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Soldier killed in gunfight with militants in J-K's Kulgam

Indian army Jammu and KashmirThe officials said the soldier of the Indian Army sustained injuries in the exchange of fire and died.

A soldier was killed in an encounter with militants in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Saturday, officials said. They said security personnel were conducting a cordon-and-search operation in Modergam village of the south Kashmir district when the terrorists opened fire at them. The officials said the soldier of the Indian Army sustained injuries in the exchange of fire and died. The operation is underway and further details are awaited, they added.

Telugu film executive producer dies by suicide in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: An executive producer working in the Telugu film industry died by suicide in her flat at Kavuri Hills in Madhapur. Police suspect she was upset over not getting work and ended her life. She is suspected to have died on Thursday, but the incident came light on Saturday, after the neighbours sensed foul smell emanating from her house. Police said Swapna Varma (33), a native of Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh, was working in the film industry for the past three years. She moved into the present flat about a year ago, where she stayed alone. Though, in the beginning of her career, Swapna Varma got to work in some projects, subsequently her opportunities allegedly started diminishing, pushing her into depression.

Telangana govt's demands evoke sharp counters from Andhra



GNS News Agency, July 6

Hyderabad: The Telangana government's reported demands seeking a share in the 1000 km coastal corridor, a role in Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) administration, allocation of 558 tmc of River Krishna water and shares in Krishnapatnam, Machilipatnam and Gangavaram ports, has evoked sharp counters, besides triggering anxiety from different sections in Andhra Pradesh. In the wake of the two Chief Ministers meeting to resolve long-pending issues, former Andhra Pradesh Minister Botcha Satyanarayana wanted a live telecast of the meeting. This was to ensure transparency and let people know facts, he said on X. The former Minister further said: "The news about Telangana government's demands for share in ports and TTD assets has created lot of anxiety and worry among Andhra people..." Ram Chakuri, an X user said: "Since all the develop and investments in 1000 km coastal corridor and ports located in AP happened in the combined State, the new State has a right for having its share in these projects..." There are some who also said that Hyderabad was developed with the money of the people of the combined State and that Andhra deserves a share. Another X user, Josh T K said: "None of them are acceptable. They knew that they will not have a coastline for their State in their fight. This appears as a gimmick to stop TDP in Telangana..." MVN Shastri, an X user said: "Not sure if TG will ask all that, especially TTD."

K Keshava Rao Appointed as Public Affairs Advisor with Cabinet Rank by Telangana Govt.



GNS News Agency, July 6

The Telangana state government has announced the appointment of K Keshava Rao as a public affairs advisor with cabinet rank. A circular has been issued confirming his new role in advising the government on various public affairs matters. The news comes shortly after Keshava Rao's recent move from the BRS to the Congress party. Along with this change in political affiliation, he has also resigned from his Rajya Sabha membership. K Keshava Rao is expected to bring his wealth of experience and expertise to his new role as public affairs advisor to the Telangana government. His appointment signals a new direction for the state government in engaging with and addressing public concerns and issues.

Vice-President tears into Chidambaram over part-timers jibe on new criminal laws



GNS News Agency, July 6

Chidambaram, who served as the Finance Minister in UPA I and UPA II regimes, said that the three criminal laws which came into force from July 1 were drafted by non-professional people, who were part-time members of a committee. Thiruvananthapuram: Without taking name, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday hit out at Rajya Sabha MP P. Chidambaram over the latter comments that the three new criminal laws were drafted in the Parliament by part-timers, as he termed the Congress veteran's remarks as an inexcusable insult to the wisdom of the Parliament. The new criminal laws, Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA), replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively, with effect from July 1, 2024. Taking strong exception to the 'part-timers' jibe by the Congress MP, the Vice-President said that he was shocked beyond words to see such irresponsible and wild remarks that part-timers have drafted the new criminal laws. Chidambaram, who served as the Finance Minister in UPA I and UPA II regimes, said in an interview with The Indian Express that the three criminal laws which came into force from July 1 were drafted by non-professional people, who were part-time members of a committee. Are we part-timers in Parliament? This is an inexcusable insult to the wisdom of the Parliament! I do not have words strong enough to condemn such kind of narrative being set afloat, Jagdeep Dhankhar said.

BRS suffers fresh setback, party MLA Krishna Mohan Reddy joins Congress

GNS News Agency, July 6

Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy, BRS MLA switches to Congress, Telangana politics, number of BRS MLAs who joined Congress, Telangana assembly elections, Indian express, news, MLA Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy. In a fresh setback to opposition BRS in Telangana, the party's MLA Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy joined the ruling Congress on Saturday. This takes the total number of BRS MLAs who joined the Congress since the Assembly elections last year to seven. Krishna Mohan Reddy, legislator from Gadwal, joined Congress in the presence of Chief Minister and PCC president A Revanth Reddy and other party leaders at the CM's residence at Jubilee Hills here. Speculation is rife that more BRS MLAs would switch over the ruling party in the days to come. The BRS had won 39 of the total 119 Assembly constituencies in the elections held last year.

Congress slams PM Modi for apparent Ansari reference in Lok Sabha speech

GNS News Agency, July 6

The Congress on Saturday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi broke all parliamentary norms by accusing the then Rajya Sabha chairman Hamid Ansari of having an "inclination" towards the opposition when the BJP came to power in 2014. In his reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's address in the Lok Sabha on July 2, Modi said, "No matter how many numbers they claim, when we came in 2014, our strength in the Rajya Sabha was very low, and the Chair's inclination was somewhat on the other side. But we did not waver from our resolve to serve the country with pride." "I want to tell the people of the country that the decision you have made, the order you have given us to serve, neither Modi nor this government will be afraid of



any such obstacles. We will fulfill the resolutions we have set out to achieve," Modi had said.

While Modi did not name anyone, former vice president Ansari was the chairman of the Rajya Sabha from August 2012 to August 2017. This is the first time the Congress has reacted to the remarks made by the prime minister earlier this week apparently referring to Ansari. In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam

Ramesh said, "One thing that the non-biological PM said in the Lok Sabha on July 2nd has escaped much media notice. What he said was simply awful and unacceptable, and ought to have been immediately expunged." Modi accused former chairman of the Rajya Sabha Hamid Ansari of "leaning" towards the Opposition, he claimed. Ramesh said, "This is not the first time Mr. Modi has targeted Mr. Ansari. In his farewell

speech on Mr. Ansari's retirement 7 years ago, he alluded to Mr. Ansari's top diplomatic postings which happened to be in Islamic countries." "That these countries were of vital interest to India, and that Mr. Ansari retired from the IFS (Indian Foreign Service) after having served as High Commissioner to Australia and as India's Permanent Representative at the UN in New York as well, was mischievously overlooked," he said. No prime minister has ever attacked a former speaker (Lok Sabha) or chairman of the Rajya Sabha in the manner that Modi has, Ramesh alleged. "He (Modi) has broken all parliamentary norms in doing so — not that he has respected them at all. He has further diminished whatever is left of the dignity of the office he holds after his despicable election campaign," he said.

Railways says Rahul Gandhi met drivers from outside, 'We have similar issues,' counter Unions



GNS News Agency, July 6

The train drivers' unions have countered Railways' claim that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi met loco pilots who were not from the Delhi Division and were brought from outside. On Friday, after Gandhi visited the loco pilots' crew lobby at the New Delhi Railway Station, the Chief Public Relation Officer (CPRO) of Northern Railway (NR) under which the Delhi Division falls, said that it looked like Gandhi met loco pilots who were not from crew lobby of the New Delhi Railway Station. "It looks like they were brought from outside," Deepak Kumar, CPRO, NR, said. Gandhi visited the crew lobby at the station and spoke to some loco-pilots to know their problems and challenges. Various loco pilots' associations whose members were present in the lobby during Gandhi's visit countered the CPRO's statement and said that it was immaterial to focus on loco pilots' divisions and zones of work as long as they have similar grievances. "I want to submit humbly that Mr Gandhi interacted with loco pilots from

various rail divisions and not only with those who were from Delhi," R Kumaresan, President of the South Zone of the All India Loco Running Staff Association, who played a crucial role in organising this interaction between Gandhi and loco pilots, said. He added, "Mr Gandhi visited the crew lobby and in the same building there is a running room also for pilots who come from outside to take rest. He spoke to everyone irrespective of which divisions they come from." Kamlesh Singh, Central Treasurer of the Indian Railway Loco Runningmen Organisation (IRLRO), who was present during Gandhi's visit, said that loco pilots across all rail networks face similar challenges and have similar grievances.

"Whether it is about long duty hours, denial of weekly rest or lack of washroom and lunch break, these are common issues that all train drivers face across the divisions and zones. So this doesn't merit an issue whether he met a loco pilot of Delhi Division or some other divisions," Singh said

IRLRO's Working President Sanjay Pandhi said that at all Running rooms of Indian Railways, only loco running staff from other stations rest. "An MP, who is also a leader of the opposition can meet anyone anywhere including all railway employees," Pandhi said. Kumaresan clarified that Gandhi didn't enter the running room as this would have disturbed loco-pilots who were taking rest before their next shift. Loco pilots also said that the Railway Ministry sent its officials to meet and attend to the grievances of train drivers after the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi met them. "After Mr Gandhi left, officials of the Railway ministry visited us at the New Delhi Railway Station to attend to our grievances,"

GHMC Council meeting turns violent, BJP and BRS Corporators clashes.



GNS News Agency, July 6

Hyderabad : The GHMC Council meeting witnessed clashes between BRS and BJP Corporators. The BRS Corporators also stormed Mayor podium demanding Vijayalakshmi to prove majority support or quit the Mayor post for not having majority to hold the post. The MIM and BJP Corporators also exchanged verbal duel on the city development in the meeting. Soon after the council meeting started, the BJP and BRS Corporators created ruckus in the house by showing placards against each other. Situation went out of control when the two groups jostled each other. Despite warning from the Chair, the Corporators shouted slogans against the GHMC. The Corporators also demanded to supply safe drinking water in their colonies. The Mayor appealed to the corporators maintain silence but in vain. As the situation went out of control, Mayor called Water Board MD Ashok Reddy on phone and asked to attend the meeting. The official turned down the Mayor plea to attend the meeting in due to personal reasons.

Budget Session to begin on July 22, Union Budget to be presented on July 23

GNS News Agency, July 6

The Budget Session of Parliament will start on July 22 and conclude on August 12, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Saturday. The Union Budget will be presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 23. "This will be the first budget presented by the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in its third term amid high anticipation following President Droupadi Murmu's assertion that it will be marked by many historic steps," Rijiju said in a post on X. Rijiju said that the President, on the recommendation of the Government of India, has approved the proposal for summoning both Houses of Parliament for the Budget Session, 2024, from July 22 to August 12 (subject to exigencies of parliamentary business). In her address to a joint sitting of Parliament, President Murmu had said major social and economic decisions will be a highlight of the Union Budget. An interim budget was presented in February due to the Lok Sabha polls. In 2023, the Budget Session had commenced on January 31 and had concluded on April 6. The Budget Session had 25 sittings last year. The Union Budget was presented on February 1 last year.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

All eyes on Modi's first foreign visit in third term

Post his historic hat-trick feat as the PM and the monsoon session of parliament, Narendra Modi is set to fly abroad to pursue the global interests of India. He will be in Moscow on July 8-9 for the 22nd India-Russia Annual Summit. A communique said both Putin and Modi will review the entire range of multifaceted relations between the two countries and take stock of contemporary regional and global issues of mutual interest.

It will be Modi's first trip to Russia since Moscow launched its military offensive in Ukraine. Russia and India have had close ties since the days of Cold War and India's importance grew manifold as a key economic and trade partner since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. Why Modi chose Russia for his first four abroad piques analysts' minds. He could not be available for the just concluded 2024 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting in Kazakhstan, which Putin and Xi attended. In the past, he had chosen neighbours for first foreign visit as part of the neighbourhood first policy. India largely depends on Russia for its military needs and now handsomely benefits from its cheap oil. It is in its self-interest that India avoids any overt criticism of Russia or backs any vote against Moscow at UN or other meetings. Nevertheless, India has not been known to be meek or mince its words as Modi did when he told Putin during a telephone call in March 2024 that this was not an era of war, and stressed a peaceful settlement through dialogue. He even spoke to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine and called for an early end to the ongoing conflict.

Abhishek Ghosalkar murder case: Court grants bail to Mauris Noronha's bodyguard, says no material to show complicity



The judge observed that "from the FIR, it did not appear that at the relevant time the applicant (Mishra) was present at or near the said place of occurrence" and that his "complicity in the commission of offence is highly doubtful".

GNS News Agency, July 6

A sessions court recently granted bail to Amarendra Mishra, the bodyguard of Mauris Noronha, in connection with the murder of Shiv Sena UBT's former Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) corporator Abhishek Ghosalkar. According to police, Mishra's gun was allegedly used in the crime. Abhishek (41), the son of former Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Vinod Ghosalkar, was shot dead in Borivli in suburban Mumbai on February 8 this year during a social media live, allegedly by his old political rival Mauris Noronha (47), who later died by suicide. Mishra was arrested the next day.

The judge observed that "from the FIR, it did not appear that at the relevant time the applicant (Mishra) was present at or near the said place of occurrence" and that his "complicity in the commission of offence is highly doubtful". Additional Sessions judge V M Pathade passed an order in Mishra's bail application on June 25, which was made available on Monday. Mishra, through advocates Ganesh Gole and Ateet Shirodkar, argued that he held a firearm licence in Uttar Pradesh and the District Magistrate of Prayagraj (erstwhile Allahabad) had granted him the permission to carry the said licenced firearm to any part of India. He added that on the day of the incident, Noronha had asked Mishra to keep the gun in a locker in his office and accompany his personal assistant Mehul Parekh to a hospital as Parekh's mother was not keeping well. Mishra claimed he kept the gun in the locker and carried the key of the same with him. However, he was unaware that it was a smart locker/safe, which can be opened through a passcode as well, which was known to Noronha. Mishra claimed that as per live streaming of the entire incident on Facebook, it was clear that Noronha had fired gunshots and later shot himself. After perusing material on record, the judge observed, "It is evident that there was only one entrance to the said office where the incident took place. There is no acceptable material which would demonstrate the presence of the applicant accused at or near the said place of incident so as to infer his complicity in the said incident." The judge further stated, "It prima facie appears that at the relevant time, Ghosalkar and Noronha were the only persons present inside the said office and in all probability, it was Noronha who attacked Abhishek Ghosalkar by firing gun shots at him."

The court noted it was "difficult to believe that any third person could have caused the death of Ghosalkar and Noronha using a firearm which belonged to Mishra." The court also noted that the reason stated by Mishra for keeping his gun/pistol inside the locker "did not appear to be improbable," as he was expected to follow his master's directions or commands. "If at all the applicant was a part of any criminal conspiracy to kill Ghosalkar, the same could not have resulted in the killing of Noronha," the order stated and granted bail to Mishra on furnishing personal bond of Rs. 25, 000 along with sureties of the same amount among other conditions imposed on him to cooperate with the probe.

MMRDA reissues six tenders for new infra projects enhancing connectivity to Thane



GNS News Agency, July 6

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has re-issued six tenders for new infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing connectivity to Thane. Notably, these tenders were originally announced just before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and were intended to be opened after the elections. However, they were subsequently canceled and have now been reissued with modifications. An MMRDA official said the tenders were revised due to certain technical shortcomings. One significant change includes the reduction of the defect liability period from five years to two years.

Dental treatment to be included in Mahatma Phule Jan Arogya Yojana: Health Minister Tanaji Sawant

GNS News Agency, July 6

State health minister Tanaji Sawant announced in the Maharashtra Legislative Council on Monday that dental treatments would be included in the Mahatma Phule Jan Arogya Yojana—a major health flagship programme of the state. Samant was responding to questions raised in the Maharashtra Legislative Council raised by MLC Satyajit Tambe requesting the inclusion of dental treatments under the purview of Mahatma Phule Jan Arogya Yojana.

The MPJAY is a state health insurance policy under the revamped health scheme, wherein a health cover of Rs 5 lakh will be provided to estimated 12 crore citizens in Maharashtra. On Monday, Tambe raised the challenges people face while availing the benefits of the health scheme. "Attempts are also made to take advantage of the scheme by showing bogus patients. This raises questions about how the government will take suitable action," Tambe said. Tambe pointed out that of the 350 talukas in Maharashtra, the scheme has not been implemented in 137 talukas yet. "There is not a single hospital or a dispensary under the scheme in these 137 talukas. These need urgent prioritisation. Additionally, there are numerous complaints regarding hospitals showing fake patients. However, no concrete action has been taken against these hospitals yet. Will the government make any decision regarding this?" asked Tambe. Lauding Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the state government, Tambe said the scheme cover was extended up to Rs 5 lakh without any restrictions on the person availing its benefits. "As a result, from poor to rich, everyone has reaped the benefits," he said. While responding to Tambe's

First FIR lodged in UP under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita: Farmer's death after coming in contact with live wire while working in field



GNS News Agency, July 6

The first case in Uttar Pradesh under the new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was filed at the Raha police station in Amroha on Monday. The case involves the death of farmer Jagpal Singh alias Mangala, 48, who died after coming in contact with an electric wire while working in his field. The case has been filed against the victim's neighbour Rajveer Singh alias Rajju, 48, and his son Bhup Singh alias Bholu, 20, under Section 106 of the BNS for causing death by negligence. No arrests have been made in the case so far.

Victim Jagpal Singh's son, Sanjay Singh, who is the complainant in the case, told The Indian Express that his neighbour Rajveer Singh had set up electric wiring around his field to prevent stray animals from entering and damaging the crops. Sanjay Singh added that his father went to the field for farming on Monday morning and came in contact with an electric wire from the neighbour's field at around 6.30 pm. Other men working nearby rushed the victim to the hospital, where he died during treatment. Station House Officer Ramesh Sherawat of Raha police station said, "No one has been arrested, and the investigation is ongoing."

About an hour later, another FIR was lodged at Baradari police station in Bareilly regarding the disappearance of a one-month-old male baby from a hospital. The case has been filed against an unidentified person under BNS Section 97 (kidnapping or abducting a child under 10 years of age with the intent to steal from the child). The complainant in this case is the victim's father, Sushil Kumar, a native of Sungari village in Pilibhit district. The complainant has alleged that he admitted his son to a private hospital in Bareilly on June 28 after he fell unwell and the hospital staff informed him of the baby's disappearance on Monday morning. Station House Officer Amit Kumar Pandey of Baradari police station said, "We are collecting further details from the family." Meanwhile, the UP Police are making extensive efforts to raise public awareness about the three new laws. Pamphlets have been printed and are being distributed at district police stations. These pamphlets will be shared with prominent members of the community,

The projects include Thane coastal road from Balkum to Gaimukh National Highway 3, Ghodbunder Road bypass, and D.P. road construction, costing approximately Rs 12.98 crore. Extension of the Eastern Express Highway from Cheddha Nagar in Ghatkopar to Thane elevated corridor, costing Rs 12.80 crore. Design and Construction of a creek bridge from Kasarvadavali, Thane to Kharbao in Bhiwandi, costing Rs 7.26 crore. Design and construction of a creek bridge from Gaimukh to Paygaon, costing Rs 4.64 crore. Design and construction of an elevated road from National Highway 4 (old) to Katali Naka, costing Rs 9.43 crore. Design and construction of an elevated road from Kalyan Murbad to Badlapur Road to Pune Link Road, parallel to Waldhuni River, crossing over Karjat Kasara railway line including a slip road, costing Rs 2.25 crore. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled at MMRDA's BKC office on Tuesday, and the deadline for bid submission is 5pm by July 12. The construction period for three of the projects is 48 months, which includes obtaining all necessary environmental clearances and approvals, and accounts for the monsoon season. The duration of construction for two other projects is 42 months and the remaining project has a construction period of 30 months. The defect liability period for all projects after construction is 24 months.



questions, health minister Tanaji Sawant said, "The Mahatma Phule Jan Arogya Yojana initially covered 1,000 hospitals. The health cover under the scheme has been increased from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. The conditions for availing scheme benefits have also been removed. Earlier, 1,356 treatments were included in this scheme. Hereon, dental treatments will also be included. Additionally, hospitals will be set up in the 137 talukas immediately where there are no hospitals." The state government had taken a decision vide GR dated July 28, 2023, to implement MJJAY for all families in the state and expanded the scope of the existing scheme. Accordingly, the integrated Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana & Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana—the the largest government funded cashless healthcare scheme in India—is being implemented from July 1 this year. The scheme covers all population of Maharashtra and provides health coverage of Rs.5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary healthcare requiring hospitalization.

Another pregnant woman detected with Zika, 6th case in Pune



GNS News Agency, July 6

The PMC's health department has reported its sixth case of Zika virus infection and the second such infection in a pregnant woman. A 35-year old woman from Ganeshnagar in Erandwane has tested Zika positive. She is in her fourth month of pregnancy and has no symptoms related to Zika, according to health department officials.

Dr Kalpana Baliwant, acting chief medical officer of Health department, PMC, told The Indian Express that seven of the 12 samples sent for tests from Ganeshnagar in Erandwane were of pregnant women. Two have tested positive. On Sunday, the health department had reported that a 28-year-old pregnant woman from Erandwane was detected with Zika. The woman is six months pregnant and shows no symptoms, Dr Rajesh Dighe, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Pune Municipal Corporation said. Zika infection in a pregnant woman, according to US based Centre for Disease Control, can cause microcephaly and birth defects involving the baby's brain. Due to these significant risks, the PMC health department has also intensified surveillance in Erandwane and Mundhwa areas where the other Zika virus infection cases were reported. After two cases were earlier reported from Mundhwa, the health department has also asked for collection of more samples from Kodrevasti. There is no reason to panic as containment measures are being taken, health officials said. Dr Dighe said preventive measures were taken once the case was reported. "We have found that overhead water tanks were not properly covered in the Ganeshnagar settlement. We have also levied fines as we identified mosquito breeding spots in this area," Dr Dighe said. Close to 10,000 people have been surveyed and teams have visited 4,646 homes in both areas, Erandwane and Mundhwa. Mosquito breeding spots were identified in 161 houses and fines to the tune of Rs 3,300 have been levied.

11, including ex-general manager, booked for bank loan fraud in Gujarat



GNS News Agency, July 6

Police in Gujarat's Valsad Sunday arrested two people in connection with an alleged fraud, wherein 10 people cheated the Valsad Mahila Nagrik Sahakari Bank of Rs 4.80 crore in September 2022. Police have also booked the bank's retired general manager, who allegedly sanctioned the loan without following due process. The bank's CEO, Sonal Rajesh Desai, had lodged a complaint of cheating with the Valsad town police station on Saturday, naming 11 people. Based on the complaint, police registered a case under various IPC sections.

According to the complaint, the accused general manager, Soham Desai, allegedly approved the loan by collecting xerox copies and not original mortgage documents, and failed to verify the properties, which were found to be mortgaged with other banks as well. Soham retired on December 31, 2019 but was given an extension and made the general manager. His term ended on December 31, 2023. All loan applications submitted by the accused were sanctioned in December 2022. According to the police, the accused stood as guarantors to each other. "On the basis of the complaint, we have arrested two people, Anshu Thakur and Sanjay Gupta, in the case, while others are absconding," inspector D D Parmar said. Parmar said the bank general manager allegedly granted the loan to the accused without taking written approval from the board of directors.

Policy on erecting hoardings in MMR soon, says Samant

Around two months after the Ghatkopar hoarding collapse, state minister Uday Samant Monday told the legislative Assembly that a policy regarding erecting hoardings in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) will be unveiled soon.

Meanwhile, the ruling and opposition MLAs had an heated exchange of words in the state Assembly over the hoarding collapse of May 13 which killed 17 people.

Discussing an attention motion on the incident, BJP MLA Ram Kadam claimed that the accused Bhavesh Bhide was a close aide of former chief minister and Sena UBT chief Uddhav Thackeray.

"The hoarding was cleared during Covid period. Bhide met Thackeray when not even an MLA was allowed to meet him. There is a photograph of Bhide and Thackeray which shows how close they are. I urge state government to probe this angle as well," Kadam said.

Responding to this, Sena UBT MLA Ajay Chaudhary said that the ruling MLAs should not use Thackeray's name for the sake of publicity.

Pankaja Munde, Amit Gorkhe, Sadabhau Khot and Yogesh Tilekar to become MLCs in Maharashtra

GNS News Agency, July 6

Pankaja Munde Munde's nomination to the Legislative Council is being seen as an attempt by the party to rehabilitate her after her defeat in the Lok Sabha election in Beed, where Munde lost to Bajrang Sonawane of the NCP (SP) in a closely fought contest. (File Image)

BJP leader Pankaja Munde, who received a big jolt to her political career when she lost the Lok Sabha elections last month, was nominated by her party to Maharashtra's Legislative Council.

The BJP's national leadership also named four other candidates for the Legislative Council elections scheduled for July 12. They are former leader Sadabhau Khot, Amit Gorkhe from Pimpri-Chinchwad, former Hadapsar MLA Yogesh Tilekar and Dr Prinay Phuke.

Munde's nomination to the Legislative Council is being seen as an attempt by the party to rehabilitate her after her defeat in the Lok Sabha election in Beed, where Munde lost to Bajrang Sonawane of the NCP (SP) in a closely fought contest. After Munde's defeat in the family bastion, a couple of her supporters died by suicide. A video of her breaking down while meeting the family members of one of her supporters who ended their lives went viral. Gorkhe, who is the former head of the Annabhau Sathe Mahamandal, is a leader of the Matang community and known for his proximity to Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis. Gorkhe runs a clutch of educational institutes in Pimpri-Chinchwad.

Why Smiling Bharat survey is crucial to address the 2nd most common dental disorder



sleep apnoea apart from the problem of improper or un-aesthetic smiles. Early screening of malocclusion is important due to its role in development of periodontitis, dental caries and trauma. In India, the prevalence of malocclusion among school-going children has been reported in the range of 12.5% to 33.3%. "Although, malocclusion is the second most common dental disorder found in school children, there is inadequate preventive oral healthcare programs in place," Dr Rahalkar said.

With its theme 'Smiling Bharat', the aim of this activity is to reach out to maximum households through school children and young adults for diagnosis of malocclusion and associated health issues. The aim is also to create awareness about orthodontics as specialisation of dentistry and associated benefits," Dr Rahalkar added. The Indian Orthodontic Society has around 7,000 orthodontists and 5,000 postgraduate students studying for their post graduate programmes in dental colleges as their members. IOS members will collect data in their private clinics and hospitals apart from orthodontic departments in dental colleges and various orthodontic study groups across India.

"There is a special mobile app made for this purpose, so data will come centrally to Indian Orthodontic Society from various places of actual survey," Dr Rahalkar said. The estimation of prevalence of malocclusion, at the national level, should replace the siloed approach of region wise and state wise approach, the expert feels. "The data will help formulate guidelines and national health policies for awareness of orthodontics in general public, and inclusion of orthodontists in mainstream health care system for children," Dr Rahalkar said. "Lack of awareness is due to the lack of importance given to oral and dental health. People visit the dentist only when in pain, not for regular check ups or consultations," Dr Rahalkar said. Awareness among masses will help us increase patient inflow for specialised orthodontic treatment services the expert feels, and further underlined the necessity to align oral healthcare with government health policies such as Ayushman Bharat, ASHA Healthcare Programme, Government Child Healthcare Programmes, Central Government Health Scheme.

Smiling Bharat With its theme 'Smiling Bharat', the aim of this activity is to reach out to maximum households through school children and young adults for diagnosis of malocclusion and associated health issues. Teeth not aligned properly is one of the most common reasons for the second most common dental disorder found in school children. Inadequate data on the prevalence of malocclusion (incorrect alignment of teeth) and need for aligning oral healthcare with government health policies has led to a pan-India diagnostic drive for children and young adults. Beginning Monday (July 1) 'Smiling Bharat', the fortnight long survey, will not only collect orthodontic health data but also step up awareness about including orthodontics in mainstream healthcare system for children," Dr Jayesh Rahalkar, Pune based orthodontist and president of Indian Orthodontic Society (IOS) told The Indian Express.

The orthodontic society is also reaching out to Indian Society of Paediatrics to include "orthodontic check up with an orthodontist" at the age of 7 years for every child in their recommendation to parents in their growth and immunisation chart which they provide at birth of every child. "We want the government to identify malocclusion as an oral health disease and include it in the health registry," Dr Rahalkar said. Why the concern

Malocclusion means irregularities and improper alignment of teeth, problems associated with bite, deformities related to face and jaws. Malocclusion can lead to problems of chewing, gum diseases, cavities in teeth, jaw joint problems, speech problems and obstructive

Over 26 pc of forest camps in Kaziranga submerged

GNS News Agency, July 6

assam kaziranga floods Meanwhile, the Golaghat district administration on Sunday evening issued prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC to safeguard the animals crossing the NH-715, which passes through Kaziranga National Park. Express archive With worsening flood condition in Assam, rising water levels have impacted more than 26 per cent of the 233 forest camps at Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, an official report said on Monday. As a significant portion of wildlife habitat is now submerged, scores of animals have started crossing the National Highway-715 in search of higher ground towards the southern direction in East Karbi Anglong district. However, no death of animals has been reported as of now due to the floods or accidents while crossing the highway. Floodwaters have submerged a total of 61 forest camps across Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, according to a flood report.

It said 22 camps in Agoratoli range, 10 in Kaziranga, eight in Bagori, five in Burhapahar range and six in Bokakhat are submerged. Besides, 10 forest camps in Biswanath Wildlife Division of the national park have been inundated, the report added. Meanwhile, the Golaghat district administration on Sunday evening issued prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC to safeguard the animals crossing the NH-715, which passes through Kaziranga National Park (KNP). Stating that the highway attracts huge traffic, Golaghat District Magistrate Vivek Shyam Pangyok said, "Plying of vehicles during active flood attracts unwarranted risk and a cause for imminent threat to wild animals." He said the animals use the corri-



dors to temporarily migrate to the natural highland (hill-ocks) for shelter falling under Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council. Accordingly, a set of orders have been issued for traffic management along NH-715 passing through the KNP with effect from Monday. It said no commercial vehicle shall be allowed to move through Kaziranga National Park and only private ones will move at the regulated speed during the daytime. "Only local private vehicles will be allowed to cross KNP during night hours," it added. The order further mentioned various traffic diversion points for both commercial and private vehicles. The flood situation across the state continued to deteriorate with incessant rains inundating many districts, affecting lakhs of people. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday enquired about the prevailing flood situation in Assam and assured of all support to handle the crisis, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani assumes charge as Vice Chief of Army Staff



GNS News Agency, July 6

The officer, who was helming the Army's Central Command, succeeded Gen Upendra Dwivedi. Gen Dwivedi took charge as the Army Chief. Lt Gen Subramani has an insightful knowledge and deep understanding of operational dynamics on both the Western and Northern borders, the Army said. Lt Gen Subramani was commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles in 1985. He has a distin-

guished and illustrious military career spanning more than 37 years. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy and the Indian Military Academy, the officer also attended the Joint Services Command Staff College, Bracknell (the UK) and the National Defence College, New Delhi.

He holds a Master of Arts Degree from King's College, London and an M.Phil in Defence Studies from the Madras University. Lt Gen Subramani has the distinction of commanding a battalion during 'Operation Rhino' in Assam, an infantry brigade along the international boundary with Pakistan and a 'Black Cat' division in North East India. He also commanded Uttar Bharat Area in 2020 and the premier Kharga Corps at Ambala. Lt Gen Subramani also held a number of key positions including that of a brigade major of a mountain brigade, assistant military secretary in the Military Secretary Branch, Colonel General Staff at headquarters Eastern Command, deputy director general of Military Intelligence in the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence and Brigadier General Staff in Eastern Command.

Poppy cultivation has decreased in Manipur over past 4 years, says survey report

GNS News Agency, July 6

Illegal poppy cultivation in Manipur has gradually decreased over the past four years, according to a survey conducted by the Manipur Remote Sensing Applications Centre (MARSAC) as part of the Government's "war on drugs" campaign initiated by Chief Minister N Biren Singh. The report of the survey, conducted between September 2023 and January 2024, showed a decrease in poppy cultivation from 16,632.29 acres in 2022-2023 to 11,288.07 acres in 2023-2024. Poppy cultivation—in the hill districts of Chandel, Churachandpur, Kamjong, Kangpokpi, Noney, Senapati, Tamenglong, Tengnoupal and Ukhrul—thus decreased by 32.13 per cent from

2022-2023.

The MARSAC's initial report showed that 28,598.91 acres were under poppy cultivation in 2021-22 across eight districts, Kangpokpi topping the list with 9,517.90 acres. The other districts were Churachandpur, Chandel, Kamjong, Senapati, Tamenglong, Tengnoupal and Ukhrul. Across the nine hill districts, poppy was cultivated in 2022-2023 in over 16,890.37 acres, down from 28,598.91 acres in 2021-2022—a decrease of 40.94 per cent. Poppy cultivation in Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts decreased from 6,688.61 acres to 4,062.04 acres and from 9,517.90 acres to 5,407.47 acres, respectively, between 2021-22 and 2022-2023.

Uttarakhand's old Lipulekh pass to welcome devotees for Mount Kailash view from Sept 15



GNS News Agency, July 6

Tourists can drive up to Lipulekh from Dharchula and then walk 800 meters to a vantage point for viewing Kailash peak and Om Parvat. The old Lipulekh pass, located at an altitude of 18,300 feet in the Vyas Valley of Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand, will be accessible to the public starting September 15. It would allow devotees to view the sacred Kailash peak in Tibet from within the Indian territory. "The pass will open for common pilgrims from September 15 this year," said Pithoragarh District Tourism Officer Kirti Chandra Arya.

The Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra via the Lipulekh pass

1993 Mumbai riots accused arrested after three decades on the run

GNS News Agency, July 6

Abducting for 31 years, a 65-year-old man was arrested on Monday in connection with the 1993 Mumbai riots. The accused, Sayyad Nadir Shah Abbas Khan, was apprehended in the Sewri area of Mumbai by a team of Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Marg police, an official told the news agency PTI. Khan was allegedly involved in the riots that occurred in Mumbai after the demolition of the Babri Masjid in December 1992. He was charged with attempt to murder and unlawful assembly during the riots in the city. While Khan was arrested at that time, he never attended court after obtaining bail, according to a PTI report.

The court then declared Khan a wanted accused and issued a non-bailable warrant against him. The police frequented this residence in Sewri multiple times but could not find him. They finally got a lead about his whereabouts after examining the phone records of his relatives. Officials of Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Marg police station got information on June 29 that Khan would visit his Sewri residence. A trap was laid by the police and he was arrested. An official told PTI that the case was being further probed. The Bombay riots took place between De-

was suspended in 2019 following the Covid-19 outbreak and the route has yet to be opened by the Chinese authorities. This sacred trek leads devotees and adventurers to Mount Kailash and Lake Mansarovar, located in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.

From September 15 onwards, the pilgrims will be able to drive up to Lipulekh from Dharchula. From there, they will need to traverse approximately 800 meters on foot to reach the vantage point for viewing the Kailash peak. The pilgrims can now also have a view of Om Parvat from within the Indian territory without any hassles in the course of a single trip, said Arya. In a precursor to the official opening, Uttarakhand Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj and his wife Amrita Rawat visited the old Lipulekh pass on June 22 and viewed the Kailash peak. The District Magistrate of Pithoragarh, Reena Joshi, mentioned that the department is currently framing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure the smooth and safe movement of pilgrims and tourists. Mount Kailash stands at an altitude of 6,638 meters (21,778 feet). Regarded as the abode of Lord Shiva and his consort Parvati, Mount Kailash is considered the ultimate destination for devotees seeking moksha (liberation). The Yatra typically takes about 2-3 weeks and involves rigorous trekking through high-altitude terrains, making it physically challenging.



ember 1992 and January 1993. Approximately 900 people died during the riots, according to historian Barbara Metcalf. By her estimate, a majority of those who died were Muslim, followed by Hindus. Recently, Rajesh Jaiswal, a taxi driver in Mumbai was acquitted by a session courts in connection with the case. According to an HT report, 15 others are reported to still be absconding three decades later, after being named as accused in the case.

Will keep my turban at Lord Ram's feet: Nitish Kumar's deputy on his old vow



GNS News Agency, July 6

"True that I had pledged to wear the turban until I made Nitish Kumar resign as the chief minister. But now that he has switched back to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) after resigning as the chief minister of the INDI alliance, it is time for me to dedicate this turban to the feet of Lord Ram. The day Nitish Kumar ji resigned as the chief minister of the INDI alliance and joined back the NDA, I announced that I would dedicate my turban to Lord Ram," ANI reported Chaudhary as saying. The BJP leader recalled his old vow to remove his turban only after de-throning Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, then

part of the INDIA bloc and ruling Mahagathbandhan alliance in Bihar. The vow can be traced back to Choudhary's exchanges with Kumar inside the legislative assembly in July 2023. When Nitish Kumar reportedly asked Chaudhary why he was wearing a turban, Chaudhary responded that he had vowed to wear it until the JD(U) leader was ousted from power, as reported by the Times of India. Kumar served as the chief minister of the former ruling alliance which included the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Congress party.

In January 2024, ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, Kumar resigned from his CM post and quit the Mahagathbandhan to rejoin the NDA, which he had left less than 18 months prior. Kumar then took oath as the chief minister under the NDA government in Bihar for the record ninth time. BJP leaders Samrat Chaudhary and Vinay Kumar Sinha took oath as ministers and were later made the deputy chief ministers of Bihar. After taking oath, Choudhary said the vow was made in an emotional moment. Interestingly, Choudhary began his political career with the RJD, where he served as a minister and moved to JD(U), where he held various positions. He joined the BJP in 2018 and served as the state BJP chief as well as leader of opposition in the Bihar Legislative Council.

Monsoon covers entire country 6 days ahead of normal date

GNS News Agency, July 6

The monsoon covered the entire country six days ahead of its normal date on Tuesday as it advanced into the remaining parts of Rajasthan, Haryana, and Punjab, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. It picked pace around June 25 after its progress stopped for nearly nine days from June 11 when it reached Maharashtra. The monsoon has been active since, causing extremely heavy rain in northeastern states, Delhi, Gujarat, etc.

"The Southwest Monsoon has further advanced into remaining parts of Rajasthan, Haryana, and Punjab today. Thus, it has covered the entire country on 2nd July 2024, against the normal date of July 8..." IMD said. It added the monsoon trough at mean sea level was passing through Firozpur (Punjab), Rohtak (Haryana), Hardoi, Ballia (Uttar Pradesh), Balurghat (West Bengal), Kailashgarh (Tripura), and thence eastwards to Manipur.

IMD said a cyclonic circulation was lying over south-east Pakistan and the monsoon trough was north of its normal position at mean sea level. Under their influence, widespread light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, and lightning was very likely in northwest and central India during the next five days. Isolated heavy rainfall was very likely in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit, Baltistan, and Muzaffarabad from July 4 to 6, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan from July 2 to 6, West Rajasthan on July 3, Madhya Pradesh from July 2 to 4 and Chhattisgarh on July 3.

Isolated very heavy rainfall was likely in Uttarakhand until July 6, Punjab, Haryana on July 3, west Uttar Pradesh until July 6, and East Uttar Pradesh on July 5 and 6. A



cyclonic circulation was also lying over north Bangladesh, and another over Assam.

A trough was running from northeast Madhya Pradesh to the cyclonic circulation over Assam in lower tropospheric levels. Under their influence, moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, and lightning with heavy to very heavy rainfall was very likely in northeast India, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, and Sikkim. Scattered to fairly widespread rainfall was expected in east India during the next five days. Isolated extremely heavy rainfall (over 20 cm) was very likely in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Meghalaya on July 5 and 6. Another cyclonic circulation was also lying over north Gujarat while an off shore trough at mean sea level was along Maharashtra-Kerala coasts. Under their influence, isolated very heavy rainfall was very likely in Konkan and Goa, central Maharashtra until July 6, Gujarat on July 3, and Coastal Karnataka on July 5 and 6. Isolated extremely heavy rainfall (over 20 cm) was likely in Gujarat.

US Supreme Court due to rule on Trump's immunity bid in blockbuster case



GNS News Agency, July 6

The US Supreme Court's highly anticipated ruling on former President Donald Trump's bid for immunity in a federal criminal case involving his efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss is expected on Monday, the final day of its current term. The court, whose 6-3 conservative majority includes three justices Trump appointed, seemed inclined during April 25 arguments to recognize some level of criminal immunity, though perhaps a narrower version than the "absolute immunity" for official acts that he had sought. Trump is the Republican candidate challenging Democratic President Joe Biden in the November 5 US election in a rematch from four years ago. However it rules, the court's slow handling of the blockbuster case already has helped Trump by making it unlikely that any trial on these charges brought by Special Counsel Jack Smith could be completed before the election. The Supreme Court is due to rule on Trump's appeal of a lower court's decision rejecting his immunity claim.

Trump had argued that he is immune from prosecution because he was serving as president when he took the actions that led to the charges. Smith has opposed presidential immunity from prosecution based on the principle that no one is above the law. During the arguments, Trump's legal team had urged the justices to fully shield former presidents from criminal charges for official acts taken in office. Without such immunity, Trump's lawyer said, sitting presidents would face "blackmail and extortion" by political rivals due to the threat of future prosecution. Trump, 78, is the first former US president to be criminally prosecuted as well as the first former president convicted of a crime. In the special counsel's August 2023 indictment, Trump was charged with conspiring to defraud the United States, corruptly obstructing an official proceeding and conspiring to do so, and conspiring against the right of Americans to vote. He has pleaded not guilty.

Trump's trial had been scheduled to start on March 4 before the delays over the immunity issue. Now, no trial date is set. Trump made his immunity claim to the trial judge in October, meaning the issue has been litigated for about nine months. In a separate case brought in New York state court, Trump was found guilty by a jury in Manhattan on May 30 on 34 counts of falsifying documents to

cover up hush money paid to a porn star to avoid a sex scandal before the 2016 election. Trump also faces criminal charges in two other cases. He has pleaded not guilty in those and called all the cases against him politically motivated.

A lawyer for the special counsel's office told the Supreme Court during arguments that the "absolute immunity" sought by Trump would shield presidents from criminal liability for bribery, treason, sedition, murder and, as in this case, trying to overturn the proper results of an election and stay in power. During the arguments, justices asked hypothetical questions involving a president selling nuclear secrets, taking a bribe or ordering a coup or political assassination. If such actions were official conduct, Trump's lawyer argued, a former president could be charged only if first impeached by the House of Representatives and convicted in the Senate - something that has never happened in US history. In a May Reuters/Ipsos poll, just 27% of respondents - 9% of Democrats, 50% of Republicans and 29% of independents - agreed that presidents should be immune from prosecution unless they have first been impeached and convicted by Congress. Smith, seeking to avoid trial delays, had asked the justices in December to perform a fast-track review after Trump's immunity claim was rejected by US District Judge Tanya Chutkan that month. Trump opposed the bid. Rather than resolve the matter promptly, the justices denied Smith's request and let the case proceed in a lower court, which upheld Chutkan's ruling against Trump on February 6. The immunity ruling comes 20 weeks after Trump on February 12 sought relief from the Supreme Court. By contrast, it took the court less than nine weeks in another major case to reinstate Trump to the presidential primary ballot in Colorado after he appealed a lower court's ruling that had disqualified him for engaging in an insurrection by inciting and supporting the January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol by his supporters. The timeline of the court's immunity ruling likely does not leave enough time for Smith to try Trump on federal election subversion charges and for a jury to reach a verdict before voters head to the polls.

Federal prosecutors have accused Trump of pressuring government officials to overturn the election results and encouraging his supporters to march to the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, to push Congress not to certify Biden's victory, based on false claims of widespread voting fraud. Trump supporters attacked police and stormed the Capitol, sending lawmakers and others fleeing. Trump and his allies also are accused of devising a plan to use false electors from key states to thwart certification. Not since its landmark Bush v. Gore decision, which handed the disputed 2000 U.S. election to Republican George W. Bush over Democrat Al Gore, has the Supreme Court played such an integral role in a presidential race. Trump also faces election subversion charges in state court in Georgia and federal charges in Florida brought by Smith relating to keeping classified documents after leaving office.

Joe Biden's disastrous debate blamed on bad preparation, exhaustion



GNS News Agency, July 6

President Joe Biden's train-wreck debate with Republican opponent Donald Trump followed a series of decisions by his most senior advisers that critics now point to as wrong-headed, interviews with Democratic allies, donors and former and current aides show. Trump, 78, repeated a series of well-worn, glaring falsehoods during the 90-minute debate on Thursday, including claims that he actually won the 2020 election.

Biden, 81, failed to refute them and his fumbling, halting performance has sparked calls from Democrats for him to end his quest for a second term and for "soul-searching" or resignations among top aides. "My only request was make sure he's rested before the debate, but he was exhausted. He was unwell," said one person who said they appealed to Biden's top aides in the days before, to no avail. "What a bad decision to send him out looking sick and exhausted." Others were even more pointed. "It is my belief that he was over-coached, over-practiced. And I believe [senior aide] Anita Dunn... put him in a venue that was conducive for Trump and not for him," said John Morgan, a Florida-based attorney and major Biden fundraiser.

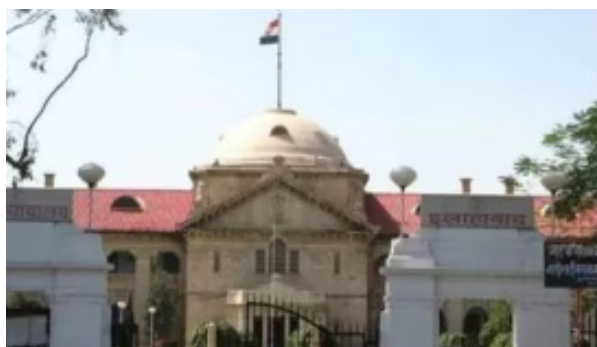
Morgan suggested Dunn and other aides "be fired forever and never let back anywhere near the campaign." Biden's debate strategy was signed off on by campaign chair Jen O'Malley Dillon, who helped him win in 2020 and was appointed in January to boost an uneven re-election campaign. Dunn, a longtime Biden aide and former Barack Obama campaign strategist, backed that strategy. Confidence going into the event was high. Trump was convicted of falsifying documents by a jury in New York on May 31, while Biden held back-to-back visits in Europe. To the surprise of some Biden aides, his stubbornly low poll numbers began to inch up nationally in the weeks that followed. Advisers set up a rigorous debate prep calendar, with Biden sequestered at Camp David for six days. An inner circle, some close to Biden for decades, were involved: Ron Klain, his first White House chief of staff, Dunn, former White House counsel and Dunn's husband Bob Bauer and long-time adviser Mike Donilon, as well as about a dozen other policy and political experts. Biden debate President Joe Biden, right, and Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump, left, stand during break in a presidential debate hosted by CNN. (Biden's campaign said on Friday that no staff shake-up was under consideration. A spokesman for Dunn said multiple aides were involved in the preparation, and noted that Morgan was not there. In an email to supporters Saturday, O'Malley Dillon said internal polls and focus groups showed no change in voters' opinions in battleground states after the debate. She warned "overblown media narratives" may drive "temporary dips in the polls," but said she was confident Biden

would win in November.

Biden's trips abroad, especially to France earlier this month, generated Republican social media clips poking fun at his age but, his team believed, it also showed him as a strong leader on an international stage. White House aides who traveled with the president were in a good mood as he headed to Camp David on June 21. They believed Biden was going into the debate with the most precious political asset: momentum, the wind at his back. Biden had flown to France, back to the United States, to Italy, and to the West Coast, among other travels, over a 14-day period before taking just a few days to rest at his vacation home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. He was dragging, according to several people who observed him during this period. As Biden and his aides settled in at Camp David six days before the debate, aides figured he had a lot to accomplish, more than his opponent. Trump could just complain about the present administration - and Biden would need the facts and some zingers at his fingertips. They expected Trump would be far more disciplined and prepared than he had been in 2020 and believed that they would need to counter a string of rapid-fire lies. In lengthy prep sessions, they peppered Biden with details, then followed them up with mock debates.

Critics say now that the preparation should have focused on the bigger vision he needs to sell to the country, and that Biden had insufficient rest headed into the debate. Run down, Biden would also catch a small cold, White House aides said, as he has regularly during his term after long stretches of time zone-bending work. Biden debate Joe Biden, center, greets supporters after arriving at Raleigh-Durham International Airport after participating in the presidential debate. (AP photo) The result, critics say, was candidate Biden at his worst: He appeared on stage with his face wan, his hair straggly at his collar and his voice hoarse. He was frequently incoherent. "I've never seen him perform that way before," said Michael LaRosa, former special assistant to President Biden and press secretary for first lady Jill Biden. "He can run circles around most people on matters of complex policy," LaRosa said. "This was always going to be a matter of presentation and cosmetics, and superficial judgments that were going to be made about his performance. And he wasn't able to clear the bar." Earlier this year, some Biden aides discussed whether he should debate Trump at all, arguing that it could give Trump a broad public platform that would disadvantage Biden. Then Biden himself, in an April interview with shock jock Howard Stern, delivered a decision on debating Trump that was a surprise to some advisers. "I am, somewhere," he said. The triumphant memory of his State of the Union address in March fresh in their minds, Biden's team geared up to debate but took radical steps to control the terms. They decided to reject three long-scheduled presidential debates in September and October organized by the Commission on Presidential Debates, still smarting over the group's handling of the 2020 debates. Trump repeatedly violated the rules of what would be a chaotic first debate in 2020, showing up despite having tested positive for COVID-19, and talking over Biden relentlessly. His team tried to set the contest on their own terms, with what they saw as a more pliant host in CNN. No audience cheering Trump's invective. Networks and moderators inclined to challenge Trump. The day after the debate, Biden bounced back with a forceful speech in North Carolina, and a pledge to keep going. Many donors and Democrats are rallying around him. But the damage has been done.

'Country's majority population will become a minority one day if...': Allahabad HC on religious conversions



GNS News Agency, July 6

The Allahabad High Court has observed that religious congregations where conversions take place should be stopped immediately, or the country's majority population will become a minority one day. Justice Rohit Rajan Agarwal made the observation while rejecting the bail application of one Kailash, who is accused of being involved in the religious conversion of several people from a village here. "The word 'propagation' means to promote, but it does not mean to convert any person from his religion to another religion," the court said. "In the instant case, there are serious allegations against the applicant by the informant that her brother, along with several others, were taken from their village to attend a gathering in New Delhi and converted to Christianity. The brother of the informant never returned," it said. "If this process is allowed to be carried out, the majority population of this country would be in the minority one day. Such religious congregations should be immediately stopped where

conversions are taking place," the court observed. In its order passed on Monday, the court said that the statements recorded by the investigation officer clearly revealed that Kailash had been taking people to attend religious congregations in New Delhi where they were being converted to Christianity.

"It has come to the notice of this court in several cases that unlawful activity of converting SC/ST people and other castes, including economically poor persons, to Christianity is being done at rampant pace throughout Uttar Pradesh. This court, prima facie, finds that the applicant is not entitled to bail. Hence, the bail application of the applicant involved in the aforesaid case crime is hereby, rejected," it said. A case under Section 365 (abduction) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 3/5(1) of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act was lodged against Kailash at Maudaha police station in Hamirpur district in 2023. According to the FIR, one Ramphal, brother of the informant Ramkali Prajapati was allegedly taken to Delhi by Kailash to attend a social gathering. Several others from the village were also taken to such gatherings where all of them were converted to Christianity.

The applicant had promised the informant that her brother who was suffering from a mental illness would be treated and would return to the village within a week. However, when that did not happen, she asked Kailash about her brother but did not get a satisfactory reply. She then approached the police. This story has been published from a wire agency feed without modifications to the text. Only the headline has been changed.

In Kerala, mobile app to allow users to reserve, pay for parking spaces

GNS News Agency, July 6

The Kerala government is preparing to launch a mobile parking application to tackle the issue of parking space availability in major cities across the state, Matrubhoomi reported. Spearheaded by the Kochi Metropolitan Transport Authority (KMTA), this innovative initiative will allow users to reserve and pay for parking spaces in advance through a mobile app. The project is set to begin in Ernakulam district, with an estimated cost of ₹5 crore. Funding for this initiative will be shared between the Centre and state governments. According to Matrubhoomi, the mobile parking application project is expected to be operational within six months.



In preparation for the app's release, a thorough study has been conducted on 51 parking lots managed by Kochi Metro. These include the Greater Cochin Development Authority (GCDA), the Kochi Corporation, and the Goshree Islands Development Authority (GIDA). Additionally, private parking facilities will be integrated into the app, with the installation of CCTV camera and other monitoring devices across designated parking areas to track vehicle movement. According to Matrubhoomi, the KMTA was established to coordinate and enhance public transport modes in Kochi. The body not only aims to improve park-

ing services but also seeks to create new revenue streams for both the government and private stakeholders. In December, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation launched a mobile application to control the problem of illegal parking, according to The Indian Express. "The application is developed using the latest technology to identify wrongly parked vehicles. The number, image, and GPS location of the defaulting vehicle will be shared with the municipality as well as the Transport Department through the application," an official told the newspaper. Hereafter, the vehicle owners will be informed about the penalty through a message on their mobile phone.

Swati Maliwal writes to Arvind Kejriwal: Delhi govt making DCW 'weak'



GNS News Agency, July 6

Swati Maliwal, an AAP Rajya Sabha MP and former Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief, has written to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, asking him to examine the Delhi government's "systematic dismantling" of systems for protecting women and children. In the letter, Swati Maliwal said since her resignation in January 2024, the Delhi government has been destroying systems that she built over her eight-year tenure. One of the key issues the AAP MP highlighted is the arbitrary takeover of the commission's 181 helpline for women and children in

distress by the Delhi government. The helpline established and operated by the Commission was taken over by the government and then closed down on July 1. According to Maliwal, "Since over 48 hours, survivors of rape and other crimes have been left without crucial assistance." The former DCW chief also took issue with the cessation of funds to the commission and budget cuts. She claimed that the annual budget has been reduced by ₹10 crore, and funds have been halted for six months. She also claimed that contractual staff, which forms most of the commission, are being removed, leaving the body unable to function. Maliwal also states that there are several vacancies in leadership positions, such as the role of chairperson, which are not being filled, not allowing the Commission to function properly. In her letter, she adds that, the requirement of having one Dalit member at least in an essential position, is not being completed. "Over the past 8 years, my team and I have painstakingly built the commission from scratch, which has resulted in it becoming the most efficient women's commission in the country," she said. She urged CM Kejriwal to stop the "deliberate disintegration" of the DCW by the Delhi government. She added, "As the Chief Minister of a city infamous as the 'Rape Capital of the World', it is crucial to safeguard systems that protect women and girls."

Haiti's gang violence has displaced 3,00,000 children, says UN agency

GNS News Agency, July 6

San Juan: Gang violence in Haiti has displaced more than 3,00,000 children since March, the UN children's agency said on Tuesday as the Caribbean country struggles to curb killings and kidnappings. Children are more than half of the nearly 5,80,000 people who have become homeless in the last four months. The spike in violence began in late February after a series of coordinated attacks on key government infrastructure eventually led Prime Minister Ariel Henry to resign in April.

"The humanitarian catastrophe unfolding before our eyes is taking a devastating toll on children," Catherine Russell, UNICEF's executive director, said in a statement. "Displaced children are in desperate need of a safe and protective environment, and increased support and funding from the international community."

Gangs now control at least 80 per cent of the capital Port-au-Prince and the key roads leading in and out of it, with more than 2,500 people killed or injured across the country in the first three months of the year, according to the UN. Many children are living in makeshift shelters,

including schools that are in poor hygienic conditions, placing them at risk of disease. School closures are also leading to a higher dropout rate. The agency said children in Haiti are being forced to join violent gangs to survive as they often lack access to food, healthcare, clean water and sanitation. Displaced children and teenagers in Haiti also face a higher risk of sexual assault, exploitation, abuse and family separation, according to UNICEF. The announcement comes days after hundreds of Kenyans arrived in Haiti to help rescue the country from the tight hold of armed gangs. The deployment received mixed reactions after a UN peacekeeping mission years ago introduced cholera in the country and was tainted with sexual allegations. On Monday, US Deputy National Security Adviser Jonathan Finer met with Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille to discuss the initial deployment of the UN-backed mission to Haiti. Finer reminded Conille of the United States' strong support for accountability and oversight mechanisms as part of mission. Haiti is also bracing for a strong hurricane season, which started earlier than usual. A tropical storm watch was in effect for Haiti's southern coast as hurricane Beryl moved into the Caribbean Sea.

'Extremely dangerous' Hurricane Beryl hurtles towards Caribbean



GNS News Agency, July 6

Hurricane Beryl barreled across the Atlantic Ocean toward the Caribbean's Windward Islands on Monday, threatening to devastate communities with floods, storm surges and dangerously high winds. Locals boarded up shops, stocked up on food and filled their cars with petrol as the storm approached. The prime minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph Gonsalves, said he was expecting a natural disaster that could last for days.

It was an unusually fierce and early start to this year's Atlantic hurricane season - the earliest Category 4 storm on record, according to National Hurricane Center data on Beryl had been downgraded to a Category 3 storm on

a five-point scale, but was still packing maximum sustained wind speeds of 120 mph (193 kph), with some higher gusts, about 110 miles (180 km) southeast of Barbados, the NHC said. "Beryl is expected to remain an extremely dangerous major hurricane as its core moves through the Windward Islands into the eastern Caribbean," the NHC warned. It advised people in the storm's path to take heed of authorities' advice on evacuations and preparedness. Hurricane warnings were in effect for Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and Tobago. A tropical storm warning was issued for Martinique and Trinidad, with storm watches for parts of the Dominican Republic and parts of Haiti. Tobago has opened shelters, closed schools for Monday, and cancelled elective surgeries in the hospitals, authorities said.

The hurricane is expected to bring 3 to 6 inches (8 to 15 cm) of rain across Barbados and the Windward Islands throughout the day on Monday, which the NHC warned could cause flash flooding in vulnerable areas. Large, dangerous swells are also expected to batter the southern coasts of Puerto Rico and Hispaniola. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in May predicted above-normal hurricane activity in the Atlantic in 2024, amid near-record warm ocean temperatures. Hurricane Dennis became a Category 4 on July 8, 2005, according to NHC data, making it the second earliest on record in the June-November season.

French far right ahead in 1st round of snap elections. Here's how runoff works and what comes next



GNS News Agency, July 6

French voters face a decisive choice on July 7 in the runoff of snap parliamentary elections that could see the country's first far-right government since the World War II Nazi occupation — or no majority emerging at all. Official results suggest Marine Le Pen's anti-immigration, nationalist party National Rally stands a good chance of winning a majority in the lower house of parliament for the first time, but the outcome remains uncertain amid the complex voting system and political tactics.

What happened?

In Sunday's first round, the National Rally and its allies arrived ahead with around one-third of the votes. The New Popular Front coalition that includes center-left, greens and hard-left forces came in second position, ahead of President Emmanuel Macron's centrist alliance. Dozens of candidates who won at least 50% of Sunday's vote were elected outright. All the other races head to a second round June 7 involving two or three top candidates. Polling projections suggest the National Rally will have the most seats in the next National Assembly, but it is unclear whether it will get an absolute majority of 289 of the 577 seats. The French voting system is not proportionate to nationwide support for a party. Legislators are elected by district.

What's next?

The National Rally's rivals are scrambling to keep it from getting an absolute majority. The left-wing coalition said it would withdraw its candidates in districts where they finished in third position in order to support other candidates opposed to the far right. Macron's centrist alliance also said some of its candidates would step down before the runoff to try to block the National Rally. That tactic worked in the past, when Le Pen's party and its predecessor National Front were considered a political pariah by many. But now Le Pen's party has wide and deep support across the country.

Why is the far right rising?

While France has one of the world's biggest economies and is an important diplomatic and military power, many French voters are struggling with inflation and low incomes and a sense that they are being left behind by globalization. Le Pen's party, which blames immigration for many of France's problems, has tapped into that voter frustration and built a nationwide support network, notably in small towns and farming communities that see Macron and the Paris political class as out of touch.

What's cohabitation?

If the National Rally or another political force than his centrist alliance gets a majority, Macron will be forced to appoint a prime minister belonging to that new majority. In such a situation — called "cohabitation" in France — the government would implement policies that diverge from the president's plan. France's modern Republic has experienced three cohabitations, the last one under conservative President Jacques Chirac, with Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, from 1997 to 2002.

The prime minister is accountable to the parliament, leads the government and introduces bills. The president is weakened at home during cohabitation, but still holds some powers over foreign policy, European affairs and defense because he is in charge of negotiating and ratifying international treaties. The president is also the commander-in-chief of the country's armed forces, and is the one holding the nuclear codes.

Why does it matter?

The National Assembly, the lower house, is the more powerful of France's two houses of parliament. It has the final say in the law-making process over the Senate, dominated by conservatives. Macron has a presidential mandate until 2027, and said he would not step down before the end of his term. But a weakened French president could complicate many issues on the world stage. During previous cohabitations, defense and foreign policies were considered the informal "reserved field" of the president, who was usually able to find compromises with the prime minister to allow France to speak with one voice abroad. Yet today, both the far-right and the leftist coalition's views in these areas differ radically from Macron's approach and would likely be a subject of tension during a potential cohabitation. Far-right leader Jordan Bardella, who could become prime minister if his party wins the majority of the seats, said he intends "to be a cohabitation prime minister who is respectful of the Constitution and of the President of the Republic's role but uncompromising about the policies we will implement." Bardella said that as a prime minister, he would oppose sending French troops to Ukraine — a possibility Macron has not ruled out. Bardella also said he would refuse French deliveries of long-range missiles and other weaponry capable of striking targets within Russia itself.

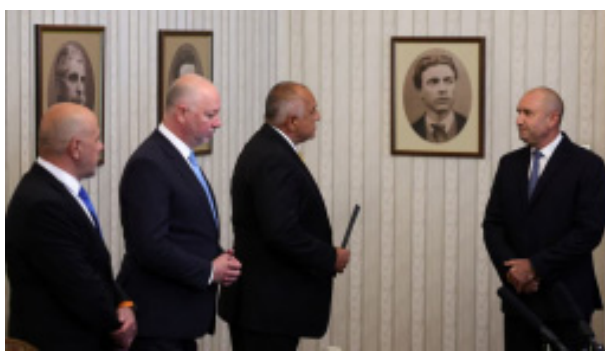
What happens if there's no majority?

The president can name a prime minister from the parliamentary group with the most seats at the National Assembly even if they don't have an absolute majority — this was the case of Macron's own centrist alliance since 2022. Yet the National Rally already said it would reject such an option, because it would mean a far-right government could soon be overthrown through a no-confidence vote if other political parties join together. The president could try to build a broad coalition from the left to the right, an option that sounds unlikely, given the political divergences. Another option would be to appoint "a government of experts" unaffiliated with political parties but which would still need to be accepted by a majority at the National Assembly. Such a government would likely deal mostly with day-to-day affairs rather than implementing major reforms. If political talks take too long amid summer holidays and the July 26-Aug. 11 Olympics in Paris, Macron's centrist government could keep a transitional government pending further decisions.

online ads.

The commission had opened its investigation shortly after the rulebook, also known as the DMA, took effect in March. It's a sweeping set of regulations aimed at preventing tech "gatekeepers" from cornering digital markets under threat of heavy financial penalties. "The DMA is there to give back to the users the power to decide how their data is used and ensure innovative companies can compete on equal footing with tech giants on data access," European Commissioner Thierry Breton, who oversees the bloc's digital policy, said in a statement. Meta now has a chance to respond to the commission, which must wrap up its investigation by March 2025. The company could face fines worth 10 per cent of its annual global revenues, which could run into the billions of euros. "Subscription for no ads follows the direction of the highest court in Europe and complies with the DMA," Meta said in a statement. "We look forward to further constructive dialogue with the European Commission to bring this investigation to a close." Under the Digital Markets Act, Meta is classed as one of seven online gatekeepers while Facebook, Instagram and its ad business are among about two dozen "core platform services" that need the highest level of scrutiny.

A centre-right coalition in Bulgaria is tapped to form a new government



GNS News Agency, July 6

Bulgarian President Rumen Radev on Monday tapped the largest group in parliament, the centre-right GERB-UDF coalition, to form the country's new government. Accepting the mandate, Prime Minister-designate Rosen Zhelyazkov presented a proposal for a Cabinet and asked the president to send it to parliament for approval. The 56-year-old lawyer and former parliament speaker, who has served in different ministerial positions in previous governments, said that the new Cabinet was "a team of experts and seasoned politicians from

GERB".

He outlined stabilising of public finances as a priority and stressed the need for continuity in Bulgaria's European perspective. The GERB-UDF coalition finished first in the June elections but only has 68 legislators in the 240-seat National Assembly. The coalition picked Zhelyazkov to head a new government over its leader, Boyko Borissov, who led three governments between 2009 and 2021, when his third Cabinet resigned following major anti-corruption protests. Trying to find coalition partners in the fragmented legislature, Borissov said immediately after the vote that he didn't want to be prime minister and invited his political opponents for talks. But apart from the ethnic Turkish Movement for Rights and Freedoms with 47 lawmakers, no other group promised support for the government, which needs to be backed by a simple majority in parliament. The reformist We Continue the Change party-led coalition, which was created several years ago with the aim of opposing and defeating Borissov's corruption-tainted government, announced on Thursday that it wouldn't support a Cabinet with the participation of GERB. Parliament is expected to vote on the government proposal later this week. If GERB-UDF fails to garner sufficient backing for its Cabinet, Radev will hand an exploratory mandate to the runnerup in the elections.

Scientists wary of bird flu pandemic 'unfolding in slow motion'



GNS News Agency, July 6

Scientists tracking the spread of bird flu are increasingly concerned that gaps in surveillance may keep them several steps behind a new pandemic, according to Reuters interviews with more than a dozen leading disease experts. Many of them have been monitoring the new subtype of H5N1 avian flu in migratory birds since 2020. But the spread of the virus to 129 dairy herds in 12 U.S. states signals a change that could bring it closer to becoming transmissible between humans. Infections also have been found in other mammals, from alpacas to house cats.

"It almost seems like a pandemic unfolding in slow motion," said Scott Hensley, a professor of microbiology at the University of Pennsylvania. "Right now, the threat is pretty low ... but that could change in a heartbeat." The earlier the warning of a jump to humans, the sooner global health officials can take steps to protect people by launching vaccine development, wide-scale testing and containment measures. Federal surveillance of US dairy cows is currently limited to testing herds before they cross state lines. State testing efforts are inconsistent, while testing of people exposed to sick cattle is scant, government health officials and pandemic flu experts told Reuters.

"You need to know which are the positive farms, how many of the cows are positive, how well the virus spreads, how long do these cows remain infectious, the exact transmission route," said Dutch flu virologist Ron Fouchier of the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam. Dr Jeanne Marrazzo, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said surveillance for humans is "very, very limited." Marrazzo described the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's human flu surveillance network as "early a passive reporting, passive presentation mechanism." The US Department of Agriculture is more proactive in testing cows, but does not make public which farms are affected, she said.

Several experts said differing approaches from animal and human health agencies could hamper a quicker response. "If you were designing the system from scratch, you would have one agency," said Gigi Gronvall, a biosecurity expert at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. "This is not the only example where we have environmental or animal problems that cause human problems." A USDA spokesperson said the agency is working "around the clock" with CDC and other partners

in a "whole-of-government response," adding that ongoing research shows "America's food supply remains safe, sick cows generally recover after a few weeks, and the risk to human health remains low." The CDC in a statement said it, "USDA, and state and local health departments across the country have been preparing for the emergence of a novel influenza virus for nearly 2 decades and continually monitor for even the smallest changes in the virus." Some pandemics, including Covid-19, arrive with little warning. In the last flu pandemic, caused by H1N1 in 2009, the virus and its predecessors had first spread among animals for several years, Hensley said, but more surveillance would have helped health authorities prepare.

Three people in the US have tested positive for H5N1 avian flu since late March after contact with cows, experiencing mild symptoms. One person in Mexico was infected with a separate H5 strain not previously seen in humans, and with no known exposure to animals. Other cases were reported in India, China and Australia, caused by different strains. The World Health Organization says H5N1's risk to humans is low because there is no evidence of human transmission. Some tools are available if that changes, including limited amounts of existing H5N1 vaccine and antiviral medications like Tamiflu.

There are mechanisms to launch larger-scale production of tests, treatments and vaccines, if needed, said the UN agency's head of flu, Wenqiang Zhang. Other experts said there is sufficient concern to start preparing for potential spread in humans, although triggers for taking action differ depending on the role played in the response, said Richard Hatchett, chief executive of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). His organization acted early on funding Covid vaccine development, and is now in talks with research partners about H5N1.

CEPI aims to create a library of prototype vaccines for pathogens with pandemic potential. This would help drugmakers initiate large-scale production and distribute shots where necessary within 100 days of an outbreak. Some countries are taking steps to protect people against H5N1. The United States and Europe are securing doses of "pre-pandemic" flu vaccine that could be used for high-risk groups, including farm or lab workers. Finland is expected to become the first country to inoculate fur and poultry farm workers, as well as animal health response workers. Expanding vaccine access is also complex, said the WHO's Zhang. Manufacturers of potential pandemic flu vaccines make seasonal flu shots and cannot produce both at once, she said. Since most flu vaccines are made using virus grown in eggs, it could take up to six months to produce pandemic shots. The US is in talks with Moderna to use their faster mRNA technology for pandemic flu shots. The experts all acknowledged a need to balance acting quickly to avert a threat versus overreacting. "We want to sound a note of caution," said Wendy Barclay, a virologist at University College London who researches avian flu for the UK Health Security Agency, "without saying the world is about to end."

Australia doubles foreign student visa fee in migration crackdown

GNS News Agency, July 6

Australia said on July 1 it had more than doubled the visa fee for international students, the latest move by the government to rein in record migration that has intensified pressure on an already tight housing market. From July 1, the international student visa fee has risen to AUD1,600 (\$1,068) from AUD710, while visitor visa holders and students with temporary graduate visas are banned from applying onshore for a student visa. "The changes coming into force today will help restore integrity to our international education system, and create a migration system which is fairer, smaller and better able to deliver for Australia," Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil said in a statement.

Official data released in March showed net immigration rose 60% to a record 548,800 people in the year to Sept. 30, 2023. The rise in fees makes applying for a student visa for Australia far more expensive than in competing countries like the U.S. and Canada, where they cost about \$185 and C\$150 (\$110) respectively.

The government said it was also closing loopholes in visa rules that allowed foreign students to continuously extend their stay in Australia, after the number of students on a second or subsequent student visa spiked by over 30% to more than 150,000 in 2022-23. Australia gradually tightening student visa rules

The latest move follows a raft of actions since late last year to tighten the student visa rules as the lifting of



COVID-19 curbs in 2022 boosted annual migration to record levels. English language requirements were tightened in March, while the amount of savings international students need to get a visa was raised in May to AUD29,710 (\$19,823) from AUD24,505, the second increase in about seven months.

Universities Australia CEO Luke Sheehy said the government's continued policy pressure on the sector would put the country's position of strength at risk. "This is not good for our economy or our universities, both of which rely heavily on international student fees," Mr. Sheehy said in an emailed response. International education is one of Australia's largest export industries and was worth AUD 36.4 billion to the economy in the 2022-2023 financial year.

Boeing to buy Spirit Aero in \$4.7 bln deal after months of talks



share, as reported by Reuters Separately, Airbus, also a Spirit customer, said it would take over core activities at four of the supplier's plants in the United States, Northern Ireland, France and Morocco as well as minor activities in Wichita, Kansas. The Airbus part of the deal was triggered by Boeing's decision to buy back its former subsidiary, which had branched out into supplying Airbus and others since becoming independent from Boeing almost two decades ago.

Because the Airbus-related activities lose money, industry sources had said the European plane maker was pressing for up to \$1 billion in compensation in return for taking over the plants, which make strategic parts for the A350 and A220 jets. Airbus said it would receive \$559 million in compensation from Spirit, depending on the final outlines of the deal, while it would pay Spirit a symbolic \$1 for the assets. Spirit said it also planned to sell businesses and operations in Prestwick, Scotland and in Subang, Malaysia that support Airbus programs. It also plans to sell operations in Belfast, Northern Ireland that do not support Airbus programs.

Boeing said on Monday it would buy Spirit AeroSystems in a \$4.7 billion all-stock deal following months of talks, as it tries to resolve a sprawling corporate and industrial crisis that has also engulfed the key supplier. Boeing said the total deal value was about \$8.3 billion including debt. Each share of Spirit common stock will be exchanged for between 0.18 and 0.25 Boeing shares, resulting in an equity value of about \$37.25 per

Indians spend 3.5 times more on foreign travel than they did 5 years ago

Indians spend 3.5 times more on foreign travel than they did 5 yrs ago. Travel has emerged as the primary source of remittance outflow from India, accounting for 53.6 per cent of total outflows in FY24 from just 1.5 per cent share in 2013-14 and 35 per cent in 2018-19. Indians are spending a lot more on overseas travel. And with a rise in the number of those travelling abroad, the they took out (outward foreign exchange remittances) jumped to almost \$1.42 billion (around Rs 12,500 crore) a month on an average in 2023-24 compared with just \$400 million (about Rs 3,300 crore) a month on an average five years ago in 2018-19.

According to Reserve Bank of India data, Indians took out a total of \$17 billion (Rs 1,41,800 crore) in 2023-24 for overseas travel under the RBI's liberalised remittances scheme (LRS). This is 24.4 per cent more compared with \$13.66 billion in the previous year. Travel has emerged as the primary source of remittance outflow from India, accounting for 53.6 per cent of total outflows in FY24 from just 1.5 per cent share in 2013-14 and 35 per cent in 2018-19. With an increase in disposable income and growth of the aspirational middle class in the country, there has been an increase in foreign travel. This trend gained further traction after travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic were lifted. "The share of maintenance of close relatives has remained around 15 per cent over the last 10 years. However, there has been a sharp decline in the share of gifts and education in this period," a report by Bank of Baroda said. Resident Indians are also investing more abroad. In 2023-24, they invested on an average \$100 million abroad every month (\$1.51 billion for the full year) in foreign equity and debt as against \$1.25 billion in the full year 2022-23, RBI data shows. Remittances for 'maintenance of close relatives abroad' were \$4.61 billion and 'studies abroad' were \$3.47 billion in 2023-24. Overall, total outward remittances under LRS were \$31.73 billion in 2023-24 as against \$27.14 billion in the previous year, a rise of 16.91 per cent. Five years ago in 2018-19, the total outward remittances under LRS was \$13.73 billion. Under LRS, all resident individuals, including minors, can remit up to US \$250,000 (approximately Rs 2.08 crore) abroad a year without prior approval from the RBI.

Indians spend 3.5 times more on foreign travel than



they did 5 yrs ago. Over the last 10 years, there has been a significant change in the nature of outward remittances. Purpose wise, 'gifts' had the highest share in India's outward remittance in FY14, followed by 'others'. Maintenance of close relatives and investment in equity/debt were the other major heads. On the other hand, their share has declined significantly in subsequent years," says a Bank of Baroda report. Latest data also shows that tax collection at source (TCS) rates on payments under the LRS from October 1 had limited impact on remittances. However, TCS is not an additional tax liability as people can claim a refund while filing income tax returns. As per the TCS rates under LRS proposed in the 2023-24 Budget, overseas tour packages will attract TCS of 20 per cent from October 1, compared with 5 per cent. However, TCS will not be levied on credit card spending abroad. On International spends through credit cards, HDFC Bank said in a communication to account holders, "the classification of use of international credit cards while being overseas, as LRS is postponed. Therefore, no TCS shall be applicable on expenditure through international credit card while being overseas till further order." However, for education where the source of fund is a loan, there will be no TCS for less than Rs 7 lakh per individual per annum; for amounts equal to or more than Rs 7 lakh, the applicable TCS will be the same at 0.5 per cent. For education purposes where the source is self-funding, for amounts less than Rs 7 lakh no TCS will be levied, but for amounts of Rs 7 lakh and above, TCS rate will continue to be 5 per cent.

This viral fitness trend promises to aid digestion



Coined by Toronto-based cookbook author Mairlyn Smith, who playfully dubs herself the 'Queen of Fiber,' this unconventional digestive aid is exactly what it sounds like — a post-meal stroll that encourages the release of intestinal gas. While it may elicit giggles, this trend is rooted in the serious business of digestive health. Dr Pranav Honnavara Srinivasan, consultant gastroenterologist at Fortis Hospitals Bengaluru, says, "Walking after eating isn't just about stretching your legs; it's a strategic move to optimise your digestion. Physical activity stimulates the muscle layer in your gastrointestinal tract, propelling food through your system more efficiently and reducing the chances of bloating and constipation. This isn't just anecdotal evidence; a study in

the Journal of Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases found that post-meal walking can significantly speed up 'gastric emptying,' the process of moving food from your stomach to your small intestine." He adds that it also helps regulate blood sugar, which is especially beneficial for those with type 2 diabetes or insulin resistance, as backed by research in Diabetes Care. Relationship between fibre intake, gas production, and the potential benefits of walking after meals Dr Srinivasan says that fibre-rich foods are nutritional powerhouses for gut health, but they can sometimes lead to increased gas production during fermentation in the gut. This can cause discomfort and bloating. "However, a post-meal walk can be a helpful tool. Walking helps stimulate peristalsis, the rhythmic contractions that move food through the digestive tract. This aids in expelling gas and alleviating bloating."

To get the most out of your post-meal stroll, aim for a 10-15 minute walk at a leisurely pace, recommends Dr Srinivasan. This duration has been shown to be sufficient for stimulating digestion without causing discomfort. If walking isn't your preference, gentle yoga or stretching can also be beneficial. He adds, "Twisting motions, in particular, can help release trapped gas. A study in Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise suggests that even short bouts of light activity after eating can significantly enhance digestion." Potential drawbacks or considerations individuals should be aware of Dr Srinivasan stresses, "Avoid intense exercise immediately after eating, as it can divert blood flow away from the digestive tract and towards your muscles, potentially hindering digestion." Listen to your body and adjust the intensity and duration of your walk as needed. If you have any underlying health conditions, especially gastrointestinal ones, consult your doctor before incorporating post-meal walks into your routine. Don't forget to stay hydrated, as dehydration can worsen digestive symptoms like constipation and bloating. Dr Srinivasan notes, "The fart walk may have a funny name, but it's a simple and scientifically-backed way to support your digestive health."

Ayushmann Khurrana on dealing with consistent failures after success of Vicky Donor: 'You become a true man...'



Speaking to Forbes India about how he dealt with failure, Ayushmann said, "I think you become a true man when you have the ability to deal with failures. Success is a very lousy teacher and your failures are your friends, philosophers and guides. If you haven't experienced failures during your early years, it becomes difficult to deal with them when you are at a certain age. Life is like that." Despite the initial acclaim, Khurrana faced a series of setbacks with subsequent releases, testing his resilience in the competitive world of Indian cinema. His candid reflection on this difficult phase not only provides insight into the volatile nature of the entertainment industry but also serves as a compelling case study on how confronting and overcoming professional failures can shape an individual's ability to handle future crises. Impact of repeated professional setbacks on mental health and overall well-being

Neha Cadabam, senior psychologist and executive director at Cadabams Hospitals and Mindtalk, says, "Repeated professional setbacks can have a profound and lasting impact on an individual's mental and emotional well-being. Research has shown that chronic stress, a common consequence of repeated failures, can lead to a cascade of negative effects. Elevated cortisol levels, the primary stress hormone, can disrupt sleep patterns, impair cognitive function, and even compromise the immune system." Furthermore, she adds, repeated failures can erode self-esteem and confidence, leading to a negative self-perception and an increased risk of developing mental health disorders like depression and anxiety. The constant pressure to perform and the emotional toll of repeated setbacks can also lead to burnout, a state of emotional, physical, and mental exhaustion. Burnout is characterised by feelings of cynicism, detachment, and a reduced sense of personal accomplishment. Bouncing

back from repeated failures requires a combination of practical strategies and a resilient mindset, says Cadabam. "One effective approach is reframing failure as feedback, viewing setbacks as opportunities for learning and growth. This shift in perspective can help individuals maintain motivation and avoid a downward spiral of negativity." Ayushmann Khurrana Recognising that progress may be gradual and that setbacks are a natural part of any journey can help individuals manage their emotions

Setting realistic expectations is also crucial. Recognising that progress may be gradual and that setbacks are a natural part of any journey can help individuals manage emotions and avoid feelings of overwhelm. Cadabam continues, "Practising self-compassion is another key component of resilience. Treating oneself with kindness and understanding during difficult times can help mitigate the negative impact of failures on self-esteem and well-being." Developing a growth mindset, the belief that abilities and intelligence can be developed through effort and learning, has been shown to foster resilience and a willingness to persevere in the face of challenges.

Finally, seeking social support is essential. Talking to friends, family, mentors, or therapists can provide valuable emotional support, practical advice, and a sense of connection during difficult times, asserts Cadabam. Enhancing resilience and crisis management skills through failure Cadabam notes, "While experiencing repeated failures can be incredibly challenging, it can also serve as a crucible for developing resilience and crisis management skills. Each setback presents an opportunity to learn, adapt, and grow." She says that research has shown that individuals who have experienced adversity in the past often develop greater resilience and coping skills. "This phenomenon, known as 'stress inoculation,' suggests that exposure to manageable stressors can strengthen an individual's ability to cope with future challenges." Repeated failures can also enhance problem-solving skills, she says, as individuals are forced to analyse situations, identify potential solutions, and adapt their strategies. This process of trial and error can lead to a greater understanding of complex problems and the ability to find creative solutions. Additionally, dealing with the emotional fallout of failures can improve emotional regulation skills. Learning to manage frustration, disappointment, and self-doubt in a healthy way is essential for resilience and well-being.

Many Indians may have been lactose intolerant without knowing about it

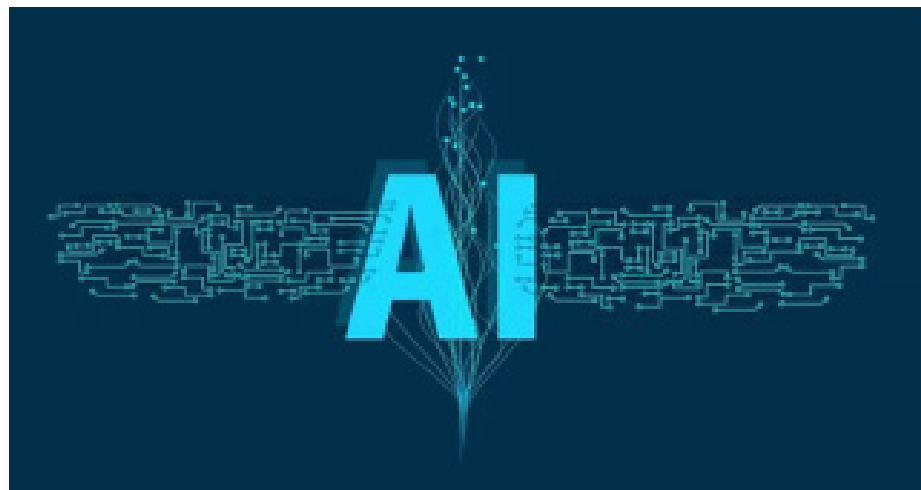
Many Indians enjoy a glass of milk with their meals or a cup of chai, but what if that beloved beverage is causing digestive discomfort? Lactose intolerance, a condition where the body struggles to digest lactose (the sugar found in milk), is surprisingly common in India despite its strong dairy culture. To understand why it is common in India, first, let us understand what lactose intolerance is. According to Dr Bikky Chaurasia, Consultant of Internal Medicine at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai, this digestive disorder occurs when your body lacks enough of the enzyme lactase. "Lactase is produced in the small intestine and breaks down lactose, the sugar found in milk and other dairy products, into simpler sugars (glucose and galactose) that your body can easily absorb. If you're lactose intolerant, your small intestine doesn't produce enough lactase, and the undigested lactose passes into your large intestine," he explained in an interaction with These symptoms typically begin 30 minutes to two hours after consuming dairy products and can last several hours. Understanding the effects of eliminating dairy products from your diet Digestive issues, particularly for those who are lactose intolerant, may improve as lactose-related discomfort is alleviated. (file) A tale of genes and history

Studies like one done in 2011 by the University of Chicago's Department of Human Genetics suggest a

high prevalence of lactose intolerance in India, ranging from 27% to 66% across different regions. This might seem surprising considering India's status as the world's largest milk consumer. According to Dr Chaurasia, the answer lies in genetics and historical dietary patterns. Unlike populations with a long history of dairy farming like Northern Europeans, many Asian populations, including Indians, traditionally consumed little dairy after infancy. This lack of reliance on milk in the past led to a lower prevalence of the genetic variant associated with lactase persistence — the ability to digest lactose efficiently as adults, he said. India's milk consumption has significantly increased in recent decades, but the body's ability to handle lactose hasn't necessarily kept pace, according to Dr Chaurasia. Lactase production naturally decreases after weaning in most people. So, increased milk intake, coupled with a genetic predisposition towards lactose intolerance, can lead to digestive issues like bloating, diarrhea, and abdominal pain. Traditionally, Indian diets incorporated dairy products like yogurt and paneer, which are fermented. During fermentation, bacteria break down lactose, making these products easier to digest for those who are lactose intolerant, Dr Chaurasia pointed out. This dietary pattern might explain why some regions in India have a lower prevalence of lactose intolerance. If you suspect you might be lactose intolerant.

Global Compact on AI needed; for India, AI to be gamechanger in citizen services: Salesforce CEO Arundhati Bhattacharya

AI's cross-border nature will require a 'Global Compact' to ensure its benefits reach all of humanity and to safeguard against any potential misuse, Arundhati Bhattacharya, the top boss of Salesforce India has said exuding confidence that for India, Artificial Intelligence will be a "gamechanger" in delivery of public services. Bhattacharya, the CEO and Chairperson of Salesforce India and former Chairperson of the SBI, said that AI is poised to bring about a transformation in every sphere — from healthcare to diagnostics, and education to skilling. The advent of this futuristic technology will benefit India in a big way, firing the engines of public service delivery, at scale and lower cost, she observed. In an interview with PTI, Bhattacharya also highlighted the need for a 'Global Compact' on AI, given the cross-border nature of technology and its impact. Bhattacharya said she is convinced that AI would benefit society, but in the wrong hands it can be prove to be "quite harmful" and advocated "caution". "AI is like any other tool, you can use it for good purposes, or you can use it for bad. So one needs to be careful. I am not scared but I would definitely recommend caution...I



would recommend that we are careful about what we do with AI, and how we do it," she said.

Just like climate issues, AI too goes beyond country borders, and hence requires Global Compact, consensus, and international efforts, according to her. "I think there need to be a Global Compact on this as well. This is not something that is going to remain enclosed within borders of a country, it will impact people globally...AI is not going to be a respecter of borders of a country," he said. AI, at this point, is largely self-regulated, she noted.

"AI will need a global compact, it will need people to agree that there are possible ways that AI can be used that would be harmful to mankind...They

would need to come together and have some kind of understanding to ensure that we use this tool for betterment of mankind..." Bhattacharya said. Bhattacharya smashed the glass ceiling in 2013 when she became the first woman to lead State Bank of India (SBI) in the bank's over 200-year history. She retired from SBI in 2017 and went on to reinvent herself with a brand new career innings at the helm of cloud-based service provider Salesforce India in 2020, as Chairperson and CEO — a position she has held since. Describing the advent of AI as a "gamechanger" and "blessing" for India, Bhattacharya said she is convinced that the technology will bring transformation all across,

benefiting society. "India does not have paucity of manpower, what it needs is technology for us to enable each of those people to reach optimum potential. To do that through brick-and-mortar is difficult in terms of bandwidth and costs...if AI can deliver the first layer of it, and offer us insights to determine what exactly is needed, it will ensure fair distribution...it will be a great step forward," she said. It is pertinent to mention that while immense potential of AI to positively impact society has been widely recognised by policymakers across the world, the potential dangers and risks around the new technology are also driving global conversations and parleys around need for safety brakes, and responsible.

Will Kamal Haasan and Rajinikanth team up ever again? Indian 2 actor answers



GNS News Agency, July 6

Recently, Kamal Haasan opened up about his equation with Rajinikanth and addressed whether they might work together again or make cameo appearances in each other's films sometime in the future. Kamal Haasan and Rajinikanth interact during a Nadigar Sangam meeting. Kamal Haasan and Rajinikanth have dominated the Tamil film industry for decades. Although many have risen to fame after them, Kamal and Rajini still hold a special place in people's hearts. As mentees of legendary Tamil filmmaker K Balachander, they frequently shared the screen in their early days. However, post their ascent to massive stardom, they have not appeared in a film to-

gether, though the two maintain a close bond and often attend events to support each other's work.

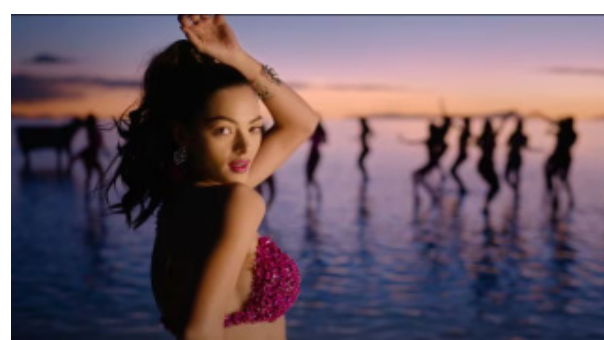
Recently, Kamal opened up about his equation with Rajinikanth and addressed whether they might work together again or make cameo appearances in each other's films sometime in the future. "It's not a new combination. We have done many films together. Then we decided not to work together. We are not like two competitors. We had the same mentor. Unlike any other place, the competition is there, openly. But there's no envy and it's two different paths," he said. "We also never make snide remarks about each other. We made this call when we were in our 20s; it's not that we became older and wiser now," Kamal added.

Commenting on the conversation surrounding exorbitant star fees and entourage costs, the actor-filmmaker noted, "Don't pay these actors so much... If you don't want them, find new actors. If you want a superstar, pay him. If you don't want or can't afford him, don't. It's as simple as that." Kamal Haasan is currently gearing up for the release of the vigilante action film Indian 2, directed by S Shankar. A sequel to Indian (1996), Kamal reprises his role as Senapathy, a freedom fighter turned vigilante who fights against corruption. The 1996 film earned Kamal his third National Film Award for Best Actor.

New track from Kamal Haasan's Indian 2 is a foot-tapping delight

The makers of Kamal Haasan's upcoming film Indian 2 on Monday released a new song, much to the excitement of fans. Titled "Calendar Song," the track is a lively, foot-tapping number that promises to captivate audiences. "The Calendar Song" is a vibrant addition to Indian 2's soundtrack. Like most Shankar songs, this one also sports high production value and features Demi-Leigh Tebow, Miss Universe 2017. The song is composed by Anirudh Ravichander, crooned by SUVU and Aishwarya Suresh, and written by Kabilan Vairamuthu.

Indian 2 is one of the most ambitious projects of Kamal Haasan's illustrious career. Directed by hit filmmaker S Shankar, the vigilante-thriller features Haasan reprising his role as Senapathy, an aged freedom fighter who battles corruption. Indian 2 is a sequel to the 1996 classic Indian, which was India's entry to the Oscars. The movie features an impressive ensemble cast, including Rakul Preet Singh, Siddharth, SJ Suryah, Bobby Simha, Brahmanandam, Samuthirakani, Gulshan Grover, and the late Manobala and Vivek. Kamal Haasan's turn as



Senapathy in the trailer has already generated considerable anticipation. Indian 2 is set to hit screens on July 12, marking Kamal Haasan's first release following the Prabhas-led Kalki 2898 AD, which released in theatres on June 27. As the release date approaches, the excitement surrounding Indian 2 continues to build, with the "Calendar Song" adding to the anticipation.

Pooja Entertainment's unpaid dues: Akshay Kumar steps in, asks Jacky Bhagnani to hold his payment for Bade Miyan Chote Miyan until entire cast, crew are paid



"Akshay sir met me recently to discuss this matter. Upon learning about this situation, Akshay sir didn't hesitate to step forward and show his support for the crew. He has insisted that his payments be placed on hold until every single crew member working on our projects receive their full and final payment. We are incredibly grateful for Akshay sir's understanding and his willingness to stand with us during this time. The movie business hinges on strong relationships and that is the spirit we strive to foster in the industry," he said in a statement.

Production company Pooja Entertainment has finally broken its silence on allegations of unpaid dues, revealing that Bollywood star Akshay Kumar has intervened to help resolve the matter. (From left) Bollywood star Akshay Kumar; a still from Pooja Entertainment's recent box office bomb Bade Miyan Chote Miyan; the production company's founder Vashu Bhagnani and son, actor-producer Jacky Bhagnani.

Amid allegations of unpaid dues to actors and crew members, the production and distribution company Pooja Entertainment has finally broken its silence on the matter, revealing that Bollywood star Akshay Kumar has stepped in to help resolve the situation. In the past few weeks, The Indian Express has extensively reported on how those who worked on films bankrolled by Pooja Entertainment have yet to receive payments. Almost a fortnight ago, several crew members came forward accusing company founder Vashu Bhagnani of non-payment of dues. In a collaborative Instagram post, the victims described their ordeal.

Vashu's son and actor-producer Jacky Bhagnani, who co-produced Pooja Entertainment's last box office bomb Bade Miyan Chote Miyan, starring Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff in the lead roles, has now responded to the financial allegations. "Akshay sir met me recently to discuss this matter. Upon learning about this situation, Akshay sir didn't hesitate to step forward and show his

support for the crew. He has insisted that his payments be placed on hold until every single crew member working on our projects receive their full and final payment. We are incredibly grateful for Akshay sir's understanding and his willingness to stand with us during this time.

The movie business hinges on strong relationships and that is the spirit we strive to foster in the industry," he said in a statement. had also learned that, besides crew members, Bade Miyan Chote Miyan actors Tiger Shroff, Sonakshi Sinha, Alaya F, and Manushi Chhillar were also awaiting their payments for the film, which was released in April.

"Tiger Shroff too has not received his fees for the film. He has maintained his silence on the non-payment of his dues for Bade Miyan Chote Miyan but after learning that the crew and the support staff, who gave the film their all, have also not been paid, he wants the production house to clear the dues immediately," sources close to the film told us. We previously reported that the estimated cost of the crew and vendors owed by Pooja Entertainment is around Rs 2.5 crore.

Meanwhile, amid the controversy, Vashu Bhagnani, who has been reeling from the shock of back-to-back box office flops, said that things aren't as bad for him as they're being made out to be. Dismissing rumours, he told the Times of India that he is already planning his next project, which will also be mounted on a huge scale.

Sushmita Sen updates Instagram bio with 'second birthdate' as tribute to the day that changed her life forever: 'I thought my story was over...'



Recently, Bollywood icon Sushmita Sen surprised her fans by changing her date of birth on her Instagram bio to February 27, 2023. She referred to it as her "Second DOB." Actor Sushmita Sen suffered a heart attack early last year while shooting for Aarya 3. Bollywood actor Sushmita Sen's life took a dramatic turn early last year when she suffered a heart attack that nearly cost her life. However, like a phoenix, Sushmita made a remarkable recovery and has since never missed a chance to express her gratitude for being alive.

Recently, Sushmita surprised her fans by changing her date of birth on her Instagram bio to February 27, 2023. She referred to it as her "Second DOB," a gesture her fans quickly recognised as a tribute to the day she survived the heart attack. The Bollywood star has now unveiled a video, produced in collaboration with a pharmaceutical company, explaining why she considers this date her "second birthdate".

"My life is a story that I have played and lived. But sometimes, a twist might appear in the story. During a shoot, I suffered a massive heart attack. Those were the longest 45 minutes of my life. There was a moment when I thought my story was over," Sushmita can be heard saying in the video, which also features old pictures of the actor with her loved ones, including her daughters. "But thanks to my doctors. They are the reason my story continues. They didn't give up on me, and nor did they let me give up. They wrote a new story for my life and gave me a new direction. February 27, 2023 — my second birthdate. I am dedicating this day and my story to all the doctors," she added. The #SecondBirthDate initiative has been launched for people to express their gratitude to the doctors who profoundly impacted their lives. Alongside Sushmita Sen, actor Manisha Koirala has also joined the initiative, which involves updating one's date of birth on social media and sharing personal stories.

Sushmita Sen, 48, underwent an angioplasty and had a stent placed in her heart in February last year after she suffered a massive heart attack while shooting for Aarya 3. "I was always in love with life, and I still am, and always will be. I think that was one of the reasons it was hard to take me like that," she said during a chat with The Indian Express last year. "It did make me realise that I have seriously important unfinished businesses. And I have to be more aware of what I have left to do. You don't come back from an episode like that, all hale and hearty. It's been four months since the heart attack and I feel fine. Everything that has happened thereafter (pauses) there's a reason why I am still here. So let's make it count," she added.

Luv Sinha thanks well-wishers for concern over father Shatrughan Sinha's health, asks all to steer clear of 'unverified news'

Actor-parliamentarian Shatrughan Sinha was admitted to a hospital after he developed a "strong fever". Luv Sinha reiterated that it was not because he underwent surgery. Actor-parliamentarian Shatrughan Sinha with his wife Poonam and children Sonakshi and Luv. Actor Luv Sinha on Monday thanked well-wishers for their concern over his father Shatrughan Sinha's health, reiterating the veteran star-MP was admitted to a hospital here after he developed a "strong fever" and not because he underwent surgery.

The 77-year-old was taken to the medical facility sometime last week for an annual check-up as well. One should steer clear of "unverified news", Luv said.

"In regard to my father's health I'd like to clarify that there was no surgical procedure, and one shouldn't believe unverified news. We took my father to the hospital for his annual checkup, and because he had a strong fever. Thank you to everyone who has been concerned," he wrote on X. Sinha, popular for '70s and '80s films such as Mere Apne, Kalicharan, Vishwanath, Kaala Patthar and Dostana, was earlier this month elected as TMC MP from West Bengal's Asansol in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. On June 23, he and his wife, actor-politician Poonam Sinha hosted their actor-daughter Sonakshi Sinha's wed-



ding to her longtime partner and Double XL co-star Zaheer Iqbal.

Previously, Luv had said Sinha was admitted to a private hospital here due to a "strong fever". He also denied reports that the veteran actor underwent a minor surgery. "My father had a strong fever and we decided to take him to the hospital so that he could recover and we could have his yearly tests done as well. I have been going there (to the hospital) every day, so (I) can tell you that there was no surgical procedure," Luv had said in a WhatsApp message to PTI.

Payal Malik says she left Armaan Malik for 1 year after he married Kritika, reveals he never changed his religion: 'I stayed in this marriage for...'

YouTube content creator Payal Malik was seen on Bigg Boss OTT 3 along with her husband Armaan Malik and his second wife Kritika Malik. Unfortunately, Payal's journey on the show has ended, and with that, she sat down for an exclusive conversation with Indianexpress.com. Though Payal might show the world she is okay with Armaan and Kritika's marriage, deep down her heart still aches. During the conversation she opens up about being cheated by Armaan, cutting all ties with her family, and also lauds Ranvir Shorey's game on Bigg Boss OTT 3.

Previously, Armaan, Payal, and Kritika have justified their polygamous relationship. They have said that it has been a personal choice to live like that, but when asked about if Payal feels Armaan wronged her, she says, "Yes, I have been wronged by Armaanji, I left my house for him. I was dependent on him since 8 years, I was living with him, he was my everything. And then all of a sudden, someone else came into his life, so yes, injustice has been done to me. But I have said this before also, today and in the future, I am his first priority. Kritika comes after me, and she knows it, so do our family and subscribers." When asked about rumors about Armaan changing his religion for multiple marriages, Payal sets the record straight and says, "That is not true, he has not converted to Islam. He belongs to a Jatt family. He is not a Muslim." Payal even confirmed that Armaan had a broken marriage before he met her.

Listening to Payal, we wondered what was it that made her stay in this marriage, even after betrayal. When we asked her, she said, "I chose to stay with him despite another marriage because I love him. Also, I am in this marriage for my son Chiku. I am happy living this way, its not like I am being forced to. No woman will tolerate her husband's second marriage, money is secondary, if you are not happy in that relationship, nobody can keep you tied to it." "I am happy in this relationship, the good thing is in my life, a girl like Kritika came, who considers me first. She loves me more than Armaanji. My word is the final one for her, she never argues with me. I am the boss in my house, I call the shots. I am glad that Armaanji didn't marry a girl who would fight," Payal added. She even shared, "I never wanted my husband to marry again. It impacted our relationship initially and we separated for a year. I took my son Chiku along, and I was on the verge of committing suicide. But then I saw that no friends or relatives would come to help, it was only him. So we met again, worked on the relationship, and now it is so good



that even if God asks to separate, we won't."

Leaving her home behind is a regret Payal has, when asked if she ever got back in touch with them after marrying Armaan, she said, "Only the time I had separated from Armaan, I was in touch with my family over the phone. But when I returned to him, we broke ties again. I belong to the Gujar community, and lived in a joint family, they are against intercaste marriage. To top that, his second marriage was not acceptable. So, I am not in touch with them." Coming to her journey on Bigg Boss OTT obviously Payal is not happy with her eviction. She says, "I had not imagined my journey to end so soon. I believe I have gotten lots of votes, I was not supposed to be evicted now. I showcased my real self on the show, I got a lot of love in the house. Just the nomination from Deepak and Naezy led to my exit." "Everyone in that house has planned a game, no one uses their brains. They are very measured in talking to one another fearing nominations, they are all playing very safe. Other than Armaanji, I feel Ranvir Shorey is playing the game well. I loved him as a person, we bonded so well, he promised to meet me outside too," Payal added.

When asked, if she felt hurt when Armaan chose Kritika over her at the grand premiere, she explained, "No it didn't hurt me because you guys see us as a team, but we played individually in the game, at the end of the day, we are one unit. Whoever wins, the trophy will come home only." "Now Payal aspires to be an actor. When asked her about her dreams, she said, "I never got a chance to fulfill my dreams, I wanted to become something in life. Now people know me, but I don't want to be known only as one of Armaan Malik's wife or his first wife. I have big dreams, I would love to act. If I get an opportunity on a show I would definitely act."

'We are hoping to host the Olympics in 2036': PM Modi asks athletes to share inputs from their Paris Olympics



GNS News Agency, July 6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya and Indian Olympic Association President PT Usha poses for a group photo with the Indian contingent heading for the upcoming Paris Olympics. Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya and Indian Olympic Association President PT Usha poses for a group photo with the Indian contingent heading for the upcoming Paris Olympics. While interacting with Paris-bound athletes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has revealed that India's wants to host the 2036 Olympics and have asked the contingent to share their valuable inputs from their experience.

In an interaction with Paris-bound athletes, conducted both in person and online on Thursday, Modi said those travelling to the French capital would do the country a huge service by providing inputs from their experience. "We are hoping to host the Olympics in 2036, it will help in creating a sporting atmosphere. Work is in

progress to prepare infrastructure for it," he said in the interaction, which was attended by the national men's hockey team, the shooting contingent, boxers and track-and-field stars such as Neeraj Chopra.

"I won't ask you to do anything in the middle of your events but when you are free, I would urge you to observe the arrangements. Your inputs will help our bid for 2036. We will have an understanding on how to make sure that we are better-prepared," he added. "Interacted with our contingent heading to Paris for the Olympics. I am confident our athletes will give their best and make India proud. Their life journeys and success inspire hope for 1.4 billion Indians," Modi shared on social media following the event. The Paris Olympics will be held from July 26 to August 11 and India would be hoping to better its best ever tally of seven medals, including Neeraj Chopra's historic javelin throw gold, achieved in the Tokyo Games. On Friday morning, PM Modi posted a video of the interaction, captioning it "A memorable interaction with our contingent for Paris Olympics."

Fans were more desperate for the trophy than us, says Rohit

GNS News Agency, July 6

The T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma holds the Indian tricolour during open bus victory parade, in Mumbai, on July 4, 2024. Rohit Sharma, India's T20 World Cup-winning captain, thanked all the Indian cricket fans for supporting the team during its campaign.

"On behalf of my team and the BCCI, I would like to thank the fans! Ever since we have reached India, we have seen how much it means to them. For the last 11 years, they have wanted the trophy back in India!" Rohit said while addressing a choc-a-bloc Wankhede Stadium. Team India victory parade highlights: Indian team fete at Wankhede after open-bus parade "As much desperation we had to win the trophy, the fans had it a bit more. This team is special and I am lucky to have the chance to captain this unit."

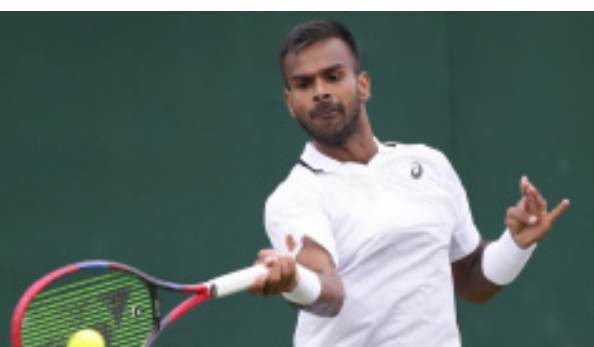
After arriving in New Delhi from Barbados early morning, the Men in Blue met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The squad then flew down to Mumbai and celebrated with the fans during a roadshow followed by an event at the Wankhede. Head coach Rahul Dravid, in his last formal appearance as India's head coach, stated winning the T20 World Cup was a fitting note to end his stint. "This is a fantastic note to sign off on. I am going to miss all this love. What we have been seeing today and what I have heard since the win shows how India makes cricket brilliant," Dravid said.

Veteran Virat Kohli, who announced his T20I retirement after emerging Player of the Final, compared the



2011 ODI World Cup win with the recent triumph. "When we won the World Cup in 2011, there were a lot of tears among the seniors and I couldn't understand. I was young and we had won the World Cup," Kohli said. "But now, being a senior player, with Rohit besides, after playing for so long, it is special. This is the first time I have seen Rohit show so much emotion on the field. When I was walking up the steps, I was crying, he was crying and we hugged. That is a special moment." Jasprit Bumrah, the Player of the Tournament, felt it was a surreal moment for him to return to Wankhede. "It feels amazing. This ground is really special in my life. As an under-19 kid, I came here to play cricket and what I saw today, I will never forget that," Bumrah said. "The confidence that we have to take the game by the neck and pull us out of trouble is special. Our aim is to take Indian cricket forward. This World Cup gives us the motivation to go ahead and do it again."

Sumit Nagal confirmed for men's singles tennis at Paris 2024 Olympics



GNS News Agency, July 6

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) has confirmed Indian player Sumit Nagal's presence in the men's singles event at Paris 2024 Olympics. As per Olympics.com, this will mark Nagal's second Olympics appearance after Tokyo 2020, where he defeated Denis Istomin in the first round but lost to Daniil Medvedev in round two.

The ITF confirmed Nagal's presence through their entry list released on July 4. The men's and women's singles event in Tennis at Paris Olympics, the multi-sport extravaganza starting from July 26 onwards, will feature 64 players. The top 56 eligible men's singles players, as per ATP Rankings on June 10, secured quotas for their countries, with a maximum of four quotas available to each country. Though 77th-ranked Nagal was 21 places behind the top 56 players when the qualifying window

ended, he was able to make it among the quota winners as more than four players from multiple nations were ahead of him in the rankings and some players also withdrew from the event. Nagal was 138th in the rankings in January but has been in fine form since then. A triumph at Chennai Open this year helped him break into top 100 for the first time ever.

Ranked at number 95 in men's singles just a week before the qualifying window ended, an ATP Challenger title win at Heilbronn Neckarcup in Germany helped him jump a massive 18 places to number 77 and brought himself in contention for a ticket to Paris. Nagal will be joining Rohan Bopanna, who will also partner with N Sriram Balaji in the men's doubles competition, as a part of the Indian tennis team. At the end of the qualifying window, Bopanna was ranked at world number four in men's doubles and got his Olympic quota easily. The men's and women's doubles event will feature a total of 32 teams, with a maximum of two teams per nation. The first qualifiers to the Olympics were the top-10 placed teams in doubles rankings, as long as they had a partner available within the top 300 of doubles rankings. Bopanna chose 67th-ranked Balaji as his partner, and their entry was confirmed on June 19 by All India Tennis Association (AITA). Both Bopanna and Balaji are competing at Wimbledon 2024, where the former is partnering with Matthew Ebden of Australia in men's doubles while Balaji has paired up with Great Britain's Luke Johnson. Bopanna and Balaji will later go to Hamburg and Umag for their next ATP 500 events ahead of the Paris Olympics. Nagal also featured in Wimbledon but crashed out in the opening round in both singles and doubles. (ANI)

Euro 2024 Quarterfinal: Toni Kroos's Germany vs Rodri's Spain

GNS News Agency, July 6

Rodri is often the busiest man on the pitch; yet he has the calmest pair of eyes. He is always dispensing instructions, exhorting his men to keep the shape and order, urging them to keep calm and ride the storm, sniffing out a potentially dangerous move, filling up the space left behind by those deputised to attack or spotting an unspotted path to attack. But his eyes remain quiet, serenely scanning the field, processing the next move, and the next, comprehending the thrust of the narrative and seizing it before the adversaries do. His manager Pep Guardiola appraised him as the best midfielder in the world. "He's able to do everything. The tempo he has, his character when the situation is going wrong, to step forward, go backwards, the ability to play short and long," the master tactician detailed. He scores important goals too, often stoppage-time winners and equalisers, a Champions League final winner, often long-range screamers. But most of all, he gives midfield control, the territory where big games are often won and lost.

Against Georgia, a game Spain trailed and seemed to panic in the first quarter, he demonstrated the traits that make him the fulcrum of Guardiola's City empire. In the game, he touched the ball 129 times, more than anyone else on the pitch, threaded 117 passes with an accuracy rate of 93 percent, won all six duels, made three crucial tackles, and hit the important equaliser, his only shot on target. "A complete performance, but I was more impressed with his calmness as a leader, how he weathered the storm and helped gather our team," observed coach Luis de la Fuente. In the last Premier League season, he made the most passes and touches of any player, with an accuracy rate of 93 per cent. With him gliding at the heart of the midfield, City have lost just two of their last 89 games.

The key to unlocking an unbeaten Spain, thus, is to lock Rodri, which few teams, club and country have succeeded in the last two years. Germany, in the quarterfinals, would be aware of the threat, and look towards their own midfield commander, Toni Kroos, for inspiration. Positionally, they are different. Rodri is a hybrid holding midfielder, a defender converted to a defensive midfielder; Kroos was a playmaker rewired to an orthodox box-to-box operator, though both are not strictly position-bound. Rodri ventures forth with the ball, Kroos sometimes drops deeper. The quest, though, is the same. To boss the midfield, and let others around them sparkle. The youngsters would turn up the thrill watts—Jamal Musiala and Lamine Yamal searing past defenders, Florian Wirtz and Nico Williams flicking on the afterburners—fill the highlight reels, steal the thunder and lime-light, but the stability and vision of Rodri and Kroos let the flashier players flash brighter. They could maraud on the wings, unencumbered by the fear of losing the ball and inviting a quick counterattack owing to the invisible labour of their midfield enforcers.

With Rodri you could sense the danger coming, though unstoppable. With Kroos you don't. Despite the strapping build, the prominent features and the clean-cut hair of the archetypal German soldier, he lurks invisibly on the field, before exploding in the snap of your fingers and creating the right pass into the right space for the right player. He is clean in his positioning, is inventive



without being audacious, breaks up play without looking frantic. He wastes no touch or pass, the timing, movement and shapeshifting so measured that he transforms midfield control into a kind of physical art form. The respect is mutual. Kroos would wax eloquent on Rodri: "He's one of the most decisive players for Spain and City. He never gets nervous, always remains calm, and in the last two years, he has scored crucial goals. He's a top player." Rodri reciprocates: "He's not the same profile as me, but he dictates the tempo for his team, moves the game, and everything goes through his feet." Swap these lines and it remains equally relevant. Like Rodri, he could cut the pattern and score long-rangers too. Like the Spaniard, Kroos has dictated the mood of Germany too. When he shifts through his creative gears, Germany is a thrilling force to watch. The wingers spreading the canvas wide, the nifty forwards striding upfield, rotating their position, an electric marriage of pace and skills. When he endures rare off-days, so would Germany. This Euro, Kroos has made the most successful passes (416 of 435), commanded a completion rate of 95.75 percent and has conquered the second most chances in the tournament. He is, as the former Argentina midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme noted, "the closest thing football has to Roger Federer." "He can go out, play, and go home again without even needing to bathe: he doesn't sweat, doesn't get dirty, doesn't need to throw himself down." Toni Kroos Soccer Football—Euro 2024—Round of 16—Germany v Denmark—Dortmund BVB Stadion, Dortmund, Germany—June 29, 2024 Denmark's Rasmus Hojlund in action with Germany's Toni Kroos REUTERS/Bernadett Szabo But the contributions of Kroos and Rodri are often unquantifiable. There is no stat that could measure control of space or dictating the tempo of a game. There have been games when they had zero goals, assists or tackles to show, yet they have conducted the game.

They rarely soar the heart-rate, barely drive the masses to the stadium, hardly considered for player of the season or Ballon d'ors. But they win matches, they let others flutter around them, they make the others work. Kroos has already announced this would be his farewell tournament—he has already retired from club football. He was in a sporting mood when a reporter the other day asked whether the quarterfinal against Spain would be his last game. "I don't expect this will be my final match and I assume we'll all be seeing each other again," he said, grinning. But only one of Kroos and Rodri would have the last laugh on Friday night, after an intense and fascinating tussle for midfield superiority.

Mbappe and Ronaldo clash in a passing of the baton quarterfinal match

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It's the Christmas break before Real Madrid clinch the much awaited La Decima. At the team's training complex at Valdebebas, it is business as usual. One after another the crème de la crème of luxury cars and world football are arriving for a holiday break training session. Greeting them inside the facility is a twitchy 13-year-old, wearing the club's original jacket. The boy, who has come to the Spanish capital all the way from the Parisian suburbs, has been in a state of shock since his inviter, club director Zinedine Zidane, received him in his car. "Should I take off my shoes?" he'd nervously ask the French icon. It's Zizou who gifts him with the Real Madrid apparel. For Kylian Mbappe, who turns 14 later in the week, the greatest gift arrives at last as the man postered all over his bedroom walls walks up to him. It's his hero Cristiano Ronaldo. A cute little meeting illustrated on the pages of the comic book, Je M'appelle Kylian. As Ronaldo puts his hand around Mbappe's shoulder, Zidane volunteers to take a photo. Click. This one is going down in the vaults. Ronaldo and Mbappe comic A page from Je M'appelle Kylian, the comic book based on Mbappe's life story. 11 years later, when Mbappe—now 24—uploaded the image on his Instagram to announce his move to Real Madrid, Ronaldo commented, "My turn to see, excited to see you light up the Bernabeu." It is the most read comment in the app's history. One that brings to full circle one of the tales of the 21st century sport. A passing of the baton from an idol to his fan. Ronaldo had agreed to it four years ago, "Mbappe is the future and the present." Mbappe hasn't shied away from conceding that he has always been a Ronaldo fanatic. So much so that his persona is derived from the Portuguese's. "Since I was a kid, I imitated all his gestures." When Portugal and France meet in a Euro quarterfinals on Friday, the highlight will be Mbappe, 25, and Ronaldo, 39, on either side of the field in a clash of generations. Theirs' are two stories that are different yet similar in many ways, and when viewed in sequence best demonstrate the natural evolution of footballers. Football happened for Ronaldo, organically. At the age of nine, the boy from a family of modest means in the island of Madeira had pictured himself becoming a fisherman. Futebol de rua, the Portuguese iteration of street football that pays an emphasis on bringing communities together and fostering friendships was his gateway to the sport. To play professionally was the dream, but not one he saw turn into a reality until it did. Mbappe, as he puts it in his comic, "was born into football." The boy branded as the next big thing before he stepped foot outside the ghettos of Bondy in the suburbs of the French capital. At 10, Nike provided him with free shoes. Two years later, a full contract. Fabled Sevilla FC scout Monchi once told The Guardian, "By the time Kylian was 12, all of Europe knew about him, and it was too late for a club like ours to make a move." To Mbappe and those around him it was clear from the early days, the boy was meant to become the best in the world, and that is what they told Europe's elite clubs were buying with their early invest-

ment. It was a tag Ronaldo had to grind for during his prime years at Manchester United and Real Madrid. Mbappe An advertising billboard for Nike with French footballer Kylian Mbappe covers the front of the Eglise de la Sainte Trinite church under renovation in Paris, France. /Benoit Tessier It was the return on investment an 18-year-old Ronaldo brought to United—as well as that of his arch nemesis, 17 when he debuted for Barcelona—that changed the game in terms of player-club dynamics. All across Europe, the race ensued for the next holder of the crown, before his market value was unaffordable for them. Scouting networks were expanded. And that is what Mbappe and Co cashed in on. There's this negotiation flex that Mbappe's mother pulled off for her 12-year-old son on the Chelsea execs that best display the upper hand they had. The London club were impressed by the speedy winger's audition. The Club's head of youth development however, wanted to see Kylian pass the ball more often before putting pen to paper. To this, came the cold response of Fayza Lamari. "No, we won't come again. If you want to sign him, you sign him now. In five years' time, you will come back for him for £50 million." It is telling of the influence his parents have had on his game and brand, vis-a-vis his idol, and how families have shaped them as individuals. Family men No memory of a meaningful conversation with his alcoholic father, and his demise when Ronaldo was 19, frustrates him the most. He concedes as much in his 2015 documentary before his desolate face turns to one of pride as he adds, "I think I managed to handle things in his absence." For Ronaldo, the youngest of four siblings who was also an unwanted child, stepping up as the head of the family helped forge his alpha personality. Like his father, Ronaldo's elder brother Hugo too was spiraling into alcoholism—selling Ronaldo's Man United shirts to buy booze—when he intervened to make him go clean. Hugo now runs the Ronaldo museum in Funchal. Through his mother Dolores, who bore the brunt of her husband's drinking habits, Ronaldo's protective nature for the family can be further understood. Dolores has been banned from watching the high pressure games her son plays, especially alone. An answer to it may have been in Portugal's Round of 16 game against Slovenia. The sight of his teary eyed mother in the stands is speculated to have set off the emotional meltdown of Ronaldo after his penalty miss. How much of it is true, only Ronaldo can tell. The fact that the Portuguese has kept his family distanced from his sport is evident. From a young age, Ronaldo leaned heavily on professionals such as the seasoned agent Hugo Mendes to overlook his empire. Project Mbappe on the other hand has been a family affair, through and through. Lamari, his mother, is projected as an iron fist behind all of Mbappe's decisions, uncompromising and unyielding when it comes to her son's best interest. A source at Real Madrid told The Athletic what he made of Lamari during the 2022 negotiations of the club with the player that eventually came to a halt after Mbappe signed an enormous new deal with PSG.