

Midnight News Update – Jun 18th 2025

As the Israel Iran conflict widens and deepens, there are some real concerns that Indian exporters are up against. Apart from the fears that crude oil may get closer to \$100/bbl; there are also concerns that the shipments could get delayed, routes may have to be changed, freight charges could go up, and even the insurance premiums may go up. The FIEO is apprehensive that the sequence of events could also impact the supply chains for various goods. Iran has threatened to shut the Strait of Hormuz, which is a real worry.

With the rising geopolitical risk, both oil and gold have spiked in the last few days. However, Citi has a rather contrarian call on gold and expects that gold prices may have peaked and actually sees a 25% plus downside on gold from current levels. Citi expects gold to consolidated in the range of \$3,100 to \$3,500 per troy ounce for the better of 2025, but by 2026, Citi expects that gold may settle in the range of \$2,500 to \$2,700/oz. Gold prices have rallied nearly 45% in the last 1 year, but most central banks are now loaded.

There has been an expiry date swap between the BSE and NSE on the weekly expiries. With NSE getting Tuesday expiry for its weekly options, BSE will have its weekly expiry on Thursday. The new schedule will be applicable to all futures & options contracts on the BSE expiring after September 01, 2025. Until the end of August F&O expiry, the BSE will continue to use the Tuesday expiry. Also, BSE has been asked by the regulatory not to launch any new weekly contracts on the index futures effective from July 01, 2025.

Amidst the geopolitical worries, the Israel-Iran war and the recent statements coming from President Donald Trump; the Indian rupee has touched a 2-month low of ₹86.28/\$. The sentiments worsened after Trump announced that the pharma tariffs would be coming soon. India's pharma exports to the US stood at \$8.73 billion, and that is an obvious target. Meanwhile, there was also an increasing dollar demand from the major Indian banks as large companies with dollar payable exposures rushed to seek forex cover.

Godrej Properties is betting big on Pune. It has recently acquired a 16-acre parcel of land in Pune and has a revenue target of ₹3,100 crore from the project. It is focusing on premium constructions in high growth urban clusters like Bengaluru and Pune. It is targeting overall revenues of ₹7,300 crore from its Pune based realty franchise. The 16-acre parcel it acquired at Upper Kharadi near Pune has the potential of around 2.50 million SFT of built-up area. Overall, Godrej Properties is eyeing bookings of ₹32,500 crore in FY26.

With a slowdown in IT billing and tech spending, TCS has put out its deployment policy mandating 225 billing days and cap on bench time to 35 days per year. Benching refers to the period when the person is on the rolls of the company, but not assigned a project. If the employee does not meet 225 billing days in a year, it could be a case for a job redundancy in that case. The company has put the onus on the employee to ensure 225 billing days of deployment in a year, by coordinating with the Resource Management Group.

There is a big clean energy push in the primary markets, with nearly ₹25,000 crore of cleantech IPOs lined up in the next few months. Of course, these IPOs going through would still depend on market conditions and on retail and institutional appetite. Among the big clean energy IPOs scheduled in this fiscal year are Hero Future Energies raising ₹5,000 crore, Avaada Group raising ₹4,500 crore for its module and solar cells business, and EMVEE and Jupiter International raising around ₹3,000 crore each through IPO route.

Promoters of Zee (Subhash Chandra family) plan to increase their stake in Zee Entertainment to 18.39% by subscribing to warrants worth ₹2,237 crore. Their current stake is as low as 4.2%. This is interesting as investors in Zee have been upset with the Chandra family ever since the Sony deal fell through. The first hurdle for the promoters will be getting shareholder approval at a specially convened EGM. However, with their increased stake, the Zee group may want Punit Goenka back at the helm of affairs at Zee group.

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