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National security concerns behind 'Satluj' takedown: Centre

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

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

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

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

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

Durgam Cheruvu Will Get Tourist Facelift: CM Revanth

HYDERABAD, July 6

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

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

He instructed that forest land within Bharat Future

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

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

Revanth Reddy said eco-tourism projects should



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

traffic diverted through alternative routes if necessary.

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

Monsoon Havoc: Deaths Mount, Transport Hit Across India

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

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

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

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

tiples locations.

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

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

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

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

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

Some parts of Palghar



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

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

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

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

weather.

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

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

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

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

The Chamba-Tissa

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

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

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

NIA chargesheets Lashkar founder Hafiz Saeed in Pahalgam attack

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

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

The supplementary chargesheet, filed in continuation of the original 1,597-page chargesheet, provides details of

radicalise people and channel millions of dollars into financing of terror.

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

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

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



case.

In its supplementary chargesheet filed before the NIA Special Court in Jammu, the anti-terror agency has charged Hafiz Saeed in his individual capacity as well as in his capacity as the chief of the banned LeT and its active proxy organisation, The Resistance Front (TRF).

The accused has been charged under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The NIA has also invoked provi-

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

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

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



Nirav Modi loses key appeal, may be extradited soon

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

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

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

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

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

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



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EDITORIAL

India should view it as a policy challenge

INDIA'S 125th position out of 200 countries in the Global Passport Index (GPI) 2026 has triggered unease. Unlike the traditional Henley Passport Index (it has ranked India 80th), which primarily measures visa-free access, the GPI adopts a broader approach by evaluating mobility, investment opportunities and quality of life. India's below-par rank indicates challenges not only in international travel but also in factors that influence global competitiveness and attractiveness. For millions of Indian travellers, the practical implications are significant. On the Passport Power Rank, India's mobility score of 72 reflects access to just 30 truly visa-free destinations and 42 visa-on-arrival ones. Travel to the US, the UK and much of Europe continues to involve lengthy and often uncertain visa procedures. These barriers affect tourists, students, professionals and entrepreneurs alike, adding financial and administrative burdens to international mobility. Passport strength is shaped largely by diplomatic reciprocity. Bilateral agreements, security co-operation, migration policies and mutual trust determine how freely citizens can cross borders. India's expanding global influence has translated into gradual improvements over the years, although progress remains uneven. The dominance of European nations in the latest ranking offers an important lesson. Countries such as Sweden, Switzerland and Finland perform well not only due to extensive travel access but also because they provide high standards of living, stable institutions and attractive investment environments. Their passports symbolise the robustness of their governance and international partnerships. India should view the ranking as a policy challenge.



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



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

What is terminal ileitis?

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

What causes inflammation in the terminal ileum?

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

What symptoms should people watch for?

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

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

How is the condition diagnosed?

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

Can terminal ileitis be treated?

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

What are the risks if it is left untreated?

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

When should you seek medical attention?

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What exactly is Bell's palsy?

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

Why does it happen?

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

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



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

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

Can Bell's palsy be prevented?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Entrepreneur Bobby Chemmanur apologises to Honey Rose

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

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



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

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

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

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

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