



**NORTH**

**Man accused of attempting to rape dancer held**

**Kurukshetra (Haryana):** The Haryana Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested a man for allegedly trying to rape an orchestra dancer who had attempted suicide alleging police inaction in the case. Paramjit Singh, a resident of village Ugala and owner of the orchestra group, was arrested

on charges of attempting to rape the victim, DSP Shahbad Markanda, Surinder Manhju said. He further said that the dancer who was admitted to a private hospital in Kurukshetra after she allegedly tried to end her life on Tuesday has since been discharged. **PTI**



The PSLV-C48 carrying India's radar imaging earth observation satellite and nine foreign satellites blasts off from the spaceport in Sriharikota Wednesday. **PTI**

**EAST**

**BSF rescues Russian dogs from Indo-Bangladesh border**

**Kalyani (WB):** The BSF has rescued a pair of expensive Russian dogs from being smuggled to Bangladesh from West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, an official of the border guards said here on Wednesday. The around 7-month-old Borzois — a male and a female — were handed over to the police and subsequently to a

veterinary doctor. “A BSF jawan spotted a man walking with two bags near Amudia border outpost early in the morning. As his body language was suspicious, the jawan told him to stop. The man then dropped the bags and ran away to Bangladesh,” said Arun Dahiya, Commandant of the BSF's 112 Naga battalion. **PTI**

**WEST**

**Organisation seeks passage of ‘Persons of Goan Origin’ Bill**

**Panaji:** Revolutionary Goans, a local organisation, said on Wednesday that it has planned a yatra to press its demand that only those whose ancestors lived in Goa before 1961 should get benefit of state government's welfare schemes and government jobs. It has drafted the Persons Of Goan Origin (POGO) Bill which should be

passed by the Assembly, said Manoj Parab, who heads the organisation. The yatra will begin from December 15, he said. Persons of Goan Origin, defined as those whose ancestors were living in Goa prior to 1961, should have hundred percent reservation in government jobs and 80 per cent reservation in the private sector, he said. **PTI**

**SOUTH**

**Actor Shane Nigam apologises for outbursts against producers**

**Kochi:** Facing a ban over his alleged non-cooperation in completing two Malayalam movies, actor Shane Nigam on Wednesday tendered an apology to film producers over his recent outbursts against them. The 22-year-old actor recently hit out at the producers, saying “I doubt the producers have suffered not mental trauma

but mental illness.” Admitting that he had made such a remark against producers during his interaction with the media on Monday, the actor, in a Facebook post, said “my apologies if anyone is hurt by my words.” The producers had demanded a public apology from the actor for his outbursts against them. **PTI**

**2002 GUJARAT RIOTS**

**Nanavati report junks evidence by 3 former IPS officers, indicts then JCP**

**VAIBHAV JHA**

AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 11

EVEN AS the Justice G T Nanavati Commission junked evidence provided by three former IPS officers in its detailed report on incidents in Ahmedabad during the large scale anti-Muslim violence in Gujarat in 2002, especially pertaining to Gulberg Society and Naroda Patiya massacres, it indicted the then Joint Commissioner of Police (JCP) MK Tandon for his failure to “assess the seriousness of the situation and bring in additional force to control the mob”.

The report points to the role of the then JCP, mentioning how the senior police officer left Naroda Patiya and Gulberg Society areas, which were under his jurisdiction, just before the violence and returned only after the killings.

A total of 97 people (including one Hindu) were killed in Naroda Patiya on February 28, 2002, while 44 persons (39 Muslims and 4 Hindus), including former Congress MP Ahsan Jafri, were killed in the Gulberg Society massacre.

However, the Commission chose to ignore evidence provided by then IPS officers R B Sreekumar, who is now retired, Rahul Sharma, who took voluntary retirement and practises law at the Gujarat HC, and Sanjiv Bhatt, who was dismissed from service and is now in jail.

Sreekumar had suggested that the government had not done enough to control the riots. Sharma had collected records of calls made from February 27 to March 4, 2002, from two private mobile service providers — Celforce and AT&T — as evidence and presented it before the Commission. Bhatt had claimed he was in a meeting called by then chief minister Narendra Modi at his residence on the evening of the train carnage, where he had al-

**EXPLAINED**

**E** 12 yrs for probe, 5 for public report

THE JUSTICE G T Nanavati Commission appointed by the Gujarat government took 12 years to complete its inquiry into the Godhra train carnage and the riots that followed. It submitted its final report in November 2014. The Gujarat government took five years to make the report public. Minister of State for Home Pradeepsinh Jadeja said it was “lengthy and needed time to study every aspect”. This was in sharp contrast to the Commission's first report inquiring into the Godhra train carnage, which was submitted to the then chief minister Narendra Modi, giving him a clean chit, in September 2008, and that was tabled in the state Assembly within days.

Nanavati is the same judge who headed the one-man commission that probed the anti-Sikh riots of 1984.

legedly said that “Hindus must be allowed to vent their anger”.

Tandon is the only senior officer whose role in controlling the riots has been found to be inadequate by the commission. The sector under Tandon's jurisdiction saw the maximum deaths.

However, the report has given a clean chit to personnel posted at Naroda and Meghaninagar police stations for the violence at Naroda Patiya and Gulberg Society, respectively, on the ground that meagre police force deployed at these two areas was not adequate to deal with the massive mob that had gathered that day.

**Panel recommends ‘reasonable restriction’ on media during riots**

**PARIMAL DABHI**

GANDHINAGAR, DECEMBER 11

ONE OF the significant recommendations of Justices (retired) G T Nanavati and AH Mehta Commission to the Gujarat government is to put “reasonable restriction” on media during communal riots. Citing certain statements by police officers, the panel said “people got excited and indulged in communal violence” because of the wide publicity given by the media to the Godhra incident and subsequent riots.

The Commission has cited statements of two former IPS officers — R B Sreekumar and Rahul Sharma — whose evidence, otherwise, was rejected by it.

“Not only police officers but also some persons from the pub-



44 persons, including former Congress MP Ahsan Jafri, were killed in the Gulberg Society massacre. **Express Archives**

lic who have given evidence or statements before this Commission, have stated that because of the wide publicity given by the media to the Godhra incident and the incidents which happened thereafter, people got excited and indulged in communal violence,” states the report.

“Sreekumar, who was then head of the State Intelligence Bureau, has stated in one of the affidavits that ‘biting and chilling live reportage’ and publishing news relating to communal riots in a ‘greatly irresponsible manner’ had led to communal violence at many places,” it said.

**What Modi told the commission**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 11

IN VOLUME 9, the Nanavati-Mehta Commission has put out responses given by then chief minister Narendra Modi to questions raised by the Commission, specifically related to former Congress MP Ahsan Jafri, Congress leader and former CM Amarsinh Chaudhary, former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt and measures taken to control the riots.

Jafri was among the 68 killed in the Gulberg Society massacre. Jafri's wife Zakia had claimed that Modi was among the many people her husband had called to seek help. However, Modi said that he got no call from former

Congress MP Ahsan Jafri “either on 28.2.2002 at 1 pm or at any other point of time”.

Amarsinh Chaudhary, who was the then president of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC), had said in an affidavit to the Commission that he met Modi along with Congress leader Naresh Rawal on February 28, and apprised him of the “grave danger to the life of Shri Jafri and other occupants of Gulberg Society”. He had told the Commission that he “did not find any positive response from the chief minister”. The commission notes that on basis of this circumstance, “it is alleged that the chief minister allowed that incident to happen and did not take any step to prevent it”.



**AP/PTI**



**Reuters**

**THE NOBEL**

Swedish finance minister Magdalena Andersson and Economics Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee arrive at the Nobel banquet at Stockholm City Hall, in Stockholm; Economics Nobel laureate Esther Duflo delivers her speech.

**Journalist says wrong to suggest allegations against Akbar fiction**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

JOURNALIST GHAZALA Wahab told a Delhi court on Wednesday that allegations of sexual harassment she made against former Union Minister MJ Akbar were not a work of fiction and that that she did not maliciously concoct a story to damage his reputation.

Akbar had to resign after journalist Priya Ramani levelled allegations of sexual misconduct on Twitter, following which he filed a defamation lawsuit against her. The court has set January 16 for the next date of hearing when final arguments will be addressed.

As Wahab's cross examination concluded, the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vishal Pahuja ordered journalists reporting on the case to restrain from making comments on lawyers in the media.

This development happened after Akbar's counsel Geeta Luthra made an oral complaint

about a news report in which allegations were made against members of her team.

The court ordered, “It has been brought to the attention of this court by the counsel for the complainant that personal comments are being passed about lawyers in media. Without pinpointing anyone from the media it has been conveyed that personal remarks of legal teams should not be made public in future.”

Luthra started the cross examination by asking Wahab, “Are you aware that the IPC has a section for sexual harassment ?” Wahab replied: “I am not aware”. Luthra then asked, “Are you aware that in August 1997, Supreme Court of India pronounced a judgment titled Vishaka vs State of Rajasthan which was widely reported in the newspapers?” Wahab replied that she was aware and was working at *The Asian Age* at the time.

Wahab was then asked whether she knew that the judgment dealt with sexual harassment at workplace, to which she

replied, “I was aware that it is about sexual harassment at the workplace as a news item but I did not know what implications it will have at the workplace.”

She was also asked whether as a journalist she was aware that in 2013 a Bill on sexual harassment at the workplace was introduced, to which she replied that she was aware.

Luthra put forward a slew of suggestions which Wahab denied.

She also denied suggestions that the allegations of sexual harassment by Akbar during her examination in chief were false. “It is wrong to suggest that the details of the events as claimed by me are a work of fiction. It is wrong to suggest that I have maliciously concocted a story to damage complainant's reputation even though I had left Asian Age in 1998...”

Wahab also denied that she made allegations against Akbar in order to damage his career and also told the court that Akbar had not been doing good work as a Minister for External Affairs.

**Unnao victim's family sits on dharna near her grave**

**MAULSHREE SETH**

UNNAO, DECEMBER 11

REFUSING TO climb down from their demand to meet Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at their residence, the family of the Unnao gangrape and murder victim on Wednesday reiterated their call and sat on a dharna near her burial ground. They also wanted Adityanath to announce that the culprits will be sent to the gallows within a week.

The 23-year-old victim's mother, father, brother and two sisters reached the burial ground early morning. They offered flowers at the temporary grave and refused to leave till the chief minister visited them.

“He (Adityanath) can come to seek votes but can't visit the poor now. He should announce in public that the accused will be sent to the gallows in a week,” the elder sister of the victim said.

**Karnataka govt to HC: Kids of illegal immigrants above 6 yrs to stay in child welfare homes**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

BENGALURU, DECEMBER 11

CHILDREN OF illegal immigrants arrested in Karnataka will be housed in child welfare homes in the state if they are above the age of six — as per the Juvenile Justice Act — while those below the age of six will stay with their parents at the detention centre, the Karnataka government informed the High Court here on Wednesday.

The government was responding to queries posed by Justice K N Phaneendra on the measures that would be taken to protect the children of illegal immigrants when the parents are detained for deportation under the Foreigners Act, 1946.

The court, which is hearing a bail plea by alleged illegal Bangladeshi immigrants Babul Khan (46) and his daughter Taniya (20), has asked state government to ensure that illegal immigrants are housed in a manner

**SC to take up review petitions against Ayodhya verdict today**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

THE SUPREME COURT will on Thursday take up petitions seeking review of its November 9 judgment in the Ayodhya case.

The judgment was delivered by a bench headed by the then Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and also comprising Justices S A Bobde (the current CJI), D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer.

But with Justice Gogoi retiring on November 7, the bench has been reconstituted to include Justice Sanjiv Khanna.

The judges will take up the matter in chamber and they will take a call on whether or not to allow the pleas to be heard in open court.

As per the list of business uploaded on the apex court's website, the bench would consider 18 review petitions in-chamber, out of which nine have been filed by parties who were part of the earlier litigation, and the other nine by “third parties”.

Bringing to an end a seven-decade legal battle over the title to the disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid site in Ayodhya, an issue that roiled India and propelled the rise of the BJP, the SC in its unanimous November 9 verdict ruled that the entire disputed land be handed over to a trust to be constituted for construction of a Ram temple and that Muslims be given five acres at “a suitable prominent place in Ayodhya” for building a mosque.

Those who have filed review petitions include Maulana Syed Ashhad Rashidi, legal heir of original litigant M Siddiq and Uttar Pradesh president of the Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind, five petitioners “supported” by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha and 40 “concerned citizens”, including economist Prabbhat Patnaik, historian Irfan Habib and ex-civil servant Harsh Mander.

that meets international norms before they are deported.

Two weeks ago, an advocate for two alleged illegal immigrants, who were arrested in September last year, pointed out in court that two children of those arrested were housed in a home for children and separated from their imprisoned mother for over a year.

The High Court has told the state government that the deportation process must begin as soon as an FIR is registered. The court has also indicated that alleged illegal immigrants must be housed in detention centres established as per international convention, and not in prisons.

On October 25, the Bengaluru Police arrested 60 alleged illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, including 40 women and children, as part of a crackdown. In the absence of a detention centre, 58 of those arrested were sent to Kolkata on November 22 as part of an informal arrangement with Bangladesh.

**HC stays order allowing re-instatement of IISc prof accused of sexual harassment**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

BENGALURU, DECEMBER 11

A DIVISION bench of the Karnataka High Court has stayed the order of a single judge of the court which allowed re-instatement of a professor of the Indian Institute of Science, who has been accused of sexual harassment by a doctoral student.

On August 6, Justice P B Bhananthri had set aside the dismissal of the professor on October 17 last year on the grounds that the IISc and an internal committee on sexual harassment did not follow the procedure for the probe.

A division bench stayed the order which had annulled the compulsory retirement ordered by IISc of the decorated scientist, profes-

sor Giridhar Madras, on December 6 following appeals by the IISc and the internal committee on sexual harassment in September.

An appeal filed by the student is pending admission in the High Court.

In its appeal against the August 6 order, the IISc stated there were no violations of procedure during investigation of the sexual harassment complaint by the student against her thesis guide.

The single judge had ruled that “due to lapses on part of Inquiry Committee and Disciplinary Authority, whole proceedings are vitiated till imposition of penalty”. An inquiry conducted by an internal committee and the voluntary retirement imposed on the professor are “liable to be set aside, the court had ruled.