

National security concerns behind ‘Satluj’ takedown: Centre

A day after OTT platform Zee5 took down the Diljit Dosanjh-starrer “Satluj”, the Centre on Monday said certain portions of the film had the potential to be misused by anti-India forces.

Officials said there were concerns that parts of the film could be exploited to garner support for the long-waning pro-Khalistan movement, especially ahead of the Punjab elections.“National security concerns outweigh everything else in such matters, and this is not about politics,” a government source said on the condition of anonymity.

Durgam Cheruvu Will Get Tourist Facelift: CM Revanth

HYDERABAD,July 6

: With the second edition of the Telangana Rising Global Summit scheduled to take place in December at the Bharat Future City, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directed officials to constitute departmental committees to ensure effective coordination between departments for organising the event.

During a meeting with officials from the tourism and other departments on Monday, Revanth Reddy explored how key tourist attractions could support and encourage investors by developing destinations on par with global standards. He asked departments to collaborate with tourism to develop eco-tourism on forest land within Hyderabad's core urban limits

He instructed that forest land within Bharat Future

City should be developed into international-level tourist destinations and eco-parks, similar to the Gurranguda Eco Park. He said key tourist locations like Taramati Baradari should be further developed to attract visitors and directed that Durgam Cheruvu be developed into a full-fledged tourist destination. He also ordered the modernisation of Manjeera and Dilkusha guest houses.

Under the Tourism Hub Development Scheme, he said Vikarabad should be developed with primary focus on the Sri Veerabhadra Swamy Temple. He ordered the formation of a managing committee for the temple, similar to the one at Yadagirigutta.

Revanth Reddy said eco-tourism projects should

PM Modi’s position on Israel does not reflect public sentiment: Cong

The Congress on Monday rejected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's assertion that Israel enjoys “tremendous support” in India, with senior party leader Jairam Ramesh saying the claim was incorrect and that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's position should not be mistaken for the views of the Indian people.

Ramesh's remarks came after referring to comments by US Vice-President JD Vance, who, according to him, had said Israel no longer had a powerful ally apart from the US. He noted that Netanyahu had responded by saying Israel continued to enjoy strong support in India.



be developed in an urban forest style within the CURE limits, and special officers should be appointed to expedite the works. He directed that heritage bridges like Puranapul be developed into tourist destinations, with traffic diverted through alternative routes if necessary.

The meeting was attended by CM's adviser K. Ramakrishna Rao, special chief secretary Jayesh Ranjan, tourism commissioner Vani Prasad and senior officials.

Monsoon Havoc: Deaths Mount, Transport Hit Across India

The monsoon packed a deadly punch across India on Monday, claiming lives in Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh, crippling rail and road networks, triggering landslides and flooding, inundating towns in Odisha, with the IMD forecasting more heavy rainfall over several states.Emerging as the epicentre of the crisis, Maharashtra reported three fresh rain-related deaths in Pune and 13 fatalities over the last three to four days. In Himachal Pradesh, a 14-year-old girl died after a shooting stone hit a vehicle she was travelling in.

Odisha remained on statewide alert as incessant rain continued for the third day. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a red alert for Mumbai, Thane and Raigad, warning of more heavy to very heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds.

The country's financial capital came to a standstill as the city's rail network was disrupted. Train services on the Mumbai-Pune route were suspended after multiple landslides hit the Karjat-Lonavala Borh Ghat section.

The Mumbai-Pune Expressway was shut after a concrete pillar fell onto the carriageway, while the old Mumbai-Pune highway was also closed due to overflowing water at multiple locations.

Western Railway services on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor were also hit by waterlogging, affecting more than 40 train services. At least 10 trains were cancelled, eight rescheduled and several diverted or short-terminated. Over 20 long-distance trains remained stranded.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw reviewed the situation and directed Central and Western Railway officials to expedite restoration efforts.

Authorities advised people to work from home for private offices and declare a half-day for non-essential government and semi-government establishments.

In Pune, two people died after their house was buried under debris in a landslide in Maval tehsil, while another person died after being swept away on a flooded road in Khed tehsil.

In Mumbai's Thane, a fireman was injured while clearing a massive uprooted tree, while separate incidents of a billboard collapse and wall collapses were also reported. In neighbouring Palghar district, strong winds blew away tin-roofed sheds and uprooted trees at a residential school, though all 350 students were safe.

Some parts of Palghar



district received nearly 300 mm of rainfall within just two hours, worsening flooding and transport disruption.

The IMD upgraded Mumbai's warning from orange to red after weather conditions worsened during the day and forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall, gusty winds reaching 70-80 kmph, flooding of low-lying areas, landslides and disruption to transport and civic services.

Besides public life, the downpour also disrupted the state's governance.

Both Houses of the Maharashtra legislature were adjourned amid the heavy rainfall. The Bombay High Court also assured lawyers that no adverse orders would be passed if they were unable to reach court because of the weather.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis described the unprecedented rainfall as a “force majeure” situation beyond human control and said disaster management agencies were fully mobilised.

He said that while around 800 trees usually fall during an entire monsoon season, nearly 350 trees had fallen on Sunday alone.

Himachal Pradesh also reported a rain-related fatality after a 14-year-old girl died when a shooting stone hit the vehicle she was travelling in Chamba.

Heavy vernight rain in the hill state also triggered flash floods and blocked key roads in Chamba and Kullu districts.

The Chamba-Tissa

road remained blocked after a flash flood at Pangola Nala in Churah subdivision, while flooding disrupted traffic at Pagal Nala on the Larji-Sainj road in Kullu

Authorities ordered the controlled release of around 50 cumecs of additional water from the Parbati Power Station-III reservoir into the Sainj river after reservoir levels rose due to continuous rainfall.

Mandi's Jogindernagar recorded the highest rainfall in the state at 97 mm, followed by Kangra with 74.8 mm. The weather office forecast isolated heavy to very heavy rain over Kangra, Una and Sirmaur districts and issued an orange warning for heavy to very heavy rainfall in Kangra, Mandi, Shimla and Solan districts on Tuesday.

NIA chargesheets Lashkar founder Hafiz Saeed in Pahalgam attack

In a significant development, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday filed charges against Pakistan-based terrorist and chief and founder of the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) Hafiz Saeed in the Pahalgam terror attack

sions relating to waging war against India and hatching a cross-border conspiracy in the chargesheet.

The supplementary chargesheet, filed in continuation of the original 1,597-page chargesheet, provides details of radicalise people and channel millions of dollars into financing of terror.

In its earlier chargesheet filed on December 15, 2025, the NIA had chargesheeted Pakistani handler Sajid Jatt, along with three terrorists killed by security forces during Operation Mahadev in July 2025, as well as two arrested accused. It had also chargesheeted the proscribed LeT/TRF terrorist organisation as a legal entity for its role in planning, facilitating and executing the Pahalgam terror attack.

The deadly attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on April 22, 2025, involved religion-based targeted killings by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists. Twenty-five tourists and one local civilian were killed in the attack. An FIR was initially registered at the Pahalgam Police Station in Anantnag district. Following the initial investigation by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the case was transferred to the NIA by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The NIA continues to investigate the case to unravel the larger conspiracy hatched from Pakistan, which it says has been actively sponsoring terrorism on Indian soil.

Pakistan's conspiracy, Hafiz Saeed's role, and the supporting evidence collected by the NIA through scientific investigation and on-ground examination.

Because of his global operations, Saeed has also been designated a global terrorist by the United Nations Security Council, apart from India and the US.

To fund his terror operations and evade international ban, Saeed set up prominent charity fronts, such as Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) and the Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF), which were used to



Nirav Modi loses key appeal, may be extradited soon

Diamantaire Nirav Modi, wanted by the CBI and the ED in connection with the Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud and money laundering cases, may soon be extradited to India after reportedly losing an appeal before the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). Nirav is currently lodged in a prison in London.

Nirav had approached the ECHR in April 2026 after exhausting all legal remedies in the United Kingdom, following that country's decision to clear his extradition to India. Sources in the two agencies told The Tribune that the development was being closely monitored and that a clearer picture was expected in the coming days.

The latest development follows years of litigation in British courts after then UK Home Secretary Priti Patel signed Nirav's extradition order in April 2021. Since then, he has filed multiple appeals and bail applications, all of which have been rejected.

In March 2026, Nirav lost an attempt to reopen the extradition proceedings after arguing that he faced a “real risk of torture” if

returned to India. Following that ruling, he is believed to have approached the ECHR seeking an injunction. The proceedings before the European court remained confidential.

The PNB scam relates to fraudulent Letters of Undertaking (LoUs) worth over Rs 10,000 crore allegedly issued by the bank. The key accused in the case include Nirav Modi, his maternal uncle Mehul Choksi, other relatives and several PNB employees.Nirav and his relatives left India in early 2018, days before details of the scam became public. The PNB fraud has been described as one of the largest banking frauds in India's history.According to investigators, fake LoUs were issued through PNB's Brady House branch in Mumbai's Fort area. The LoUs were opened in favour of overseas branches of Indian banks for the import of pearls and other goods. While Reserve Bank of India guidelines stipulated a maximum credit period of 90 days from the date of shipment, LoUs were allegedly issued for periods of up to one year.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

India should view it as a policy challenge

INDIA's 125th position out of 200 countries in the Global Passport Index (GPI) 2026 has triggered unease. Unlike the traditional Henley Passport Index (it has ranked India 80th), which primarily measures visa-free access, the GPI adopts a broader approach by evaluating mobility, investment opportunities and quality of life. India's below-par rank indicates challenges not only in international travel but also in factors that influence global competitiveness and attractiveness. For millions of Indian travellers, the practical implications are significant. On the Passport Power Rank, India's mobility score of 72 reflects access to just 30 truly visa-free destinations and 42 visa-on-arrival ones. Travel to the US, the UK and much of Europe continues to involve lengthy and often uncertain visa procedures. These barriers affect tourists, students, professionals and entrepreneurs alike, adding financial and administrative burdens to international mobility.

Passport strength is shaped largely by diplomatic reciprocity. Bilateral agreements, security cooperation, migration policies and mutual trust determine how freely citizens can cross borders. India's expanding global influence has translated into gradual improvements over the years, although progress remains uneven. The dominance of European nations in the latest ranking offers an important lesson. Countries such as Sweden, Switzerland and Finland perform well not only due to extensive travel access but also because they provide high standards of living, stable institutions and attractive investment environments. Their passports symbolise the robustness of their governance and international partnerships. India should view the ranking as a policy challenge.

Library Institution Chairman Misala Prakash Pays Courtesy Call on Minister 'Konda Surekha'



“Warangal, July 6 (Indian Chronicle): Recently appointed Warangal District Library Institution Chairman Misala Prakash paid a courtesy visit to State Minister for Forests, Environment, Endowments and Charitable Institutions Konda Surekha at her residence in Hyderabad on Monday.” “On the occasion, Minister Konda Surekha congratulated Misala Prakash on assuming his new responsibilities. She urged him to work towards transforming the district's libraries into modern knowledge centres that are easily accessible to the public, particularly benefiting students, youth, competitive examination aspirants, and general readers.” “The Minister emphasized that libraries play a vital role in promoting reading habits and expanding knowledge across society. She assured him of the State Government's full support for the development and modernization of library services to ensure quality facilities are available to the public.” “Speaking on the occasion, Misala Prakash said he would take up a comprehensive action plan to strengthen the library system by improving infrastructure, expanding digital services, and providing better facilities for readers. He also informed the Minister that he is committed to developing libraries into vibrant knowledge centres that serve people from all sections of society.

Special Camp for SIR Applications; Congress Leaders Raise Voter Awareness



— Chippa Venkateshwarlu “Warangal, July 6 (Indian Chronicle): Following the directives of Minister Konda and his spouse, and acting on the suggestions of state leader Gopala Naveen Raj, Chippa Venkateshwarlu—the Congress candidate who contested for the 23rd Division—visited a special camp organized by Mandala Suresh. The camp was set up within the 23rd Division to facilitate the filling out of SIR (Special Intensive Revision) applications.” “BLO Manjula and Congress leaders—including Kokkula Satish, Ravula Rajiv, Devara Ramu, Mantri Kamalakar, Nambi Murali, and Bollu Satish—participated in the event and interacted directly with voters. They raised awareness about the SIR application process, clarified doubts regarding filling out the forms, and provided necessary assistance.” “Speaking on the occasion, Chippa Venkateshwarlu stated that BLOs would begin a door-to-door drive to conduct the SIR application process starting today. He advised those who had not yet received application forms, or those facing difficulties in filling them out, to visit the special camp organized by Mandala Suresh near Master Hotel. He noted that Congress leaders from the division would be available at the camp to provide necessary help and guidance to voters.” “He urged every eligible voter to participate in the SIR process and make the most of this opportunity to ensure their details are correctly registered in the voter list.

RMP or Pharmacist? Playing with People's Lives?



“Medical Store Allegedly Run by Unqualified Individual – Questions Raised Over Violations of Law and Official Inaction” “Sale of Medicines Without Pharmacy Qualifications – Allegations of Regulatory Violations and Illegal Medical Practices in Mudigonda” “Khammam Mudigonda July 6 Indian Chronicle:” “Concerns are mounting among residents that the medical profession, which is meant to safeguard public health, is being misused by some individuals for personal gain. Villagers have leveled serious allegations against the operation of “Radhakrishna First Aid Center and General Medical Store” in Mudigonda mandal. “According to local residents, the individual running the establishment is allegedly functioning as an RMP (Registered Medical Practitioner) while simultaneously operating a medical store. Questions have been raised regarding whether he pos-

sesses the required pharmacy qualifications and valid registration to dispense medicines. Villagers allege that medicines are being sold and medical services provided without the legally mandated credentials. “Under existing regulations, a medical store must operate under the supervision of a qualified and registered pharmacist. Residents are questioning whether these legal requirements are being followed and whether inspections are being conducted by the concerned authorities. “At the same time, some villagers have also made allegations relating to caste discrimination. However, these claims are yet to be officially verified. Residents are urging authorities to conduct a comprehensive inquiry and establish the facts. “Locals further allege that unauthorized medical practices and illegally operated medical stores are functioning in parts of Mudigonda mandal. They have demanded that the Drugs Control Administration and Health Department jointly inspect such establishments and take strict action against anyone found violating the law. “Questions Being Raised by the Public” “Is the individual actually an RMP, or a qualified and registered pharmacist? “Does he possess the necessary pharmacy qualifications and registration? “Does the medical store have all required licenses and permissions? “Why have authorities not conducted inspections so far? “When will action be taken against those allegedly endangering public health? “Residents of Mudigonda have appealed to the authorities to respond promptly and take appropriate action against any medical stores found to be operating without the required qualifications or permissions, in the interest of public safety.

Rising Fuel Prices: Inflation's Relentless Blow to Ordinary Citizens““1.



Rising Fuel Prices Deepen Cost-of-Living Crisis “2. Petrol Hikes Squeeze Household Budgets “3. Inflation and Fuel Costs Burden Millions “Escalating petrol and diesel prices are driving up transportation and commodity costs, placing unprecedented financial pressure on low- and middle-income households. “In recent years, soaring inflation has transformed everyday life into a constant struggle for millions of people. With employment opportunities remaining limited, incomes stagnating, and living expenses rising steadily, households are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. Among the many factors contributing to this economic strain, the persistent increase in petrol and diesel prices has emerged as one of the most significant burdens on the public. “Today, discussions about inflation and fuel price hikes dominate conversations in homes, marketplaces, and workplaces alike. The impact of rising fuel costs extends far beyond vehicle owners. Since fuel serves as the backbone of modern economies, any increase in its price inevitably affects every sector of society and every segment of the population. “Petrol plays a pivotal role in transportation, trade, industry, agriculture, and daily commercial activities. Consequently, when fuel prices rise, the repercussions reverberate throughout the national economy. One of the most immediate consequences is the increase in public transportation fares. Bus services, taxis, auto-rickshaws, and other modes of transport become more expensive, placing additional financial pressure on students, laborers, salaried employees, and small business owners who depend on affordable daily travel. “For low-income workers, the consequences are particularly severe. A laborer who spends long hours earning a modest daily wage often struggles to afford transportation costs. Likewise, salaried employees attempting to balance household expenses, rent, utility bills, and educational costs for their children face mounting financial stress as fuel prices continue to climb. The fundamental concern for many citizens is that while inflation rises relentlessly, income growth remains largely stagnant. “The impact of higher fuel prices is not confined to transportation alone. It also triggers substantial increases

in the prices of essential commodities. Vegetables, fruits, dairy products, flour, rice, and other necessities must be transported from production centers to markets. As transportation costs escalate, traders and suppliers pass the additional expenses on to consumers. The result is a significant increase in the cost of basic goods, making even essential food items increasingly unaffordable for economically vulnerable families. “Across markets, the prices of everyday necessities continue to rise at an alarming pace. Staple foods such as milk, cooking oil, pulses, rice, and meat are gradually moving beyond the reach of many households. Inflation has not only affected the poor but has also eroded the purchasing power of the middle class. Numerous families are resorting to borrowing money to cover basic expenses, while others are struggling to finance critical needs such as education and healthcare. “Rural communities are equally affected. Farmers depend heavily on diesel and petrol to operate tractors, irrigation systems, and agricultural machinery. Rising fuel costs increase production expenses, which ultimately influence crop prices and contribute to broader inflationary pressures. As a result, the economic burden extends from rural farmlands to urban centers, affecting farmers, laborers, traders, and consumers alike. “Economic analysts attribute rising fuel prices to several factors, including fluctuations in global crude oil markets, currency depreciation, dependence on imported energy resources, and taxation policies. However, many citizens believe that governments must adopt more proactive measures to shield the public from the harsh consequences of inflation. Excessive financial pressure can foster social unrest, public dissatisfaction, and declining confidence in economic governance. “There are several avenues through which relief can be provided. Reducing taxes on petrol and diesel, improving public transportation infrastructure, introducing targeted subsidies for low-income households, and implementing effective inflation-control measures could help alleviate economic hardships. Furthermore, promoting alternative energy solutions such as electric vehicles and solar power has become an increasingly important long-term strategy for reducing dependence on conventional fuels. “Citizens today seek more than assurances; they demand tangible and effective action. They aspire to live in a society where basic necessities remain affordable, where hardworking individuals can support their families with dignity, and where inflation does not undermine their hopes and aspirations. “Ultimately, rising fuel prices represent more than a simple economic challenge—they are evolving into a broader national concern. Inflation continues to diminish living standards and erode financial security for millions. Unless timely and effective measures are implemented, the economic difficulties facing ordinary citizens may intensify further. The need of the hour is a coordinated effort among policymakers, economists, and relevant institutions to deliver meaningful relief, restore economic stability, and safeguard the welfare of the public.

Development Under Praja Palana Inspires Even Opposition MLAs to Display the Chief Minister's Portrait

Uppal Constituency Congress In-charge MANDUMULA PARAMESWAR REDDY “UPPAL, JULY 6 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “Uppal Constituency Congress In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Praja Palana government is ensuring that development and welfare schemes reach people from all sections of society, irrespective of political affiliation. He stated that development in Telangana has become synonymous with Revanth Reddy's leadership. “He remarked that the pace of development under the Congress government has impressed even opposition party MLAs, who are displaying the portrait of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He also alleged that during the ten-year BRS rule, both the public and even BRS legislators suffered due to the lack of development and effective implementation of welfare schemes. “Under the leadership of Beerappa Gadda Division President Aakiti Agam Reddy, retired teacher Kolluri Usharani, Gavvala Santosh Kumar, and several others from the division joined the Congress party in the presence of Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy. He welcomed them into the party by draping them with Congress scarves. “Parameshwar Reddy alleged that the previous BRS government falsely claimed to have sanctioned crores of rupees for the development of Uppal and Kapra lakes, but failed to remove even a basket of silt from any of them. He accused the previous administration of misusing the sanctioned funds without carrying out the promised works. “In contrast, he said that under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's government, more than ₹150 crore has been sanctioned for the development and beautification of lakes in the Uppal constituency. He noted that development and beautification works are progressing rapidly at the lakes and said this clearly demonstrates the difference between the BRS and Congress administrations. “Those



who joined the Congress party included Kolluri Usharani, Gavvala Santosh, and supporters of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Youth Association, including Renuka, Sandhya, Srilatha, Bhargavi, Bhavani, Kumari, Mounika, Gururaj, Chandu, Shyam, Durga Prasad, Vittal, Nursing, Vimal, Mukesh Yadav, Abhilash Yadav, Shiva, Sandeep Yadav, Akhil Yadav, Bunny, Pandu, Charan, Ajay, Bhanu, Dheeraj, Akhil, Prakash, Shiva Ram, and many others. “The programme was attended by senior Congress leaders Chen Reddy Raghupathi Reddy and Bazaru Jagannath Goud; Beerappa Gadda Division President Aakiti Agam Reddy; Chiluka Nagar Division President Nallavelli Mahender Mudiraj; Habsiguda Division President Kandi Shrayan Reddy; Uppal Division President Eega Anjaneyulu Mudiraj; A-Block Mahila Congress President Amareshwari; Mulakalapalli Rajesh Mudiraj, Manchala Raghu, SC Cell President Pastam Sriramulu, Sandeep, Bottu Rajesh, Amar, Israd, Toorpati Jangaiah, Narozu Radhakrishna, Edla Anjaiah, Pastam Shravan, Jahangir, Shobha Reddy, Jyothi, Rangamma, Satyam Sonu Goud, B.M. Kiran, Durga, and several Congress party workers.

Floral Tributes Paid to Babu Jagjivan Ram on His Death Anniversary



Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, July 6: “On the occasion of the death anniversary of Babu Jagjivan Ram, the renowned social reformer, freedom fighter, and former Deputy Prime Minister of India, Bandari Lakshma Reddy paid floral tributes to his statue at Meerpet Housing Board Colony. “The MLA, accompanied by former corporator Srinivas Reddy and Prabhudas, garlanded the statue of Babu Jagjivan Ram and paid homage to the legendary leader. “Addressing the gathering, the MLA said that Babu Jagjivan Ram's remarkable contribution to the upliftment and empowerment of marginalized communities would remain an unforgettable chapter in the nation's history. He noted that Jagjivan Ram's unwavering commitment to social justice, equality, democratic values, and public welfare continues to inspire generations. “He further stated that the invaluable services rendered by Babu Jagjivan Ram in nation-building and public service deserve to be remembered with the highest respect. Calling upon the people to follow the ideals and principles championed by the veteran leader, the MLA urged everyone to work towards building an inclusive and equitable society. “Former corporators, BRS Party leaders, party workers, and local residents participated in the tribute programme. Former Division President Karepe Praveen and several other party leaders were also present on the occasion.

End to the Pettandari system.. Struggle for the BC movement..



. MLC Teenmar Mallanna in Rajyadhikara Bhuvanagiri Sabha “(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. July 6):- The fight for Rajyadhikara has begun,” and the BC movement will surge, said MLC.. BC movement leader Teenmar Mallanna. MLC Teenmar Mallanna participated as the chief guest in the Rajyadhikara Bhuvanagiri Sabha. Speaking on the occasion, MLC Teenmar Mallanna said that the time has come to fight with the government for the rights of BCs, and that there is a need for every BC child to gird up his loins and move forward. He said that all BC children should “be ready,” and that fifty-nine Pettandari leaders will be given a political burial. “In Telangana, the surgical strike on the Pettandars has begun with the aim of state power, said MLC Teenmar Mallanna in the Rajyadhikari Samarabheri Sabha. People attended the meeting, which was filled with tears with the introduction of Telangana martyrs. The then former minister Konda Venkata Ranga Reddy prevented the BCs from getting the land that was due to them from 1955 to 57. He said that there is no reduction in the issue of aristocratic lands, and that votes are ours, seats are yours. The BC movement has begun, he warned, and Tasmas should be careful that the Pettandars system will not work anymore.

Food Safety Department cracks down on banned raw egg mayonnaise

Hyderabad: As part of implementing the ongoing ban on raw egg-based mayonnaise, the Telangana Food Safety Department conducted statewide raids, detected several violations and destroyed 10 kg of raw egg-based mayonnaise. The action comes in continuation of the State government's official notification issued on October 30, 2025, which enforces a complete prohibition on the production, storage and sale of mayonnaise prepared from raw eggs across Telangana for a period of one year.

During the special drive, enforcement officials fanned out across the State to inspect food establishments. A total of 131 food joints across the State were inspected, of which five establishments were found to be actively flouting the ban. The Food Safety teams seized and later destroyed 10 kg of raw egg-based and broken-egg mayonnaise on the spot. The department has also initiated adjudication proceedings against the five violating establishments.

Public Awareness Campaign on SIR Process in 23rd Division..



Campaigning with Traditional Drumbeats – Yelugam Leelavathi Satyanarayana “Warangal/Kothawada, July 6 (Indian Chronicle): A large-scale voter awareness program regarding the ‘Special Intensive Revision’ (SIR) process—initiated by the Election Commission of India and conducted under the directives of Minister Konda and his spouse—was held in the 23rd Division on Monday. The primary objective of the program was to create widespread awareness among the public about the SIR process.” Yelugam Leelavathi Satyanarayana, former Corporator of the 23rd Division, led the initiative. Participants toured the division’s main roads, colonies, and residential areas. Traditional

drums were used to capture public attention and explain the SIR process to voters. Locals were informed about voter registration, modification of details, deletion of names, and other matters related to the electoral roll; they were also urged to safeguard and exercise their democratic right to vote.” Speaking on the occasion, Yelugam Leelavathi Satyanarayana assured voters that there was no need to worry if they had doubts about the SIR process or faced difficulties in filling out the necessary forms. She announced that special staff had been appointed at her office to provide free assistance and guidance to voters. She urged all eligible voters to utilize this facility and ensure their voter details were correctly updated. Emphasizing that the right to vote is a valuable constitutional right, she urged every citizen to actively participate in the voter registration and revision process. This innovative awareness campaign, featuring traditional ‘Dappu’ drum performances, received a positive response from the local community.” Participants in the event included Bhaskarla Harikrishna Patel, Lakkarsu Megili, Nagavelli Raju, Rehana, committee member Adepu Srilatha, Sharada, Rama, Sarala, Uma, Subhadra, R. Subhadra, Razak, Vinay, and BLO Supervisor Pinninti Ashok Rao, alongside local leaders, party activists, public representatives, and a large number of local residents.

In Telangana state, Congress is not a party.. It has become a bicycle Congress party..



Revanth Reddy’s rule is in Chandrababu’s eyes.. How reasonable is it.... BRS state leaders Chintala Venkateswar Reddy ““It is regrettable that locals are not given a chance in the Yadadri Temple Board Committee members.... BRS state leaders Chintala Venkateswar Reddy ““We will fight until locals are given a chance in the Yadadri Temple Board Committee... Chintala Venkateswar Reddy ““(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. July 6):- BRS party state leaders Chintala Venkateswar Reddy expressed their concern that the state Chief Minister is continuing to rule in Telangana state with a camel-saddle attitude.. He has turned the Congress party into a bicycle Congress party, leaving aside the development of the state. It is a pleasure to form the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Trust Board Committee, but it is a pity that the locals are not given the opportunity to be members of the Trust Board. Are there any Congress MLAs, ministers, leaders or not in the district? Are they putting pressure on CM Revanth Reddy? BRS Party state leader Chintala Venkateswar Reddy said. Speaking to reporters on the occasion of setting up the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Trust Board, he said that under the leadership of the previous state Chief

Minister KCR, crores of rupees were spent for the development of the Sri Yadagiri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, and that thousands of devotees used to visit the temple at that time. He said that the then Chief Minister KCR got the credit of making the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Yadadri in Telangana district the second Tirupati. He said that since then, there has been no development and the development of the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple has been stunted. He questioned whether it was reasonable to form a temple trust board, but how reasonable was it not to provide a place in the committee to local candidates. He said that giving a chance to the locals to be members of the committees without giving a chance to the locals will hamper the development of the temple, and if the locals are given a chance to be members of the temple committee, the development of the Gutta temple will improve a lot. He said that what is the reason behind not providing a chance to the locals in the appointment of temple committee members, and he wanted the district Congress leaders, ministers and MLAs to answer this. In the past, in 2007-2009, when YS Rajasekhara Reddy was in power, when he was the Bhuvanagiri Congress Party in-charge, four seats in the Yadagirigutta temple committee were provided to locals, but now, without giving a chance to the locals, they are giving a chance to non-locals as committee members by their own decisions, Chintala Venkateswar Reddy questioned. Senior TRS state leaders Chintala Venkateswar Reddy warned the government that the state Chief Minister should think long and hard and provide opportunities to locals in the Yadadri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple Committee. Otherwise, they will protest on a large scale with dharnas. BRS leaders, activists and fans participated in this press conference.

Voter List Revision Process Must Be Completed Efficiently: MLA K.R. Nagaraju

Wardhannapet, July 6 (Indian Chronicle): “The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls undertaken by the Election Commission of India should be completed in a transparent and time-bound manner, said Wardhannapet MLA and retired IPS officer K.R. Nagaraju.” On Monday, he distributed kits to Booth Level Agents (BLAs) from Wardhannapet Municipality and the surrounding mandals at the Wardhannapet Camp Office. Later, while addressing a meeting of party in-charges, cluster in-charges, and unit in-charges from the municipality and mandals, he stressed the importance of carrying out the voter list revision process with complete transparency and efficiency.” He urged Booth Level Agents to create widespread public awareness and assist eligible voters in making necessary additions, corrections, and modifications to the electoral rolls. He also directed them to conduct door-to-door verification of voter details with utmost care, ensuring that the survey is carried out accurately without any errors. Emphasizing the importance of strengthening democracy, he called upon the officials and party workers to ensure that every eligible voter is included in the electoral rolls and that the revision process is completed responsibly.” The programme was attended by Municipal Chairman Palakurthi Sarangapani, Vice Chairman Netavath



Shibharani Rajender, Town President Eega Damodar, Mandal President Poshala Venkanna, Society Chairman Rajesh Khanna, Ainavolu Devasthanam Chairman Prabhakar Goud, former Mandal President Eddu Satyanarayana, former Block Congress President Abbidi Rajireddy, former Town President Mysa Suresh, senior leaders Mohammed Chotu, Sudheer Goud, Marupatla Sai, Keema Nayak, Rajitha Reddy, Thulla Ravi, along with councillors, sarpanches, mandal-level leaders, party workers, women representatives, and others.

Tributes Paid to Former Deputy Prime Minister Babu Jagjivan Ram on His Death Anniversary

“Khammam July 6 Indian Chronicle: “Floral tributes were paid to former Deputy Prime Minister of India and freedom fighter Babu Jagjivan Ram on the occasion of his 40th death anniversary at the Khammam District Congress Party office on Monday.” The programme was held under the leadership of DCC President Nuthi Satyanarayana Goud. State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao, along with SUDA Chairman Puvvalla Durgaprasad and former MLA Kondabala Koteswara Rao, garlanded the portrait of Babu Jagjivan Ram and paid homage to the veteran leader.” Speaking on the occasion, Rayala Nageswara Rao lauded the immense contributions of Babu Jagjivan Ram to the nation, particularly in the fields of agriculture and labour welfare. He described him as an ideal leader who fought for India’s independence and dedicated his life to social equality and justice.” He stated that the services rendered by Babu Jagjivan Ram would remain an inspiration for future generations and noted that governments continue to work towards the welfare and upliftment of Dalit communities that have historically faced social and



economic discrimination.” Among those who participated in the programme were RTA Member Gajjela Venkanna, Mahila Congress President Dobbala Soujanya, Kisan Con-

gress President Mokka Sekhar Goud, SC Cell President Boddu Bondayya, Syed Hussain, Ghouse, Kilaaru Anil, Bammidi Srinivas Yadav, Gajji Surya Narayana, Azgar, Srilatha, and several other Congress leaders and party activists.

Bike Hits Pedestrian, Followed by Stone Assault



Accused Remanded: CI Vishweshwar “Geesugonda, July 6 (Indian Chronicle) : A man accused of causing a road accident and subsequently assaulting the victim has been arrested and remanded to judicial custody, Geesugonda Police said.” According to CI

Vishweshwar, the incident occurred on May 21 when Balta Bucchibabu, a resident of Machapuram village in Geesugonda mandal, was returning home from a grocery store at around 7:00 p.m. On the Machapuram–Elukurthy road, Kambala Venkatesh (son of Kommaiah, a mason by profession), also a resident of the same village, allegedly rode his motorcycle at high speed and in a rash and negligent manner, hitting Bucchibabu.” When the victim questioned him about the accident, Venkatesh allegedly abused him in foul language and assaulted him by punching him on the back and shoulders. He then allegedly picked up a nearby stone and struck the victim on his left foot, causing serious bleeding injuries.” Based on the victim’s complaint, Geesugonda Police registered a case under the relevant provisions of law and launched an investigation. During the course of the investigation, the accused was arrested and produced before the court on Monday. The court remanded him to judicial custody, following which he was shifted to jail.” CI D. Vishweshwar warned that strict legal action would be taken against anyone who takes the law into their own hands and indulges in acts of violence or assault.

Telangana Movement Activists’ Delegation to Meet K.K. Committee on July 8



“Khammam , July 6 Indian Chronicle: “A delegation representing the Telangana Movement Activists’ Welfare Association is scheduled to meet the K.K. Committee on

July 8 at the Martyrs Memorial (Amaraveerula Jyothi) office in Hyderabad.” The meeting will focus on the welfare of student leaders who played a pivotal role in the second phase of the Telangana movement. The delegation, led by State Official Spokesperson Ponugoti Sampath, intends to submit formal recommendations to the state government to ensure the wellbeing of these activists.” Speaking on the agenda, Ponugoti Sampath emphasized that the government should prioritize those activists who were at the forefront of the movement and, as a consequence, faced criminal cases, were labeled as history-sheeters, and endured imprisonment.” The K.K. Committee, which has been consulting with student leaders from Osmania and Kakatiya Universities, is expected to finalize its report based on the inputs provided by this delegation. Several key leaders who were active in the second phase of the movement are expected to participate in the upcoming meeting.

Baboo Jagjivan Ram's Death Anniversary Observed Grandly at Habsiguda-



-Division President Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy Pays Floral Tributes “UPPAL, JULY 6 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The 40th death anniversary of freedom fighter, champion

of social justice, and former Deputy Prime Minister of India, Baboo Jagjivan Ram, was observed with great reverence at Habsiguda.” The programme was organized under the auspices of the Habsiguda Division Congress Committee. Division President Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy participated in the event and called upon people to carry forward the ideals of Baboo Jagjivan Ram, who dedicated his life to the upliftment of Dalits, backward communities, and the underprivileged.”

Speaking on the occasion, he praised Jagjivan Ram’s immense contribution towards the welfare of marginalized sections, social equality, and the protection of democratic values.” Later, floral tributes were paid to the statues of Baboo Jagjivan Ram and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at the Habsiguda Signal.” Among those who attended the programme were former Habsiguda Division President Gannaram Vijay Kumar, General Secretary Dharma Naik, Ramalayam Chairman Chintala Baburao, and leaders Murali Krishna Mudiraj, Gundu Rajanna, Raju Naik, Ganga Yadav, Lakshmi Narayana, Narsing Rao, Dharma Raju, Sai Kumar, Suman Naik, K. Shiva, Mahmood, Shiva, and others.

SIR Process Must Be Completed Transparently and Expeditiously

Pendem Srilakshmi Ramanand “Narsampet, July 6 (Indian Chronicle) : “Narsampet Municipal Chairperson Pendem Srilakshmi Ramanand instructed Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to ensure that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls is carried out in a systematic, transparent, and time-bound manner.” On Monday, as part of the SIR programme in Ward No. 25 of Narsampet Municipality, she distributed enumeration forms to voters and provided guidance to BLAs on the effective implementation of the voter list revision process.” Speaking on the occasion, she directed the BLAs to fill out the enumeration forms strictly in accordance with the Election Commission’s guidelines. She emphasized the need to accurately record voter details without errors, complete all necessary additions, deletions, and corrections on time, and extend full cooperation to every eligible voter to safeguard their voting rights.” She also called upon the BLAs to create awareness among voters through door-to-door visits and ensure the SIR process is completed efficiently and transparently. Stressing that an accurate electoral roll is the foundation of a strong democratic system, she urged them to discharge their responsibilities with dedication and accountability.” The programme was attended by former Market Committee Chairman Erra Yakoob Reddy, former MPTC Kata



Prabhakar, Society Director Keesari Venkateswarlu, former Block Congress President Bandi Ramesh, BLO Chintala Mounika, Congress leaders Keesari Narendra, Siluveru Kiran, Koluvula Venkateswarlu, Siluveru Ravinder, Chintala Karthik Reddy, Errabelli Ramesh, Keesari Rajeev, Gudikandula Sadanandam, Koluvula Gopi, Katoboyina Sambaiah, Merugu Kiran, Motla Lavanya, Mudraboyina Raju, Kata Akhil, Swamishetty Shekhar, Kata Rahul, Nallagonda Vamsi, Koluvula Elliah, Koluvula Swami, Gundu Raviraj, Banne Ganapathi, Gudikandula Seenu, Aparadhapu Sumalatha, Ande Vinod, and others.

Rare Surgery Successfully Performed at CARE Hospitals“

“Hyderabad, July 06 (Indian Chronicle): Doctors at CARE Hospitals successfully diagnosed and treated a rare hormonal disorder, Primary Hyperparathyroidism, in a 59-year-old woman who had initially visited the hospital with a suspected breast lump, according to a statement issued on Monday by CARE Hospitals Chief Operating Officer Abhinav Joshi. Speaking along with Senior Surgical Endocrinologist Dr. Sangeeta Jha, Joshi said that although the mammogram revealed no abnormalities in the breast, doctors identified a brown tumor near the third rib. Further investigations confirmed the presence of an adenoma in the left lower parathyroid gland. The medical team subsequently removed the affected gland through surgery, following which the patient recovered successfully, he said. Dr. Jha explained that Primary Hyperparathyroidism is often a ‘silent disease’ that may remain undetected due to the absence of symptoms. She noted that early diagnosis can help prevent serious bone-related complications. The hospital stated that the disease was identified and treated in a timely manner through the coordinated efforts of the radiology, endocrinology, surgery, and laboratory departments.



Pranay Bhaskar Lives Forever in People's Hearts...Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar



“Hanumakonda, July 6 (Indian Chronicle) : Several memorial and service programmes were organised in Hanumakonda on Monday to mark the birth and death anniversary of former Minister, Telangana movement leader, and former MLA Dasyam Pranay Bhaskar. Former Government Chief Whip and former MLA Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar participated in the events and paid floral tributes to Pranay Bhaskar's portrait. “The programme commenced at the BRS Hanumakonda District Party Office in Balasamudram, where Vinay Bhaskar offered floral tributes and reaffirmed the party's commitment to carrying forward the ideals and vision of Pranay Bhaskar. “He later participated in commemorative programmes held at Pranay Bhaskar's residence in Vaddepalli, near Kumarpally Market in Hanumakonda, the Leprosy Colony near Padmakshamma Gutta, House of Joy near Fatimanagar, Pranay Marg at Vaddepalli Junction, and Pranay Park in Vaddepalli. Floral tributes were paid at various locations, while fruits and food items were distributed as part of the service activities. “Addressing the gathering, Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar described Pranay Bhaskar as a people's leader



who dedicated his life to resolving public issues. He said Pranay Bhaskar would always be remembered as the beloved son of Warangal who forcefully voiced the aspirations of the people of Telangana in the State Assembly. “Vinay Bhaskar stated that during a period marked by restrictions and suppression of the Telangana movement, Pranay Bhaskar fearlessly raised his voice for the cause of a separate Telangana State. He recalled that K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), the first Chief Minister of Telangana who led the second phase of the statehood movement to success, had also praised Pranay Bhaskar's invaluable contributions on several occasions. “He affirmed that their journey to realise the ideals of Pranay Bhaskar would continue and said that, following the path shown by him, they too never hesitated to resign and participate in the movement for achieving a separate Telangana. “Recalling Pranay Bhaskar's significant contribution to the development of the undivided Warangal district, Vinay Bhaskar said they remain committed to serving the people of Telangana and the undivided Warangal district with dedication and accessibility at all times.

Fulfilling Promises Made to the People Is Our Goal Ready for a Debate on Development Anywhere

Nayini Rajender Reddy “-----MLA Lays Foundation Stone for 770 Lakh Development Works “Hanumakonda, July 6 (Indian Chronicle): “Warangal West MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy on Monday laid the foundation stone for internal CC roads and CC drainage works worth approximately 770 lakh in Dattakshetram and Kapuwada areas of the 11th Division under the Warangal West Assembly constituency. Local residents, public representatives, and officials attended the programme. “Addressing the media later, the MLA said that fulfilling the promises made to the people remains the primary objective of the government. He stated that priority is being given to the construction of roads, drainage systems, and other basic infrastructure in every division based on public needs. He directed officials to ensure that the ongoing works are completed within the stipulated time frame while maintaining quality standards. “He said the development works are being executed with scientific planning to prevent the wastage of public funds. Roads and CC drainage works are being taken up first in areas not affected by underground drainage projects, while development works are being implemented in A and B categories based on local requirements. “Responding to former Minister K. T. Rama Rao's (KTR) recent visit to the Kaleshwaram Project, the MLA alleged that the project cost had increased drastically in the name of redesign. He said the previous government must answer the people of Telangana, particularly those of the Warangal district, regarding the deficiencies in the execution of the project. “He also alleged that the previous government had failed to provide adequate relief to people during floods, whereas after assuming office, the Congress government extended immediate financial assistance of 715,000 and 6 kg of ration to each affected family. He said standing by people during difficult times is the government's responsibility. “The MLA stated that development funds ranging from 710 crore to 720 crore had been allocated to each division in the Warangal West constituency over the past three years. He said roads, drainage systems, and other civic infrastructure works are currently progressing in every colony and street. He asserted that his politics is not limited to elections, but is



centred on remaining among the people and resolving their problems throughout the year. “Rejecting the allegations made by the Opposition regarding the recent land auction in Hanumakonda, Nayini Rajender Reddy said the claims that government land was sold below market value were completely baseless. He maintained that the auction was conducted transparently to maximise revenue for the government and challenged Opposition leaders to participate in such auctions if they genuinely believed land was being sold at undervalued prices. “

He further stated that those who should explain the allotment, encroachment, and alleged misuse of government lands during the previous regime were now making unfounded allegations. He clarified that the land auction was conducted to mobilise funds for key infrastructure projects such as the Hanumakonda Bus Stand and Stadium. “Reiterating that development, not personal criticism, is the foundation of his politics, the MLA said Warangal has received unprecedented development funds over the past three years. He challenged Opposition leaders to an open public debate on development and expressed his readiness to present facts before the people regarding the progress achieved in Warangal. “The programme was attended by local public representatives, former public representatives, party leaders, activists, government officials, and residents of the surrounding localities.

Work Towards Realising the Ideals of Babu Jagjivan Ram:



Dr. Perumandla Ramakrishna, Boddireddy Prabhakar Reddy “Hanumakonda, July 6 (Indian Chronicle): “Floral tributes were paid on Monday at the Hanumakonda District Congress Committee (DCC) office to mark the 40th death anniversary of former Deputy Prime Minister, freedom fighter, champion of social justice, and icon of Dalit self-respect, Babu Jagjivan Ram. The programme was organised under the directions of DCC President and Warangal KUDA Chairman Inagala Venkatram Reddy, with Congress leaders paying homage by garlanding his portrait. “Speaking on the occasion, senior Congress leader Dr. Perumandla Ramakrishna said that Babu Jagjivan Ram was not merely a political leader but a timeless symbol of the struggle for the dignity and empowerment of the oppressed sections of society. He praised him as a great statesman who demonstrated that political empowerment was essential for Dalits, the weaker sections, farmers, and labourers to enjoy equal rights and live with dignity. “He noted that Babu Jagjivan Ram made remarkable contributions at every stage, from India's freedom movement to nation-building, and dedicated every responsibility he held as Union Minister and Deputy Prime Minister to the welfare of the people. He said Jagjivan Ram devoted his life to ensuring education, employment opportunities, political representation, and social dignity for Dalits and other marginalized communities. “Dr. Ramakrishna further observed that at a time when constitutional values and social justice were facing growing challenges, the ideals of Babu Jagjivan Ram had become even more relevant. Protecting his ideals, he said, meant safeguarding the Constitution, social justice, and the dignity of the weaker sections. “Addressing the

gathering, Boddireddy Prabhakar Reddy said the Congress Party remains committed to building a society founded on the constitutional values of equality, fraternity, and justice. He stated that Babu Jagjivan Ram's death anniversary should not merely be an occasion to pay tribute, but a day to renew the commitment to fulfilling his ideals. “The programme was attended by Mahila Congress President Banka Sarala, SC Cell President Aruri Sambaiiah, Thallapalli Ravinder, Swetha, Sudhakar, Vinod, Manohar, Jaffer, Prashanth, Gandhi, and several other Congress leaders and party workers.

Quantum Energy-Hero FinCorp Partnership to Make Electric Scooter Purchases Easier

“Hyderabad, July 06 (Indian Chronicle) : Electric scooter manufacturer Quantum Energy has entered into a strategic partnership with leading NBFC Hero FinCorp, according to a statement released in the city on Monday by Quantum Energy Managing Director Chakravarthi Chukkappalli. Speaking alongside Hero FinCorp Managing Director and CEO Abhimanyu Munjal, Chukkappalli said the partnership would make the purchase of electric scooters more convenient for customers through instant EMI calculations, a fully digital loan process, competitive interest rates, and flexible repayment options. He stated that the collaboration aims to make electric mobility more accessible to a wider section of consumers. The initiative is expected to encourage greater adoption of electric vehicles in India by providing fast, transparent, and customer-friendly financing solutions.

Grand Tribute Paid to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on His Birth Anniversary at Uppal BJP Office

“UPPAL, JULY 6 (INDIAN CHRONICLE) : The birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, eminent nationalist, distinguished educationist, and patriot, was observed with great reverence at the BJP Uppal Division Office on Monday. “The programme was held under the chairmanship of Uppal BJP Division President Marneni Phanindra. BJP State Official Spokesperson Tadoori Srinivas attended as the chief guest and paid floral tributes to the portrait of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by senior BJP leader Dharma Reddy. “Speaking on the occasion, several leaders recalled Dr. Mookerjee's invaluable contributions towards national integration and nationalism. They urged party workers to follow his ideals and dedicate themselves to the service of society. “The programme was attended by Uppal Division General Secretary Theega Vittal Rao Mudiraj; Vice President Koneti Anji Reddy; senior leaders Choleti Brahmachari, Shamirpet Hanumanth Reddy, Eega Laxman, and Thallapalli Srinivas Goud; Mahila Morcha President Maddela Padma; OBC Morcha President Amarender; Yuva Morcha President Adepu Ramesh; Dalit Morcha President Bhaja



Jayaram; Girijan Morcha President Banoth Raju Naik; Venkat Sai Mudiraj, Narasimha Goud, Guruvayya, Mamatha, Nishanth, along with booth presidents, party leaders, and a large number of party workers, who paid rich tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

At the conclusion of the programme, Uppal BJP Division President Marneni Phanindra expressed his gratitude to all the party workers and leaders who contributed to the successful conduct of the event.

Former Chilukanagar Division Congress President Mulakalapalli Rajesh Mudiraj Pays Tribute to Babu Jagjivan Ram

“UPPAL, JULY 6 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): On the occasion of the death anniversary of freedom fighter and renowned social reformer Babu Jagjivan Ram, commemorative events were held in the Chilukanagar area. Former United Chilukanagar Division Congress Party President Mulakalapalli Rajesh Mudiraj attended the programme as the chief guest. “On the occasion, he garlanded the statue of Babu Jagjivan Ram and paid floral tributes. Speaking at the event, Rajesh Mudiraj described Babu Jagjivan Ram as a great social reformer who dedicated his life to the upliftment of the poor, downtrodden, and weaker sections of society. He praised his invaluable contribution to nation-building and noted that Jagjivan Ram became a minister at a young age, shouldering several key responsibilities in the country's development. He further said that Babu Jagjivan Ram served as a Member of Parliament for nearly 40 years and held several important Cabinet portfolios, leaving behind a remarkable legacy in Indian politics. The programme was attended by Chilukanagar Division Congress President Nallavelli Mahender Mudiraj, Working President Manchala Raghu, BC Cell President Dandagula Shankar, senior Congress leaders Amar and David, along with representatives of Scheduled Caste organizations.



Work..Be organized.. Babu Jagjivan Ram's slogan should be followed by today's youth:



- Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar “Babu Jagjivan Ram's death anniversary celebrated in Bhuvanagiri... Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar “(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. July 6):- Bhuvanagiri The death anniversary of former Deputy Prime Minister Babu Jagjivan Ram, an address for social justice in Indian politics, was celebrated in Bhuvanagiri town. Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar garlanded



the statue of Jagjivan Ram in the town and paid tributes. Speaking on the occasion, she said, "Babu Jagjivan Ram worked tirelessly for the welfare of farmers, workers, Dalits and weaker sections in his 50-year political career. His slogan of 'Work...Stay organized...' is still inspiring everyone today. Continuing his ideals is the true tribute we pay to him." PC Delegate Thangallapalli Ravikumar, leaders of Dalit associations, senior leaders and activists participated in this program in large numbers and paid tribute to Jagjivan Ram by garlanding his statue.

AITUC continues to fight for labor rights..AITUC agenda to support workers

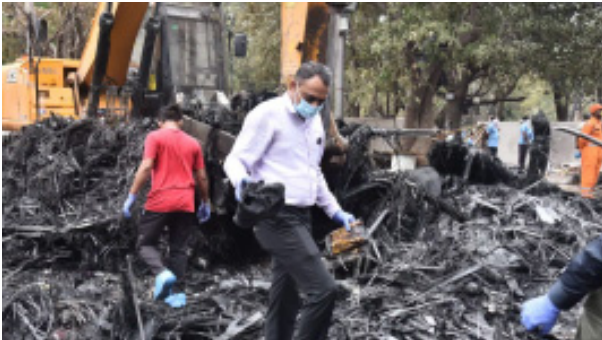


-AITUC District General Secretary MD Imran “(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. July 6):- AITUC District General Secretary MD Imran said that AITUC will continue to fight relentlessly for the protection of labor rights. Speaking as the chief guest at the 5th AITUC Bhuvanagiri Mandal General Conference held at Raghavendra Convention Hall in Bhuvanagiri town on Monday, Imran said that labor exploitation will increase in the wake of the changed labor laws due to the adoption of anti-labor policies by the central government. He alleged that the ruling classes have become a pawn of corporate powers and the rights that were achieved after fighting for many decades have now disappeared and are trapped in the clutches of the Modi government. He expressed his concern that labor rights are being taken away under the NDA rule. He said that in the name of amending labor laws, workers have become slaves under the management. He said that Modi knows nothing about labor welfare except the protection of corporates. He said that the time has come for workers working in organized and unorganized sectors to fight for their rights. He said that globalization, communalism, and the amendment of labor laws will now be implemented very quickly by this government, and the working class should be prepared for militant struggles to resist this. He said that the amendment of 44 labor laws and bringing them into four labor codes has become a curse for the workers. He said that the rulers are not giving benefits to the workers but to the management and are failing to pay them due wages. He said that in the past, since the labor laws



were very strict, if not due wages for the labor, then at least half the wages were paid, but now that situation is not there. He said that the rulers who should look after the welfare of the workers are looking after the welfare of the management and are announcing subsidies worth thousands of crores to the management, but the governments are not thinking about the workers. He called for a struggle against the anti-people policies of the workers being followed by the rulers. He expressed his concern that the rulers have failed to control the skyrocketing prices of essential commodities and that the workers and middle class are facing severe difficulties due to the increase in prices. He urged the government to abolish the contract outsourcing system. He urged the state government to implement the promises made to the workers before the last elections. He said that the workers should be prepared for struggles against the problems faced by them. He said that the poor middle class is facing severe difficulties due to the increase in the prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas. He demanded that the minimum wage be Rs. 26,000 for each worker and that a welfare board be set up for auto and porter workers. The conference, chaired by Samala Shobhan Babu, was attended by AITUC District Assistant Secretary Ganaboyana Venkatesh, District Committee Member Samala Bhaskar, CPI Town Secretary Putta Ramesh, Assistant Secretary Chintala Mallesh, AITUC leaders Mumtaz Begum, Palle Srinivas, Pinnam Jagan, Gurralla Srinivas, Matta Kumar, Kotha Krishna, Danturi Gyaneshwar, Rasala Bhaskar, Mudigonda Basavayya, Kolipaka , Khaili, Kishan and others.

‘There were bodies everywhere’: First responders recall AI171 crash



GNS News Agency, June 6

Among the many rescuers who worked round the clock after last year’s Air India A-1 171 crash, at least three responders found themselves confronting a tragedy that echoed with the experiences of their close family members.Ahmedabad Fire and Emergency Services divisional officer Kaizad Dastoor, police inspector DB Basiya, and GVK-EMRI Emergency Ambulance Service supervisor Satinder Singh Sandhu had mere seconds to process the scale of the tragedy, which claimed 260 lives, before leading their personnel into a crisis the likes of which the city had last seen over three decades ago.Sandhu, 45, manages 20 ambulances for GVK-EMRI, a not-for-profit, in the city. On June 12 last year, while still at lunch at his workplace, the 1,200-bed Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, he heard an explosion and rushed out of the building to see fire and smoke engulfing the skies, barely 200 metres away.Inspector Basiya had just completed a monthly crime conference meeting at the city Police Commissioner’s office. He and sub-inspector R M Chavda were headed to Meghaninagar police station when both of their phones kept ringing incessantly. On the other end were their colleagues who witnessed the massive explosion from the police station’s terrace.Dastoor, divisional fire officer, was in his office at the Navrangpura fire station when he got the call.

However, none of them believed that a passenger aircraft could crash in the middle of Ahmedabad. Such a thing had not happened since 1988, when Indian Airlines Flight 113 crashed into the still under-construction Kotarpur Water Works while approaching the city airport on October 19, 1988, killing 133 of the 135 people on board.Inspector DB Basiya, former Station House Officer (SHO) Meghaninagar police station, and in-charge of crash site. Inspector DB Basiya, former Station House Officer (SHO) Meghaninagar police station, and in-charge of crash site.

Beyond beliefSandhu, who hails from Punjab, was the “very first responder” because of his proximity to the crash site. He was also the one who noticed Vishwas Kumar Ramesh, the lone survivor from the aircraft, walking out of the IGP compound “in a daze”. Sandhu claimed to have stopped him from going back to the burning aircraft and then dispatched Ramesh to a hospital.On the day of the incident, my family was on a train to Gujarat from Punjab. They wanted to visit me for summer vacation. I called my wife and told her not to worry and that I would call her back later. I managed to do so only around 5 am on June 13 (the day after the incident). My family reached Ahmedabad around 3 pm that day. They were in disbelief about what had happened. It was only later that I realised that the man (Vishwas Kumar Ramesh) I had literally forced into an ambulance was the only survivor of the plane crash.”

As his driver took a turn from the SRPF Ghoda Camp, the first thing Basiya saw was the right wing of the Boeing 787-8 embedded in the compound wall of the National Institute of Occupational Health (ICMR-NIOH). “After taking a turn around the corner of the hostel compound, we saw the right wing (of the plane) on the road. It was burning, and next to it was a body so severely charred...unrecognisable.”As the station house officer (SHO) of the jurisdictional police station, Basiya took control of the crash site, requested reinforcements, and enforced a perimeter and a green corridor. Senior officials, including then city Police Commissioner and now DGP G S Malik, also reached the site.Dastoor and other firefighters could reach the spot around 20 minutes after the crash. A crowd that had gathered at the site meant it was difficult for the large firetrucks to navigate to the site.Dastoor led one of the teams into the hostel buildings to rescue several doctors and medical students caught in the disaster. “The fire was so massive and intense. You couldn’t see anything beyond. It was only after some of it had been doused that the scale of the tragedy became apparent by the size of the debris field,” he said.Kaizad Dastoor, Divisional Officer, Ahmedabad Fire and Emergency Services (AFES), who led a team into the hostel buildings to rescue people. Kaizad Dastoor, Divisional Officer, Ahmedabad Fire and Emergency Services (AFES), who led a team into the hostel buildings to rescue people.

“My son Rajat was then a second-year MBBS student at BJ Medical College. His lunch timing at the mess was between 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm,” said Inspector Basiya. The aircraft crashed into the college’s hostel buildings at 1:38 pm. It was then that PSI Chavda told Basiya that the mess hall that had the aircraft’s tail embedded in it was where Rajat would have gone for lunch.“While leaving for work around 7 am (on June 12), I casually remarked to Rajat about his education and why he had been at home for two days and not in his hostel. He told me that his exams were beginning on June 16 and that he would go back to the hostel later that day. That conversation hit me when PSI Chavda told me that Rajat usually dines at the same mess. And my heart skipped a beat. It was I who had told him that he should go back to his hostel.”“But the terrifying possibility truly hit me when I called my wife. The implications of Rajat being at the hostel that was completely on fire came rushing at the same time. So, I cut the call to my wife, and dialled Rajat instead,” said Basiya.Time seemed to slow down for the inspector as he described, in vivid detail, what happened then. “Rajat picked up the call at the tenth ring, and, from his voice, it didn’t feel like he was in danger. He told me he was still at home and was just leaving for the hostel. I asked him to stay put and called my wife again to confirm that he was at home. Once she confirmed it, I told her to ensure that he remained there.”Rajat lost several of his friends to the tragedy. A year after the incident, the father and son are still trying to move on from the shock.Inspector Basiya is also connected to another mass casualty event. His younger brother, ACP BB Basiya, who is posted in the Detection of Crime Branch (DCB) of Rajkot City Police, investigated the TRP Game Zone Fire in Rajkot on May 25, 2024, which claimed 27 lives.

The annals of another tragedy“Is it wrong to say that I was somewhat prepared for what I was to experience at the crash site?” asked Kaizad Dastoor, who grew up hearing about major disasters, one of which was similar to the one he faced on June 12.Kaizad comes from a family of firefighters. Both his father MF Dastoor and grandfather FA Dastoor have served as chief fire officers of Ahmedabad City. Both men were among the first responders at the time of the 1988 plane crash, with the elder Dastoor leading the operations as CFO when the younger Dastoor was a new

recruit.“My grandfather told me about the 1988 crash before I went to college. My father told me about it when I was training for my sub-officer’s course in 2014. The training of our batch was conducted at the Kotarpur Water Works, the site of the 1988 crash. There is a memorial there (at Kotarpur), and we used to take a tour of the premises, and that is how we struck up the conversation about the previous plane crash. Some veteran firefighters also told us about the 1988 incident. We also studied about aircraft rescue in the course. I had never thought that I would be using that education one day.”

After his retirement as the CFO of Ahmedabad City, MF Dastoor currently serves as the director of Fire and Emergency Services in the Union Territory of Daman. He visited the crash site with a delegation of officials as several residents of the UT were among those who lost their lives that day.Satinder Singh Sandhu, Supervisor of GVK-EMRI Emergency Ambulance Service, the very first responder at the crash site who rescued the only survivor from the plane. Satinder Singh Sandhu, Supervisor of GVK-EMRI Emergency Ambulance Service, the very first responder at the crash site who rescued the only survivor from the plane.Wounds of a war

Sandhu’s father, Kashmir Singh Sandhu, who joined the Indian Army in 1969, is a veteran of the 1971 India-Pakistan war. He suffered an injury due to electrocution while patrolling in the Rajasthan sector. He saw many people die during the conflict and carries the wounds of the war to this day.“I discussed the incident with him (his father) three months after the crash when I went home. I have also discussed it with my wife and children, who had, anyway, seen a lot about it on social media already.”“I have never seen anything like the 2025 plane crash. I still think about how it might have happened whenever I pass through there (the crash site), which is almost every single day. I still visualise what happened that day. [The memories] are as if it happened yesterday,” said Sandhu, whose office is still where it was at the time of the crash, metres away from the burnt buildings.

The aftermath“I think about how many more people could have died if the plane had crashed moments later. It could have crashed into the hospital, and I wouldn’t be standing here today. While I understand that thinking about the situation in retrospect is not helpful because there was nothing more we could have done there, these recollections also bring a sense of what we could have done differently in the moment. The explosion and the fire left us with no scope to do anything more than what we did that day,” said Sandhu.Dastoor said he had not discussed the tribulations of the crash site with anyone except his father and felt that the hardest part of it all was not the firefighting and rescue, but a feeling of helplessness when approached by a family member who had lost a loved one. “The hardest part for me was when family members asked for help in finding their relatives. But what could one do? Most of us were helpless because the bodies could not be identified.”

Basiya said that after confirming that his son was safe, he wasn’t able to speak to his family for nearly 72 hours and met them only when he went home after a week. “After a couple of days, my son came to the police station. I was so busy at the crash site that I told him that I would call back later. Later that day, after 72 hours since I last called my family, I finally spoke to them over a video call and assured them that I was alright.”Basiya said that initially, he did not speak to anyone about the incident except police officers, mediapersons and officials from other government departments. His friends and relatives understood the situation and refrained from bothering him about it.However, Basiya said he does think back sometimes. “I wonder if the plane had remained in the air for some more time, maybe it wouldn’t have crashed. I also sometimes shudder to think about what might have happened if the plane had crashed into a populated residential area...”Echoing the feelings of several first responders The Indian Express has spoken to since the day of the plane crash, Kaizad Dastoor said, “We are used to tragic incidents. We cannot let ourselves be affected by every tragedy or quantify which one is greater than the other. Our duty is to save as many people as possible, and the practical way to do so is to get on with the job. People often ask about what happened that day, but I don’t like to talk about it. It is better instead to learn from this incident and prepare for the next one, which hopefully never comes.”“In my line of work, we go to sites of fatal accidents, crimes, gas leaks and industrial accidents, but when I first saw the [AI 171] crash site...the scale of casualty was incomprehensible. It took us some time to gather our thoughts before we could get to work,” said P D Chaudhari, assistant director of Chemistry Division at FSL Ahmedabad, who led his team of six forensic experts at the crash site.

Chaudhari was at the FSL office, a couple of hundred metres away from the BJMC’s Atulyam hostel campus in Asarva, when he heard the explosion after the crash.And yet, his job did not begin until around two hours after the firefighters had doused the blaze from aviation turbine fuel burning at “700 degrees Celsius.”“I made a quick call to my family to tell them I was safe and that we wouldn’t be able to talk for the rest of the day. But since our office was very near the crash site, we were getting calls from other people worried about us.”“Our first task was to ensure the identification of disaster victims; the second was to gather evidence related to the cause of the incident,” said the senior forensics official.On the DNA profiling process and setting up the procedural chain, Chaudhari said: “Three sites were set up for DNA profiling. While the Directorate of Forensic Science (DFS) and Centre of Excellence in DNA Analysis at the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), both of which are in Gandhinagar, extracted and analysed DNA samples from the recovered bodies,

Ahmedabad FSL’s DNA lab—which had become functional only months ago in March—analysed the blood samples of relatives.”The relatives’ blood samples were taken at the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital’s Kasauti Bhavan and sent to the FSL Ahmedabad office. The autopsies, dental examination, and DNA sample collection from victims began around 6 pm on June 12 and were mostly completed by 4:30 am on June 13. The samples were then dispatched to the DFS and NFSU in Gandhinagar.

The 260th victim was identified as Anil Lalji Khimani, a resident of Bhuj, Kutch, on June 27. His body was handed over to his family on June 29.When asked about the FSL’s primary investigation of the case before it was taken over by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), Chaudhari said, “After the human remains were sent to the hospital, we focused on finding the cause of the incident. On June 13, we checked whether there was any other substance apart from aviation turbine fuel present at the site. We also gathered evidence to check whether any explosive material had been used. We then filed a report with the investigation officer.”“Before we moved on to recover the two black boxes, the AAIB team took over the investigation.”Looking back at the situation a year ago and the psychological impact the tragedy had on him, Chaudhari said, “Every day, so many flights fly over our office... But I notice all of them now.”Histories of their own

How low pressure, ageing pipes, and leaks contaminate Delhi’s water



GNS News Agency, June 6

Delhi’s recurring water contamination episodes highlight the limits of relying on emergency repairs and tanker supply. Experts say the city needs to shift from responding to breakdowns to preventing them — through real-time monitoring, updated maps of underground networks, routine water testing and planned replacement of ageing pipelines.Without these changes, problems may remain undetected until residents begin reporting foul smells, illness or dirty water.First, there must be a pollution source close to a drinking water line — such as a leaking sewer, overflowing drain, polluted groundwater, sewage-laden stormwater, construction waste or stagnant contaminated water around the pipe.

Second, there must be a pathway for entry: a corroded pipe, damaged joint, leaking valve, weak ferrule, abandoned pipeline, cross-connection or poor repair.’Black like sewage’: Why South Delhi’s affluent neighbourhoods are struggling for clean water Maintenance work underway in Hauz Khas in New Delhi on Saturday.Third, there is often a hydraulic trigger — low pressure, back-suction or flow reversal. Household pumps and borewells can worsen the problem. In low-pressure areas, residents often use motors to draw water from the line. If pressure inside the main drops,

GNS News Agency, June 6

Responding to recent water contamination complaints in several South Delhi colonies, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) officials said field teams are deployed to inspect affected areas, collect samples and carry out corrective measures. A senior official attributed most localised incidents to ageing infrastructure and operational stress during the summer months.A senior official said rapid population growth, rising demand and uneven consumption patterns had placed increasing pressure on Delhi’s water network.

This summer, reduced output at major water treatment plants (WTPs) created supply shortfalls of 40–100 MGD on many days, even as peak demand crossed 1,200 MGD. Officials said efforts were made to secure additional water from Haryana, while water levels at the Wazirabad pond — which stores Yamuna water before treatment — fell below the 674.5-foot level required for normal plant operations.’Black like sewage’: Why South Delhi’s affluent neighbourhoods are struggling for clean water A resident of Hauz Khas shows his water tank. (

“Out of Delhi’s 16,634-km water distribution network,

GNS News Agency, June 6

Despite multiple directions from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) since 2018, the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) has yet to map, ground-truth and demarcate Natural Conservation Zones (NCZs) in the draft Regional Plan 2041, scheduled to be considered for approval at the Board’s next meeting on June 16.The NCRPB has overlooked repeated reminders from the Environment Ministry and the Delhi government to include comparative data on land-use changes between the regional plans (RPs) of 2021 and 2041.

Ground-truthing is the process of verifying whether land use and land cover indicated by satellite imagery accurately reflect actual conditions on the ground. In a series of orders between 2018 and 2022, aimed at protecting NCZs and preventing shrinkage, the NGT sought comparative mapping at a scale of 1:50,000 to verify changes between 1999 and 2019 — and for a finer assessment of present land use at 1:10,000 scale or closer using satellite imagery from 2021-22 or later. The separate exercises were required because higher-resolution imagery from 1999 — the base year for RP-2021 — was not available with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC). “The classification scheme of the mapping should be selected in a manner that Natural Conservation Areas are explicitly mapped. Due emphasis should be placed on ground truthing,” the Tribunal ordered in September 2020.Six years on, the revised draft RP-2041 relied on ISRO’s Bhuvan geoportol for “the existing broad land use analysis” based on satellite imagery from 2015-16. There are still no details on NCZs in terms of area, co-ordinates or encroachments, nor any mention of commissioning mapping work using more recent, finer-resolution imagery.In April 2022, the NGT reiterated that violations, including “shrinkage of the Aravallis” and other NCZs, noticed on lower-resolution images were not to be ignored. “Once violations have been identified, then with the use of high-resolution maps... violators can be identified and action initiated as per law,” the order said.

Yet, the revised draft RP-2041, which is up for approval this week, offers only broad guidelines and a low-resolution “tentative map” of NCZ areas, saying the “extent of natural features under NCZ will be identified, ascertained and delineated by the NCR participating States in accordance with above definition using ground truthing and revenue records, etc”.This echoes the NCRPB’s September 2019 position that Regional Plan “may have schematic maps presenting the broad policies...and detailing of the maps at the scale of 1:10,000 and below along with ground truthing and detailed planning may be left to the states”.In 2012, the NCRPB asked the four NCR states — Delhi, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan — to explain the loss of an estimated 1,014 sq km of NCZ areas. Seven years later, the NGT observed in November 2019: “The plea of the concerned States is that ground truthing has yet to be done. Such exercise cannot be unending.”

The decade-long pendency of field verification and demarcation of Natural Conservation Zones affects planning and policy-making. The absence of clearly marked boundaries also makes it difficult to identify violations of land use and enforce accountability.

When contacted, NCRPB member secretary Gulzar

those pumps can pull contaminated water through weak points in the network. Similar risks have been flagged in WHO guidelines and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs water-supply manuals.Dr Fawzia Tarannum, a water governance and sustainability expert and assistant professor at TERI, said water and sewer pipelines often run side by side.“If there is a burst in the pipeline or some compromise or breach in the sewer line, and the water line is not 24×7 pressurised, contamination can enter en-route,” she said. Continuous pressure, she added, largely prevents this.She said the contamination episodes must also be viewed alongside Delhi’s growing demand, rising density and ageing distribution network. As colonies add floors and commercial activity expands, the same water and sewer lines are carrying heavier loads.“There is a crisis of water,” she said, adding that nearly 40% of supplied water is lost as non-revenue water.“If they can plug these leaks...”Reducing losses, she argued, would improve both availability and pressure. In better-managed systems internationally, such losses are often closer to 5–10%, while higher levels point to deeper inefficiencies.’Black like sewage’: Why South Delhi’s affluent neighbourhoods are struggling for clean water A newly installed water analyser. The solution, Tarannum said, lies in shifting from complaint-based detection to real-time monitoring.

“IoT-based sensors are available. If there is any drop in pressure... the officials could know,” she said.She said water distribution should be integrated with Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems, which are already used in sectors such as energy transmission.“If the entire network is connected to a SCADA system, sitting in an office, remotely you can monitor what is happening on the ground,” she said.Such systems, she added, must be supported by accurate digital maps of water pipelines, sewer lines and vulnerable points.If ageing pipelines are replaced without parallel investment in monitoring and mapping, she said, the city risks carrying old weaknesses into new infrastructure.

nearly 5,500 km of pipelines are more than 30 years old and about 3,000 km are 25–30 years old. These ageing lines are prone to leakages and contamination. Huge quantities of treated water are lost before reaching consumers,” Delhi Water Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh told reporters earlier this June.“Replacing old pipelines, reducing leakages, modernising distribution systems and strengthening water infrastructure are essential if Delhi has to become water secure,” he said, adding that the work was being prioritised.’Black like sewage’: Why South Delhi’s affluent neighbourhoods are struggling for clean water Maintenance work underway in Hauz Khas in New Delhi on Saturday. (Express photo by Praveen Khanna)Officials said long-term measures include phased pipeline replacement, desilting and network upgrades to reduce losses and maintain stable pressure.In early June 2026, DJB also announced a water rationalisation initiative after an internal survey found significant disparities across Delhi’s 70 Assembly constituencies. Officials said the exercise would assess population density, demand, supply and infrastructure before corrective measures are implemented.

The NCRPB has overlooked repeated reminders from the Environment Ministry and the Delhi government to include comparative data on land-use changes between the regional plans (RPs) of 2021 and 2041.

Natarajan said: “We had meetings with the Environment Ministry. I am not aware of anything pending as of now.” He did not respond to a query on whether the NCRPB could identify NCZ violations if boundaries were delineated by states without a central mapping exercise by an expert agency, such as the NRSC.In July 2022, the Delhi government pointed out to the NCRPB that a “clear comparison of change of land use in the last two decades has not been provided” in the draft RP-2041.

“In comparison, the earlier Regional Plan 2021 had provided a clear change in land use map from the 1980s to 1999 using satellite analysis,” it wrote, adding that the omission also violated NGT orders. The same month, the Environment Ministry reminded the NCRPB of various NGT orders requiring mapping for different time periods to ensure conservation of NCZs.

“The request made by this Ministry in previous communications to NCRPB for compliance with the said orders may also be kept in view,” the ministry wrote.In response to both, the NCRPB noted “the matter has been discussed at senior levels of the Government of India and further action is proposed accordingly in the draft final revised Regional Plan 2041”.

However, the draft final revised RP-2041 still lacks comparable data to identify land-use changes between 1999 and 2019. “Since RP-2021 was released, the NCR area has increased by more than 60% from 34,144 sq km to 55,144 sq km. So unless specific area-for-area data is provided, it is not possible to assess land-use changes from state-level data,” said a former Environment Ministry official.Records show the NRSC had submitted a proposal in September 2020 to complete the mapping work in 12 months for “an estimated cost of Rs 1.86 crore”. The NCRPB refused to provide budgetary support in December 2020. In April 2021, the NGT reiterated its order.A senior Environment Ministry official said: “We conveyed our views but didn’t think it appropriate to push beyond a point. After all, NCRPB is a statutory body under the Urban Affairs Ministry, and ultimately it’s between them and the NRSC.”

CBI arrests 2 former bank officials in Rs 504-crore IDFC First fraud



GNS News Agency, June 6

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested two former bank officials in connection with the alleged misappropriation of Rs 504 crore belonging to eight Haryana government departments through fraudulent fixed deposits and bank transactions. Those arrested are Shamim Dar, then Area Head of IDFC First Bank, and Charanjeet Singh Randhawa, then Branch Manager of AU Small Finance Bank's Mohali branch. According to the CBI, the two accused played key roles in facilitating the opening of bank accounts and processing fraudulent transactions through which public funds were diverted. The agency said it had collected incriminating evidence against both during the course of the investigation. The accused were arrested on

Tuesday and are being produced before the Special CBI Court in Panchkula.

The CBI took over the probe from the Haryana State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau at the request of the state government. The agency is investigating the alleged fraud at IDFC First Bank's Sector 32 branch in Chandigarh, where Rs 504 crore belonging to eight Haryana government departments was allegedly siphoned off through forged or non-existent fixed deposits and debit notes before being routed to shell entities. So far, the CBI has chargesheeted 17 accused in the case, including six officials of IDFC First Bank and AU Small Finance Bank, three Haryana government officials, two companies, and six private individuals. The agency is also investigating two other cases transferred from the Chandigarh administration — one relating to Chandigarh Smart City Limited (CSCL) and the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, and another involving the Chandigarh Renewable Energy and Science & Technology Promotion Society (CREST). The CBI has filed chargesheets in both cases. In the CSCL case, it has chargesheeted five bankers, one CSCL official and one private individual. In the CREST case, it has chargesheeted five bankers, two CREST officials, four private individuals, and two companies. The agency said it remained committed to bringing all those responsible to justice and tracing the complete trail of the misappropriated public funds.

NIA arrests Trinamool councillor Sakir Ali in 2023 Ram Navami violence case

GNS News Agency, June 6

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Tuesday arrested Trinamool Congress (TMC) councillor Sakir Ali in connection with the widespread violence that erupted during the 2023 Ram Navami processions in Rishra, Hooghly. Ali, a TMC councillor representing Ward No. 4 of the Rishra municipality, was taken into custody following an early morning raid at the residence of his wife, former Arambagh TMC MP Aparupa Poddar. According to NIA sources, Ali is accused of inciting clashes and orchestrating targeted violence. His arrest follows a prolonged, comprehensive investigation and subsequent statements provided by previously arrested co-accused.

An NIA team, flanked by Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel, reached Poddar's residence Tuesday morning to execute a search warrant. While Ali was initially detained for questioning at the scene, investigators arrested him after noticing significant discrepancies and contradictions in his statements. The NIA revealed that advanced forensic and digital evidence trails were instrumental in cracking the conspiracy. Investigators utilised tower dumping and comprehensive call detail records (CDRs), CCTV footage from around the crime scenes, and geospatial analysis of viral social media videos. The agency noted that the evidence strongly points to a pre-planned conspiracy designed to disrupt public order. The arrest comes amid a series of central agency operations targeting local TMC leaders and municipal councillors across West Bengal over the past few weeks. The NIA is expected to produce Sakir



Ali before the designated special court shortly to seek transit remand and extended custody for deeper custodial interrogation. In April 2023, communal tensions flared up across several parts of West Bengal during Ram Navami celebrations, with major disturbances reported in Howrah, Dalkhola, Shibpur, Serampore, and Rishra. In Rishra, a massive clash erupted as a Ram Navami rally, joined by senior BJP leader and then-national vice president Dilip Ghosh, passed near the Wellington Jute Mill after originating from Bangur Park. The procession was suddenly met with heavy stone-pelting, arson, and widespread vandalism. Security forces escorted Ghosh and other political leaders to safety, but the area remained volatile under a heavy police blanket for several days. At the time, the BJP accused both Sakir Ali and Aparupa Poddar of making highly provocative, inflammatory remarks that triggered the tensions.

Gurgaon sealing drive: Displaced tenants turn to AI platform, brokers to find new homes



GNS News Agency, June 6

When a college friend living in a rented 1 BHK in Gurgaon's DLF Phase 3 called him saying his building had been sealed and he had just hours to move out, Jatinder Madaan, an engineer with a background in Computer Science, thought he was dealing with a one-off emergency. Instead, the conversation, he recalled, showed him a bigger problem unfolding across Gurgaon — tenants packing their belongings while attending office calls, calling brokers one after another, and scrolling property websites to find a place to stay.

Around the same time, Deepti Verma, a Gurgaon-based luxury floors realtor, found her phone flooded with calls from students and young professionals suddenly forced to look for accommodation. Hearing stories of first-time renters trying to arrange housing overnight, she decided to launch a zero-brokerage initiative to help affected youngsters under 25 find short-term stays. As the sealing drive across DLF Phases 1-5 forced tenants to find new homes quickly, people are stepping in to help. Residents, entrepreneurs and brokers are creating support networks — from a community-run AI rental platform that shares housing leads to temporary accommodation arranged through personal contacts and local networks. AI platform for rentals

Madaan, 27, launched the free community-driven AI platform where displaced tenants can post housing requirements, users can share rental leads and homeowners can

list available properties. The platform also allows users to recommend brokers. On how it works, he said users can post a query about a locality (and available homes there) for others to address. Madaan said the initiative is not meant to replace existing brokers or property portals. "We will not take money for the service. So far, we have around 10 listings and over 50 users, including displaced tenants and some brokers who know of available properties," he said. "We conduct checks for onboarding users and verifying listed properties. Users should have stayed in a property to list it... we also check where tenants work and verify brokers' backgrounds. We cannot visit every property physically, but users can report a property — if they flag it as illegal or that it has issues, we delist it." Madaan said the platform currently uses AI to organise information. "Soon, we will automate it based on community-driven inputs." He said more verification features, including cross-checking the list of illegal properties with official records, are being developed. He added that four people are close to finalising new accommodation now, and have visited the properties listed. The housing scramble has also prompted individual brokers to offer temporary support. Speaking to The Indian Express, Deepti said seeing the plight of young women being forced out of their homes at short notice prompted her to step in. "I have arranged temporary accommodation for three girls. I am in constant touch with homeowners and even the local gurdwara to help some of them stay for a while at a nominal cost," she said. The Gurgaon Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) is set to intensify its sealing of unauthorised commercial establishments from Wednesday. The crackdown, led by District Town Planner (DTP) (Enforcement) Amit Madhola, is based on directives from the Punjab and Haryana High Court, aimed at curbing zoning violations and unauthorised commercial activities in residential areas. Last Thursday, a team of officials from the Gurgaon DTP pasted notices outside alleged illegal paying guest (PG) accommodations and guesthouses, and also slipped copies into rooms of tenants. According to the public notice, the official deadline to secure new housing and avoid the inconvenience of the sealing action is June 30.

lower by 6 paise at 94.51 against the dollar. "The Indian rupee depreciated for the third consecutive session, weighed down by persistent safe-haven flows into the greenback and strong corporate dollar demand. Broader risk-off sentiment across global markets continues to keep the domestic currency under pressure," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said. Parmar further added that from a technical standpoint, spot USD/INR faces immediate resistance at 95.10, while a breakdown below 94.40 will act as key support. Experts said month-end and quarter-end dollar demand is keeping the dollar well bid. Importers, corporates, and banks typically use this period to square positions and meet payment obligations. Meanwhile, the dollar index,

‘Sacked for speaking truth’: BJP leader of 43 years expelled



A day after being expelled from the BJP for six years, the party's former spokesperson in Karnataka, M G Mahesh, said he was "shocked" at the disciplinary committee's decision as he had only spoken "in the party's interest". Mahesh's expulsion followed an internal meeting where he blamed the Karnataka BJP leadership for mismanagement during the recent MLC elections. On June 19, a day after the Karnataka MLC elections were held, a BJP party meeting was held virtually. "During the meeting, I shared public opinion related to the recent MLC elections and cross-voting. The sole intention was to address the ongoing problems within the party, and it was an internal meeting. I am shocked that I have been expelled by the party for speaking in the interest of the party," Mahesh said.

The results of the Karnataka MLC elections showed that at least six of the 63 BJP MLAs had cross-voted in favour of the Congress candidates, and one cast an invalid vote. According to the sources, Mahesh accused the national general secretary and the party's state in-charge, Radha Mohan Das Agarwal, of not taking cognisance of the elections. "The whip was issued only after 23 votes were cast. He also complained that the state leadership failed to attack the ruling government over irregularities," a source who attended the meeting said. A BJP leader said Mahesh also raised objections to fielding former Congress leader R Raghu Kautliya for the MLC elections, and not leaders who have been working with the party for decades. On June 22, Mahesh received a notice from the state BJP unit, which alleged that he had abused senior party leaders in the meet-

Rats, cockroaches, rotting food: FDA suspends six Mumbai eateries in hygiene crackdown

GNS News Agency, June 6

Rats in kitchens, cockroach infestations, foul odour, leaking refrigerators and expired food products were among the serious hygiene violations that prompted the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to suspend the licences of six food establishments in Mumbai including a posh eatery in South Mumbai during an enforcement drive. The action followed inspections conducted between June 26 and 28 under a special campaign ordered by Food Safety Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe to crack down on food safety violations and the illegal trade in banned food products.

The six Mumbai establishments were found to be in serious violation of the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011, and provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act. Among those facing action was Flint & Waarsa, operated by Aditya Birla New Age Restaurants and Cafe Pvt Ltd at the NCPA in Nariman Point. During an inspection on June 27, officials detected misbranded food products, collected five samples for laboratory analysis, seized products worth ₹11,350 for incorrect labelling and destroyed expired food items valued at ₹16,201. At M.K. Bakery in Borivali East, inspectors found food production continuing despite renovation work being underway. The premises were also found to be unhygienic. Two food samples were collected, while products worth ₹8,100 were seized for labelling violations. Hotel Shree Krishna (Sujit Bar and Restaurant) in Bhandup West was cited for multiple deficiencies, including refrigerators without temperature display systems, a rusted and leaking kitchen refrigerator and poor overall hygiene standards. Inspectors visiting Hotel Gopal Krishna in Santacruz East found a rat inside the premises, a foul smell emanating from the kitchen and garbage accumulation in drainage lines, along with several other food safety violations.

At Karak Enterprises Pvt Ltd in Andheri East, officials reported a heavy cockroach infestation, absence of insect-proof mesh, failure to conduct mandatory medical examinations of employees, peeling walls and ceilings, inadequate

ing and made derogatory allegations, and sought an explanation. On June 26, Mahesh responded to the notice. Days later, he was expelled. Saying he is still in shock, Mahesh said that he would continue to follow the party's ideology.

Mahesh joined the BJP in 1982 and has been a prominent party worker in the Mysuru region. An RSS ideologue, Mahesh played a key role in organising events for the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, Ekta Yatra, etc in the Mysuru region. Post the MLC elections, the infighting within the Karnataka BJP has come to the fore. In a viral audio clip, former Union minister and former chief minister D V Sadananda Gowda is purportedly heard urging someone to wait till state BJP president B Y Vijayendra's term ends. In the clip, a man purported to be Gowda can be heard saying: "He completes his three-year term in November. If we wait two more months, his tenure will end, and no one can complain. July, August, September, October... kick him out." Gowda has denied that the voice in the clip is his. Gowda has also been embroiled in a row with BJP MLA S R Vishwanath. Calling Vishwanath a "land grabber", Gowda alleged that the BJP MLA served under the directions of the late underworld don Mutthappa Rai before entering politics. His statement came days after Vishwanath said that no one from the coastal Karnataka region belongs to the Vokkaliga community. Gowda is from the Dakshina Kannada district. In another controversy involving Vishwanath, he and Chikkaballapur MP Sudhakar clashed over organising Kempegowda Jayanthi celebrations last week. While Vishwanath has been organising the celebrations in Yelahanka, this time, in a first, Sudhakar also held the event in the same region. "Sudhakar has been dividing BJP party workers. I challenge Sudhakar to contest from Yelahanka, or I will challenge him in Chikkaballapur," Vishwanath said. To this, Sudhakar hit back, "If he has the guts, let him come to Chikkaballapur on any party ticket. I am ready to contest from Yelahanka. I am a BJP worker, and I will do what my party says." In the 2023 Assembly elections, Sudhakar was among the sitting ministers who lost. He lost the Chikkaballapur seat to Congress candidate Pradeep Eshwar. A year later, when Vishwanath was trying to get a ticket for his son, Sudhakar bagged a Lok Sabha ticket and won the elections.



customer grievance mechanisms and refrigeration equipment that was unable to maintain safe food temperatures. The sixth establishment, Ace Clubs and Resorts Pvt Ltd (Madras Diaries) in Bandra West, was found to have failed to maintain prescribed hygiene standards and lacked mandatory food testing records and statutory documentation. Across Maharashtra, the FDA carried out 31 raids, seized prohibited items such as pan masala and gutkha worth ₹34.87 lakh, arrested 19 people involved in the sale, distribution and transportation of banned products, sealed one establishment and confiscated three vehicles. The enforcement drive also targeted the illegal trade in banned food products.

In addition to seizures worth ₹34.87 lakh, the FDA initiated criminal proceedings that led to 19 arrests, the sealing of one establishment and the seizure of three vehicles allegedly used in the illicit trade. Appealing to consumers to remain vigilant, the FDA urged citizens to report suspected food adulteration or hygiene violations through the FoSCoS portal, the Food Safety Connect mobile application or its toll-free helpline. Mundhe said the department would continue stringent enforcement measures to ensure consumers have access to safe and compliant food products. "The manufacture or sale of fake, unlicensed or misleading products, or any activity posing a threat to public health, will not be tolerated. Strict legal action against violators will continue," he said.

IAS officer faces probe after ‘shoving, trying to slap’ BJP leader in UP

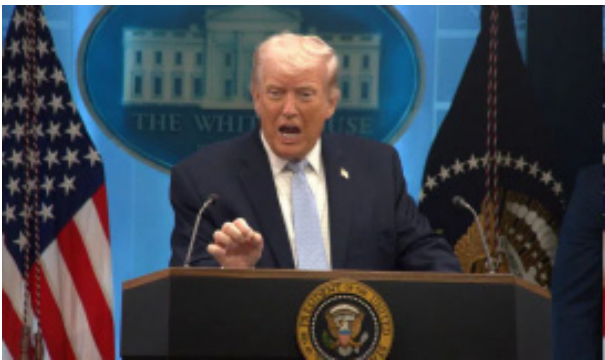
The Jalaun district administration has ordered a probe after IAS officer Rinkoo Singh Rahee was accused of allegedly shoving a block pramukh and attempting to slap him during an inspection of the latter's cold storage facility. Rahee, a 2022-batch IAS officer and the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Jalaun, has denied the allegations and called them false and misleading. The incident occurred on June 23, but came to light on Monday after BJP leader Ram Raja Niranjana, 57, who is the Block Pramukh, released CCTV footage. In his complaint to the District Magistrate, Niranjana accused Rahee of alleged misconduct during an inspection of the cold storage facility in which he is a major shareholder.

CCTV footage, a confrontation Speaking to The Indian Express, Niranjana said a joint inspection team led by Rahee visited the cold storage facility at Mitara Orai village, and the SDM asked whether there were any shortcomings. "I told him he had come to inspect the premises and that if he found any deficiencies, we would rectify them immediately," Niranjana said. He claimed the SDM then directed staff to switch on the fire pump. "The pump is connected to a four-inch pipeline that carries water over nearly 250 feet, so it naturally takes a few minutes for the line to build pressure. Soon afterwards, the SDM asked me to produce all relevant documents within two-and-a-half minutes. I requested him to come into the office... but he refused," Niranjana alleged.

Niranjana said a director of the facility, Rajesh Shukla, had gone to supervise the fire pump operation. "I called him and asked him to bring the documents... Meanwhile, the SDM began recording the proceedings on his mobile phone, and one of my employees also started filming the inspection. During this time, the SDM said the two-and-a-half minutes had expired. I told him the documents were on their way," he said. "At that point, the SDM allegedly tried to slap

me... and pushed me," Niranjana alleged. "The CCTV footage captures the entire incident. It also shows that as soon as the pipeline was filled, the fire pump began discharging water at full pressure," he added. Niranjana further alleged that the SDM returned 18 minutes later after allegedly having "publicly humiliated" him in the presence of more than 50 farmers and labourers who had gathered at the facility. Singh denied the allegations, claiming the footage circulated publicly was incomplete and that it would be inappropriate to draw conclusions based on short video clips. He said Niranjana brought his mobile phone "excessively close" while recording the inspection. "The phone was merely moved aside to avoid any untoward incident or unpleasant situation. This... is being wrongly portrayed as a slap or physical assault," he said. Responding to the allegation of a push, Rahee said Niranjana had come into "inappropriate physical proximity", making it necessary to maintain a safe distance. "The immediate response was simply to create physical space...", he said. BJP Jalaun district president, Urvija Dixit, said Niranjana is associated with the party but does not hold any organisational post. DM Rajesh Kumar Pandey ordered an inquiry by a two-member committee. Additional District Magistrate Rajeev Raj, a member of the panel, said notices had been issued to both the Block Pramukh and Rahee, asking them to record their statements. He said the committee will also record statements of bystanders seen in CCTV footage. In April, while posted with the Board of Revenue in Lucknow, he wrote to the President of India seeking a "technical resignation" and requesting repatriation to his previous service, alleging that he has been kept away from field work for long. In the seven-page letter, Rahee had claimed the prevailing administrative ecosystem resists reforms and expressed concern that being kept away from meaningful field exposure during early IAS years hampers administrative learning and effectiveness.

Trump says Iran agrees to forgo nuclear arms



GNS News Agency, June 6

Washington: US President Donald Trump said Iran has agreed not to acquire a nuclear weapon ahead of fresh negotiations in Doha, expressing confidence that the US was making progress both diplomatically and militarily while insisting Tehran would not be allowed to develop nuclear arms.Speaking in the Oval Office before signing a presidential memorandum on vehicle repairs, Trump said officials were already travelling to Qatar for talks scheduled on Tuesday."There'll be a meeting on that tomorrow, in Doha... we'll see how that goes," Trump said. "The meeting in Doha is going to be perhaps important, perhaps not. We're going to find out."

The President struck an optimistic tone about the ne-

gotiations, saying the US had gained the upper hand after recent military action against Iran's nuclear programme."We're winning militarily. It's almost won militarily, I would say," Trump said.He described Washington's objective as straightforward."It's really very simple; it's the denuclearization of Iran. We don't want them to have a nuclear weapon, and they're not going to have a nuclear weapon, and they've agreed to that, in all fairness," Trump said.Trump did not elaborate on the nature of Iran's reported agreement or provide details of any understanding reached between the two sides. Nor did he specify what issues would be discussed during the Doha meeting.Before taking questions from reporters, Trump also referred to lower global oil prices, linking them to developments surrounding Iran."Oil prices are way down. We hit \$69 today. It was higher than that prior to the denuclearization of Iran," he said.His remarks came as he signed a presidential memorandum directing the Environmental Protection Agency to support consumers' ability to repair their own vehicles and to expand competition in the market for aftermarket automobile parts.EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin said the memorandum would support "the freedom to fix", prevent action against Americans repairing their own vehicles and end what he described as California's monopoly over third-party certification of aftermarket parts.The White House appearance quickly shifted to foreign policy and national security, with reporters asking Trump about Iran before moving on to domestic issues including election laws, Supreme Court rulings and immigration.

Supreme Court to rule on Trump bid to limit birthright citizenship

WASHINGTON, GNS News Agency, June 6- The U.S. Supreme Court is due to rule on Tuesday on whether to let President Donald Trump restrict birthright citizenship in the United States — one of the top priorities in his crackdown on immigration — in a case involving a right that had long been woven into the fabric of American society.

A lower court blocked Trump's executive order directing U.S. agencies not to recognize the citizenship of children ?born in the United States if neither parent is an American citizen or legal permanent resident, also called a "green card" holder.Jumpstart your morning with the latest legal news delivered straight to your inbox from The Daily Docket newsletter. Sign up here.Tuesday is the final day of rulings for the court's current term, which began in October.Challengers to Trump's order argued that ?it violates language in the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment that confers citizenship to those born in the United States who are "subject to the jurisdiction thereof."

Trump, who has repeatedly tested the limits of presidential power in domestic and foreign policy, issued the order last year on his first day back in office as part of a suite of policies to crack down on legal and illegal immigration. Critics have accused the Republican president of racial and religious discrimination in his approach to immigration. The Supreme Court weighs in on what it means to be an American citizen just ahead of the July 4 holiday when the United States marks the 250th anniversary of its founding.Ahead of the ruling, some ?experts had estimated that Trump's directive could affect the legal status of as many as 250,000 babies born each year and could require the families of millions more to prove the citizenship status of their newborns.A CLASS-ACTION SUITThe legal challenge to Trump's directive considered ?by the Supreme Court, which has a 6-3 conservative majority, involved a class-action lawsuit filed in New Hampshire by parents and children whose citizenship was threatened by the directive. The 14th Amendment has long been interpreted as guaranteeing ?citizenship for babies born in the United States, with only narrow exceptions such as the children of foreign diplomats or members of an enemy occupying force. The provision at issue, known as the Citizenship Clause, states: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, ?are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside."

The administration has asserted that the phrase "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" means that being born in the United States is not enough for citizenship, and excludes the babies of immigrants who are in the country illegally or whose presence ?is lawful but temporary, such as university students or those on work visas.Citizenship is granted only to the children of those whose "primary allegiance" is to the United States, including citizens and permanent residents, the administration has argued. Such allegiance is established through "lawful domicile," which lawyers for the administration define as "lawful, permanent residence within a nation, with intent to remain."When the Supreme Court considered the case on April 1, Trump made history as the first sitting president to attend arguments before the top U.S. judicial body, though he left midway through, not long after the lawyer arguing against the administration had begun.'BIRTH TOURISM'

During the arguments, U.S. Solicitor General D. John Sauer, representing the administration, said the ?promise of citizenship for virtually any baby born on U.S. soil has spawned what he called a sprawling industry of "birth tourism."Sauer said that "uncounted thousands of foreigners from potentially hostile nations have flocked to give birth in the United States in recent decades" to secure citizenship for their children. Asked to ?explain how serious an issue "birth tourism" has become, Sauer primarily cited media reports and conceded that "no one knows for sure."The 14th Amendment was ratified in 1868 in the aftermath of the Civil War of 1861 to 1865 that ended slavery

JetBlue pilot reports drone strike near New York's JFK airport

New York: A JetBlue pilot reported hitting a drone as he approached JFK International Airport to land in New York Monday morning. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the incident that happened as the plane passed through 3,000 feet around 7:15 am as it was crossing the coastline. The plane landed safely without any additional help, and no damage was found when the plane was inspected afterwards."We collided with a drone back there in the turn," the pilot told an air traffic controller, according to ATC.com. "It hit us right above the cockpit."The airline said all the passengers deplaned normally, and then the plane was removed from service so it could be inspected. JetBlue said the airline "found no damage or evidence of a collision." The Airbus A321 plane was flying overnight into New

York from Las Vegas. "Safety is JetBlue's first priority, and we will assist with any relevant investigations," the airline said in a statement.Drones are generally allowed to fly below 400 feet, but the FAA does restrict airspace around airports and public events like the World Cup because of safety concerns.Law enforcement officials say that even when a drone pilot is just trying to shoot an overhead video, their presence distracts officers from dealing with other potential threats.Incident reports collected by the FAA show that drones are a growing threat around airports. The risk of a collision is most acute near airports because that is where the flight paths of drones and airplanes most overlap.The FAA said that more than 100 drone sightings are reported near airports every month that the agency works with law enforcement to investigate.

Israeli strikes kill at least 8 in Gaza, including 2 children



Deir-al-Balah (Gaza Strip): Israeli strikes in southern and central Gaza on Monday killed at least eight people, including two children, and wounded at least 20 others, according to health officials and emergency services.In Khan Younis, a strike hit a tent in the Al-Mawasi neighborhood after a warning call, killing a 23-year-old mother and her one-year-old daughter west of Khan Younis, according to Nasser Hospital.Another strike on the town of Qarara, northwest of the city earlier in the day killed a 31-year-old man, according to Nasser Hospital. The hospital said he had married only a few months ago and left behind a pregnant wife.

In a separate incident in the same area, a strike hit a tent sheltering displaced people along the coastal area of Khan Younis, killing two people and wounding 13 others, according to Nasser hospital and the Palestinian Red Crescent. The wounded were transferred to a field hospital run by the Palestinian Red Crescent in Al-Mawasi.In central Gaza, a drone strike hit a tent in Deir al-Balah, killing at least three Palestinians, including an 8-year-old boy and his grandfather, medical officials said.Health authorities in the coastal enclave said the drone strike hit a neighborhood in Deir al-Balah, one of the least damaged towns in central Gaza. Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital said the fatalities were Hassan al-Hanagra and his 8-year-old grandchild, Malik Abu Shawish, along with another man.Abu Shawish, whose parents are divorced, was visiting his mother's tent at the time of the strike, and his mother was among seven people wounded in the strike, hospital officials said. Israel's

With independent agencies imperiled, Fed may face further pressure despite Cook win



WASHINGTON, - The Supreme Court may have reaffirmed the U.S. Federal Reserve's independence, but in a pair of rulings also left the central bank isolated as possibly the last agency able to wield executive power based on expertise free of the threat of its officials being fired by the president.Whether Monday's rulings give the Fed a more durable status or ?raise further questions about why monetary policymaking deserves special treatment, they may be just a starting point for further pressure on the Fed and debate about its structure.Get a daily digest of breaking business news straight to your inbox with the Reuters Business newsletter. Sign up here."Fed independence lives on but the foundation is much weaker than ?it has been over the past 90 years," said Columbia Law School professor Kathryn Judge, who has focused on Fed and regulatory issues.

"In a very close, 5-4 opinion, the court says the Fed is different" from other agencies whose officials can now be fired at the president's will, Judge said. "The Fed is now going to be forced to stand alone.""It's possible for the Fed to maintain its independence as the other independent agencies disappear. But it puts far more pressure on the Fed to justify its independence in the eyes of the public," Judge said.In that ruling, the court refused to let President Donald Trump fire Federal Reserve Governor Lisa ?Cook based on unproven allegations of mortgage fraud, which she denied.In the second ruling, the court backed Trump's firing of Federal Trade Commission member Rebecca Slaughter, expanding his powers over the government and overturning its 1935 precedent that had recognized the authority of ?Congress to protect leaders of certain regulatory agencies from presidential removal at will.The Cook decision lifts a potential cloud over the head of new Fed Chairman Kevin Warsh, a Trump appointee who last month took ?over the reins at the central bank. Trump so far has offered hands-off comments that he trusts Warsh and wants him to pursue the policies he deems best — a shift in tone from the Republican president's steady criticism of former Fed Chair Jerome Powell, whom he nominated ?to the post in 2017.

A ruling against Cook would have put Warsh and his central bank colleagues under immediate threat should Trump's tune change. That risk has now eased through Supreme Court language that said any attempt to fire a Fed governor would face a "substantial" hurdle to ?prove the seriousness of any alleged misconduct and a "nexus" with the person's Fed duties."Without such constraints in place, any perceived or alleged misstep (past or present) could provide a ready pretext for a governor's removal," the ruling authored by conservative Chief Justice John Roberts stated. "Nothing could be more corrosive of the independence that Congress sought to preserve."But Roberts added in the Slaughter ruling: "Subordinates who exercise the president's power are subject to removal by him."In creating the Fed in 1913, Congress passed a law called the Federal Reserve Act that included provisions to shield it from political interference, requiring governors to be removed by a president only "for cause," though ?the law did not define the term nor establish procedures for removal.The advisability of central bank independence is widely embraced. Letting politicians set interest rates is linked with short-term thinking that ?trades a hot economy in election years with higher inflation afterward, and less overall trust from global bond markets.

But democratic societies also are supposed to ensure the exercise of power is connected to electoral outcomes, making central banks an outlier of sorts in major developed economies that have tried to ?insulate them from day-to-day ?political meddling.Until Monday, Fed officials had shared along with policymakers at other independent agen-

military said the strike was targeting a militant, but did not immediately name him or say if he was killed.

A strike in southern Gaza on Sunday killed Zaher Abu Salem, the Israeli military said, describing him as a member of Islamic Jihad who was involved in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel that triggered the war. A total of four people were killed Sunday in a flurry of strikes around Gaza, including a 13-year-old girl, Eileen al-Farra, who was hit by shrapnel from Israeli tank shelling and was buried Monday.While the heaviest fighting has subsided since a ceasefire took hold in October, Israeli forces have carried out near-daily strikes, killing 1,045 Palestinians, including more than 360 women and children, according to health officials in Gaza. Israel says it is targeting militants, often saying they were planning attacks on Israeli troops who hold more than 60% of the Gaza Strip. Five Israeli soldiers have been killed in militant attacks since the ceasefire. The Gaza Health Ministry, which is part of the Hamas-led government, maintains detailed casualty records that are seen as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and independent experts. But it does not give a breakdown of civilians and militants.Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed more than 73,058 Palestinians, including those killed since the ceasefire, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The Hamas-led Oct. 7 attack on Israel killed some 1,200 people and saw 251 taken hostage.Meanwhile, Israeli forces raided locations throughout the occupied West Bank, including near Ramallah, where the Palestinian Health Ministry reported a 15-year-old from Jerusalem was killed by a gunshot to the head.

Emergency crews transported Amir Jaber to the hospital from the al-Bireh area after attempting to resuscitate him at the scene, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said. It also reported two injured by Israeli fire in a raid near Hebron, the West Bank's most populous city.The Israeli military did not comment immediately.The raid near Ramallah — the Palestinians' administrative capital in the West Bank — was among half a dozen reported across the territory Monday by WAFA, the Palestinian news agency.At least 59 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli settlers and soldiers in the West Bank this year, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported last week.

cies like the Federal Trade Commission protection from arbitrary dismissal that was grounded in a 1935 Supreme Court precedent acknowledging the importance to government decisionmaking of expertise wielded outside the direct influence of elected officials.That ruling, in a case called Humphrey's Executor v. United States, was overturned by the court on Monday in the ruling backing Trump's firing of Slaughter. The Slaughter ruling expanded presidential power to remove officials who the court decided were effectively operating as part of the executive branch, headed by the president.

The Fed, however, with its different history and different structure, was given a pass from that standard in a ruling that cited the warnings of Alexander Hamilton, one of the nation's 18th-century founders, about the "calamities" of letting politicians influence monetary policy, as well as the ?current Fed's hybrid public-private structure.The Fed's Washington-based Board of Governors is ?appointed by the president, with Senate confirmation. But the heads ?of its 12 regional reserve banks are hired by local boards of directors at what are ostensibly private regional institutions. The court noted as well the Fed's freedom from congressional appropriations. The conduct of monetary policy lets it earn money to fund its operations, and set its own staffing and spending levels — another sign of the Fed's unique standing.

Taken together, Roberts wrote, that warranted a different level of protection for ?Fed policymakers who not only need to be independent but need to appear to be independent.Putting the Fed on its own island, however, "will not be sustainable," former Fed vice chair for regulation ?Randal Quarles said in April in remarks ?that anticipated the court's ruling.In tossing protections for independent federal agencies but making an exception for the Fed, Quarles said, the justices would beg the larger question of why, despite the importance of monetary policy independence, the Fed gets different treatment when it comes to oversight."The Supreme Court says, 'Look, here's how the system is supposed to operate, the president has to be able to dismiss entities that execute executive power.' But the Fed — we just say it's magically different," Quarles said."At some point that is an unstable solution," Quarles said, likely to face further challenge.Nor is Cook's case fully settled. ?The court did ?not rule on the substance of Trump's allegations of mortgage fraud, but ruled she could stay in office pending a court proceeding on the firing. Trump on Monday ?said he will continue to pursue the matter."This was never about mortgage documents signed years before I became a Federal Reserve governor. It was an attempt to remove me on a manufactured pretext because I refused to bow to political pressure and continued to set interest rates based only on what would best serve the American people," Cook ?said in a statement following the decision. "Today's ruling affirms a principle that has underpinned sound economic stewardship for generations."

The biggest risk is playing it safe: Christopher Nolan

Los Angeles: Filmmaker Christopher Nolan says playing it safe with mainstream films won't work as the audience is "looking for something new". The Oscar-winning filmmaker is all set for the release of his next directorial, "The Odyssey". In an interview with The New York Times, the filmmaker, known for films such as "Inception", "Dunkirk" and "Oppenheimer", said it is necessary to take "risks to succeed" when it is about films. "If you're really interested in movies and the history of movies, the one thing you see absolutely is that you have to take risks to succeed," he said."The biggest risk of all is to play it safe... That's what, consistently in mainstream movies, doesn't work. The audience is looking for something new," he added.Nolan recalled making his breakout film, "Memento", which released in 2000 and said his wife and producer Emma Thomas was ok with the script, but "it felt like it was taking a lot of risk" to structure the film.Featuring Guy Pearce, the film revolved around Leonard Shelby, a man with anterograde amnesia, who relies on a complex system of polaroid photos, handwritten notes, and tattoos to investigate the rape and murder of his wife, and to track down her killer.

Actor Jasmin Bhasin’s health scare puts spotlight on terminal Ileitis: What doc wants you to know



Actor Jasmin Bhasin’s recent health scare has drawn attention to a condition that is unfamiliar to many but can cause significant intestinal inflammation if left untreated. The television actor was hospitalised during a trip to Dubai after developing severe abdominal symptoms and later revealed that she had been diagnosed with terminal ileitis along with a severe intestinal infection and that she is still not out of the woods. Her diagnosis has also prompted questions about what terminal ileitis actually is and whether it is a disease in itself. “Terminal ileitis is an inflammatory condition affecting the end of the small intestine (hence terminal) before it attaches to the large intestine, i.e., large bowel or colon. The vast majority of terminal ileitis cases occur in people aged 15 to 35 years old, although it can occur in older adults as well,” says Dr Sanjay Kumar, senior director, gastroenterology, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Noida. Excerpts:

What is terminal ileitis?
Terminal ileitis refers to inflammation of the terminal ileum, the last section of the small intestine before it joins the large intestine. This part of the bowel is responsible for absorbing nutrients such as vitamin B12 and bile acids, making it an important component of the digestive system. The condition is not a diagnosis but rather a finding that indicates inflammation in a specific part of the intestine. The next step is to determine what has caused that inflammation, as the treatment depends entirely on the underlying condition. Terminal ileitis is a descriptive term rather than a disease. Once we identify inflammation in the terminal ileum, the focus shifts to understanding whether it has been caused by an infection, an inflammatory bowel disease, medication or another condition.

What causes inflammation in the terminal ileum?
Terminal ileitis can occur for several reasons. One of the most well-known causes is Crohn’s disease, a chronic inflammatory bowel disease that can affect any part of the digestive tract but frequently involves the terminal ileum. However, infections caused by bacteria such as Salmonella, Campylobacter and Yersinia can produce similar inflammation, as can certain viral infections. Long-term use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), including commonly used painkillers, has also been linked to irritation of the small intestine. In less common cases, reduced blood flow to the bowel, intestinal tuberculosis, autoimmune disorders and even certain cancers may be responsible. The symptoms can look deceptively similar across different conditions.

What symptoms should people watch for?
The symptoms of terminal ileitis often resemble those of a severe stomach infection, making it difficult for patients to distinguish between the two without medical evaluation. Persistent pain in the lower right side of the abdomen is among the most common complaints. Many patients also

experience diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, fever, fatigue and loss of appetite. Some may notice unexplained weight loss or blood in the stool, particularly if the inflammation is severe. While mild infections may resolve with appropriate treatment, symptoms that persist or recur should not be ignored, doctors caution.

How is the condition diagnosed?
Since terminal ileitis is only the starting point rather than the final diagnosis, doctors usually recommend a series of investigations to identify the underlying cause. Blood tests can reveal signs of inflammation or infection, while stool tests may detect bacteria or other pathogens. Imaging studies such as colonoscopy with biopsy, CT scans or MRI help assess the extent of intestinal involvement, and a colonoscopy allows doctors to directly examine the terminal ileum. In many cases, small tissue samples are also taken for biopsy to confirm the diagnosis. These tests help distinguish between temporary infectious causes and chronic inflammatory diseases that require long-term management.

Can terminal ileitis be treated?
The outlook depends largely on what has caused the inflammation. If a bacterial infection is responsible, antibiotics and supportive care are often enough to achieve complete recovery. However, patients diagnosed with Crohn’s disease may require anti-inflammatory medications, corticosteroids, immunosuppressive drugs or biologic therapies to control ongoing inflammation and prevent future flare-ups. In more severe situations, particularly when complications such as bowel obstruction, abscesses or perforation develop, surgery may become necessary. The earlier the underlying cause is identified, the better the chances of preventing long-term complications. Delayed treatment can allow inflammation to progress and damage the intestine. Recovery varies considerably depending on the diagnosis. Patients with infection-related terminal ileitis often recover fully once the infection resolves. Those living with inflammatory disease however, may need lifelong monitoring because the condition tends to alternate between periods of remission and flare-ups. Doctors generally recommend maintaining adequate hydration, following a balanced diet that avoids individual food triggers, taking prescribed medications regularly and attending scheduled follow-up appointments. Smoking is a no-no as tobacco use has been shown to worsen disease activity. Monitoring nutritional deficiencies, especially vitamin B12 and iron, also forms an important part of long-term care.

What are the risks if it is left untreated?
Persistent inflammation in the terminal ileum can lead to serious complications over time. Chronic inflammation may cause narrowing of the intestine, increasing the risk of bowel obstruction. Some patients develop fistulas—abnormal connections between different parts of the intestine or nearby organs—or abscesses that require surgical treatment. Ongoing inflammation can also interfere with nutrient absorption, resulting in vitamin deficiencies, anaemia, weight loss and malnutrition.

When should you seek medical attention?
Persistent abdominal pain, diarrhoea lasting more than a few days, blood in the stool, repeated vomiting, high fever, unexplained weight loss or signs of dehydration all warrant prompt medical evaluation. While many gastrointestinal infections resolve on their own, these symptoms may also signal inflammatory bowel disease or another condition that requires specialist care.

India’s drug-resistant infection rates lower than U.S., Europe despite higher microbial colonisation



The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has refuted claims made in an international study published by The Lancet that over 50% of Indian patients hospitalised for a specific gastrointestinal procedure are colonised with at least one multi-drug-resistant organism (MDRO). The study has raised alarm over soaring antimicrobial resistance in India, describing it as a rapidly escalating superbug crisis and a “global threat”. In response, the NCDC, which is mandated to prevent, detect, and control diseases of public health importance in India, pointed out that The Lancet dataset only reports colonisation of multi-drug-resistant organisms, not actual infections. “Colonisation is a microbiological finding, but not a clinical failure,” it said, adding that the results refer to specific high-risk clinical groups and cannot be generalised for all patients or the general population in India. Patients with comorbidities

The research paper, published in The Lancet’s journal eClinicalMedicine, is titled Preprocedural screening for multidrug-resistant organisms in endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP): an international, multicentre, cross-sectional observational study’. An ERCP is an endoscopic procedure used to diagnose and treat problems in the gall-bladder, the bile ducts, and the pancreas.

Nearly 90% of adults in Maharashtra say they have personally experienced global warming

Heavy rainfall and flooding this September claimed at least 11 lives in Maharashtra and disrupted life across several districts, underscoring the growing climate crisis. Erratic monsoon patterns and shifting rainfall trends have affected crop cycles and strained urban infrastructure from Mumbai to Marathwada. According to the new Climate Opinion Maps for India by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, 87% of adults in Maharashtra said they have personally experienced the effects of global warming, while 77% believe global warming is affecting monsoons, and 82% said it is affecting droughts and water shortages. Concern runs deep; 91% report being worried about global warming, yet only 55% think global warming is caused mostly by human activities.

The maps, based on surveys of over 19,000 respondents between 2022 and 2025, provide a granular look at how climate change is being felt and understood across 34 States and Union Territories and 634 districts. Nationally, majorities report experiencing severe heat waves (71%), agricultural pests and diseases (59%), electricity outages (59%), water pollution (53%), droughts and water shortages (52%), and severe air pollution (51%) in the past year.

India, home to 1.4 billion people, is the third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases and among the most climate-vulnerable nations. In 2024 alone, the country endured extreme weather on 322 days—almost 90% of the year. Dr. Jagadish Thaker, Senior Lecturer, University of Queensland, and one of the lead authors of this project, said, “As India rapidly develops while facing intensifying extreme weather, understanding how people across states and districts perceive and experience climate change is essential. These maps can help local and state leaders design climate action plans that reflect people’s lived realities and build durable public support for solutions,” Dr. Thaker said.

Experiences and beliefs vary widely. In Uttar Pradesh, 78% of adults report personally experiencing severe heat waves, among the highest in the country, along with Rajasthan (80%), Haryana (80%), and Odisha (80%). In comparison, just over half of adults in Kerala and Tamil Nadu report the same (55% and 52%). While only 35% of Indians nationwide report experiencing severe cyclones, that number rises to 64% in Odisha, which was hit hard by Cyclone Dana in October 2024. Odisha also stands out for droughts—over two-thirds report experiencing droughts and water shortages. The state faces extreme weather almost every

The study screened more than 1,200 patients across four countries — India, Italy, the Netherlands, and the United States. Sources in the NCDC explained that these findings pertain to a highly specific group of patients who already have multiple comorbidities, frequent healthcare exposure, and higher antibiotic use. They cannot be generalised to the broader Indian population or to routine healthcare scenarios, they emphasised. The study also indicates that India recorded significantly lower prevalence of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) (1.4%) and vancomycin-resistant Enterococci (VRE) (7.4%), in comparison to the U.S. and parts of Europe, signalling the effectiveness of containment strategies for gram-positive infections in the country.

Experts further pointed out that the study does not report higher ERCP-associated infection or mortality risk among Indian patients, reinforcing that high colonisation rates do not necessarily translate into adverse clinical outcomes. The NCDC experts added that certain comparisons drawn between India and countries with lower infectious disease burdens may not reflect contextual realities. “Microbial resistance trends vary across regions and must be understood considering differential population density, morbidity patterns, and healthcare access. The study itself recommends region-specific prevention strategies,” an expert noted. ‘Cannot link to antibiotic usage’ Sources in the NCDC also cautioned against linking the findings to alleged excessive antibiotic use in India, clarifying that cross-sectional studies, such as the current one, cannot establish causation. Moreover, the study does not assess or report community-level spread of MDR organisms. NCDC experts reiterated the importance of interpreting such scientific data within the clinical context. “While antimicrobial resistance remains a global concern, this study should not be misrepresented as a marker of systemic failure. The findings underscore the need for continued surveillance, infection control, and stewardship, not alarmism.”



year. A majority of Indians think global warming is affecting severe heat waves (78%), droughts and water shortages (77%), severe cyclones (73%), and severe floods (70%). The report said that attribution often exceeds personal experience, for example, 74% of adults in Tamil Nadu think global warming is affecting severe storms, even though only 21% say they have personally experienced one in the past year. In Rajasthan, 70% think global warming is affecting severe floods, though only 28% report experiencing one. Dr. Jennifer Marlon, the lead researcher for the opinion maps at the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, said, “As India works to protect itself from extreme weather, communicators must continue to explain the cause-and-effect relationship between burning fossil fuels and dangerous weather. These data about how people across India are experiencing the impacts of climate change can help decision-makers better understand public risk-perceptions and design climate adaptation, communication, and sustainable development policies that meet Indians where they are.”

The maps use multilevel regression with post-stratification (MRP), combining survey data with demographic and geographic characteristics, including gender, age, caste, urbanicity, education, and climate vulnerability, and applying spatial weighting using Indian census counts. The uncertainty range is approximately ±6 percentage points at the state level and ±8 at the district level. The research team included Jennifer Marlon, Jagadish Thaker, Emily Goddard, Anthony Leiserowitz, Martial Jefferson, Seth Rosenthal, and Jennifer Carman at Yale University, along with Yashwant Deshmukh and Gaura Shukla at C-Voter.

Humidity, indoor microbes and temperature swings are changing how respiratory infections spread: experts

A growing body of research now shows that humidity and rapid temperature shifts can disrupt the respiratory tract’s natural defence system far more than previously understood, altering the way viruses and bacteria survive and spread indoors. Pulmonologists and infectious-disease specialists say this environmental shift, combined with prolonged indoor crowding, stagnant air and rising fungal load is driving the current surge in respiratory infections, from viral colds and influenza to bronchitis, pneumonia and asthma flare-ups. This is crucial because it reframes respiratory infections not simply as seasonal occurrences, but as environmentally amplified illnesses shaped by microclimate, indoor hygiene, airflow patterns and rapid shifts between warm and cold temperatures.

Doctors attribute the rise in infections to an interaction between humidity, poorly ventilated indoor environments and weakened mucociliary clearance -- the body’s first barrier against pathogens. Shashidhar T.B., head, surgery (ENT), Artemis Hospitals, Gurgaon, explains that elevated humidity allows respiratory viruses to survive longer on surfaces. “Humidity above 60–70% extends the survival time of viruses such as influenza for over 24–48 hours on hard surfaces,” he says, adding that stagnant indoor air and dampness accelerate fungal proliferation. Mould species such as Aspergillus and Penicillium, he notes, release spores that trigger allergic reactions and bronchospasm in already inflamed airways.

Soumitra Sinha Roy, senior consultant, interventional pulmonology and lung transplant programme, MGM Hospital, Chennai highlights how environmental stressors disrupt the airway’s mechanical defences. “When the weather shifts suddenly to cold indoor air, the mucous membrane becomes less efficient. The cold air makes you weaker inside,” he

says. He reports an increase in viral colds, flu, RSV, bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma and COPD flare-ups all of which thrive when ventilation is low and indoor dampness persists. R. Surrendran, consultant, infection diseases, SIMS Hospital, Chennai, adds that the combination of moisture, minimal sunlight and closed rooms creates ideal conditions for viral transmission. He notes that people also tend to crowd buses, trains and offices during weather fluctuations, allowing infections to spread quickly. He points out that humidity and damp indoor spaces extend the environmental survival of pathogens and irritants. “Mould growth increases in clogged, damp spaces. Humidity allows viral particles to remain airborne longer, increasing transmission”.

While most infections begin as simple cold-like illnesses, clinicians stress that certain symptoms indicate worsening infection or complications such as pneumonia. Dr. Surrendran warns that symptoms escalate faster in high-risk groups. “

For older adults or people with asthma or diabetes, even a mild cough can turn serious very quickly,” he says. Children may show fast breathing, feeding refusal or extreme lethargy -- early signs of respiratory distress. Sindhu V., consultant, pulmonology, SRM Global Hospital, Chennai notes that persistent fever beyond 48 hours, blood-tinged sputum, chest tightening, or prolonged drowsiness are signals of bacterial involvement or impending asthma exacerbation. In adults, a drop in oxygen saturation, wheezing, chest pain or a cough that lingers beyond a week requires urgent medical review. Vandana P. B., consultant pulmonology, Apollo Speciality Hospitals, Vanagaram Chennai adds that symptoms that fail to improve after five to seven days or worsen after an initial improvement, often indicate bacterial pneumonia. She lists persistent high fever, chest tightness,

He couldn’t close an eye, smile or move one-half of his face: Was it a stroke or something else?

When 35-year-old Sagar (name changed) woke up one morning, something felt different. As he stood in front of the mirror brushing his teeth, water trickled out of the left side of his mouth. He tried to smile, but only one side of his face responded. His left eye refused to close completely, tears kept streaming down that eye, and food suddenly tasted different on one side of his tongue. His family feared the worst — a stroke. They rushed him to the hospital, where we performed an urgent neurological evaluation. Fortunately, it wasn’t a stroke. Sagar had Bell’s palsy, a condition that can look frighteningly similar but is very different. With prompt treatment, careful eye protection and facial exercises, he gradually recovered over the following weeks.

What exactly is Bell’s palsy?
Bell’s palsy is the sudden weakness or paralysis of the muscles on one side of the face caused by inflammation of the facial nerve, which controls facial expressions. The condition usually develops rapidly, often reaching its peak within 48 to 72 hours. Because the face suddenly droops, many people immediately think they are having a stroke—and understandably so. But while Bell’s palsy can be alarming, it is usually temporary, and most patients recover completely, especially if treatment begins within the first three days. Symptoms typically include drooping of one side of the face, difficulty smiling, inability to fully close one eye, drooling, altered taste, increased sensitivity to sound in one ear, and either excessive watering or dryness of the affected eye. Some people also experience pain around the ear before the weakness appears.

Why does it happen?
The exact cause isn’t always known, but doctors believe Bell’s palsy most commonly results from inflammation of the facial nerve, often triggered by the reactivation of dormant viruses such as the herpes simplex virus. The swelling of the nerve as it passes through a narrow bony canal temporarily disrupts its function. Certain factors appear to increase the risk. People recovering from viral infections, those with weakened immunity, diabetes, pregnancy—particularly during the third trimester or shortly after delivery—and individuals under significant physical or emotional stress may be more susceptible. Lack of sleep may also contribute. Many people believe that sleeping under a fan or air conditioner causes Bell’s palsy. This is a myth. While prolonged exposure to very cold air may occasionally act as a trigger in susceptible individuals, it is not the direct cause. The condition usually develops because of a combination of underlying biological factors rather than cold air alone.

This is the question doctors hear most often. Both Bell’s palsy and stroke can cause the face to droop on one side. But there are important differences. In Bell’s palsy, the facial nerve itself is affected, so the entire half of the face becomes weak. The person usually cannot wrinkle the forehead, raise the eyebrow or completely close the eye on the affected side. In most strokes, the damage occurs in the brain rather than the facial nerve. As a result, the forehead is often spared because it receives nerve signals from both sides of the brain. A person may have a drooping mouth but can still raise both eyebrows and wrinkle the forehead. A



Top neurologist explains how Bell’s palsy causes sudden weakness on one side of the face, how it differs from a stroke and when to seek emergency medical care

stroke is also more likely to be accompanied by weakness or numbness of an arm or leg, difficulty speaking or understanding speech, sudden vision loss, severe dizziness, confusion or problems with balance and walking. However, these differences are not reliable enough for someone at home to make the diagnosis. Every person with sudden facial weakness should be treated as a potential stroke and taken to the nearest emergency department immediately. Time is critical if a stroke is the cause.

Can Bell’s palsy be prevented?
There is no guaranteed way to prevent Bell’s palsy. Maintaining good general health — controlling diabetes and other chronic illnesses, getting enough sleep, reducing stress and seeking timely treatment for infections — may lower the risk, but there is no proven preventive strategy.

Treatment and recovery The good news is that Bell’s palsy responds well to treatment. Doctors usually prescribe corticosteroids, ideally within 72 hours of symptom onset, because they reduce inflammation of the facial nerve and significantly improve the chances of complete recovery. In selected patients, particularly when a viral cause is strongly suspected, antiviral medicines may also be added. Protecting the eye is equally important. Since the eyelid may not close properly, the surface of the eye can dry out, increasing the risk of corneal injury. Artificial tears during the day, lubricating ointment at night and sometimes taping the eyelid closed during sleep help prevent complications. Facial exercises and physiotherapy may also aid recovery in some patients, particularly when weakness is prolonged. Most people begin to recover within a few weeks and regain normal facial function within three to six months, although recovery can take longer in some cases. A small proportion may be left with mild residual weakness or involuntary facial movements.

Mayo College in Ajmer turns 150 years old. Is this India’s best boarding school?



It is post-dinner time in Mayo College, Ajmer, and we are here in November: the time of balding trees, retreating bees — a winter with a mind of its own. If you enter the school from the main gate, you will hear the faint hum of clarinets, punctuated by the bugle. If you are lucky, the winds, blowing from the Aravallis, will carry stray tunes from a cymbal that has been hit too hard. It is only when you are truly inside — past the domineering statue of Lord Mayo, past the pigeons and cuckoos sleeping in the eaves, beyond the Mughal garden, moving along the classrooms — that you reach the source of the sound at the Music School. The campus stretches further than the eye can see, almost 200 acres, depending on how you measure it. If it were daytime, you would have peacocks cutting your path, dancing on the rooftops in the evenings.At Mayo, you would have peacocks cutting your path, dancing on the rooftops in the eveningsAt Mayo, you would have peacocks cutting your path, dancing on the rooftops in the evenings | Photo Credit: Special arrangement

“The first time I visited Mayo to drop by a sibling, and saw the grand, main building perched on top of a slope, it struck me as an intimidating figure,” says Rudra Shreeram, from the batch of 2008, who now leads DCM Shriram, a business conglomerate. “I simply wondered: How can this be a school? In December 2002, when my father’s batch had come back for their silver jubilee reunion, I attended the prize giving ceremony. To witness its grandeur, everyone in the safas, all the colours: it set a clear picture in my young mind that this is where I was destined to go.”

We are less than a week away from the same annual prize giving ceremony that awaited Rudra. At night, the silence is broken by endless, exhausted preparations — the 500-member student music band, other boys rehearsing Peter Shaffer’s iconic play The Royal Hunt of the Sun, the polo team practising for their match against Harvard. This year, the stakes are high. It is the institution’s 150th anniversary, to be held from November 27 to 29. In the past, chief guests for the ceremony have ranged from Dr Rajendra Prasad and Indira Gandhi to Peter Ustinov and LK Advani. This year, it will be Nandan Nilekani, co-founder, Infosys. The polo team of Mayo College practising for its match against HarvardThe polo team of Mayo College practising for its match against Harvard | Photo Credit: Special arrangement

How does an institution survive for more than a century without losing its values? It is a question that is all the more important in the context of an educational institution. As the chairman of the board and president of the Old Boys’ Society, Colonel Bhawani Singh puts it: “Over the years, we have been having more and more women in the faculty, nearly more than 50%. For the first time in history, we have our first woman vice-principal, Priyanka Bhattacharya. Of course, there are many more examples, but it’s these conscious choices that uphold an institution.”The polo team of Mayo College practising for its match against HarvardThe polo team of Mayo College practising for its match against Harvard | Photo Credit: Special arrangementI joined Mayo College less than three months ago as a teacher and witnessed this very negotiation between the past and present, the slow dance of honouring legacy without stretching so far backwards that the future goes out of sight. The other day, a seventh grader on his way to a temple ceremony in a yellow safarun ran up to me to tell me how much he loved William Golding’s The Lord of the Flies. “It’s so figurative, sir,” he said, out of breath with all the running. “How does Mr Golding say so many things without really saying much? Is the book an example of figurative writing? Or, better still, just good writing?” A portion of the old building dating back to 1875A portion of the old building dating back to 1875 |

Insinuations of a coup “absurd,” Darius Khambata informs Tata Trusts board in letter

Insinuations that the Mehli Mistry-led group of trustees on the Board of Tata Trusts had attempted a coup or takeover on September 11, 2025 are “absurd,” board member and life trustee Darius J. Khambata wrote in a recent letter to the board of the Tata Trusts.Mr. Khambata added that neither did he nor anyone else have any intention to carry out such an act, nor did they “even remotely suggest this.” Noting that what was involved was “a difference of approach” on the issue of “representation of the Trusts through its nominee Directors on the board of Tata Sons,” he added, “That representation is a duty to the Trusts, not a prize.”In his letter, dated November 10 and reviewed by The Hindu, Mr. Khambata did however acknowledge that “a greater attempt at forging a consensus should have been made by all,” referring to the split in the Tata Trusts board. The events of September 11, 2025 pertained to a board vote on whether Vijay Singh (77) should continue as a nominee director on the board of Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group. The vote had become necessary following the introduction of a rule, following the death of Ratan Tata, that required the annual reappointment of nominees above the age of 75.The controversy over a purported ‘coup’ arose because the vote — usually a unanimous one — was defeated, with four members opposing Mr. Singh’s renewal. The four to vote against the renewal were Mehli Mistry, Pramit Jhaveri, Jehangir HC Jehangir, and Mr. Khambata. “The events of the past few weeks have distressed me: particularly the spin doctored media narrative,” Mr. Khambata wrote in his letter. “What has pained me the most is the insinuation that the events of our meeting of 11 September 2025 signified some kind of ‘coup’ or ‘takeover,’ Mr. Khambata added. “This is absurd. I had no such intention and I believe neither did anyone else. Nothing we did even remotely suggests this.”At the heart of the issue between the two camps was a difference of opinion on how the governance of the Tata Trusts should be conducted and on the representation of the Trusts through their nominee directors on the board of Tata Sons. The trustees led by Tata Trusts chairman Noel Tata, Venu Srinivasan and Mr. Singh, were reportedly of the opinion that governance should continue as it so far has been done: through continuity and consensus-based decision-making. The trustees led by Mr. Mistry, however, felt differently. “It [the vote of September 11] was a difference of approach in an annual review concerning representation of the Trusts through its nominee

Photo Credit: Special arrangementA little boy, dressed traditionally, trying to make sense of Golding’s layered prose that cauterises our myths of goodness, our faith in rules, and the quiet violence we pretend not to see: That, to me, is the essence of Mayo College in the New World Order. The principal, Saurav Sinha, who took the reins only recently, is conscious of being sensitive to it. “While being summoned to the principal’s office is still a scary thought to the students, at the same time, you may notice me sharing a laugh with the boys, often teasing them too. That is a change from not only 30 years ago but even five years ago,” he says.Assembly hall at Mayo College | Photo Credit: Special arrangementThe other day, a group of around 10 boys from the board classes were walking on the campus after their study preparation. Most of the other students had gone home, but these students remained because they had a single paper left. They just knocked on Sinha’s door, a mansion built in 1910, festooned with dahlias and climbing ivy. “I gave them some cold coffee, and we ended up playing PlayStation for a while. Of course, most of them beat me in football, and they were very happy about it. But that’s the point — the role has changed from a dictator to a father figure. You know you can’t cross a certain line with him, but there can be no doubt about the affection, either.”

More than half a century ago, Jaswant Singh, who graduated from Mayo College in 1985 and now leads a manufacturing business, remembers when the principal of the school, passed away in the middle of his tenure in 1982. The vice principal took over briefly, and a new principal was appointed much later. “Things never stopped; the school was never affected. The same held during COVID times as well. There was no room to slack,” he says.Through the alumni network Old Boys, like Jaswant and Rudra, continue to be associated: funding new projects, rallying support for ambitious buildings on the campus, coming together for a social cause, and advocating for the school where it matters. Now, as a businessman, Singh still notices the way those Mayo years help him navigate the real world: Resilience, self-independence, but also not being so independent that one loses the sense of community. “We had these cycling trips that would last three days, doing everything on your own, cooking your food, cycling to the next stop and then cycling some 70 kilometres back to Ajmer. I can never forget that trip. I remember getting a sore back because none of us had ever cycled for that long. The bonds I created with the four other friends on that trip are still alive,” he recounts. Only three days back, he had a long video call with one of them from the United States — catching up about life, what they missed about that time. Education, then, was never limited to the classroom. It is this sense of home, of always learning and forming friendships that were not transactional or superficial but one that held your hands through all the crests or troughs of life, that is the bedrock of the Mayo experience. It is the same sentiment that Col. Singh felt when he travelled across the country and the world this year, when different batches of Mayo held events celebrating the 150th anniversary. “As clichéd as it sounds, family is how I’d describe Mayo. It is moving the way people connect and how familial the bonds are between former staff members. On graduation day, parents tell me how their sons were weeping, and they were weeping with them because a nine-year journey came to an end.” What keeps a school standing for 150 years, then? While ceremony and nostalgia anchor us, give the students and staff a warm superstructure, it all boils down to care. The people who care enough to go the extra mile, do the work when no one’s looking, the students who analyse themselves critically. Mayo endures because its past is held lightly, its present questioned often, and its students trusted with real responsibility. The celebrations aheadA Harvard–Mayo College polo match will headline sports prize giving, with two games planned, one against current students and one against alumni, at Mayo’s Polo PavilionA Paresh Maity painting will lead the art auction, with all proceeds earmarked for the schoolSonu Nigam will perform a 90-minute concert, expected to draw an audience of about 6,000 peopleThe senior school play, The Royal Hunt of the Sun, will be staged with Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor attending as guests of honourA Vintage Car Rally will feature 25 Old Boys’ cars doing daily rounds of the campus, complemented by a heritage fashion show by Ritwik Khanna’s Rkive City using archival school textiles.

Directors on the board of Tata Sons,” Mr. Khambata wrote. “On 11 September I was motivated by one factor and one factor alone – viz to have a more assertive voice on the board of Tata Sons to help espouse the cause of the Trusts against listing of Tata Sons.”No hard feelingsMr. Khambata went on to explain that the trustees who had voted against the continuation of Mr. Singh as a Tata Sons board member “felt absolutely nothing” against Mr. Singh and “regretted that he was not present at the meeting so that we could explain our position to him, face to face.”He also said he regretted the “unfair slant media coverage” lent to the episode and the “consequent pain” Mr. Singh had to bear.In fact, Mr. Khambata went on to write, following the events of September 11, he twice proposed a joint statement of unity reaffirming all the trustees’ faith in Noel Tata’s leadership. “The first time was almost immediately after 11 September and the second was the day before Ratan’s death anniversary,” Mr. Khambata wrote. “Unfortunately some of you did not respond.”He further said that all the trustees and the Trust itself had been hurt by the “engineered media coverage,” adding that he was disappointed by the “failure of the Trusts to correct this fundamentally false narrative.”Reiterating his approach of acting “independently and in the interests of the Trusts on an issue by issue basis,” Mr Khambata recalled disagreeing with Mr Mistry on “fundamental issues such as giving the SP group a fair exit (which I thought was essential to the interests of the Trusts) and on individual trustees communicating with Tata Sons (which I believed was impermissible). He added: “Of course Mehli later agreed to the resolution which I proposed and which was passed in July 2025, enunciating opposition to listing as not in the Trusts interests and at the same time declaring that the Trusts should seek a settlement with the SP Group.”Moving forwardAnother sign of tension within the board of trustees was the fact that Mr. Tata, Mr. Singh, and Mr. Srinivasan had not approved the reappointment of Mr. Mistry when time came for a vote on the issue. Mr. Mistry’s three-year tenure ended on October 28, following which he wrote a letter (November 4, 2025) to Mr. Tata that concluded: “I part ways with a quote that Mr Ratan N. Tata used to say to me. ‘Nobody is bigger than the institution it serves.’”While concluding his own letter, Mr. Khambata noted that Mr. Mistry had placed the interests of the Trusts above his personal interest in his “dignified and commendable letter.”“

How India’ degrees are diminishing the country’s demographic dividend



When Spence, in 1973, propounded the concept of the “signaling” value of education, it was seen as a step ahead of human capital theory, which held that education makes individuals more able and productive. One would argue that this idea of productivity is a rather capitalist interpretation, because in a market setup an individual could still be economically productive yet socially useless, or even anti-social. One could counter that it is human greed that has fed capitalism everywhere, including in education. However, it is paradoxical that as education became more accessible, we placed less emphasis on its human-capital-formation value and more on its signaling value. The quality-versus-quantity debate will persist, with the former often regarded as superior. But it is also true that we continue to rely on the “signaling value of education,” which is assumed to reflect the human capital it generates. Here, however, I argue that we are going back on education—not only has the human capital value of education shifted, but people are increasingly disliking and viewing with suspicion the signaling value that a degree is meant to convey.

Most millennial in their 30s would remember their parents talking about how the decision of their grandparents to (or not to) earn a degree altered the course of their lives. They would recall stories about a friend’s mother (often “father”) who, with only a higher secondary degree, became a headmistress (often “master”) and held her family together financially—stories that made them realise the value of education and ensured that they aimed for better education to secure their future. But the same millennials now doubt whether the same process can secure a future for their own children. Much research has pointed to a decrease in the value of education, particularly of educational credentials. And although we recognise that education has no alternative, we are increasingly unsure of how much education actually ensures an ideal future.

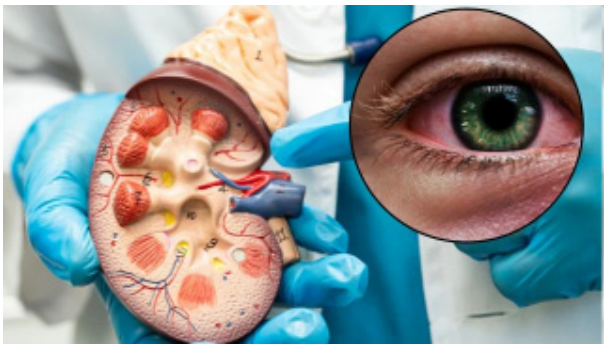
A capitalist turn? According to the latest PLFS annual report in India, out of every 100 in the employable workforce, 56 are employed, 3 are unemployed and searching for jobs, and the remaining 41 are students, elders, etc. Similarly, for every 100 employed persons, 57 are self-employed, 23 are salaried, and the rest are wage earners. It must be put in context that students, many categorised as self-employed, and even wage earners might still be considered “unemployed” in the sense that their education did not pay off—or has not paid off yet. Students are learning more, the self-employed are trying to use their education in self-owned businesses (to what extent is debatable), and the wage earners have largely given up. I do not mean to include the outliers here—those for whom education worked extremely well or those who did not acquire any education at all.

Credential inflationIt is undeniable that Indian education, particularly higher education, is becoming more capitalistic, where the interpretation of capital goes beyond the sole objective of human capital. Increasingly, private universities are stressing competitively assigning more marks to students. Edtech startups are selling degrees or courses

while obliterating what the student actually learns, yet positioning the mere possession of a completion certificate as a “skill.” We may soon see a neatly segmented market for education and skills, where basic education in HEIs becomes the benchmark over which additional skill “toppings” are offered. What is worrisome is that the frivolous concept of “more the merrier” is being packaged and sold—purely on the quantitative front. This positive positioning of acquiring a larger number of credentials moves far beyond the normative objective of education, or at least it is believed to.On the other side, it is not new information that companies are no longer valuing educational credentials as much. Credentials have become more like a screening device: applicants beyond a certain level of education are filtered in, but the actual test of ability is where Indian students are lagging. I would argue that international students aren’t necessarily much better; the difference is simply that the gravity of unemployment is higher in India. However, one might ponder why this is even a surprise. Following the marginalist theories of economics, where demand and supply are studied at the margin, as the supply of credentials increases, one would expect their value to decrease. That is precisely the point of departure in education. It will not be long before, in the same market setup, people begin to stress the actual quality of education received rather than just the degree.So, what we have discussed can be explained by the fact that on the labour-market supply side, an overflowing number of graduates are coming out of the so-called massification of higher education. The self-feeding challenge of asymmetric information about their abilities, from an employer’s perspective, is worsening the situation further, as a larger number of degrees is increasingly perceived as insurance against unemployment and underemployment. I now anticipate that a market for screening students will emerge. It is likely to be a more privatised setup where, over and above degrees and skill certificates, students will have to take additional, often alien, tests to showcase their human capital. It is a double whammy for students, leading to further privatisation of the friction-based segment of the labour market.

Demographic dividend risks Given this context, as we argue that we are going back, we must assess what it means for India’s demographic dividend. First, as companies begin adding their own additional tests over existing screenings, they will be more inclined to depend on AI-like technologies, further reducing employment prospects. Second, this will bring an additional monetary and financial burden on the youth, and there will be longer gestation periods of friction in entering the job market—conditions that will warrant a part-time employment industry and further sift-skills for young people. Third, it is harmful for any society when people feel that their education is not valued and that there is always “more to do” for ever-lower marginal returns. Fourth, this situation has the potential to create more billionaire private-agency owners who set up innovative startups to address the information gap on ability between companies and students, but these will be fed by extra out-of-pocket education expenditure—money that goes towards validation of human capital rather than its addition.What is the solution? Clearly, privatisation hasn’t paid off, and we are losing out on harnessing the demographic dividend. One clear-cut solution would be a social-isht reform on the recruitment side. The government must begin filling all vacancies across all levels of public institutions and try to absorb as much manpower as possible. Secondly, there is no alternative to quality education and quality evaluation. Monitoring the evaluation systems of private HEIs will help bring parity across graduating students. Thirdly, we need to create parity in the quality of education delivered. For this, an upgraded curriculum and quality teaching are essential—and better incentivising teachers with higher salaries is a must.

Women visits doctor for eye problem, finds out her kidneys are failing: ‘Within days, my entire world flipped...’



Sometimes, the body sends warning signals in the most surprising ways. For one woman, what began as a minor issue with her eyes led to a life-changing diagnosis of kidney failure. She shared her story online, writing,

Sometimes, the body sends warning signals in the most surprising ways. For one woman, what began as a minor issue with her eyes led to a life-changing diagnosis of kidney failure. She shared her story online, writing, “The one thing I have learned is to never ask the universe, ‘What’s the worst that could happen?’ because trust me, the universe has a twisted sense of humor. It’ll hit you with a reverse UNO card and say, ‘Yeah, this is what can happen.’”

Her symptoms were subtle at first—blurred vision, a heaviness in her eyelids, and puffiness around her eyes. “I thought it was something simple, maybe I just needed a new power in my glasses,” she says. But curiosity, or perhaps fate, prompted her to see an ophthalmologist. What she expected to be a quick checkup turned into a startling revelation. “After a few tests, my doctor looked at me and said something that didn’t even make sense at first—that my kidneys were failing,” she recalls. Within days, she was admitted to the hospital, undergoing blood tests, scans, and hearing unfamiliar terms like “creatinine,” “urea,” and “end-stage kidney disease.”

How can early kidney disease show up through eye or vision symptoms?

Dr Kavita Parihar, Director of Renal Transplant at Apollo Hospitals, Ahmedabad, explains, “Early kidney disease may present with symptoms such as swelling or puffiness around the eyes, a feeling of heaviness in the eyelids, and visual disturbances, including blurred vision or even partial vision loss. In diabetics and hypertensive patients, changes in the fundus are observed.”She emphasises that

these eye symptoms can sometimes serve as the first sign of a deeper problem, particularly in people with conditions like diabetes or high blood pressure.

What’s the biological link between kidney dysfunction and eye problems?

The connection lies in the body’s intricate network of blood vessels. Dr Parihar says, “Kidney dysfunction is closely tied to conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes. When these conditions are uncontrolled, they damage the small blood vessels throughout the body—including those in the eyes.”She continues, “Elevated blood sugar or high blood pressure can cause swelling of the optic nerve and retinal blood vessels, leading to blurred vision, puffiness around the eyes, or even retinal bleeding if the vessels become too fragile and burst. When the kidneys can’t filter properly, waste products and excess fluid accumulate in the body, contributing to swelling, including around the eyes, and further increasing pressure on delicate eye structures.”kidney When high blood pressure and diabetes are uncontrolled, they damage the small blood vessels throughout the body, including those in the eyes

Which eye symptoms suggest advanced kidney disease?

Persistent or severe vision changes may indicate more serious kidney involvement. According to Dr Parihar, “Symptoms such as persistent blurry vision, spotty vision, dark or black spots in the visual field, or significant vision loss can indicate more advanced eye involvement. When these symptoms appear, it may suggest that kidney disease has progressed to a more severe or advanced stage.”

When should someone with vision problems get their kidney function tested?

Dr Parihar advises, “If someone experiences sudden or persistent vision problems, they should immediately check their blood sugar and blood pressure levels. If either of these is elevated—or if the vision issues persist—they should consult a kidney specialist immediately. Sudden or ongoing eye symptoms can be an early warning sign of underlying kidney dysfunction, so timely testing of kidney function is important.”Reflecting on her experience, the woman adds, “There’s no way to describe that kind of shock—it’s like life paused and rewrote itself. I was told there was no reversing my condition, that I would need life-long treatment, and that everything I knew about ‘normal’ was about to change.”Her story underscores a vital lesson: even minor eye problems—such as blurred vision, puffiness, or subtle changes—can signal serious underlying health issues. Early detection, regular checkups, and prompt consultation with specialists can make a life-saving difference.

‘US whiskey a priority agri, export category; India an essential market’: Whiskey Association CEO Michael Bilello



As the United States Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer wrapped up his India visit to finalise an interim bilateral trade agreement (BTA) between India and the US, Michael Bilello, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of American Whiskey Association said they are in talks with both governments to make sure American whiskey is understood as a priority US agricultural, manufacturing and export category. In an interview with Divya A, he also underscored that India is increasingly viewed as essential, and not optional among American businesses. Edited excerpts:

You’ve been arguing that American whiskey should be part of the emerging US-India trade framework. Have you had any conversations on it with Indian government officials and the American side?

The American Whiskey Association has been actively engaged on both sides of the US-India trade conversation. On the Indian side, we have engaged with Indian government, diplomatic, policy and business stakeholders to make sure American whiskey is understood as a priority US agricultural, manufacturing and export category. That has included discussions with Ambassador Vinay Kwatra, as well as finance ministry officials. On the US side, we met with (Donald) Trump administration officials, provided input

from member companies, facilitated meetings between member-company executives and key players involved in trade negotiations, and submitted letters to the Office of the USTR. Having said that, we are not negotiators. Our job is to make sure the American whiskey supply chain’s priorities are clearly understood by policymakers.

How will this benefit US producers as well as Indian consumers?

For American producers, meaningful access to India would support one of America’s most important agricultural and manufacturing export categories. When American whiskey grows abroad, the value flows back into US farms, rural manufacturing, distilling communities and export jobs. For Indian consumers, the benefit is choice, quality and fair pricing. Today, its price in India is shaped heavily by tariff and market-access friction before it reaches a consumer, bartender, retailer or restaurant. If American whiskey can enter the market on commercially meaningful terms, Indian consumers will have more access to premium American products at prices that better reflect the product itself, not just layers of avoidable cost.

What is the view of the Indian market and growing economy among American businesses? How is the BTA viewed in the US?

Among American businesses, India is increasingly viewed as essential, not optional. It is one of the world’s most important long-term growth markets, with a large and increasingly sophisticated consumer base, a growing middle class, strong entrepreneurial energy, a dynamic hospitality sector and an expanding role in global supply chains. The BTA is being watched closely in the US because it can demonstrate whether the strategic US-India partnership can translate into practical commercial opportunity. Businesses are looking for predictability, commercially meaningful market access, fair treatment and rules that allow investment and trade to grow. A good agreement should be mutually beneficial.

Electricity production jumps, pulls up May industrial growth to 5-month high of 5.1%



India’s industrial production rose by 5.1% in May – the fastest increase in five months – pulled up by a double-digit increase in electricity generation, according to Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Monday. In April, industrial growth was 4.9%. In May, electricity generation from renewable sources jumped 18% while that from non-renewable sources increased by 8.8%, leading to overall electricity production rising by 11.1% as high temperatures boosted demand for power. However, gas supply was 7.1% lower in May, resulting in the output of the ‘electricity and gas’ category increasing by 9.9% compared to the same month last year.

According to Megha Arora, Director at India Ratings & Research, the impact of the West Asia crisis was “visible in continued gas supply contraction”. In April, gas supply had fallen 7.7%. Meanwhile, the manufacturing sector – which accounts for more than three quarters of the IIP – saw its output grow by 5.5% in May, down from an increase of 6.1% in April. Mining output fell again, this time by 1.6%, while output of the ‘water supply, sewerage & waste management’ category increased by 5.5% year-on-year. Of the 23 categories within the manufacturing sector, 16 saw a year-in-year rise in their production in May. “Like previous months, electrical equipment, and motor vehicles, trailers

and semi-trailers continued to surge at 20.8% and 14.5%, respectively. Electrical equipment continued to report growth due to small transformers, circuit breakers, and others,” Arora of India Ratings noted, adding that traditional export sectors such as leather and apparel contracted. In terms of use-based classification of the goods produced, output of primary goods was 2.6% higher in May, while that of capital goods rose 12.9% and intermediate goods 5.8%. Infrastructure goods’ production was 5.9% higher. On the consumer front, durable goods posted a growth of 7.2% in May and non-durables 3.6%.

According to Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist at CareEdge Ratings, while the uptick in production of consumer durables and non-durables is positive, the durability of recovery needs to be monitored amid the ongoing geopolitical volatility, inflationary pressures, and slow progress of the monsoon. Moving forward, even though the decline in global energy prices is a source of relief, economists see some downside risks to industrial production as manufacturing and construction face cost pressures for imported inputs. “Even if shipping resumes through the Strait of Hormuz, repairs to the damaged oil and gas infrastructure in West Asia will take time and elevated war risk premiums, among other factors, would keep pressure on input costs,” said Dipti Deshpande, Principal Economist at Crisil. The weak monsoon is another big risk for the industry as it could dampen rural demand, Deshpande said. The May print is the second number in the new IIP data series which has 2022-23 as the base year and updates various methodologies used in the compilation of the index and broadens the coverage of the economic indicator. The data for May incorporates another change, with MoSPI replacing the Wholesale Price Index with the Output Producer Price Index to deflate 234 of the 463 items in the IIP where the output is collected in value, and not volume, terms. “This has led to material changes in growth across segments such as manufacturing and is also likely to lead to revisions in the GDP data,” said Rahul Agrawal, Principal Economist at ICRA.

India’s statistical system can reclaim past glory: PK Mishra



Speaking Monday at the 20th Statistics Day, organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) to commemorate the birth anniversary of famed statistician PC Mahalanobis

The modernisation of the statistics ministry is a “success story”, with the Prime Minister’s Office playing the role of “a catalyst and a facilitator” to encourage the ministry’s leadership and senior officers, PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said. Speaking Monday at the 20th Statistics Day, organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) to commemorate the birth anniversary of famed statistician PC Mahalanobis, Mishra also said India’s statistical system can reclaim its past glory that had seen it become one of the finest survey-based statistical systems in the world starting in the 1950s. “After about half a century of this journey, the Indian statistical system witnessed a gradual decline in its capability and capacity... About a decade ago, there were several articles in newspapers and other forums and commentaries, very critical of our statistical system during the years 2014-2016 and so on. Our Prime Minister was very surprised at how so much criticism there was about our system,” Mishra said. While Mishra did not mention specifics, he was seemingly referring to the blowback the government faced after it junked the Consumer Expenditure Survey for 2017-18, citing data quality issues. At the same time, key economic indicators such as the CPI and GDP

had begun attracting criticism for being outdated.

According to Mishra, discussions in the PMO started in January 2020 over the improvement of India’s statistical system, starting with a meeting involving MoSPI, NITI Aayog, and the World Bank. “At that time, even within our Office, eyebrows were raised that the Prime Minister’s Office was spending time brainstorming on the statistical system instead of spending time on flagship programmes and schemes,” he said on Monday, adding that the PMO’s intention was to enable MoSPI to improve its performance by addressing structural and inter-ministerial issues. More interactions were held in 2021 and 2022, including with external experts, leading to a decision being taken in July 2023 to undertake an “in-depth analysis to identify major reforms for India’s statistical system”. Several issues were identified in another meeting in September that year, including non-release of data and delays, the fragmented statistical architecture, uneven data quality across agencies and states, a decline in professional capacity, a growing disconnect from user needs, and insufficient adaptation of new data sources. Other organisations, such as the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, the National Statistical Commission, and the Reserve Bank of India were brought in to help with the reform process, which included the base year of India’s key macroeconomic indicators.

Over the last six months, the government’s efforts have finally borne fruit, with a new GDP, CPI, and WPI series being released with new base years and improved calculation methodologies. Several new surveys are also being undertaken, including the country’s first household income survey. MoSPI is also actively considering how administrative data, such as that related to Goods and Services Tax, among others, can be used to complement survey-based data. According to Mishra, administrative data needs to stop being a byproduct of departmental processes and become a “strategic national asset” which can help in timely evidence-based decision-making and improve programme design and enhance service delivery. However, these efforts need to be well-coordinated in all central ministries, departments, states, and Union Territories.

Europe’s heatwave didn’t fry that omelette — ‘the pan did,’ says expert



Europe heatwave, heatwave, eggs, omelette An Instagram user has been sharing videos of cooking food in the heatwave with just the air. (Olivier Hude/AI Generated) As Europe battles an intense heatwave, a video from the Netherlands showing a man, Olivier Hude, apparently frying an omelette in a pan placed under direct sunlight has gone viral. With temperatures soaring above 40°C in several parts of the continent, the clip raises questions about whether the summer heat alone can actually cook food.

According to Dr Prashant Sinha, Head of Emergency, PSRI Hospital, “Despite the soaring temperatures, the surrounding air is not hot enough to cook an egg. An ambient air temperature of 40–45°C is far too low to cook an egg. Egg proteins need a much higher temperature to coagulate.” However, he explains that there is an important distinction between the temperatures of the air and the surface on which the egg is cooked. “If the pan has been heated by the sun and gets to a temperature substantially above

that of the surrounding air, it is possible that an egg will be partially cooked. In these cases, the heat is coming from the hot surface, not the air.”

What temperature does an omelette actually need?

Dr Sinha explains that eggs require considerably higher temperatures than those experienced during even severe heatwaves. “Egg proteins start to coagulate at 60–65°C. A well-cooked omelet will typically be at 70–75°C or higher. From a food safety point of view, eggs should be cooked to an internal temperature of about 71°C.” He contrasts this with typical heatwave conditions. “Even during strong heatwaves with air temperatures up to 40–45°C, we are still far from the level required to cook an omelette.”

Can a pan become hot enough under direct sunlight?

While the air itself may not cook an egg, Dr Sinha says a pan exposed to strong sunshine can sometimes reach much higher temperatures. “Yes. A dark-coloured metal pan can get much hotter than the air around it when placed in strong direct sunlight—hot enough to fry an egg. Many factors go into this, such as the amount of sun it gets, how long it is in the sun, what the pan is made of and what colour it is, the wind, and what is around it.” He adds that the most favourable conditions include calm, sunny weather and dark metal cookware that absorbs heat efficiently. Dr Sinha further explains that the video highlights the solar heating effect on exposed surfaces. Metal objects, roads, pavements, and vehicle interiors can become significantly hotter than the surrounding air because they absorb and retain solar radiation. This is why touching a sun-exposed metal surface during peak summer can feel much hotter than the reported air temperature,” he adds.

‘Not out of danger’: Jasmin Bhasin shares critical update after Dubai birthday health scare



Jasmin Bhasin went to Dubai to usher in her 36th birthday in style. But life had other plans. The television actor shared a critical health update from the hospital bed, revealing that she was diagnosed with terminal ileitis, a small intestine inflammation. In a quick clarification for her worried fans, Bhasin could be heard saying in her Instagram story: “I did not get medical clearance from my hospital to fly...because I’m still not out of the danger zone. Somehow, they have stabilised me with some injections, and right now I’m at the airport. As soon as I land, I will be going to another hospital, getting admitted and continuing my treatment.” Her boyfriend, Aly Goni, also shared some snippets from the hospital, giving more insight about their celebration-turned-health horror in the caption of his Instagram post:

“We came here to celebrate your birthday, but life had other plans ?? . Instead of making birthday memories, we’re in a hospital room. Seeing you in pain has been the hardest part of this trip. I’d trade every celebration just to see you healthy and smiling again.”

What exactly is terminal ileitis?

Dr Kaushik Subramanian, Senior Consultant – Surgical Gastroenterology, Aster Whitefield Hospital, Bengaluru, explains that Terminal ileitis is inflammation of the terminal ileum, which is the last stretch of the small intestine before it joins with the large bowel. “But it’s kind of tricky because terminal ileitis isn’t really a disease on its own, more like a clue or finding that can show up for a variety of reasons,” he says. He says it is often connected with Crohn’s disease, because it targets that specific area. But there can be other causes, too. “They generally include bacterial in-

fections, tuberculosis, certain meds for example long-term pain relievers (NSAIDs), a diminished blood flow to the intestine, and, less often, some immune system disorders that act in a slightly atypical way,” he tells indianexpress.com.

What symptoms should people watch out for?

Dr Subramanian says that the symptoms can vary depending on what’s causing the inflammation, but the common ones include: “If the inflammation is severe or longstanding, patients may also notice blood in the stool, nutritional deficiencies or recurrent abdominal pain. Symptoms that last for more than a couple of weeks should never be ignored,” he shares.

What does treatment look like?

Dr Amit Mittal, Clinical Director & HOD, Gastroenterology, Marengo Asia Hospitals, Gurugram adds that treatment depends on the actual cause, not just the symptoms in general. To determine the cause of the inflammation, doctors often use blood tests, stool tests, imaging scans and a colonoscopy with a biopsy. Dr Mittal says if it is due to an infection, then appropriate medicines are prescribed. “Crohn’s disease treatment may include anti-inflammatory drugs, immune-modifying drugs, biologic therapies and dietary changes,” he further informs. Having said that, he points out that hydration and correction of nutritional deficiencies are also an important component of recovery. Dr Subramanian stressed that treatment is not the same for everyone; that’s why “figuring out the real cause is the first step before starting therapy.”

Can terminal ileitis be prevented?

Dr Subramanian says that while every situation cannot be fully prevented, especially when it’s connected to autoimmune issues such as Crohn’s, you can certainly do a few things that cut down the chance of intestinal inflammation, or at least help you avoid some complications along the way. From keeping good food and water hygiene, so infections are less likely, to steering clear of unnecessary or overly long painkiller use like NSAIDs, unless your doctor has told you to, the doctor suggests some valuable tips. “Try not to smoke, keep a well balanced diet, and if abdominal pain, persistent diarrhoea or unexplained weight loss keeps going for more than a couple weeks, get medical help instead of waiting it out,” he concludes.

Woman took magnesium daily, then developed an irregular heartbeat



heartbeat. In fact, doctors sometimes use magnesium therapeutically in hospitals to manage certain heart rhythm disorders. However, more is not always better.

“Too much magnesium can disrupt these functions,” explains Dr Dhall. According to him, excessive magnesium levels can slow the transmission of electrical signals that control the heartbeat, potentially causing a slower pulse or changes in heart rhythm. It may also lower blood pressure, leading to dizziness, weakness, or fainting.

In severe cases, the consequences can become life-threatening. “Extremely high magnesium levels can cause the heart rate to slow down significantly, trigger abnormal heart rhythms, and severely lower blood pressure,” Dr Dhall cautions. “In rare but serious situations, the heart may stop functioning properly, leading to cardiac arrest.”

The risk is particularly high in people with kidney disease because their bodies may struggle to remove excess magnesium efficiently. Warning signs people often miss: magnesium Frequent diarrhea, nausea, stomach discomfort, and vomiting are common signs of magnesium toxicity. According to Dr Dhall, the earliest signs of excessive magnesium intake are often digestive. “Frequent diarrhea, nausea, stomach discomfort, and vomiting are common signals that the body may be getting more magnesium than it needs,” he notes. Some people may also experience unusual tiredness, muscle weakness, dizziness, or feeling lightheaded.

Importantly, these symptoms are not always caused by magnesium alone. Interactions with medications, dehydration, underlying illnesses, and taking multiple supplements simultaneously can also contribute to problems.

For that reason, experts caution against assuming that supplements are automatically safe simply because they are sold over the counter. As Astra’s post notes, “natural” does not always mean harmless for every person or at every dose. While it’s not that magnesium is dangerous in itself, that supplements should be taken based on individual health needs rather than internet trends. Before adding magnesium, or any supplement, to your daily routine, it is worth asking a simple question: Do you actually need it?

How can magnesium affect the heart?

Magnesium plays a critical role in maintaining a healthy

Why Vaibhav Sooryavanshi should not make his India debut in 1st T20I vs England



GNS News Agency, June 6

India's new T20I era under Shreyas Iyer began with a shock 2-0 series defeat to Ireland in Belfast. As they prepare for the first T20I against England in Durham on Wednesday, the biggest selection debate centres around whether teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi should walk straight into the playing XI. It is an understandable discussion. Sooryavanshi has quickly become one of the most talked-about young batsmen in the country, and with good reason. The temptation to see what he can do at the highest level will only grow. But international selection is rarely just about talent or excitement. It is also about timing and resisting the urge to alter something that is already working. Yes, he did fall for a duck in the second T20I against Ireland, but taken in isolation, that means very little. A look at the fuller picture, and his recent run reads: 49, 52, 9, 10, 55 and then that duck. That is not a batter out of touch. It is an opener doing exactly what he is picked to do – playing high-risk cricket at the top while consistently producing impactful starts. More importantly, his output this year has been excellent. He has 372 runs in 15 T20Is at a strike rate of 203.27. Those are not merely impressive numbers; they are the sort that define elite modern T20 openers. That matters because opening in T20 cricket is among the most unforgiving roles in the format. When a batter is delivering that level of impact, there has to be a compelling reason to move

away from him. For Wednesday's opener, the Sooryavanshi debate becomes less about talent and more about team balance. India already have clarity at the top. Abhishek has cemented one opening spot, while the partnership with Sanju Samson has done enough to deserve another outing. Bringing in a 15-year-old opener for the first T20I would not simply be a like-for-like change. It would mean reshuffling roles, altering the Powerplay approach and disrupting a combination that has only recently begun to settle.

There is also the immediate challenge of conditions in Durham. Early-season English pitches can be unforgiving for top-order batters, with seam movement often available in the opening overs. That is not the easiest environment in which to hand a teenager his debut, especially one still at the beginning of his international journey. India's T20 World Cup-winning campaign earlier this year was built on clearly defined roles and stability at the top. Successful T20 sides are not afraid to evolve, but they also avoid making unnecessary changes when combinations are working. At the moment, Abhishek is not producing occasional cameos; he has been consistently giving the kind of explosive starts India want in the Powerplay. Replacing him now, without any sustained dip in form or obvious tactical requirement, would be difficult to justify. There is another consideration, too. If an in-form player loses his place after one low score because of the excitement around a younger contender, it could create uncertainty in a dressing room.

None of this suggests Sooryavanshi is far away. Quite the opposite. Players with his talent rarely spend long time waiting in modern T20 cricket. But the best transitions usually take place when a place opens naturally or when form demands a change, not when a settled combination is broken. The first T20I against England does not feel like the right moment to experiment at the top. It feels like an opportunity to back a combination that has earned the right to continue. For Wednesday, at least, India's smartest move is restraint. Not because Sooryavanshi is not ready, but because Abhishek has given them no reason to change course. His opportunity will come. It just does not need to come in the first T20I.

What was Serena Williams up to during four-year break before Wimbledon return



Serena Williams is set to return at the Wimbledon 2026 on Tuesday after having officially retired from the sport back in September 2022, but during her time away from the court, she has accomplished a lot including solidifying her business and philanthropic empire. Earlier this month, Williams had also returned to professional tennis as well when she teamed up with 19-year-old Canadian Victoria Mboko to take on the third-seeded duo Nicole Melichar-Martinez and Erin Routliffe at Queen's Club. Williams and Mboko had won that match but their partnership was cut short when the latter suffered a knee injury that ruled her out of Wimbledon. Here is a year-by-year breakdown of Williams' accomplishments during her hiatus from Tennis: Williams shipped her primary focus to 'Serena Ventures', the Venture Capital firm, she founded in 2014. She raised a \$111 million inaugural fund to invest in early-stage startups, specifically prioritizing women, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and underrepresented founders. The firm boasts over a dozen "unicorn" investments, startups valued at over \$1 billion. Williams gave birth to her second child, 'Adira' River Ohanian, in August.

She continued her work in Hollywood as she scaled up operations at her production company, Nine Two Six Productions. She finalised a first-look TV deal with Amazon Studios to develop scripted and unscripted projects centering on diverse, uplifting storytelling.

Williams continued her philanthropic work through the Yetunde Price Resource Center in Compton, California, which was founded in honor of her late sister. The YPRC provides therapy and resources to victims of community violence. Williams entered the cosmetics industry by launching her own brand 'WYN Beauty' in partnership with

the Good Glamm Group. She was Inducted in National Women's Hall Of Fame as part of an elite class celebrating women who changed American history. She hosted the 2024 ESPY Awards, using her platform to highlight historic milestones in women's sports. She was selected as a Global Glamour Woman of the Year, featuring on the cover to talk about navigating motherhood, post-tennis life, and corporate success. Williams received the Princess of Asturias Award for Sports as she was not only recognized as one of the history's greatest athletes but also praised for her constant advocacy of gender equality and corporate inclusivity. Williams took the world by surprise after starring in a Nike promotional video alongside basketball star LeBron James to officially announce she was ending her four-year hiatus.

Which other players have made a comeback like Williams after retiring?

While Williams is making all the global headlines for making a remarkable comeback to the sport after a hiatus of nearly 4 years, there have been multiple players who have made a post-retirement comeback in modern women's tennis and claimed the glory with former Belgian star Kim Clijsters being the ultimate benchmark for it. Clijsters retired in 2007 to start a family, and then came back to play once again in 2009. She won the 2009 US Open in only in her third tournament back, while competing as an unranked wildcard, while also becoming the first unseeded player and the first mother in the Open Era to win a Grand Slam singles title. She later added two more Grand Slams to her list of accolades and also grabbed the World No. 1 spot.

How has Williams' peers reacted to her comeback?

The 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic has said, "First and foremost, what she's doing is inspirational and it's epic. For her to come back after years of being absent from the tour, two children later, and to give so much effort to, not just for her own satisfaction or coming back on the tour, but also to give all of us a pleasure of seeing her back on the court is remarkable." The current World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka, fascinated at the prospect of seeing the American legend back in action, told the media, "I don't know how far (she will go but) I'm super excited to see her play. I heard she said she's doing that for her kids to see her play. It's amazing what she's doing."

Jannik Sinner survives scare to beat Miomir Kecmanovic in Wimbledon opener



Defending Wimbledon champion Jannik Sinner recovered from a worrying fall and twice came back from a set down to defeat Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic in five sets, setting up a second-round clash with Portugal's Nuno Borges at the All England Club

GNS News Agency, June 6

London: World No. 1 and 2025 winner Jannik Sinner overcame a scary fall and a resilient opponent to launch his Wimbledon title defence with a hard-fought victory, getting past his opponent in five sets in the opening round of men's singles at the All-England Club in London on Monday. Playing his first match since his shock second-round exit at the Roland Garros, Sinner returned to winning ways by battling past Miomir Kecmanovic 4-6, 6-3, 6-7(6), 6-2, 6-3, despite spraying 52 unforced errors and briefly raising hopes of a huge upset. The Italian, however, dug deep to outlast the resilient Kecmanovic in three hours, 30 minutes, starting the proceedings at the Centre Court on

the opening day. "It's such a huge honour to start the tournament," Sinner said in his on-court interview. "I was a little tight in the beginning. I didn't play my very best, but I tried to get into it. It was my first official match on grass. I'm happy that I turned it around. The third set was a very tough one to swallow." Kecmanovic produced an inspired display in the third set that featured an early contender for point of the tournament. Trailing 5/6 in the tie-break, the Serbian stretched Sinner from corner to corner before charging the net, forcing the Italian to dive to the turf and bringing the Centre Court crowd to its feet. It was the second time in the set that Sinner had ended up on the grass. At 2-2, the 24-year-old suffered a worrying slip, landing awkwardly with his knees bent inwards. The fall drew gasps from the packed stands, but Sinner avoided the need for a medical timeout and quickly resumed play. Having cut down on his unforced errors to force a deciding set, Sinner seized control of the match and raced to victory, bringing a convincing finish to a contest that had been anything but straightforward through the opening three sets. After surviving a stern opening test, with David Beckham among those watching from the Royal Box, Sinner booked a second-round meeting with Portugal's Nuno Borges. The No. 1 player in the PIF ATP Rankings, Sinner has now won 94 matches at major tournaments, equalling Nicola Pietrangeli's record for the most among Italians. Sinner was avoiding becoming just the third defending men's champion to lose in the first round at Wimbledon, but he fought back with a business-like performance that drew parallels with Carlos Alcaraz's opening match last year. The Spaniard overcame Fabio Fognini in a nervy five-set clash to get his title defence underway before surging to the final, where he was stopped by Sinner.

I tried to talk him down': McCullum on Ben Stokes' sudden retirement



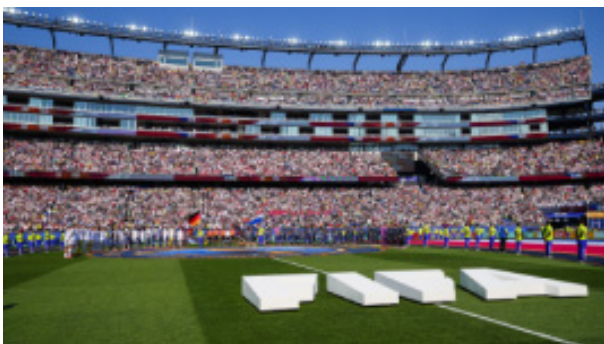
GNS News Agency, June 6

After Ben Stokes caught the cricketing world off guard when he announced his retirement from international cricket in the middle of the 3rd England vs New Zealand Test on Sunday, England head coach Brendon McCullum revealed that he had tried to coax the then-England captain to reconsider his decision. "When he confirmed to me that he was going to retire, first I tried to talk him down and... (it) became pretty obvious that he had made his decision and he was at peace within," McCullum told Sky Sports. "From that point of view, I guess your emotion then leads on to just a bit of sadness really because you have been on this journey together for four years and it's been a real thrill. I feel very privileged that I've been able to work intimately with

Stokesy throughout that and consider him a friend, a good friend," he added.

Stokes' last match in England whites ended in defeat when they lost the third match to the Kiwis by 160 runs, also conceding the series 2-1. McCullum though, praised the outgoing player as a leader of men. "He is a leader of men, people follow him wherever he goes, whether that's on the field, whether that's in the dressing room, whether that's at the team hotel, people follow him because he's a vivacious character and he's a big presence and he has conviction in his thoughts and his methods. In a game of cricket, which has so many variables and inconsistencies, that is one level of consistency that he brings... he truly believes in every situation. I think that adds a real sense of calm to a lot of people around him," he said. "So we are going to miss Ben, we're going to miss that presence, we're going to miss his leadership and his performance and it is difficult to replace someone like that. I was quite strong in my opinions that I thought we should get it out there when we could because I think he's been a cricketer that's been able to transcend the sport into other aspects of society and the popularity throughout society. I felt that the people that have supported Ben and this cricket team over the last 13 years since he's been involved, deserve the opportunity to say goodbye and to show their appreciation for how much he means to them with one final walk out there," he added.

From 'Waka Waka' to walkout playlists: How World Cup 2026 changed its sound



At the 2026 World Cup, music is no longer something you just hear in the background. It has become part of the tournament itself, built into the way matches are staged and experienced inside stadiums. For a long time, World Cups were remembered through one shared soundtrack. Songs like "Waka Waka" or "La Copa de la Vida" played everywhere, from stadiums to television broadcasts. They gave each tournament a single identity – one sound that belonged to everyone, no matter which team you supported.

The World Cup has moved away from one global anthem. Instead, there are now multiple songs and playlists tied to different teams and different moments in a match. Music is being used more deliberately, almost like another layer of the game, to shape how fans feel inside stadiums. Each team has been allowed to choose or submit its own music for specific moments. England players and fans, for instance, sang Oasis' "Wonderwall" after their first match, turning the 1995 hit into an unofficial team anthem during celebrations in the United States. Even walk-

outs have a new sound. Teams now enter the pitch to "Sirius" by The Alan Parsons Project – a track long associated with the Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan era – giving matches a more dramatic, cinematic build-up. Instead of waiting for fans to create those moments, organisers are now helping shape them in advance. Music is no longer accidental. It is planned, chosen, and linked directly to match situations.

The result is that the World Cup no longer has one shared sound. There is no single anthem that defines the whole tournament. Instead, there are many different sounds running at the same time, depending on which teams are playing. For fans, that makes the experience more personal. Supporters hear music that feels closer to their own team and culture, rather than one global track played everywhere. It also gives teams a chance to express identity in a different way, through sound as well as football. But it also changes how the tournament will be remembered. In the past, one song could take people straight back to a World Cup. Now, memories may be more fragmented, tied to different matches, teams, and moments. Music is also being used more directly to highlight big moments in games. Goals, wins, and key turning points are now paired with specific tracks meant to heighten emotion in real time. It is less about background music and more about shaping the atmosphere as it unfolds. In a way, the World Cup is becoming as much about sound as it is about football. What was once left to the stadium speakers in a loose, traditional way is now carefully planned as part of the experience. And that is the biggest change. Music is no longer something that simply follows the game. It is now built into it, helping decide how it feels while it is being played.

Hyderabad's Pranav Madav wins three gold medals in national ice skating



Hyderabad: Hyderabad's ice speed skater S Pranav Madav continued his golden run at the 21st National Ice Skating Championship in Dehradun by winning three gold medals in commanding fashion. On the final day of the 21st National Ice Skating Championship, Pranav Madav fulfilled his hat-trick dream by winning his third gold medal in the 1,000m event with a remarkable timing of 1 minute and 33 seconds.

BCCI Ombudsman issues notice to HCA over governance complaint



The order, dated June 29, 2026, directs the HCA Apex Council to file its reply within four weeks. The Ombudsman has also directed that a copy of the complaint and the notice be served on the HCA immediately, with liberty to the complainants to file a rejoinder thereafter, according to D Gurusva Reddy, TCA General Secretary.

Hyderabad: In a significant development, Justice Arun Mishra, former judge of the Supreme Court of India and the Ombudsman & Ethics Officer of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), has issued a formal notice to the

Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) on a complaint filed by former cricketer Gourav Sharma and another, alleging serious violations of the BCCI Constitution and the governance framework approved by the Supreme Court.

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The complaint alleges that the HCA has failed to comply with mandatory provisions of the BCCI Constitution, including Rules 3(b), 3(c) and 3(d), relating to membership classification, territorial jurisdiction, recognition of State associations, mandatory disclosures to the BCCI, governance obligations and eligibility criteria. It further alleges that the HCA amended its Constitution in a manner inconsistent with the binding governance framework approved by the Supreme Court and the Justice RM Lodha Committee reforms. The complaint also alleges that the HCA granted full membership to institutional entities despite the BCCI Constitution restricting such entities to associate membership. These allegations will now be examined in accordance with the law by the BCCI Ombudsman after the HCA files its response

Sudha Kongara moves Madras HC against Parasakthi makers over Rs 8.39 cr unpaid dues



After being mired in a censorship hurdle ahead of its January 2026 release, the Tamil period political action drama Parasakthi has once again found itself embroiled in controversy, with its director, Sudha Kongara, moving the Madras High Court against its producers over unpaid remuneration. Sudha reportedly claimed in her petition that she has yet to receive about Rs 8.39 crore from Dawn Pictures, which bankrolled Parasakthi, for her work on the film.

Sudha Kongara demands stay on Idhayam MuraliMeanwhile, Sudha has also sought a stay on the release of director Aakash Baskaran's Idhayam Murali, also produced by Dawn Pictures. Idhayam Murali is scheduled to hit the screens on Friday, July 10, with its promotions progressing in full swing. The film features Atharvaa, Kayadu Lohar, Fahadh Faasil, Preity Mukhundhan, and S Thaman in key roles. In her petition, Sudha reportedly claimed that despite invoices being raised after she had fulfilled her duties, Dawn Pictures had yet to pay her a substantial portion of her remuneration. Inside Rs 17.70 crore remuneration dispute over ParasakthiInforming the court that the production company was supposed to pay her a total of Rs 17.70 crore as remuneration, including Rs 2.70 crore GST, as

per the agreement between them, the plaintiff stated that she has received only Rs 9.31 crore thus far. Pointing out that the producers had declared Parasakthi a success, claiming it earned Rs 100 crore, Sudha's counsel stated that she has still not been paid in full for her work. The counsel also apprised the court that, amid this, Dawn Pictures was proceeding with the release of Idhayam Murali while claiming an inability to clear Sudha's dues. Barring the satellite release of Parasakthi until July 8, Justice Kumaresh Babu of the Madras High Court directed the respondent to file its counter against Sudha's plea to stop Idhayam Murali's release by July 7.

The matter will be heard again on Wednesday, July 8. From censorship hurdles to box office underperformanceOne of the biggest Tamil films of the year, Parasakthi, starring Sivakarthikeyan, Ravi Mohan, Atharvaa, and Sreeleela in the lead roles, hit the screens on January 10, coinciding with this year's Pongal season. However, the movie's release was uncertain until the last minute due to the non-receipt of a Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) nod. Nevertheless, the film received a UA 16+ certificate on January 9, just a day ahead of its scheduled release. Although Parasakthi was slated to lock horns at the box office with director H Vinodh's Jana Nayagan, which was supposed to be Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay's swansong before his full-fledged political entry, the latter's release was indefinitely postponed, also owing to censorship controversy. However, Parasakthi failed to capitalise on this and underperformed at the box office, grossing just Rs 85.10 crore worldwide, as per industry tracker Sacnilk, against a reported budget of Rs 150 crore. Nonetheless, Sudha's counsel has reportedly informed the court that Parasakthi was a success according to Dawn Pictures, and earned Rs 100 crore.

‘Not easy to be single’: Sameera Reddy says mother-in-law was bothered after ex remarried



Sameera Reddy started her career in the movies in the early 2000s but by the mid-2010s, she withdrew from films after she married businessman Akshai Varde in 2014. Sameera started her career as a mom influencer after she welcomed her kids, and it was during the lockdown that her mother-in-law, Manjri Varde, joined her social media shenanigans. At a recent event, Sameera shared that when she met Manjri, she was a divorced woman who was bothered about the fact that her ex-husband had moved on and gotten remarried. It was then that she made it her mission to empower her mother-in-law so she could be self-reliant.

‘It's not easy to be single’At a FICCI FLO event in Bengaluru, Sameera Reddy shared, “I am going to say this openly today. When I met her, she was divorced and my father-in-law had moved on and remarried, and in my head, I always knew, though she never said it, I always knew that

it was something that bothered her.” Agreeing with Sameera, Manjri added, “It would bother every one of us. It's not easy to be single.” Sameera continued and said that this was when she “decided to make you super hot and a suparsar because I really felt she had it in her. And I wanted that for her so I think when I met her, I definitely felt that... It's not that she shrunk herself, but she didn't go out there and just give it.”

‘No one's going to hold your hand’Sameera Reddy added that there was a certain judgement from society that she felt, and shared, “That's what divorcees feel and I am telling you, you don't need to. You live once, there is one life and if you are going to live it for society... This is literally the speech I gave her. I said, ‘No one's going to hold your hand when you are standing alone and crying in a corner. You have to get up and you have to make something of yourself.’” She shared that they never wanted to be disrespectful towards Manjri's ex-husband, Sameera's father-in-law, but to carve their own path. “

Even if somebody has moved on, we are not here to go and spit in their face; we are here to simultaneously move on our own path. Shine the light on yourself; automatically, everyone starts turning at you.” She added, “The whole point is to not shrink yourself for anybody, not your husband, not even your own family.” In an earlier chat with Hauterfly, Sameera Reddy had spoken about her mother-in-law's candid nature and shared that when she first met her, she was told how Akshai dates a lot of women. She described her as one “who's been there, spoken to me, been real, always taken my side. Not ki mera beta, mera beta. She's always been like, ‘Sameera, are you okay? What do you need?’”

Alpha vs Welcome to the Jungle: YRF lists strict rules for screen sharing, ticket pricing



Although only three days remain for the worldwide release of director Shiv Rawail's Alpha, starring Alia Bhatt and Sharvari in the lead roles, advance bookings for the big-budget action thriller haven't started anywhere in India yet. However, a new report has emerged, stating that tickets for the film will go on sale on Wednesday, July 1.

YRF's rules for exhibitorsMeanwhile, Yash Raj Films (YRF), which produced the actioner, has written to exhibitors outlining its preferred screening schedule and show-sharing arrangements. According to Bollywood Hungama, the production and distribution company has urged exhibitors to commence Alpha's first-day-first-show (FDFS) at 9.30 am on Friday, July 3, and not before. While the Alia Bhatt-Sharvari starrer hits screens at a time when director Ahmed Khan's multi-starrer action-adventure comedy Welcome to the Jungle is continuing its successful run, YRF has asked exhibitors to match Alpha's ticket prices with those of Welcome to the Jungle's weekend rates. The Ahmed Khan directorial features Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty, Disha Patani, Jacqueline Fernandez, Arshad Warsi, Jackie Shroff, Paresh Rawal, Raveena Tandon, Lara Dutta, Farida Jalal, Johnny Lever, Shreyas Talpade, Tusshar Kapoor, and Rajpal Yadav in key roles. With Alpha and Welcome to the Jungle set to lock horns at the box office, YRF has requested exhibitors to implement a special show-sharing arrangement so that both movies can perform well together. While the production giant has sought a minimum of four shows in two-screen theatres, it has requested six shows for Alpha in three-screen cinema halls, a minimum of eight shows in four-screen multiplexes, and at least 10 shows in venues with more than 10 screens. For single-screen cinemas, the YRF distribution office will reportedly make decisions on a case-by-case basis. Also starring

Bobby Deol and Anil Kapoor in key roles, Alpha serves as the seventh instalment in the YRF Spy Universe. “It presents an edgy origin story of a girl raised and built to kill. Alpha is a female-led action film that will take you on a fun, edge-of-the-seat, thrilling ride that is designed as an out-and-out entertainer,” the movie's makers have stated in the description box of the actioner's trailer on YouTube. Alpha has received a UA 16+ certificate and has a runtime of 140.48 minutes.

Entrepreneur Bobby Chemmanur apologises to Honey Rose

Kochi: Prominent businessman Bobby Chemmanur has publicly apologised to Malayalam actress Honey Rose, saying he never intended to hurt her and expressed hope that she would withdraw the criminal case filed against him. In a Facebook post on Monday, Chemmanur claimed he had always treated people with kindness, respect and consideration, and had never intentionally harmed or mistreated anyone. He said he often shared humour and light-hearted content on social media but had never intended to offend, hurt or cause distress to anyone. “But I have come to realise that my statements about Ms Honey Rose have caused significant distress to her and her family. I deeply apologise for the harm I have caused. I take full responsibility for my words and their impact”, he said. Chemmanur said he had never intended to hurt anyone and expressed hope that his “sincere apology” would lead to the case being withdrawn. He added that he wanted the matter to be considered resolved and was committed to moving forward positively. The controversy began after the actress accused Chemmanur of making sexually coloured and derogatory remarks about her during a jewellery showroom inauguration event. Earlier, Rose had said that no one has the right to insult women using the power of money and expressed full faith in India's legal system. Chemmanur, for his part, had maintained that he never intended to insult her. The apology comes months after Chemmanur was arrested in January 2025 by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing a sexual harassment case registered based on a complaint filed by Honey Rose. He was booked under non-bailable provisions.

CJP's Abhijeet Dipke says he doesn't like India's Got Latent, calls Samay Raina ‘privileged’



Samay Raina's India's Got Latent, which landed in a major controversy last year, has found itself in the headlines once again following the premiere of its second season. While many have reacted positively to the show's return, Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke holds a different view. In a recent podcast appearance, Dipke said he had no interest in being a part of India's Got Latent Season 2. Explaining his decision, he described Samay as “privileged.” During a conversation on Unfiltered by Samdisha, Abhijeet Dipke was asked if he would ever appear on India's Got Latent. Replying in Hindi, he said, “I will not go to India's Got Latent. I don't like it. Because the thinking that ‘Why should we fight. We should take the easy route and get out.’

You will be able to get out because you are privileged.”

After an edited clip of his remarks surfaced on social media, several users agreed with the Cockroach Janta Party founder, while others argued that he should not have called Samay Raina “privileged,” pointing out that he had pursued a master's degree in Public Relations at Boston University in the US. “He was in USA and he's not privileged?” a person asked. Another comment read, “Privileged?? This guy studied in Boston so stop giving us this everyone is a privileged non sense.” “Wasn't he in USA? Is he not privileged,” a third user wrote. Abhijeet Dipke's comments come months after Samay Raina opened up about the controversy surrounding India's Got Latent Season 1, during his stand-up show, Still Alive. The show had landed in legal problems after obscene remarks made by guest Ranveer Allahbadia.

While recalling the row that happened last year, Samay said, “During the time, I remembered George Orwell's line, ‘Every joke is a tiny revolution and the joke must never stop.’ But the police had also told me that ‘We will put you in jail.’ Then I thought if Orwell was in India, he would have said, ‘Every revolution is a tiny joke.’ I thought it makes sense to say sorry, you can't bring revolution in our society by a joke. You only fight when the fight is fair, if not, you should **** off from there.” After Ranveer Allahbadia's comments led to severe backlash, Samay Raina deleted all the episodes of his show India's Got Latent Season 1. But, he made a comeback with Season 2. The first episode of the show was released on YouTube and Netflix on June 20. It featured Alpha actors Alia Bhatt and Sharvari as guests. The video got more than 45 million views on YouTube.

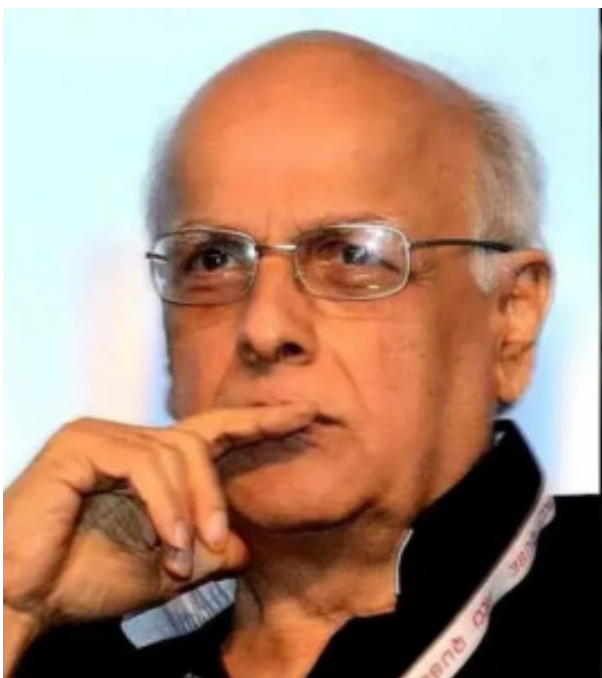
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‘Main Vaapas Aaunga is an act of rebellion,’ says Mahesh Bhatt, compares it to Arth, Zakhm



Imtiaz Ali's Partition-era romance Main Vaapas Aaunga has slowly and steadily carved out its own place at the box office. The film continues to draw audiences in strong numbers, making its mark at a time when only tentpole spectacles are often believed to have the scale and longevity to survive in theatres. Along with audience appreciation, the film has also been receiving praise from industry insiders. The latest to celebrate the film is Mahesh Bhatt, who penned a heartfelt note for Imtiaz Ali. Writing for Variety India, Bhatt shared a note titled “On Thirst and Main Vaapas Aaunga.” He began by saying that while some films arrive with great fanfare, others quietly leave a lasting impact. “There are films that arrive with drums and trumpets, announcing themselves like conquerors. And there are films that arrive quietly, carrying only the fragile cargo of a human heart. Main Vaapas Aaunga belongs to the latter category.”

He described the film as an act of rebellion against the current cinematic landscape, writing, “We live in an age where cinema is increasingly driven by velocity, spectacle

and testosterone. The marketplace rewards certainty, noise and instant gratification. In such a climate, a film that pauses to listen to the deeper movements of the human spirit is almost an act of rebellion.” Bhatt then explained what resonated with him the most about the film. “What moved me about Main Vaapas Aaunga is not merely its story. It is the thirst that runs beneath it. The thirst that made a man hanging on a cross utter the words, ‘I thirst.’ The thirst that has haunted seekers, poets, lovers and ordinary human beings since the dawn of time. The thirst to come home. The thirst to be understood. The thirst to discover whether there is something more to life than the identities we spend a lifetime constructing.”

He also reflected on Imtiaz Ali's Highway, starring his daughter Alia Bhatt, and wrote, “Years ago, when I watched Highway, I felt that Imtiaz Ali had heard something that many of us had missed. Beneath the surface of that film was the silent scream of violated young girls hidden within the presumed safety of homes and families. It may not have shaken the box office in the manner expected of mainstream successes, but it illuminated a dark corner of our collective life. For that reason alone, it remains important.” Bhatt further said that Main Vaapas Aaunga raises questions that stay with its viewers. “Cinema, at its most powerful, does not provide answers. It illuminates questions that we secretly carry within ourselves. The audience recognises those questions and, for a few hours, feels less alone. That is what this film seems to have achieved.”

He also noted that while many had written the film off upon release, audiences ultimately embraced it. “Many had declared it dead on arrival. That is often the fate of works that refuse to conform to prevailing fashions. The marketplace is entitled to its verdicts. It speaks the language of numbers, and numbers matter. But audiences possess a mysterious intelligence of their own. Sometimes they recognise authenticity before the experts do. The response to this film suggests that beneath all our cynicism, beneath the noise of our times, there remains a hunger for stories that speak to something deeper than our appetites.” Bhatt also drew parallels between Main Vaapas Aaunga and his own films, saying they were united by “a shared human thirst.” As he wrote, “It was there in Arth, in a woman's search for a security that no relationship could permanently provide. It was there in Saaranish, in an ageing couple's willingness to continue living despite the absence of answers.