



SC reinstates woman employee who levelled charges at ex-CJI

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

THE SUPREME Court has reinstated in service a woman staffer who had raised sexual misconduct allegations against former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi. Highly placed sources told *The Indian Express* that she had joined duty and proceeded on leave. All her arrears too have been cleared, the sources said.

The woman, who joined the Supreme Court in May 2014, had claimed victimisation for resisting unwelcome advances when she was posted at the residence office of former CJI Gogoi in October 2018. She claimed she was later transferred and then terminated from service.

An inquiry into her complaint by an In-House Committee, comprising Justices S A Bobde (the current CJI), Indu Malhotra and Indira Banerjee, had, however, "found no sub-



An in-house probe panel had given CJI Gogoi a clean chit

stance" in her charges and given a clean chit to the former CJI.

"The In-House Committee has found no substance in the allegations contained in the Complaint dated 19.4.2019 of a former employee of the Supreme Court of India" a May 6, 2019 notice by the office of the Supreme Court Secretary General had said. It also said that "in case of Indira Jaising vs Supreme Court of India & Anr. (2003) 5 SCC 494, it has been held that the Report of a Committee constituted as a part of the In-House Procedure is not liable to be made public."

The women staffer, who had withdrawn from the proceedings of the inquiry committee on

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Before London, ED found a Thampi link to Vadra — in Faridabad village

Thampi gave Rs 50 cr to realtor who repurchased land from Vadra: Probe

JAY MAZOOMDAAR & RITU SARIN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

BEFORE IT arrested Dubai-based businessman C C Thampi in connection with a case of alleged money laundering against Robert Vadra, son-in-law of Congress president Sonia Gandhi, and absconding arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari, the Enforcement Directorate conducted an independent probe into land deals in Amipur village in Faridabad district of Haryana.

Other than Thampi, the banking transactions and alleged role



Records show Thampi bought land from Vadra aide Mahesh Nagar

of a real estate dealer, Harbans Lal Pahwa, were also scrutinized by ED as part of the probe. Pahwa had previously been a director in Real Earth Estates, a company

owned by Vadra.

Thampi, according to ED, is an associate of Vadra and helped him invest in real estate assets in London — he runs Skylight FZE in Dubai which shares its name with a company owned by Vadra in India.

But long before this, there was another link. Land records of 2005, accessed by *The Indian Express*, show Thampi bought land from Vadra's former aide Mahesh Nagar in Amipur village in Faridabad. Nagar pooled and purchased land for Vadra — he has been under the ED scanner since 2016 in connection with land deals in Haryana and

Rajasthan.

Between 2005 and 2008, as reported by *The Indian Express* in 2017, Thampi, his Holiday City Centre Pvt Ltd, Vadra and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra purchased adjacent tracts of agricultural land in Amipur. At least one of these plots was in possession (kashtkari) of Nagar when Thampi's Holiday City Centre Pvt Ltd purchased it.

"I pooled some land for him (Thampi) and helped in a few

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Coronavirus: Screening of China flights at 7 airports

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

INDIA HAS started thermal screening of passengers at seven airports to check the possible influx of coronavirus, which has infected over 300 people in China's Wuhan province leading to one death so far.

Thermal screening will be done for passengers arriving from China, including Hong Kong, at the Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Kochi airports, apart from the three identified earlier in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

In a statement, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said: "Thermal screening of passengers to be undertaken. Provision of space at the pre-immigration area with logistics to install the thermal cameras to be made at these airports. Airlines staff to bring the passengers to the health counters before the immigration check."

The Health Ministry has already issued a travel advisory for people travelling to China.

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ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE

Telecom firms get some time on dues to Govt

SC agrees to hear their plea seeking nod for negotiating payment timeline

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

IN A reprieve to telecom companies Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea, and Tata Group's Tata Teleservices, the Supreme Court Tuesday agreed to hear their plea seeking permission to negotiate the timeline for payment of adjusted gross revenues (AGR) with the Department of Telecommunications next week.

On Monday, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone had moved the court seeking permission to "work out feasible terms mutually with DoT" to ensure they remained a "going concern". Less than a week before, the court had turned down a review petition seeking an extension in the payment schedule.

The matter will now be listed before the same bench led by Justice Arun Mishra, which had initially ruled on the AGR issue, Chief Justice of India S A Bobde said. Whether the fresh petition filed will be heard in the open

EXPLAINED Positive for Airtel, Vodafone

THE MOVE by the Supreme Court to admit the modification plea is being seen as a positive for telecom players Vodafone and Airtel. This has raised hope that telecom operators may be allowed to negotiate a sustainable schedule with the department of telecommunications for payment of AGR dues.

court or in chambers will be decided by Justice Mishra-led bench, he said.

Both Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, which have much larger AGR liabilities than other telecom and non-telecom players, have already provisioned Rs 34,767 crore and

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Sarpanch to daily wage, many line up in Valley to meet Naqvi with grievances

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 21

FROM A village sarpanch and a daily wage labourer to members of the Tribal Welfare Forum, many turned up to submit memorandums to Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Naqvi Tuesday afternoon and drawing his attention to their concerns including road connectivity, internet, electricity supply and poor salaries.

The first Union minister to visit the Kashmir Valley after



At Harwan near Srinagar, Tuesday. Shuaib Masoodi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah desired his colleagues reach out to the people of Jammu and

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Firozabad FIRs same, accused fear will be blamed for deaths



Ahmed, a cancer patient, is among those booked

SHYAMLAL YADAV
FIROZABAD, JANUARY 21

THE FIROZABAD police registered FIRs against eight people under the Arms Act following the December 20 protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, resulting in seven deaths. FIRs against five mention they were rounded up in an "injured" condition, while six FIRs claim the accused had "confessed" to have fired from illegal weapons. Relatives of the eight accused fear the FIRs could be a way of holding them responsible for the casualties.

Police are still investigating the cause of the seven deaths. Postmortems in case of six failed to recover bullets, as reported by *The Indian Express* earlier.

Thirteen people are in judicial custody for the Firozabad anti-CAA violence, including the

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Amit Shah in Lucknow on Tuesday. Vishal Srivastav

Protesters can protest but we are not going to withdraw CAA: Shah

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 21

UNDERSCORING THE government's hard line, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Tuesday that those who wish to protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act can do so but the new law would not be withdrawn under any circumstance.

Addressing a rally in support of the law in Lucknow, Shah said: "Main aaj Lucknow ki bhumi se danke ki chot pe kehne aya hun,

jisko virodh karna hai kar de, Citizenship (Amendment) Bill vapas nahi hone wala hai (Today, I want to say in Lucknow without any hesitation that whoever wants to protest can do so but the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill would not be withdrawn)."

Shah also told the gathering that a sky-high Ram Temple will come up in Ayodhya in the next three months. Targeting the Opposition, Shah said SP chief Akhilesh Yadav can criticise him or his party but if he "speaks

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Nepal getaway for old classmates from Kerala ends in tragedy, 8 dead

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ANCHOR

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE, SHAJU PHILIP & VISHNU VARMA
KATHMANDU, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 21



At Praveen Nair's house in Thiruvananthapuram

WHEN OLD classmates and good friends decide to get together, it is an occasion to cherish forever. And so it was on Monday night for automobile engineers, Praveen K Nair and Ranjith Kumar A P, as they huddled together with their wives and children in one room of a resort 50 km from Kathmandu.

Until Tuesday morning — when all of them were found unconscious, choked by fumes from the kerosene heater they had kept on through the night

with the windows shut. "They were brought here in a helicopter where doctors declared them dead on arrival," sources at the HAMS Hospital in Kathmandu told *The Indian Express*.

By then, local police had put out a list: Praveen K Nair (39), his wife Saranya (34), their three children, Sreebhadr (9), Aarcha (8) and Abhinav (7), and Ranjith Kumar (39), his wife

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