



Maratha Reservation: Eknath Shinde-led government asks

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NAWAB MALIK ROCKS MAHARASHTRA POLITICS



AV Team

There is speculation about the induction of NCP leader Nawab Malik in Ajit's party but Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis wrote to Ajit Pawar stating his disagreement to the initiation of Nawab Malik in his group, Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC and LoP in Legislative Council Ambadas Danve, in a letter, asked the BJP leaders whether he will also oppose the induction of senior NCP leader Praful Patel in the Grand Alliance. Ajit Pawar led NCP state president Sunil Tatkare clarified that there has been no political discussion with Nawab Malik.

On a day when NCP MLA Nawab Malik sat on the treasury bench on the first day of the winter session and the opposition Sena UBT slammed the BJP over Malik's induction in the ruling alliance, DCM Fadnavis on Thursday wrote to DCM Ajit Pawar advising not to induct Nawab Malik in his group of NCP which is with the ruling Grand Alliance.

Four floors of NCP leader Praful Patel's Ceejay house in Mumbai were attached by ED in a case related to Gangster Iqbal Mirchi who was the right-hand man of Dawood Ibrahim. No political discussion with Nawab Malik clarifies Ajit Pawar led NCP state president Sunil Tatkare.

Sharad Pawar taunts the ruling Ajit Pawar group over Fadnavis's letter on Nawab Malik issue. "The word self-respect seem to have been permanently deleted from the dictionary of the few. When working with Pawar saheb, he used to give freedom of taking decisions and functioning but now outsiders seem to have been

guiding on what to do next and some people have chosen to remain silent," tweeted the official X account of opposition NCP.

Fadnavis said in his letter stated "I make it clear at the outset that we have absolutely no personal enmity or grudge against Malik. But, in view of the manner in which he is accused, we are of the opinion that it would not be proper to take him into the grand alliance. Power comes and goes. But the country is more important than power. Currently he is out only on medical bail."

"If the charges against him are not proved, he must be welcomed. But when there are such allegations, it is not right to make him a part of the grand coalition. We have a clear opinion that it will not happen. Who you want to take into your party is entirely up to you. But in the grand alliance every component has to be ensure that such things don't damage the grand alliance, so we are against this. We cannot agree with the views of the then Chief Minister and the Maha Vikas Aghadi government, which kept him as a minister even if he was arrested on charges of having links with traitors. I hope you will note our sentiments," Fadnavis said in his letter to Ajit Pawar.

We also asked some leaders for their opinion about recent changes seen into NCP and now there are speculations of him joining hands with Ajit Pawar faction.



Former MP and Veteran Congress leader said **Hussain Dalwai** told Afternoon Voice, "It seems Nawab Malik is accepting the strategies of present government which breaking every chain of the law".

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Once again Nawab Malik brough BJP in awkward position

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

There is no ethics in politics. BJP already lost its moral ground by aligning with Ajit Pawar. Just before the State Assembly polls, the BJP was eager to see Ajit Pawar in jail in connection with the alleged ₹70,000 crore irrigation scam. And next day Sharad Pawar's nephew, took oath as deputy to CM Devendra Fadnavis, claiming the support of all NCP MLAs. He was once the main target of the BJP. In fact, before coming to power in 2014, Devendra Fadnavis gained popularity across the State by launching a scathing attack on Ajit Pawar, whose political life has been mired in corruption allegations since 2009. To tame Pawars, the so-called social activist Anjali Damania was made to quit the Aam Aadmi Party and chase

irrigation scam of Ajit, she was muted as soon after BJP came to power in 2014. Now Damania has no problem with Ajit Pawar and all other corrupt leaders in the state. Similarly, BJP's veteran leader Kirit Somaiya was very vocal about the corrupt politicians, until they joined hands with BJP.

During the Maha Vikas Aghadi rule, Mallik was on front foot by trolling BJP on various occasions especially on the issue of Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide and fake narcotics case. Mallik was very aggressive and somewhat successfully exposed the nexus of BJP and Sameer Wankhede then the Zonal Director of the Narcotics Control Bureau.

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Editoritis

Once again Nawab Malik brought BJP in awkward position

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Nawab entering the House has once again put Devendra in an awkward situation. He wrote to his cabinet colleague Ajit Pawar expressing opposition to the induction of Nawab Malik in his group

Bawankule said he and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) support the stand taken by Fadnavis in this matter. Ajit Pawar and other NCP leaders who were on the radar of ED and CBI are now in power.

If BJP can stoop so low for power, they will certainly find some solution to induce Nawab Mallik in their government. Tomorrow we may hear the news that he is out on bail and proven innocent by the court of law.

Mallik gave him a good run and finally Wankhede was transferred to Delhi. Mallik was not ready to settle when it came to counter attacking BJP and its conspiracy. As a result, he was accused in an old land case. Malik was arrested in February 2022 by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the case allegedly linked to the activities of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim and his associates. It was perhaps an attempt to silence Nawab.

There are talks in political corridors that Ajit Pawar already bargained for Nawab's release with Fadnavis before alliance. Soon after his oath taking ceremony, Nawab came out on medical bail in mid-August, Malik attended the winter session of the state legislature and was later seen in the office of Ajit Pawar-led faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in the legislature complex. In the House, he was seen sitting in the last row, next to an MLA of the Ajit Pawar faction. The Nawab entering the House has once again put Devendra in an awkward situation. He wrote to his cabinet colleague Ajit Pawar expressing opposition to the induction of Nawab Malik in his group, Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC and LoP in Legislative Council Ambadas Danve, in a letter, asked the BJP leaders whether he will also oppose the induction of senior NCP leader Praful Patel in the Grand Alliance. Four floors of NCP leader Praful Patel's Ceejay house in Mumbai were attached by ED in a case related to Gangster Iqbal Mirchi who was the right-hand man of Dawood Ibrahim.

Looking at the attacks from all sides Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekar Bawankule defended Devendra Fadnavis over his objection to NCP MLA Nawab Malik's inclusion in the ruling 'Maha Yuti' alliance. Bawankule said he and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) support the stand taken by Fadnavis in this matter. Ajit Pawar and other NCP leaders who were on the radar of ED and CBI are now in power. BJP has conveniently forgotten the promises they made to the people of Maharashtra. All these while they were attacking Maha Vikas Aghadi as "Auto Rikshaw" (three-wheel vehicle) now came in same situation for the greed of power. BJP joined hands with all corrupt leaders those who were under ED scanner. If BJP can stoop so low for power, they will certainly find some solution to induce Nawab Mallik in their government. Tomorrow we may hear the news that he



is out on bail and proven innocent by the court of law. After all, hurting the sentiments of aligned partners will now go in favour of BJP. Fadnavis already said If the charges against Nawab are not proven, he must be welcomed. But when there are such allegations, it is not right to make him part of the grand coalition. Fadnavis had earlier in his speeches referred to Malik's "Dawood connection."

Time and again Nawab Mallik gave tough times to BJP and Devendra, it's interesting to see what solution is drawn to induce Mallik in a grand alliance. Ajit will definitely not sacrifice his veteran leader for BJP.

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Editor

Dr. Vaidehi

Vaidehi has received several Awards like I Congo-karmavir chakra, Bedal Powell scout and guide awards 2021- best journalist, Newspaper Association of India award- best journalist. She received lot of awards for her contribution towards journalism.

Flat No. 2, J- Wing Ground floor, Sumer Nagar Building 3, S.V. Road, Near Gandhi Motors, Borivali - West, Mumbai - 400 092.

www.afternoonvoice.com www.newsmakers.co.in
www.beyondthenews.biz www.nbcaward.com
www.mumbaimanoos.com www.hackers5.com

Email- afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com • SMS -9820199881

For any queries regarding the editorial desk, contact - 7506760610

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Voices



How to Improving Memory Retention For NEET UG Preparation



- Vijay Garg

Memory retention plays a crucial role in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for Undergraduate, NEET UG preparation. The ability to effectively retain and recall information is essential for understanding complex concepts, solving problems, and applying knowledge to real-world scenarios.

NEET UG stands as the premier medical entrance exam in India, demanding strong discipline and determination. Those aspiring for NEET UG can improve their skills in storing, recalling, and using information, thereby boosting their likelihood of success in the exam and reaching their academic aspirations.

Here are 10 effective tips to boost your memory power:

Engage Actively in Reading: Actively interact with the material by summarizing key points, asking questions, and creating mental maps or diagrams. This approach aids in processing and retaining information more effectively.

Apply Mnemonics Techniques: Use memory aids such as acronyms, rhymes, or visual associations to connect intricate concepts with familiar words or images. Mnemonics enhance memorability and facilitate easier recall.

Emphasize the Importance of Sleep: Strive for 7-9 hours of quality sleep each night, as it plays a vital role in memory consolidation—the transformation of short-term memories into long-term storage.

Teach Others to Reinforce Understanding: Strengthen your own comprehension and memory retention by

explaining concepts to others. Teaching involves actively retrieving information, and deepening the learning process.

Promote Physical Activity: Regular exercise not only contributes to overall health but also boosts cognitive function and memory by increasing blood flow to the brain. This fosters the growth of new brain cells and enhances neural connections.

Avoid Cramming: Opt for spaced-out study sessions instead of cramming, as this method proves more effective for memory consolidation and prevents rapid forgetting.

Incorporate Regular Reviews: Periodically revisit previously studied material to refresh your memory and prevent information from fading. Active recall strengthens the neural pathways responsible for encoding information.

Embrace a Healthy Diet: Support your brain with a well-rounded diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins. These nutrients serve as essential building blocks for optimal brain function and memory.

Effectively Manage Stress: Combat the negative impact of chronic stress on memory function by practicing stress-reducing techniques like meditation, yoga, or deep breathing. Prioritize emotional well-being.

Establish Organization: Develop a structured study schedule and maintain a clutter-free environment to minimize distractions and enhance focus, ultimately promoting better memory retention.

Letters to the Editor

LIC should bailout retail investors by buying their allotment shares at IPO price!

Markets are trading at lifetime highs but govt owned LIC shares are still trading at almost 20 percent discount to its IPO price which sounds ridiculous at a time when govt owned company has a big chunk of investments in stocks. It is either mismanaged or the IPO itself was overpriced at crazy valuations of over ₹ 900 per share for retail investors too who got ₹ 40 discount.

Govt should buyback retail investors share at IPO price (IPO allottees) to bailout small investors who have lost faith in govt run institutions to win back investors confidence. It would not make much difference to a giant organization like LIC but the image of the govt would go up multi-fold in the bargain!

S. N. Kabra

India's 'sting spinner' Bishnoi

Team India's young spinner Ravi Bishnoi has reached No.1-rank in the T20 format. The 23-year-old India spinner has climbed the pinnacle of the ICC rankings by his mesmerising spin and taking so many wickets and that too in quick succession in the recently held India- Australian T20 series. Following his series-winning haul of nine wickets from five games against Australia at an average of 18.22, Bishnoi, with 699 points has displaced Rashid Khan as the No. 1 bowler in the world. Bishnoi, who was placed seventh, climbed up six places to reach the ranking summit.

His stunning show against the Aussies who fell flat to his "stinging spin" attack and has caught the attention of cricketers and cricket lovers. The ranking is sure to give him a shot in the arm during the selection process as the BCCI is in the process of selecting the best for the upcoming T20 world Cup.

No doubt his grit and mettle plus his skills has already got him a position in the squad that has flown to South Africa for the T20 series. The young player should come out with his best and let us

hope he rises to the occasion and make his team and the nation proud.

M Pradyu

Question on the UN role

The objective of the establishment of the United Nations was to bring about global harmony and peace, the promotion of the well-being of the people of the world. However, for the past few years, the UN hasn't carried out its mandate effectively. There is a war between Israel and Palestine as well as between Russia and Ukraine. Innocent people have lost thousands of lives in this. On this, the UN remained silent. A shadow of a doubt, the United Nations is influenced by world politics as well. It lacks the stamina to come up with decisions against powerful nations. He would need to commence the procedure of resolving the dispute.

Karan Singh

Need to Peace

The aim of United Nations' formation was to maintain peace in the world after World War I. But due to its failure in World War II, it was disbanded. Cur-

rently, the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas war have been going on for several months. The supported countries are trying their tactics to take over. There is a fear that this war will take the form of a world war.

The horrors of war are always excruciating. Other countries may have to suffer its impact in the form of higher prices. Scenes of war were shown on television channels as news. It is normal for the common people to feel upset and anxious after seeing the war situation.

Therefore, it is in humanity's interest to stop the war. To stop the devastation caused by war, an initiative must be taken to organize a meeting for the purpose of world peace. At the international level, states' treaties seem to have gotten out of control. No country took the initiative to stop the war. Now everyone is watching the war scene.

N Ashraf

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com

No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

Nashik: More than hundreds of onion farmers blocked the Mumbai Agra Highway against ban decision



Hundreds of onion farmers blocked the Mumbai Agra Highway at three places in Maharashtra's Nashik district on Friday after the Centre announced a ban on the export of the kitchen staple, police said.

The Centre has banned onion exports till March 31, 2024, to increase domestic availability and to keep prices in check. Protests have been held at onion markets of Lasalgaon, Nandgaon, Pimpalgaon and Umarane in Nashik district for the last four to

five days, an official said. Operations were shut at these markets on Friday as a part of the protest, he added. Hundreds of onion cultivators gathered on the Mumbai-Agra Highway and blocked the road using tractors at three places for some time, the official said.

Farmers also staged rasta rokos at Jaikheda, Chandwad, Umarane, Nandgaon and Mungse in Malegaon, he said. Protestors dispersed peacefully after appeals by the Nashik police, and no force was used on the farmers, the official said. Earlier in October, the Centre had decided to step up the sale of buffer onion stock at a subsidised rate of Rs 25 per kg in retail markets to provide relief to consumers. To control prices, the government imposed a minimum export price (MEP) of USD 800 per tonne on onion exports from October 28 to December 31 this year. In August, India had imposed a 40 per cent export duty on onions up to December 31. **PTI**

Maratha Reservation: Eknath Shinde-led government asks to gather data, one panel member says biased" and "agenda-driven"



In what has triggered resignations in the Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission, a quasi-judicial authority, the Eknath Shinde-led government has asked it to "ascertain existence of exceptional circumstances and or extraordinary situations in the context of Maratha community justifying exceeding of the limit of 50% reservation as laid down in the judgements of the Supreme Court."

The Terms of Reference, appended to a letter by Shinde to MSBCC Chairman, on November 13, is being interpreted by some members of the Commission as almost asking it to obtain data to justify quota for the Maratha community. Two of its nine members resigned in just the last week, one more said he was

contemplating resignation — all of them complaining of "growing interference".

One member, Balaji Killarikar, who resigned recently, cited the "biased" and "agenda-driven" functioning of the panel. Laxman Hake, who too stepped down, pointed towards the growing "interference" from the government as the reason for his resignation. Another member, Justice (retired) Chandralal Meshram told media he was also contemplating resignation. "We are not government servants. We are not supposed to work based on government orders. I have yet not made a decision, but yes, I am thinking about resigning. I will discuss with some seniors and take a call in the next two-three days," he said.

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Nawab Malik rocks Maharashtra...



Shinde faction Shiv Sena MLA **Prakash Surve** said, "It is

clear that he has immense support of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and it might be a possibility that he has joined that faction to gain benefits from the ruling alliance"



National spokesperson of AIMIM, **Waris Pathan** said,

"These political changes are only to gain votes in the name of secularism and nothing else but people are quite smart enough to understand this kind of politics".

Former MLA and UBT Shiv Sena worker, **Vinod Ghosalkar** said, "This is the old strategy of BJP and if some political leader is not joining BJP then they will



setup and inquiry by Enforcement Directorate and other authorities.

Later if person joins BJP alliance then they are easily able to get clean chit from all the criminal charges. BJP always creates a situation of bringing clashes between Hindu and Muslim in name of Hindutva".



State spokesperson of NCP **Sharad Pawar** faction, Advocate

Amol Matele said, "Since 2014 after BJP coming into power, politics of Maharashtra has become worst as they trying to break old parties of the state not only that earlier Dy CM Devendra Fadnavis has also alleged some serious criminal charges against Nawab Malik but they are working together

33 students deprived of FY BSC IT exam

33 students of Shree Rajasthani Seva Sangh, a college in Andheri East JB Nagar are not allowed to appear for FY BSC IT Sem I (Year 2023-2024) course because their marks are less than 45 percent. RTI activist Anil Galgali has demanded that Mumbai University should take a practical decision on this because the year of those students will be wasted.

RTI Activist Anil Galgali has sent a letter to Chief Min-

ister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Higher and Technical Education Minister Chandrakant Patil and Vice-Chancellor of Mumbai University pointing out that all students have been given permanent registration numbers. Earlier also students with less than 45 percent marks were allowed to appear in the examination. If the approval had not been given while filling the MKCL form, such a situa-

tion would not have arisen today. Galgali stated that instead of wasting the academic year of the students, it would be beneficial to allow them to appear for the examination or to include them in IDOL for these years as there is no requirement of marks. Principal of Shree Rajasthani Seva Sangh Dr Trishala Mehta had met the Controller of Examinations of Mumbai University Dr Prasad Karande but no decision was taken.

Police registers six cases of thefts in Thane, two held

The police have arrested two history-sheeters in connection with six cases of thefts in Maharashtra's Thane district, an official said on Friday. Acting on a tip-off, a team from the city police apprehended the duo who were

about to board a state transport bus in Kalyan on Thursday, senior inspector Naresh Pawar said. The accused, Naresh Jaiswal (40), a resident of Chembur in neighbouring Mumbai, and Anil Shetty (45) would allegedly engage their

victims in a conversation and distract them before decamping with their jewellery, he said. The police have managed to recover valuables worth Rs 3.73 lakh from the accused, who are allegedly involved in six cases of theft. **PTI**

Nation

Cyclone Michaung: Residents complain due to shortage of basic necessities in Chennai



"We were suffering from water logging for the past 5 days. From yesterday water has decreased but still drainage and sewage are there in our houses and roads. Till yesterday there was no electricity and now although it came but no internet connectivity is there. No officials from the government have turned to our place. Trees that fell in our area are still not cleared," he said. Meanwhile, Chennai Police Commissioner Sandeep Rai Rathore with other police personnel distributed relief materials to the people in the Perambur area on Friday.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin will be donating one month's salary to the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund to help Tamil Nadu's recovery from Cyclone Michaung havoc. The Chief Minister has also called on all MPs and MLAs to do the same. "I donate my one month's salary to the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund for recovery from the Michaung storm disaster. I request all the members of the assembly and parliament to donate funds," said MK Stalin in a statement. ANI

Amid days of waterlogging in the state, the patience of the people of Chennai has broken as many residents of different areas complain of shortage of even drinking water and lack of cleanliness. In the Pattalam area in Chennai, roads are still waterlogged and the people are complaining of a lack of cleanliness and absence of necessities.

A resident even warned the politicians to not come to the area to seek vote during the elections. "No one visited here. We struggled for three days without drinking water and milk. For

seeking votes politicians come here. Where did they go now? Let them come this time. I will take care. We received nothing," a resident told ANI. People in Chennai's Choolaimedu area are demanding to clear the garbage as piled garbage and drainage on the road may create health issues. After 5 days of water logging in the Choolaimedu area, the trees were cut down, and other waste has not yet been cleared by Chennai Corporation officials. Anandan, a resident of Choolaimedu said that no officials from the government have turned to our place to see our problem.

Meghalaya records an earthquake of magnitude 3.8



An earthquake of magnitude 3.8 on the Richter Scale hit Shillong, Meghalaya on Friday at 8:46 am, said the National Center for Seismology. "Earthquake of Magnitude:3.8, occurred on 08-12-2023, 08:46:56 IST, Lat: 25.47 & Long: 91.75, Depth: 14 Km, Location: 18km SW of Shillong, Meghalaya, India for more information Download the Bhoo-Kamp App," National Center for Seismology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India posted on X.

Earlier, an earthquake of magnitude 3.9 on the Richter Scale hit the Rajkot district of Gujarat on Friday at 9 am, said the National Center for Seismology.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), NCS wrote, "Earthquake of

Magnitude:3.9, Occurred on 08-12-2023, 09:00:31 IST, Lat: 23.45 & Long: 70.42, Depth: 20 Km, Location: 133km NNW of Rajkot, Gujarat." The epicentre was deemed at a latitude of 23.45 and a longitude of 70.42, the NCS said, adding that the tremors struck at a depth of 20 km. While a couple of hours ago an earthquake of magnitude 3.1 on the Richter Scale hit Karnataka's Vijayapura district, the National Center for Seismology (NCS) said. According to the data shared by the NCS, the tremors were felt in the region at 6:52 am on Friday. In a post on X, the National Center for Seismology said, "Earthquake of Magnitude:3.1, Occurred on 8-12-2023, 06:52:21 IST, Lat: 16.77 and Long: 75.87, Depth: 10 Km, Location: Vijayapura, Karnataka." ANI

Cash for query case: TMC MP Mahua Moitra expelled, says, "hanging by a kangaroo court"



TMC leader Mahua Moitra on Friday equated her expulsion from the Lok Sabha with hanging by a "kangaroo court" and alleged a parliamentary panel is being weaponised by the government to force the opposition into submission. Minutes after her expulsion as a Lok Sabha member, Moitra said she has been found guilty of breaching a code of ethics that does not exist and that there was no evidence of cash or gift given

to her. The Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha had recommended her expulsion in the "cash-for-query" case. The report was tabled in the House Friday noon. Later the government moved a motion seeking her expulsion from the House, saying her continuation as an MP has become "untenable". She said one of the two complainants was her estranged partner with a mala fide intention. She said he masqueraded as a common citizen before the ethics panel. PTI

Having adequate facilities for visually or physically challenged to access our court spaces is necessary: CJI D Y Chandrachud

CJI D Y Chandrachud while talking about adequate facilities for disabled persons said that, "Tribunals like CAT, apart from rendering justice in service matters, have a vital role to play in the development of our own bar in creating more opportunities for arguments, which are not really available in the superior courts.

This lies at the very core of the reasonable accommodation of fundamental rights guaranteed by our constitution. In the context of rights of persons with disabilities, we have reiterated that freedom of right to life will not be hollow and additional support which makes these rights meaningful to them. Few years ago, a judgement said that becoming a judge is not something for the



visually challenged or a blind person. That judgement was reversed later. But having adequate facilities for visually or physically challenged to access our court spaces is necessary,' CJI D Y Chandrachud said.

"As courts and tribunals, we cannot immediately wipe out the impact of inequalities in our so-

ciety. We must however strive to bridge the gap between people across the spectrum of inequality as far as legal outcomes and processes are concerned. One way of doing that is to ensure that our infrastructure is inclusive and affords the requisite support systems," CJI D Y Chandrachud said.

World

US: Amid strict ban on abortion, Texas judge passes a landmark ruling to proceed with terminating her pregnancy

A Texas judge has ruled that a pregnant woman who took legal action against the state to secure an abortion can indeed proceed with terminating her pregnancy, CNN reported. The decision, issued on Thursday (local time), stands out as a crucial development in the ongoing discourse surrounding the state's stringent ban on abortions post-six weeks, recognised as one of the most restrictive nationwide.

Kate Cox, currently at 20 weeks of pregnancy, initiated a lawsuit this week in an Austin state district court, seeking a temporary injunction against the state's abortion ban. She cited concerns about violating the law and explained that her baby, diagnosed with trisomy 18, is not expected to survive beyond a few days outside the womb.

Following the judge's decision, Texas Attorney General



Ken Paxton cautioned Cox's physician about potential civil and criminal consequences if the court-ordered procedure were to be performed. Cox's legal pursuit is thought to be among the initial attempts nationwide by an individual seeking a court-mandated abortion post the Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v*

Wade last year, as reported by the New York Times.

The 31-year-old Cox, facing severe cramping and unexplained fluid leaks, had sought emergency medical attention in three different hospitals in the past month. Her lawsuit highlighted the elevated risks due to her previous caesarean surgeries,

emphasising potential complications like uterine rupture and hysterectomy if the pregnancy continued. In an emergency hearing held on Thursday, the judge granted a temporary restraining order against the state, enabling Cox to promptly undergo an abortion. The emotional moment during the Zoom hearing, where

Cox and her husband were visibly moved, underscored the significance of the judge's decision. Molly Duane, Cox's attorney, conveyed their commitment to determining the swiftest way for her abortion care while refraining from disclosing specific details for safety reasons.

Duane emphasised that despite this ruling benefiting Cox, the fight is far from over, as it exclusively addresses her case and does not reinstate abortion access for numerous other women. She criticised the state's stance as "callous in the extreme," asserting that they appear indifferent to the well-being of individuals as long as they are compelled to give birth. Marc Hearron, an attorney with the Center for Reproductive Rights, expressed reservations about expecting a surge in similar cases, deeming it unrealistic, according to CNN. ANI

President Joe Biden's son faces 9 criminal charges in federal tax case



Hunter Biden, son of President Joe Biden, is grappling with a second criminal case as special counsel David Weiss unveils a nine-count indictment, marking the latest development in a protracted Justice Department investigation into his taxes, CNN reported. The charges, which include failure to file and pay taxes, evasion of assessment, and false or fraudulent tax returns, allege that Biden engaged in a four-year scheme to avoid paying at least USD 1.4 million in taxes from 2016 to 2019.

Weiss accuses Biden of re-

sorting to false business deductions to reduce his tax liabilities and subverting the payroll and tax withholding processes of his own company. The indictment paints a vivid picture of lavish spending on an extravagant lifestyle, alleging that between 2016 and October 15, 2020, Biden diverted funds meant for taxes toward expenses such as drugs, escorts, luxury hotels, exotic cars, and personal items, as reported by CNN.

Biden's attorney, Abbe Lowell, challenges the charges, asserting that if Hunter's last name were not Biden, the case would

not have been pursued. Lowell criticises U.S. Attorney Weiss for succumbing to Republican pressure and highlights the absence of new evidence after five years of investigation.

The legal saga takes a political turn as Weiss, previously appointed by the Trump administration, faces accusations of political bias. Lowell claims that Weiss reneged on a non-prosecution resolution and, in a surprise move, piled on nine new charges after previously agreeing to resolve the matter with misdemeanours. The tax case's origins trace back to Hunter Biden's overseas business dealings, including his involvement with Ukrainian energy company Burisma and a Chinese private equity fund, central to House's past impeachment inquiry into Joe Biden. The indictment underlines Biden's extravagant spending and references his 2021 memoir, "Beautiful Things," shedding light on personal struggles with addiction, according to CNN. ANI

UK: Immigration Minister gives resignation over dissatisfaction on Rwanda asylum scheme

UK's Immigration Minister, Robert Jenrick, has tendered his resignation, expressing dissatisfaction with the government's proposed legislation on the Rwanda asylum transfer scheme. Jenrick asserted that the legislation "does not go far enough" and falls short of providing the necessary safeguards for the contentious policy, CNN reported. The UK government's plan to transfer asylum seekers awaiting decisions on their claims to Rwanda has faced significant legal challenges since its announcement in April 2022. Despite efforts by three successive Home Secretaries, the UK Supreme Court declared the scheme unlawful in a November judgement.

In his resignation letter, Jenrick, who operates within the Home Office, stated that he cannot support the latest draft bill as it lacks the robust measures needed to ensure the policy's success. He emphasised the high stakes for the country, expressing concern about the potential for legal challenges to paralyse the scheme and undermine its intended deterrent effect, according to CNN. Previ-

ously committed to taking decisive action against illegal migration, Jenrick had even suggested withdrawing from the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR). A faction of hardline lawmakers within the Conservative Party, including former Home Secretary Suella Braverman, has advocated for leaving the ECHR, citing it as a barrier to the Rwanda policy.

The newly unveiled legislation, however, does not withdraw the UK from the ECHR. Notably, Home Secretary James Cleverley acknowledged on the first page of the bill that he could not guarantee its compatibility with Convention rights. The bill also disposes of certain sections of the UK Human Rights Act and asserts its sovereignty, indicating that its validity is unaffected by key international law instruments. The bill's presentation was met with criticism from the opposition Labour Party, which labelled the government as being in "total chaos." Yvette Cooper, the Shadow Home Secretary, urged the government to focus on combating criminal gangs involved in smuggling people to the UK, as reported by CNN. ANI

Expression

Cyclone Michaung's visit has left quite a mark on Chennai



C.K. Subramaniam

Columnist

We are hoping for the water to drain soon and power to be restored in Chennai. Until then fingers and toes crossed.

Recent rains in the southern side of India and in Western India caused lot of loss to human life and property. Losses are unavoidable when there's very heavy rain. Swift rescue and relief alone are indicators of a good government. These words are intended to normalise a human-made disaster, and gloss over the pathology of urban development under successive administrations. It is quite usual for politicians and civic officials to blame so-called unprecedented rains for the civic and humanitarian crisis each monsoon brings, and decouple development from disaster. But unprecedented rains occur quite regularly in Tamil Nadu as it lies in the eastern coast of India. As a city on the high-energy coast facing the Bay of Bengal, Chennai in particular is no stranger to heavy rains and cyclonic storms. Chennai has experienced particularly heavy rains roughly once every 10 years – 1969, 1976, 1985, 1996, 1998, 2005, 2015.

The Nungambakkam rain gauge recorded 270 mm on October 27,



2005; 280 mm in 1969, and 450 mm in November 1976. But still the disaster management failed as there is no such working force to act at the time of floods. Even in 1976, Adyar overflowed its banks and invaded first-floor houses. But those were the days when Chennai was derided for being an overgrown village, an underdeveloped aspirant to metropolitan status.

Chennai has a host of expensive infrastructure aimed at ushering in a "Make in Chennai" boom – a brand-new airport built on the floodplains of the River Adyar, a sprawling bus terminal in flood-prone Koyambedu, a Mass Rapid Transit System constructed almost wholly over the Buckingham Canal and the Pallikaranai marshlands, expressways

and bypass roads constructed with no mind to the tendency of water to flow, an IT corridor and a Knowledge Corridor consisting of Engineering Colleges constructed on water bodies, and automobile and telecom SEZs and gated residential areas built on important drainage courses and catchments. There is no proper storm water management and the drainage slits are not cleaned up periodically or at least before the start of monsoon season. As a matter of fact, there is no proper drainage system in many areas surrounding the city. Adding fuel to the fire, the Metro project and the flyovers constructed in prime localities made a mess of the situation during this monsoon.

With every invitation to make

Chennai a smart city, the Metro is eroding its resilience to perfectly normal monsoon weather events. The infrastructure of big commerce has replaced the infrastructure to withstand natural shocks. The 2023 disaster was not just avoidable; it was a direct consequence of decisions pushed for by vested interests and conceded by town planners, bureaucrats and politicians in the face of wiser counsel. The political rivalry caused among the parties to misunderstand and disrupt meaningful development to the city. At this rate we will come across such disasters in future also as we face global warming leading to unprecedented rains and climatic changes in the city.

Of Yasin Malik and anti-Israel Congress



Er. Prabhat Kishore

The Author is a technocrat and educationist

Country has recently seen much of display of 'human sensitivity' in Muslim dominated parts of the country in response to Israel's counter attack on Hamas. However, the problem gets to be counter-productive when for the sake of tendering the so called minority- sensitivities the secular brand politicians unknowingly or knowingly become the part of self-harming the national interest geographically. In Kerala in particular the online speech of Hamas leader was said to have been openly viraled, with

crowd went responding to utter display of rabid frenzy. What else could be expected if the leader like Priyanka will appear to be sympathetic to them that caused turmoil in the region!

Recently a report of US commission on Pakistan flashed in the media that shocked the sensible fraternity world over. The report says Hindus, Sikhs, Christians living in the Pakistan are systematically forced and tortured to adopt Islam by the Mullahs and Maulvies backed by almost all the sections of people soaked in deep Islamic faith. But, meanwhile, here in India a Congress MP got so 'deeply' struck by the pain of elimination of Hamas that he went to the extent of giving the statement of even gunning down President



Netanyahu of Israel without legal trial!

Memory of the people hasn't gone that dim as to forget the infamous episode of Yasin Malik to have been portrayed as a hero by left-leaning news channels once upon a time. Now convicted in the organized crime of Hindu genocide, Yasin Malik was also welcomed, that too, inside the PMO by the PM Manmohan Singh then. Will anti-Israel Congressmen

take note of it!!

Will it now take note of recent Human Right Watch report saying China has hastened its drive of closure of the Mosques, and replacing Muslim artifacts from the mosques with that of Chinese; as also, going ever more brute upon crushing the Muslim voices against state driven atrocities. Will Congress allow its MP to treat Xi Jinping like he did with Netanyahu!

Entertainment

Red Sea International Film Festival 2023: "Dear Jassi" film wins Silver Yusr Award



"Dear Jassi", a film inspired by a real-life honour killing in Punjab, won the Silver Yusr Award for best feature film at the ongoing Red Sea International Film Festival 2023. Directed by Tarsem Singh Dhandwar, the Punjabi-English romance drama was honoured with the accolade at a ceremony held in Saudi Arabia's Jeddah on Thursday night. "Congratulations to 'Dear Jassi' by Tarsem Singh Dhandwar for winning the Silver Yusr for Best Feature Film. #RedSeaIFF23 #YourStoryYourFestival," the film gala said in a post on X. **PTI**



Actor Yash's next film titled 'Toxic: A Fairy Tale of Grown-ups', shares special teaser

After the massive success of 'KGF: Chapter 2' actor Yash is all set to return to the big screen. On Friday, Yash announced the title of his next film with a special teaser video. Taking to Instagram, Yash shared a post which he captioned, "What you seek is seeking you" - Rumi A Fairy Tale for Grown-ups #TOXIC. "After the massive success of 'KGF: Chapter 2' actor Yash is all set to return to the big screen. On Friday, Yash announced the title of his next film with a special teaser video. Taking to Instagram, Yash shared a post which he captioned, "What you seek is seeking you" - Rumi A Fairy Tale for Grown-ups #TOXIC."

Yash's next film is titled 'Toxic: A Fairy Tale of Grown-ups'. Helmed by Geetu Mohandas, the film is all set to hit the theatres on April 10, 2025. **ANI**

Veteran actor Dharmendra celebrates birthday with his fans and paparazzi



The 'He-Man' of Bollywood, Dharmendra, turned 88 on Friday. This year, the veteran star came out of his residence and celebrated his birthday with his fans and paparazzi stationed outside his home. He was accompanied by his elder son and actor Sunny Deol. Several pictures and videos of the 'Sholay' actor cutting a giant 7-tier cake in front of his fans went viral on social media. The massive cake featured the actor's photos and colourful, edible roses. In the pictures and videos, he was seen donning a brown shirt paired with black pants. He accessorized his look with a black hat. **PTI**



"Mera Naam Joker" fame actor Junior Mehmood passed away at 68

Character actor Junior Mehmood, known for his roles in "Caravan", "Haathi Mere Saathi" and "Mera Naam Joker", died on Friday following a battle with cancer, his son Hasnain said. The actor was 68. "My father passed away at 2.00 am following his battle with stomach cancer. He was in a critical condition since last 17 days. He had lost 35-40 kg in a month," Hasnain Sayyed, Junior Mehmood's younger son, told PTI. **PTI**

Film-makers unveils teaser of 'Fighter', Director Siddharth Anand says "Fraction of the intensity the movie encapsulates"

The makers of "Fighter" on Friday launched the teaser of the much-anticipated film and director Siddharth Anand said it is just a fraction of the intensity the movie encapsulates. Starring Hrithik Roshan, Deepika Padukone, and Anil Kapoor, "Fighter" will hit the screens on January 25. Touted as India's first aerial action magnum opus, the film is presented by Viacom18 Studios in collaboration with Marflix Pictures. **PTI**

