

IN BRIEF

US consulate receives bomb threat, nothing found

Mumbai, June 15 (UNI) : A threatening call was received regarding a bomb at the US Consulate General office at Bandra in suburban Mumbai but nothing suspicious was found, police said here on Sunday.

According to BKC police, an anonymous call was received at the US Consulate around 8 p.m. on Saturday, allegedly threatening a bomb blast at the consulate.

Following the call, Mumbai's BKC police station was informed, after which BKC police officers and a bomb squad team arrived and conducted an investigation, but nothing suspicious was found. An FIR was registered and police are conducting a probe including tracing the mobile number of the caller and the motive behind it .

Mumbai couple arrested for obscene acts at public place in Bandra

Mumbai, June 15 (UNI) : A young couple was arrested for committing alleged obscene acts in a parked vehicle in suburban Mumbai on Sunday, police said.

Both of them were later released on bail.

According to the case details, personnel from Khar police station arrested the couple following a complaint filed by a female constable Shahzadi Khan. The accused, identified as an auto-rickshaw driver Ashfaq Sayyaid and his partner and private firm employee Vaishnavi Chavan, were found allegedly committing the obscene act at Carter road in Bandra area.

According to the FIR, around 11:30 p.m. on June 13, Constable Shahzadi Khan was patrolling near Carter Road promenade in Khar West with other police personnel when she noticed suspicious activity inside a parked auto-rickshaw.

A woman was seated in the back alongside the driver, and both were allegedly behaving obscenely and making lewd remarks towards passers-by. Their behaviour continued for some time, and when they made vulgar comments to a 27-year-old man, Constable Khan intervened and questioned them. Both of them were arrested and later released on bail.

4 Drowned in Pune bridge collapse

Pune, June 15 (IANS) : At least four people were killed, several others were injured, and many others were missing, while 39 people were rescued after they fell into an overflowing river when an old bridge they were crossing collapsed in Maharashtra's Pune district on Sunday.

The bridge over the Indrayani River at Kundamala in Pune's Maval taluka suddenly collapsed, sending the people plunging into the water and being swept away by the overflowing river.

Visuals from the scene showed sections of the bridge, mostly directly over the waters, broken down and having fallen into the river while rescue personnel from various agencies worked to locate and rescue the victims. A crane was pressed into service as efforts continue to remove parts of the collapsed structure amid rescue operations.

"...It (the bridge) collapsed while people were crossing it. Around 20-25 people were on the bridge at that time. So far, two bodies have been recovered, and the rescue operation is still underway. The families of the victims and a regular crowd have gathered at the site..." a rescue worker told

7 People including pilot die in Uttarakhand chopper crash

Rudraprayag/Dehradun, June 15 (UNI): Seven people, including the pilot, died when a helicopter carrying pilgrims returning from the Kedarnath Temple crashed in the Gaurikund area of Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag district today, official sources said.

The helicopter was bringing back five devotees and an employee of the temple committee after the darshan of Baba Kedarnath when it crashed around 5-30 am due to bad weather. All seven people, including the pilot, were killed.

A 23-month-old girl is also among the dead. The pilgrim family had come from Maharashtra. Heli service nodal officer Rahul Chaubey said Aryan Aviation Company's helicopter VTBKA/BELL 407 crashed due to bad weather in the Gaurikund area, falling in the forest above Gauri Mai Khark.

He said the helicopter was going from Kedarnath Temple to Guptkashi. Women cutting grass above Gaurikund reported about the crash, as well as the dust it raised.

District Disaster Management Officer of Rudraprayag, Nandan Singh Rajwar, said the crashed helicopter had left Kedarnath for Guptkashi at 5:21 am and at 5:24 am it was seen near Valley Poin amidst heavy fog which had turned visibility to zero in the area. At 6:13 am, the helicopter company informed that the chopper had not reach Guptkashi. A search and rescue operation was immediately started and the emergency response teams were activated.

Eight National Disaster Response Force teams, six of the State Disaster Response Force and 22 policemen, along with the team of District Disaster Relief Force, rushed to a place called Khadak, located about five kilometres above the incident spot Gaurikund, and began a massive search operation. He said that the bodies of the victims of the accident have been badly burnt.

Rajwar informed that there were six adults and a child in the ill-fated chopper. The deceased have been identified as Captain Rajbir Singh Chauhan, pilot, resident of Jaipur, Vikram Rawat, employee, Badrinath Kedarnath Temple Committee, resident of Rasi Ukhimath, (45), Vinod Devi, resident of Uttar Pradesh, (66), Trishti Singh Uttar Pradesh, (19), Rajkumar son Suresh Jaiswal, resident of Maharashtra, (41), Shraddha wife Rajkumar Jaiswal, resident of Maharashtra, (35), Kashi daughter Rajkumar, resident of Maharashtra, girl (02).

He informed that the entire area has been cordoned off. Forensic and DNA sampling teams have also reached the spot. Rajwar informed that helpline numbers have been issued for the families of the affected. For this, State Emergency Operation Center 0135-2710334, 9058441404 1070 (toll fee) and Rudraprayag helpline number - 8958757335, 01364-233727 have been issued.

Rescue operations on to trace missing



People stand near an iron bridge over the Indrayani river after it collapsed, in Pune district on Sunday

IANS. An eyewitness, who said that he was stuck on the bridge, told IANS that the structure "was already shaking, but still, people kept coming onto it. There were around 40 to 50 people..."

Vikas Nikam, a relative of Amol Ghule who was injured in the bridge collapse, told IANS: "He was on his way to the hospital, but the bridge collapsed while he was crossing it. The bridge was so weak that it gave way. He was coming to collect his wife's MRI report, but met with an accident on the way..."

In its latest update, the National Disaster Response Force, which was spearheading the rescue efforts, said that 39 people have been rescued while 4 dead bodies have been recovered so far. Rescue operations are still ongoing.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expressed his grief over the incident.

"I was deeply saddened to hear the news of the tragedy that occurred when a bridge over the Indrayani River collapsed in Indori, near Talegaon in Pune district. According to preliminary information, 2 people have died in this incident.

I pay my heartfelt tribute to them. We share the grief of their families. I am in constant touch with the Divisional Commissioner, District Collector, Superintendent of Police and the concerned Tehsildar regarding this incident. As some people have been swept away, a search is being carried out on a war

CM announces Rs 5 lakh compensation to each family of victims

Mumbai, June 15 (UNI) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday announced that the state government will provide financial assistance of Rs five lakh each to the families of those who lost their lives in the bridge collapse incident on the Indrayani river near Talegaon in Pune district. He said that the state

government will also bear the cost for the medical treatment of the injured.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is currently in Cyprus, spoke to CM Fadnavis over phone about the bridge collapse near Pune.

He was briefed on ongoing efforts to assist those affected.

CM announces Rs 5 lakh compensation to each family of victims

Maharashtra battles intense rainfall, 8 deaths reported

Mumbai, June 15 (UNI) : At least eight people have lost their lives across Maharashtra due to lightning strikes following intense rainfall, as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a red alert for the coastal districts of Ratnagiri and Raigad for the next 24 hours, warning of heavy to extremely heavy showers.

The fatalities were reported in several places including Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, Nandurbar, Dhule, Amravati and Nashik

Apart from issuing the red alert, the IMD has issued an orange alert for Palghar, Thane, Pune, Satara, and Kolhapur ghats, as well as Sindhudurg. In response, the administration has directed the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams to remain on high alert for any emergencies.

According to the State Emergency Operation Centre, Ratnagiri recorded the highest rainfall in the last 24 hours, at 88.1 mm, followed by Raigad at 65.3 mm, Sindhudurg at 53.8 mm, Thane at 29.6 mm, and Yavatmal at 17.5 mm.

The Jagbudi river in Khed, Ratnagiri district, is flowing above the warning level, currently at 5.9 metres against a danger mark of 7 metres. Villages along its banks, including Khed, Alsure, Chinchghar, and Prabhuwadi, may face flooding if water levels continue to rise.

Stormy winds caused injuries to one person in Mumbai, while lightning strikes injured one person in Sindhudurg and killed one in Dhule. In Nashik, lightning claimed the life of one person and left one injured.



No bribe, no caste, every youth got chance on merit in UP

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that Uttar Pradesh Police has not only made the recruitment process fair and merit-based, but has also set a new record by providing opportunities to the youth of every caste, district, and tehsil. After distributing appointment letters to 60,244 newly appointed police personnel at a grand ceremony held at Defence Expo Ground, Sector 18, Vrindavan Yojana, Lucknow, the Union Minister praised UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the transparent and inclusive recruitment process.

(See on page 4)

Mamata expresses shock over series of disasters in railways



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Sunday that she was stunned and shocked by the series of disasters in recent times in railways, civil aviation and now on roadways too such as bridge collapse in Pune, Maharashtra. (See on page 2)

UAE president discusses Mideast tensions with French, Italian ...



President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan held separate telephone conversations with French President Emmanuel Macron and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to discuss recent developments in the Middle East, particularly in the wake of Israeli strikes on Iran,

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Canada gears up for Regional Final on road to ICC Men's ...



The final step in the regional race for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 begins on Sunday with Canada, Bahamas, Bermuda and Cayman Islands set to do battle here at the Americas Qualifier. Twelve matches in a double round-robin format will be held across the eight-day competition,

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Chenab Bridge, A Testament to New India’s Vision: T.G. Sitharam

A Lifeline for Growth in J&K: T.G. Sitharam

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hubballi, June 15: Prof. T.G. Sitharam, Chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), who played a pivotal role in the construction of ‘Chenab Bridge’, has hailed it as “a marvel of New India”. During his visit to Rail Bhavan in New Delhi, he shared insights from his key role in India’s most ambitious railway infrastructure project.

He emphasised that the realisation of the Chenab Bridge was not only due to the efforts of thousands of engineers and workers, but also the contribution of every Indian. “It was a collective national dream,” he said.

Reflecting on the iconic journey of the Chenab Bridge, he recalled, “When I first set foot in the Chenab Valley in 2005, I had no idea I was part of a new history. The geography was extremely challenging, the



ground unstable and the expectations sky-high. But our vision was clear, we weren’t just building infrastructure, we were building national pride.”

Soaring 359 metres above the Chenab River, the bridge is now a global engineering landmark. Describing the nearly two-decade-long process as “a journey of science, spirit and national consciousness,” Prof. Sitharam highlighted the dedication of thousands of engineers, workers and

scientists.

He elaborated on the innovative “design-as-you-go” approach adopted with his team from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), which relied on real-time field data, advanced simulations and adaptive engineering techniques to tackle the region’s seismic instability and complex terrain. “Every rivet, every foundation, every support structure wasn’t just about engineering, it was an act of belief,” he said.

He concluded with a message to India’s youth, “Engineering is not limited to laboratories. The Chenab Bridge is living proof that with dedication, sincerity and love for the Nation, even the impossible becomes possible. We have to believe in ourselves. If we can build a bridge over the Chenab, our young Indians can reach any height.”

UP govt gears up for Yoga Day celebration on June 21

Lucknow, June 15 (UNI) : The Uttar Pradesh government is making enthusiastic preparations for International Yoga Day, with a series of special events planned to celebrate the occasion with cultural and spiritual fervour, official sources said here on Sunday.

Sources said that as in previous years, iconic historical and religious sites will serve as the backdrop for large-scale yoga sessions, connecting the practice to the state’s rich heritage and spiritual traditions.

Mass yoga demonstrations will be held at prominent locations, including the Gorakhdham Temple in Gorakhpur, the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj, the Chakratirth in Naimisharanya (Sitapur) and the Kashi Vishwanath Dham in Varanasi.

In addition, grand events are planned at the Raj Bhawan in Lucknow and the Prem Mandir in Mathura. Yoga sessions will also take place at historical landmarks across gram panchayats, blocks, tehsils, and districts.

Yoga Week officially commenced on June 15, with various district- and state-level programs already underway. Participants have also taken a pledge to integrate yoga into their daily lives.

State- and district-level competitions in essay writing, slogan creation, painting, and yoga asana are also being organised. Entries can be submitted on the official portal until 5 PM on June 16.

At the state level, prizes will include Rs 21,000 (1st Prize), Rs 11,000 (2nd Prize), Rs 5,100 (3rd Prize), Rs 2,100 (4th Prize), and Rs 1,100 (5th Prize). To support district-level activities and prizes, over Rs 2.63 crore has been allocated to all 75 districts.

Nepotism, corruption in police recruitment thing of past: Yogi

Lucknow, June 15 (UNI) : Describing Uttar Pradesh Police as a symbol of social trust, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said that before the year 2017, nepotism and corruption prevailed in police recruitment in UP, which is now a thing of the past.

Addressing the recruitment and appointment letter distribution programme of 60,244, the CM said that the role of police in Maha Kumbh was an example. “Every person who came to Prayagraj praised the behaviour of the police. If we can do it there, we can do it everywhere. The police force is becoming a symbol not only of law and order but also of social trust,” he said.

He said that this is not just an administrative programme, but a historic step towards realising the ‘smart policing’ vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. “Before the year 2017, nepotism and corruption prevailed in police recruitment in UP. It was impossible to get a job without money and recommendation, but now

all this is a thing of the past. We completed the entire process on the basis of merit and transparency while following the reservation provided by the Constitution,” he said.

Yogi said that there was no discrimination against any caste, religion, class or region in the recruitment. Dalits, backward, tribal, poor, daughters all have got equal opportunity in the recruitment in the state. “This is the new UP, where every youth is getting justice on the basis of merit. The recruitment and appointment letter distribution programme of 60,244 policemen in UP Police is happening at a time when PM Modi’s 11-year tenure of service to the country, good governance and poor welfare has worked to bring change in the life of every Indian in the form of New India,” he said.

He said that in the last 8 years, more than 8.5 lakh government jobs have been given to the youth of the state. “At the same time, about 2.25 lakh recruitment have been made in UP Police alone. This is not just a number, but a proof of our commitment towards

making the state riot-free, fear-free and investment-enabled. With this, the double engine government has presented an example of the purity and transparency of the examination,” he said.

He said that even the son of the poorest of the poor families has participated in this recruitment. “Now he too will be able to contribute to the service of the people of the state by becoming a constable” he said.

Citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s formula of ‘smart policing’, Strict and Sensitive, Modern and Mobile, Alert and Accountable, Reliable and Responsible and Techno Savvy and Trend, Yogi said that UP has made these principles a ground reality.

The CM expressed gratitude to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and said that when we started the recruitment process in the year 2017, the Union Home Minister played a big role in providing paramilitary and military training resources. “Now we have developed the capacity of training more than 60,000 police personnel in the state itself,” he said.

Italy-based NRI booked for alleged fraud

Phagwara, June 15 (UNI) The Punjab police have registered a case against an Italy-based Non-Resident Indian (NRI), identified as Tersem Chand, for allegedly defrauding a villager in Kapurthala district under the pretext of facilitating immigration to Italy, an official said on Sunday

The accused, originally from village Jagatpur-Jattan in Punjab, has come under the police radar following a formal complaint by Arun Kumar, a resident of village Kherra near Phagwara.

Arun Kumar alleged that Tersem Chand had promised to arrange his settlement in Italy in exchange for a payment of Rs 16 Lakh. The amount was reportedly handed over in installments over a period of time.

Kumar stated that the accused neither provided the necessary documents nor fulfilled any of the commitments made regarding travel or settlement abroad.

The police have registered a case under Sections 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and 406 (criminal breach of trust) of the Indian Penal

Code, along with applicable provisions of the Punjab Travel Professionals Regulation Act.

These laws are intended to protect individuals from being exploited by unlicensed travel agents or fraudulent immigration consultants.

SSP Gaurav Toora (IPS) confirmed that the complaint was found to be credible after preliminary inquiry, leading to the registration of the First Information Report (FIR). “We have initiated an investigation into the allegations.

The complainant has submitted relevant evidence, and efforts are underway to trace the accused and ascertain the full scope of the fraud,” the official said.

He said further legal action would be taken based on the outcome of the investigation. Authorities have not ruled out the possibility of other victims coming forward, as such cases involving unauthorised immigration agents have been on the rise in the region.

Naveen slams Odisha Govt’s lax response to Cholera outbreak

Bhubaneswar, June 15 (UNI) Biju Janata Dal (BJD) President and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik on Sunday criticized the BJP-led Odisha government for its lax approach in handling the cholera outbreak in the state. Taking to his official X handle, Patnaik wrote, “The state government's light-handedness in the face of cholera spreading in Odisha is shocking and disturbing to everyone.”

Patnaik stated that cholera is taking a serious turn in several districts, including Jajpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Puri, Cuttack, and Keonjhar, and has now begun spreading to other parts of the state.

Expressing grief over the situation, the BJD President said he was saddened by the loss of 14 lives due to the outbreak and extended his condolences to the bereaved families.

“Cholera has endangered people's lives. What had not been witnessed for many years is now disrupting daily life across multiple districts,” he tweeted.

Patnaik urged the state government to remain alert and take strong, immediate measures to curb the spread of the disease and protect public health.

AAP MLA from Doda withdraws support from NC

Jammu, June 15 (UNI) Aam Admi Party (AAP) MLA from Doda Assembly Constituency, Mehraj Malik withdrawn his support to the National Conference. Asserting that the decision to withdraw support was made in the best interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, Malik reaffirmed his commitment to the trust, welfare of masses and overall development as his top priority. “I, Mehraj Malik, MLA from Doda, hereby withdraw my support to NC in the government coalition,” Malik posted on X.

He further posted, “this decision has been taken in the best interest of my people of Jammu and Kashmir whose trust and welfare will always be my top priority.” Mehraj Malik this year in March was appointed as the President of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for Jammu and Kashmir.

SC Commission seeks explanation from Lalu for insulting Dr Ambedkar

Patna, June 15 (UNI) : The Bihar State Scheduled Caste (SC) Commission sought explanation from RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav for allegedly insulting pioneer of the Indian Constitution, Dr Baba Saheb Bheem Rao Ambedkar.

The Commission has sent a letter to Yadav asking him to explain for disrespecting Ambedkar within 15 days.

The Commission has also warned Yadav for registering a case against him under SC-ST Act.

The letter stated that the disrespect exhibited by Yadav on the occasion of latter's birthday went viral on social media.

The insult of Baba Saheb has hurt the sentiments of the entire country not just one section.

Notably, a video related to Lalu Yadav's birthday

went viral in social media showing a RJD worker presenting Yadav a picture of Dr Ambedkar. In the video it is seen that the picture of Dr Ambedkar is kept near the feet of Yadav, who however does not even touch Baba Saheb's picture.

Meanwhile, JDU spokesperson Niraj Kumar accused Yadav of nurturing feudal mentality, saying that dalits and oppressed sections of the society were always targeted under Yadav's rule.

Reacting to the insult of Dr Ambedkar by RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, Jan Suraj founder Prashant Kishor challenged Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to dare oppose Yadav for it.

Dubbing the Congress as a sycophant of RJD, Kishor said that Congress had no guts to contest election on its own.

PM Modi to be accorded Cyprus' highest honour at presidential palace today

Nicosia/New Delhi, June 15 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III – the highest honour in Cyprus, by President Nikos Christodoulides at the presidential palace tomorrow. On Monday, the two leaders will hold a private meeting at the presidential palace.

President Christodoulides will then award PM Modi the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III – the highest honour in Cyprus. Afterwards, the two sides will hold delegation-level talks, with statements to be made to the media at the meeting’s conclusion. The discussions are to centre on issues related to bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them, particularly in economic terms, in terms of trade, as well as regarding infrastructure and investment.

Discussions will also be held regarding relations between India and the European Union, issues related to the planned ‘India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor’ (IMEC), the situation in the Middle East, and the latest developments on the Cyprus problem. Christodoulides and Modi will then visit the Green Line in central Nicosia, before turning to the presidential palace for an official lunch. Modi will then depart for Canada after the lunch.

After his arrival in the afternoon today, President Christodoulides and PM Modi attended a roundtable meeting in Limassol alongside business leaders from both Cyprus and India, before attending an informal working dinner. Before leaving India, PM Modi had described Cyprus as “a close friend and an important partner”.

He said his visit to Cyprus “provides an opportunity to build upon the historical bonds and expand our ties in the areas of trade, investment, security, [and] technology, and promote people-to-people exchanges”.

Separately, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met his Cyprus counterpart Constantinos Kombos.

“Delighted to meet FM Constantinos Kombos @ckombos of Cyprus on my arrival at Larnaca.

“Confident that PM @narendramodi’s visit to Cyprus will deepen our longstanding bilateral ties and the India - EU partnership.”

The Cyprus FM said in a post on X: “Distinct pleasure to welcome @DrSJaishankar to Cyprus, for the historic visit of Prime Minister @narendramodi.

Farming activities stopped, security rushed to stop clash in Manipur

Imphal, June 15 (UNI) : Manipur Police said on Sunday that at Leitanpokpi Imphal East some farmers who went with a tractor to plough a paddy field were stopped by some Kuki villagers.

Police said the Kuki villagers said the one who came to plough the farm was not the owner of the land. Police said security forces led by Addl SPIE and other central forces were already at the spot and controlling the situation.

Additional forces led by SP and others are also responding to the situation. The public was requested not to believe in rumours.

Mamata expresses shock over series of disasters in railways, aviation & now roadways

Kolkata, June 15 (UNI) : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Sunday that she was stunned and shocked by the series of disasters in recent times in railways, civil aviation and now on roadways too such as bridge collapse in Pune, Maharashtra.

"Stunned and shocked by the series of disasters in recent times in railways, civil aviation and now on roadways too," Banerjee said on her X handle.

"Today's bridge collapse on the Indrayani river near Pune is feared to be having the most tragic implications. Media have already been talking of several deaths in the bridge accident, while many more are still missing," she said.

She also conveyed her condolences to the families of all the deceased.

"Even while we anxiously wait for survivors' reports. Let us pray for the survival of the victims of the accident," Banerjee added. "Deeply distressed by the tragic bridge collapse over the Indrayani River near Pune. The news that several tourists are feared to have drowned is heartbreaking. My sincere condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief," Abhishek Banerjee, state ruling Trinamool Congress general secretary, said whilst expressing shock at the bridge collapse.



People take part in the 'Ochira Kali' festival at Ochira Padanilam, in Kollam district, Kerala on Sunday.

Technical brain bypass surgery in Pune saves life of software engineer

Pune, June 15 (UNI) : A 32-year-old software engineer from Pune, with recurrent ischemic episodes and was partially blind, underwent Superficial Temporal Artery to Middle Cerebral Artery (STA-MTA) bypass surgery by a neurosurgeon at Manipal Hospitals here recently.It is colloquially called brain bypass surgery. The patient had recurrent ischemic episodes. He was blind in one eye after a stroke.

The surgery was successfully performed, after which the patient has fully recovered and regained his eyesight, said a release on Sunday.

Dr Amit Dhakoji, HoD and Consultant - Neurosurgery, Manipal Hospital, Baner, was quoted as saying in a release, "This case was complex. So, we did STA-MCA bypass surgery. In this technique, the healthy artery of the head, the superficial temporal artery, is rerouted and anastomosed to the viable part of the middle cerebral artery away from the obstruction. This rerouting allowed blood flow to be restarted in the damaged part of the brain. After the surgery, the patient's condition improved remarkably. ... the eye which was unable to see even partially recovered."

Anand Mote, Cluster Director, Manipal Hospital, said, "... This surgery has demonstrated the importance of interdisciplinary teamwork, state-of-the-art technology, and extensive clinical knowledge."



NDRF and SDRF personnel at the spot after a helicopter crashed near the Kedarnath shrine, in Rudraprayag district, Uttarakhand. At least seven people were killed in the incident.

Dismissal based on religion by Temple Trust illegal, says SP MLA

Mumbai, June 15 (UNI) Coming down heavily on the Maharashtra's famous Shani Shingnapur Temple Trust and the Mahayuti government, Samajwadi Party legislator Rais Shaikh said on Sunday the termination of employment based on religious identity is a clear violation of civil rights and described the dismissal of 114 Muslim employees by the Temple Trust as an 'illegal and arbitrary act'.

Shaikh held the BJP-led spiritual front and Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), which claims to support Muslims, responsible for the move, calling it a "black mark" on the Mahayuti government.

Speaking on the issue, MLA Shaikh said, "Targeting Muslims and Dalits has always been part of the BJP government's

long-standing strategy. Their core agenda is to polarise votes along religious lines and seize power. This discrimination is being practised in all walks of life, and the dismissal of 114 Muslim employees by the Shani Shingnapur Trust is a clear example of the BJP-RSS mindset in action."

The 114 Muslim employees terminated by the Trust were not working inside the temple premises but were employed in departments such as waste management, agriculture and administration.

MLA Shaikh further pointed out that the NCP has the highest number of Muslim MLAs in the Maharashtra Assembly and currently holds the Minority Affairs Ministry.

"If the NCP continues to toe the BJP line, no Muslim voter will ever

support them again," he warned.He added that he plans to meet Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar soon and will file a complaint against the NCP MLA who allegedly pressured the Trust to act.The renowned Shani Shingnapur Temple Trust in Ahmednagar district recently terminated 114 Muslim employees. While the Trust claims that the employees had been absent from duty for several months, it is noteworthy that earlier objections had been raised by right-wing groups over Muslim workers being involved in the painting and maintenance of the temple premises.Leading the opposition were Tushar Bhosale of the Hindu Spiritual Front and NCP (Ajit Pawar faction) MLA Sangram Jagtap, who had threatened to launch an agitation against the Trust.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut criticises CM Fadnavis

Mumbai, June 15 (UNI) : Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday lashed out at Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, accusing him of having started preparations to win upcoming municipal elections with corrupt means just as he won the state assembly elections by cheating.

Comparing Fadnavis to a 'madari' (street performers who used to perform tricks with trained animals like monkeys or bears), the Sena-UBT leader alleged that he has power, money, builder lobby with him and hence, he can commit corruption and can make everyone dance.

But Thackeray brand is the brand of Mumbai and Maharashtra, and no one be it (Narendra) Modi-(Amit) Shah or even Fadnavis, can finish this brand, he said and asserted that Thackeray brand is invincible.

"No matter how Modi, Shah and Fadnavis have brought and raised money from a big builder lobby, they cannot compete with this brand," he said.

If one leaves politics aside, then people still have immense respect for party founder Bal Thackeray and his family because the Thackeray family has sacrificed and fought for Maharashtra and the Marathi people, he argued.

"The assembly elections were won by cheating. Similar preparations are underway for the municipal elections, but people are wise," added Raut.

CHANGE OF NAME

I HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME FROM SAIDABANU IRFAN SUFI TO NEW NAME SAEEDA IRFAN SUF & I WILL BE KNOWN AS NEW NAME

WHICH PLEASE NOTE SD: SAEEDA IRFAN SUF

ADD: BAZAR FALIYU, LAJPORE, SURAT, GUJARAT, 394235.

Mumbai court sentences man to 20 years RI for sexually abusing three minor boys

Mumbai, June 15 (UNI) : A special POCSCO court here has awarded 20 years' imprisonment to a 53-year-old man for his involvement in sexually abusing three minor boys, below age of 12 years, from his housing society in Kandivali area of the city.While convicting the accused, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences court also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000, of which Rs 15,000 is to be paid as compensation to one of the victims.The

abuse came to light when one of the victims informed his mother that on December 24, 2018, the accused had lured him with chocolates, blindfolded him under the pretext of playing hide and seek and assaulted him.

The mother lodged a complaint with Charkop police on December 26. Other parents joined her, leading to the arrest of accused the same day.

Since the arrest in 2018, the accused languished in

jail.During the trial, the court examined several witnesses including the victims.During the deposition in court, one victim identified the accused in the court and told the court that he used to play carrom with the accused, who would sometimes reward him after games and then exploit him under the guise of playing hide and seek.

Another victim could not testify as he died before the trial concluded.

Thane Metro Project set to begin with Rs 1400 crore approval

(Standard Post Bureau) Thane, June 15 : Following the legal recognition granted by the Central Government, the foundation stone for the much-anticipated Thane Metro Rail project is expected to be laid shortly.

Thane MP Naresh Mhaske on Sunday said the development came following persistent efforts by Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde .

Mhaske said an initial fund allocation of Rs 1400 crore has been approved for the private metro project in Thane.

The Thane Metro stands out as possibly the only metro rail project in India designed solely to cater to the commuting needs within a single city. The project, known as the 'Thane Inner Ring Railway Metro' or circular metro, aims to facilitate seamless travel for Thanekars, significantly reducing their travel time and easing urban congestion. Both the Central and State Governments have given their nod to this initiative.Mhaske said that the target for

completing the 'Thane Inner Ring Railway Metro' is set for the year 2029, promising a transformative impact on the city's public transportation landscape.

The metro corridor, spanning approximately 29 KM with 22 stations, will run along the western periphery of Thane, bordered by the Ulhas River on one side and Sanjay Gandhi National Park on the other. The project, estimated to cost around Rs 12,200 crore, will be executed by the Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited (Maha Metro), which is also managing metro projects in Nagpur and Pune. Once operational, the metro is expected to serve over six lakh passengers daily by 2029, with ridership projected to grow substantially in the following decades. The development of this metro hub is also part of a larger vision to establish Thane as a modern urban center with improved connectivity and reduced traffic congestion, contributing to sustainable urban growth.

Pune gangster killed in encounter

Pune, June 15 (UNI) :A notorious criminal was killed in alleged encounter with Pune Crime Branch team in Solapur r district on Sunday. Criminal was identified as Shahrulkh Rahim Sheikh alias Atty (23). Shahrulkh was absconding and Pune police were looking for him for a long time.

Acting on a reliable information that he was hiding near Lamboti village in Solapur for past few days, a Crime Branch

team went to Lamboti on Saturday midnight to arrest him.Police raided the house where he was hiding.

Upon seeing police, Shahrulkh Sheikh allegedly opened fire at police team. In retaliation, police fired back at Sheikh, in which he was seriously injured.

He was taken to the government hospital in Solapur in a critical condition, but he died during treatment.

CM mourns Uttarakhand helicopter crash

Mumbai, June 15 (UNI) : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday expressed grief over the death of all seven people on board a helicopter, ferrying pilgrims from Kedarnath, that crashed near Gaurikund in Uttarakhand Sunday morning.

A toddler was among the deceased.

Fadnavis extended his condolences over the loss of lives, particularly the three victims from his state.

In his message on X, he wrote, "Deeply pained by

the tragic accident where passengers lost their lives in a helicopter crash near Gaurikund in Uttarakhand this morning while travelling from Kedarnath to Guptkashi. Among the victims were devotees from Maharashtra as well.

Congress voices concerns Over BMC graft, delayed civic polls

Mumbai, June 15 (UNI) Mumbai Congress chief Varsha Gaikwad on Sunday called for a detailed white paper on the decisions and functioning of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) during the tenure of the incumbent Mahayuti government in Maharashtra.

The Mahayuti coalition, comprising the BJP, Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, and Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party, has been governing Maharashtra since June 2022..Gaikwad condemned

the BMC for rampant corruption affecting essential services such as road maintenance, sewer cleaning, healthcare, and education. She highlighted that the BMC has been under an administrative setup for the last three years due to the absence of local body elections.

She urged the state government to publish a white paper covering the BMC's activities till 2025, pointing out that investigations by the Enforcement Directorate and Maharashtra Anti-

Corruption Bureau have only addressed issues up to 2022.During recent visits to the Deonar dumping ground and Bhabha Hospital, Gaikwad observed severe deficiencies in basic infrastructure and waste management. She accused the BMC of misappropriating funds, likening their use to party finances, with money being diverted to intermediaries and contractors.

Discussing the upcoming civic elections likely scheduled for later this year,

Gaikwad said the Congress continues to highlight public grievances and that alliance decisions will be made by the party's central leadership.

The Congress is part of the opposition alliance Maha Vikas Aghadi, alongside Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP).

Thackeray's unified Shiv Sena controlled the BMC until early 2022, after which the corporators' term ended, leaving civic polls overdue since then

Man who won Dawood property in auction 25 years ago yet unable to take possession

Mumbai June 15 (UNI) Hemant Jain, a resident of Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh, is still engaged in a legal battle to secure ownership of a property, once owned by gangster Dawood Ibrahim, which he purchased in a government auction 25 years ago.

Jain is now knocking on the doors of the special MCOCA court which has adjourned the hearing of his plea till July 9, a lawyer said here on Sunday.

In September 2001, Jain bought a 144-square-foot shop for rupees two lakhs in an auction.

The current market value of the shop exceeds Rs 25 lakh which is located at Jayraj Bhai lane Shuklaji street Nagpada near Kamathipura the red light area of Mumbai.

When he approached the Income Tax Department to complete the possession formalities, he was informed that the process had been put on hold.

Jain eventually filed a case in a Mumbai court, arguing that since he had purchased the property at the auction, its registration should rightfully be in his name.

Following the court's instructions, the registration was finally completed on December 19, 2024, after he paid Rs

1.5 lakh in stamp duties and penalties.Despite this legal victory, Jain's troubles persist. The shop has been occupied by others for years, and they are not ready to vacate.


Jain has sought their removal to take possession of the property. He claims that the occupiers are Dawood Ibrahim's henchmen, running a business with lathe machines.

On June 11, he moved a plea before the special court in Mumbai, and argued the plea as a party in person.

"Since I did not have any lawyer, I was asked to seek assistance from legal aid lawyers who operate from the office located on the same floor as the court," said a disappointed Jain. His plea has now been adjourned to July 9.

He claimed that after winning the bid, he was told to appear before the special court in September 2001. "I appeared before the court where I was asked to give an affidavit stating that I will not transfer the said property to anyone having links to Dawood," Jain said.

He said that he complied with the directive and requested the court for the shop's vacant possession.



BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Department: Hydraulic Engineer's Department

No. E.E.(M.)M.W./1395/Maint. Dtd: 13-06-2025

e-Tender Notice

The Commissioner of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation invites online tenders for the following works from the eligible bidders. The Bid start date and time and Bid End Date and Time is specified in the detailed tender notice on B.M.C's website under Tender Section and Mahatender Portal.

Sr. No.	Bid No.	Name of Work
1.	2025_MCGM_1189286	Lease out of rights for running the cafeteria at area on the first floor of Pramod Navalkar Viewing Gallery and for unning Art Gallery at the lower ground floor entrance passage to Pramod Navalkar Vieweing Gallery under A.E. (M) WW City II. (Date of issue & sale of tender - 16.06.2025)

The intending tenderers shall visit the BMC website at <http://portal.mcgm.gov.in> and Mahatender portal website at <http://mahatenders.gov.in> for further details of the tender.

PRO/667/ADV/2025-26

Let's together and make Mumbai Malaria free.

Sd/-

E.E.(M) M.W.

STANDARD POST

New AI tool analyses DNA for faster, affordable cancer monitoring

A team of researchers from Singapore has developed a new artificial intelligence (AI)-based method that makes tracking cancer easier and faster-using blood tests.

The method called "Fragle", developed by a team from the A*STAR Genome Institute of Singapore (A*STAR GIS), requires only a small blood sample, and analyses the size of DNA fragments in the blood to reveal distinct patterns that differentiate cancer DNA from healthy DNA. This can help doctors track cancer treatment responses more accurately and frequently.

"Just as scientists tracked Covid-19 outbreaks by detecting viral particles in wastewater, Fragle analyses DNA fragments in blood to monitor cancer treatment response and detect relapse early," said lead author Dr. Anders Skanderup, Senior Principal Scientist at A*STAR GIS Laboratory of Computational Cancer Genomics.

Existing methods for measuring cancer DNA in the blood, also known as circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA), often require complex and expensive DNA sequencing to screen for common cancer mutations. However, because cancer mutations vary between patients, test results can be inconsistent, making it difficult for doctors to track cancer treatment response with blood tests effectively.

On the other hand, Fragle uses AI to analyse the size of DNA fragments in the blood.

Cancer DNA tends to exhibit different size patterns compared to healthy DNA, and the Fragle AI-model can identify these differences using very small amounts of DNA. As a result, the method allows for faster and more affordable cancer tracking, said the researchers in the paper, published in the journal Nature Biomedical Engineering.

It has also demonstrated high reliability, delivering accurate results across blood samples from hundreds of cancer patients and distinct cancer types. In addition, the method is versatile and compatible with most DNA profiling techniques commonly used in hospitals or offered by commercial providers.

In an ongoing study of more than 100 clinical trial patients, the GIS-NCCS team is using Fragle to monitor ctDNA levels every two months during treatment, with the aim of catching signs of relapse before they appear on routine scans.

The team is also studying whether early changes in ctDNA can identify which patients are likely to have a favourable or poor response to the therapy. The goal of the study is to assess the value of incorporating ctDNA tests in routine monitoring of cancer patients during treatment.

Profession and Passion working together

(By Ashok Shinde)

What do you do currently in the medical field, and how have you proven yourself for it?

I am a doctor at Lilavati Hospital, where I actively contribute to patient care and medical advancements. Along with my clinical responsibilities, I also play a role in hosting and organizing hospital events, bridging the gap between healthcare and effective communication. My dedication to patient well-being, my ability to counsel and ease patients' concerns, and my commitment to continuous learning have helped me establish my credibility in the field.

What activities do you do outside your professional circle while keeping yourself busy in the medical profession?

Outside of my medical career, I am a professional anchor, having hosted corporate events, weddings, festivals, and parties for the past six years. Additionally, I create health-related content as an influencer, aiming to educate people about wellness. I also dedicate time to community work and am an active team member of the VBC group, organizing events for the Jain community. Singing, dancing, and exploring new experiences keep me creatively engaged.

What extracurricular activities have you done so far?

I have been deeply involved in anchoring, public speaking, and event hosting, including hosting celebrity events during my college days. I also dedicate time to cooking, fitness, and spirituality, which keep me energized and focused. Cooking is like therapy for me, so I love to cook all types of cuisines and make jain food more palatable. I deeply believe in Jainism and I feel my trust in God help me grow and believe in me every day. My



Dr. Fenny Shah

While working as a doctor in a renowned Lilavati Hospital, Mumbai, Dr. Fenny Shah who pursued her passion in the field of art as a compere which is admirable. An interview and conversation with her about her achievement..

passion for communication, creativity, and community service continues to shape my journey.

How do you balance your time for this? Your time management.

Managing multiple roles requires discipline and planning. I prioritize my hospital duties while setting aside time for anchoring, content creation, and personal interests. Having a structured routine, staying organized, and maintaining a positive mindset help me balance everything without compromising on any responsibility.

How do you get responses or cooperation from your office, relatives, and friends? Tell us about them and who gives you support.

I am fortunate to receive immense support from my family, colleagues, and friends. My hospital acknowledges my ability to manage my career alongside my passions. My parents, Rajesh Ravilal Shah and Mamta Rajesh

Shah, have been my biggest pillars of strength—my father is a businessman in Bhuj, and my mother is an active social worker and a key office bearer in the Vagad Be Chovisi Yuvti Mandal Committee. My younger brother, Tirth Shah, who is currently pursuing a BSc in Microbiology from Mithibai College, has always encouraged me as well. Their unwavering belief in me has enabled me to pursue my dreams.

Would you like to pursue a career in this field other than the medical field, or would you like to pursue it only as a hobby?

Medicine is my primary profession, and I am deeply committed to it. However, anchoring, content creation, and public speaking have become integral parts of my life, and I enjoy pursuing them alongside my medical career. I believe both fields complement each other, allowing me to contribute to society in multiple ways.

What is the best thing you want to do from this

interest? What is your goal for it?

Through my work in hosting and health content creation, I want to make a significant impact by spreading awareness about wellness, positivity, and lifestyle improvements. My goal is to expand my reach, educate people on healthcare, and create a platform where knowledge and inspiration go hand in hand. I aspire to flourish my skills across India and internationally in both business and career.

What is your goal in the medical field?

My goal is to continue growing in the medical profession while making healthcare more approachable through effective communication. I also aim to pursue further studies to enhance my expertise, ultimately contributing to better patient care and public health awareness.

What is your profile? Give brief information about your education and childhood.

I come from a small town, Bhuj, in Kutch, Gujarat. I completed my schooling at St. Xavier's School in Bhuj and later pursued my graduation from Parul University, Baroda. Parul University played a crucial role in shaping my personality, giving me ample opportunities, and believing in my potential—I even hosted most of the celebrity events there. After completing my graduation, I moved to Mumbai with the strong support and motivation of my parents.

I have always been passionate about personal growth, communication, and creativity.

My journey has been shaped by my hard work, curiosity, and the immense support of my family. In the future, I aspire to balance a successful career with a happy family life because, for me, family comes first.

No bribe, no caste, every youth got chance on merit in UP police: Amit Shah

Lucknow, June 15, (UNI) Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that Uttar Pradesh Police has not only made the recruitment process fair and merit-based, but has also set a new record by providing opportunities to the youth of every caste, district, and tehsil. After distributing appointment letters to 60,244 newly appointed police personnel at a grand ceremony held at Defence Expo Ground, Sector 18, Vrindavan Yojana, Lucknow, the Union Minister praised UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the transparent and inclusive recruitment process.

He said that under the leadership of Yogi, UP Police has not only made the recruitment process fair and merit-based but has also set a new record by providing opportunities to the youth of every caste, district, and tehsil. "In these appointments, there was no discrimination based on slip, recommendation, and caste, but the entire process was completed transparently and based on merit.

Shah said that UP Police is the largest police force in the country, and today 60,244 youth are becoming an integral part of it. He termed this day as the most auspicious day in the life of the newly appointed personnel and said that this is a moment of pride.

He said that these include more than 12,000 daughters, seeing the happiness on their faces, he got immense relief. He said that 100 percent benefit of reserved posts for women has been ensured in UP, which is a major achievement of the Yogi government.

Discussing the changes in UP after 2017, the Union Minister said that the law and order of UP had been continuously deteriorating since independence, but after the formation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government under the leadership of Yogi Adityanath in 2017, the UP Police started touching new heights. He said that Yogi has started a transformative era by taking schemes like industrial development, education, law and order, infrastructure, electricity, and tap water to the people.

He stressed that UP is no longer a stronghold of riots, but has become riot-free, and the orders of goons no longer work. He called upon the newly appointed personnel to further strengthen this tradition.

The Union Home Minister laid special emphasis on the transparency of the recruitment process. He said that the use of technology, such as cameras, control rooms, command centres, PCR vans, and more than 150 on-wheel forensic science lab vans, has made the process more fair.

He claimed that none of the 60,244 youth had to pay a bribe of even a penny, which is the biggest achievement of any government. He said that this recruitment process was not only transparent, but the representation of every section and region was ensured in it.

Shah also discussed the efforts made towards the modernisation of the police force in the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that with the implementation of new laws like the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, such a system will be created in the country in the next five years, in which justice from any FIR to the Supreme Court will be available within three years.

He said, "Apart from this, technologies like CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems), ICJS (Inter-operable Criminal Justice System), and forensic science have further strengthened the police system."

The Union Home Minister highlighted the economic and social progress of the country in his address. He said that in the last 11 years, 25 crore people have come out of the poverty line and 60 crore people have benefited from schemes like gas cylinders, toilets, tap water, free treatment, and financial assistance to farmers.

He said that in 2014, India was the 11th largest economy in the world, but today it is in fourth place, and by 2027, it will reach third place. He said that the Modi government has provided opportunities to every youth with steps like metro trains in more than 143 cities, more than 150 airports, and a new education policy.

Shah also discussed the government's strict policy against Naxalism and terrorism. He said that Naxalism, which was spread in 11 states, is now limited to only three districts, and India will be completely Naxal-free by March 31, 2026.

He said that the Modi government has also taken a tough stand against terrorism. He said that Pakistan attempted terrorist attacks thrice, but India gave a befitting reply every time and destroyed the terrorist hideouts. Referring to Operation Sindoor, he said that the Indian Air Force destroyed the terrorist headquarters.

The Minister told the newly appointed personnel that they are becoming a part of the UP Police in Amrit Kaal, and by 2047, when India will be ranked first in the world, UP's contribution will be the biggest. He called upon the youth to move forward with the mantra of security, service, and sensitivity.

He said that the fear of UP Police should be tough on goons and mafias, but for the poor, backward, and tribal communities, the police should be seen as a messiah.

Shah also mentioned cultural and social reforms like the consecration of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya, revival of Vishwanath Dham in Kashi, abolition of triple talaq, and new Waqf law. He said that India created history by reaching the south pole of the moon, and that place was named Shiv Shakti. He called upon the newly appointed personnel of UP Police to serve wholeheartedly. He said that it is a matter of pride to be a part of this police force of about four lakh members. He thanked Yogi Adityanath once again and said that his transparent and inclusive policies have taken the UP Police to new heights.

Follow Kabir's teachings, show equal respect for all sections of society, faiths: LG Sinha

Jammu, June 15 (UNI) : Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday attended a commemoration event on Sant Kabir Das here at Bishnah.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor paid homage to Sant Kabir and highlighted his profound societal impact.

"Kabir was an enlightened spiritual master, who had stressed on the idea of the co-existence of faiths - Sarva Dharma Sambhava- and dedicated his life to spread the message of unity, brotherhood and social harmony.

Kabir is epitome of humanity. Kabir is a unique mystic of saints' tradition. Kabir embodies purity of heart. Kabir showers unparalleled bliss and total experience of awareness. Kabir is the fragrance of our eternal values. Kabir is the confluence in which all

the ideologies and path of worship meet and merge," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, called upon the people to follow the teachings of Sant Kabir and show equal respect for all sections of society and all faiths.

He observed that Sant Kabir's profound message and divine verses, reflecting on various social issues and challenges, are as relevant today as ever.

"India has been home for centuries to seekers from different religions and this spirit of brotherhood, social and religious diversities have become our strength.

"We must learn from the wisdom of Sant Kabir to preserve and nurture our ancient values, Sanskar of our ancient living civilization and our priceless knowledge system. We must reach

out to every citizen in J&K and inculcate and reinforce these values in new generation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also shared the efforts of the J&K Administration, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for providing equal opportunities and dignified life to all citizens.

Responding to the demands, the Lieutenant Governor assured appropriate measures to declare Sant Kabir Das Ji Jayanti as Gazetted holiday. He reiterated that it is the Government of India's commitment to ensure reservation in promotion.

He further assured necessary intervention in meeting the demand for establishing a community hall for Sant Kabir Samaj.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the significant role of

Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) in bringing a new Agriculture revolution in J&K, and transforming the lives of 13 lakh farming families, with dedicated focus on marginal and small farmers.

The past eleven years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have marked a period of unprecedented change and growth for Indian agriculture, driven by a holistic vision to make farming more profitable, sustainable, and globally competitive, he further added.

Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, Member of Legislative Assembly, Bishnah; Prof Gharu Ram Bhagat, Member of Legislative Assembly, Suchetgarh; prominent citizens, community leaders, members of various organisations, and people from all walks of life were present on the occasion.

NZ tries visa waiver to Chinese citizens travelling from Australia

Wellington, June 15 (UNI) : The New Zealand government announced a visa waiver policy on Sunday for Chinese citizens travelling from Australia.

According to Immigration New Zealand, starting November 2025, New Zealand will be trialing visa waiver status for Chinese passport holders travelling from Australia with a valid Australian visitor, work, student or family visa, allowing them to visit New Zealand for up to three months with a New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA) rather than applying for a visa.

This does not include people transiting through Australia, and applicants will still need to meet the criteria for an NZeTA.

Sunday's visa waiver announcement is a trial policy for 12 months and is believed to boost New Zealand's attractiveness as a destination for Chinese tourists.

UAE president discusses Mideast tensions with French, Italian leaders over phone

Abu Dhabi, June 15 (UNI) : President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed

Al Nahyan held separate telephone conversations with French President Emmanuel Macron and

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to discuss recent developments in the Middle East, particularly in the wake of Israeli strikes on Iran, according to the Emirates News Agency (WAM) on Saturday.

During the calls, the leaders exchanged views on the escalating tensions and stressed the importance of exercising maximum restraint.

They underscored the need to avoid further escalation and to resolve disputes through diplomatic means that safeguard regional peace and stability. The conversations also highlighted the UAE's strategic relations with both France and Italy, with the leaders vowing to continue strengthening bilateral cooperation across various fields in support of shared interests.

Iraq urges U.S to prevent Israel from violating airspace

Baghdad, June 15 (UNI) : Iraq urged the United States to uphold its responsibility to prevent Israeli aircraft from breaching Iraqi airspace to carry out attacks.

Sabah Al-Numan, spokesperson for the commander-in-chief of the Iraqi armed forces, on Saturday stated that the Iraqi government called on the U.S. to fulfill its obligations under bilateral agreements and international conventions to prevent such violations.

The Iraqi government reiterated its firm and unequivocal rejection of any violation of Iraqi airspace or its use for military attacks carried out by Israel against Iran or any other neighboring country, the statement said.

Iraq has exercised the highest levels of restraint in hopes of allowing diplomatic and political solutions to defuse the crisis through peaceful means, the statement added.

The spokesperson stressed that Iraq has the right, under international law and the United Nations Charter, to use all available means to respond to any violation of its national sovereignty by any party.

On Friday, Iraq submitted an official complaint to the United Nations Security Council, condemning Israel for violating its airspace to conduct military operations.

In the pre-dawn hours of Friday, Israel launched a series of coordinated airstrikes targeting strategic locations across Iran, including the capital, Tehran.

‘Trump administration pauses immigration enforcement at farms, hotels & restaurants’

New York, June 15 (UNI) : U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has directed immigration agents to stop making arrests at farms, restaurants and hotels, a policy shift amid concerns that the recent immigration crackdown could harm those industries, CBS News reported.

These industries rely in large part on labor from immigrants, many of whom are in the United States unlawfully, said the report Saturday, citing sources who requested anonymity.

The decision comes as the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has intensified workplace raids across the country to arrest and deport undocumented migrants.

Scenes of ICE agents detaining migrants in fields and car washes have dominated headlines over the past week. The crackdown on migrants has sparked protests in many U.S. cities, including Los Angeles and New York.

Violence in protests has led the Trump administration to dispatch National Guard members and active-duty marines to the Los Angeles area despite the objection of California Governor Gavin Newsom and other local officials.

For now, Washington can continue to use military members to protect ICE agents and quell protests.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued an emergency stay just hours after U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer ruled Thursday evening that Trump had illegally federalized California's National Guard and violated the Constitution.

Israeli attack causes explosion in gas refinery in S. Iran: media



Tehran, June 15 (UNI) : An Israeli micro aerial vehicle hit an onshore refinery of the phase 14 of Iran's South Pars gas field in Bushehr province on Saturday, causing an explosion at the facility, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.

Due to the explosion, a part of the Fajr Jam gas refinery has caught fire, Tasnim said, adding no report was released yet of

the extent of damage.

It added that Iranian passive defense and rescue forces were managing the situation. The attack comes amid heightened tensions following Israel's large-scale strikes on Iranian military and nuclear facilities, which have raised fears of broader regional escalation.

Earlier on Friday, Israel launched airstrikes on Iran's capital Tehran and

other cities across the country with the aim of crippling Iran's nuclear infrastructure, ballistic missile production, and military capabilities. In response, Iran on Friday night and early Saturday morning launched rocket barrages against Israeli targets. According to Israel's state-owned Kan TV News, three Israelis were killed and 172 others injured as a result of the attacks.

Iran confirms deaths of 8 more senior commanders in Israeli attacks

Tehran, June 15 (IANS) : Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has confirmed that eight other senior commanders of its aerospace division were killed in Israel's Friday airstrikes on the capital, Tehran.

In a statement published on its official news outlet Sepah News, the IRGC extended condolences over the "martyrdom" of its senior commanders, Xinhua reported.

It listed the slain commanders as Mahmoud Bagheri, Davoud Sheikhan, Mohammad-Bagher Taherpour, Mansour Safarpour, Masoud Tayyeb, Khosrow Hassani, Javad Jorsara, and Mohammad Aghajafari.

Israel early Friday launched airstrikes on Tehran and other Iranian cities, hitting nuclear facilities and killing a number of Iran's top

military commanders, nuclear scientists and civilians. It continued its attacks on different parts of Iran on Saturday and Sunday.

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Mohammad Bagheri, IRGC's Chief Commander Hossein Salami, Commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters Gholam-Ali Rashid, and Commander of the IRGC's Aerospace Division Amir Ali Hajizadeh were assassinated in the Israeli airstrikes on Tehran.

In response, Iran on Friday and Saturday nights launched several waves of missile attacks against targets in Israel, inflicting casualties and heavy damage.

In Israel, a rocket struck a residential building in a northern community, killing one woman and injuring 13 others, according to Magen

David Adom (MDA), Israel's national emergency medical service.

Several others sustained moderate to light injuries, and four individuals were treated for anxiety, MDA said.

Earlier in the day, MDA reported that at least three people had been killed and 204 others injured since the beginning of the Iranian offensive, Xinhua news agency reported.

Following the latest wave of attacks, Israel's Home Front Command advised residents outside the Haifa and northern regions that they could exit bomb shelters but should remain close to protected areas.

The Israeli military said that its air defence systems were actively intercepting incoming projectiles, while Israeli air force units were carrying out strikes on military targets in Tehran.

Trump says he, Putin agree war in Israel-Iran should end

Washington, June 15 (UNI) : U.S. President Donald Trump said he had a phone call with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Saturday over the tensions in the Middle East and Russia-Ukraine peace talks, and both of them agreed that "this war in Israel-Iran should end."

"He feels, as do I, this war in Israel-Iran should end," Trump wrote on his social media platform

Truth Social, adding that Putin knows Iran "very well."

Trump said he also explained to the Russian president that the Russia-Ukraine conflict "should also end" during the one-hour call. "We talked at length. Much less time was spent talking about Russia/Ukraine, but that will be for next week," said Trump.

"He (Putin) is doing the planned prisoner swaps -- large numbers of prisoners are being exchanged, immediately, from both sides." Saturday was Trump's 79th birthday. Trump said that Putin wished him a happy birthday during the phone call.

Typhoon Wutip leaves 6 dead in central Vietnam

Hanoi, June 15 (UNI) : At least six people were killed and another remains missing in central Vietnam due to torrential rains and flooding triggered by Typhoon Wutip, the Vietnam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority said Sunday.

Six fatalities were reported in Quang Binh and Quang Tri provinces, while one person went missing after being swept away by floodwaters in Quang Binh.

The typhoon damaged 47 houses, either collapsing them or blowing off their roofs, and inundated more than 58,000 hectares of rice fields and other crops across the region.

From January to May, natural disasters left 40 people dead or missing nationwide, according to the National Statistics Office.

31 killed, 55 wounded in Israeli attacks on Iran's NW province: governor

Tehran, June 15 (UNI) Israeli airstrikes in Iran's East Azerbaijan province have killed 30 military personnel and one rescue worker, the province's Governor, Bahram Sarmast, has announced.

The attacks, which began in the early hours of Friday, have also wounded 55 people across 19 different locations, according to a statement carried by the semi-official Tasnim news agency on Saturday.

Among the sites hit was Tabriz Airport, a key logistics and transport hub in the provincial capital. Video footage from the scene showed thick black smoke billowing into the sky.

Iranian media reported additional damage to the nearby Shahid Fakouri military airbase and parts of the adjacent railway network.

In the pre-dawn hours of Friday, Israel launched a series of coordinated airstrikes targeting strategic locations across the country, including in the capital, Tehran.

Iranian state media has confirmed the deaths of several high-ranking military commanders and prominent nuclear scientists in these attacks.

In response to the Israeli offensive, Iran has launched barrages of ballistic missiles at military targets inside Israel since Friday night, further intensifying the conflict.

Peru registers record 12-month trade surplus

Lima, June 15 (UNI) : Peru's 12-month trade surplus reached a new record of 26.71 billion U.S. dollars as of April, the Central Reserve Bank of Peru reported.

In April alone, the country registered a trade surplus of 1.33 billion dollars, an increase of 503 million dollars compared to the same month in 2024.

Exports totaled 5.80 billion dollars in April, up 12.4 percent year-on-year, driven mainly by a 10.6 percent increase in average export prices and a 1.5 percent rise in export volume, the bank said in a

statement on Saturday.

Traditional exports brought in 4.1 billion dollars, a 4 percent rise year-on-year, fueled by higher prices for metals and coffee, as well as increased shipments of fishmeal and fish oil.

Non-traditional exports surged 40.3 percent to 1.69 billion dollars, supported by a 42.6 percent rise in export volume, particularly in the fisheries and agricultural sectors.

Imports in April totaled 4.47 billion dollars, marking a 3.1 percent increase driven by higher purchases of consumer and capital goods.

Four miners killed as coalmine tunnel caves in Afghanistan

Kabul, June 15 (UNI) : Four miners have lost their lives after a coalmine tunnel caved in northern Afghanistan's Samangan province, said a statement of the provincial police office on Sunday.

Police with the support of locals discovered the bodies from a coalmine in Dara-i-Sufi Bala district on Saturday night and handed them over to their families, the statement said.

A similar accident claimed seven lives in the neighboring Dara-i-Sufi Payin district of the same province last month.

EU struggles for trade deal with U.S by July 9 amid tariff tensions

Brussels, June 15 (UNI) European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen reiterated that the European Union's (EU) commitment to reach a "good" trade deal with the U.S. before July 9 during a phone call with U.S. President Donald Trump.

In a post on social media platform X, von der Leyen on Saturday said that she had a "good call with President Trump ahead of the G7 Summit."

The U.S. government's decision to raise tariffs on steel and aluminum imports to 50 percent took effect earlier this month, escalating a trade dispute that has drawn sharp concern from European producers, who warn the steep new duties could cause significant harm to the sector.

Tens of thousands of New Yorkers join national protests against Trump administration

New York, June 15 (UNI) : Despite continuous rains, tens of thousands of people showed up in New York City to join nationwide "No Kings" protests against the Trump administration's policies.

Over 90 "No Kings" protests are planned for the day across New York state as millions across the whole country are expected to take part in a "nationwide day of defiance."

According to the "No Kings" website on Saturday, the nationwide protest has been organized to "(reject) authoritarianism, billionaire-first politics and the militarization of our democracy."

New York City alone had protests at multiple locations in Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island.

In particular, thousands of protesters

gathered around Bryant Park and filled Fifth Avenue, before making a peaceful march toward Madison Square Park.

Protesters carried various signs denouncing the Trump administration and chanted "What do we want? No ICE (the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement)! When do we want? Now!" "No justice, no peace!" "No deportation!" and others. "The vibe is really cool. Everyone is just really mellow. I got luck reading all the signs," said Todd Brown who came down to New York City from Westchester County in the north.

Todd Brown and his son Luca Brown made their signs on the train on Saturday morning. "We have people in our community who have been taken by ICE without any due process, with no habeas corpus," Luca

Brown said.

Todd Brown expressed his hope that people would be coming out and the peaceful activity going to end what's happening.

"I hope the courts keep doing their job and the people keep doing their job," said Luca Brown.

"We need to show up that we care," said Love Bauer, a New Yorker who held a sign reading "Democracy dies in silence".

It's not okay that Trump administration is cutting federal programs, funding for science, health care, clean energy and election security in order to keep funding defense and taking away Medicare from millions of Americans who are already struggling to receive the health care that they need to live, he added.

"The tariffs affect all of

us. They're raising the cost of goods for everybody," Bauer said on the impacts of the Trump administration's policies on herself.

"I don't accept the United States becoming a police state, and I'm really worried about it, and I feel terrible for people who are being deported," said Cathy Grad, a lawyer, who graduated from Columbia Law School. Lucy Warner, a retired public school teacher in her 80s, said the defunding of the United States Agency for International Development and other federal departments and agencies worried her most.

"That's what we're violating at a mile a minute. It's important to remember that this is what we are supposed to stand on. I feel very frightened," said Warner, referring to a copy of the U.S. Constitution in her hand.

Home & Garden



Indoor gardening Go green at home

Thinking about indoor gardening?
Here's all you need to know...



Bengaluru is turning out to be a densely populated city and one has to battle a space crunch. With buildings and offices mushrooming in every nook, there is hardly any space left for gardens and green zones. Added to this is the fact that homes are getting smaller, directly in proportion to the rising rates. And this is why indoor gardening that one can indulge in, even at small homes, is gaining popularity. Women are opting for tiny kitchen gardens with a few favourite herbs in a bid to beckon some green into the house. A variety of chic and colourful containers, pots and planters are being used give homes an evergreen feel. Sonam Gupta, interior consultant and Rashmi Attavar, from an Indo-American hybrid seed company, share tips that can help you begin an indoor garden...

Location:

Choose a plant that is suitable for the location you wish to place it in. There are some plants that do well indoors or in the shade. They can be moved indoors when

required. Plant choice: Choose a plant according to your space. A balcony would look pretty with a single orchid or a hanging basket. If you have a railing, a window box with flowers plants would brighten up the space.

Maintenance:

Choose plants that are low on maintenance. Make sure planter trays are emptied at least twice a week to avoid mosquitoes and 'wet feet' for the plant. Containers: You can use ceramic planters in vibrant colours or even metal containers to accentuate the plants.

Colour code it:

Greek blue and ochre will dominate 2015, say interior designers. These colours are also getting popular when it comes to home design and when combined with rich velvet jewel tones, they give a royal look. These colours can be incorporated into your home gardens via planters, pots, plant holder, etc., to give it a chic look.

Smart gadgets have really made a foray into the modern kitchen. And the tech driven lifestyle that everyone leads today, makes it essential to have gadgets that make the food preparation much simpler. Here are some gadget must haves for a kitchen:

Nutcracker

You need not use this gadget on a regular basis, but a nutcracker comes handy when it comes to cracking the farm fresh nuts that you would like to use it for cakes and sweet dishes.

Can opener

Taking from opening that fruit conserve to a can of peaches or apricots, this is another must have which finds its place in the kitchen's utility section.

Garlic press

Even though the mortar and the pestle do the trick to crush garlic, pressing garlic and inhaling the aroma of freshly pressed garlic in a well designed high end garlic press is a different



experience altogether. An absolute essential.

Bottle opener

A simple gadget which will allow flexibility to open bottles taking from that soft drink to a bottle of ketchup - bottle opener is another useful gadget in the kitchen.

Cork remover

Well, it's party time and you want to uncork the Champaign. So go ahead and do it because you have the swanky cork opener at your service. An absolute party essential, what say?

Knife sharpener

Not a must have essentially, but it helps immensely if you

have a knife sharpener. It saves you the hassle of looking around in the market for the right outlet which provides such services.

Magnetic knife holder

This gadget can be used when space is a constraint in the kitchen and you are feeling too lazy to pick that knife each time from the shelf. The magnetic knife holder can be installed at a safer location away from children too.

Coconut grater or a knife

Coconut is an integral part of Indian cooking. A coconut knife or a grater is always useful when the soft texture of grated coconut is to be desired.



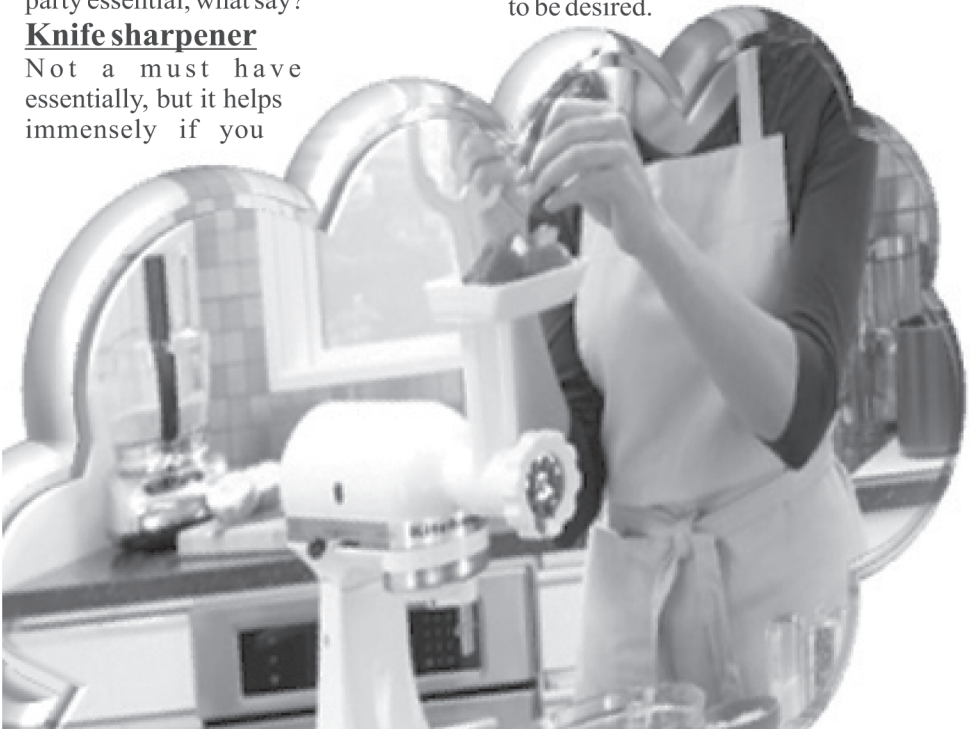
Care for your Artefacts



Here's how to take care of your artefacts... Maintaining masks: Masks lend a certain character to your house, so, make sure you place them artistically. If you have masks that are made of wood or fibre, you must always dust them on a regular basis. Make sure the wall on which you have placed them is clear of cobwebs. It should not be near your kitchen or outdoors, as it will attract oil and dust. Clean your paintings regularly: An art wall can change the look of the room, provided your paintings and photographs are arranged properly. Before hanging an oil painting on the wall, make sure you coat the surface of the painting with varnish. This

way the piece will not get spoilt. Whenever you have to clean the painting, take it down without touching the painted surface. Handle it with clean hands. Regularly clean the paintings with soft brushes and cotton wool. Brass items need to be polished: You can use normal household products to clean brass items. Tamarind pulp is the most popular product used to clean brass objects. Fresh lemon with some table salt also does wonders and gives a brilliant

shine. Make sure you clean brass items regularly, as keeping them unclean for a long duration might lead to discolouration due to dust and moisture. Also, wipe them with a soft cotton cloth, two-three times a week to preserve them well. To Preserve wooden artefacts: Keep the wooden artefacts away from direct sunlight and humidity. Don't use them for outdoor decoration. To prevent them from termites, it is advisable to fumigate the house regularly (especially the corners). Clean your art pieces often by using soft brushes and dusters. Do not use water or a damp cloth to clean them.



Hockey legend Manpreet Singh etches his name in history



Antwerp, June 15 (UNI) : As the sun dipped behind the stands of Wilrijkse Plein in Antwerp and the Indian national anthem played once again, there stood a familiar figure—poised, composed, with eyes filled with purpose.

For the 400th time, hockey icon Manpreet Singh walked out wearing the India jersey, adding his name to an elite list of legends who have graced the world stage with unwavering consistency and heart.

In that moment, Manpreet wasn't just a player lining up against Australia in the FIH

Hockey Pro League 2024/25—he was a symbol of longevity, leadership, and an era that has seen Indian hockey return to global reckoning.

The 33-year-old midfielder from Punjab, a place synonymous with Indian hockey folklore, now stands as the second-highest capped Indian men's player of all time, behind only former Captain and current Hockey India President Dr. Dilip Tirkey (412 caps). What makes Manpreet's story even more compelling is that it's far from over.

From his debut in 2011 as a spirited 19-year-old to

becoming the heartbeat of the Indian midfield, Manpreet's career mirrors Indian hockey's resurgence.

But for Manpreet, it was never about the medals alone. It was about showing up—every single game and every training session—with the same fire he felt when he first picked up a stick on the dusty fields of Mithapur, Jalandhar.

Speaking on the milestone, an emotional Manpreet said, "I still remember the goosebumps I felt in my debut game. To be standing here, 400 games later, is beyond anything I imagined. This milestone is

shared with every coach who pushed me, every teammate who backed me, and every fan who believed in me when I needed it most. I'm still learning, still growing—and I play with the same hunger today as I did at 19."

Hockey India President and the only Indian player ahead of Manpreet in the all-time caps list, Dr. Dilip Tirkey, lauded the achievement and stated, "Very few athletes achieve this level of consistency and endurance. Manpreet has been the spine of Indian hockey through its most transformative decade. His fitness, leadership, and composure under pressure set him apart. We are proud to see him carry forward the legacy with such grace."

Hockey India Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh added, "400 caps is not just a number—it's a legacy built on sacrifice, discipline, and devotion to the sport. Manpreet has set the bar for professionalism and pride in wearing the India jersey. He has been a true ambassador of Indian hockey and a generational role model."

Smith reveals next step in recovery from finger injury

London, June 15 (UNI) : Australia batter Steve Smith has spoken for the first time since he picked up a finger injury during the ICC World Test Championship Final and provided a prognosis surrounding his return to international cricket.

Smith was sent to hospital during the third day of Australia's defeat to South Africa at Lord's after the veteran suffered a compound dislocation of his right little finger while fielding in the slip cordon.

The initial diagnosis for Smith is reasonably good, with the 36-year-old lucky to have avoided surgery and still a chance to feature in Australia's upcoming three-match Test series against the West Indies in the Caribbean. "I will be in a

splint for eight weeks now and I may be able to play with it in a couple of weeks," Smith revealed after Australia's five-wicket loss to the Proteas at Lord's.

"It will depend on my functionality and what I am able to do, so it was probably the best result I could have hoped for," he said. Smith's injury came about when he dropped South Africa captain Temba Bavuma when he was on just two in the Proteas' second innings and the missed chance cost the Aussies dearly as the skipper went on to score 66 and feature heavily in a match-winning partnership with opener Aiden Markram, an ICC report said. The Australian was standing extremely close to the batter when the drop

occurred and was also sporting a helmet to cope with the uneven bounce in the Lord's pitch.

"I was standing pretty close with the helmet on and as we saw throughout the game a lot of nicks went short of first and second slip," Smith said.

"The plan was to stand pretty close and I lost sight of it with the angle that Mitchell Starc was bowling and it kind of went inside Bavuma's hip and I didn't quite see it until really late and it kind of dipped on me a little bit late too as well," he said.

"It was tricky, it didn't go in my hand very well and fortunately there is no break there and it just split the skin and dislocated it which made me feel pretty ill at that stage," Smith

said. The injury incident is the latest in a long set of dramas Smith has encountered at Lord's over the years, with the Australian admitting he now has a host of mixed emotions when recalling his recent appearances at the famous north London venue.

"I have a love/hate relationship with this place now," Smith stated.

"I have had some good memories here and some not so good ones as well," he said. "Getting hit in the head by Jofra (Archer) in 2019 and now having my digit knocked off out here yesterday as well," Smith said. "But it's a wonderful place to play cricket and I have enjoyed it here and it was a real good game of cricket again," he added.

Philippos Matthai of Delhi tops INAC Rd 2 with four wins, Double for Mysuru's Syed Salman

Chennai, June 15 (UNI) : New Delhi's Philippos Matthai brought into play all his vast experience and undoubted driving skills to win outright in four categories in the Vamcy Merla Chennai Gravel

Fest which doubled up as the second round of Octane Pits FMSCI Indian National Autocross Championship 2025 at the Madras International Circuit, here on Sunday.

Matthai, driving his INRC 2 Polo car, blitzed quality fields in the premier INAC 1 and INAC 2 categories in both of which he won the Open and 2000 classes to stamp his authority on the event as he also put in the fastest time of one minute, 38.880 seconds over the 1.8 Kms track which was a mix of dirt, gravel and tarmac.

The Delhi ace was in a league of his own as he held off his arch-rivals who

included top guns Syed Salman (Mysuru), Arnav Pratap Singh (Gurugram), former National Rally champion Chetan Shivram (Bengaluru) and Vaibhav Marathe (Ponda) all of whom finished on podium in the four classes.

Reflecting on his performance, Matthai said: "I am very happy to have won in four classes. We achieved what we had set out to do. The track was a bit tricky in the early part with water puddles in some of the corners after overnight rains. However, the track dried up and became a bit rough in the latter half of the day. I didn't participate in the first round in Chikmagalur last month. So, it was a good result here. I now look forward to the next round in Coimbatore."

Meanwhile, Syed Salman also enjoyed a fruitful outing as he topped the INAC 2 Up to 1650cc

and Up to 1450cc classes for a fine double.

Davangere's Shivani Pruthi won in the Ladies class ahead of Chennai's Nivetha Jessica and Anusha NS from Bengaluru, while Gowtham CP (Chikmagalur) topped the INAC 3 Open category. Hyderabad's Sundeep K, who finished eighth in the INAC 1 Unrestricted Open category, was adjudged "Best Novice" driver.

The results: INAC 1: Unrestricted Open: 1. Philippos Matthai (New Delhi) (01min, 38.880secs); 2. Syed Salman (Mysuru) (01:39.627); 3. Arnav Pratap Singh (Gurugram) (01:42.572). Best Novice: Sundeep K (Hyderabad).

Up to 2000cc: 1. Philippos Matthai (New Delhi) (01:38.950); 2. Arnav Pratap Singh (Gurugram) (01:43.786); 3. Chetan Shivram (Bengaluru) (01:48.132).

Fraser-McGurk stars as Unicorns stay unbeaten

New York, June 15 (UNI) : Jake Fraser-McGurk returned to form with a 38-ball 88 as San Francisco Unicorns beat Los Angeles Knight Riders by 32 runs to maintain their winning start to the 2025 Major League Cricket season.

The Australia international headed into the match on a run of five consecutive single-figure scores but smashed 11 sixes and two fours to propel his side to 219-8 on Saturday.

Finn Allen, whose 151 in the season opener against Washington Freedom broke the record for the highest score in MLC history, also scored a half-century, posting 52 off 27, and the pair put on 121 runs off just 55 balls for the second wicket.

Los Angeles Knight Riders lost opener Alex Hales for six in the second over and while Unmukt Chand (53 off 32), Matthew Tromp (41 off 31) and captain Sunil Narine (27 off 13) made contributions with the bat, they fell well short of their 220-run target, according to a BBC news.

Xavier Bartlett and Haris Rauf picked up four wickets apiece but former England international Liam Plunkett's wicketless four overs cost 45 runs.

Washington Freedom bounced back from their 123-run defeat against the Unicorns with a comfortable five-wicket win over Seattle Orcas.

Freedom, whose bowlers were hit for 269 runs on Thursday, restricted Seattle Orcas to 145-9. Openers David Warner (31) and Kyle Mayers (27) were the only players to pass 20 while Ian Holland picked up 4-19 as the batting side lost seven wickets for 50 runs in the second half of their innings. A 49-run opening stand off just 18 deliveries between Rachin Ravindra (44 off 18) and Mitch Owen (25 off 11) broke the back of Freedom's chase before captain Glenn Maxwell's unbeaten 38 (20) saw the defending champions home with 39 balls to spare.

China falls 3-1 to Netherlands in FIH Women's Pro League

Amstelveen, June 15 (UNI) : The Chinese women's national field hockey team kicked off its Netherlands leg of the 2025 FIH Pro League campaign with a 3-1 loss to powerhouse Netherlands at the Wagener Hockey Stadium here.

China held strong in the opening quarter, fending off an early Dutch offensive just 90 seconds into the game on Saturday.

The home side earned a penalty corner but failed to convert. The Dutch broke the deadlock late in the second quarter, scoring in the 13th minute through a well-executed combination inside the shooting circle.

In the third quarter, the Netherlands quickly extended their lead in the fourth minute, followed by another goal off a penalty corner which made it 3-0.

China responded in the final quarter. In the eighth minute, young defender Tan Jintong scored on a rebound following a penalty corner, narrowing the gap to 3-1. The team continued to press, launching several promising attacks inside the circle, but couldn't find the net again before the final whistle. After the match, captain Ou Zixia praised her squad's performance despite the loss. "It was a high-quality game, and I'm proud of how resilient we were," she said. "Our defense was solid, but we need to convert more scoring opportunities."

Ou also singled out goalscorer Tan for her standout performance. "She's a young player with great technical skills and defensive strength. I believe she's a rising star worth watching." Head coach Alyson Annan expressed satisfaction with the team's performance, noting that two of the goals conceded came from China's own defensive errors.

Canada gears up for Regional Final on road to ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

Toronto, June 15 (UNI) : The final step in the regional race for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 begins on Sunday with Canada, Bahamas, Bermuda and Cayman Islands set to do battle here at the Americas Qualifier.

Twelve matches in a double round-robin format will be held across the eight-day competition, kicking off with an opening double-header of Canada v Bermuda and Cayman Islands v Bahamas at Maple Leaf Cricket Club on Sunday. Teams will play each other twice before the event concludes on 22 June with only the table-topping side advancing to the next stage.

Reflecting on the prospect of qualifying for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, Canadian captain Nicholas Kirton, stated: "I would feel like half of the job is done, we went to our first T20 World Cup last year and played some good cricket and got a win against Ireland. The goal for this team is to improve on that."

Bermuda will be eager to have a new opportunity after missing out on NRR

last time.

Captain Terryne Fray shared his thoughts: "If Bermuda were to qualify for the World Cup, it would be the greatest achievement in sporting history for us. It's something that, for a long time, has been unfathomable, but we understand that the pathway is there, and we can obtain it! The feeling would be indescribable, but what I do know is that if we did qualify, it would be the greatest feeling for every Bermudian."

Cayman Islands and Bahamas recently promoted from the Subregional Qualifier had their say too. Conroy Wright skipper of the Cayman Islands summarised his thoughts "I would be delighted. I wouldn't have the words to explain the feelings"; whilst Bahamas skipper Marc Taylor said he would be "Elated. Excited and on top of the world!". All matches in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 Americas Qualifier will be available to watch live on ICC.tv, while fans in the Asian subcontinent can follow the action on FanCode.

India Women go down 2–3 to Aus Women in thriller

London, June 14 (UNI) : The Indian Women's Hockey Team suffered a narrow 2–3 defeat to Australia in their FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 (Women) match at the Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre here on Saturday, despite a spirited second-half fightback.

Trailing 0–3 after 35 minutes, India clawed their way back into the contest with goals from Deepika (44') and Neha (52'), but the Australians held their nerve in a tense final quarter to seal the victory.

Courtney Schonell (16'), Lexie Pickering (27') and Tatum Stewart (35') were on target for Australia, who capitalised on key Indian errors to build a commanding lead. The match also marked a personal milestone for India's midfielder Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, who made her 50th international appearance. Both sides

began with measured intent in the first quarter, with India displaying early composure in possession. The visitors came closest to scoring when a swift attacking move forced Australian goalkeeper Zoe Newman into a reflex double save.

However, Australia struck first in the second quarter when Courtney Schonell latched onto a sharp pass from Grace Stewart to slot home in the 16th minute. India then conceded a second in the 27th minute when Lexie Pickering converted from close range after a turnover and rebound scramble in the circle.

Australia continued to press hard in the third quarter and were awarded a penalty stroke following successive penalty corners. Tatum Stewart made no mistake from the spot, extending their lead to 3–0.

India finally broke

Raducanu withdraws from Berlin Open

London, June 15 (UNI) : Emma Raducanu will not play in the coming week's Berlin Open as she continues to manage a back problem. The 22-year-old, who will regain her status as British number one on Monday, has been struggling with the issue since competing in Strasbourg last month before the French Open.

The former US Open champion took an off-court medical timeout during her quarter-final loss to Zheng Qinwen at Queen's on Friday. "It's been lingering for the last few weeks, and I have had back issues before," she said. "It's just a vulnerability of mine. I know I need to take good care of it." "I need to let the back rest. [It] needs proper and careful management."

Raducanu had opted to play in Berlin rather than Nottingham after being offered a wildcard for the WTA 500 event, which starts on Monday and is set to feature nine of the world's top 10 female players. She will leapfrog Katie Boulter when the WTA rankings are updated. Eastbourne takes place from June 23-28 and Wimbledon starts on June 30. Raducanu beat Jessica Pegula at Eastbourne last year to claim her first win over a top-10 player, before reaching the fourth round at Wimbledon.

Maria to face Anisimova in Queen's final

London, June 15 (UNI) : Tatjana Maria said her Queen's run has been a "dream come true" after she came through qualifying to reach the final, where she will meet Amanda Anisimova.

The 37-year-old German became the oldest woman to reach a WTA 500 final with a stunning 6-3 7-6 (7-3) victory over Australian Open winner Madison Keys in the last four.

The mother-of-two arrived at Queen's on a nine-match losing streak but has beaten three top-20 players on her way to Sunday's showpiece.

"You always have to keep going. You never can stop, [it] doesn't matter how

it goes," world number 86 Maria said.

"I love to play tennis, I love the sport and we live for these special moments - that's why it's amazing."

American eighth seed Anisimova beat Olympic

champion Zheng Qinwen 6-2 4-6 6-4 in a gruelling match to reach a first grass-court final, according to a BBC news. Both players will now bid to become the first women's singles champion at Queen's for 52 years.

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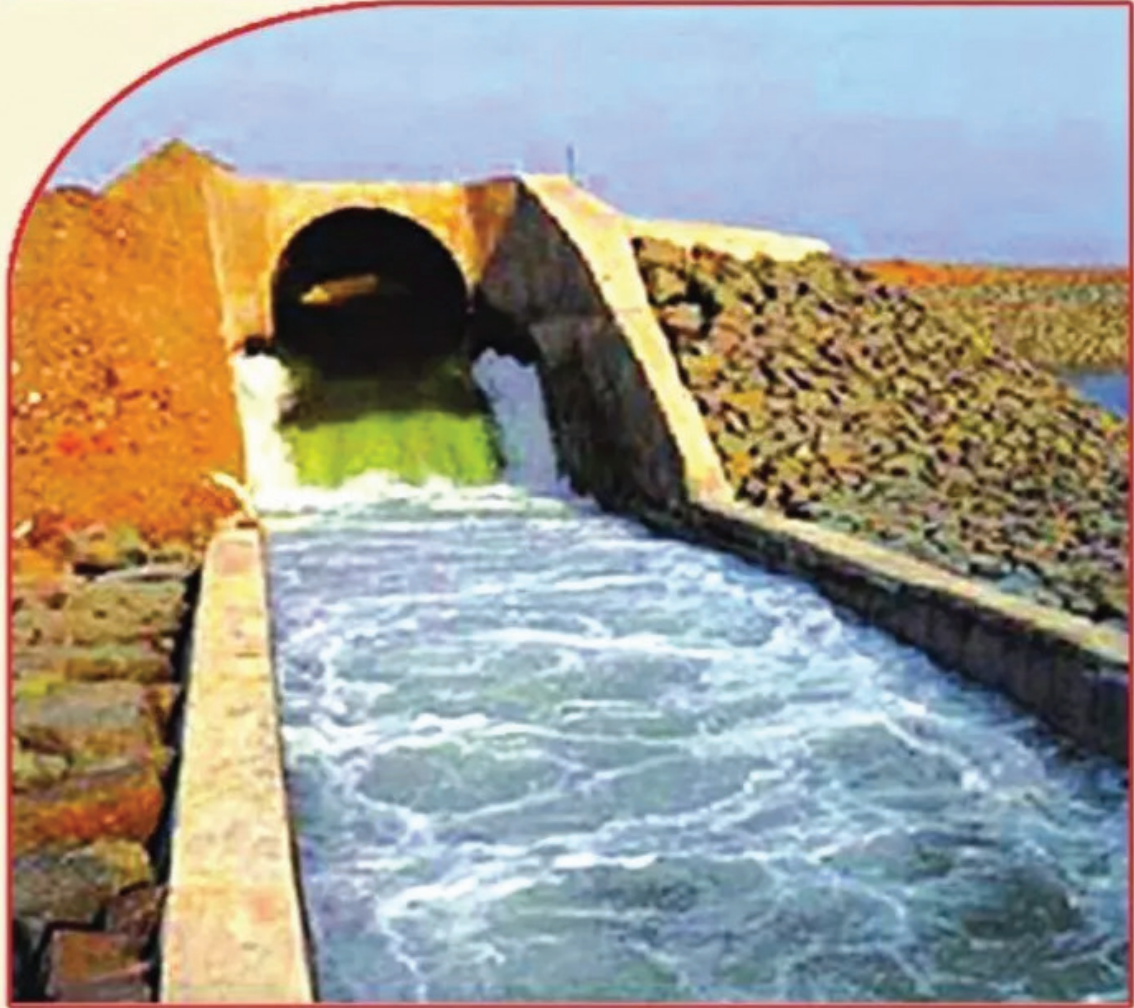
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