

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

H 33° C
L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

H 35° C
L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

H 36° C
L 26° C



New Names, New Twists... Every Day...

SIT investigation gets murkier by the day

TPN | V Krishna Kumar
Hyderabad: The sensational phone tapping case involving former intelligence chief T. Prabhakar Rao is rapidly unfolding like a gripping political thriller. Every day, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case is confronted with new revelations and unexpected names — with the latest being that of former Director General of Police and current TSPSC Chairman Mahender Reddy. According to sources, during his recent questioning, Prabhakar Rao told investigators that “nothing happened in the police department without the knowledge of the DGP.” This subtle yet seri-

ous allegation has brought Mahender Reddy under the spotlight, with the SIT reportedly preparing to summon him next. **Statements Shake the System** So far, statements from key officers including the then Home Principal Secretary and current DGP Jitender, Intelligence ADG Anil Kumar, and several former intelligence and task force officials such as Praneeth Rao, Bhujanga Rao, Tirupatanna, Radhakishan Rao, and media cell head Shravan have been recorded. With these testimonies, Prabhakar Rao has effectively

Prabhakar Rao names Ex-DGP Mahender Reddy in Investigation?
Over 600 phone tapping cases tracked by SIT
SIT struggles as new twists and witnesses pile up daily
Rao’s latest statement sends shockwaves across political, police circles
SIT collects statements from Jitender and Anil Kumar

been declared Accused No. 1 (A1) in the case. Over 600 instances of phone tapping have reportedly been traced with the help of data provided by Prabhakar Rao, who returned from abroad recently. Based on this, the SIT has already recorded the statements of various BJP and Congress leaders, all potential victims of the surveillance. **Names of Top Leaders Also Surfaced** The probe has revealed that the phones of leaders like Chandrababu Naidu, Nara Lokesh, and YS Sharmila

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Ready for Talks with Chandrababu

But Telangana’s Rights Non-Negotiable: CM Revanth Reddy

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has said his government is ready for talks with Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu regarding the Godavari-Banakacharla project, but made it clear that Telangana’s rights are not up for compromise. Addressing the media in Delhi on Friday, Revanth stated that inter-state water disputes must be resolved through dialogue, not confrontation.



He explained that the current dispute stemmed from Andhra Pradesh submitting the Preliminary Feasibility Report (PFR) to the Centre without first consulting Telangana. “Had AP discussed with us before submitting the report, this situation wouldn’t have arisen. The Centre also proceeded with preparatory steps based on AP’s PFR,” Revanth remarked. The Chief Minister announced that the Telangana cabinet will meet on the 23rd of this month to discuss the issue in detail. Following this, AP will be formally invited for talks. “There’s no need for disputes among Telugu-speaking states. We want dialogue, not confrontation. Let’s sit together for four days if necessary and sort out the issue based on legal and technical grounds,” he said. Revanth was firm in asserting Telangana’s water rights under the Bifurcation Act. “Telangana has a legitimate claim over 968 TMC of Godavari water, and its voice must be heard, especially

on projects like Banakacharla, which is an ancillary project to Polavaram,” he said. He criticized the previous BRS government, accusing it of surrendering Telangana’s water rights. “It was KCR and Harish Rao who compromised our rights over Krishna and Godavari waters. Harish Rao wrote to the Centre in 2023 seeking only 405 TMC for Telangana, which was misleading,” Revanth pointed out. Revanth also questioned Union Minister Kishan Reddy’s silence, claiming he was acting like a liaison for KTR, and reminded that PM Modi and Amit Shah themselves said Kaleshwaram became an ATM for KCR. “Let Kishan Reddy answer now,” he demanded. Asserting that this is not a dispute with AP but a demand for fairness, he concluded, “There’s no time frame to resolve this. But we believe in resolution through talks rather than courts.” Revanth also stated he would be visiting Delhi again on July 6 and 7 for further discussions.



Hand Over Five Panchayats to Telangana...

Kavitha Demands Action on Polavaram Flooding Issue

■ **Wants PM Modi to announce decision in June 25 meeting**
■ **BRS MLC Kavitha raises issue at Telangana Jagruti meet**
■ **Alleges seven mandals unfairly given to AP in 2014**

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has demanded that five gram panchayats affected by the backwaters of the Polavaram project be returned to Telangana. She urged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi make an announcement on this issue during the ‘Pragati Agenda’ meeting scheduled for June 25

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Phone Tapping Happened Under KCR’s Watch: Gone Prakash Rao

- Says BRS regime oversaw world’s third-largest surveillance
- Gone Prakash Rao’s phone also tapped, appears as witness
- Alleges even BRS leaders like Kavitha, Rohit Reddy were tapped



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The phone tapping controversy in Telangana has taken a serious turn, with former MLA Gone Prakash Rao alleging that the illegal surveillance was carried out under the supervision of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. Speaking to the media after ap-

pearing before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Thursday, Gone made sensational claims linking top leadership of the previous BRS government to the mass phone tapping operation.

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Konda Surekha Slams Nayini, Kadiyam....

- **Bhadrakali Temple is not anyone’s property, says Minister**
- **Alleges conspiracy to remove her from ministerial post**
- **Warns Centre over unequal treatment in Godavari Pushkaralu funding**



TPN Correspondent | Warangal

Telangana State Minister Konda Surekha launched a scathing attack on Warangal West MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy and MLA Kadiyam Srihari, accusing both leaders of attempting to undermine her position and spreading false propaganda. Addressing the media on Friday, the minister took on multiple issues including the Bhadrakali Temple controversy and the demand for central funding for the upcoming Godavari Pushkarams.

Bhadrakali Temple Belongs to the People, Not Individuals
Reacting sharply to allegations and interference in temple activities, Surekha stated, “Bhadrakali Temple is not the private property of any individual. Yet some people behave like it belongs to them.”

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New Names, New Twists... Every Day...

were allegedly tapped. The most shocking detail, however, was the alleged efforts by BRS chief KCR to assist YS Jagan Mohan Reddy using information gathered through tapping. These developments have caused concern not just in Telangana, but also in Andhra Pradesh. After initially considering issuing notices to former CM KCR, the SIT found itself diverted by emerging names like Jitender and Anil Kumar, who were then summoned and questioned. The investigation team now finds itself overwhelmed as new witnesses line up daily at the Jubilee Hills SIT office, responding to data points revealed by the phone tapping records.

Next Likely Target:

Mahender Reddy

With Prabhakar Rao indirectly indicating Mahender Reddy's involvement, the SIT is reportedly preparing to question the former DGP. His role during the BRS regime, especially in the functioning of the Intelligence Department, is now under scrutiny.

Despite hopes of wrapping up the case soon, SIT officials are said to be increasingly perplexed by the rapid expansion of the case. With new names surfacing each day and pressure mounting politically and administratively, what began as a discreet investigation has now become a full-blown storm gripping both Telugu states.

Phone Tapping Happened Under KCR's Watch: Gone Prakash Rao

Gone Prakash Rao visited the Jubilee Hills police station at 10:30 a.m. following a summons by the SIT, which is investigating the widespread phone surveillance allegedly conducted during the 2023 Assembly elections. His phone was among those tapped, and he gave a formal statement as a witness. Addressing the media after his appearance, Gone alleged that the phone tapping was not only political but also internal within the BRS. He claimed that the phones of key BRS figures such as MLC K. Kavitha, MLAs Pilot Rohit Reddy, and Rega Kantha Rao were also tapped by their own government. He stated that the BRS leadership was obsessed with retaining power for a third consecutive term

and resorted to surveillance as a political weapon. He further said, "The note-for-vote case that caused a huge sensation earlier was also exposed due to this tapping system." He labeled the BRS-era surveillance as the third-largest phone tapping operation in the world and condemned it as a gross violation of privacy and democratic values. With the SIT intensifying its probe and calling in several political leaders to record their statements, the case is expected to lead to more explosive revelations. Political analysts believe the investigation could expose deeper layers of misuse of power and internal conflicts within the BRS during its decade-long rule.

Konda Surekha Slams Nayini, Kadiyam....

She directly targeted MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy for obstructing development programs and misleading people by alleging animal sacrifices at the temple.

"We are following the Agama Shastra while offering bonam. We've consulted priests who have been serving here for decades. There is no question of animal sacrifice — Goddess Bhadrakali is vegetarian," she clarified, adding that the bonam will be brought from Balkampet temple as per tradition.

Kadiyam Humiliated by My Ministership

In a strong rebuke to MLA Kadiyam Srihari, Minister Surekha alleged that he was unable to accept her as a minister and has been engaging in slander to undermine her position. "He's going around telling CM Revanth Reddy and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy that my post will be gone. Is that fair?" she asked. She questioned the logic of his remarks by comparing the fortunes of their children. "My daughter did

not become MLA because of luck. His daughter became an MP — do I go around demanding that she be removed from office because of that?" she challenged.

₹200 Crore Needed for Pushkaralu

Konda Surekha also came down heavily on the Union government for allegedly ignoring Telangana in the allocation of funds for the Godavari Pushkarams. She stated that Telangana had already written to the Centre requesting ₹200 crore for the festival.

"Godavari Pushkaralu is celebrated more grandly in Telangana than in Andhra Pradesh. The river begins from the feet of Lord Rama in Bhadrachalam — that's symbolic and significant," she emphasized. She appealed to Union Ministers Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay to act swiftly and support the state.

"If they don't take initiative on this issue, they will go down in history as ministers with no contribution," she warned.

Hand Over Five Panchayats to Telangana...

with Chief Ministers of four states.

Speaking at a round table organized by Telangana Jagruti at Somajiguda Press Club on Friday, Kavitha stated that the management of the Polavaram project was opposed even during the era of united Andhra Pradesh. She recalled that although efforts were made to halt the project through the Supreme Court, they were unsuccessful. Despite opposition, the central government had accorded national status to the project under the AP Reorganization Act.

Kavitha criticized the Centre's decision to transfer seven mandals from Telangana to Andhra Pradesh through an ordinance in the very first cabinet meeting after the formation of the Modi government in 2014. "Along with these mandals, even the 460 MW Lower Sileru Power Project was handed over to Andhra," she said,

adding that the issue was raised in Parliament and even led to a bandh call by then CM KCR, but the Centre remained unresponsive.

She expressed concern that the flood risk in the region had worsened following the increase in Polavaram's water storage capacity from 36 to 50 lakh cusecs. Kavitha emphasized that this matter needs urgent attention, keeping in mind the lives of people living in the submerged areas.

Kavitha specifically demanded that the five panchayats of Purushottampatnam, Gundala, Etapaka, Kannaigudem, and Pichukulapadu be immediately restored to Telangana. She insisted that the Prime Minister must address this issue in the upcoming multi-state meeting and ensure a fair and humane resolution.

Four Held for Trespassing into Army Area in Tirumalagiri

- **Two men, two women arrested for illegal entry at Techno Chowk gate**
- **Suspects caught taking videos/photos in restricted Army zone**
- **Investigation launched over possible national security breach**



TPN Correspondent | Secunderabad

In a serious security breach, Tirumalagiri police arrested four individuals who illegally entered a high-security Army-controlled area in Secunderabad. The incident took place at the Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME), where the suspects gained unauthorized entry through the Techno Chowk gate.

According to police officials, the four individuals—identified as Rakesh Kumar, Ashish Kumar, Alia Abshi,

and Nagma Bhanu—were dressed in Air Force uniforms and carried fake identity cards claiming to be Air Force officers. Once inside, they were seen taking photos and videos in restricted areas of the Army campus without any clearance or permission.

Security personnel on duty grew suspicious and im-

mediately questioned the group. On realizing the potential breach, Air Force Intelligence officers swiftly intervened, detained the individuals, and conducted an initial round of interrogation. The suspects were later handed over to the Tirumalagiri police.

A formal complaint was filed by a Lieutenant Colo-

nel, and a case has been registered. While preliminary investigation suggests that the suspects may have entered under the guise of job recruitment activities, the police are not ruling out the possibility of a national security threat.

Officials confirmed that all four individuals are under custody and are being thoroughly interrogated. Digital devices and fake ID cards recovered from them are also being examined for further clues. Police say they are taking the matter seriously given the sensitive nature of the location and the deliberate attempt to impersonate military personnel.

Further investigations are underway to determine the motive behind the trespassing and whether any classified information may have been compromised.

Telangana positions itself as an ideal hub for impactful CSR

Focus on social justice, inclusive growth, and sustainability

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Shri Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu delivered a powerful address at the ASSOCHAM Southern CSR & Sustainability Conference and Awards held at The Westin, Mindspace, Hyderabad, where he outlined the Congress-led government's commitment to redefining development as inclusive, sustainable, and socially just.

Speaking as the chief guest, Bhatti said Telangana, under Chief Minister Shri Revanth Reddy, is crafting a new development model anchored in economic growth with a strong human dimension. "We live in a world of abundance, but also deep inequality. Trickle-down economics has failed. What we need now is lift-all growth," he said, emphasizing the Congress ideology of economic development grounded in social justice.

He urged corporates to go beyond the legal mandate of CSR and instead adopt transformative, long-term development partnerships. "CSR must be driven not by applause but by impact," he asserted. "It should not just build companies, but strengthen the fabric of society."

Bhatti declared Telangana as the ideal destination for CSR, with advantages like no language barriers, a peaceful law & order environment, abundant skilled labor, and a proactive government. He called on companies to choose Telangana not only for fulfilling CSR quotas but to ensure real, transparent, and measurable impact.

The Deputy CM revealed several forward-looking initiatives of 100 "Young India International Residential Schools" are being built — one per Assembly constituency — with ₹200 crore investment per school, each on a 25-acre campus. Corporate partnerships are being forged to manage these schools, with several firms already volunteering within 15 days of outreach. 100 ITIs are being transformed into ad-



vanced technology centers, with private sector collaboration.

He added, "Profit without purpose is meaningless. Development that ignores society is flawed. The benefits of growth should reach girls in government schools, distressed farmers, and rural artisans."

Bhatti concluded with a passionate appeal: "CSR should carry the spirit of Swaraj — self-belief and self-determination. Let's create a Telangana where every citizen stands with confidence, not with empty hands."

The event was attended by Hyderabad District Collector Dasari Harichandan, ASSOCHAM leaders Suresh Chukkappalli, Barul Islam, Abhishek Ranjan, Krishna Edula, and other dignitaries, who lauded the Telangana government's approach to collaborative and inclusive development.

Minister Surekha Empowers Temple Priests with Welfare Support

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Endowments Minister Konda Surekha has brought cheer to the lives of temple priests and employees across Telangana by fulfilling a long-pending demand related to their welfare. In a heartening gesture, the minister handed over a cheque of ₹32 lakh to 18 temple employees under the Archaka and Employment Welfare Fund Trust, covering gratuity and medical assistance.

At an event held on Thursday, accompanied by Endowment Director Venkata Rao and other senior officials, Minister Surekha also felicitated retired staff, offering them copies of official orders as a mark of recognition and farewell.

Speaking at the event, Minister Surekha said the state government is fully committed to the welfare of 13,700 Archakas and temple employees working under the Endowment Department up to the level of Assistant Commissioner. She emphasized that a structured welfare fund has been established to pro-

vide post-retirement and post-humous gratuity, medical aid, and several other social support schemes.

She added that gratuity for retiring or deceased priests has now been doubled from ₹4 lakh to ₹8 lakh, effective from May 28, 2025, and will be credited directly to the beneficiaries' bank accounts. In case of premature death, the assistance for funeral expenses has also been increased from ₹20,000 to ₹30,000.

Minister Surekha explained that the Priest Welfare Fund will also cover medical reimbursement, Marriage assistance and upanayana scheme, House construction and repair assistance, Education support for children of temple staff, financial aid for differently-abled employees.

Priests and temple staff present at the event expressed deep gratitude to the minister, hailing her as "Surekhamma", a symbol of support. "We are indebted to her for solving a long-pending issue and enhancing the dignity and security of our lives," one employee stated.

DGP Attends Valedictory of Brass Band Training at TGPA

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The valedictory ceremony of the Brass Band and Bugle Training Programme was held on Friday at the RBVRR Telangana Police Academy (TGPA) in Hyderabad with much enthusiasm and ceremony. The event marked the culmination of a 4-month intensive training course aimed at developing musical skills, coordination, and ceremonial discipline among police personnel.

Director General of Police Dr. Jitender, IPS, attended as the Chief Guest and applauded the commitment and hard work of the trainees and instructors. "The police brass band is not just about music. It is a symbol of the discipline, tradition, and pride of the police force," he said in his address. The DGP extended congratulations to all 53 personnel who successfully completed the training, commending their outstanding performances.

The training included both theoretical and practical sessions on musical notations and instrument handling. Participants were trained in a variety of instruments including the Saxophone, Clarinet, Drums, Bugle, Trumpet, French Horn, Euphonium, and Trombone over a span of 18 weeks.

A live band performance by the newly trained team was the highlight of the day, earning resounding appreciation from dignitaries and guests in attendance. The event also saw the presence of Smt. Abhilasha Bisht, IPS, Director of TGPA, Cyberabad Police Commissioner Sri Avinash Mohanty, IPS, senior officers, academy staff, and family members of the participants. Certificates, cash prizes, and mementos were awarded to the best-performing trainees as a mark of encouragement.

Konda Murali’s Comments Spark Turmoil in Warangal Congress

Konda Murali hints daughter will contest from Parakala
Criticizes senior leaders Kadiyam Srihari,
Revuri Prakash Reddy
Ministers and MLAs hold urgent meeting in Warangal

TPN Correspondent | Warangal
The Congress party in Warangal district was rocked on Friday after senior leader and former MLC Konda Murali made controversial remarks targeting fellow party leaders and unilaterally announcing his daughter’s candidature from Parakala constituency. His statements triggered a wave of unrest within the party, prompting an emergency meeting of top district-level Congress leaders. The meeting, convened at MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy’s office, was attended by senior party figures including Ministers Kadiyam Srihari, MLAs Revuri Prakash Reddy, KR Nagaraju, Gandra Satyanarayana Rao, former ministers Baswaraju Saraiah, Vijayarama Rao, and former MP Gundu Sudharani. The primary agenda of the gathering was to address the political damage caused by Murali’s remarks and formulate a response. Murali, while speaking at a program marking Rahul Gandhi’s birthday celebrations in Warangal on Thursday, openly declared that his daughter Sushmita would contest from Parakala in the next elections. Alongside this announcement, he issued sharp criticism aimed at party seniors, particularly Kadiyam Srihari and Revuri Prakash Reddy, without naming them directly. He alleged that some Congress leaders had earlier held key positions in the Telugu Desam Party and later shifted to BRS, “corrupting those parties as well.” He further claimed that one of them had a controversial past as an “encounter specialist” and accused another of pleading with him for political survival. “A 75-year-old leader came to me and fell at my feet, promising to give up the seat next time if he wins now,” Murali said, sparking intense backlash. Party insiders expressed serious concern over Murali’s statements, which they view as both damaging to party unity and a violation of internal protocol regarding ticket allocation. The unilateral announcement regarding Parakala was seen as undermining party discipline and the authority of leadership. The emergency meeting reportedly concluded with a decision to escalate the issue to the state party high command. While no official action has been announced yet, sources suggest that the party is considering disciplinary steps if such behavior continues, as leaders are keen to prevent further internal conflict ahead of future elections.



Azharuddin to Contest Jubilee Hills By-Election

Denies rumours about being denied ticket
Says last time defeat was by a small margin

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Former cricketer and senior Congress leader Mohammad Azharuddin has officially announced his intention to contest in the upcoming by-election to the Jubilee Hills Assembly constituency. Speaking at a press meet held at his residence in Banjara Hills on Thursday, Azharuddin made it clear that he will contest as the Congress candidate. Reflecting on his experience in the previous assembly elections, Azharuddin stated that he was given the ticket at the last minute but still managed to put up a strong fight. He noted that he lost by a very small margin and blamed certain individuals for spreading false narratives about him being denied the ticket this time. He urged the public not to believe such rumours. Azharuddin exuded confidence about winning the upcoming by-election with the support of the local people, Congress party workers, and senior leaders. He also said that he intends to dedicate the victory to Rahul Gandhi, calling it a symbolic gift. Reiterating his commitment to the constituency, Azhar promised to work for the overall development of Jubilee Hills and to serve in line with the aspirations and needs of the public.



Congress, BRS Failed Telangana; Only BJP Can Save the State: Kishan Reddy

TPN | Srikanth Gurram
Hyderabad: Union Minister and Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy launched a scathing attack on both the ruling Congress and the previous BRS government during a local body election preparatory workshop held at the party’s state office. Addressing the newly formed mandal and district committee leaders, Kishan Reddy accused both parties of deceiving the people and failing the state on every front. He alleged that the Congress government is raising non-issues to divert public attention from its failure to implement the six guarantees promised during elections. On the issue of phone tapping, he said, “The BRS government tapped the phones of judges, businessmen, film stars, opposition leaders, and even BJP office staff. But now both Congress and BRS are playing politics over it to block BJP’s rise in Telangana.” He also pointed out that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who once demanded a CBI inquiry into phone tapping while in the opposition, is now silent after assuming power. Kishan Reddy further stated that the financial condition of Telangana has deteriorated severely due to misgovernance.



“The state is so deeply in debt that it’s struggling to even pay salaries. Both BRS and Congress are equally responsible for this disaster,” he said, adding that welfare and development activities have come to a halt. Calling on BJP cadres to intensify public outreach, he said the party should take up people’s struggles and expose Congress’ failures and BRS’ corruption. “New leadership must emerge from mandal and district levels, especially from the youth, rural poor, and farmer families. Workshops and training programs will be organized to prepare the cadre,” he added. Kishan Reddy said that Telangana’s development is possible only under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership. “Without the Centre’s support, no developmental program in Telangana would have been possible — from railways to highways, village development to education and health,” he said. He reminded the gathering of key schemes by the Modi government — free 5 kg rice to the poor, rural employment guar-

antee funds, support to gram panchayats, and construction of 42 railway stations in Telangana. “There is no such track record with the Congress,” he said, urging BJP workers to present these facts to the people. He concluded by calling for a united and committed effort to bring the BJP to power in Telangana. “The people, intellectuals, artists, and officials are all saying only one thing — Telangana can be saved only by Modi. BJP must become the alternative and the voice of the people,” he asserted.

Congress failed to fulfill irrigation and farmer promises

TPN Correspondent | Mahabubnagar
Former minister and BRS leader V. Srinivas Goud came down heavily on the Congress government during a press meet held at Telangana Bhavan, criticizing its failure to utilize available water resources effectively, especially in drought-prone districts like Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda. Srinivas Goud expressed deep concern that despite the inflows from Almati and Tungabhadra rivers and floodwaters reaching the Jurala project, the state government had not initiated any review or planning to distribute the water to dependent irrigation projects like Nettempadu and Bhima. “Even when God shows mercy by sending rain, this government fails to act. The water is simply being wasted,” he remarked. He pointed out that during the previous BRS government, officials were proactive in managing every drop of rainfall. “Under



KCR’s leadership, officers would be on alert to ensure maximum benefit from even small rains. Now, officials are fast asleep, and ministers are nowhere to be seen in irrigation zones,” he added. Srinivas Goud also questioned the delay in operationalizing the Palamuru-Rangaredy Lift Irrigation Project. “The pumps are

ready, yet canals are not dug. What’s the use? This is the Chief Minister’s own district. Is this how Mahabubnagar should be treated?” he asked, demanding to know when the promised water supply through the project would actually begin. “The Congress government promised many things to farmers in its manifesto. Let them fulfill those promises before thinking about holding local body elections,” Srinivas Goud said. He also insisted that local polls should only be held after implementing 42% reservation for BCs. Srinivas Goud warned that if the reservoirs are not filled in the upcoming rainy season, the Congress government would be solely responsible for the resulting agrarian crisis. He stressed the urgent need for ministers and officials to visit reservoir sites and take action ahead of potential floods.

BJP Slams Congress Over Delay in Local Body Polls

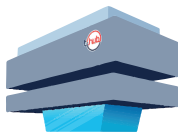
Congress avoiding elections fearing backlash: Gujjula Premender Reddy

TPN | Srikanth Gurram
Telangana: BJP Telangana State General Secretary Sri Gujjula Premender Reddy launched a scathing attack on the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government, accusing it of deliberately delaying local body elections in Telangana out of fear of public backlash. Speaking at a press conference held at the BJP state office, he said the Congress has failed to fulfill its poll promises, particularly the one assuring 42% reservation for BCs in local bodies. He claimed that the Congress is using the Centre as a scapegoat to stall the elections and is unwilling to face voters, knowing it has lost public confidence. “The Revanth Reddy government has not implemented even one of the six guarantees or 420 promises made during the elections. Three crop seasons have passed, but farmers haven’t received the ₹15,000 per acre guarantee—not even the reduced ₹12,000 they later proposed,” he said.

The meeting chaired by Union Minister & State BJP President Kishan Reddy was also attended by BJP National General Secretary & Telangana In-Charge Sunil Bansal, MLAs, and district presidents. It was decided that BJP will be fully prepared to contest and win a majority in the upcoming local body elections, whenever they are held. The party is planning follow-up meetings to finalize in-charges and candidates for ZPTC, MPTC, and municipal levels. Reddy also highlighted several unfulfilled Congress promises to farmers, women, youth, SCs, and STs, stating that the Congress government has become a “hub of lies and corruption.” He pointed to the lack of progress in phone tapping investigations, Kaleshwaram project irregularities, and e-racing car scams. Reddy questioned whether the Congress-BRS are working in covert collaboration. “The people suspect that a secret ‘mulakhath’ has occurred between



the two parties,” he said, urging the government to bring transparency in the phone tapping case, which involves illegal surveillance of judges, bureaucrats, opposition leaders, and businessmen. He revealed that during the BRS regime, he and other senior BJP leaders were informed by Jubilee Hills police that their phones were tapped. “What kind of political ethics do BRS leaders have if they stoop to such levels?” he asked. Demanding that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) submit a detailed report on the phone tapping case, he said only a court-monitored process will restore public faith. BJP leaders also emphasized that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, the party’s outreach efforts are getting tremendous public response, especially in rural Telangana. “The public sentiment is clearly shifting towards BJP,” Premender Reddy concluded.



Yoga Countdown Marks Grand Start at LB Stadium

Union Minister Kishan Reddy says Yoga is India's gift to the world
Vizag to host 5 lakh people in record-breaking Yoga session

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

As part of the International Yoga Day celebrations on June 21, a grand 24-hour countdown event was held at LB Stadium in Hyderabad, drawing large participation from yoga organizations, educational institutions, and social service groups. The event, marked by vibrant energy and national pride, showcased the significance of Yoga as India's cultural contribution to the world.

The program witnessed the presence of several high-profile dignitaries including Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Verma, former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, and popular film actors Sai Dharam Tej, Khushboo, and Meenakshi Chowdhury, who graced the occasion as chief guests. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, speaking at the event, described Yoga as a “wonderful

gift” India has offered to the global community under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said, “Yoga is now practiced in 200 countries. Their leaders and people have embraced it. This is a proud moment for every Indian.” He expressed special gratitude to Prime Minister Modi for globalizing Yoga and emphasized that June 21 should be celebrated across the nation with full enthusiasm. “Yoga should become a part of everyone's



daily life. It is our first doctor, a universal remedy for physical and mental well-being,” he added, urging citizens to adopt Yoga for a healthier and more harmonious society. Highlighting the grand celebration planned in Andhra Pradesh,

Kishan Reddy said, “It's a matter of pride that 5 lakh people will participate in the Yoga session tomorrow in Visakhapatnam. Telugu soil will make history.” Union Minister Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma informed that Prime Minister

Modi himself will attend the Yogaandhra event in Visakhapatnam, which is expected to set a new world record in Yoga participation. He also said that the BJP cadre is mobilized in full strength to take part in the historic gathering.

Traffic Improving with Tech, More Measures Ahead: CV Anand

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner Sri C.V. Anand, IPS, conducted a comprehensive review meeting on Friday with traffic department officers to assess ongoing traffic challenges and solutions. The meeting was held at the city police headquarters and attended by SIs, Inspectors, ACPs, DCPs, and Joint CP (Traffic) Sri D. Joel Deviss IPS. Commissioner Anand noted a significant improvement in city traffic speeds, rising from 17–18 km/h last year to 24–25 km/h currently. He credited this to the relentless efforts of the Hyderabad Traffic Police and initiatives like Operation Rope, which he said will soon be strengthened with a more scientific approach. He revealed that 1,600 new ve-

hicles enter Hyderabad's roads daily, bringing the total number of vehicles across the tri-commissionerates to 91 lakh. To manage this increasing load, the city is embracing advanced technology and strategic planning. “80% of traffic signals are now operating on auto mode, reducing congestion effectively. We're also using drone cameras and taking technical support from Google, including real-time integration with Google Maps,” he said. As part of a new initiative, 25 high-rise cameras will be installed on tall buildings to provide an ‘Eagle View’ of traffic for better monitoring and faster responses. Commissioner Anand stressed that the department is now focusing on the quality rather than quantity of traffic fines,



leading to more responsible driving habits. He also appreciated the cooperation received from the Chief Minister's Office in streamlining VIP movements without causing major traffic halts. To tackle the shortage of traffic personnel, a new ‘Traffic Marshal’ system will be launched,

where corporates can appoint marshals under CSR. These marshals will receive training and assist in traffic control. Anand also praised the transgender assistants working in the department, calling their performance “exceptional” and confirming that more such appointments will follow.

Anti-Drug Awareness Drive Held at Avinash College

DCP Sudheendra warns students against drug abuse

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

An anti-drug awareness programme was conducted by the Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (H-NEW) at Avinash College of Commerce, Himayatnagar branch, aiming to educate students on the dangers of drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. Addressing the gathering, Sri Y.V.S. Sudheendra, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Task Force/H-NEW, explained the legal consequences and life-altering impact of narcotics on youth. He stressed that drug use could derail a promising future and advised students to stay vigilant, avoid bad company, and report any suspicious activity related to drugs in and around campuses. The college's Principal Smt. Y.S.S. Savitri Devi and Sri Kapil, OSD to the Chairman of Avinash Group of Institutions, appreciated the initiative and emphasized the need for more such awareness programmes in educational spaces to empower students with the knowledge to make informed choices. H-NEW officials reiterated their commitment to continue such drives in colleges across the city as part of their broader mission to make Hyderabad a drug-free city. “Say no to drugs and yes to your dreams,” urged DCP Sudheendra, encouraging students to be ambassadors of anti-drug awareness in their communities.



Additional Rooms Ready at NBT Nagar Govt School

TPN | Srikanth Gurram

Hyderabad: The NBT Nagar Government School located on Banjara Hills Road No. 12 is all set for the inauguration of its newly constructed additional rooms on Saturday, following a major infrastructure upgrade worth ₹1.16 crore. The initiative, spearheaded by Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, brought significant attention and funding to the school's development. Former Rajya Sabha Member Keshav Rao also contributed ₹20 lakh from his MP funds, which went towards the construction of a separate building block alongside the existing rooms. In addition to this contribution, another ₹96.85 lakh was sanctioned and utilized under various government development schemes, ensuring that the infrastructure upgrade would not only increase space but also improve the overall environment of the school. With these funds, the school now boasts a newly designed, decorated building that is ready for use by students and faculty. The

project reflects a joint effort between local government leadership and central support, aiming to improve public education infrastructure in the city. The inauguration ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, and is expected to be attended by GHMC officials, local public representatives, and community leaders. The enhanced facilities are likely to support better learning environments and help accommodate the increasing number of students in the area.



Woman Stages Protest Outside Raj Bhavan

Alleges inaction by Bollaram police in ₹24 lakh theft case

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A dramatic incident unfolded in Hyderabad when a woman named Nagamani, a resident of Musheerabad, sat in protest in front of Raj Bhavan demanding to meet the Governor. She alleged that her complaint regarding a ₹24 lakh theft that occurred at her house in Mumbai, Maharashtra, has not been accepted or acted upon by the Bollaram police. Nagamani claimed that despite several attempts, officials at Bollaram police station refused to register her complaint, prompting her to seek the Governor's intervention. Holding placards and



sitting silently near the entrance of Raj Bhavan, she expressed deep frustration over the alleged police apathy. According to sources, Nagamani warned that if she failed to get an appointment with the Governor, she would end her life in front of Raj Bhavan. The situation led to immediate action by Panjagutta police, who reached the spot, took her into custody, and shifted her to Panjagutta police station for counseling and further inquiry.

Dr. Sagi Satyanarayana Creates Global Record

Only doctor with 111 doctorates; enters London Book of Records

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Dr. Sagi Satyanarayana, a resident of Anand Nagar, Malkajgiri, has once again made Hyderabad and India proud with another prestigious international recognition. His name has now been officially entered into the London Book of Records, adding to an already remarkable list of global honors. Dr. Satyanarayana holds the rare distinction of being the only doctor in the world to have earned 111 doctorates from universities across the globe. These include 15 Doctor of Science (D.Sc.), 25 Doctor of Literature (D.Litt.), and 71 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) titles—an achievement accomplished in just 41 years. In addition to this latest honor, he has already made it into the Guinness Book of World Records four times—first on January 28, 2016, followed by three more records in August 2016, October 2019, and August 2022 for his exceptional contributions to literature and rapid authorship. Dr. Satyanarayana, who is also known as the “Kaliyuga Valmiki,” has written over 180 books in the past ten years, including more than 72 books in just one year. His writings span a wide range of subjects including yoga, meditation, medical sciences, emergency medicine, spirituality, and Indian scriptures like Sri Sathya Sai Bhagavatam, Shiva Rahasya, and Sri Dattatreya Gurucharitra. His excellence has not gone unnoticed. The Oscar organization presented him with the Oscar in Excellence Award on December 25, 2020, in Australia, calling him the “Jewel of Indian Talent.” In recognition of his work, he has also been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Vedic Hindu University, Ahmedabad. Recently, Sri Venkateswara Vedic University, Tirupati, and Our Bhubaneswar University, Indore, also conferred honorary doctorates upon him. Dr. Sagi Satyanarayana's intellectual legacy continues to inspire and bring global attention to Indian scholarship, blending science, literature, and spirituality in a way few have ever achieved.



Nita Ambani Donates ₹1 Crore to Balkampet Yellamma Temple

Donation deposited in temple bank account on Wednesday

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Reliance Industries chief Mukesh Ambani and his wife Nita Ambani have donated ₹1 crore to the famous Balkampet Yellamma and Pochamma temple in Hyderabad. The donation was deposited in the temple's bank account on Wednesday. The contribution comes after Nita Ambani's mother Purnima Dalal and sister Mamata Dalal visited the temple on April 23 this year. During their visit, they offered special prayers and were briefed about the temple's significance and ongoing development plans by the then Executive Officer, Krishna.

Moved by the appeal for support, Nita Ambani responded positively and donated ₹1 crore to aid the temple's initiatives. The current in-charge Executive Officer, Mahender Goud, stated that the entire donation will be kept in a fixed deposit. The interest generated from this deposit will be used to conduct a daily annadanam (food distribution) program for devotees visiting the temple. The EO expressed gratitude for the timely support and mentioned that this contribution will play a crucial role in the temple's service efforts, especially in providing free meals to the devotees on a regular basis.



Medigadda Effect...

Government Transfers Irrigation ENC Anil Kumar

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
In a major administrative reshuffle in the Telangana Irrigation Department, Engineer-in-Chief (General) G. Anil Kumar has been transferred with immediate effect and instructed to report to the government without any new posting. The decision, seen as a fallout of the ongoing Medigadda Barrage controversy, was taken seriously at the top levels of the state government. According to official sources, the grouting works carried out at Medigadda without proper approvals have come under scrutiny following the final report by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) expert committee. The report reportedly stated that due to the grouting works, critical structural tests could not be car-



ried out at the barrage, which has raised serious concerns over safety and procedural lapses. Government sources indicated that Anil Kumar's handling of the grouting issue—particularly his silence on whose directive the work was executed—sparked

dissatisfaction at the Chief Minister and Ministers' level meetings. The matter has also been linked to lack of transparency and procedural violations. Adding to the controversy, allegations surfaced against Anil Kumar for allegedly aiding Executive En-

gineer Noo Sridhar in continuing in his post despite being transferred, raising further questions about internal administration. Reacting swiftly to these developments, the Telangana government relieved Anil Kumar of his duties and placed Chief Engineer Anjad Hussain in full additional charge as Engineer-in-Chief (General). Notably, Hussain was already holding additional responsibility as ENC (Admin). With the new orders, he will now head both crucial wings of the Irrigation Department. The transfer orders were issued by Irrigation Department Principal Secretary Rahul Bojja on Friday, making this one of the most significant reshuffles in recent times related to the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme and its associated controversies.

TPCC Chief Seeks Report on Konda Murali's Comments

TPN Correspondent | Warangal
Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud responded to the controversy surrounding senior leader Konda Murali's recent comments from Warangal district. Addressing the media, the TPCC chief confirmed that he has sought a detailed report from the District Congress Committee (DCC) and the party observer. "We've received complaints from both sides regarding the issue. Once I go through the DCC and observer reports, I will take an appropriate stand," said Mahesh Kumar Goud. The TPCC leadership is closely monitoring the developments and has taken the matter seriously. Meanwhile, the TPCC chief also addressed Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's remarks on local body elections. Clarifying the party's stand, Mahesh said, "We should not speak on matters under court purview. The minister's comments may have been made in enthusiasm, but we believe in respecting legal procedures. Elections will take place after the court delivers its verdict." Mahesh Kumar Goud also reacted to former MP Azharuddin's statement expressing interest in contesting elections. Without naming him directly, Mahesh said, "Anyone who wants to contest should submit their name formally. The Congress High Command will take the final call on candidates. No one should declare themselves as candidates unilaterally." The TPCC chief emphasized party discipline and urged leaders to follow due process in both internal and public matters.



Free Medical Camp Held in Maheshwaram by Art Foundation

Teegala Anitha Reddy stresses lifestyle changes to combat chronic diseases
TPN Correspondent | Rangareddy
A free medical camp was organized by the Art Foundation in Ameerpet village of Maheshwaram mandal, Rangareddy district, drawing strong participation from the local community. Former ZP Chairperson and medical professional Dr. Teegala Anitha Reddy attended as the chief guest and delivered an insightful address on the importance of regular health check-ups and healthy lifestyle choices. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Teegala Anitha Reddy said the camp offered free tests for heart, kidney, liver, diabetes, blood pressure, and related diseases. She pointed out that the growing incidence of chronic health issues at a young age is largely due to deteriorating lifestyle habits and unhealthy food consumption. "Diabetes is a leading cause of severe health issues. If sugar levels are not controlled properly, it can lead to critical conditions like kidney failure and heart disease," she warned. She stressed the importance of diabetes management to prevent further complications and advised diabetic patients to be vigilant about taking medications regularly. She noted that many individuals suffering from kidney and heart ailments tend to neglect prescribed treatments. "Skipping medications or smoking habits can severely worsen heart health. It's essential for patients to avoid smoking and follow doctors' advice strictly," she added. The event saw the presence of Maheshwaram Market Committee Vice Chairman Chakali Yadayya, senior Congress leaders Avula Yadayya, Indiramma Committee President Avula Raghupathi, Congress activists, and local residents, who appreciated the initiative taken by the Heart Foundation. The medical camp not only served as a health support effort but also raised awareness about preventive care and the importance of early diagnosis and lifestyle correction for long-term well-being.



166 kg Ganja, ₹50 Lakh Seized in LB Nagar Drug Bust

Four interstate peddlers arrested by SOT & Hayathnagar Police

TPN Correspondent | LB Nagar
In a major crackdown, Rachakonda Commissionerate's Special Operations Team (SOT), LB Nagar Zone, in coordination with Hayathnagar Police, arrested four members of an interstate ganja smuggling gang and seized 166 kg of marijuana, ₹50 lakh in cash, a Force Trax Cruiser vehicle (MH 20 CH 5017), and four mobile phones. The arrested individuals have been identified as Vikas Baban Salve, Ranganath Yurajan Sadve, Sagar Gajanan Khandebharad @ Sagar and Amol Narayan Borde. According to police, Vikas Baban Salve, seeking to fund a lavish lifestyle, teamed up with Odisha-based source Mike @ Rahul @ Das, to procure ganja from Kurumanur village in Malkangiri district. Noticing high demand among workers in Maharashtra, Vikas roped in his friends—Sagar, a Central Railway employee, along with Ranganath and Amol—for distribution. They transported the contraband via Hyderabad en route to Maharash-

tra. On June 20, 2025, while conducting vehicle checks near Dhananjaya Function Hall in Hayathnagar, the SOT and local police intercepted and arrested the accused. Police confirmed that Vikas and Ranganath already have pending NBWs in previous NDPS cases filed at Allair and Bhadrachalam respectively. The main supplier Mike @ Rahul @ Das is currently absconding, and efforts are on to apprehend him. Authorities are also verifying the past criminal history of all the arrested. This successful operation was executed under the supervision of Rachakonda Police Commissioner Sri G. Sudheer Babu, IPS, and DCP LB Nagar Sri Ch. Praveen Kumar, IPS, with the guidance of Additional DCP Sri Md. Shakir Hussain and coordinated efforts from SOT Maheshwaram & Hayathnagar Police teams. Rachakonda Police reiterated their commitment to break the drug supply chain, identify peddlers and users, and urged the public to cooperate in their anti-drug campaigns for a safer community.



Olympic Day Run Held in Bhadrachalam

Officials stress fitness and pledge to fight marijuana menace



TPN | Avinash Reddy
Bhadradri Kothagudem: As part of the Olympic Run scheduled in Kothagudem on June 23 to mark Olympic Day, the Bhadradri Kothagudem District Olympic Association conducted an Olympic Day Run in Bhadrachalam constituency on Friday. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students, youth, and the public. Bhadrachalam MLA Tella Venkata Rao, ITDA Project Officer Rahul, and Bhadrachalam ASP Vikrant Kumar Singh IPS were the chief guests at the event. The dignitaries lit the Olympic torch and flagged off the run, which started at Ambedkar Center and concluded at the Junior College Ground in Bhadrachalam. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders emphasized the importance of sports in daily life, especially for students and youth. "In today's digital age, youngsters are spending more time on mobile phones and YouTube. This is affecting both their physical and mental well-being," said the officials. They urged parents to encourage children to actively take part in outdoor sports instead of getting confined to screens. In a significant statement, the officials declared their commitment to making Bhadrachalam a marijuana-free town. ITDA PO Rahul and ASP Vikrant Kumar Singh IPS announced that stringent measures will be taken to eradicate marijuana use and trafficking in the area. They also informed that awareness seminars will be held soon in all local colonies to educate people, especially youth, about the harmful effects of marijuana. The initiative aims to safeguard the younger generation and foster a healthier, drug-free society. The Olympic Day Run and the anti-drug pledge marked a strong message from the administration — promoting fitness while fighting substance abuse in the region.

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

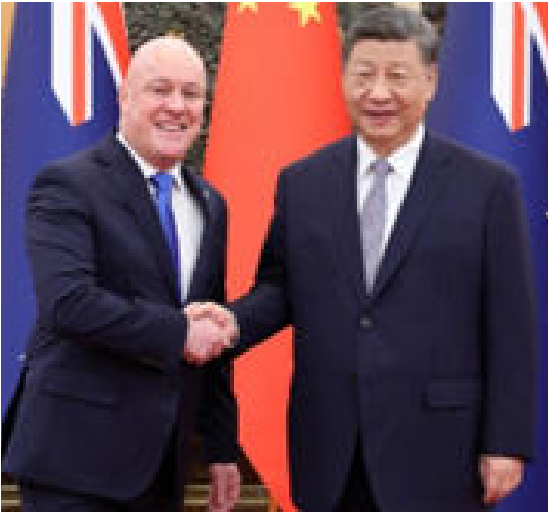
In Meeting with China’s Xi Jinping

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.

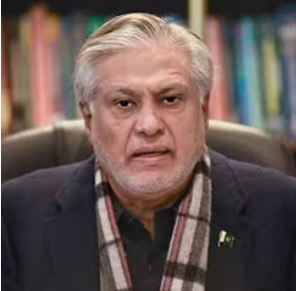
The data reflects a broader global trend of declining foreign deposits in Swiss banks, likely driven by tighter regulations, enhanced financial transparency, and changing international norms. The pandemic caused a temporary surge in deposits, but the overall movement points toward reduced reliance on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

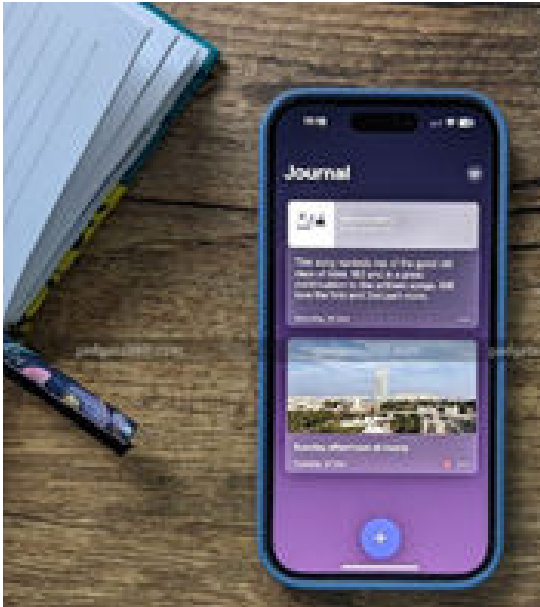
Rio Tatsuki’s blend of art and prophecy continues to fascinate and alarm many, blending folklore with real-world anxieties. Whether or not the predicted ‘mega disaster’ occurs, her forecast serves as a reminder of the importance of disaster awareness in earthquake-prone regions like Japan.

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.

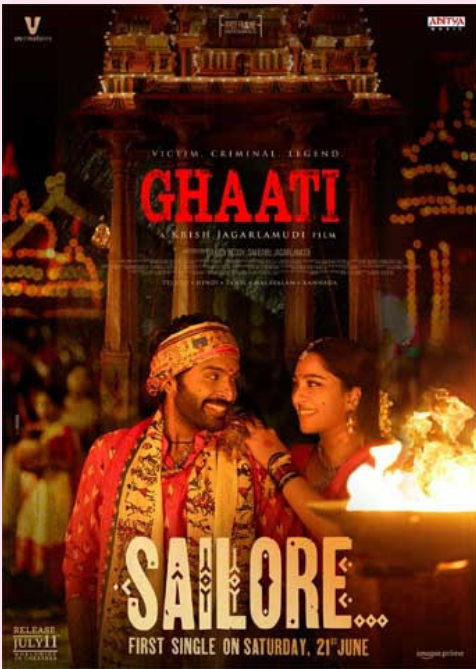
Fans are eagerly awaiting more updates as the team prepares for the next schedule, and expectations are high for Chiranjeevi's performance in what could be yet another blockbuster addition to his illustrious career.

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