



# ఎడిటోరియల్

## వృద్ధ జంబాకం 'నాటి'

రెండు ఖండాలను కలుపుతూ ప్రపంచానికి శాంతిని, సుస్థిరతనూ, రక్షణనూ వాగ్దానం చేస్తూ బెల్జియం రాజధాని బ్రుసెల్స్ లో ఏర్పడిన నాటి కుటుంబ గురువారం తన 75 వసంతాలను జరుపుకొంది. అయితే ప్రకటిత సంకల్పానికి, దశాబ్దాల దాని ఆచరణకూ ఎక్కడా పొంతన కనబడదు. నాటి నేపథ్యం, దాని ఉద్దేశాలు పూర్తిగా కొట్టిపారేయడం గానీ కాదు. ఎందుకంటే రెండో ప్రపంచ యుద్ధంలో నాటి నియంత అడాల్ఫ్ హిట్లర్ సైన్యాన్ని మట్టికరిపించిన సోవియట్ యూనియన్ సేనలు తూర్పు యూరప్ దేశాల్లో తిప్పవేసి కదలేదు. అవి తమవైపు చొచ్చుకు రావొచ్చున్న సందేహం పశ్చిమ యూరప్ దేశాలకుంది. తాము ఒక్కటే ఎదిరించకపోతే దురాక్రమణకు బలి కావటం ఖాయమన్న భయం నాటికి పట్టుకుంది. నాటి అమెరికా అధ్యక్షుడు ట్రూమన్ దీన్ని చక్కగా వినియోగించుకుని ఉత్తర అమెరికా ఖండంలో తన పొరుగు దేశమైన కెనడాను కలుపుకొని పశ్చిమ యూరప్ దేశాలతో జతకట్టి పటిష్టమైన సైనిక కూటమి నాటికే అంకురార్పణ చేశారు. సోవియట్ సేనలకు వ్యతిరేకంగా దృఢమైన సైనిక కుర్చు ఏర్పరచుటే దీని ప్రధాన ధ్యేయం. నాటి దేశాలు రోజూ పరస్పరం సంభాషించుకుంటూనే, పరిస్థితులను సమీక్షించుకుంటూ నిరంతరం సంసిద్ధత తో వుంటాయని, తగిన నిర్ణయాలు తీసుకుంటాయని నాటి వెబ్ సైట్ ఘనంగా చెబుతోంది. మంచిదే. కానీ ఇన్నోక్ష దాని ఉనికిలో ఒక్కసారైనా సోవియట్ యూనియన్ నుంచి లేదా దాని ప్రస్తుత రూపమైన రష్యా నుంచి ప్రత్యక్షంగా కావొచ్చు... పరోక్షంగా కావొచ్చు ఏనాడూ సవాళ్లు ఎదురు కాలేదు. సైనిక కూటమి అవిర్భావం దానికే ప్రత్యర్థిని హద్దు మీరకుండా చేసివుండొచ్చన్న వాదన కూడా కొట్టి పారేయలేదు. కానీ నాటి హడావిడి గమనించాక 1955లో సోవియట్ యూనియన్ సైతం తన అధ్యర్థంలోని తూర్పు యూరప్ దేశాలను కలుపుకొని వార్షిక కూటమి పేరుతో మరో సైనిక కూటమి నిర్మించింది. ఇరుపక్షాలూ అణ్యాయుధాలనూ, ఇతర భారీ ఆయుధ సామగ్రిని మోహరించటంతో ప్రచ్ఛన్న యుద్ధ దశలో యూరప్ ఖండం మొత్తం నిరంతరం యుద్ధ భయంతో వణికింది. మరి ప్రపంచ శాంతి, సుస్థిరతల జాడెక్కడ? పరస్పర మోహరింపులతో నెలకొన్న ఒక రకమైన స్వల్పతన శాంతిగా భావించటం సాధ్యమేనా? నాటి అంచనాకు తగ్గట్టు సోవియట్ సేనలు దండయాత్రలు చేయకపోలేదు. 1956లో హంగరీ, 1968లో ఛెకోస్లావేకియా, 1979లో అఫ్ఘానిస్తాన్ దేశాలను అవి దురాక్రమించాయి. కానీ యూరప్ ఖండంలోని తటస్థ దేశాలు ఫిన్లాండ్, స్విట్జర్లాండ్, స్వీడన్, యుగోస్లేవియా, ఆస్ట్రీయా వైపుగానీ... నాటి దేశాలవైపుగానీ చొచ్చుకొచ్చే ఆలోచన చేయలేదు. నిజానికి తాను కూడా నాటిలో చేరతానన్న సోవియట్ యూనియన్ వినతిని 1954లో తోసిపుచ్చాకే వార్షిక కూటమి ఏర్పడింది. 1989లో సోవియట్ వతనం, అంతకుముందే తూర్పు యూరప్ దేశాలు ఒక్కొక్కటిగా దాన్నుంచి దూరం జరగటం, వార్షిక కూటమి కనుమరుగవటం వంటి పరిణామాల తర్వాత వాస్తవానికి నాటి అవసరం ఎంతమాత్రం లేదు. చిత్రం ఏమంటే... సోవియట్ పతనానికి బాటలు పరిచిన నాటి అధ్యక్షుడు గెర్బాచెవ్, ఆ తర్వాతకాలంలో ప్రస్తుత రష్యా అధ్యక్షుడు పుతిన్ సైతం నాటిలో చేరటానికి సిద్ధపడ్డారు. కానీ ఆ ప్రతిపాదనను నాటి తోసిపుచ్చింది. అంతేకాదు... ఉభయ జర్మనీల వీలినానికి సహకరించాలంటూ పశ్చిమ యూరప్ దేశాల నేతలు గోర్బాచెవ్ ను అర్థించినప్పుడు ఆయన కొక హామీ ఇచ్చారు. నాటిను ఒక్క అంగుళం కూడా విస్తరించబోమన్నదే ఆ హామీ సారాంశం. కానీ జరిగిందంతా అందుకు విరుద్ధం. సోవియట్ పతనం నాటికి నాటి సభ్య దేశాలు 16 కాగా, రష్యా అభ్యంతరాలనూ బేభాతరు చేస్తూ మరో 15 దేశాలను చేర్చుకున్నారు. ఇందులో పూర్వపు వార్షిక కూటమి దేశాలున్నాయి. కనీసం తన ఇరుగు పొరుగు దేశాలకు సభ్యత్వం ఇవ్వొద్దన్న రష్యా ప్రతి పాదన సైతం బుట్టదాఖలా అయింది. పొరుగునున్న కెనడా, మెక్సికో దేశాలకు వార్షిక కూటమి సభ్యత్వం ఇస్తే అమెరికా చూస్తూ ఊరుకుంటుందా? నాటి పుట్టుకకు దారితీసిన మూలకారణమే మాయమైనప్పుడు విశాల యూరప్ భద్రత కోసం ఒక నూతన వ్యవస్థ ఏర్పాటు చేయటానికి బదులు రష్యాను ఏకాకి చేయాలన్న వ్యూహం వెనకున్న విజ్ఞతేమిటి? ఆ కూటమి నేతలు చెప్పగలరా? నిజానికి నాటి చిత్రశుద్ధితో విశాల యూరప్ భద్రతపై దృష్టి సారించివుంటే పుతిన్ ఉక్రెయిన్ దురాక్రమణకు సాహసించేవారు కాదు. యూరప్ ఖండంలో అణ్యాయుధాల బెడద పూర్తిగా సమసిపోయేది. అసలు ప్రపంచ శాంతి, సుస్థిరతలకు దోహదం కలగటం మాట అటుంచి నాటి వల్ల ప్రపంచానికి వచ్చిన సమస్యలే అధికం. ప్రపంచవ్యాప్తంగా ఇంతవరకూ 200 సైనిక ఘర్షణలు చోటు చేసుకోగా అందులో 20 వరకూ విస్తృతమైనవి. వెళ్లినచోటల్లా విధ్వంసమే తప్ప నాటి సాధించిందేమీ లేదు. ఇందుకు లిబియా, సిరియా, అఫ్ఘానిస్తాన్, సూడాన్, సోమాలియా వగైరాలను ఉదాహరించవచ్చు. స్థానిక ప్రభుత్వాలను కూలదోసేందుకు విచ్చలవిడిగా మిలిటెంట్ సంస్థలకు నాటి ఆయుధాలందించటం పర్మనెంట్ అంబిషన్ అనే భయంకర ఉగ్రవాద సంస్థ పురుగుదొంగుకుంది. కనిపించని శత్రువుపై కత్తి ఝుళిపించటం కోసం నాటి సభ్యదేశాల్లో ప్రతి ఒక్కటీ తమ జీడీపీలో 2 శాతం నాటికే అర్పిస్తున్నాయి. తన ఉనికి కోసం శత్రువును 'స్పృష్టించుకునే' ధోరణి నుంచి నాటి బయటపడనంతకాలం ఈ పరిస్థితి మారదు. ప్రపంచంలో శాశ్వత శాంతి కోసం ప్రయత్నించటమా... నిరంతరం యుద్ధ భయంతో అణ్యాయుధాల నీడలో మనుగడ సాగించటమా అన్నది యూరప్ దేశాల ప్రజలే తేల్చుకోవాలి.

# 'Crash course' on Musk satellites: City pinpoints storm that engulfed 38 SpaceX craft

NEW DELHI (ROYAL JOURNALISM): Indian and US scientists have unravelled through a new study the post-launch loss of 38 of 49 satellites operated by a subsidiary of the US aerospace company SpaceX two years ago, attributed to a geomagnetic storm triggered by solar activity. The study has corroborated earlier suggestions that the satellites were launched into a geomagnetic storm and were unable to recover from the storm's adverse impact, IISER Calcutta researchers and their collaborators have said. SpaceX had launched the 49 Starlink satellites - a constellation for Internet services worldwide - on February 3, 2022, into low-Earth orbit, their nearest point being 210km above the Earth. But 38 satellites slipped out of their orbits and burned up as they reentered the atmosphere within days. SpaceX had said on February 8, 2022, that a geomagnetic storm had "significantly impacted" the satellites by warming the atmosphere and increasing the drag on them, causing them to reenter the atmosphere. Now, the IISER researchers and their collaborators have used physics of the near-Sun and near-Earth space and computer simulations to reconstruct the full cascade of events that allegedly doomed the satellites. Their study was recently published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal Space Weather. The study's findings underline how even moderate geomagnetic storms stirred by solar activity can "conspire" with the physical design of satellites in low-Earth orbits to cause catastrophic losses, the scientists said. "This was not (one of) what we would classify as killer storms - it was a moderate-intensity storm," said Dibyendu Nandi, professor of solar physics at IISER who led the study. "But the combination of launch timing, an intensifying storm, and the satellites' design culminated in their loss." Email

queries sent by this newspaper to SpaceX requesting its perspective and views on the IISER study's observations have not evoked a reply yet. Nandi, head of the Centre for Excellence in Space Sciences at the IISER, leads teams of research scholars engaged in tracking and predicting solar activity and other likely impacts on near-Earth space. The researchers have noted that three coronal mass ejections - bursts of solar material into space - on January 29, January 31 and February 1 had hurled solar particles towards the Earth at speeds of up to 450km per second. Their simulations showed how the magnetic fields associated with the incoming floods of particles interacted with Earth's magnetic field, stirring up electric currents in the Earth's ionosphere - a region of the upper atmosphere approximately 80km and higher. The currents are known to heat the upper atmosphere levels causing the atmosphere to expand and thereby increasing the count and density of air molecules. "The higher density increases the drag or friction that a satellite in low-Earth orbit will experience," said Yoshita Baruah, a research scholar at the IISER and the study's lead author. The IISER team also used simulations to study how the increased matter density in the upper atmosphere is likely to have affected the satellites. Their simulations involved a comparative analysis of how the increased matter density at altitudes between 210km and 434km above the Earth would have affected SpaceX's Starlink satellites and a European Space Agency satellite named Swarm C, both in low-Earth orbit. Their calculations indicated that the Starlink satellites may have experienced an altitude decay three times higher than what Swarm C would have. The scientists have attributed this higher adverse impact on Starlink satellites to their design attributes - specifically a



relatively low mass-to-area ratio - also called a satellite's "ballistic coefficient". "The lower the mass-to-area ratio value, the higher the drag on the satellite," Baruah said. The ratio for the Swarm C satellite was three times the ratio for the Starlink satellite. The findings suggest that the Starlink satellites had design attributes that may have subjected them to enhanced atmospheric drag relative to what the Swarm C satellite would have experienced, the researchers wrote in their study. In addition to their insertion into low-Earth orbit, the low ballistic coefficient of the Starlink satellites "may have further compromised their ability to recover" from the geomagnetic storm, they wrote. Jonathan McDowell, an astrophysicist at the Centre for Astrophysics, Harvard University, who was not associated with the IISER study, told The Telegraph that the study seemed to have probed the event in greater detail than those attempted earlier, but came to similar conclusions as the earlier studies. "I don't recall seeing a detailed decay rate calculation for this incident before now," said McDowell, who is also the editor of an internet newsletter, Jonathan Space Report, that provides technical details of satellite launches. The study's other coauthors are Souvik Roy and Suvadip Sinha from the IISER, Sanchita Pal and Denny Oliveira from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Goddard Space Flight Centre, and Erika Palmeiro from Predictive Sciences, a private research entity in the US.

# With Varun Gandhi Out of Race, Why Pilibhit Has Become Battle of Prestige for BJP?



Pilibhit: The Pilibhit seat in Uttar Pradesh has come under the spotlight after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fielded UP minister Jitin Prasada, a former Congress leader who switched sides in 2021, in place of incumbent MP Varun Gandhi. For the last 35 years, Pilibhit has been a traditional seat of Maneka Gandhi and son Varun. Pilibhit has five assembly seats - Baheri, Pilibhit, Barkhera, Puranpur (SC) and Bisalpur - of which four are being currently represented by the BJP. The saffron party is leaving no stone unturned to retain the Pilibhit seat in the absence of Varun or

Maneka as it has become a battle of prestige. The result of the Lok Sabha elections for the Pilibhit seat will directly go hand-in-hand with BJP's decision of changing guard. While Mayawati's BSP has fielded Anis Ahmad Khan from Pilibhit, the Samajwadi Party named Bhagwat Saran Gangwar from here. **Modi's First Rally As PM in Pilibhit** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will today address a rally in Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit, with his third visit in the region after Saharanpur and Meerut. This will be his first visit to Pilibhit in the last 10 years. The Prime Minister didn't address any election campaigning in the constituency in 2019 when Varun Gandhi clinched victory in the Lok Sabha elections as BJP candidate with over 50 per cent votes in favour. "We are preparing for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's election rally in Pilibhit on April 9. This will be his first rally here after assum-

ing the office of the PM in 2014. He did not address a rally in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. A festive atmosphere prevails in the Pilibhit constituency ahead of his rally," said Pilibhit BJP president Sanjiv Pratap Singh. **1989 to 2024: 35 Years of Gandhi Rule** Maneka Gandhi, the widow of Congress leader Sanjay Gandhi, first contested from the Pilibhit seat in 1989 and won the Lok Sabha elections on Janata Dal ticket. After facing defeat in 1991, she again contested as an independent and secured victory in 1996, 1998 and 1999. The BJP trusted her and gave ticket in 2004 and she successfully won the seat. In 2004, she took an exit from the constituency to let her son Varun contest from the region. He won the Lok Sabha elections from Pilibhit in 2009 for the first time. However, she returned and contested on the Pilibhit seat in 2014 and again vacated for Varun in 2019.

She did nothing wrong but spoke the truth



Geert Wilders, a Dutch politician and member of parliament in the Netherlands had a telephone conversation with former Bhartiya Janata Party leader Nupur Sharma. Wilders hailed Sharma as a "symbol of freedom" and a "brave lady". Taking to X Geert Wilders said that the loss of freedom and legal troubles faced by Nupur Sharma over "truthful" remarks on the Islamic prophet that were derived from reliable Hadiths was "unfair". "Had a great talk with @NupurSharmaBJP today, she is a symbol of freedom, not only for India but for the whole free world. Her loss of personal freedom and legal troubles in the last two years are most unfair 'cause she did nothing wrong but spoke the truth. What a brave lady!" Wilders posted. Notably, Geert Wilders has constantly supported Nupur Sharma ever since the prophet controversy erupted in 2022. In February this year, Wilders had sent a message of support to Sharma. He also expressed his wish to meet her during his visit to India. "I sent a personal message of support to the brave Nupur Sharma, who is threatened by Islamists for years now only for speaking the truth. Freedom-loving people all over the world should support her. I hope to meet her one day while visiting India," the Partij voor de Vrijheid (PVV) leader posted on X on 17th February. Back in October 2022, Wilders known for his highly critical opinions on Islam supported former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Nupur Sharma after Islamists hounded her for her remarks during a debate on Times Now. It is pertinent to recall that Nupur Sharma had criticised Islamist Taslim Ahmed Rehmani for repeatedly using derogatory language against Sanatan Dharma and referred to Shivling as a fountain during a debate on the disputed structure at Gyanvapi in Kashi in May 2022. She questioned what he would feel if she cited passages from Islamic texts. Mohammed Zubair, a co-founder of Alt News, cleverly removed Taslim Rehmani's inflammatory comments and uploaded the out-of-context footage on social media to claim that she insulted the Islamic Prophet Muhammed. The severe allegations led to massive protests and riots across the nation as well as many FIRs were filed against her. The Indian government came under fire from Islamic countries which issued strong statements condemning Nupur Sharma after which she was suspended from the party. Murderous slogans like "Gustakh-e-Rasool ki ek hi saza, sar tan se Juda, sar tan se Juda (There is only one punishment for being disrespectful to Rasool (Prophet Muhammad), their head separated from their torso, their head separated from the torso," were raised in the streets by rabid mobs as extremists attacked and killed Hindus including Kanhaiya Lal in Rajasthan and Umesh Kolhe in Maharashtra for supporting her.

## Uddhav Sena To Contest 21, Congress 17, Sharad Pawar's NCP 10



NEW DELHI (ROYAL JOURNALISM): After months of deliberation and debates, the Maha Vikas Aghadi on Tuesday finalised its seat-sharing formula for Maharashtra ahead of the Lok Sabha elections 2024. According to the seat-sharing deal, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena will contest 21 seats and the Congress will contest 17 seats in the state. Meanwhile, the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) faction will contest 10 seats in Maharashtra. The poll-pact was announced after

weeks of negotiations during a joint press conference, which was addressed by Uddhav Thackeray, Sharad Pawar, and the state Congress President Nana Patole. Former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan and Congress Legislature Party leader Balashaheb Thorat were also present at the press conference. The Lok Sabha polls in Maharashtra will be held in the state in five phases beginning from April 19 to May 20. Sanjay Nirupam Says Sanjay Raut 'Kingpin' Of Khichdi Scam. Shiv Sena (UBT) Slams 'Plot To Malign' Party Shiv Sena will contest 21 Lok Sabha seats including Jalgaon, Parbhani, Nashik, Palghar, Kalyan, Thane, Raigad, Maval, Osmanabad, Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Buldhana, Hathkanangkale, Aurangabad, Shirdi, Sangli, Hingoli, Yavatmal-Washim, Mumbai South, Mumbai South Central, Mumbai North

West and Mumbai North East seats. The grand old party has got Nandurbar, Dhule, Akola, Amravati, Nagpur, Bhandara-Gondia, Gadchiroli-Chimur, Chandrapur, Nanded, Jalna, Mumbai North Central, Mumbai North, Pune, Latur, Solapur, Kolhapur and Ramtek seats as per the seat-sharing pact. The NCP(SP) will contest Baramati, Shirur, Satara, Bhiwandi, Dindori, Madha, Raver, Wardhan, Ahmednagar South and Beed seats. Addressing a press conference at the Shiv Sena (UBT) office in south Mumbai, party head and former state chief minister Uddhav Thackeray stated: "The seat-sharing deal has been reached and in an alliance, winning is important and defeating the BJP is the goal. When victory against the BJP is the larger goal, we have to set aside certain differences," PTI quoted him as saying.

## Delhi Court Extends Judicial Custody Of BRS Leader K Kavitha Till April 23

NEW DELHI (ROYAL JOURNALISM): A Delhi Court on Tuesday extended the judicial custody of BRS leader K Kavitha till April 23 in the money laundering case in connection with the Delhi Excise policy. The matter was heard at the court by Special CBI Judge Kaveri Baweja. While leaving the court room, the BRS leader said that it's a case based on statements and it won't stand the test of time. On Monday, the court denied interim bail to Kavitha in connection to the case after he had requested for the same on the grounds that her 16-year-old son has exams. She had claimed that he needs his mother's "moral and emotional support". Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for

Kavitha, had claimed that the perspective of a mother is not substitutable by father, sister or brother. Singhvi pointed at Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) which allows bail to woman-accused notwithstanding the bail conditions under PMLA, Bar and Bench reported. Meanwhile, the Enforcement Directorate's counsel, Zoheb Hossain said that the federal agency was about to come across a breakthrough in its probe and granting interim bail to the BRS leader will disrupt the investigation. The BRS leader was arrested by the central probe agency on March 15. She has been accused of being a key member of the "South Group", which alleg-



edly paid the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi kickbacks of Rs 100 crore in return for a big share of liquor licenses in the national capital. The 46-year old leader was arrested from her Banjara Hills residence in Hyderabad on March 15.

## SC Upholds 'Right To Privacy' For Candidates In Elections

NEW DELHI (ROYAL JOURNALISM): Supreme Court on Tuesday held that a voter has no absolute right to know about each and every asset of a candidate in elections and that the candidate has the right to privacy in matters which are irrelevant to their candidature. The top court held that candidates need not disclose each and every moveable property owned by them or their family, unless they are of substantial value or reflect a luxurious lifestyle. The ruling came as the bench of Justices Anirudhha Bose and Sanjay Kumar set aside the order of the Gauhati High Court which had declared the election of

### Karikho Kri

as null and void. The top court rejected the petition that contended that the voters have a right to know about assets of candidates and Kri must have revealed all details. The bench ruled that an electoral candidate need not disclose each and every movable asset owned by himself or his family. The court said that disclosure is necessary only if the property or asset has a substantial impact on his candidature. The court cited examples of fancy clothing, shoes, crockery, stationery, furniture as irrelevant for disclosure unless they are of such value as to constitute a sizeable asset in itself or reflect upon his candidature in terms of his lifestyle. The bench further said that if a candidate's family owns several high-priced



luxury watches, then they would have to be disclosed as they constitute high-value assets and depict their lavish lifestyle. The apex court said that there cannot be a "hard and fast" rule regarding this and each case needs to be dealt on its own merits and facts. The bench opined that a candidate is not required to lay his life out threadbare for examination by the voters and the non-disclosure of the each and every asset owned by a candidate would not amount to a defect, much less a defect of a substantial character. "Candidate's right to privacy would still survive as regards matters which are of no concern to the voter or are irrelevant to his candidature for public office," the top court said.

### What Was The Case Of MLA Karikho Kri

Karikho Kri, was elected in 2019 as an independent MLA from the Tezu Assembly constituency. In 2019, the Itanagar bench of the Gauhati High Court held his election to be

void after hearing the election petition filed by Congress candidate Nuneey Tayang. Kri was accused of making false declarations in his election nomination paper and for not disclosing in Form 26 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, that he occupied a government-allotted MLA cottage in Itanagar. Tayang moved the high court under the Section 90(a)(c) of Representation of the People Act, 1951, seeking a declaration that the election of his rival from the Tezu seat be held void. Tayang claimed that Kri did not submit "no dues certificates" from the departments concerned regarding rent, electricity, water, and telephone charges. The high court ruled that Kri did not present his nomination paper in accordance with Section 33 of the Representation of the People Act. And thus, his nomination paper was liable to be rejected under Section 36(2)(b) of the Representation of the People Act. The high court held that acceptance of Kri's nomination paper was "improper" by the returning officer. The Gauhati High Court had set aside Karikho Kri's election after a Congress leader moved court against him alleging non-disclosure while filing candidature for elections to Legislative Assembly. Kri was accused of not disclosing three vehicles owned by his wife and son while filing the nomination for contesting the election.









