

# Lack of domain experts in panel behind Aravali definition fiasco?

## Six Of Nine Members In Committee That Reported To SC Were IAS Officers

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Gurgaon: Supreme Court's emphasis on domain experts as it stayed its November 20 judgment adopting a definition for Aravalis based on a 100m height cutoff has put the spotlight on the composition of the Union environment ministry (MoEF) technical committee that proposed the definition.

Six of the committee's nine members were bureaucrats – its chair and MoEF secretary Tanmay Kumar, the MoEF joint secretary, and the four forest secretaries of Aravali states Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat. The other three were a representative each from Supreme Court's Central Empowered Committee (CEC), Forest Survey of India (FSI) and Geological Survey of India (GSI).

Ordering the Nov 20 order to be kept in abeyance, a bench of Chief Justice Suryakant and justices JK Maheshwari and AG Masih proposed to constitute a committee of domain experts for an "exhaustive, holistic and scientific" examination of the Aravali hills and ranges that can draft a comprehensive definition to protect its "structural and ecological" integrity.

The bench issued notices to the Centre and govts of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat, seeking their responses in four weeks and scheduling the next hearing for Jan uary 21.

"Until further orders, no permission shall be granted for mining, whether it is for new mining leases or renewal of old mining leases, in the Aravali hills and ranges as defined in the Forest Survey of India Report of Aug 25, 2010, without prior permission for this court,"

**WHO WAS ON THE MoEF TECHNICAL PANEL**  
**Chair**  
Tanmay Kumar  
Secretary, ministry of environment, forest and climate change  
**Convenor**  
Joint secretary, MoEF  
**State officials from**  
Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and Gujarat  
**Statutory & technical bodies including**  
Central Empowered Committee, Geological Survey of India and Forest Survey of India

**WHAT THE EXPERTS ARE SAYING**

<b>Bureaucratic dominance diluted scientific assessment</b> of the Aravalis	<b>No geomorphologists, ecologists, conservation biologists or hydrogeologists</b> which are critical for a fragile hill system	<b>The 100m cut-off ignores</b> how hill ranges and groundwater systems actually function	Environmentalists say <b>technical legitimacy suffered due to lack of independent scientists</b>
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the CJT-led bench said.

TOI had reported earlier that the MoEF affidavit, repeatedly underlined the heterogeneity of the Aravali ranges and arrived at the definition by a process of elimination without explaining how the discarded parameters – among them FSI's slope index – weighed up against its final logic of proposing a uniform definition for the Aravalis.

Proposed for the purpose of mining, the definition recommended recognising only any landform rising 100m or more from the lowest enclosing contour as an Aravali hill, with nearby hills within 500m clubbed as a range. There was concern about conservation efforts getting undermined because the ecologically critical Aravalis, which act as a natural barrier between Thar desert and the northern plains, are pre-

dominantly low-lying.

Legal experts told TOI the composition of the bureaucrat-dominated panel weakened its technical credibility and the court's order on Monday staying the Nov 20 judgment meant restoration of judicial oversight over a process that had drifted away from science-based assessment.

Debadityo Sinha, lead for climate and ecosystems at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, said the core flaw lay in the "arbitrary" 100m rule. "The relevant question was never whether an average elevation crosses that mark, but how many individual hills fall below it and what roles they play in groundwater recharge, biodiversity and local ecology. Committees without independent ecologists relied on bad statistics that risk excluding thousands of low-relief hills from protection," he said, calling for a

careful reconsideration that is based on science, ecological factors & constitutional principles.

MD Sinha, who retired as conservator of forests in south Haryana, MD Sinha called the definition "a case of technical evaluation being overshadowed by administrative control". "The environment ministry was seen as behaving more like a mining ministry, while administrative secretaries were taking technical calls that should have rested with experts with domain knowledge, which Supreme Court on Monday pointed out," he added.

Retired Haryana forest conservator RP Balwan, whose petition against the 100m definition was admitted by Supreme Court, said any marker that is based on vertical limits in the highly inconsistent Aravali ecosystem "is bound to destroy the entire system beyond repair".

# Between Labels: Why Docs Say ‘Don’t Rush Baby’s Sex’

## Differences Of Sex Development Frequently Misunderstood

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@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: "Boy or girl?" — is often the first question asked after a baby is born. But doctors at AIIMS Delhi have warned that for some newborns, answering too quickly can alter the course of an entire life. They caution that differences of sex development (DSD) — medical conditions in which a

**In some cases, DSD can be life-threatening. Conditions such as congenital adrenal hyperplasia can cause severe salt imbalance, shock and even death in newborns if not diagnosed promptly**

baby is born with sex organs or hormones that do not follow the typical male or female pattern — are frequently misunderstood and confused with identity issues, leading to hurried decisions with lifelong consequences.

For most families, the label is assigned within seconds. According to specialists, for a small yet significant number of newborns, haste can permanently affect health, well-being and future care. Doctors stress that DSD is about biological development, not identity, and must not be conflated with transgender health.

Underlining that these conditions are more common than widely believed, Dr Vandana Jain, professor of paediatric endocrinology at AIIMS, said the institute sees about 150 new DSD cases every year, though the true numbers are likely higher due to stigma and under-reporting. Globally, the estimated incidence is about one in 4,000 to 5,000 live births.

**AIIMS SEES 150 NEW CASES EVERY YEAR**  
AI Illustration

**What Is DSD**

- Differences of Sex Development (DSD) are medical conditions
- Involve chromosomes, hormones or reproductive organs
- Not related to gender identity or transgender health

**How Common Is It**

- Estimated incidence: 1 in 4,000-5,000 live births
- Approx 150 new DSD cases every year at AIIMS New Delhi
- Specialists say cases are often under-reported due to stigma

**Why Doctors Urge Caution**

- Sex development happens in multiple stages
- Genes
- Chromosomes
- Internal organs
- External anatomy
- Psychological development
- No single test or scan can decide sex at birth

**When DSD Can Be Dangerous**

- Some DSD conditions are life-threatening
- Example: Congenital adrenal hyperplasia
- Causes severe salt imbalance
- Can lead to shock or death if untreated
- Some conditions are also linked to an increased risk of malignancy
- Early diagnosis and hormone therapy can save lives

**Risks Of Rushed Decisions**

- Surgery before full evaluation can cause:
- Lifelong health complications
- Missed cancer surveillance
- Psychological distress

**The institute sees about 150 new DSD cases every year, though the true numbers are likely higher due to stigma and under-reporting. Globally, the estimated incidence is about one in 4,000 to 5,000 live births**

—DR VANDANA JAIN | PROFESSOR OF PAEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGY AT AIIMS

She added that DSD is not always detected at birth and may surface later, especially at puberty, when physical development is delayed or atypical.

In some cases, DSD can be life-threatening. Conditions such as congenital adrenal hyperplasia can cause severe salt imbalance, shock and even death in newborns if not diagnosed promptly. According to doctors, these are treatable medical conditions and, with early diagnosis and hormone therapy, many children grow up healthy and lead normal lives. Some DSD conditions are also linked to an increased risk of malignancy, making long-term medical follow-up essential.

Highlighting the cost of getting decisions wrong, doctors say under pressure from stigma or social expectations, some children undergo interventions before their biology is fully understood, while others miss continued monitoring and develop serious complications later. "Sex development unfolds across multiple layers — genes, chromosomes, internal organs, external anatomy and later psychological development," Dr Jain said, noting that no single test can capture the full picture.

At AIIMS, children with DSD are evaluated by a multidisciplinary team of paediatricians, endocrinologists, surgeons, geneticists and mental health professionals. Decisions are taken gradually, with parents counselled at every stage. Mental health specialists warn that families often experience fear, guilt and panic after birth. Dr Rajesh Sagar, professor of psychiatry at AIIMS, said that without counselling, some parents discontinue care or emotionally withdraw from the child, deepening distress and harming outcomes.

Doctors also called for flexibility in birth records and school documentation so families are not forced into premature decisions. Their message was clear: when a baby's sex is unclear, haste may satisfy society, but patience protects the child.

**CUSTOMS PREVENTIVE COMMISSIONERATE**  
**MUMBAI CUSTOMS ZONE-III**  
**DISPOSAL SECTION, RUMMAGING & INTELLIGENCE WING,**  
**NEW CUSTOMS HOUSE, BALLARD ESTATE, FORT, MUMBAI-400 001**  
**Email: disposal-prev@gov.in**

**E-AUCTION NOTICE**

E-Auction cum e-tender no. MSTC/WRO/Customs Preventive/11/ Mumbai/25-26/51906 of CRGO Steel Sheets, 01 Lot will be conducted on 13.01.2026 by Disposal Section, R&I, New Custom House through M/s MSTC Ltd., 607 Raheja Centre, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400021. Details of lots (auction catalogues) are available on [www.mstcindia.co.in](http://www.mstcindia.co.in). Lots can be inspected at their respective location on 06.01.2026 & 07.01.2026 from 12:00 HRS to 16:00 HRS. For participation/registration and other terms and conditions, log on to [www.mstccommerce.com](http://www.mstccommerce.com) or contact Asst. Manager, M/s MSTC, Ph. No. 022-22872011/22886261. Complaints after delivery of the sold goods will not be entertained by the department.

**Naresh Kumar Tiwari**  
Deputy Commissioner of Customs, Disposal, R&I (P)

**DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING**  
**EOI Notice**

The Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), Mumbai, under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India, invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from experienced and reputed consulting firms for providing Consultancy Services for Ship Recycling Detailed Project Report (DPR) Preparation and Digital Enablement Planning.

The detailed REOI document is available on the Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) (<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>) and the DGS website (<https://www.dgshipping.gov.in/>). Interested firms meeting the prescribed eligibility criteria may submit their EOIs strictly in accordance with the instructions contained in the REOI document.

**Key Details**

- Tender ID: 2025\_DGS\_891258\_1
- Tender Reference No.: 13-44/20-2022-ENG-05 (17970)
- Last Date for Submission: 19 January 2026
- Mode of Submission: Online through CPPP

DGS reserves the right to cancel or modify this request without assigning any reason therefor.

**TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED**  
**SHORT NOTICE TENDER**

The TGRANSCO invites online Bids on e-procurement platform (short notice tender) for supply of the following Equipment:-

Sl.No.	Tender Specification No.	Description of Equipment
1.	TGPM11- 43/2025	33 kV Isolator Metallics.
2.	TGPM11- 44/2025	220 kV Isolator Metallics.
3.	TGPM11- 45/2025	132 kV Isolator Metallics.

Bidders can have further details and download the tender schedule from e-procurement platform @ [www.tender.telanganagov.in](http://www.tender.telanganagov.in) (Telangana state), Contact Nos:0/9. The Chief Engineer/P&MM, TGRANSCO, Hyderabad. Phone: 040-23396000, Extn:3670/ 3583/3276, [www.tgranSCO.com](http://www.tgranSCO.com)

DIPR R.O.No.998-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26, Dt:30-12-2025 Sd/- Chief Engineer/P&MM

**E-Auction Sale Notice under IBC, 2016.**  
**Notice for Sale of Assets**  
**Plutus Infraventures Private Limited**  
CIN : U51432CT2014PTC001546  
Regd. Office :Paradise, Ring Road No.-1, Kaushal Ghri Nirman Samiti, Raipura Chowk, Raipur - 492001 (CG)  
Liquidator's Office: A D B & Company, Chartered Accountants, 1st Floor, Mahavir Gashala Complex, Moudhapara, Raipur (C.G.) – 492001

sale of Assets of M/s Plutus Infraventures Private Limited (In Liquidation) forming part of Liquidation Estate by the Liquidator appointed by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Cuttack Bench vide order I.A. (IB) No. 28/BC of 2023 dated 24th January 2023 The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform- <https://ibbi.baanknet.com>

Auction	Description of the Property	Reserve Price EMD Amount Bid InCre. Value
1.	<b>Land &amp; Building:</b> Freehold diverted land (0.327 Hect.) situated within the boundary wall at Kh.No. 83/20 P.H. No. 104/58, in front of Indian Bank, DDU Nagar, Darganiya, Pt. Deendayal Ward No. 69, Raipur-492001 (CG)	<b>7,22,42,272/-</b> <b>72,24,227/-</b> <b>2,00,000/-</b>

**EMD Submission Deadline- Date- 12.01.2026**  
**Date & Time of E-Auction : Date – 16.01.2026, Time – 01:00 PM to 02:00 PM**  
with unlimited extension of 05 minutes each.

**Terms & Conditions of the E-Auction are as under:** 1. E-Auction will be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" AND "WHATSOEVER THERE IS" basis. As such sale of assets of the company is without any recourse or any kind of warranties and indemnities and is being conducted through approved E-Auction Service Provider PSB Alliance Private Limited. All the terms and conditions of the auction are available at <https://ibbi.baanknet.com>. 2. Prospective bidders need to register on Baanknet auction platform. (<https://ibbi.baanknet.com>) and should carefully read the eligibility criteria and shall submit the requisite documents, including a declaration of eligibility under Section 29A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code through the electronic auction platform. 3. Prospective bidders shall deposit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) through the Baanknet auction platform. It is also specified that if the bidder is found ineligible under section 29A or under any other criteria of the Code, EMD shall be forfeited. 4. All the auction process documents are uploaded on the Baanknet Portal and the participants must download the same and submit all the documents on the portal. 5. The Qualified Bidders, prior to submitting their Bid, should make their independent enquiries regarding the Company, Assets, Claims and Liabilities, Commercial and Financial Commitments, Operational and Maintenance Charges and other recurring and incidental business costs, if any, at their own expense and satisfy themselves. 6. The Successful Bidder will be responsible for the applicable stamp duties, legal cost, transfer charges and fees, GST and other taxes related to the sale unit under this E-Auction and for completing the documentation and obtaining the permission relating to the sale of assets of Company. 7. As per the Paragraph 12 of Schedule I of IBBI (Liquidation Process), Regulations, 2019, on the close of the auction, the highest bidder shall be invited to provide balance sale consideration within ninety days of the date of such demand. Provided that payments made after thirty days shall attract interest at the rate of 12%. Provided further that the sale shall be cancelled if the payment is not received within ninety days. 8. It is clarified that, this invitation purports to invite prospective bidders and does not create any kind of binding obligation on the part of the Liquidator or the Company to effectuate the sale. The Liquidator reserves the right to cancel or modify the e-auction process and / or not to accept and / or disqualify any interested party/ potential investor / bidder without assigning any reason and without any liability. 9. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the Liquidator. The Liquidator shall not be responsible in any way for any third-party claims / rights / dues. 10. The sale shall be subject to regulation prescribed under the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

**Bankim Shukla**  
Liquidator.  
Date: 31.12.2025  
Plutus Infraventures Private Limited-In Liquidation  
IBBI Reg. No. : IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00606/2017-18/11067  
AFA Valid Till 31.12.2025  
E-mail Id : [liquidation.pipl@gmail.com](mailto:liquidation.pipl@gmail.com), [bankimshukla2016@gmail.com](mailto:bankimshukla2016@gmail.com)

**PIRAMAL FINANCE LIMITED.**  
CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639  
Registered Office: Unit No.-601, 6th Floor, Piramal Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp. Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kuria (West), Mumbai-400070 –T +91 22 3802 4000  
Branch Office: Duxback House 1st Floor, Opposite Kala Mandir, 41 Shakespeare Sarani Kolkata- 700017  
Contact Person: 1. Kazi Abdul Mojammel- 9830544300, 2. Varun Kumar- 8445422518  
E-Auction Sale Notice-Fresh Sale

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Piramal Finance Ltd (Formerly Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd.) under the **Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the possession, on "As Is Where is Basis", "As is What is Basis" and "Whatever is There is Basis". Particulars of which are given below:

Loan Code/ Branch/ Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Property Address _final	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Outstanding Amount (27-12-2025)
Loan Code No. 0390000225, Raipur (Branch), Manbir S (Borrower), Parmajest Singh (Co Borrower 1)	Dt: 29-10-2019, Rs. 22,04,775/-, (Rs. Twenty Two Lakh Four Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Five Only)	All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property Having An Extent - Old Shop No. 2595, New Shop No. 38 Ground Floor, P.H.No. 114, Kh.No. 271 Part Tikra Para, Nehrunagarwardno38 Tahasil/Dist- Raipur Raipur Chhattisgarh 492001	Rs. 15,20,000/- (Rs. Fifteen Lakh Twenty Thousand Only)	Rs. 1,52,000/- (Rs. One Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Only)	Rs.53,78,743/- (Rs. Fifty Three Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Three Only)

**DATE OF E-AUCTION: 03-02-2026, From 11.00 A.M. TO 1.00 P.M. (WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 5 MINUTES EACH).**  
**LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID: 02-02-2026, BEFORE 4.00 P.M.**

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in [www.piramalfinance.com/e-Auction.html](http://www.piramalfinance.com/e-Auction.html) or email us on [piramal.auction@piramal.com](mailto:piramal.auction@piramal.com)  
**STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR**

The Above-Mentioned Borrower/Guarantor Are Hereby Notified To Pay The Sum As Mentioned In Section 13(2) Notice In Full With Accrued interest Till Date Before The Date Of Auction, Failing Which Property Will Be Auctioned/Sold And Balance Dues If Any Will Be Recovered With The Borrowers Attention Is Drawn Towards Sub-Section 8 Of Section 13, Of The Act, In Respect Of The Time Available, To Redeem The Secured Asset. Borrowers In Particular And Public In General May Please Take Note, That In Case The Auction Scheduled Herein Fails For Any Reason Whatsoever Then The Secured Creditor May Enforce Its Security By The Way Of Private Treaty.

Date: December 31, 2025  
Place: Raipur

Sd/- (Authorized Officer),  
Piramal Finance Limited,

**ICICI Bank**  
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor, Satpal Chambers, Dhand Complex, Behind Raj Bhawan, Gaurav Path, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001

**PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**  
(See proviso to rule 8(6))  
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known Encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	M/s Mangal Commercial Private Limited (Borrower) Pankaj Agrawal, Sumad Agrawal, Pradeep Kumar Agrawal, Bobita Agrawal (Co-Borrower) 016151000059, 016155000050, 016155000049.	Office No. B-05, Sri Narayan Plaza, Mouza - Juna, Bilaspur, Ph. No. 22/34, Ward No. 24, Sivaji Nagar Ward, Division Sheet No. 8, Block No. 5, Plot No. 291, Kharsa No. 589/21, 599/2, 589/4, 589/7, 599/4, 589/5, 599/2, 590/3, 917/3, Measuring Area 470.29 Sq. Ft./43.707 Sq. Mtr. Known Encumbrances- M/s Mangal Commercial Private Limited Filed Securitisation Appeals Before Drt, Jabalpur Bearing Sa/549/2025 & Sa/550/2025, Which Are Pending Adjudication. However, No Orders Are Passed Staying Sarfaesi Proceeding As On Date Of Publication	Rs. 12,51,13,803/- (As on December 01st, 2025)	Rs. 59,50,000/- (Rs. 59,50,000/-)	January 23, 2026 From 11:00 A.M. to 01:00 P.M.	February 06, 2026 From 10:50 A.M. onwards.

The online auction will be conducted on the website URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com> of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ Noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by February 05, 2026 before 05:00 P.M. else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule.

The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor, Satpal Chambers, Dhand Complex, Behind Raj Bhawan, Gaurav Path, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001 on or before February 05, 2026 before 05:00 P.M. Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before February 05, 2026 before 05:00 P.M. along with the scanned image of the Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case the prospective bidder(s) is/ are unable to submit his/ her/ their offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor, Satpal Chambers, Dhand Complex, Behind Raj Bhawan, Gaurav Path, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001 on or before February 05, 2026 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Bilaspur.

For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employee Phone No. 9324948920.

Please note that Marketing agencies ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited, have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed Terms and Conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p45](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p45)

Date: December 31, 2025, Place: Raipur (Bilaspur)

Authorized Officer,  
ICICI Bank Limited

# ‘Wife entitled to live with dignity’: Court grants ₹5-lakh maintenance

Koushiki.Saha  
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A Delhi court has directed a man to pay Rs 5 lakh per month as interim maintenance to his wife, observing that "sustenance does not mean leading the life of an animal or being reduced to an unperson."

Dismissing the husband's objections, including his claim of residing in Dubai, the court held that an "able-bodied husband" cannot evade his statutory obligation to maintain his wife or allow her to be pushed into financial distress.

The observations were made by family court judge Devender Kumar Garg while deciding an application for interim maintenance under Section 144 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

The husband's counsel argued that the application was not maintainable under the statute and claimed the wife was educated, professionally qualified and capable of earning. It was further alleged that she had concealed details of her education and income, that the marriage had lasted only 13 months, and that she had voluntarily withdrawn from the matrimonial home without sufficient cause. The defence also contended that the demand of Rs 8 lakh per month was excessive and unsupported by particulars of expenditure, especially since

**COURT SAYS**

**Sustenance does not mean leading the life of an animal or being reduced to an unperson**

the couple had no children.

Rejecting these submissions, the wife's counsel argued that being capable of employment and being actually employed were "distinct concepts." It was submitted that although she was employed prior to marriage, she was presently unable to maintain herself and was dependent on her family for daily expenses after leaving the matrimonial home due to alleged cruelty. Stressing the principle of dignified living, it was argued that the husband, a man of substantial means, was legally bound to maintain the same standard of living for his wife as she enjoyed before separation.

The court noted that although the husband claimed a monthly income of AED 40,000, he failed to provide bank statements and VAT returns despite repeated directions, forcing the court to draw an adverse inference and estimate his income.

It also dismissed his objection that living in Dubai, "where the cost of living is higher," exempted him from maintenance.

Considering his earning capacity, lifestyle and lack of other dependants, the court ruled that Rs 5 lakh per month was a reasonable interim maintenance.

# ‘Could not handle Delhi’s polluted air’

New Delhi: A day after stepping down as the finance head of a pharmaceutical manufacturing company due to Delhi's deteriorating air quality, the executive said he would move back to Mumbai. Adjusting to Delhi's environment after spending two decades in Mumbai proved overwhelming, he pointed out.

"I'm from Mumbai and moved to Delhi in July. I lived in Mumbai for 20 years, but the daily climate here was something I couldn't manage. I just couldn't handle it," said Rajkumar Bafna, who has resigned from Akums Drugs.

He added, "My wife and I came to Delhi together, but choosing to return to Mumbai is a personal decision. Pollution is a general problem for everyone, there's nothing specific against anyone. I felt it was a personal call, so I decided to leave. I have already moved out of the city and am at my native place in Rajasthan."

Senior company officials said Bafna was frequently seen coughing and that prolonged exposure to poor air quality appeared to have visibly affected his health and overall wellbeing. "For people who aren't born here, coping with the pollution can become extremely difficult," said a senior official.

An internal email accessed from Akums Drugs revealed that Bafna resigned from his position with effect from Dec 31. In the email sent to a senior official on Dec 3, Bafna wrote, "I would like to inform you that due to Delhi pollution level, I am resigning from my position as president finance. Kindly relieve me asap." TNN

# Interstate cyber fraud network busted, four men arrested

New Delhi: Delhi Police has busted an interstate cyber fraud network and arrested four accused in separate cases related to online investment fraud and a digital arrest scam.

In the first case, a resident of Laxmi Nagar in east Delhi was duped of Rs 31.45 lakh through a fake investment scheme operated via a social media group. The complainant was allegedly persuaded to install a trading app and transfer money to six diffe-

rent bank accounts on the promise of high returns. Soon after the transfers were made, the group disappeared and the application stopped functioning.

Police said the stolen funds were routed through multiple mule accounts. TNN