WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 22 PAGES

An in-house

probe panel

had given

CJI Gogoi a

clean chit

stance" in her charges and given

has found no substance in the al-

legations contained in the

Complaint dated 19.4.2019 of a

former employee of the Supreme

Court of India" a May 6, 2019 no-

tice 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

liable to be made public."

"The In-House Committee

a clean chit to the former CII.

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**ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE** 

Telecom firms

get some time

# **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-

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**GOVT & POLITICS** 

**SPEAKER'S POWER** 

TO DISQUALIFY PAGE 6

SC: RETHINK

**Karol Bagh** 



**ANAND MOHAN J** NEW DELHI, JANUARY 21

MODIFYING THE conditions it had imposed in granting bail to Bhim Army chief Chandrashekar Azad, a Delhi court Tuesday allowed him to visit Delhi, observing that "in a democracy, when election is the biggest celebration which should have maximum participation, it is fair that

he should also participate". On January

15, while granting him bail following his arrest last month over protests against the new citizenship law,

Additional Sessions Judge Kamini Lau had

restrained Azad from visiting Delhi for the next four weeks in view of the approaching Delhi Assembly elections. She had noted he was not a Delhi voter.

Was held

in Delhi

for protest

Azad moved an application for modification of the bail conditions through his lawyer Mahmood Pracha. On Tuesday, ASJ Lau directed Azad to provide the schedule of his visit to the DCP concerned, and mark his attendance before him wherever he intends to visit Delhi for medical treatment or for the purpose of elections. Azad will have to stay at the address provided by **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

# Nepal getaway for old classmates from Kerala

ends in tragedy, 8 dead PAGE 1 **ANCHOR** 

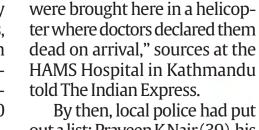
JANUARY 21

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE. **SHAJU PHILIP** & VISHNU VARMA KATHMANDU, 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



At Praveen Nair's house in

with the windows shut. "They

Thiruvananthapuram

out a list: Praveen K Nair (39), his wife Saranya (34), their three children, Sreebhadra (9), Aarcha (8) and Abhinav (7), and Ranjith Kumar (39), his wife

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# 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 CCThampi 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 con**ducted an independent probe into land deals in Amipur village

Other than Thampi, the banking transactions and alleged role

in Faridabad district of Haryana.



**Mahesh Nagar** 

bought land from Vadra aide

Records show Thampi

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 Citi 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 Citi Centre Pvt Ltd purchased it.

"I pooled some land for him (Thampi) and helped in a few CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**RELATED REPORT** PAGE 9

### **Coronavirus:** Screening of China flights at 7 airports

**ABANTIKA GHOSH** 

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. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### 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 court or in chambers will be deseeking 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

on dues to Govt SC agrees to hear their plea seeking

> 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.

cided 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 **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

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

**NAVEEDIQBAL** 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

desired his colleagues reach out to the people of Jammu and **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

Union Home Minister Amit Shah

# 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 CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 **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.

Amit Shah in Lucknow on Tuesday. Vishal Srivastav

Protesters can protest

but we are not going to

withdraw CAA: Shah

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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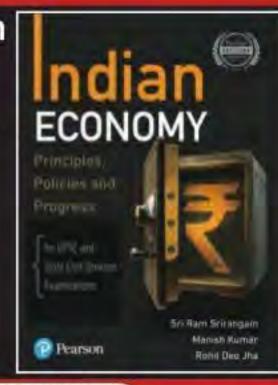
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