HC deportation breather for actor

Bangalore: Karnataka High Bangaiore: Karnataka nign Court has granted interim protection from deportation to Kannada actor and activist Chetan Kumar "Ahimsa" after his Overseas Citizen of India card was revoked recently. Justice M. Nagaprasanna on Friday ordered the author-tice not Invescipitiste the mot-

on Friday ordered the authorities not to precipitate the mat-ter until the next hearing on June 2 and directed Kumar, an American citizen who had challenged the revocation of his OCleard, to file an affidavit undertaking that he would re-frain from tweeting on matters that are sub-judice and delete his tweets against the judicihis tweets against the judici

ary.
The actor had received a notice on April 14 from the ministry of home affairs in-forming him about the can-cellation of his OCI card over some cases against him.

some cases against him.

Among the cases cited in
the notice were complaints for
violation of Covid protocol, a
tweet against a high court
judge who heard the hijab case
last year, and more recently a
tweet in which he stated that
"Hindutwa is built on lies".

Kumar had been arrested in the latter two cases and
spent a few days in judicial
custody before being granted
bail.



Chet

"Therefore, the aforesaid protection order, during the pendency of the petition, shall be on the condition that the petitioner files an affidavit of undertaking within the next 4

A strident critic of the Hindutva ideology, Kumar has been championing the cause of Dalits and Adivasis by participating in their struggles for their rights, in the process ruffling feathers among the undertaking within the next

ruffling feathers among the While he has been critical of the Congress and the Janata Dal Secular too, it is his comments on issues linked to the Sangh partiar that landed him in trouble.

The actor, who was represented by senior counsel Adity as Sondih, lade challenged the revocation of the OCI card and sought interin relief until the next hearing to preclude the

additional advocate-gene Aruna Shyam, who appea for the state, had veheme opposed any relief to Kumar.
They had alleged that "the
petitioner is in the habit of
tweeting about the judiciary
and matters that are sub-ju-

dies." the court found it appropriate to grant interim re-lief to Kumar. "Any violation of the under-taking by the peti-tioner would entail automatic vacation of the interim protec-tion," the court cautioned.

Born and raised in Amer-ica, Kumar graduated from Yale before moving to his na-tive Karnataka where he ini-tially taucht in a village school.

tive Karnataka where he ini-tially taught in a village school near Mysore apart from dabbling in theatre. He soon became a popular film actor, even as he continued social

work and activism.

He is in the country on the
OCI scheme that was introduced by amending the Citizenship Act, 1955, in August 2005. Since India does not al dual citizenship, the OCI c functions as a lifelong visa residence permit to stay and work in India. The only restrictions for OCI card-holders are voting in India and taking up government jobs.



Parkash Singh Badal.

Ex-Puniab CM Parkash Singh Badal passes away

Chandigarh: Five-time Pun jab chief minister and Shi-romani Akali Dal patriarch Parkash Singh Badal, known for his winsome humility and

for his winsome humility and strong rural roots, died on Tuesday. He was 95. Badal, who had not been keeping well for some time, was admitted to Mohali's Forwas admitted to Mohala 5 Put-tis Hospital over a week ago after he complained of uneas-iness in breathing. "Mr Badal passed away around 8pm," hospital director Abhijeet

ngh said. During his long political reer, Badal served the state as chief minister five times
— 1970-71, 1977-80, 1997-2002,
2007-12 and 2012-17. At 94,
Badal last year became the
country's oldest candidate

seven decades.
Prime Minister Narendra
Modi described his death as
a "personal loss" and said he
was a colossal figure of Indian politics who contributed

an politics who contributed greatly to the nation.

Born on December 8, 1927, in Abul Khuran near Malout, Badal graduated from Forman Christian College, Lahore. His political journey began in 1947 when he became the sarpanch of Badda village, then in Bathinad district. He became an MLA for the first time in 1957 when he was elected to the Punjab Assembly from Malout as a Congress member.

the Punjab Assembly from Malout as a Congress member. Badal courted arrest during Operation Bluestar in June 1984 when the army had entered the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar to flush out militants. In 1986, Badal formed the Shiromani Akali

Stalin steps in; flexible working hours on hold

Allies' ache stalls TN factory bill

minister M.K. Stalin has put on hold a controversial bill that sought to provide flexible working hours in factories be-yond the mandated eight-hour workday, quickly dousing a po-tential faceoff in the DMK-led ruling alliance and with trade unions which had strongly opposed the move as "anti-la-bour".

bour".

The bill that sought to amend the Factories Act of 1948 had been passed on the last day of the just-ended budget session of the Assembly despite stiff opposition from most parties, including DMK allies Congress, CPI, DMK allies Congress, CPI, CPM, MDMK, VCK and IUML. The bill had inserted a new provision, Section 65-A, ex-empting "any factory, or group or class or description of factoor class or description of facto-ries" from key clauses of the Factories Act dealing with daily working hours (which should not exceed 48 hours a week), the spread of working hours, intervals for rest and extra wages for overtime. Although labour welfare and skill development minis-

and skill development minister C.V. Ganesan and industries minister Thangam Thennarasu had assured the House that the bill would not dilute and was only meant to make working hours flexible, the Opposition and the trade unions were not convinced.

ions were not convinced.
Ganesan had said that
Tamil Nadu being the hub of
"major manufacturing companes" with the highest number
of factories in the country, industry associations had been
urging the state government
for reforms to "make statutory
provisions for flexible working
bours" as it could benefit the

provisions for flexible working hours" as it could benefit the industry and the economy, in particular women workers.

The "flexible working hours" in factories were to be subject to the basic norm of not exceeding 48 hours a week and were meant for only specific industries that seek



MK Stalin. File picture

exemption, the ministers had said, adding the move aimed to attract foreign direct invest-

However, even the DMK's allies protested the bill. Outside the Assembly, trade unions warned of an agitation unless the bill was withdrawn. Soon, the issue became a lit-mus test for the ruling DMK to keep its alliance intact ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elec-tions.

of the 2024 Lok Sadna elec-tions.

Stalin on Monday held a meeting with all the major trade unions and government representatives in Chennai. "The trade unions unanimous-ly demanded that the amend-ment bill be withdrawn," said veteran Citu leader A. Sound-araráian.

ment out be windrawn, san veteran Cittle uder A. Sound-arravjam. While software and IT industries "were already not covered under the Pactories covered under the Pactories and Establishments Act", he told reporters that the claim that 12-hour shifts would improve productivity was not valid as fatigue sets in after working for eight hours. The flexible working bours also meant that firms could make workers toil for more than 12 hours, affecting their health and morale. Stalin said in a statement issued on Monday evening that in deference to the views expressed by various trade unjons and political parties. *The

expressed by various trade un-ions and political parties, "fur-ther action on the Factories (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 2023, is put on hold", im-plying that it would not be sent

Graft axe on NIA officer

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has suspended one of its senior officers on graft charges following a direction from the Union home ministry.

Sources said superintendent of police Vishal Garp had been suspended following a bribery complaint.

"He was accused of seeking bribes in a case related to a Northeast insurgent group," said anofficial.

Garg was part of the team that probed the Hindutva terror case and was directly involved in investigating the 2007 Samjhauta Expressibats near Panipia tin Haryana and the Mecca Masjid blasts in Hyderabad.

the Mecca Masjid blasts in Hyderabad.

The NIA reports to the Union home ministry.

This is the second time that Garg has been in trouble for alleged corruption. In 2019, he had been suspended for alleged view of Rs 2 crore from a Delh-based businessman for parning him relief in a terror case. He had threatened to implicate the businessman if the money was not paid.

"Garg was, however, reinstated in 2020 after enough prosecutable evidence was not food from a gain state in 2020 after enough prosecutable evidence was not food found against him in the mat-

found against him in the mat-ter and was given a clean chit," an NIA official said.

Karnataka Muslim quota

OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday extended till May 9 its earlier order that had recorded an assurance from

May 91s earlier order that had recorded an assurance from the Karnataka government that it would not implement its decision to scrap the 4 per cent reservation for Muslims. A bench of Justicos K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna gave the order after solicitor-general Tushar Mehtar, but with the solicitor of the sol

ment, sought adjournment of the hearing. Senior advocate Dushy-ant Dave, appearing for the petitioners, objected to the adjournment, but Mehta said: "When I say the impugned order will not be implement-ed, it means the old order will continue."

Roving Pavan in Kuno enclosure

Bhopal/Sheopur: Cheetah Oban aka Pavan, which had strayed out of Kuno Nation-al Park in Madhya Pradesh multiple times and had to be rescued from far-off locations has been shifted to an enclo sure in the park, a senior for est department official said or

tesday.

The male cheetah had wan red outside the KNP at least to times this month. In the test incident, the feline was latest incident, the feline was tranquillised on April 22 while it was about to cross over to a forest in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh and brought back to the KNP. On April 7, Pavan was rescued from the Bairad area in Madhya Pradesh's



A cheetah at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.

ficer Prakash Kumar Verma confirmed on Tuesday that Pavan had now been shifted to a large enclosure, where the feline is staying with two

the feline is staying with two female cheetahs.
"Since Pavan was repeatedly enturing out of the KNP boundaries and reaching non-forest areas, the Cheetah Task Force decided to put the feline into a large enclosure to ensure that other works at the park are not affected," he said. Pavan and the female cheetah Asha were released into the wild on March 11, almost six months after they were

six months after they were

Shivpuri after being tranquil-lised, officials had said. KNP divisional forest of-

Jundred only.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

bringaged Property located at Poperty (1), All that part and parcel of the Entire Co. Act the First First First Nerthern Sed swering superbull area of 475 s.g. at.

Co. Act the First First First Nerthern Sed swering superbull area of 476 s.g. at.

cor or less consisting of 15(en) bod room. 1 (one) living c.om dering space, at the core of the sed sometimes of 450 s.g. at.

The core of the control of the Co. Act to the

brought to the KNP from Africa. Two other felines, Elton and Freddie, were released into the park's free-range area on March 22.

The KNP has seen the death of two cheetahs—a male and a female—in less than a month. On April 23, the male cheetah Uday, translocated from South Africa in February this year, died prima face because of cardio-pulmonary failure, officials had said. One of the eight Namibian cheetahs, Sasha, aged more than four-and-a-half-years, died of a kidney allment on March 27.

For reintroducing the species that became extinct in India in 1932, a total of 20 felines, including 10 females, were translocated to the KNP in Sheonur

in 1952, a total of 20 felines, in-cluding 10 females, were trans-located to the KNP in Sheopur district from Namibia and South Africa in two batches in September 2022 and February this year.

A cheetah named Siyaya recently gave birth to four

recently gave on ...

The last cheetah died in ...

district in present day

#VibeWithTheTribe JOIN THE MUSIC TRIBE

Download the app

Google Play

Available on the Visit t2ONLINE.in

Fashion. Films. Music. Gadgets & more

Long wait for hostel HANG OUT WITH YOUR TRIBE ONLINE sparks JNU

New Delhi: A group of stu-dents are on a protest at Jawa-harlal Nehru University alleg-ing they are yet to be assigned hostel rooms despite being in the second semester, which has forced them to put up at rented accommodations.

protest

rented accommodations.
The protesting students
began a sit-in at the office of
the dean of students on Monday evening. They said the
demonstration would continue till their demands were met.
There was no immediate
response from the JNU administration.

The protesters also claimed that they had been locked inside the office and denied "basic necessities of accessing

inside the office and denied "basic necessities of accessing the toilets". In a statement, the Jawaharial Nehru University Students' Union said: "Students Neben sitting inside the dean of students' Office since Monday, demanding hostels. Despite being into the second semester, students are being forced to stay in rented rooms and pay exorbitant rents." The students also alleged that the handover of a new hostel was being delayed. "The construction of Barak Hostel is with the CPWD, which has given the contract to a private company. This private company. This private company. This private company. The shadover of the hostel is being delayed indefinitely as a result, "the JNUSU claimed. "The students was a result," the JNUSU claimed. "The students who are in down be given hostel is being delayed indefinitely as a result," the JNUSU claimed. "The students who are in downs be given hostels inhunciately," it added. rri

LGBT parents seek marriage equality New Delhi: A group

parents has written to Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandra-chud, heading a bench hearing the pleas seeking legal sanc-tion for same-sex marriage, urging that their LGBTQIA++ wards be granted the right to "marriage-quality"

wards be granted the right to "marriage equality".

The letter by Sweekar-The Rainbow Parents comes at a time a five-judge constitution bench headed by the CJI is hearing a batch of petitions seeking legal validation for

nearing a batten of petitions seeking legal validation for same-sex marriage for the fourth day.

"We desire to see our children and children-in-law find final legal acceptance for their relationship under the Special-We are certain that a nation as big as ours which respects its diversity and stands for the value of exclusion will open its legal gate of marriage equality to our children too.

"We are growing old. Some of us will touch 80 soon, we hope that we will get to see the legal stamp on the rainbow marriage of our children in curliffetine," the group said in its letter.

Sweekar-The Rainbow

our lifetime," the group said in its letter.

Sweekar-The Rainbow by the parents is a group formed by the parents of Indian LGBT-squared by the Indian LGBT



Justice DY Chandrachud.

It said that from knowing about gender and sexuality to understanding the lives of their children and, finally accepting their sexuality and their loved ones — the parents have gone through the whole "gamut of emotions".

nave gone through in we more 'gamuti of emotions'.

"see how the empathise with these who are opposing marriage who are opposing marriage where the seed of the s

We have faith in the people of India, the Constitution and the democracy of our nation," the letter said.

It referred to the apex court judgment of 2018 by which it decriminalised consensual gay sex. The judgment ensured LGBTGIA++ people

ensured LGBTQIA++ people are treated with dignity and acceptance, the parents said.

"Society is a changing and evolving phenomenon. Just as a rising tide lifts all boats the judgment by the Supreme Court created a ripple effect on society and has helped," the letter said. PTI