



Indo-Pacific on agenda for Biden-Sunak talks in UK



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“COURT CAN'T DICTATE TIMEFRAME TO SPEAKER TO TAKE THE DECISION” SAYS NARWEKAR OVER DISQUALIFICATION PLEA OF MLA'S

Days after the Shiv Sena (UBT) approached the Supreme Court for speedy adjudication of disqualification petitions against 16 Shiv Sena MLAs including Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Narwekar has said the court cannot dictate a timeframe to the Speaker for a decision on the matter.

The plea moved by Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Sunil Prabhu last week alleged Speaker Narwekar was deliberately delaying the adjudication despite the May 11 verdict of the apex court. The speaker, despite the categorical direction of the top court in its May 11 judgment that the pending disqualification petitions must be decided within a reasonable period, has chosen to not conduct a single hearing, the plea said.

Prabhu, as chief whip of the undivided Shiv Sena, had in 2022 filed the disquali-

fication petitions against Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and other Sena MLAs who tied up with the BJP to form a new government in June last year. Speaking to reporters on Monday, Narwekar said, “The court cannot dictate the Legislative Assembly Speaker a timeframe to decide on the matter because law and legislature are two separate bodies of our democracy. Even if it does, I have a right to not accept a notice to this effect.” “The court can decide once I take the decision, but the court cannot order the Speaker and force him to take a decision within a certain timeframe,” he said. Asked about the time he requires to decide on the matter, Narwekar said what has happened in Maharashtra is “unprecedented”.

“I do not have any guideline on such an incident from any other state. Hence, it

is complex and crucial for me on how to take a decision on such a matter,” he said. Narwekar said notices have been issued to MLAs of both the Sena factions and if he gets a petition seeking additional time to reply, then he will decide on it on the basis of the request content. To a query on when will he take a call on the recent revolt in the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Narwekar said, “I will go as per the chronology of petitions filed before the Speaker’s office. I cannot select any particular petition.”

On May 11, the SC ruled that Eknath Shinde will continue to be the chief minister of Maharashtra. The top court said it cannot reinstate the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition government headed by Uddhav Thackeray as the Sena leader chose to resign without facing a floor test in the wake of Shinde’s rebellion. Narwekar

on Saturday said notices have been issued to 40 MLAs of CM Shinde-led Shiv Sena and 14 of the Uddhav Thackeray faction, seeking their replies on disqualification petitions against them. These legislators have been given seven days to file their reply, he said. Narwekar earlier said he has received a copy of the Shiv Sena’s constitution from the Election Commission of India, and that hearing on the disqualification petitions against 16 Shiv Sena MLAs, including CM Shinde, would start soon. Former CM Thackeray recently said the Supreme Court has already given a framework to the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker. “The Speaker will have to decide on the disqualification issue within the given framework. If he tries to bypass it, the Supreme Court’s doors are always open for us,” the Shiv Sena (UBT) leader said. PTI

The legacy of Shiv Sena is snatched by terror and tactics?

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

I was born here and have seen Shiv Sena from childhood. Never in my remote dreams had I ever imagined that Thackeray would lose its legacy. Being Girgaonkar and neighbour of Pramod Navalkar Shiv Sena was very close to my heart. These days I am seeing Uddhav Thackeray getting into endless misfortunes. First, he lost the government, and then he lost the Shiv Sena party and its precious symbol. There is buzz that he could lose party funds as well as some offices. All this is happening after Eknath Shinde, supposed to be his once trusted associate, rebelled against him. Uddhav could not handle his unplanned success; he never took his party workers in confidence. There was a lack of communication and Keeping Aditya

ahead spoiled it further. Meeting Bala Saheb was very easy but getting time to meet junior Thackeray father and son is a big task. Bala Saheb always had guts to entertain his opponents and his critics. I remember there was a journalist who was trashed by Shiv Sainiks in 1990, for criticising Bala Saheb and Shiv Sena was gracefully invited to Matoshri. Bala Saheb was not only kind to him but he gave an Interview to him. But Uddhav and his son Aditya always avoided those people who slightly disapproved of them. Bala saheb played politics of adding people where in Uddhav played politics of avoiding people.

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Editoritis

The legacy of Shiv Sena is snatched by terror and tactics?

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Maharashtra is more attached to Balasaheb Thackeray and then his party Shiv Sena. This party was local pride for Mumbaikar and especially as a Maharashtrian.

Uddhav Thackeray never realizes the need to keep the party in good repair; he doesn't realize that his own political fortunes are tied to how well he manages his party.

If Eanath Shinde's revolt against Uddhav Thackeray leadership was correct but breaking away is like burning boats behind his exit. On the other hand, for a person of his merits & following, there was no hope of heading the party particularly when the party Chief liked to live in his ivory tower.

Uddhav's biggest mistake was the change of party constitution in 2018. With this amendment, he held all the rights to decide electors for the party president election. In other words, the party president decided who the voters for his post would be. The Election Commission of India, in its order favouring Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, said that it's against the spirit of inter-party democracy. Only when their self-interest-driven personal schemes fail, politicians remember the voters; beg them to restore their lost fortunes. Another mistake that Uddhav made was the delay in taking action against the Eknath Shinde faction. When Shinde left for Surat in the middle of the night on June 20, 2022, immediately after voting in the Legislative Council polls, Uddhav should have expelled him and his 15 other MLA colleagues. This would have at most shrunk his party on the floor of the House, but would have saved his legacy as the expelled group could not have claimed the party as theirs. Uddhav could have gracefully faced the floor test, but he not only resigned but left CM house on a very humbling note. He surrendered to the situation without fighting the battle appropriately.

Maharashtra is more attached to Balasaheb Thackeray and then his party Shiv Sena. This party was local pride for Mumbaikar and especially as a Maharashtrian. Eknath Shinde is confined to Thane and to some extent Mumbai while the former Shiv Sena encompasses the state. So, it gives some headroom to Uddhav Thackeray if only he wants to resurrect himself. Thackeray will have to nurse the rural hinterland, forging local rainbow alliances of castes and communities. If Thackeray is really keen to revamp the party in the vicinity he should give up his old habit of hopping around villages in a chopper, addressing a meeting or two and returning home and not meeting people in person. He should give up his selective approach of picking up certain people for media photo publicity. When Eknath Shinde became CM the first thing he did was, greeted all relevant and irrelevant people. He developed a special bond with media persons. He has hired various strategists who are executing his publicity activities.

Uddhav Thackeray never realizes the need to keep the party in good repair; he doesn't realize that his own political fortunes are tied to how well he manages his party. Say, he can't afford to live in the past glory. If he doesn't do the needful, he too will vanish like many Family Enterprise political party scions did. By breaking away and joining a bigger & aggressive BJP, Eknath has actually reduced himself to a bit player in the larger BJP game. He was a big fish in the small Shiv Sena pond but in the larger BJP pond, he is now a small fish. Even if

the BJP comes to power in 2024, an outsider like Eanath Shinde cannot hope to outshine "native" BJP leaders. Devendra Fadnavis is a shrewd politician and an excellent administrator. All the bureaucrats, police department officials silently supported him when he had to resign as Chief Minister. He channelized his humiliation and manifested his fate.

If Eanath Shinde's revolt against Uddhav Thackeray leadership was correct but breaking away is like burning boats behind his exit. On the other hand, for a person of his merits & following, there was no hope of heading the party particularly when the party Chief liked to live in his ivory tower. As long as he lived in Shiv Sena, Eknath Shinde remained under the Family orders. What could be more galling than taking orders from Aadithya Thackeray? This has irked many senior leaders of the former Shiv Sena. Uddhav's unpredictable behaviour, continues ED and IT raids, corruption, propaganda all that has worked against his interest.

Now Udhav Thackeray is like a fish out of water for survival. If he opts for a relationship with BJP, BJP will spurn it as they are having close relationship with Shinde's faction of the Shiv Sena. If Udhav Thackeray switches back his policy to Hindutva, people will not believe him. The best way for Udhav Thackeray is to continue his alliance with NCP and Congress and oppose Hindutva and Modi. He can be one among many and swim in politics for some more years till the Modi tide engulf the entire India in a big way. In a democracy, only voters decide the fate of a politician, and the voters of Maharashtra would decide whether Uddhav Thackeray has lost the legacy of Shiv Sena or not. This fate will be decided in many elections in coming years - Municipal elections (including BMC), 2024 Lok Sabha election, and 2024 Assembly election. And politics is about patience and even if Uddhav Thackeray loses this election he will have time to bounce back in later elections. Balasaheb Thackeray during his times as chief of Shiv Sena can get anything done in Maharashtra if he wishes for. He knew the Shaka Pramukhs by name. In contrast Udhav is a poor replica of his father. He is dependent on others to do his work. Hope good sense prevails and he swings back in power or at least recreates Shiv Sena.



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Letters to the Editor

Washing away another's sins

What a consoling, soothing sight, of the chief minister of M.P., washing the feet of a tribal who has been demeaned by another person. The act of urinating on a tribal is disgusting and must be condemned in the strongest terms. While the law may take its course, we need to reflect on this incident. How can we run down the downtrodden in society?

They are also human beings created by the same supernatural power who created us all. This act of the chief minister washing the feet of the tribal reminds us of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, instructing them to do likewise. That is a sign of humility and servanthood. All politicians in power need to understand that they should be humble. They are the servants of the people and have been elected to serve them, not to lord over them.

Melville X. D'Souza

Tomatoes cost an arm and a leg

When it comes to cooking essentials, potatoes, tomatoes, and onions are considered important and when any of these face skyrocketing price hikes, it surely disturbs the monthly budget of every Indian household. In the past, onions have made us cry, and this time tomatoes have done the same for us. As per reports, from Rs 15 per kg in the first week of May, today, it has reached to staggering Rs 110-140 per kg in different parts of the country.

The main reason behind the current high prices can be traced back to the sudden rise in temperature in March and April that saw pest attacks on the production that led many growers to abandon their crops. McDonald's has recently shown the exit door to tomatoes from its signature dishes owing to astronomical prices.

Isha Tapadiya

Has to get its diplomacy right

In order to better influence the planned rallies by pro-Khalistan separatists in the US, UK, Canada and Australia on July 8 on the Khalistan issue targeting Indian diplomatic missions and diplomats, the Indian government has taken steps to talk to the authorities in the countries.

Increased security and vigilance. Posters in these countries labeled the protests as "Kill India" and "Khalistan Freedom" rallies, urging supporters to march to Indian missions. Worryingly, the posters have pictures of top Indian diplomats posted in these countries. The protests - following attacks on Indian missions, arson attempts and vandalism mark a sharp increase in separatist activity across the seas and have alarmed New Delhi. However, they should be far more concerned about the countries that incubate these groups.

The rallies on Saturday put the respective governments on notice to ensure adequate protection of Indian diplomatic interests, as mandated under international conventions. In addition, it is a test of their resolve to investigate groups that threaten violence, gather intelligence on any organizations and share intelligence on those who support them in attacks, or assisting in the planning or execution of a terrorist attack, such as the 1985 bombing of an Air India flight. Above all, these governments should not use "freedom of expression" to justify their failure to prevent criminal acts. While the responsibility is on all four countries.

MT Farooqi

The value of Liberal Arts Education in the digital age

As technology becomes increasingly ubiquitous, many students and parents wonder about the relevance of Liberal Arts, its employment opportunities, and if there is career progression with a Liberal Arts Education. Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven systems can perform most tasks more efficiently and effectively than humans and are rapidly changing how we live, work, and interact with technology and the people around us. While AI-driven models like OpenAI GPT-3, ChatGPT, Turing-NLG, BRT, and Watson Assistant can automate many tasks and provide us with vast amounts of information, can they replace humans? Definitely not. To develop, design, and utilize information optimally, humans must still rely on creativity and critical thinking skills. This is where Liberal Arts Education can make a significant difference in enabling people to navigate the rapidly changing technological landscape. Liberal Arts Education focuses on preparing individuals with the skills needed to make informed decisions, tackle complex problems, and drive innovation in a constantly changing and complex environment.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, recognizes the need for a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to education that prepares students for the challenges of the 21st century and encourages the study of Liberal Arts. Liberal Arts allow students to explore multiple disciplines, such as humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, and facilitate students to gain an understanding of different cultural influences, methods

of thinking, problem-solving, and forms of expression. Students can develop critical thinking, research, communication, collaboration, creativity and independent inquiry skills. Through a transdisciplinary approach, liberal arts equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in a wide range of careers, from research and development to entrepreneurship and leadership. Most importantly, it prepares students to become life-long learners.

Liberal Arts Education has evolved over the last few years to address the challenges of the modern world better and is an amalgamation of classical approaches integrated with contemporary practices. Some of the subjects and courses offered are - History, Sociology, Psychology, Language and Literature, Political Science, Economics, Art and Music, Philosophy, Media and Communication Studies, and Natural Sciences. The curriculum is designed to be more interdisciplinary and to emphasize the integration of different knowledge domains. For example, courses like Digital Humanities have emerged to explore the intersection of technology and culture. Data Science and Data Visualization blend technical skills with liberal arts approach to understanding and communicating data. Courses in Language and Literature empower individuals to communicate effectively and collaborate in a digital environment. Engineering Psychology, or Human factors engineering, is a subfield of psychology that focuses on designing products and systems, the interaction between humans and technology, studying human perception and cognition,

and improving human performance and well-being.

Steve Jobs, former CEO of Apple Inc., a strong advocate for liberal arts, states, "It's in Apple's DNA that technology alone is not enough - its technology married with liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yield us the results that make our heart sing."

In today's digital era, the need for well-rounded and culturally literate individuals is more important than ever. Empathy, compassion, respect for others, and appreciation of different cultures, perspectives, and experiences are critical in multicultural workplaces and lead to global citizenship. Liberal Arts and Humanities encourage students to analyze, interpret and think critically about the world around them, which is valued by employers. Andragogical approaches in Liberal Arts Education recognize that students have control over their learning process and seek to empower them to take an active role in their education through evolution and adaptation. Liberal Arts education prepares students not only to make a living but also to make a life.

Modern Liberal Arts Education places greater emphasis on practical skills and hands-on experience to better prepare students for dynamic environments. And there is a definite opportunity for students to opt for Liberal Arts to make the world a better place to live in.

- Vijay Garg

Columnist

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(The views expressed are authors' own.)

Uddhav Thackeray asks PM Modi “What happened to Rs 70,000 crore scam by NCP? ahead of the Tilak National Award event, inviting chief guest as Sharad Pawar



Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his comments on a “Rs 70,000 crore scam” by NCP, a day after a Pune trust selected the PM for Tilak National award and invited Sharad Pawar for the August 1 function as chief guest.

Prominent among the invitees is Nationalist Congress Party leader Ajit Pawar, who joined the Shiv Sena-BJP government in Maharashtra as deputy chief min-

ister on July 2 while eight MLAs of his camp were sworn in as ministers. “What happened to the Rs 70,000 crore scam? Who all will be there on the stage? That (the NCP) party is with you,” Thackeray told reporters.

Addressing booth workers of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Bhopal last month, Modi had said there were allegations of scams of nearly Rs 70,000 crore against NCP, including the Maharashtra Cooperative Bank scam, irrigation scam and illegal mining

scam. Slamming the BJP-led Centre over the alleged misuse of probe agencies to target Opposition parties, Thackeray said, “Time is cruel. When it turns against them, it will be difficult for them”. PM Modi will be conferred with Lokmanya Tilak National Award in Pune on August 1, the 103rd death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak. Sharad Pawar has been invited to the award ceremony as the chief guest, Trust president Deepak Tilak said in a release on Monday. Modi has been selected for the award, comprising a memento and citation, in recognition of his “supreme leadership and for awakening the feeling of patriotism among citizens”.

Other invitees include Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar. PTI

BJP leader Kirit Somaiya on allegations over NCP says, “Won’t be right to comment on matters in court”

BJP leader Kirit Somaiya who was vocal about allegations of corruption against many NCP leaders, including recently inducted ministers Ajit Pawar, Chhagan Bhubal, Sunil Tatkare and Hasan Mushrif, on Tuesday refrained from commenting against them.

Asked about the new NCP ministers, Somaiya said it would not be appropriate for him to make any comments on these people as matters related to them are in court. For over two years, the BJP leader and former Member of Parliament had been holding press conferences levelling charges against these political figures apart from making frequent visits to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office here to file complaints and documents.

Asked how he perceives the new political alignment in Maharashtra where the Ajit Pawar faction of NCP has joined hands with the BJP and the Eknath



Shinde-led Shiv Sena, Somaiya said, “There are cases pending before the court against these people. It won’t be appropriate for me to make any comment at present.” Ajit Pawar and eight of his colleagues joined the Eknath Shinde government on July 2. While Pawar was made deputy chief minister, the others were sworn in as ministers. Many of the NCP ministers have been accused of corruption and cases had been registered against them by central probe agencies. “I did my duty and I am a disciplined party worker,” Somaiya added. PTI

Mumbai: 40 new vehicles for Nirbhaya Squad and 200 motorcycles inducted into city police force



With the induction of 40 MUVs for the Nirbhaya Squad and 200 motorcycles for police beat marshals, the Mumbai Police are all set to improve their mobility and response time.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who holds the Home portfolio, on Tuesday, flagged off these vehicles and motorcycles from Nariman Point in south Mumbai. These vehicles were procured from the Nirbhaya fund, a police official said.

“The newly-inducted vehicles will have a vehicle tracking system (VTS) and their move-

ment will be monitored from the main control room or regional control rooms,” he said. These vehicles- Maruti Ertiga MUVs- will be used for patrolling on city roads. Mumbai Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar and other senior police officers also attended the event in south Mumbai. Nirbhaya Squad comprises trained women police officials. It was formed to prevent various crimes perpetrated against women including sexual harassment, stalking, rape, and acid attacks among others. The beat marshal system was set up with the aim to reduce the response time of the police to spots of crime. PTI

HC scraps plea of 154 students against process of normalisation of marks in Maha govt's CET for MBA

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday rejected a petition filed by 154 students against the process of normalisation of marks adopted by the Maharashtra government’s Common Entrance Test (CET) Cell for admission to MBA course 2023.

A division bench of Justices Gautam Patel and Neela Gokhale termed the plea as “without substance”, and said that out of more than one lakh students who appeared for the examination, only the petition-

ers have raised objections. “The 154 petitioners here do not represent the over one lakh students who appeared for the exams. It is also indeed telling that all the complaints made in the petition have been made only after the exams were held and the results were declared,” the court said.

The court further said that it was refraining from imposing cost only because the petitioners are students. The bench noted that the petitioners have sought for the CET to be conducted again. “No thought is spared to

hundreds of thousands of others who gave the entrance exam. The petitioners do not represent all candidates, yet we are expected that all those persons suffer at the instance of present disgruntled persons without being given the slightest opportunity of being heard to the others,” the court said. The order was passed on a plea filed by the 154 students raising objections to the normalisation of marks process adopted by the CET cell after it conducted a re-test for some students. PTI

Price rise: Maha woman receives tomatoes as precious gift on birthday

Amid soaring prices of tomatoes in the country, a woman received more than 4 kg of the kitchen staple as a gift on her birthday in Maharashtra’s Thane district.

The price of tomato, which was once Rs 20 per kg, has shot up to Rs 140 per kg and has be-

come unaffordable to common man. Sonal Borse, a resident of Kochadi in Kalyan, received more than 4 kg of tomatoes as a gift from her relatives on her birthday on Sunday.

A video of the woman cutting a birthday cake with baskets of tomatoes on the table has gone viral on social media.

Talking to reporters, Borse said she was really delighted by the gift her brother, aunt and uncle gave her on the occasion. Tomatoes are supplied from Nashik, Junnar and Pune to Mumbai. However, tomato farmers suffered losses due to the unseasonal rains and Cyclone Biparjoy. PTI

Nation

SC's Constitution bench to hear on August 2 pleas against abrogation of Article 370



The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that it will start hearing a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories. A five-judge Constitution bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, and Surya Kant said it will proceed to hear the case on a day-to-day basis except on miscellaneous days -- Mondays and Fridays.

It asked all parties to file all documents, compilations and written submissions by July 27. The bench in its order stated, "The hearing of the petitions before the constitution bench shall commence on August 2, 10.30 am and then proceed on day to day basis barring miscellaneous days that is Mondays and Fridays." It appointed advocates Prasanna and Kanu Agrawal as the nodal counsel for the preparation of common convenience compilations, which has to be filed by July 27. "Since compi-

lations were already prepared earlier, should more additions be made, it has to be made by July 27, 2023. Nodal counsel shall ensure compilations are indexed and paginated. All counsel shall be given the copies," the order stated. The apex court also allowed two petitioners, IAS Shah Faesal and rights activist Shehla Rashid to get their names deleted from the court's records as petitioners. It said now the title of the case will be "In Re: Article 370 of the Constitution". The earlier lead petitioner was Shah Faesal. The bench also noted the Centre's statement that the latest affidavit filed by the government shall not be relied upon to argue on the aspect of Constitutionality. "Solicitor General Tushar Mehta has submitted that though Centre has filed an additional affidavit setting out the Central government's view on post notification development. It would have no bearing on the constitutional question and it would not be relied upon," the top court stated in its order. ANI

SC stays NGT order appointing Delhi LG as chairperson of high-level committee on Yamuna



The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed an order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) appointing Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena as the chairperson of a high-level committee on the Yamuna rejuvenation project. A bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and Manoj Misra issued notice on a plea by the Delhi government challenging the January 9, 2023 order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

In its plea, the Delhi Government had said that LG's appointment as Chairperson was a "violation of the constitutional scheme of governance" and two Consti-

tution bench orders of Supreme Court passed in 2018 and 2023.

In January this year, the NGT had constituted the committee to address the issue of pollution in the Yamuna. The government has said that the executive powers granted to the LG through the NGT order "encroach upon areas exclusively under the competence of the elected government". It raised strong objections to the executive powers bestowed upon the LG through the NGT order. The government contended that the issue of pollution in the Yamuna river should be overseen by the elected head of government, the Chief Minister in this case. ANI

Assam floods: 67 villages submerged in Lakhimpur, around 545.50 hectares of crop damaged



The flood situation in the Lakhimpur district of Assam has deteriorated after several new areas were inundated by flood waters, affecting nearly 60,300 people. The flood waters have submerged 67 villages under 4 revenue circles of the district.

Around 545.50 hectares of crop area are still under water. According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), nearly 37,700 people were affected in the Nowboicha revenue circle area of the district and 22,510 people in the Bihpuria revenue circle. The district administration has set up seven relief distribution

centers in the flood-hit areas.

More than 10,000 domestic animals, and poultry have also been affected in the deluge. On the other hand, the water level of the Brahmaputra river is rising up following incessant rainfall and flowing above danger level mark at Tezpur in Sonitpur district and Neamatihat in Jorhat district. The water level of Disang river is still flowing above danger level mark at Nanglamuraghat in Sivasagar district. The ASDMA flood report stated that, 2696 people were affected in Dhemaji district and 2866 people affected in Biswanath Sub-Division in Sonitpur district. ANI

Uttarakhand: 4 dead, 10 injured due to falling debris on Gangotri National Highway near Gangnani

Four persons died and 10 people got injured due to falling debris on Gangotri National Highway near Gangnani in Uttarakhand, said the police on Tuesday. "Four people have died due to falling debris. 10 passengers who were injured have been admitted to CSC Bhatwadi for treatment", the police said.

The police further informed that SDM Bhatwadi and disaster management team are present at the spot. The rescue operation is underway, they added. Meanwhile, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Tuesday said that the state admin-



istration is on full alert mode in view of the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) heavy rainfall alert in the region.

Talking about the precautionary arrangement made in the state,

CM Dhami said, "Every year during monsoon time here, we have to face natural calamities. There are landslides due to excessive precipitation, and the water level of the rivers increases. We are in full alert mode. All district administration officials and those in our disaster management are doing their work. All of them have been asked to stay in alert mode to face any situation. Our other organizations are also working on this. NDRF, Army, and our PWD department are all ready to face any situation and we are constantly in touch with the people to help them in any situation." ANI

Uttarakhand: Bridge washed away due to flood in Jummagad river, contact lost with several border villages

Floods in Jummagad river in the border area of Chamoli district of Uttarakhand has washed away the bridge built on it, blocking the Indo-Tibet border road there while contact with over a dozen border villages has also been lost. Flooding in the Jummagad

river flowing near Jumma village on the Joshimath-Niti highway, about 45 km from Joshimath, continued till late night on Monday evening, during which the bridge collapsed. The Chamoli district administration on Tuesday said motor connectivity to Kaga, Garpak, Dronagiri, Jel-

lum, Kosa, Malari, Mahargaon, Kailashpur, Prakiya, Bampa, Gamshali and Neeti villages -- all of which lie beyond Jumma village -- were cut off after the bridge was washed away in the flood. Supply to border outposts by road has also come to a standstill. PTI

World

China escalates chip war with new curbs against US



China is escalating its chip war with the United States by imposing export controls on the overseas sales of gallium and germanium, elements essential to making semiconductors, CNN Business reported. China's trump card is seen as the counter-attack to potential US tightening of [its] AI chip ban. "We see this as China's second, and much bigger, countermeasure to the tech war, and likely a response to the potential US tightening of [its] AI chip ban," said Jefferies analysts as cited by CNN Business. They said that sanctioning one of America's biggest memory chipmakers, Micron Technology (MU), in May was the first.

According to CNN Business, Gallium is a soft, silvery metal commonly used to produce

compounds that are key materials in semiconductors and light-emitting diodes. Meanwhile, Germanium is a hard, greyish-white, and brittle metalloid that is used in the production of optical fibers that can transmit light and electronic data. The trade war started in October when the Biden administration unveiled a set of export controls banning Chinese companies from buying advanced chips and chip-making equipment without a license. Chips are vital for everything from smartphones and self-driving cars to advanced computing and weapons manufacturing. US officials have talked about the move as a measure to protect national security interests. And to make it more effective the US needed other key suppliers, located in the Netherlands and Japan,

to join them and they did. China eventually retaliated. In April, it launched a cybersecurity probe into Micron before banning the company from selling to Chinese companies working on key infrastructure projects. On Monday, Beijing announced the restrictions on gallium and germanium, as per CNN Business.

The export controls have drawn comparisons with China's reported attempts in early 2021 to restrict exports of rare earths, a group of 17 elements for which China controls more than half of the global supply.

Gallium and germanium do not belong to this group of minerals. Like rare earths, they can be expensive to mine or produce. This is because they are usually formed as a by-product of mining more common metals, primarily aluminium, zinc and copper, and processed in countries that produce them. According to the US Geological Survey, China is the world's leading producer of both gallium and germanium as it accounted for 98 percent of the global production of Gallium and 68 percent of the refinery production of germanium. ANI

Death toll from tribal clashes in Pakistan's Kurram rises to 9

The death toll from the ongoing tribal clashes in the Kurram district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) over a land dispute went up to nine on Monday, Geo News reported. Last Friday, tribal clashes erupted between two tribes over a land dispute which has killed at least 9 persons and over 50 injured in the last four days.

Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi also arrived in the tribal district to broker a ceasefire between the warring sides. "The police, army and tribal elders are trying to reach a ceasefire between the warring tribes in Pewar, Balishkhel and Khar Kallay areas," he told media persons, assuring that the situation would soon return to normal, reported Dawn. Turi further asserted that no one would be allowed to disrupt peace in the areas and added that all the issues would be resolved through dialogue. On the first day of the clash, five persons were killed and 30 others injured when armed men belonging to



Bohshera and Dandar tribes traded fire over the land dispute.

Subsequently, two more persons were killed and eight others sustained injuries when clashes again erupted between tribes in various areas of the Kurram tribal district on Sunday, Geo News reported. The injured were taken to the District Headquarters Hospital, Parachinar, and Satta Hospital, where the condition of three of the injured was stated to be critical. Kurram deputy commissioner Syed Saiful Islam Shah and district police officer Mohammad Imran said that efforts were underway by the district administration and the security forces in collaboration with the tribal chiefs to secure a ceasefire between the warring tribes, according to Dawn. ANI

US President Biden to meet Ukrainian counterpart Zelenskyy at NATO summit: Report

US President Joe Biden will meet with Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit on Wednesday, CNN reported citing an official familiar with the meeting. The meeting between Biden and Zelenskyy will mark a sign of unity as the Ukrainian President's presence at the summit had been in question, according to CNN. The Russia-Ukraine conflict is among the team agenda items for NATO leaders along with discussing a future pathway for Ukraine to become a member of military alliance, the report said.

Ukraine will dominate the NATO summit scheduled to be held in Vilnius as Biden looks to keep the military alliance united behind Kyiv amid the ongoing conflict with Moscow. The alliance is facing questions regarding a potential path to NATO membership for Ukraine and additional military assistance, according to CNN. Last

week, Biden said he doesn't think Ukraine is ready for NATO membership and added that NATO is a process that takes some time to meet all qualifications, from democratization to a whole range of other issues. "I don't think it (Ukraine) is ready for membership in NATO," the US President said in an interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria when asked about Ukraine's NATO membership. Biden said he doesn't think there is unanimity in NATO about whether or not to bring Ukraine into the NATO family in the middle of the war.

"I don't think there is unanimity in NATO about whether or not to bring Ukraine into the NATO family now, at this moment, in the middle of a war. If the war is going on, then we're all in the war. You know, we're at war with Russia, if that were the case. So, I think we have to lay out a path for a rational path for Russia, for you and me, for Ukraine to be able to qualify to get into NATO," Biden said. ANI

Turkish President Erdogan has agreed to back Sweden's NATO bid: Jens Stoltenberg

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday announced that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has agreed to forward Sweden NATO bid to the Grand National Assembly and ensure ratification. Stoltenberg tweeted, "Glad to announce that after the meeting I hosted with @RTERdogan & @SwedishPM, President Erdogan has agreed to forward Sweden's accession protocol to the Grand National Assembly ASAP & ensure ratification. This is an historic step which makes all #NATO Allies stronger & safer."

On Monday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Brussels should clear the way for Turkey's accession to the European Union before his country gives approval to Sweden's bid for NATO membership, CNN reported. Erdogan's statement comes ahead of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) summit in Lithuania, which has Sweden's membership



on its agenda.

Addressing a news conference, Erdogan said, "First, let's clear Turkey's way in the European Union, then let's clear the way for Sweden, just as we paved the way for Finland," according to CNN. Erdogan stressed it was time to act on Turkey's bid to become part of the EU, adding, "Turkey has been waiting at the gate of the European Union for over 50 years now" and "almost all NATO member countries are European member countries." Turkey has said Sweden allows mem-

bers of recognized Kurdish terror groups, including the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) to operate in Sweden, according to CNN.

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Turkey has said Sweden allows members of recognized Kurdish terror groups, including the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) to operate in Sweden, according to CNN. NATO intends to admit Sweden to the alliance before this week's summit, which is set to be held in Lithuania. However, Turkey blocked Sweden's accession due to disagreements between two nations. Earlier, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on Monday said it is "still possible to have a positive decision on Swedish membership" at the military alliance's summit in Vilnius, according to CNN. ANI

Expression

A Family Doctor Concept



C.K. Subramaniam

Columnist

Traditionally, the doctors to whom families visited regularly were called family doctors. You went to the same doctor irrespective of his/her specialization. The doctors would give primary treatment and refer you to a specialist for further care. Covid care resulted in having a family doctor concept for all the ailments and that includes specialized treatment.

Family physicians possess unique attitudes, skills, and knowledge that qualify them to provide ongoing, comprehensive medical care to each member of the family. A family physician is a doctor who has received at least three years of specialty training (beyond medical school) in the broad disciplines of primary care. These include in-depth coverage of adult and pediatric medicine, preventive care, and OB care. Because of their training, family physicians are uniquely qualified to serve as Primary Care Providers.

Family physicians, through education and residency training, possess distinct attitudes, skills, and knowledge that qualify them to provide continuing and comprehensive medical care, health maintenance and preventive services to each member of the family regardless of gender, age, or type of problem, be it biological, behavioral, or social. These specialists, because of their background and interactions with the family, are best qualified to serve as each patient's advocate in all health-related matters, including the appropriate use of consultants, health services, and community resources.

The covid19 pandemic has taught us many important lessons and has changed our priorities in life in the last 15 months or so. Covid19 has taught us that health plays a major role in our life, as it is seen that healthy people are able to fight the coronavirus more



effectively. Our health is directly linked to the environment.

Incorporating small things into our daily routine, such as going for a morning walk or planting a sapling, can make a huge long-term difference in our lives and in our environment. Let us save the earth from dying and plant more trees so that we are not deprived of oxygen during this trying time. Doctors form an essential part of an effective response to the covid19 pandemic. They have critical roles in diagnosis, containment and treatment, and their commitment to treatment despite increased personal risks is essential for a successful public health response.

The cornerstone of family medicine is an ongoing, personal patient-physician relationship focused on integrated care. Your family physician is trained to provide optimal medical care by looking at the whole person, rather than focusing on just one organ system. In addition to diagnosing and treating acute and chronic illnesses, your family physician provides routine health screenings and counseling on lifestyle changes in an effort to prevent illnesses before they develop.

As family physicians, we directly

provide 80-90% of the medical care required by the patients we serve, but we are also trained to know when specialty care is needed. Every effort is made to communicate clearly with consulting specialists to coordinate care and minimize inconvenience to our patients. Our goal is to provide the right care by the right physician at the right time.

Pandemics take a heavy toll on human lives and the fear of going out is appropriately compensated with a virtual consultation with your doctor. A stomach upset, an Urinary tract infection or herpes on your body can be very well treated with remote guidance from your doctor. The medicine provided through a video conferencing can help you to take an immediate action. This provides best confidence as the family doctor is the really the guiding force before pandemic through personal consultations and now after pandemic we get proper treatment with remote consultations. Family physicians can very well prescribe medicines also seeing your earlier prescription sent through whatsapp and thereby reduce the time lapse.

But the best use of a family physician comes very handy when a senior person in your family gets a sudden heart ailment. A family

physician is the best judge as he can analyse the body stature and check the senior's pulse level, check the blood pressure and finally an ECG can guide him whether the elder needs a hospital admission for treatment. Thus, instead of delaying the treatment process we can rush to the hospital of our preference and the family physician with his personal contacts guide a heart specialist to proceed to the hospital and in the meanwhile can very well arrange for the possible emergency treatment and thereby save the life of a person very well in a systematic way by way of administering stent or by doing an open heart operation. So everything is well planned and executed in the right time thanks to the family physician.

It is of utmost importance that at the time of death, the family doctor is the right person to certify the time of death and issue a death certificate. Some families just struggle to get a doctor to get a death certificate during this covid time. A family physician is a life saver on all counts with his timely treatment and comes to the family's rescue at the time of a senior's death as well.

Entertainment



After rains play havoc, Anupam Kher urges people not to mess with nature

After rain caused havoc in different parts of the country, especially Himachal Pradesh, veteran actor Anupam Kher warned people not to mess with nature otherwise they would have to pay a price for it. 'The Kashmir Files' actor took to Instagram and shared his thoughts on the situation.

He wrote in Hindi, which read, "The heartbreaking havoc that has caused in different parts of the country, especially in Himachal Pradesh due to rain, is terrifying and alarming. Not only innocent lives have been lost, but also the government and private property worth crores have suffered huge loss. My sympathies and prayers go out to all! But for the past several years I have also been warning that if we continue to mess with nature we will have to pay heavily compensation for it. Greed must end somewhere."



Ryan Gosling expresses gratitude to Eva Mendes, opts for pendant with letter 'E' at 'Barbie' premiere

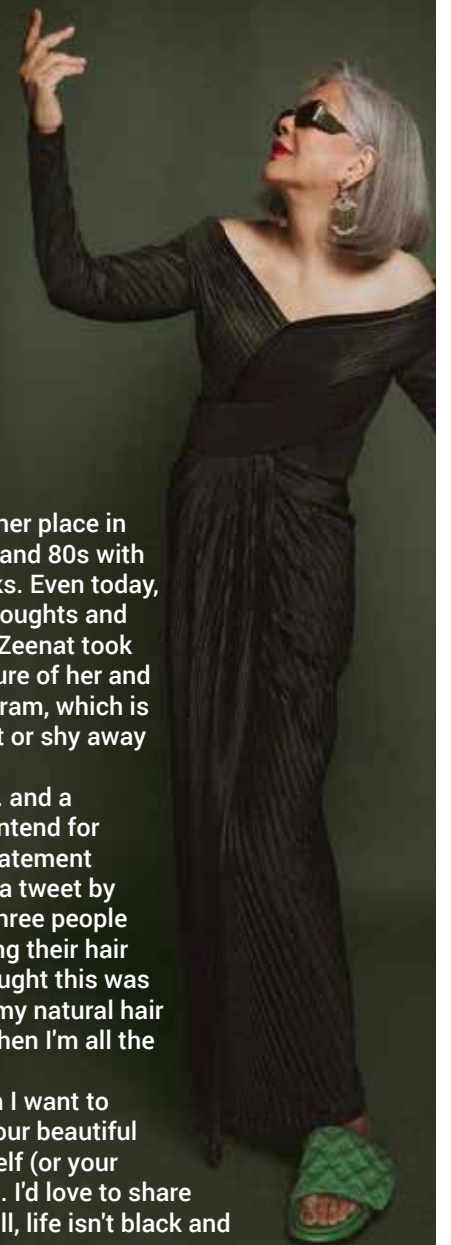
Actor Ryan Gosling expressed his gratitude towards Eva Mendes for supporting him throughout the promotion of the film 'Barbie'. From reposting glowing comments from director Greta Gerwig to sporting Gosling's face on her own t-shirt, she has been doing her bit to promote him while he touring around the world for his project. Now, Ryan has thanked her for everything she did for him, reported People. The 'La La Land' actor also showed his gratitude through his attire for the evening to his longstanding love through his evening attire for the premiere. While his faded pink suit may be more of an homage to the candy-coated movie, his choice of jewellery made his expression of love clear. Though, he did it in a subtle way. A small pendant with the initial E, short for Eva, was worn around his neck. The necklace maintained the concept while also shedding information on his love life. It was styled like the titular Barbie's big pink B. ANI

Zeenat Aman motivates fans to flaunt their grey hair

Veteran actor Zeenat Aman made her place in the industry in the era of the 70s and 80s with her style statement and bold looks. Even today, she keeps inspiring her fans with her thoughts and the way she carries herself at this age. Zeenat took to her Instagram handle to share a picture of her and said that this is her 50th post on Instagram, which is dedicated to those who are not hesitant or shy away from flaunting their grey hair.

She wrote, "Grey weather, grey hair... and a splash of colour to offset it all! I didn't intend for my grey hair to be a statement, but a statement it has become. In fact, yesterday I read a tweet by someone who said they know at least three people who have been inspired to stop colouring their hair since I made my Instagram debut! I thought this was a wonderful compliment. If embracing my natural hair is encouraging others to do the same, then I'm all the happier for it."

"So, with my 50th post on Instagram I want to celebrate all of you who are flaunting your beautiful silver hair! Please post a story of yourself (or your silver-haired loved one) and tag me in it. I'd love to share your pictures to my own stories. After all, life isn't black and white, it's grey!" she added. ANI



Priyanka Chopra treats fans with her daughter's adorable picture, calls her, "Angel"

Actor Priyanka Chopra, who keeps sharing cute pictures of her daughter, Malti Marie, has shared an adorable post on her Instagram stories in which Malti can be seen enjoying watching the sea. Priyanka wrote a sweet message along with a beautiful photo of her daughter. She wrote, "Angel". Little Malti Marie looks cute in the photo wearing a blue and red floral monokini and a matching cap and a pair of sunglasses that complete her look. ANI