



Owaisi Attacks BJP Over Amit Shah's Comments To Scrap Quotas For Muslims If Party Comes To Power

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# PM Modi mutes on assault to the Wrestling by BJP leader



As the renewed protest by wrestlers against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) Chief and BJP leader Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh entered its third day on Tuesday (April 25), the Supreme Court stepped in, listing the matter for hearing on Friday, April 28. The court also issued notice to Delhi Police on the petition filed by seven women wrestlers seeking the registration of an FIR against Brij Bhushan, who is also the BJP MP from Kaiserganj in UP for alleged sexual harassment.

Former Member of Kerala Women's Commission State Vice President of BJP Dr Prameela Devi told Afternoon Voice "Many opposition people might give out political statements but ruling government is working on this issue and when there was UPA government at that time also many heinous crimes took place so there is nothing

political on this".

UBT Shiv Sena MP Dr Neelam Gorhe told Afternoon Voice, "I had already sent letters to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Maharashtra state governor but still did not receive any response from them. The wrestler women who are protesting are pride of our country and sexual harassment work place cannot be tolerated at all".

Former MLA, AAP leader Alka Lamba said, "BJP members are protecting Wrestlers Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Singh (accused) in this case. We are always standing with wrestlers though wrestlers did not want to political help earlier but they wanted now, and Why there are no actions taken by Delhi Police, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and workers of BJP people poses for the pictures with sports person

nically but they do not understand the issues faced by them on ground level instead they are busy in poll preparation and inaugurations."

Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Congress leader Udit Raj were among the leaders who visited Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Tuesday to extend their support to the protesting wrestlers. Seven women wrestlers filed separate police complaints against the MP on April 21, accusing him of sexual harassment and criminal intimidation over a 10-year period from 2012 to 2022. Issuing notice, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud said on Tuesday that the allegations were "serious".

However, three wrestlers have been at the forefront of the protest since the beginning in January — Olympic bronze medal-

lists Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, and world medallist Vinesh Phogat. At the time of the first round of protests, a number of other wrestlers, including youngsters such as Anshu Malik, Sonam Malik, Ravi Dahiya, and Deepak Punia, had shown support by joining them at Jantar Mantar or by releasing videos.

CPM leader Vrinda Karat said "This is the time the nation needs to stand together and seek justice for female wrestlers of India. Whosoever is the culprit should be punished severely".

In the current round of protests that began on Sunday, however, only Sakshi, Vinesh, and Bajrang — who have together won dozens of international medals for India over the last decade — have been at Jantar Mantar, with the other wrestlers not having shown up as yet.

## Every Indian should volunteer in support of protesting wrestlers

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

India's most famous wrestlers who struggled on their own to earn gold medals for the country today protesting to seek justice but neither PM Modi took interest in knowing what went wrong nor those women forces of BJP who randomly attack all those leaders who are not part of BJP. This issue got BJP in trouble because the molester is none other than BJP's own leader Brij Bhushan who has a criminal history. His career as a Parliamentarian began when he entered the Lok Sabha in 1991. Brij Bhushan faces several charges, including attempt to murder, punishment for dacoity and causing desertion of evidence. However, he has not been convicted in any one of these cases because the power corridors are always

open for him. Singh, who was also named in the controversial Babri mosque demolition case, came to be known as a man of controversy in sports when he publicly slapped an athlete in Ranchi in 2021. A video dating December 2021 went viral on social media, however, he remained unapologetic. The next year, in August 2022, Brij Bhushan abruptly stopped the trials to select India's representation in the 59 kg category for the World Wrestling Championship just 54 seconds after it had started. The reason that he gave was that a group of seers from Ayodhya, the chief guests at the event, was not invited to give blessings before starting the selection process.

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# Editoritis

# Every Indian should volunteer in support of protesting wrestlers

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*It's been almost three months when wrestlers began their agitation, the BJP leader was acquitted by a MP-MLA court in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda district.*

*Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik, Vinesh Phogat, Sangeeta Phogat, Satyawart Kadian, Somveer Rathi and Jitender Kinha are some prominent names of the protesters.*

*Delhi Commission For Women (DCW) has issued a notice to Delhi Police to register an FIR on the issue. The All India Mahila Congress also joined the protesting wrestlers.*

It's been almost three months when wrestlers began their agitation, the BJP leader was acquitted by a MP-MLA court in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda district. He was freed of charges as no evidence was found in the 29-year old case related to the attack on a former UP minister in the Samajwadi Party government in 1993. By now, he (Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh) should have been in jail for such serious allegations leveled against him, but even an FIR has not been registered in this case.

Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik, Vinesh Phogat, Sangeeta Phogat, Satyawart Kadian, Somveer Rathi and Jitender Kinha are some prominent names of the protesters. They held a protest in Jantar Mantar in January this year but ended it after the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports had announced the formation of an 'oversight committee' to probe the allegations levelled against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and other coaches. The protesters, however, intensified their protest again on Sunday after filing a complaint at the Connaught Place police station on Friday stating that seven female wrestlers, including one minor, were "harassed and exploited" by Brij Bhushan in his capacity as WFI chief.

The ace wrestler said that this time they will not turn down anyone, and whoever wants to support their protest could come and join them. Delhi Commission For Women (DCW) has issued a notice to Delhi Police to register an FIR on the issue. The All India Mahila Congress also joined the protesting wrestlers. Mahila Congress president Netta D'Souza, who was spotted wiping tears of Sakshi Malik at the protest site, said that the prime minister was asking the nation to support sportspersons and was ignoring the sexual crimes against women wrestlers.

BJP government protecting the BJP MP instead of punishing him, The Beti Bachao slogan of the BJP sounds hollow when you see sexual predators in the BJP ranks. Finally the Supreme Court issued notice on a plea by seven wrestlers seeking registration of FIR against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh over allegations of sexual harassment. The bench presided by Chief

Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, which perused the petition, said "there are serious allegations which are contained in the petition at the behest of...international wrestlers who have represented India with regard to sexual harassment which has been meted out to them". The bench added that "the matter in our view requires the consideration of this court". Issuing notice, the court made it returnable on Friday.

There are video recordings to prove allegations of sexual assault. The victims are seven women wrestlers. One of them was 16 years old at the time of harassment. She had won a gold medal, even the police personnel should be prosecuted for not registering a case under stringent sections. The BJP government might have turned out to be a mute spectator but many have lent their support to the wrestlers. Since Sunday, wrestlers, including Olympic medalists, have been sitting on a 'dharna' at the national capital's iconic Jantar Mantar protest site. This is the second round of their protest; the first round, in January, was called off after a meeting with Union sports Minister Anurag Thakur led to the formation of a committee to look into their allegations. However, as no action was taken against Singh, they decided to resume their protest. The BJP MP, on his part, has rubbished their allegations. We should not forget that the Indian wrestling contingent returned home with a 100 percent record from the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, with six gold, one silver and five bronze medals. All 12 wrestlers were welcomed with the chants of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' at the airport. Some of them shook hands with Modi but when it comes to their self-respect and safety, many of us are silent.



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## Letters to the Editor

### Identify fanatical enemies

Our country is more at risk from the traitors in the country than from the external enemy. So this pest should be crushed in time. What happened in Patna after Atiq Ahmed's death was reprehensible? Afzal Guru, Tiger Memon, and Yakub Memon were not saints. So, if anyone has compassion for them based on religion then they should not live in this country. People of all religions live in our country. So, we don't force any religion on anyone. Action should be taken against those who are traitors. Will the minority community support the mistakes of Atiq Ahmed? Has he never troubled the minority citizens? Any criminal does not belong to any religion; he is a criminal. Therefore, no society can save the traitors of this country by labeling it as religion.

Uday Waghvankar

### Return the Kohinoor diamond to India

The British got a 5-year-old Indian prince to gift the Kohinoor diamond to them. Hence, it's no longer morally defensible for UK to hold on to this loot. The honourable thing to do is to return it from where they took it - India. The Kohinoor was mined in India and was one of the largest diamonds ever mined. After changing hands among various kings in India for centuries, it found its way to the legendary Ranjit Singh who ruled Punjab. The British conquered Punjab after his death in 1849 and installed his 5-year-old son Daleep Singh as the king under the regency of the British. Later, they got this child to gift the diamond to them. They also moved Daleep Singh to England, converted him to Christianity and did not allow him to meet his mother or any other Indian relative so that he wouldn't be aware of his heritage. After Queen Victoria's death, the Kohinoor was set in the crown of Queen Alexandra, the wife of King Edward VII and that was used to crown her at their coronation in 1902. The diamond was then transferred to Queen Mary's crown in 1911, and then to the queen mother's crown in 1937. The Kohinoor diamond was also worn by Queen Elizabeth-II during her reign as the monarch of England. The Kohinoor diamond is now part of the British monarch. It is currently on public display in the Jewel House at the Tower of London, seen by millions of visitors everyday. With King Charles-III succeeding to the throne after his mother's death (Queen Elizabeth-II) on August 8, the 105-carat diamond, which is steeped in history, will go to his wife, Duchess of Cornwall Camilla, who has now become Queen consort. Hence, we Indians would like King Charles-III to return the Kohinoor diamond to its rightful owner, i.e. India.

Jubel D'Cruz

### Sunstroke Deaths in Mumbai

It is sad to note people are dying due to sunstroke and the 14 reported deaths at the Kharghar event, although the figure could be much higher, was very unfortunate. Can the one-member probe committee bring back those lives which are lost? It could prove to be a meaningless exercise, a wasted effort. On the contrary, the authorities and the general public need to think seriously about the reality called, 'Climate Change'. Why are temperatures soaring in Mumbai and in the rest of the country and in the world? The authorities need to ask themselves, what can they do to stop these adverse effects on our lives. As a first step, they ought to rethink Infrastructure projects which destroy the environment. The metro car-shed at Aarey for instance, must be scrapped. Thousands of trees have been cut down, without giving a thought to the impending ecological disaster. Destruction of wetlands and mangroves must stop. We are destroying our 'Green cover' and we wonder why temperatures are rising.

What about the general public, what are we doing to stop this climate change. Can we take small steps like growing more trees in our own surroundings and avoid generating avoidable garbage. April 22, we celebrated 'Earth Day', how much do we care for the Earth?

Climate change is for real, if not taken seriously, brace for more uncertain weather! We can continue to ignore all warning signals from Nature, to our own peril!

Melville X. D'Souza

# Lacking in discipline lagging in holding power



The age-old party is facing ticklish questions within the party cadre. told The Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy, Sachin Pilot are on warpath. With seven months to go for the Rajasthan Assembly election, Mr. Pilot went on a day-long strike on April 11 seeking a probe into the alleged corruption cases during BJP rule, which he claimed the Gehlot government had failed to undertake in over four years.

Though he did not explicitly name Mr. Pilot, Mr. Kharge sent a not-so-subtle message. The ruling party in Karnataka and at the Centre taking the law into its own hands, It is important for the State and the country to see a change

of guard. The Karnataka polls may be a game changer, The country is facing so many problems.

This election will definitely change the entire country's political scenario and change the people's mood. In the Karnataka State election the people who led the party and the government in the State should say what they have done for Karnataka. How much investment they got, how much infrastructure they built, how much irrigation they developed, how many roads were built etc.,

The Gehlot-Pilot tussle ahead of impending elections in Rajasthan, is a pinpointer. Congress party lacks discipline and that is the major reason for the toppling of its government. Instead of people reaching

out to them, the in-charge secretary should reach out to them. And discussions are going on to bring them together. The party won't depend on one or two individuals. The party is the institution and, in the institution, some individuals come and go. Unless the house is in order and learns from the mistakes made in Punjab. Mr. Gehlot should show sagacity, Mr. Pilot's patience, and high command leadership, for the Congress.

- C.K. Subramaniam

Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

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No postal letters will be entertained  
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

# 30 women held during protest at refinery site in Ratnagiri

More than 30 women were detained by the police after they protested by lying on the road to stop government vehicles from entering the proposed site of a giant refinery at Barsu village in Maharashtra's coastal Ratnagiri district on Tuesday, an official said.

As local residents vented their anger against the mega project, which they fear will adversely affect the fragile biodiversity of the coastal Konkan region and also hit their livelihood, the Opposition Shiv Sena (UBT) came out in their support and demanded an immediate end to "atrocities" against protesters.

A government team was scheduled to conduct a survey at the site in Barsu and Solgaon areas of Rajapur, around 400km from Mumbai, on Monday, but locals started staging protests, the official said.

Local people in the coastal district have been protesting against the soil survey work for



the multi-billion dollar refinery project. Several women participated in the protest on Tuesday morning, during which they lay on the ground to prevent vehicles of the district administration and police from entering the area, he said. Considering the law and order situation, hundreds of police personnel were deployed at the project site, the official said.

Ratnagiri Superintendent of Police Dhananjay Kulkarni and other senior police officials were at the spot to avoid any untoward

incident, he said. More than 30 women protesters were detained and taken to a police station in Ratnagiri, he said, adding no case has been registered so far.

Opposition leader Ajit Pawar of the NCP had earlier in the day demanded that protests by locals against the refinery project be handled sensitively and urged that the state government stop the survey work till a peaceful solution was found.

Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut demanded

an immediate end to "atrocities" against locals in Barsu and asserted the party will not sit quietly on the issue and back the people. Talking to reporters, Raut alleged the protesters at Barsu were being pressurised by Industries Minister Uday Samant with the help of police. "This is a government with a perverse mentality. They want a Jallianwala Bagh-like massacre. We are with people and the Shiv Sena (UBT) will not sit quiet," Raut said.

He said Chief Minister

Eknath Shinde thinks he is a "messiah" of the poor, but has left on a three-day "leave" in a helicopter, a reference to the CM going to his hometown in Satara district. Shinde should instead take the helicopter to Barsu and meet the protesters there, said the Rajya Sabha member.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray said, "The government should stop atrocities on people and also the soil survey."

The former state environment minister said the government should start a dialogue with the agitating local residents. The previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government had put some conditions before giving a nod to the project which included taking the locals into confidence and explaining the details of the venture and its benefits, Thackeray said.

He said while the anti-refinery protests have intensified, CM Shinde is on 'leave', a reference to his Satara visit.

## PMLA court grants relaxation in bail conditions to Anil Deshmukh



A special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Mumbai on Tuesday granted relaxation in bail conditions to Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh in an alleged 100-crore extortion case.

Deshmukh who is out on conditional bail in the PMLA case registered by Enforcement Directorate (ED) has been granted permission to travel to Nagpur and other places within the country till 18th June 2023.

The former minister, booked in connection with an alleged Rs 100-crore extortion case, was granted conditional bail by the Bombay High Court on December 12 on a bond of Rs 1 lakh.

According to the bail order, he was not supposed to leave Mumbai without prior permission of the Court.

Now, the special court modified his bail conditions and granted him permission to travel outside Mumbai on certain conditions.

According to the court order, Deshmukh will deposit an amount of 1 lakh rupees as surety before travelling out from Mumbai. He will not handle the documents or involve himself in the functioning of the NGO where he was an office bearer and was allegedly involved in Money laundering from there.

The order further stated that he would share the full itinerary of his travel with ED in advance before leaving Mumbai.

## Land at Barsu for refinery project suggested by Uddhav, claims Uday Samant

Maharashtra Industries Minister and Shiv Sena leader Uday Samant on Tuesday said the Barsu village site for a proposed refinery project in Ratnagiri district was suggested by then chief minister Uddhav Thackeray who had written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Samant's statement comes amid protests by local people in the coastal district against the soil survey work for the multi-billion dollar refinery project. He alleged that "misunderstandings" are purposely spread against the project for deriving political mileage and slammed the "poli-



tics of double standards", an apparent jibe at Uddhav and his son Aaditya Thackeray.

"On January 12, 2022, then chief minister Uddhav Thackeray wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggesting that

the state government can make available 1,300 acres of land and another 2,144 acres of land in Natya (area) for the refinery. He suggested the Barsu site for the project," Samant told a press conference in Nashik.

## Hotelier abducted from Mumbai at gunpoint rescued; 7 held

A businessman running a hotel in Mumbai was allegedly abducted at gunpoint by some persons over a financial dispute, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on Monday afternoon and the police later rescued the businessman, Anup Kumar Shetty, from neighbouring Thane, an official said, adding that seven persons have been arrested in this connection.

Four persons entered Shetty's cabin at Hotel Veera Residency run by him on Andheri-Kurla Road. The accused allegedly beat up the hotelier, fired three rounds from pistols and threatened him with a knife before abducting him, the official said.

The accused took Shetty to Thane from where a police team rescued him on Monday night, he said.

## 18 injured in MSRTC bus accident

At least 18 passengers were injured after a state-owned MSRTC bus met with an accident in Maharashtra's Raigad district on Tuesday, police said.

The incident took place around 4 pm near Kamala Bird Sanctuary, nearly 60 km from Mumbai, when the 'Shivshahi' bus operated by the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) was on a regular trip.

## Nation

### Owaisi Attacks BJP Over Amit Shah's Comments To Scrap Quotas For Muslims If Party Comes To Power In T'gana



the BJP and Modi had said.

"The reservation that is available in Telangana in BC(E) category, is available to the castes among Muslims," he told reporters here on Monday. He said the reservation is available to backward castes among Muslims on the basis of reports, including one by a sociology expert and by the then undivided Andhra Pradesh government's OBC Commission. Attacking the BJP, he alleged as to why the party is against the 'pasmanda' Muslims and their empowerment. Owaisi asked why the Centre is silent on the Telangana Assembly's resolution favouring increasing reservation for Scheduled Tribes from six per cent to nine per cent and also on an Act to give 12 per cent quota to the castes

Taking exception to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's comments that reservations for Muslims will be scrapped if the BJP comes to power in Telangana, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi has said quota is being given to back-

ward castes among Muslims in the state and not on the basis of religion. Referring to media reports earlier that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had asked the partymen to reach out to 'pasmanda' (backward) Muslims, he claimed there is no truth in what

### Ex MP Anand Mohan to be released from prison soon following amendment in rules



That too happened due to the pressure of Nitish-RJD?"

"I will return to jail after the ceremonies here and when release orders come, then I will call you all," he said.

On Monday, the Bihar government issued a notification regarding releasing 27 prisoners including Former Lok Sabha MP Anand Mohan Singh from jail. According to the official notification, 27 prisoners, who have served 14 years or 20 years in jail, have been ordered to be released. ANI

Gangster-turned-politician and ex-MP Anand Mohan Singh, convicted in the murder of the Gopalganj district magistrate, will soon walk out of jail after the Bihar government amended the prison rules which

would allow the release of the former MP and 26 others. Meanwhile, Anand Mohan Singh who is out on 15-day parole for his son's wedding took a dig at BJP and said, "In Gujarat, some convicts of Bilkis Bano case have been released.

### Anti-CAA protest case: Assam MLA Akhil Gogoi appears before NIA court



court has imposed two conditions upon him.

The Supreme Court on April 18 upheld the Gauhati High Court order and refused Gogoi's plea seeking discharge in connection with anti-CAA protests. Meanwhile a bench of justices V Ramasubramanian and Pankaj Mithal directed to release independent Assam MLA Akhil Gogoi on bail till the completion of the trial as per terms set by the trial court in connection with anti-CAA protests. ANI

Assam Independent MLA Akhil Gogoi on Tuesday appeared before the National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Guwahati in con-

nection with a case related to the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests. Gogoi said the formalities of the bail have been done on Tuesday and the NIA

### Rajasthan's mali community agitation for quota: Man found hanging from tree near protest site



The body of a man belonging to the Mali community, which has been blocking the Jaipur-Agra national highway here demanding a separate 12 per cent quota, was found hanging from a tree near the protest site on Tuesday morning, police said. Nitriaj Singh, the circle officer of Nadbai, said the body was found hanging from a tree along the highway around 150 meters from the protest site. The man has been identified as Mohan Singh. His body has been shifted to the mortuary of a nearby hospital, the police official said.

The community has been blocking the national highway for the fifth consecutive day on Tuesday, demanding more reservation in jobs and higher education. Despite a call by Murari Lal Saini, the convenor of Phule Aarakshan Sangarsh Samiti, the protesters have refused to vacate the protest site till an amicable solution is reached through talks with the Rajasthan government. The protesters have formed a committee to hold talks with the government over their demands in Jaipur on Tuesday. PTI

### UPSC declares final results of combined defence services examination (II)

The Union Public Service Commission has declared the final results of the Combined Defence Services Examination (II), 2022, the Ministry of Defence said on Monday. The lists are in order of merit of 204 candidates who have qualified the written examination and interviews held by the Services Selection Board (SSB) of the Ministry of Defence for admission to the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun; Indian Naval Academy,

Ezhimala, Kerala; and the Air Force Academy, Hyderabad, it said in a statement.

The results are available on the website of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). There are some common candidates in the three lists for various courses. However, marks of the candidates will be available on the website after declaration of final result of Officers' Training Academy (OTA) for Combined Defence Services Examination (II), 2022, it added. PTI

### CBI files chargesheet against Manish Sisodia, three others in Delhi excise policy case

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday filed a chargesheet against former deputy chief minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia and four others in the Delhi excise policy case. According to sources, the supplementary chargesheet has been filed under IPC sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 420 (Cheating) and

other section of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

An official confirmed that the supplementary chargesheet has been filed against former Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, Amandeep Singh Dhall, Arjun Pandey and Butchi Babu Gorantla in the Delhi excise policy case. ANI

# World

## Former editor of Chinese newspaper indicted for leaking info to Japan diplomats



An ex-senior editor at a major Chinese daily affiliated with the ruling Communist Party was indicted in March for allegedly leaking information to many Japanese diplomats, sources familiar with the matter, cited by Kyodo News said.

61-year-old Dong Yuyu, former deputy head of the Guangming Daily editorial department, went missing in February last year after meeting with a representative of the Japanese Embassy in Beijing.

According to the sources, quoted by Kyodo News, Dong, a liberal commentator, was detained by the police authorities soon after that meeting on Febru-

ary 21, 2022, and was later arrested. They claimed he was charged with espionage on March 23 but vehemently denied the charge.

China has been harshly prosecuting those purportedly involved in espionage to protect national security amid difficult bilateral relations with Japan. China detained a top employee of the Japanese pharmaceutical company Astellas Pharma Inc. last month on accusations of spying, as per Kyodo News.

The Chinese government justified its decision to temporarily imprison the Japanese diplomat in Beijing who had met with Dong in February 2022 by claiming that the official was engaging

in actions that were "inappropriate" for his position.

At the time, Tokyo asked that Beijing apologise and take steps to prevent a repeat, claiming that the act had plainly violated the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, which requires the hosting state to prevent any interference with the peace or honour of a diplomatic mission.

The indictment of Dong has drawn the support of more than 60 people, including American journalist Bob Woodward and Tomoko Ako, a professor of China studies at the University of Tokyo, who say he could spend more than ten years in prison for what they consider to be "normal contacts with foreigners."

The former senior editor, who is not a member of the Communist Party, knew many American and Japanese journalists, academics, and diplomats.

According to Dong's family, he received fellowships from Harvard University and Keio University and served as a visiting professor at Hokkaido University in Japan, according to Kyodo News.

## Flydubai aircraft catches fire after bird hit, lands safely in Dubai

Flydubai flight FZ 576 from Kathmandu Airport (KTM) to Dubai International (DXB) experienced a bird hit during takeoff from Kathmandu. After following standard procedure, the flight continued as normal to Dubai and arrived at DXB at 00:14 local time, flydubai spokesperson said.

The aircraft reportedly caught fire after the bird hit. Fire tenders were scrambled at the airport. Nepal's Minister of Tourism, Su-

dan Kirati, too, confirmed that the flight had landed safely in Dubai.

According to the minister, all passengers were safe. Officials said the plane flew on one engine after the bird hit Nepal's Civil Aviation Authority on Monday tweeted: "Flydubai flight number 576, (Boeing 737-800) Kathmandu to Dubai flight is normal now and proceeding to her destination Dubai as per the flight plan. Kathmandu airport operation is normal from 16:14 UTC (09:59 pm local time)."

## Drunk Pak Major Crushes 6 Children in PoK

A drunk Pakistan army Major crushed six children with his car on the day of Eid in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir's Gilgit Baltistan, resulting in the death of three, while three others were hospitalized, reported Pak vernacular media. The army immediately arrived at the scene to protect their major, threatening and silencing

the victims' relatives, reported The Khorasan Diary.

Rescue 1122 in charge of Ghanche district Ashiq Hussain told Dawn that six children were celebrating Eid-ul-Fitr dressed in new clothes on the road in Barah Bala village when a Skardu-bound Toyota Land Cruiser crushed them.

## Operation Kaveri: First batch of stranded Indians leave conflict-torn Sudan for Jeddah on INS Sumedha



Indians stranded in Sudan have departed from the conflict-torn country in the first phase of 'Operation Kaveri', the Ministry of External Affairs said on Tuesday. The third Saryu-class patrol vessel of the Indian Navy, INS Sumedha with 278 people onboard departed from Port Sudan for Jeddah.

Taking to Twitter, the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Arindam Bagchi wrote, "First batch of stranded Indians leave Sudan under #OperationKaveri. INS Sumedha with 278 people onboard departs Port Sudan for Jeddah."

As the fighting between the Sudanese Army and paramilitary groups intensified in the capital Khartoum, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar informed on Monday that its 'Operation Kaveri' to evacuate its citizens from battle-torn Sudan is underway and about 500 Indians had reached Port Sudan. India has launched "Operation Kaveri" to bring back stranded Indians from the war-torn Sudan.

Taking to Twitter, Jaishankar said, "Operation Kaveri gets underway to bring back our citizens stranded in Sudan. About 500 Indians have reached Port Sudan. More on their way. Our ships

## Sudan crisis: Warring factions agree to 72-hour ceasefire

Warring factions in Sudan have agreed to a 72-hour ceasefire on Monday after the US and Saudi Arabia mediated the truce while countries are engaged to evacuate their citizens from the country.

"Following intense negotiations, the SAF and RSF have agreed to implement and uphold a 72-hour nationwide ceasefire starting midnight, April 24. We welcome their commitment to work with partners and stakeholders for permanent cessation of hostilities and humanitarian arrangements," tweeted US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) said the US and Saudi Arabia mediated the truce, scheduled to start at midnight local time (22:00 GMT Monday), reported Al Jazeera.

In a written statement Monday, the RSF said it had agreed to the truce "in order to open



humanitarian corridors, facilitate the movement of citizens and residents, enable them to fulfill their needs, reach hospitals and safe areas, and evacuate diplomatic missions."

Previously agreed ceasefires have broken down, if the new three-day cessation of fighting holds, it could create an opportunity to get much-needed critical resources like food and medical

supplies to those in need, reported CNN.

The ceasefire will help in the successful evacuations of foreigners. Some countries have successfully evacuated, including Spain, Jordan, Italy, France, Denmark and Germany, while the United Kingdom has evacuated embassy staff. Several of their convoys also carried citizens from other countries.

## Expression

# Role of Public Relations - I



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In a democracy, such as ours, the existence and growth of any business eventually depends, not only on the public support in purchasing its products and services, but more importantly on the sanction of the general public.

Legislatures, who enact law governing and regulating business, are elected by, and represent, the public. The management of public companies derives their power from and owes their tenure to the shareholders, who are members of the general public. Its employees are recruited from the public and live amongst the public. Therefore, it is only good business policy to practice 'Public Relations' to inform, to educate, to persuade, through effective communication, and create understanding and obtain the willing co-operation of various public of business.

The skills and techniques to create and develop mutual understanding are provided by public relations (PR) practitioners. But first, it is essential to define the objectives having been agreed, on which a PR programme can be drawn up. These may be both long term and short term but, as John Maynard Keynes once said, 'in the long term all of us will be dead.' So, it is necessary to define the perspective of the long-term.

Some form of research is necessary both before the PR programme is drawn up and when a PR campaign has gathered momentum. In most business enterprises top management consists of wise people but there is no fun in flying blind when one can use a reader.

Research is a word that seems to frighten many people. It conjures visions of long beard intellectuals working away in the backrooms on problems of no conceivable practical significance. Many people discount the value of research and say they prefer to rely on their own judgement. In this connection, there is much truth in the story of the man who, when gives the results of research, say 'It is not true'. When it has been proved beyond doubt that it is true, he says,

'It has no practical value'. When it has been shown to have distinct practical possibilities, he says, 'The research has only proved what was already known.'

Public Relations is essentially an art of persuasion and in order to influence people, it is obviously helpful to know as much as possible about the way in which people think and the manner in which they react to particular circumstances.

There is also urgent need for research into the results of public relations actively. Too little is known about the effects of PR programmes on public attitudes and public action.

In discussing the place of PR in any organisations, one important point has to be noted it relates to the nature and functions of PR, as contrasted with those of other departments such as production, finance, marketing, personnel etc. While all the latter departments are largely concerned with the respective spheres responsibility PR tends to flow over the whole gamut of business and management. From this point of view PR has been called an extended arm of management. Each department or aspect of business and industry has its specific PR problems and tasks, and those have to be tackled by PR with the top man of each department and top management.

If, therefore, an organisation takes its PR responsibilities seriously, then the PR men must be given the status and position they deserve. Public relations must have full and continuing access to the top management if it has to succeed in its job. Not because PR men are anything special, but because PR is ultimately the responsibility of the top management. Too many organisations misuse or waste their PR men e.g. in employing PR men as organisers of VIP hospitality and travel. This is not the job of public relations, or perhaps only a small part of PR.

A good PR man represents the management and communicates the policies, problems and performances to the public on the one hand, and feeds back the socio-economic and political trends and public opinion to the top management and counsel them on possible lines of action, on the other. Therefore, fearlessness and objectivity are essential qualities in PR practitioners. And top management



must create the necessary environment for such attitudes. A PR man that feeds the management with what it like to hear, viz., the glory and greatness of the organisation, is doing himself and his company little good.

All this underlines the importance of selection of PR man in regard to their abilities to counsel wisely; use effectively all the techniques of communication and their personnel and personality attributes. Good PR men can do the company a great deal. The deference is considerable, and top management must recognise this and pay more attention to the recruitment and training of PR men, and create the necessary environment for good PR men to practice their skills and techniques.

For its day-to-day existence and functioning, a business has to be reckoning with its public. Each firm has to plan its communications programme by carefully assess in the relative importance of its key public, the messages that it wishes to convey, the selection of the specific media through which its key groups could be reached most effectively and economically.

In the present Indian context one of the most important segments of any business public is government. In our country, government is at the driver's seat of the economy, and any business is dependent for its existence functioning and growth on govt. policies and action, and therefore, must communicate effectively with government in the case of a

large public or private undertaking. Communications with government assume even greater importance for a number of reasons. Firstly, because the company is accountable to govt. Secondly, because government is run not only ministers but by a large number of officials at various levels in the ministries and developments, many of whom may influence a decision. Lastly, government, in its turn, is answerable to Sansad and the public.

Communications with MPs is also very important since parliamentary proceedings receive such wide publicity. It is to the interest of any company to communicate with MPs and tell them about its performance and problems.

Large public and private undertakings are always in the news and are under the searchlight of public scrutiny and attention. In spite of the fact that the Doordarshan, private electronic channels and Cinema have a wider audience than the press, public opinion in Bharat is largely influenced and moulded by what is read in the press. There is, of course, no obligation on any organisation to have any dealings with the press, but since the activities of all large companies, both in the public and private sectors, affect the public interest, the press will publish reports and comments irrespective of whether they have received a company's co-operation or not. Communicating with the press, or press relations is, therefore, of vital importance in the interests of any company's PR department.

## Entertainment



### Actress Alia Bhatt spotted at Mumbai Airport sharing adorable picture with little fans

Actress Alia Bhatt's love for kids is well known. She beams with happiness whenever she meets any child. On Monday night, the mother of Raha was spotted at the Mumbai airport. And guess what? She met her little fans while she was making her way to the airport.

Mumbai-based paparazzi captured adorable moments of Alia posing with her little fans.

Speaking about her airport look, she kept it comfy and casual. She opted for a beige cropped jacket, which she teamed up with a pair of beige and blue printed cargo trousers and a white cropped sleeveless t-shirt.

Alia completed her look with a pair of white sneakers and a black tote handbag.

### Shakira to be honoured Billboard's first 'Latin Woman of the year' award

Colombian singer Shakira will be honoured with Billboard's 'Latin women of the year' award at the first-ever Mujeres Latinas en la Musica, or Latin Women in Music, gala. Taking to Instagram, Billboard announced the news on their official page on Monday and wrote, "Global superstar Shakira will be honoured as Billboard's Woman of the Year at the first-ever #BBMujeresLatinas."

According to Billboard, the two-hour music special will be hosted by Ivy Queen and Jacqueline Bracamontes and honouring Latin women in music, will be taped at the Watsco Center in Miami on May 6 and will air exclusively on Telemundo on May 7 at 9 p.m. ET/8 p.m. CT. Soon after the news was announced fans swamped the comment section with red hearts and fire emoticons. "she deserves woman of the year," a fan commented. Another fan wrote, "She is amazing one of the women we could inspired." A fan wrote, "Queen Shakira." ANI



### Actor Olivier Lafont responds to internet's new found love for him

Rajkumar Hirani's '3 Idiots' remains a timeless blockbuster and, to this day, people remember it for its brilliant story, versatile performances and soulful songs. While actors Aamir Khan, R Madhavan, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Sharman Joshi were showered with love for their characters, French actor Olivier Lafont's character Suhas was ridiculed for being an eccentric human embodiment of a 'price tag'.

Interestingly, Olivier is currently getting a lot of love on social media. Lately, a section of social media users praised Olivier and agreed that they misunderstood his character. One of the users shared a post on his analysis about Suhas and called him a 'good person' who valued money and was correct.

The post went viral and caught Olivier's attention. Olivier shared the screenshot of the post on Facebook and wrote, "Lately, I've been getting messages from people 'apologizing' about misunderstanding the character of Suhas Tandon that I played many years ago in the film 3 idiots, and then this post by Aaraynsh Singh went viral highlighting the conversation about a balanced understanding and appreciation of the place of money in life. It's amazing that both the movie and the character had such an impact then, and even now. It's also nice that Suhas is finally getting some love." ANI

