despite Janasena's crucial role in alliance victory

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

A year into the coalition government in Andhra Pradesh, frustration is mounting within the Kapu community as the Kapu Corporation remains unfunded, with not even a single rupee released so far. Despite the massive support extended by the community — largely influenced by Janasena chief and current Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan — the lack of progress has left many feeling disappointed and ignored. While Pawan Kalyan's efforts in forming the TDP-Janasena-BJP alliance played a pivotal role in defeating the YSRCP and



ensuring the coalition's victory, those who stood by him now feel shortchanged. From sacrificing seats to ensuring consolidated votes in favour of coalition candidates, Janasena workers and the Kapu community supported the alliance without hesitation

— even when it hurt their own political aspirations. A Silent Corporation, A Waiting Chairman Despite the Kapu Corporation having a chairman, Subbarayudu, and an MD, the situation on the ground remains stagnant. "There's



a file showing budget allocations on paper, but no funds have arrived, so there's nothing we can do," say sources within the Corporation. The office lies deserted, and countless applications for loans, scholarships, and overseas education continue to pile up with no sign of processing or assistance. Even though the government claimed

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## CBI Submits Report in Ayesha Meera Murder Case

- 7-year-long probe concludes
- AP High Court adjourns hearing to next week

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has formally concluded its investigation into the sensational Ayesha Meera murder case and submitted its full report in a sealed cover to the Andhra Pradesh High Court. This marks the end of a seven-year-long inquiry that was initially launched in 2018 following a re-investigation order from the court. The case, which drew statewide attention, saw multiple twists and legal proceedings. The Andhra Pradesh High Court had first entrusted the case to a Special Investigation Team (SIT). However, citing a lack of progress and dissatisfaction with the SIT's probe, the court later transferred the investigation to the CBI. On Friday, the CBI presented its comprehensive findings to the High Court. The court has now directed the central agency to also submit a copy of this report to the CBI special court. The High Court has adjourned further hearing on the matter to next week. The submission of the CBI report is seen as a significant development in a case that has long remained unresolved and has seen repeated calls for justice by the victim's family and rights activists.

## Is the MLA the Proprietor of Bhimavaram's Poker Empire?

- Allegations surface linking MLA's son to widespread gambling network
- Son Prashanth, aides Bapiraju and PA Madhu reportedly managing operations



MLA ANJIBABU



PRASANTH

Known for its wealth, aqua business, and once even ambitious talk of building an airport — is now making headlines for a very different reason. Allegations are flying thick and fast that a widespread and highly profitable poker gambling network is being run under the control of a local MLA, with his son Prashanth at the helm. While the MLA's camp is vehemently denying any involvement,

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TPN Correspondent | Bhimavaram



## PM Modi Welcomed in Vizag for YogaAndhra Programme

Pawan Kalyan, Chandrababu, and Governor receive PM at Airport

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi was warmly welcomed at the Visakhapatnam Airport on his arrival to participate in the International Yoga Day celebrations under the

"YogaAndhra" initiative. Governor S. Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan received the Prime Minister with state honors as he landed in the port city. The PM is scheduled to take part in a grand yoga session organized to

mark the occasion, with thousands of participants expected to join the event. The YogaAndhra programme is part of the state government's broader mission to promote yoga and holistic well-being, aligning with the national vision of "Yoga for Harmony and Peace."





## Is the MLA the...

Continued from page 1

the buzz on the ground refuses to die down. Locals claim that these camps — often referred to as “boards” — have mushroomed at an unprecedented rate since the MLA came to power, and the timing has only added fuel to the fire. The gambling boards allegedly operate across Bhimavaram in lodges, open fields, and function halls, with some even claiming that two boards are being run from the Town Hall itself — under the MLA team’s direct control. Sources say each board handles a minimum of ₹10 lakh, with daily earnings running into crores. The financial backbone of the town — its aqua business — is reportedly enabling a strong money flow into this shadow network.

Who’s Behind the Operation?

Initially, the spotlight was on Prashanth, the MLA’s son, who was allegedly seen overseeing the camps. Later, as the scale expanded, Prashanth reportedly took a back seat at the ground level, directing operations through trusted aides. Bapiraju, a close associate, and Madhu, the MLA’s personal assistant, are now said to be running the show on his behalf. Despite denials, there is mounting speculation that the entire setup is tightly linked to the MLA’s office, with some suggesting that people from TDP, Janasena, and even YSRCP have quietly aligned to keep the poker camps running — united not by ideology, but by profit.

Rising Corruption in Town Planning

In addition to the poker camps, allegations of widespread corruption in the municipal town planning office are surfacing. Sources claim that municipal staff themselves are commenting on the spike in bribe demands and irregularities, pointing fingers at the MLA’s growing influence in the administration. The developments have especially shocked residents who once held former MLA Anjibabu in high regard. Many are now drawing unfavorable comparisons, saying that such gambling activity was never seen during his tenure. “It’s Prashanth who’s spoiling everything, and the MLA is allowing it to happen,” locals claim, disappointed at what they see as the rapid erosion of a once-respected leader’s image.

## Funds Given...

Continued from page 1

Kapu welfare would be covered under BC welfare allocations, no clarity has been given. Subbarayudu, who initially resisted accepting the Chairman post knowing the political situation, eventually took charge but has reportedly remained quiet, possibly due to lack of real backing.

History Repeating?

In 2014, Chandrababu Naidu had promised reservations for Kapus. After losing power, Jagan Mohan Reddy used Mudragada Padmanabham’s movement to build momentum for Kapu reservation, even as the Tuni incident involving a train burning shocked the state. Jagan later backtracked, saying reservations weren’t feasible, and simply counted Kapus under existing welfare schemes to claim inclusivity without exclusive allocation. During his tenure, he promised ₹1,000 crore for Kapu Corporation but never released it — a move that drew strong criticism. With Pawan Kalyan as Deputy CM and Janasena part of the ruling coalition, expectations were naturally high. The Kapu community believed that their long-standing issues would finally be addressed. However, the reality has been disappointing so far, and many are now asking when Chandrababu and Pawan will respond.

Is this another chapter of unfulfilled promises, or will the leaders who won with the support of this community finally break their silence and act?

# AP Clears ₹28,546 Cr Investment Proposals in SIPB Meet

- Additional incentives for backward areas, 30,270 new jobs approved
- 19 industrial projects cleared in 7th SIPB meeting



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday announced that the Andhra Pradesh government will provide special incentives to industries investing in the state’s backward regions, highlighting the coalition government’s vision for balanced and decentralised development.

At the 7th State-Level Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) meeting held at the Secretariat, the board approved 19 new industrial projects worth ₹28,546 crore, expected to generate 30,270 jobs across the state. The Chief Minister said that this step will significantly contribute to regional equity, local employment, and youth empowerment. He stressed that local youth must receive a majority of jobs created through these projects and urged officials to ensure skill development is a core objective across departments. “Skill upgradation will bridge the gap between opportunity

and access, especially in underdeveloped regions,” Naidu said. The SIPB has so far cleared investments worth ₹5.34 lakh crore, providing employment potential for 4.73 lakh individuals over seven meetings.

### Focus on Timely Implementation & Transparency

The Chief Minister issued strict instructions to ensure that land-allotted companies start operations within deadlines. He also directed that details of industries, projects, investments, and employment data be made accessible to the public through a dedicated online portal, with projects cluster-mapped for better monitoring. Naidu also underlined the necessity of regular SIPB meetings, declaring that two meetings per month would now be held, with a target of 25 meetings annually to maintain consistent momentum in industri-

### Details of Approved Projects in the 7th SIPB Meeting

- **Raymond** – ₹1,201 crore investment, 6,571 jobs (Various locations)
- **G. Infra Precisions Ltd** – ₹1,150 crore, 299 jobs (Anantapur)
- **Sangam Dairy Pvt. Ltd** – ₹130 crore, 400 jobs/livelihood opportunities (Tirupati)
- **Cognizant Technology Solutions India Pvt. Ltd** – ₹1,583 crore, 8,000 jobs in 3 phases (Visakhapatnam)
- **3F Oil Palm Pvt. Ltd** – ₹224 crore, 750 jobs (East Godavari)
- **ABIS Proteins Pvt. Ltd** – ₹350 crore, 790 jobs (Chittoor)
- **Reliance Consumer Products Ltd** – ₹1,622 crore, 1,200 jobs (Orvakal)
- **Melgawn Leisure & Entertainment LLP** – ₹225 crore, 350 jobs (Eluru)
- **Pavani Hotels – Lemon Tree Premier** – ₹80 crore, 300 jobs (Tirupati)
- **Green Park Hotels & Resorts Ltd** – ₹145 crore, 250 jobs (Amaravati)
- **Berry Alloys Ltd** – ₹573 crore, 320 jobs (Sri Sathya Sai district)
- **Chinta Green Energy Pvt. Ltd** – ₹2,323 crore, 540 jobs (Kadapa)
- **Adani Renewable Energy Fifty-One Ltd** – ₹8,010 crore, 3,500 jobs (Kadapa)
- **Channel Play** – ₹80 crore, 1,100 jobs (Kopparthu)
- **Adani Hydro Energy Four Ltd & Adani Hydro Energy One Ltd** – ₹10,900 crore, 7,000 jobs (Across various districts)
- *Proposals related to additional investments and modifications in projects by BPCL & KSSL, LT Electronics, and Krishnapatnam Power Corporation were also discussed.*

al growth.

### Tourism, IT & Food Processing to Drive Growth

Calling tourism, IT, and food processing “engines of development,” the CM suggested launching luxury boat cruises near Papikondalu and Visakhapatnam, alongside promoting hospitality investments. He urged companies that had signed MoUs to accelerate construction work, especially in the hospitality sector. He also emphasized the need

for MSME parks in every Assembly constituency, encouraging local entrepreneurship under the ‘One Family – One Entrepreneur’ initiative. Additional proposals from BPCL, KSSL, LT Electronics, and Krishnapatnam Power Corporation regarding modifications and expanded investments were also discussed. CM Naidu concluded by reiterating that Andhra Pradesh is open for business and is moving towards becoming India’s most investment-friendly state, with equitable growth and youth development at its core.

## Cognizant to Set Up IT Campus in Vizag

- ₹1,582 crore investment to create 8,000 jobs
- 21.31 acres proposed at Kapuluppada
- Govt offers land at 99 paise per acre

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

In a major boost to Andhra Pradesh’s IT sector, tech giant Cognizant Technology Solutions is all set to establish a state-of-the-art IT campus in Visakhapatnam. With an estimated investment of ₹1,582 crore, the project is expected to generate employment for nearly 8,000 people in and around the region. As part of its expansion strategy, Cognizant representatives recently met with Andhra Pradesh IT and Industries Minister Nara Lokesh and presented their proposal. The company requested the allocation of 21.31 acres in the Kapuluppada IT layout for the project. In a move to encourage large-scale investment and employment generation, the state government has agreed in principle to allocate the land at a nominal rate of just 99 paise per acre. According to officials, Cognizant plans to construct a world-class IT campus in Visakhapatnam to facilitate its future operations in the region. The proposal aligns with the state government’s vision to transform Visakhapatnam into a major IT destination in South In-



dia. Minister Lokesh assured Cognizant that all necessary clearances will be provided promptly and pledged full support from the government to ensure timely execution of the project. He emphasized that the arrival of a global player like Cognizant would not only strengthen Vizag’s position in the tech map of India but also bring transformative opportunities for the local youth. The announcement marks another significant milestone in Andhra Pradesh’s industrial development efforts, with Visakhapatnam emerging as a preferred destination for global technology and innovation investments.

## Krishnamraju Shifted from Guntur jail to Tullur police station

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

Journalist VVR Krishnamraju, who was arrested for making derogatory comments about women in the Amaravati capital region, has been taken into custody by the Tullur police for further investigation. He was earlier lodged in Guntur district jail as a remand prisoner and was moved today to the Tullur police station after receiving court permission. The Mangalagiri court on Thursday approved the police’s request for a three-day custody of Krishnamraju, allowing them to interrogate him from today until June 22. Prior to taking him into custody, the police took him to Guntur Government General Hospital (GGH) for a mandatory medical check-up before shifting him to Tullur. The police are expected to focus their questioning on the context and motive behind Krishnamraju’s controversial statements. They are also probing whether anyone else was involved or instigated him to make the comments targeting women from the Amaravati region. Sources indicate that the investigation will explore the background, intent, and possible political influences behind the remarks. The case has drawn significant public and political attention due to the sensitive nature of the comments and the larger backdrop of the Amaravati capital movement. Police are reportedly treating the matter seriously and plan to complete a detailed inquiry within the three-day window granted by the court.



# AP EdSET 2025 Results Out, 99.42% Pass

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The results of the Andhra Pradesh Education Common Entrance Test (AP EdSET) 2025 were officially released on Friday, recording an impressive pass percentage of 99.42%. State Education Minister Nara Lokesh announced the results and extended his heartfelt congratulations to the successful candidates. This year’s AP EdSET, conducted for admissions into B.Ed courses across the state, witnessed registrations from 17,795 candidates. Of those who appeared for the exam, 14,527 candidates successful-

ly qualified, making it one of the highest pass percentages in the history of the entrance test. The examination was held in five key subjects — Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Social Studies, and English. Officials reported outstanding performance across all sections, reflecting the academic preparation and seriousness of the candidates. Candidates can now download their rank cards from the official website: [https://cets.apsche.ap.gov.in/EDCET/EDCET\\_HomePage.aspx](https://cets.apsche.ap.gov.in/EDCET/EDCET_HomePage.aspx)

In addition, results and rank cards are also accessible

through Mana Mitra WhatsApp by sending registration details to 95523 00009. Minister Nara Lokesh praised the students, saying, “My heartfelt congratulations to all the candidates who have succeeded in AP EdSET 2025. This is the result of your hard work and the continuous support from your teachers and parents.” He urged them to be well-prepared for the next stages of the admission process. The AP State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) has also ensured that the entire process—from exams to result declaration—was conducted smoothly with the help of technology, transparency, and efficiency.







## Speaking for Anti-Social Elements Is a Crime Too, Warns Pawan Kalyan

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has issued a stern warning that speaking in favor of anti-social forces is itself a criminal act and will not be tolerated. In a strong reaction to the comments made by former Chief Minister and YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Pawan Kalyan cautioned the public against individuals who undermine democratic values and incite unrest through provocative rhetoric. Pawan Kalyan, addressing the media on Thursday, said, “People must be vigilant about those who act and speak undemocratically. Backing illegal activities or those who incite public disorder is not only wrong but punishable under law.” Taking a direct jab at Jagan’s use of movie-style rhetoric in political discourse, Pawan advised that “dialogues are only good in cinema halls, not in real life where rules and responsibilities govern our conduct.” He said that such comments have no place in a constitutional democracy and that leaders must set a responsible example. The Deputy CM asserted that the current coalition government is firmly committed to maintaining law and order in the state. He revealed that the police have been given full authority to suppress anti-social elements and ensure public safety. “We will open rowdy sheets if necessary and take stringent action against those disrupting peace. There will be zero tolerance for anyone creating fear or chaos,” he warned.

## If Chandrababu Wants, Jagan Will Be in Jail in Two Minutes: Lokesh

No vendetta, but law will take its course

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Andhra Pradesh IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh has made sharp allegations against former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Speaking to the media in Delhi on Thursday, Lokesh issued a direct public challenge to Jagan over the liquor scam, questioning if he would dare to swear on God that he hadn’t taken a single rupee from the business. He also brought up the Viveka murder case and challenged Jagan again, reminding how he had earlier avoided taking a similar oath. Lokesh also responded to speculations about vendetta politics by clarifying that the current TDP government, led by Chandrababu Naidu, has no intention of acting out of partisanship. “If Chandrababu really wanted to settle factional scores, it wouldn’t take even two minutes to send Jagan to jail,” Lokesh said. “But we were elected to govern responsibly, not to act out of revenge.” Still, he issued a warning that strict legal action would be taken against those who had violated laws or looted public money.

### No Political Vendetta, but Law Will Act

Lokesh stressed that their administration would remain focused on development and welfare, not revenge. However, he stated that there would be no leniency when it comes to accountability. “We won’t overlook the misdeeds of the past government. If there’s evidence, we’ll act. Everyone is equal before the law,” Lokesh asserted. He also mentioned that a charge sheet would soon be filed in the liquor case, and hinted that there were signs of money laundering as well.

### ‘Swear on God, Jagan!’ – Lokesh’s Challenge

In a bold statement, Lokesh directly challenged Jagan on two major controversies. “Let him swear that he didn’t take a single rupee from the liquor scam. I swear my family has no link to the Viveka murder. But when I challenged him, he fled,” Lokesh said. He emphasized that their government would move forward with policy-based



decisions, not personal battles.

### Reveals Details of First Meeting with Modi

For the first time, Lokesh spoke about his recent meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Calling it an ‘unbelievable’ experience, Lokesh said the PM shared personal insights from his 25-year political journey. “He advised me to step out of my father’s shadow and encouraged me to work hard. He said the future belongs to the youth,” Lokesh revealed.

### Development and Super Six Implementation

Lokesh also highlighted key development programs underway in Andhra Pradesh. He said the ‘Talliki Vandanam’ scheme is nearly complete, with the remaining issues to be resolved by July 5. He announced that TCS operations will begin in Visakhapatnam by the end of July and the foundation stone for their permanent facility will be laid the same day. He added that Rs 2,000 crore worth of pending employment guarantee bills have been cleared. Lokesh also confirmed that steps are being taken to withdraw false cases filed against TDP workers during the previous regime.



### Jagan Spreading Misinformation Before PM's Visit: Bhanuprakash Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

BJP leader Bhanuprakash Reddy came down heavily on YSR Congress Party chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of deliberately spreading misinformation ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s scheduled visit to Andhra Pradesh. Speaking to the media in Nellore, Bhanuprakash Reddy alleged that Jagan was trying to create a false narrative of law and order issues in the state. He likened Jagan’s behavior to “a man trying to turn an axe wound into a heart attack,” adding that the former CM was now behaving irrationally after his defeat. “People now look at Jagan like a stranger,” Bhanuprakash said, adding that the former CM had lost the moral authority to speak about governance or development. He strongly criticized Jagan’s recent visit to Delhi, questioning what he had achieved by “creating a ruckus” just 40 days after the NDA coalition came to power in the state. “Jagan is trying to spread rumors and create panic just before Modi’s arrival, but the people of the state are not buying it,” he said. Bhanuprakash Reddy mocked Jagan’s demand for opposition party status, saying it resembled “a child crying for chocolates.” He added that Jagan’s mental state was visibly unstable post-election defeat and that YSRCP had no future beyond court cases and consolation tours. “Jagan alone is responsible for pushing the state into darkness,” Bhanuprakash said, blaming the previous regime for the financial and administrative ruin of Andhra Pradesh. He claimed it would take at least a year for the NDA government to rebuild the state from the damage caused by the YSRCP administration.

## NTR Statue Installation Begins in Sullurpet

TPN | C Shekar

Tirupati: The statue installation ceremony of Telugu Desam Party founder and former Chief Minister Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao was held with devotion in Sullurpet town on Friday. As part of the program, a ground-breaking ceremony was organized at the site where the statue will be erected. The event saw enthusiastic participation from Sullurpet MLA Nelavala Vijayasree, senior leader Nelavala Subramaniam, TDP mandal presidents from six mandals, and a large number of party activists and supporters. Speaking on the occasion, Nelavala Subramaniam said, “NTR is a Yuga Purush who founded a party for the upliftment of the poor and introduced countless wel-

fare schemes. He remains in the hearts of people even today. It is a matter of pride to witness the installation of his statue here in Sullurpet.” Town Presidents Aakuthota Ramesh and Sudhakar Reddy expressed their joy, stating that their two-decade-old dream of installing NTR’s statue in the town had finally come true. They extended heartfelt gratitude to industrialist and constituency leader Kondepati Ganga Prasad for his key role and support in making this initiative possible. The ceremony was also attended by State Youth Vice President Madhava Naidu, TDP General Secretary AG Kishore, and several other party leaders and activists, who lauded NTR’s contributions to the Telugu people and vowed to carry forward his legacy.



## Lock Over Chair Sparks Chaos in Kadapa Municipal Meeting

Mayor, MLA in open clash as officials lock halls and skip meeting



TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

A routine general body meeting of the Kadapa Municipal Corporation turned chaotic on Thursday, as a battle for control — both literal and symbolic — broke out between Mayor K. Suresh Babu and Kadapa MLA R. Madhavireddy, with the issue of a chair on the dais spiraling into a full-fledged political drama.

### Locked Doors, Divided Camps

The scheduled general meeting, convened after a gap of six months, was expected to begin at 11 a.m. But it never officially began — because both the conference hall and the council meeting hall were locked. According to the Mayor, this was done without his knowledge, and was a deliberate move to block him and YSRCP corporators from holding the meeting as per High Court directives. While MLA Madhavireddy, Commissioner Manoj Reddy, and other municipal officials sat inside the locked council hall, the Mayor, corporators, and supporters gathered outside the locked conference hall, where they conducted a parallel meeting, passed agenda items, and expressed

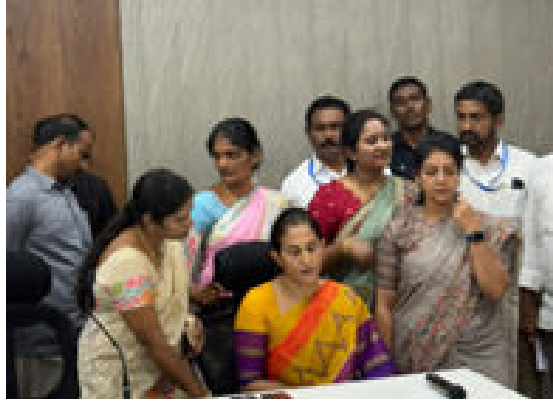
dismay over the absence of officials. The root of the tension seems to lie in seating arrangements. Just as in the previous meeting, controversy erupted over allocating a chair for the MLA next to the Mayor on the stage. The Mayor objected to this, saying it was against protocol. “The MLA is only fighting for the chair, not for people’s issues,” Suresh Babu remarked, accusing the Commissioner of acting under political pressure.

### “Officials acting as puppets” – Mayor

The Mayor slammed Commissioner Manoj Reddy, accusing him of acting unilaterally and violating court orders by holding the meeting in the council hall despite the agenda stating it would be in the corporation premises. “The officials are acting like pawns of the ruling party. We were ready with a quorum and had all the agenda ready — but not a single official attended. We will approach the court again,” said Mayor Suresh Babu, visibly frustrated.

### MLA Fires Back

In contrast, MLA Madhavireddy blamed the Mayor for violating mu-



nicipal rules by holding a meeting outside the designated premises. Speaking to the media, he said, “It’s unfortunate that the Mayor didn’t attend the scheduled meeting to discuss public issues. We had given prior notice to all members.” He also refuted the Mayor’s allegation regarding the chair arrangement and denied any misuse of authority, saying that the officials were simply following standard procedures.

### Officials Caught in the Crossfire

Officials remained largely silent during the fiasco, but Additional Commissioner Rakesh Chandra defended the move to hold the meeting in the council hall, citing tradition and lack of facilities in the conference hall. He also clarified that seating arrangements were made after consulting higher officials, as per longstanding practice. Despite the Mayor citing High Court orders that the meeting be held in the conference hall, the lack of consensus, presence of parallel power centres, and absence of key officials led to yet another unproductive session.



# Encourage Fine Rice Cultivation: Minister Nadendla

Millers asked to promote fine rice cultivation among farmers  
Government aims to match public consumption trends  
Exports and farmer benefits should be prioritized

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
State Food and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar has urged rice millers to take the initiative in encouraging farmers to grow fine rice varieties in the upcoming Kharif season. Speaking at a meeting with representatives of the Rice Millers Association at the Civil Supplies Building in Kanuru, Vijayawada, on Friday, the minister emphasized the need to align cultivation practices with consumer demand and export potential.

“Rice millers should actively guide farmers towards cultivating fine rice that aligns with the eating habits of the public,” said Minister Manohar. He added that this shift is vital not only for enhancing domestic

consumption but also for exploring greater export opportunities. The minister cautioned that millers must act in a way that supports both farmer welfare and the reputation of the government. “Let us ensure that farmers benefit and that the government is not blamed. It is time to look beyond local needs and prepare for the global market,” he noted. The government’s strategy to promote fine rice stems from changing food preferences and the need to strengthen the state’s agricultural output in global trade. Minister Manohar reiterated the crucial role millers play in guiding farmer choices and called for their full cooperation in this initiative.



## Farmers Urged to Use Grievance Day in Amaravati

### CRDA receives 15 petitions from capital region farmers



**TPN Correspondent | Amaravati**  
The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (AP CRDA) has urged capital region farmers to actively participate in the weekly Grievance Day pro-

gram to resolve pending issues related to land, returnable plots, infrastructure, and planning. A Grievance Day was conducted at the CRDA office in Tullur on Friday, where several farm-

ers and residents submitted petitions concerning problems such as land pooling, allotment of returnable plots, and water stagnation in residential streets. A total of 15 petitions were received, with 14 related to land issues and one from the planning department. AP CRDA’s Grievance Redressal Management (GRM) Nodal Officer P. Jayashree received the complaints and assured the farmers that each issue will be addressed on a priority basis. She directed concerned officials to take swift action and emphasized the need to act without delay. Many of the grievances raised were resolved on

the spot, while remaining cases were forwarded to the respective departments for immediate attention. Jayashree encouraged farmers to make full use of the Grievance Day held every Friday from 10 AM to 1 PM, and assured them of CRDA’s commitment to resolving all genuine issues in a time-bound manner. Special Deputy Collectors B. Srinivasa Nayak, M. Seshi Reddy, K.S. Bhagyarekha, P. Padmavati, A.G. Chinni Krishna, K. Swarna Mary, G. Ravinder, G. Bhimarao, along with Tehsildars and officials from various departments, participated in the program and offered on-ground support.

## Kesineni Chinni to Inaugurate Dr. M Subbarao Cardiac and Arogya Gynecology Center

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
Dr. M Subbarao Center for Cardiac Care and “Arogya” Urology and Gynecology Center will be inaugurated on the 22nd of this month in Vijayawada. The announcement was made by the hospital’s Managing Director Dr. Muralikrishna, who addressed a press conference at the hospital premises in Suryaraopet. Dr. Muralikrishna stated that the hospital is being established with state-of-the-art medical facilities to offer comprehensive treatment for heart, kidney, and women’s health issues, including high-risk deliveries and robotic urology. Named after Dr. N Subbarao, the cardiac medicine unit along with the Andhra Gynecology Center is expected to



serve the healthcare needs of Vijayawada city residents with expert care and the latest medical technology. He informed that advanced laparoscopic gynecology, oncology care, and modern diagnostic tools will be available, and assured the public that a team of specialist doc-

tors would be on hand to offer quality, affordable treatment. The inaugural ceremony will be attended by Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivanad Chinni, MLA Gadde Rammohan, and Bonda Umamaheswara Rao. The hospital administration urged residents of the city to make use of

the specialized services. Prominent doctors including Dr. Pawan Nallamothe (Cardiologist), Dr. Varun Nallamothe (Cardiologist), and Dr. Tumma Varshini (Gynecologist) were also present at the press conference along with many other healthcare professionals.

## No Drugs, No Tension: IPS Ake Ravi Krishna Leads Awareness Drive

**TPN Correspondent | Krishna**  
As part of the statewide “Drug-Free Andhra Pradesh” initiative, an anti-drug awareness program titled No Drugs, No Tension was conducted at Mohan Strin Tex Factory in Kotars, Mallavalli APIIC Corridor, Bapulapadu Mandal, Gannavaram constituency. The program aimed to raise awareness among industrial workers, especially those from other states, about the dangers of drug abuse. Eagle Andhra Pradesh Anti-Narcotics Wing Chief and IPS officer Ake Ravi Krishna (IGP) addressed the gathering alongside DSP Singhaiah, CI, SI, and local police officers. He stressed the importance of eliminating drug abuse to secure the health and productivity of workers and communities across the state. “Under the Drug-Free India, Drug-Free Andhra Pradesh campaign, Eagle teams are actively conducting awareness programs for

workers in sectors like handicrafts, textiles, aqua, and agriculture,” said Ravi Krishna. He highlighted that a large number of migrant workers—around 34 lakh—have settled in Andhra Pradesh from states like Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Bihar, and West Bengal in search of employment. The program specifically focused on educating workers about the harmful effects of drugs, particularly cannabis, Provisions and penalties under the NDPS Act and Health and legal consequences of drug abuse. He urged everyone to spread the message of drug-free living and emphasized that drug addiction not only affects individuals but also disrupts families, workplaces, and society at large. The Eagle team has pledged to continue these educational initiatives across Andhra Pradesh, with a focus on both urban and rural workforce sectors.

## Environmental Rules for Amaravati Contractors Highlighted in CRDA-WB-ADB Meet

**TPN Correspondent | Amaravati**

The World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) teams continued their visit to Amaravati for the second day on June 20, 2025. An awareness seminar was conducted at HSR Kalyanavedika in Tullur for contractors involved in the capital’s construction projects, focusing on environmental, social, health, and worker safety standards. Addressing the seminar, ADCL Chairperson & MD Smt. D. Lakshmi Parthasarathy highlighted that environmental and social safeguard measures are a mandatory part of the Amaravati construction process. CRDA Additional Commissioner G. Suryasai Praveen Chand, IAS, explained that construction activities in Amaravati are being carried out with strong adherence to safety, inclusivity, and transparency, with no room for gender discrimination or child labour. The Environment & Social Protection



Department of CRDA detailed several mandatory rules for contractors:

1. Strict prohibition of child labour, with legal action against violators.
2. Mandatory safety equipment and ambulance availability at worksites.
3. Zero tolerance for sexual harassment; contractors will face severe action if such incidents occur.
4. Emphasis on environmental protection and safe disposal of construction materials via STPs.
5. Transportation routes should not dis-

rupt nearby villages; alternate arrangements to be made.

6. Safe storage practices for materials like paint, petrol, and diesel.

Contractors were instructed to strictly follow labour laws and cooperate with the government teams monitoring progress on the ground. CRDA officials clarified all queries raised by contractor representatives during the session. Jaya Sharma, the WB-ADB team representative, stressed the importance of confidentiality and victim support in cases involving workplace violence or harassment. Officials from CRDA, ADCL, consulting firms, and field-level staff were present at the seminar, which reaffirmed the state’s commitment to ethical and inclusive construction practices in Amaravati.

## 7,099 Medical Staff Transferred in First Phase of Health Department Reshuffle

**TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh**

In a major administrative move, the Medical and Health Department of Andhra Pradesh has successfully completed the first phase of staff transfers, affecting a total of 7,099 medical personnel. Of these, 5,200 employees were compulsorily transferred after completing five years at their current postings, while 1,899 were shifted based on their own requests. Additionally, 379 teaching staff were also transferred as part of this exercise. The state government has announced that 9,650 Grade-3 ANMs, working at the village level, will be transferred by June 30, marking the completion of the second phase. These transfers will be coordinated with the Village and Ward Secretariat departments. Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav expressed satisfaction over the transparent and dispute-free execution of this large-scale reshuffle. “We ensured that the process followed rules and eliminated the irregularities that plagued past transfer practices,” he said. The Minister commended the efforts of department heads and officers involved in the smooth conduct of the exercise. In a bid to prevent administrative stagnation and irregularities, junior and senior assistants, account officers, and superintendents who had worked in the same position for over three years were mandatorily transferred. For the first time, senior officials holding key positions for prolonged periods were also moved. The Ministry had also proactively released data on employee seniority, completed years of service, and vacancy lists to ensure transparency and allow time for objections to be resolved fairly. Interestingly, 840 staff members continue in their existing positions even after five years due to valid exemptions—including health grounds, spousal postings, and union representation. However, the Minister has sought detailed justification for their continued postings and has asked for a complete report on them soon.

## Second Phase Lottery Results for Free Admissions in Private Schools Released

**8,583 Seats Allotted Under RTE 12(1)(C), Says Samagra Shiksha Director**

**TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh**

The Government of Andhra Pradesh’s School Education Department, under the Samagra Shiksha initiative, has released the second phase lottery results for free admissions in private schools under the Right to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, Section 12(1)(C). Samagra Shiksha State Scheme Director Sri B. Srinivasa Rao, IAS, announced on Friday that 8,583 students have been selected in this phase. Parents of the selected students will receive SMS alerts and can also check the results online at <https://cse.ap.gov.in>. Admissions must be confirmed between June 21 and June 28, 2025, by submitting the necessary certificates at the respective schools. The School Education Department has made it clear that action will be taken against schools that deny admissions without valid reasons. Admissions will be processed through special logins provided to the Samagra Shiksha District Additional Project Coordinators (APCs). For queries, school managements can approach the respective MEO, DEO, or RJD, and parents can contact the toll-free number 18004258599 for assistance. In the first phase, out of 37,427 registered applications, 28,561 met the eligibility criteria, resulting in 23,118 seat allotments. Of these, 15,541 students were successfully admitted to private schools under the scheme. This initiative aims to ensure equitable access to quality education by reserving 25% of seats for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds in private institutions.



# Satya Kumar Reviews Preparations for International Yoga Day

Minister reviews booth-level and zonal-level preparedness      Emphasis on registrations, QR coordination, and route awareness

**TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam**  
Hon'ble Health Minister Shri Satya Kumar Garu held a comprehensive coordination and review meeting in the Visakhapatnam East Assembly Constituency on Thursday as part of the extensive planning for the 21st International Yoga Day celebrations to be held on June 21. The Minister interacted with NDA coordinators, booth-level leaders, zonal volunteers, and

organising teams to assess readiness at the grassroots level. During the meeting, he underscored the significance of streamlined public mobilisation, proper registration procedures, QR scanning coordination, and efficient transport arrangements to facilitate seamless participation. Shri Satya Kumar emphasized that this year's theme, "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," represents not only a call for personal well-being but also a

message of national and global harmony. He said, "Yoga is a universal tool to connect health with humanity. We must make this celebration a reflection of that unity." The Minister instructed field coordinators to maintain real-time reporting mechanisms, ensure clarity on pick-up and drop routes, and offer hospitality with discipline and warmth to all participants. He also appreciated the enthusiastic coordination shown by grassroots teams and called on everyone to carry forward the campaign spirit up to the last participant. Visakhapatnam East MLA Shri Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu Garu, NDA leader Shri Ugra Narasimha Reddy Garu, and several BJP and NDA alliance representatives attended the review meeting. All of them pledged their complete support and cooperation to make the event a historic success for Andhra Pradesh and India.



The upcoming Yoga Day event in Visakhapatnam is expected to witness mass participation, with the state set to play a central role in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's global call to embrace yoga for collective health and harmony.

## TTD Refutes Allegations by Former Chairman Bhumana

Allegations baseless and misleading, says TTD in strong rebuttal

**TPN Correspondent | Tirupati**  
The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has categorically refuted the recent allegations made by former TTD Chairman Sri Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, terming them as baseless, misleading, and devoid of any factual backing. In a press release issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer of TTD, the organization condemned the attempt to tarnish its reputation and clarified on all points raised. TTD clarified that contrary to claims, the duration and quality of Vedic recitation at Srivari Temple have not only been maintained but significantly improved in recent months. The sacred chant 'Om Namo Venkatesaya' now resonates throughout the temple premises, footpaths, annadanam centers, and queue lines. TTD further stated that Vedic students are being supported with initiatives aimed at improving their physical and mental well-being in the Veda pathashalas. Dismissing allegations that priests are being disrespected, TTD reaffirmed that due respect is always maintained, though several internal reforms were introduced to improve temple operations and transparency. The views of devotees are now being actively sought to enhance service delivery, which has drawn praise from the pilgrims. TTD strongly denied any targeted action against Mutts, stating that only those occupying land beyond allotted boundaries—such as Visakha Sharada Peetham—received notices in compliance with court directives. Many mutts,



it added, have themselves expressed support for recent reforms and even received approvals for renovations. Refuting the charge that TTD is misleading pilgrims with AI-based promises, the statement clarified that AI technology is being deployed to streamline darshan, not to promise fixed timings. With the help of AI and scientific time management, the TTD has been able to provide comfortable darshan for record numbers of devotees during peak days. An additional 22 food counters were also set up, serving Annaprasadam and beverages in waiting areas. Feedback is now collected via IVRS, WhatsApp, and Srivari Sevaks, with over 90% satisfaction reported on services like accommodation, drinking water, and prasadam. Addressing concerns about Parakamani, TTD recalled the 2023 incident and

noted that since then, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been put in place. All personnel are subject to stringent security checks before entering the Parakamani area to restore public confidence. The press release concluded by calling the former Chairman's allegations irresponsible and cautioned that public figures should verify facts before making damaging statements. "It is inappropriate to malign a revered Hindu institution like the TTD without substantiated evidence," it stated. "Every action taken in the past year has been aimed at strengthening tradition while ensuring better services to devotees. Allegations for political mileage hurt the sanctity and public trust in such institutions," TTD maintained.

## MP Kalisetty Leads Cycle Rally After Offering Prayers at Arasavilli Temple

Promotes "Yogandhra" ahead of International Yoga Day mega event



**TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam**  
In a spiritually charged and vibrant display of support for the upcoming Yogandhra celebrations, MP Shri Kalisetty on Thursday visited the historic Sri Suryanarayana Swamy Temple at Arasavilli and led a cycle rally to promote yoga awareness. The event, held on the eve of the 11th International Day of Yoga, began with a special pooja conducted by Vedic scholars, where Surya Namaskars were performed in front of Lord Surya. MP Kalisetty prayed for the health and prosperity of all citizens and praised the cultural and spiritual heritage of Arasavilli. Following the temple rituals, the cycle rally was launched from the temple premises as part of the promotional activities for the "Yogandhra Program", an initiative backed by the Andhra Pradesh State Coalition Government. The program, under the leadership of Chief Minister N.

Chandrababu Naidu, is set to culminate with a mass yoga gathering in Visakhapatnam on June 21, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing the press, Kalisetty said, "Yoga is India's ancient wisdom for wellness. We must embrace it not just for one day, but as a lifelong habit for physical health, mental strength, and emotional balance." He added that the program has seen over 2 crore registrations, with 5 to 7 lakh people expected to take part in the mega event at Beach Road, Visakhapatnam, setting the stage for a potential world record. The cycle rally drew participation from local leaders, party workers, youth, and residents, creating a festive atmosphere in Arasavilli. Volunteers distributed pamphlets about the benefits of yoga and encouraged the public to join the grand event on Yoga Day.

## Grand Celebrations Mark BJP Leader Kola Anand's Birthday

Service programs and food distribution organized across Srikalahasti



**TPN | C Shekar Tirupati:** Kola Anand's birthday celebrations were held with grandeur and public enthusiasm in Srikalahasti on June 20. The event commenced with his darshan at the Srikalahasti temple, where he offered prayers and received blessings from Swami and Ammavaru. Leaders, activists, and fans from all

political parties, including those from Vadavada, gathered in large numbers to convey their wishes. In honor of BJP State Secretary and Srikalahasti Constituency In-charge Kola Anand, party workers and followers organized service activities and Annadana (food distribution) programs at various locations. Many

citizens lauded him as a dedicated public servant and tireless worker for people's welfare, cutting across party and community lines. Addressing the gathering, Kola Anand said, "The coalition government, which has completed one year in Andhra Pradesh, is providing excellent governance. At the national level, Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi is leading the country with vision, and in the state, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, along with Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Srikalahasti's Bojjala Sudheer Reddy, are ensuring rapid development." He reaffirmed his commitment to continue working for the progress of the Srikalahasti constituency and its people. The celebrations witnessed the participation of leaders from various parties, local well-wishers, print and electronic media representatives, Thitide Governing Council member Bhanu Prakash Reddy, TUDA Chairman Dollars Diwakar Reddy, and citizens from all communities and faiths. They all came together to extend birthday greetings to Kola Anand, reflecting the strong local support and goodwill he commands across the region.

## Drunken Youths Create Chaos on Bhimavaram Highway

Attack student, chase college bus and go wild on the road



**TPN Correspondent | West Godavari**  
A disturbing incident unfolded on the roads of Bhimavaram in West Godavari district on Friday, as a group of intoxicated youths created a ruckus on the highway, endangering public safety and sparking widespread outrage. Their unruly behavior, captured on video, has since gone viral on social media, drawing sharp criticism from the public. According to eyewitnesses, the youths, allegedly under the influence of alcohol, stopped a college bus in which a student was travelling and began harassing him without provocation. Despite the student's pleas and questions as to why he was being attacked,

the group became more aggressive and physically assaulted him in full public view. Not stopping at that, the youths then began chasing the college bus, performing indecent acts and dancing wildly on the road, causing panic among other motorists and commuters. Several vehicles had to slow down or stop due to the chaos, leading to brief traffic disturbances. Bystanders recorded the incident, and the videos have since gone viral, sparking anger and concern among local residents. People have called for swift police action and stricter monitoring of such public behavior, especially involving intoxicated individuals creating danger for others.



# Vanamahotsavam: A Step To Greening Telangana!

Greening Telangana must be seen not just as an environmental programme, but as a shared responsibility of the people and the government. “Save Nature, Save Future” is more than a slogan – it must be the guiding principle for any government and for every citizen who wishes to leave a better world for generations to come. The protection of our ecological wealth is a duty that belongs to all living beings. In Telangana, under the progressive leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Forest, Environment and Endowments Minister Smt. Konda Surekha, a new era of honest, science-based, and people-driven forest governance is taking shape. In the past, large - scale plantation programmes such as Haritha Haram were launched with great publicity but lacked depth in execution. While they brought attention to green cover, they fell short in terms of sustainability, scientific planning, and public participation. There were no strong systems to monitor plantation survival or track actual outcomes. Community involvement was minimal, and field data was often inflated, which led to public distrust. The consequences were serious – between 2015 and 2023, Telangana lost over 94,000 acres of forest to encroachments.

Now, that tide is beginning to turn. Under Forest & Environmental Minister Konda Surekha's leadership, the Telangana government has already reclaimed over 17,600 acres of encroached forest land. This is not just about numbers - it reflects a deeper change in intent and action. The government is introducing advanced technology and citizen - driven reporting mechanisms to prevent further encroachments. Transparency and accountability are finally taking



centre stage in forest management. The launch of the 2024 Vanamahotsavam reflects this new commitment. It is no longer about just planting crores of saplings - it is about ensuring they survive, grow, and truly contribute to Telangana's green future. With 95% of the 20.02 crore sapling target already achieved this year, and each sapling now geo-tagged through the Telangana Forest Management Information System, the entire process is being tracked in real time. Every plant counts, and every effort is monitored. Unlike past campaigns that focused on sheer numbers, this drive gives priority to native species, local soil

and climate conditions, and water availability. Trees like amla, guava, black plum, custard apple, hibiscus, and rose have been carefully selected. Post-plantation care is receiving focused attention, and ₹41.30 crore has been mobilised through the Telangana Haritha Nidhi to support nursery development, fencing, and survival audits. More importantly, people are being encouraged to take part - this is a movement built on community spirit and shared responsibility. The state government is also looking at forests beyond trees. It is embracing a holistic vision that includes eco-tourism, wildlife protection, and tribal

livelihoods. New eco-tourism sites are being developed at Kanakagiri and Ananthagiri, and a full-fledged Eco-Tourism Policy is ready to be rolled out. Human-wildlife conflict is being addressed seriously, with ex gratia payments for victims' families now increased to ₹10 lakh. For the first time, two entire villages were successfully relocated from core forest areas in the Kawal Tiger Reserve - an important step for both wildlife safety and habitat restoration. The government is also transforming the lives of tribal forest communities. Over 82,000 beedi leaf collectors have been brought under a direct benefit



**Sagar Vanaparthi,**  
**Sr Journalist &**  
**Political Analyst**

system, eliminating middlemen and ensuring that their hard work is fairly rewarded. These are not small adjustments - they are meaningful reforms rooted in justice and respect for those who live closest to nature. Telangana's forests are the lungs of our state, and they must be protected with care, science, and compassion. The past cannot be undone, but the future can be shaped with determination. With a government that is committed to environmental integrity and public partnership, there is renewed hope. Every citizen must become a stakeholder in this mission. Whether by planting a sapling, reporting encroachments, or simply spreading awareness, everyone can play a role. Nature, once lost, takes years to recover. The time to act is now. Telangana is showing the way - not just with slogans, but with systems, vision, and heart. And in this journey, every step taken today will define the quality of life tomorrow. Let us all join hands to build a greener, healthier, and more responsible Telangana.

## Pakistan's Risky Reboot: Playing America's 'Frontline State' Once Again



Pakistan appears to be revisiting a familiar script — positioning itself as America's go-to “Frontline State” in return for strategic rewards, this time with Iran as the new theater. Field Marshal Asim Munir's June 18 White House lunch with President Donald Trump was not just symbolic; it likely signaled a quiet understanding between Washington and Rawalpindi to collaborate on destabilizing Iran's regime.

Though initially invited to the U.S. Army's 250th anniversary celebrations, Munir skipped the event. His real mission seems to involve shaping a renewed bilateral framework — one in which Pakistan would serve as the logistical base for American operations against Iran, much like it did during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan or the post-9/11 war on terror. Trump's unpredictable transactionalism and the urgency around Iran's nuclear program have made this arrangement timely.

This engagement could bring Pakistan critical financial relief and strategic leverage, including

renewed military aid, debt support, and global legitimacy. But the price is steep. Aligning with the U.S. against Iran — a Shia-majority neighbor with historic and religious ties — could destabilize Pakistan internally. With around 15% of Pakistan's population being Shia and a restive border with Iran, such cooperation could ignite sectarian and geopolitical tensions.

Historically, Pakistan has capitalized on similar U.S. engagements — from Cold War-era pacts to aiding the Mujahideen in the 1980s, and later, supporting U.S. campaigns in Afghanistan. But each episode left internal blowback: terrorism, illegal arms, and deepening military control over civilian institutions.

For India, the episode reinforces the wisdom of strategic autonomy and the perils of over-trusting Trump's administration, which has shown a willingness to sidestep Indian interests for tactical deals. It's time New Delhi adopts a more agile, less idealistic foreign policy in an increasingly transactional world.

## The Long Undoing: Why the Muslim World Is in Crisis



From the rubble of Aleppo to the ravaged neighborhoods of Gaza and the scarred plains of Iraq, a grim portrait of the modern Muslim world emerges—one marked by endless conflict, external manipulation, and internal decay. The devastation is not due to fate or faith but the result of a complex interplay of colonial legacies, geopolitical opportunism, and authoritarian governance.

Critics often reduce the Muslim world's plight to cultural backwardness or religious extremism. Others blame the West for its relentless interventions and double standards. Both narratives contain truths, yet neither fully captures the depth of the crisis. The truth lies in the long arc of history, where Western imperial ambitions, Cold War alignments, and modern proxy wars have repeatedly undermined sovereign governance, leaving fractured states and broken societies in their wake.

After the Ottoman Empire's fall, colonial powers carved up the Middle East to suit their interests, not the aspirations of its people. The Sykes-Picot Agreement divided lands arbitrarily, birthing states like Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, not through organic nation-building but through strategic calculus. These fault lines, inherited without reconciliation, have since fueled coups, civil wars, and sectarian strife.

The U.S.-led invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, NATO's toppling of Gaddafi in Libya, and decades of regime-change policies have brought more harm than hope. Iraq's collapse post-2003 invited ISIS. Syria became a global battleground. Afghanistan remains under Taliban control despite two decades of foreign intervention. Iran now faces a similar threat— isolated, sanctioned, and painted as the next domino.

Meanwhile, U.S. allies like Saudi Arabia and the UAE, despite autocratic rule and rights abuses, face little scrutiny, revealing Western hypocrisy. This selective morality breeds resentment and radicalism, turning grievance into ideology.

The Muslim world doesn't need more war-planes or foreign blueprints. It needs space to rebuild—economically, socially, and politically. The global order must abandon the myth that democracy can be delivered through drones. Instead, it must invest in civil societies, education, and local leadership.

Until the world acknowledges the shared responsibility for this ruin—and chooses justice over expedience—the cycle will continue. And the ruins will not remain contained to West Asia; they will echo far beyond. The time for principled action is now.



# ‘PM Modi Has Babasaheb in His Heart’

Bihar Politics Heats Up as PM Attacks Lalu Over Ambedkar ‘Insult’

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Bihar’s political temperature soared on Friday as Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a sharp attack on RJD president Lalu Prasad Yadav, accusing him of insulting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar during recent birthday celebrations. While Modi did not mention Prasad by name, he referred to the controversial incident where “a portrait of Ambedkar was placed close to the feet of the ailing septuagenarian” Lalu Prasad, sparking outrage from the BJP-led NDA.

Speaking at a rally in Siwan district, Modi condemned the act, saying, “Ambedkar was against dynasty rule. But, they [RJD and its allies] do not like it. So they have his portrait placed at their feet.” Modi further noted that despite demands for an apology over this perceived insult, none has been forthcoming. “This is because they hold Dalits in contempt. In contrast, Modi has Babasaheb in his heart and would like to keep his portrait close to his chest,” he added.

The RJD countered these allegations by blaming a misleading camera angle during the birthday celebrations. They explained that Prasad was advised medically to keep his feet elevated on a sofa, and a supporter stood nearby



holding the portrait. Prasad’s younger son, Tejashwi Yadav, defended the family, denying any insult and questioned whether Union Home Minister Amit Shah had apologized for his own controversial remarks in Parliament.

Meanwhile, the Bihar State Commission for Scheduled Castes has issued a notice to Prasad, warning of legal action if a satisfactory explanation is

not provided. The BJP has intensified its campaign against Prasad ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections, with leaders burning effigies and submitting memorandums to the Governor. The controversy has also drawn criticism from national BJP leaders and allies, including Dalit leader Chirag Paswan, highlighting the heightened political stakes around Ambedkar’s legacy in Bihar’s electoral battle.

## India to Host Yoga Day Events in 191 Countries, Marking 10th Anniversary of IDY



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India is set to organise International Day of Yoga (IDY) events in 191 countries on June 21, 2025, celebrating the 10th anniversary of this global movement. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), under the Ministry of External Affairs, will coordinate over 2,000 yoga programmes across 1,300 locations worldwide, spanning multiple cities. The theme for IDY 2025 is “Yoga for One Earth, One Health,” reflecting the deep connection between individual wellbeing, environmental sustainability, and

global health. This aligns with India’s broader vision of “One Earth, One Family, One Future,” which was highlighted during its G20 presidency.

K Nandini Singla, ICCR Director General, shared that yoga events will be held not only globally but also in sensitive locations such as Islamabad, Pakistan, where the Indian High Commission is organising a special yoga event. In countries like the US, multiple events will be hosted across various cities to ensure wide participation.

A flagship event titled “Yoga Bandhan” will feature 17 yoga gurus and practitioners from 15 countries, including Brazil, Argentina, Russia, China, South Africa, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Singapore, and South Korea. These experts will lead sessions across India at iconic sites like Jantar Mantar, Qutub Minar, Purana Quila, and Humayun’s Tomb in Delhi, as well as in Lucknow, Ayodhya, Varanasi, Jaipur, and other cities.

Singla highlighted the global journey of yoga: “Yoga went from India to the world, and now practitioners from around the globe have come back to India to lead these events.” She also noted the widespread popularity of yoga internationally, with lawmakers, police officers, and judges among those embracing it to maintain health and manage stress.

Preparations for IDY 2025 began months ago, with embassies worldwide hosting countdown events and India’s 37 cultural centres conducting yoga programmes over the past 100 days. Yoga’s rise as a global wellness practice showcases its power as a unifying force promoting health and harmony worldwide.

## Woman Naxalite Killed in Encounter with Security Forces in Chhattisgarh’s Kanker

A woman Naxalite was killed during a fierce encounter with security personnel on Friday morning in Chhattisgarh’s Kanker district, police officials confirmed. The gunfight erupted on a forested hill under the jurisdiction of the Chhotebethiya police station, involving a joint operation by the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Border Security Force (BSF).



The operation was launched between the villages of Amatola and Kalpar, following intelligence reports about the presence of banned Maoist group members near the Kotri river. According to Kanker Superintendent of Police Indira Kalyan Elesela, the forces engaged with the insurgents after confirming their location on the opposite bank of the river.

During the encounter, the security personnel recovered the body of a woman Naxalite along with a weapon from the site. The firefight was described as intermittent, with exchanges of fire continuing in the area as forces worked to secure the location.

This encounter is part of ongoing efforts by security agencies to eliminate the presence of Maoist insurgents in the

region, who have long been involved in violent activities and pose significant challenges to law and order in parts of Chhattisgarh.

Authorities have stated that more details regarding the operation will be released as the situation develops. The operation underscores the continued vigilance and cooperation between various security units aiming to restore peace and stability in the Naxal-affected areas.

Local officials remain on high alert as the security forces intensify anti-Naxal operations, with a focus on disrupting the activities of the banned Maoist organization in the region. The recovery of the weapon and the elimination of an active insurgent mark a tactical success for the ongoing campaign.



## Air India Cancels 8 Flights Including 4 International Due to Maintenance and Operational Issues

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Air India has announced the cancellation of eight flights on Friday, citing enhanced maintenance requirements and operational reasons. The affected flights include four international and four domestic services, the airline confirmed.

The international flights canceled are AI906 (Dubai to Chennai), AI308 (Delhi to Melbourne), AI309 (Melbourne to Delhi), and AI2204 (Dubai to Hyderabad). On the domestic front, flights AI874 (Pune to Delhi), AI456 (Ahmedabad to Delhi), AI2872 (Hyderabad to Mumbai), and AI571 (Chennai to Mumbai) have been called off.

In response to the disruptions, Air India stated that its ground teams are actively working to make alternative arrangements for affected passengers, ensuring they reach their destinations at the earliest possible time. The airline has also assured passengers of full refunds for canceled flights

and has provided the option of complimentary rescheduling.

These cancellations come as part of the airline’s efforts to enhance aircraft maintenance and ensure operational safety and efficiency. While the move may cause inconvenience to travelers, Air India emphasized its commitment to passenger safety and service quality.

Passengers impacted by these cancellations are encouraged to contact the airline’s customer service for updates and assistance with rebooking or refunds. Air India continues to monitor its operations closely and aims to minimize disruption amid ongoing maintenance work.

The airline’s proactive communication and support reflect its focus on managing the situation effectively while prioritizing safety and passenger convenience. Travelers planning to fly with Air India in the coming days should stay updated for any further changes or announcements.

## Iran Opens Airspace for India; First Batch of Evacuated Students to Arrive in Delhi Tonight



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Iran has temporarily opened its otherwise closed airspace exclusively for Indian evacuation flights amid escalating conflict in the region. As part of India’s emergency evacuation operation named “Operation Sindhu,” the first batch of around 1,000 Indian students stranded in conflict-hit Iranian cities is scheduled to land in Delhi tonight at 11:00 PM IST. Two more flights are planned for Saturday—one in the morning and another in the evening.

Iran’s airspace has remained largely closed to international flights due to ongoing missile exchanges and drone attacks between Israeli and Iranian forces. However, India has been granted a special corridor to facilitate the safe evacuation of its nationals, especially students.

India launched Operation Sindhu in response to the escalating hostilities between Iran and Israel, which have endangered thousands of Indian nationals living in Iran. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), over 4,000 Indians reside in Iran, with half of them being students.

Earlier this week, 110 Indian students from Urmia Medical University in Iran’s West Azerbaijan province—close to the Turkey border and a hotspot for recent missile activity—were evacuated by road to Yerevan, Armenia. From there, they boarded a special flight that landed in Delhi on June 19. The majority of these evacuees hail from Jammu and Kashmir.

The Indian government expressed gratitude to Iran and Armenia for facilitating safe passage and emphasized its highest priority on the safety and security of Indian nationals abroad.

The current conflict was triggered by Israel’s “Operation Rising Lion” targeting Iran’s nuclear infrastructure, provoking retaliatory missile and drone strikes by Tehran. Recent attacks have resulted in civilian casualties and significant military escalations, including Israeli airstrikes near Tehran and Iran’s launch of hypersonic missiles against Israeli military targets.

India’s swift evacuation efforts underscore its commitment to protecting its citizens amid growing tensions in the Persian Gulf region.



# Maryland Governor Wes Moore Criticizes Trump’s “Lack of Seriousness” on Iran Conflict

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Wes Moore, the first Black governor of Maryland and a combat veteran who served with the Army’s 82nd Airborne Division in Afghanistan, has publicly expressed his disappointment with US President Donald Trump’s handling of the escalating Iran-Israel conflict. Moore condemned what he called Trump’s “lack of seriousness” in addressing critical national security issues during a recent interview.

Moore, who led troops in dangerous combat zones, emphasized the gravity of the situation, stating, “As someone who has worn this uniform, and along with my fellow service members risked my life in defense of this country, to see such a free-wheeling conversation about issues of life and death is disappointing.” He criticized the President’s inconsistent messaging, especially after Trump issued an “ultimate ultimatum” warning Iran not to develop nuclear weapons but then ambiguously stated, “I may do it, I may not do it — nobody knows what I’m going to do,” when asked if the US would join Israel in military action.

This exchange came shortly after Iran’s Supreme Leader declared that Iran “will never surrender” in response to Trump’s demand for “unconditional surrender” from Teh-



ran’s regime. Moore stressed that “people’s lives are on the line” amid the intensifying conflict, highlighting the need for clarity and responsibility in leadership during such serious times.

Moore’s comments come as he is viewed as a rising political figure and potential candidate for the 2028 presidential race. He urged that playing “will I-won’t I” games with military decisions only undermines the seriousness of the crisis.

In response, White House deputy press secretary Anna Kelly defended Trump, stating, “Americans overwhelmingly elected President Trump because they trust him to keep our country safe. As the President has said consistently, Iran must never obtain a nuclear weapon.”

The Iran-Israel conflict entered its eighth day on Friday, with several countries, including Germany, Canada, the UK, and Australia, increasing pressure on Iran to abandon its nuclear program entirely.

# New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon Emphasizes Trade Amidst Geopolitical Challenges

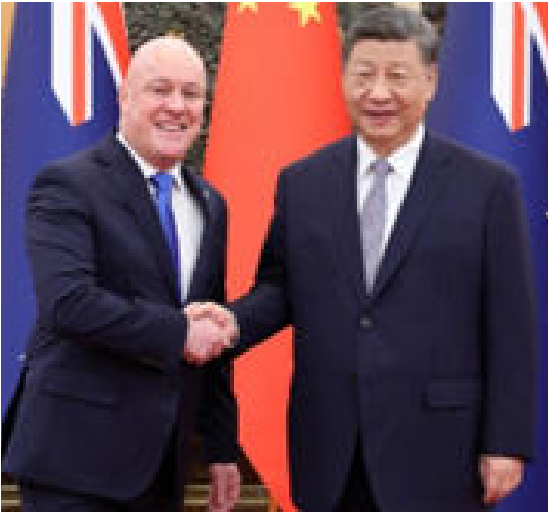
In Meeting with China’s Xi Jinping

TPN Correspondent | Iran

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon underscored the importance of maintaining strong trade relations with China during his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on June 20, 2025, in Beijing. This marks Luxon’s first visit to China since taking office in late 2023.

Following two days of discussions with officials and business leaders in Shanghai, Luxon traveled to Beijing to further engage with Chinese leadership. Despite ongoing differences over regional security issues and China’s increasingly tense relations with the United States, Luxon stressed the value of the economic ties between the two countries.

“Our trade and economic links are complementary and contribute to prosperity in both countries,” Luxon said in a statement after the meeting. China remains a crucial



market for New Zealand exports, accounting for over 20% of its goods and services trade.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the importance of reducing tensions in the Indo-Pacific region, emphasizing China’s po-

tential role in addressing global challenges such as the war in Ukraine. “In a complex world, open dialogue is more important than ever,” he added in a post on X, signaling a willingness to engage despite geopolitical headwinds.

Luxon’s visit comes shortly after New Zealand suspended millions of dollars in aid to the Cook Islands over concerns regarding the Pacific nation’s expanding ties with China, reflecting Wellington’s cautious approach amid growing regional competition for influence.

The meeting between Luxon and Xi signals New Zealand’s effort to balance its economic interests with China while navigating the broader security dynamics shaped by the US-China rivalry. As tensions rise globally, New Zealand appears determined to keep its trade channels open and productive, advocating diplomacy and dialogue in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape.

# Zelenskyy Calls for Increased Pressure on Russia After Deadly Kyiv Missile Strike

TPN Correspondent | KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has urged the international community to ramp up pressure on Russia following a devastating missile attack on a residential building in Kyiv. The strike, which occurred on June 17, 2025, was the deadliest assault on Ukraine’s capital this year, killing 28 people and injuring 142 others, according to Kyiv Military Administration head Tymur Tkachenko.

Zelenskyy, accompanied by presidential chief of staff Andrii Yermak and Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko, visited the site in Kyiv’s Solomianskyi district to pay tribute to the victims. “This attack is a reminder to the world that Russia rejects a ceasefire and chooses killing,” Zelenskyy said on Telegram. He thanked Ukraine’s partners willing to increase pressure on Moscow to “feel the real cost of the war.”

The missile and drone attack was part of one of the largest bombardments since the conflict began in February 2022, with Russia launching over 440 drones and 32 missiles to overwhelm Ukrainian air defenses. Despite ongoing peace efforts led by the U.S., Russian President Vladimir Putin has rejected a proposed 30-day ceasefire, demanding Ukraine halt its military mobilization and



stop receiving Western arms.

Russia continues its summer offensive across a broad front, intensifying attacks on urban areas. Putin denied targeting residential zones, insisting strikes were aimed at military infrastructure. Meanwhile, a prisoner exchange between the two sides took place in Ukraine’s Chernihiv region,

repatriating several severely ill Ukrainian POWs, many captured during the defense of Mariupol in 2022.

Zelenskyy reaffirmed Ukraine’s commitment to peace but accused Russia of escalating terror instead of seeking resolution. As attacks persist, Kyiv calls for greater diplomatic and economic measures to end the conflict.



# Indian, US, and Chinese Deposits in Swiss Banks Decline Over Past Decade

Deposits by Indian nationals in Swiss banks have decreased by nearly 18% over the last ten years, according to data released by the Swiss National Bank (SNB). Indian deposits fell from about 425 million Swiss francs in 2015 to 346 million Swiss francs in 2024. Although deposits peaked at a 10-year high of around 602 million Swiss francs during the COVID-19 pandemic, they began declining afterward. In 2023, deposits stood at 309 million Swiss francs before rising slightly to 346 million Swiss francs in 2024.

This downward trend is not unique to India. Many other major economies have also recorded significant reductions in Swiss bank deposits. For example, deposits by UK nationals declined from 44 billion Swiss francs in 2015 to 31 billion Swiss francs in 2024. Chinese deposits dropped from 5.01 billion to 4.3 billion Swiss francs during the same period.

Neighboring countries Pakistan and Bangladesh experienced even sharper declines. Pakistani nationals’ deposits fell dramatically from 947 million Swiss francs in 2015 to 241 million Swiss francs in 2024 — a drop of nearly 75%. Bangladeshi deposits decreased by over 73%, from 48 million Swiss francs to just 12.6 million Swiss francs.

Saudi Arabian deposits nearly halved over the decade, falling from 8.3 billion to 4.8 billion Swiss francs. The steepest decline was seen among American nationals, whose deposits plunged from 64.2 billion Swiss francs in 2015 to 24.4 billion in 2024 — a 62% drop.

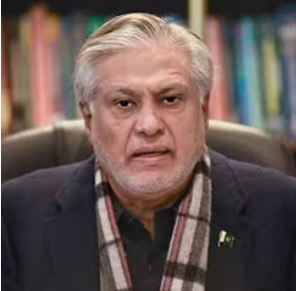
The data reflects a broader global trend of declining foreign deposits in Swiss banks, likely driven by tighter regulations, enhanced financial transparency, and changing international norms. The pandemic caused a temporary surge in deposits, but the overall movement points toward reduced reliance on Swiss banking for foreign nationals, including Indians.

# Pakistan Seeks Ceasefire After India’s Strikes on Air Bases Amid Operation Sindoor

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Pakistan’s Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar revealed that Pakistan was compelled to request a ceasefire with India last month following Indian strikes on two strategic air bases in Rawalpindi and Punjab. The strikes were part of India’s Operation Sindoor, launched in retaliation to a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam region that claimed the lives of 26 tourists on April 22.

Dar, speaking on a television news program, confirmed that India targeted the Nur Khan air base in Rawalpindi and the Shorkot air base in Punjab during the operation. The Nur Khan base, located strategically between Rawalpindi and Islamabad, is a critical military installation. According to Dar, the Indian missile strikes occurred at around 2:30 am, prompting Pakistan to seek diplomatic intervention from the United States and support from Saudi Arabia.



He detailed that shortly after the attacks, Saudi Prince Faisal contacted him. The Prince had learned about Dar’s conversation with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and offered to communicate with India’s External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to negotiate a halt to the strikes. Dar agreed, and the Prince later confirmed that he had relayed Pakistan’s readiness to de-escalate if India stopped its attacks.

Operation Sindoor, conducted by India on the night of May 7-8, targeted and destroyed nine terror bases across Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK). This military action was in direct response to the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam. The strikes significantly escalated tensions between the two countries, leading to a series of counterstrikes.

Following the intense exchange, India and Pakistan eventually agreed on a ceasefire to prevent further conflict and stabilize the situation along the border. The ceasefire has been maintained since, although underlying tensions remain high.



## Stock Markets Rebound Strongly After Three-Day Losing Streak



After three consecutive sessions of losses, domestic stock markets made a robust comeback on Friday. Both benchmark and sectoral indices ended the day with significant gains, driven by improved investor sentiment despite geopolitical tensions. Optimism over a possible truce between Iran and Israel, a 2% dip in crude oil prices, foreign institutional investments, and the strengthening of the rupee all contributed to the rally.

The BSE Sensex surged by 1,046 points, closing at 81,408 after touching an intraday high of 82,494. It had opened at 81,354, slightly below the previous session's close of 81,361, and recorded a low of 81,323. Meanwhile, the NSE Nifty jumped by 319 points to

end at 25,112, marking a strong close above the critical 25,000 mark. It had opened at 24,787, hit a low of 24,783, and peaked at 25,136 during the session. The Nifty Bank index also climbed by 675 points to settle at 56,252.

Investor wealth on the BSE grew by ₹4 lakh crore in a single day as 46 of the 50 Nifty stocks gained. Top performers included Trent, Jio Finance, M&M, Bharti Airtel, and Nestle India. On the losing side were Hero MotoCorp, Dr. Reddy's, Maruti, ONGC, and Axis Bank.

All major sectoral indices showed strong momentum—realty, telecom, finance, PSU banks, metals, healthcare, auto, oil, IT, pharma, and consumer durables were all in the green. The market breadth was highly positive on the NSE, with 1,912 stocks advancing and 963 declining out of 2,954 trad-

ed. Notably, 28 stocks hit their 52-week highs, and 67 stocks reached their upper circuit limits.

The rupee appreciated by 14 paise to close at 86.59 against the US dollar. Go Digit shares recorded the highest gains in eight months. Brokerage ratings boosted several stocks—HSBC gave a 'Buy' on Trent with a ₹6,700 target, and Bank of America Securities rated Dr. Reddy's as 'Outperform' with a ₹1,500 target. Indus Towers gained 4%, while Jefferies issued a 'Buy' on SBI with a target of ₹960.

Other key developments included Aeris Infra Solution's IPO receiving a 2.33x subscription, Hindustan Aeronautics securing a small satellite rocket order, and Poonawalla Fincorp approving a ₹1,600 crore NCD raise. CCL Products launched new South Indian snacks under the Malgudi brand.



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## Rupee Strengthens by 14 Paise to Close at 86.59 Against US Dollar

Amid Equity Rally and Lower Oil Prices



The Indian Rupee appreciated by 14 paise to close at 86.59 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, June 20, 2025, supported by a decline in global crude oil prices and a weakening greenback, forex traders said. The local currency's gain was further bolstered by robust performance in domestic equity markets and inflows from foreign institutional investors (FIIs).

The Rupee opened at 86.65 at the inter-bank foreign exchange and traded within a narrow band of 86.55 to 86.67 before settling at 86.59, marking a modest recovery after hitting a two-month low the previous day. On Thursday, the Rupee had dropped 30 paise, closing at 86.73, marking a combined loss of 69 paise over the past three sessions.

Maneesh Sharma, AVP-Commodities & Currencies at Anand Rathni Shares and Stock Brokers, noted that the Rupee's weakness this month largely stemmed from geopolitical tensions, particularly following Israeli strikes on Iranian targets on June 13, which pushed Brent crude oil futures to a five-month high near \$79 per barrel. "The local currency was comforted by a dip in oil prices after the White House indicated that President

Donald Trump will decide within two weeks whether the US will intervene in the Israel-Iran conflict," Sharma added.

Market optimism also stems from expectations that the upcoming HDB Financial IPO will attract significant investment inflows, which could provide further support to the Rupee. Analysts predict the Rupee may continue to trade in a range between 86.20 and 86.70 in the early part of next week.

Meanwhile, the US dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six major currencies, eased by 0.30% to 98.60.

Domestic equity markets also showed strong momentum on Friday, with the BSE Sensex surging 1,046.30 points to close at 82,408.17, and the Nifty climbing 319.15 points to 25,112.40. Brent crude oil futures fell by 2.36% to \$76.99 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers of Indian equities, purchasing shares worth ₹934.62 crore on Thursday, according to stock exchange data, signaling sustained foreign interest in Indian markets despite global uncertainties.

## Steel Sector Hit Hard by Abrupt Quality Compliance Deadline

The steel industry is bracing for significant challenges following a sudden notification by the Ministry of Steel that extends quality certification requirements to the inputs used in steel production, including imported raw materials. Released on June 13, 2025, the notification mandates compliance with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for all steel inputs, effective immediately for imports with a bill of lading dated June 16 or later—leaving industry players less than one business day to adjust.



This extension of the Quality Control Order (QCO) means not only finished steel products but also the raw materials and semi-finished goods entering India must meet stringent quality standards. For example, steel slabs supplied by a Malaysian firm to a Vietnamese company, which processes them into sheets and exports to India, must now ensure BIS certification at every stage.

Industry leaders warn this will severely disrupt the supply chain and escalate costs, particularly impacting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Pankaj N. Umrana, Executive Director at KND Steel, highlighted the difficulties importers will face, noting the increased compliance burden and potential production delays. "Manufacturers will struggle to import now, production will be hampered, customers affected, and delays inevitable," he said. He added that

the absence of government support and the need to navigate complex paperwork will further strain businesses.

Pankaj Chaddha, Chairman of the Engineering Exports Promotion Council of India, emphasized that MSME importers dealing in semi-finished goods would bear the brunt of this sudden change.

The key concern is the extremely short notice. With the order dated June 13 and effective for shipments from June 16, importers were given no working days to ensure compliance. Ajay Srivastava, former Director General of Foreign Trade, called the timeline "unrealistic," stating that even a month's notice would have been insufficient due to the long lead times typical in the steel industry.

Industry experts urge the government to reconsider the timeline to avoid severe disruption across the steel manufacturing ecosystem.

## Amazon to Invest \$233 Million in India to Boost Infrastructure and Technology

Amazon has announced an investment of over 20 billion rupees (approximately \$233 million) in India for the year 2025 to expand and upgrade its operations infrastructure. The move aims to enhance its fulfillment network, develop new technologies, and improve delivery safety across the country. This fresh investment builds upon Amazon's previous efforts to establish a vast operations network capable of delivering to every serviceable pin code in India. The company plans to launch new facilities and upgrade existing ones within its fulfillment and delivery system to increase speed and processing capacity, ensuring faster and more reliable deliveries for customers.

A key focus of the investment

will be integrating technology that monitors delivery associates' speeds to alert them about unsafe driving and ensures an equitable distribution of delivery routes. This initiative is expected to improve delivery safety and efficiency throughout Amazon's network. Apart from operational upgrades, Amazon intends to channel part of the funds towards initiatives aimed at enhancing the health and financial well-being of its employees in India, reflecting a commitment to workforce welfare. This announcement follows Amazon's 2023 statement, when it projected that its total investments in India would reach \$26 billion by 2030. At that time, the company did not provide a detailed break-

down of the investments. Amazon competes with major players like Walmart-owned Flipkart and Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Retail in India's rapidly growing e-commerce market. The new investment reinforces Amazon's commitment to strengthening its position in the country by improving infrastructure and technological capabilities. Additionally, Amazon Web Services (AWS), the company's cloud computing arm, is set to invest around \$8.2 billion in Maharashtra in the coming years, as announced by India's information technology ministry earlier this year. This move underlines Amazon's broader strategy to deepen its footprint in India across multiple sectors.





## India’s Longest Freight Train ‘Super Vasuki’ Hauls Coal Over 3.5 Kilometres

India’s longest freight train, Super Vasuki, is a colossal marvel of engineering, stretching approximately 3.5 kilometres with an incredible 295 wagons and powered by six engines. Specially designed to transport coal, this train carries a massive 27,000 tonnes in one journey — enough coal to power a 3,000 MW thermal power plant for an entire day.

Launched on August 15, 2022, during India’s 75th Independence Day celebrations, Super Vasuki runs on the Korba (Chhattisgarh) to Rajnandgaon (Maharashtra) route, covering 267 kilometres in about 11 hours and 20 minutes. This mega train was created by merging five standard freight trains, resulting in a capacity three times greater than usual freight trains.

Due to its extraordinary length, Super Vasuki takes nearly four minutes to pass a railway station fully. Counting the wagons

from one end to the other would take almost an hour on foot. Its primary mission is to ensure a steady coal supply to power plants, helping meet India’s growing energy needs efficiently.

The train’s name, ‘Vasuki,’ is inspired by Hindu mythology. Vasuki is the serpent king (Nagaraj), famous for being the churning rope during the mythological Samudra Manthan (churning of the ocean). The name symbolizes patience, strength, and vastness—qualities perfectly reflecting the immense scale and endurance of this freight giant.

Super Vasuki showcases Indian Railways’ capability to innovate and meet the country’s energy demands through modern freight logistics. It stands as a testament to India’s engineering progress and its efforts to boost infrastructure for sustainable power supply.



## TikTok Star’s Severe Third-Degree Sunburn After Skipping Sunscreen Sparks Warning

Taylor Faith, a popular TikTok influencer, recently shared a harrowing experience that has gone viral, warning others about the dangers of skipping sunscreen. Expecting only a mild sunburn after spending hours paddleboarding under the blazing sun, Taylor was instead hospitalised with severe third-degree burns that left her unable to walk for a week.

In a candid video, Taylor revealed she had forgotten to bring sunscreen on that day and thought tanning wouldn’t harm her. However, after eight hours exposed to intense sunlight, she suffered extreme burns on her legs. Doctors diagnosed her with a rare and severe form of sunburn that damages all three layers of the skin, requiring urgent medical attention.

“I never thought this would happen to me until it did. It’s so bad, a couple of days ago I was thinking I’d rather be [dead] than feel that way,” Taylor said, highlighting the painful ordeal. She added that her internal



organs and blood vessels were seriously affected, underscoring the severity of the condition.

Sunburn occurs when ultraviolet (UV) rays damage the DNA in skin cells, triggering inflammation, redness, pain, and heat. While most sunburns are mild, extreme cases like Taylor’s can cause blistering, swelling, and skin peeling, sometimes necessitating hospitalisation.

This incident serves as a stark reminder of the importance of sunscreen, especially when outdoors during peak sun hours between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Dermatologists stress that consistent use of sunscreen protects against sunburn, premature skin ageing, and skin cancer.

Taylor’s painful experience has inspired her to become a “sunscreen activist,” urging everyone to protect their skin properly to avoid similar life-threatening consequences.

This cautionary tale highlights a simple yet crucial step to safeguard skin health and prevent severe sun damage. Don’t skip your sunscreen!

Renowned Japanese manga artist Rio Tatsuki, often called the ‘Japanese Baba Vanga’ for her prophetic artwork, has sparked widespread concern with her latest prediction of a major disaster striking Japan and nearby countries on July 5, 2025, at 4:18 am.

Tatsuki, famous for her uncanny ability to foresee significant events through her manga sketches, first gained attention for allegedly predicting the COVID-19 pandemic. Her new prediction comes from disturbing illustrations in her 1999 book *The Future I Saw*, which depict the sea boil-

ing—a sign experts interpret as an underwater volcanic eruption or a powerful seismic event.

This forewarning has sent ripples of anxiety across East Asia. Travel from regions like Hong Kong, Taiwan, and China to Japan has reportedly dropped by 50 to 83 percent as people brace for the potential catastrophe. Some airlines have even canceled flights scheduled around early July amid safety concerns.

The exact nature of the predicted disaster remains unclear, but given Japan’s vul-

nerability to earthquakes and volcanic activity, experts are closely monitoring seismic zones and underwater volcanoes. While such predictions cannot be scientifically verified, Tatsuki’s reputation for accurate foresight has intensified public attention and precautionary measures.

Authorities in Japan and neighboring countries have advised citizens to stay alert but also emphasized that no official warnings or alerts have been issued based on this prediction. Meanwhile, disaster preparedness campaigns have been reinforced to en-

sure readiness for any unforeseen events.

Rio Tatsuki’s blend of art and prophecy continues to fascinate and alarm many, blending folklore with real-world anxieties. Whether or not the predicted ‘mega disaster’ occurs, her forecast serves as a reminder of the importance of disaster awareness in earthquake-prone regions like Japan.

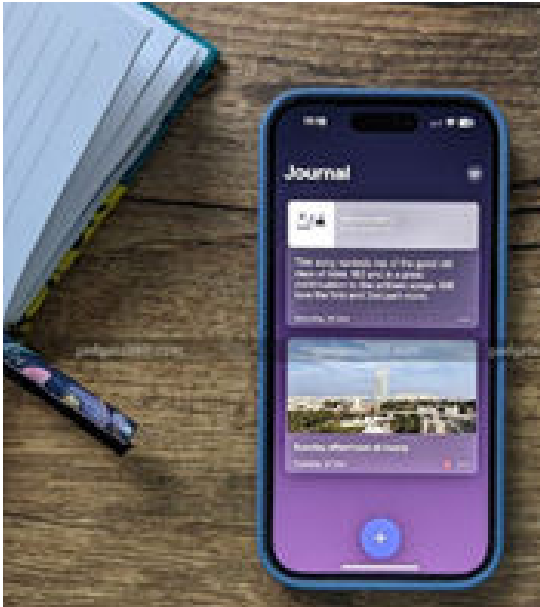
The coming weeks will reveal if this haunting vision from Tatsuki’s manga book will translate into reality.

## Japanese Manga Artist Predicts ‘Mega Disaster’ on July 5, 2025



## Apple Expands Journal App to iPad and Mac with iPadOS 26 and macOS 26 Tahoe

Apple is bringing its Journal app to the iPad and Mac with the upcoming iPadOS 26 and macOS 26 Tahoe updates. Originally launched in 2023 with iOS 17.2 for the iPhone, the Journal app is designed to help users document their thoughts, daily activities, and special moments using on-device machine learning to suggest writing prompts and content ideas.



With its expansion to iPad and Mac, the app gains new functionality tailored to each platform. On the iPad, the Journal app will support Apple Pencil, allowing users to draw, annotate, or handwrite their entries alongside typed notes. Users can also embed media like photos, audio recordings, and other files, making for a rich, personalized journaling experience.

Mac users, on the other hand, will benefit from the physical keyboard, making typing long entries easier and more natural. Apple highlights that users can maintain multiple journals for different aspects of their lives—such as travel, work,

or wellness—all of which sync seamlessly across iPhone, iPad, and Mac using iCloud.

The Journal app also includes smart features like map views that organize entries by location, as well as filters for searching specific moments tied to photos, workouts, or places. Entries can be bookmarked for quick access and protected with Face ID or Touch ID for privacy. According to Apple, all content is end-to-end encrypted, ensuring user data remains secure.

The addition of the Journal app to iPad and Mac underscores Apple’s commitment to integrating productivity and well-being tools across its ecosystem, making journaling more accessible and interactive for users on all their devices.

## Chicken Gun Test: How Real Birds Are Fired at Aircraft to Ensure Safety



In the wake of the tragic Air India crash in Ahmedabad, which resulted in 241 fatalities, aviation safety has once again taken center stage. Among the many rigorous tests planes undergo, one particularly unusual yet vital procedure is the “chicken gun test.” This test involves firing real birds at aircraft parts such as windshields, wings, and engines to evaluate their ability to withstand bird strikes.

Captain and Senior Commander Sam Thomas of the Airline Pilots Association of India explains the reasoning behind this unconventional test. While it may sound strange, bird strikes are a serious risk for airplanes cruising at high speeds, often around 350 km/h. Collisions with large birds can cause severe damage, from cracking the windshield to impairing engine function, posing life-threatening dangers.

During the chicken gun test, frozen chickens are shot from a specially designed cannon at various aircraft compo-

nents to simulate real bird strikes. The test is typically performed on the first engine a manufacturer develops to ensure it can safely handle such impacts. After the impact, engineers carefully examine the damage. If it’s minimal and within safety limits, the aircraft part passes the test and is cleared for use following necessary approvals.

This critical safety step helps prevent accidents caused by birds, which are more common than many realize. By pushing engines and windshields to their limits with these realistic tests, manufacturers can design aircraft that better withstand unexpected collisions during flight.

Though the idea of firing real birds at planes may seem bizarre, the chicken gun test is an essential part of aviation safety, helping to keep millions of passengers safe every year by preparing aircraft to survive the unpredictable hazards of the skies.



## Club World Cup 2025: Messi’s Free-Kick Magic Seals Inter Miami’s 2-1 Win Over Porto

Lionel Messi proved once again why he remains a force in world football, scoring a sublime free kick to lead Inter Miami to a crucial 2-1 win over FC Porto in their Club World Cup Group A clash on June 19, 2025, at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

Trailing 1-0 at halftime, Inter Miami rallied in the second half with goals from Telasco Segovia and Messi to secure their first victory of the tournament. Porto had taken the lead early in the match through a penalty by Samu Omorodion, awarded after a VAR review. It was their first goal of the competition, following a scoreless draw in their opening match.

Inter Miami responded just minutes into the second half. Marcelo Weigandt delivered a sharp cross into the box, which Segovia converted to level the match at 1-1 in the 47th minute.

Then came the moment of brilliance. Messi, fouled just outside the box by Rodrigo Mora, stepped up as the crowd chanted his name. The 37-year-old Argentine curled a trademark left-footed free kick over the wall and into the top corner in the 54th minute, igniting the stadium and securing the win.

Messi’s influence stretched beyond his goal. “He’s the best ever,” said Inter Miami coach Javier Mascherano. “But what surprises us is his hunger to keep competing. Even at this stage,



he keeps pushing for more.”

Porto coach Martín Anselmi added, “What can I say that hasn’t already been said? He showed his class again.”

Inter Miami will now return to South Florida to face Brazilian giants Palmeiras at Hard Rock Stadium on Monday. A win will send them through to the Round of 16. Meanwhile, Porto faces Al Ahly in a must-win clash at MetLife Stadium.

## Jaiswal’s Dazzling Ton Puts India on Top in Leeds

Gill nears hundred as India dominate Day 1 at Headingley

Yashasvi Jaiswal produced a commanding century on his very first Test innings in England, steering India into a dominant position on Day 1 of the opening Test at Headingley. With able support from KL Rahul early on and then a fluent Shubman Gill, India reached 276/3 at the end of 70 overs, with Gill unbeaten on 91 and Rishabh Pant on 24, with 20 overs still left in the day.

Opting to bowl first under cloudy skies and on a pitch with early moisture, England captain Ben Stokes hoped to unsettle India’s top order. But what followed was a clinical display of batting temperament and stroke play, spearheaded by the in-form Jaiswal.

In the opening session, England’s bowlers failed to make the most of the helpful conditions. Overpitched deliveries and wayward lines were punished, as India raced away with nine boundaries in the first hour alone. Jaiswal and KL Rahul forged a 91-run stand before Carse induced an edge off Rahul just before lunch.

England briefly clawed back with two wickets in quick succession – Sai Sudharsan falling for a golden duck on debut, caught behind down the legside off Stokes – reducing India to 102/2 at lunch. However, Jaiswal and new Test skipper Shubman Gill wrestled back the momentum.

Gill, standing outside the crease to negate movement, raced to a brisk half-century off just 56 balls, his fastest in Tests. He and Jaiswal added a vital 123-run partnership, dominating the post-lunch session. Jaiswal,



despite battling cramps, reached his fifth Test century off 144 balls, showcasing grit and composure against England’s probing attack. As play headed into the final session, India had solidified their grip on the match, with Gill eyeing his century and Pant settling in confidently at the other end.

India will aim to capitalize on the strong foundation with 20 overs left in the day, while England need quick breakthroughs to prevent the game from slipping away further.

## USA Edge Saudi Arabia 1-0 to Secure Gold Cup Quarter-Final Berth

The United States men’s national team booked their place in the quarter-finals of the 2025 CONCACAF Gold Cup with a hard-fought 1-0 win over guest team Saudi Arabia on Thursday in Austin, Texas.

After thrashing Trinidad and Tobago 5-0 in their tournament opener, the U.S. encountered a much sterner test against a well-organized Saudi side. A sluggish and cagey first half saw few chances, with Saudi Arabia sitting deep and the U.S. struggling to break them down.

The breakthrough came in the 63rd

minute, when Sebastian Berhalter delivered a dangerous free-kick from deep. In a crowded penalty area, defender Chris Richards timed his run perfectly and connected with a sliding half-volley that flew into the net—his first goal of the tournament and the match-winner for the Americans.

Richards had earlier come close with a powerful header from a Jack McGlynn cross, only to be denied by Saudi goalkeeper Nawaf Al Aqidi. His eventual goal proved enough to secure all three points for Mauricio Pochettino’s men.

Tensions flared late in the game when U.S. substitute Tyler Adams was pushed over, leading to a brief altercation between players. Saudi coach Hervé Renard and U.S. boss Mauricio Pochettino both entered the field to help restore order.

Despite lacking attacking flair, the U.S. displayed defensive solidity and tactical discipline. Richards acknowledged the scrappy nature of the win, saying, “Sometimes you’ve got to get physical, sometimes you gotta get nasty. That’s CONCACAF.” With the win, the U.S. now tops Group



D with six points and will face Haiti in their final group stage match on Sunday. Saudi Arabia sit second with

three points, with Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago still in the hunt for qualification.

## Club World Cup 2025: Igor Jesus Fires Botafogo to Stunning Upset Over PSG

In one of the most memorable upsets of the 2025 Club World Cup so far, Brazilian champions Botafogo stunned UEFA Champions League winners Paris Saint-Germain with a 1-0 victory at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena on June 19. The lone goal came from Igor Jesus, whose first-half strike proved enough to lift his team to the top of Group B.

PSG came into the match riding high, unbeaten since May 3 and boasting dominant recent wins — including a 4-0 thrashing of Atlético Madrid just days earlier. But on a night when they looked fatigued and rotated their lineup, the French giants couldn’t find their rhythm in front of a lively crowd of 53,699.

The decisive moment came in the 36th minute when Igor Jesus latched onto a long pass from Jefferson Savarino, beat two defenders with clever footwork, and rifled the ball past Gianluigi Donnarumma. The 22-year-old striker, reportedly bound for Nottingham Forest next season, leapt into the stands to celebrate with ecstatic Brazilian fans.

PSG dominated possession and finished with 16 shot attempts, but only two were on target. In contrast,



Botafogo managed just four shots — all of which were on goal — and held firm in a tense second half to preserve the clean sheet.

Ballon d’Or contender Ousmane Dembélé missed his second consecutive match due to a quadriceps injury, and PSG sorely missed his creativity in the final third. Coach Luis Enrique’s side lacked the fluid attacking play that had defined their recent success.

Despite the loss, PSG remains in contention and will face MLS side Seattle Sounders on Monday. Botafogo, now with two wins from two, faces Atlético Madrid with a golden opportunity to reach the knockout stage in what is shaping up to be a historic campaign.

## Club World Cup 2025: Botafogo Stuns PSG 1-0 to Shake Up Group B

Brazilian side Botafogo pulled off a major upset at the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup, defeating UEFA Champions League winners Paris Saint-Germain 1-0 in a thrilling Group B encounter at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena on Thursday.

Despite PSG dominating possession and attacking throughout the match, Botafogo’s resolute defending and a timely goal from Igor Jesus sealed a famous victory. The win marks the first time PSG has failed to score since their 1-0 loss to Liverpool in March, ending a 19-match scoring streak.

The decisive moment came in the 36th minute. After winning the ball in midfield, Jefferson Savarino sent a perfectly weighted pass to Igor Jesus. The striker weaved through two defenders and unleashed a shot that deflected off PSG’s Willian Pacho, wrong-footing Gianluigi Donnarumma and nestling into the net. Jesus celebrated wildly, jumping over the barrier to celebrate with Botafogo’s jubilant fans.

In the second half, PSG pushed hard for an equalizer, even putting the ball in the net in the 79th minute, only for the goal to be ruled out for offside. Botafogo remained



disciplined and organized, weathering wave after wave of PSG attacks.

Botafogo head coach Renato Paiva praised his team’s unity and tactical discipline, saying, “We beat PSG by being a team—attacking and defending together. I told the players to enjoy the game, and they did it. Fantastic.”

The win places Botafogo in a strong position atop Group B with six points from two games, having already beaten Seattle Sounders. PSG, who routed Atlético Madrid 4-0 in their opener, will look to bounce back against Seattle on Monday, while Botafogo face Atlético again at the Rose Bowl.

Paiva also credited Brazil’s football culture and player quality, declaring, “Brazil will always be Brazil in world football.”





## Suriya 45 Titled Karuppu After Folk Deity: A Power-Packed Comeback with Trisha

Hero Suriya's 45th film, directed by RJ Balaji, is shaping up to be a unique action adventure, and the makers have now unveiled its intriguing title — Karuppu. Revealed on the occasion of director RJ Balaji's birthday, the title pays homage to the revered Tamil folk deity Karuppusamy, also known as the Black God. The title poster evokes a strong sense of mythology and power, featuring Suriya holding a sword with his face hidden, standing before a visual representation of the deity. The mysterious and intense visual hints at a gritty narrative rooted in folk tradition and modern storytelling. The film also marks the return of Trisha Krishnan alongside Suriya after nearly two decades, rekindling the onscreen pairing last seen in their 2005 film Aaru. Their reunion adds nostalgic excitement to the project. Produced by SR Prabu and SR Prakash Babu

of Dream Warrior Pictures — who previously collaborated with Suriya on NGK — Karuppu is expected to blend action, emotion, and folklore in a refreshing narrative style. Known for his comedic timing, RJ Balaji brings his signature humour into what is otherwise expected to be an intense and gripping tale. Cinematographer GK Vishnu handles the visuals, while music is composed by Sai Abhyankar, a promising young talent. The soundtrack is anticipated to be a fusion of folk and contemporary sounds, in tune with the film's rooted yet modern tone. With only minor patchwork left, the film's shoot is nearly complete, and post-production is underway. Karuppu is slated for an August 2025 release, setting the stage for a culturally rich cinematic experience with Suriya in a dynamic new avatar.

## Kuberaa Review: A Thoughtful Tale of Power, Poverty, and Humanity

Kuberaa, directed by Sekhar Kammula, brings together an impressive cast led by Dhanush, Nagarjuna, and Jim Sarbh in a gripping drama that blends realism, emotion, and moral complexity. Marking the first collaboration between Dhanush and Kammula, the film explores the corrupt underbelly of politics and capitalism through a deeply human lens.

The story revolves around Neeraj Mitra (Jim Sarbh), a ruthless businessman who uncovers a hidden oil reserve in the Bay of Bengal. To exploit it secretly, he enlists Deepak (Nagarjuna), a former upright CBI officer now imprisoned for opposing corruption. Reluctantly, Deepak assembles a group of beggars to carry out the mission. Among them is Deva (Dhanush), a kind-hearted soul unaware of the dangerous game he's caught in. When Deva learns he's expendable, he escapes, triggering a tense manhunt that forces each character to confront their choices.

Dhanush is the emotional anchor of Kuberaa, delivering one of his most compelling performances as the innocent Deva. Nagarjuna impresses in a rare morally grey role, portray-



ing a man burdened by compromise. Jim Sarbh brings intensity to Neeraj, while Rashmika Mandanna adds charm as Sameera, though her character could've had more depth.

The film's emotional core is strongest in its final act, where the writing shines with weighty dialogue and heartfelt moments. While the first half suffers from slow pacing and some repetitive scenes, the second half compensates with impactful storytelling.

Technically, Kuberaa excels. Niketh Bommireddy's cinematography captures the contrast between gritty reality and corporate ambition, and Devi Sri Prasad's score enhances the mood without overpowering.

Overall, Kuberaa is a sincere, layered film that examines the human cost of greed and survival. Despite minor flaws, its performances and message make it a meaningful watch.

Rating: 3.5/5

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

Mussoorie, Uttarakhand – The much-anticipated Telugu film tentatively titled Mega157, starring Megastar 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 behind-the-scenes image of the iconic duo, adding to the mounting excitement surrounding the project.

Mega157 is slated for a grand release during Sankranti 2026, positioning it as one of the most eagerly awaited releases of the festive season. The film is expected to be a wholesome family entertainer, 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 Cecileo, 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.

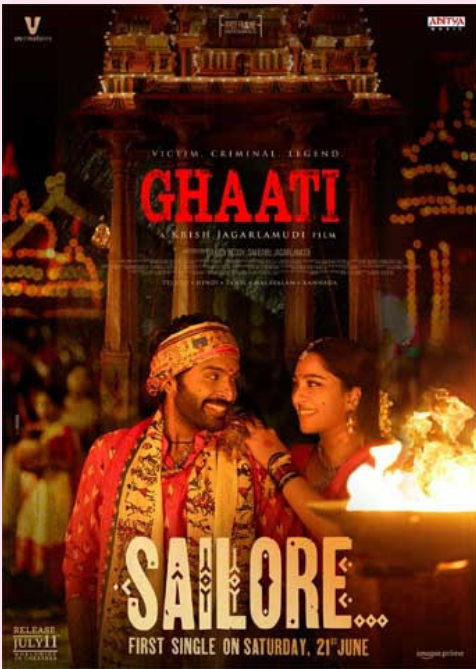
Fans are eagerly awaiting more updates as the team prepares for the next schedule, and expectations are high for Chiranjeevi's performance in what could be yet another blockbuster addition to his illustrious career.

## Anushka Shetty and Vikram Prabhu Shine in New Ghaati Poster Ahead of First Song Release

The buzz around the upcoming crime drama Ghaati is steadily building, and fans were treated to an exciting update on Thursday evening. Starring Anushka Shetty and Vikram Prabhu in lead roles, the film is directed by acclaimed filmmaker Krish and is set for a grand theatrical release on July 11, 2025.

Adding to the anticipation, the makers announced the release date of the film's first song, titled "Sailore", which is all set to drop on Saturday, June 21. To mark the announcement, a stunning new poster was unveiled. The image features Anushka Shetty and Vikram Prabhu standing against the backdrop of a temple, evoking a mix of grace and intensity that hints at the emotional and cultural depth of the film.

Anushka, known for her powerful screen presence, looks radiant in traditional attire, while Vikram Prabhu adds gravitas with his poised appearance.



The chemistry between the lead pair and the spiritual setting of the poster has already sparked interest across social media.

Produced jointly by UV Creations and First Frame Entertainments, Ghaati promises to be a gripping tale rooted in crime, mystery, and tradition. The film is expected to explore dark themes with Krish's signature storytelling style, blending emotional layers with intense drama.

The musical score for Ghaati is also being eagerly awaited, and "Sailore" is expected to offer the first glimpse into the film's mood and tone. With its lead stars, an acclaimed director, and strong production backing, Ghaati is shaping up to be one of the must-watch releases of the season.

Stay tuned for the full launch of "Sailore" on June 21, as Ghaati builds momentum toward its July 11 release.

## 8 Vasantalu Review: Beautifully Shot but Emotionally Distant

8 Vasantalu, directed by Phanindra Narsetti, is a coming-of-age drama that follows the emotional journey of a young girl over eight transformative years. Starring Ananthika Sanilkumar of MAD fame, the film attempts to blend philosophy, poetry, and youthful introspection into a slow-burning narrative. However, despite its visual richness and sincere performances, the film struggles to keep viewers emotionally engaged. The story centers on Suddhi Ayodhya (Ananthika Sanilkumar), a 17-year-old living in Ooty. A dojo champion and aspiring writer, Suddhi's world changes when she meets Karthik (Hanu Reddy). What follows is a journey filled with love, heartbreak, and self-discovery. Though the concept is thoughtful, the film's poetic and meandering style becomes a double-edged sword. Ananthika delivers a heartfelt performance with remarkable maturity. Her portrayal of Suddhi is nuanced and expressive, anchoring the film with emotional sincerity. Hanu Reddy supports her well, and their chemistry adds warmth to the narrative. Visually, 8 Vasantalu is stunning, with breathtaking cinematography that captures the beauty of Ooty, Varanasi, and Kashmir. Hesham Abdul Wahab's music elevates several key moments with



a soothing, melodic presence. However, the film falters in its second half. The pacing drags, the narration becomes overly abstract, and the emotional connection thins out. Character arcs—particularly Suddhi's post-heartbreak choices—feel inconsistent. Supporting roles lack depth, and promising subplots are abandoned too quickly. Technically, the film is solid. But despite its rich visuals and musical charm, the storytelling lacks the cohesion and emotional pull needed to leave a lasting impact.

**Verdict:** 8 Vasantalu has moments of beauty and depth, especially in its visuals and lead performance. But a slow pace, scattered narrative, and abstract storytelling make it a test of patience. Watch it only if you enjoy experimental, poetic cinema. **Rating: 2.5/5**