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EDITOR: ASHVINKUMAR KESHAVLAL RAMI

Regd. Office: TF-01, Nanakram Super Market, Ramnager, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad-380 005. Gujarat, India.

Phone/Fax: (079) 2757 3307, 90163 33307 (M) 93283 33307, 98253 33307, Email: garvigujarat2007@yahoo.com • Email: garvigujarat2007@gmail.com • Website: www.garvigujarat.co.in

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# Sabarimala: In a U-turn, Kerala's Travancore Devaswom Board supports entry of women of all ages

(Gns. News) A view of the Lord Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala, Kerala. File | Photo Credit: Vipin Chandran The Supreme Court has reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions seeking review of its September 2018 judgement allowing the entry of women of all ages into the Sabarimala shrine The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), which runs the historic Sabarimala temple in Kerala, took a U-turn in the Supreme Court on Wednesday by supporting its verdict which had allowed women of all age groups to enter the shrine. The Board, which also comprise the State government nominees, told a five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi that it is high time that a particular class not be discriminated on the ground of "biological attributes". A view of the Lord Ayyappa temple at Sabrimala in Kerala. Kerala govt opposes pleas seeking review of SC's Sabarimala verdict In the forenoon, the Kerala government



# Linkage of PAN with Aadhaar is mandatory for filing I-T return: SC

Constitution Bench had held that Aadhaar would remain mandatory for filing of I-T returns and allotment of PAN. File (representational image) The Supreme Court has said that linkage of Permanent Account Number (PAN) with Aadhaar is mandatory for filing of Income Tax returns A Bench comprising Justices A.K. Sikri and S. Abdul Nazeer said the top court has already decided the matter and upheld the Section 139AA of the Income Tax Act. The court's direction came on an appeal filed by the Centre against a Delhi High Court order allowing two persons, Shreya Sen and Jayshree Satpute, to file Income Tax returns for 2018-19 without linking their Aadhaar and PAN numbers. "The aforesaid order was passed by the High Court having regard to the fact that the matter was pending consideration in this Court. Thereafter, this Court has decided the matter and upheld the vires of section 139ÅA of the Income Tax Act. In view thereof, linkage of PAN with Aadhaar is mandatory," the Bench said. The top court noted that with regard to Assessment Year 2018-19, it has been informed that the two petitioners had filed the Income Tax returns in terms of the orders of the High Court and the assessment has also been completed. "We therefore make it clear that for the assessment year 2019-20, the income tax return shall be filed in terms of the judgment passed by this court. The special leave petition is disposed of in the above terms," the Bench said in an order on Monday. The petitioners had told the High Court that "despite orders, and multiple attempts they have not been able to file their ITR, since there is no available option to opt-out of providing an Aadhaar or Aadhaar Enrolment number during e-filing, on the website". The apex court on September 26, 2018, had declared the Centre's flagship Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid but struck down some of its provisions including its linking with bank accounts, mobile phones and school admissions. The court's direction came on an appeal filed by the Centre against a Delhi High Court order allowing two persons, Shreya Sen and

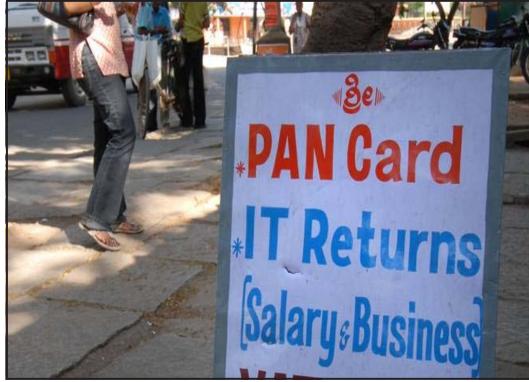
Jayshree Satpute, to file Income

Tax returns for 2018-19 without

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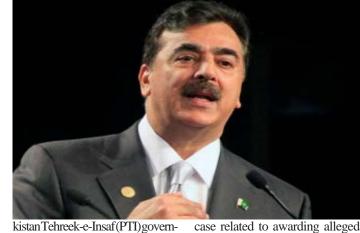
(Gns. News) Former Pakistan

Assessment Year 2018-19, it has been informed that the two petitioners had filed the Income Tax returns in terms of the orders of the High Court and the assessment has also been completed. "We therefore make it clear that for the assessment year 2019-20, the income tax return shall be filed in terms of the judgment

passed by this court. A fivejudge Constitution Bench had held that while Aadhaar would remain mandatory for filing of I-T returns and allotment of PAN, it would not be mandatory to link Aadhaar to bank accounts and telecom service providers cannot seek its linking for mobile

# Former Pakistan PM Gilani stopped from leaving country

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani was stopped from leaving the country by security officials at the Lahore airport late on Tuesday night. According to the Federal Investigation Agency, Mr. Gilani had reached the Allama Iqbal International Airportin Lahore to catch his flight for South Korea via Bangkok to attend a conference. However, his name was on the no-fly list. "At the immigration counter, Mr. Gilani was told that his name was placed on the black list thereforehecould not leave the country," the FIA said, adding that it was following orders from the interior ministry. Reacting strongly, the senior Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader said he had always appeared incourtinthedifferentongoing cases against him. "There was no point in placing my name on (the) no-fly list. I was not fleeing the country. Prime Minister Imran Khan's sole agenda seems to be targeting his political opponents," he said. The ruling Pa-



mentshouldhaveinformedmeabout blacklistingmyname, Mr. Gilanisaid, adding that he will challenge the "illegaldecisionofthe government". Mr. Gilani is facing several corruption cases and last week, the accountability court of Islamabadhad rejected his plea seeking exemption from personal appearance in a

case related to awarding alleged illegal advertising contract to a private ad agency. He is accused of misusing authority to illegally grant Messrs Midas an advertising contract in contravention of the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules. The act is reported to have cost the national treasury?129.07 million.

took the stand that it was in agreement with the September 28, 2018 verdict and had urged dismissal of petitions seeking review of the verdict. "Article 25 (1) equally entitles all persons to practice religion," senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for TDB, told the Bench which also comprise Justices R.F.

Nariman, A.M. Khanwilkar, D.Y. Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra. The Board had earlier vehemently opposed the PIL by Indian Young Lawyers Association saying that the celibate character of Lord Aiyappa at Sabarimala temple was a unique religious feature which was protected under the constitution.

"Women cannot be excluded from any walk of life on biological attributes... equality is the dominant theme of the Constitution", said Mr. Dwivedi adding that people should gracefully accept the apex court verdict. The apex court on Wednesday reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions seeking review of the

verdict allowing the entry of women of all ages into the Sabarimala shrine. On September 28, a five-judge Constitution Bench, headed by the then CJI Dipak Misra, in a 4:1 verdict had paved the way for entry of women of all ages into the shrine, saying the ban amounted to gender discrimination

## BJP attacks Congress over Robert Vadra's ED summons

expected to appear before the ED on Wednesday in connection with a money laundering case The Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday attacked the Congress over the Enforcement Directorate's (ED's) summons to Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's husband Robert Vadra to appear before it in connection with a money laundering case. BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra alleged that Mr. Vadra benefited from a petroleum and a defence deal which took place in 2008-09 when the UPA was in power. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, he claimed that Mr. Vadra, brother-in-law of Congress president Rahul Gandhi, utilised the money to buy posh properties worth several crore rupees in London. Quoting an email trail, he alleged that Mr. Vadra's company received "kickbacks" from a series of companies floated to "turn black money into white". "The 2019 Lok Sabha



election is a fight between the gang of corrupt versus transparency of Narendra Modi government," he said. Mr. Vadra is expected to appear before the Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday in connection with the money laundering case relating to alleged possession of illegal foreign assets.

## J&K-based Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen banned: MHA

(Gns. News) Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen came into existence in 1990 with the objective of "liberation of Kashmir". The Tehreekul-Mujahideen (TuM), which has been fighting for "liberation of Kashmir" and involved in a series of terror acts, has been banned by the government, the Home Ministry said on Wednesday. In a notification, the Ministry said the Central government believes that the TuM is involved in terrorism as it has committed and participated in various acts of terrorism in India and its members are getting financial as well as logistic support from their handlers based abroad. The Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen came into existence in 1990 with the objective of "liberation of Kashmir" and has been actively pursuing the same by way of acts of terror, the Ministry said. "Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 35 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the Central government hereby makes the following further amendments in the First Schedule to the said Act, namely:- In the First Schedule to the said Act, after serial number 40 and the entries relating thereto, the following serial number and entries shall be inserted, namely:- '41. Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen [TuM] and all its manifestations'," it said. The TuM has carried out a number of terrorist attacks, besides subversive acts, such as grenade attacks, weapons snatching and supporting other terrorist outfits like the Hizbul-Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Taiba, in terms of financial and logistic support in the recent past, the notification said. In a notification, the Ministry said the Central govern-

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committed and participated in various acts of terrorism in India and its members are getting financial as well as logistic support from their handlers based abroad. The Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen came into existence in 1990 with the objective of "liberation of Kashmir" and has been actively pursuing the same by way of acts of terror, the Ministry said. "Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 35 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the Central government hereby makes the following further amendments in the First Schedule to the said Act, namely:- In the First Schedule to the said Act, The terror group has also committed acts of terrorism and promoting acts of terrorism. It has been engaged in radicalisation and recruitment of youth for terrorist activities in India. The notification said a number of cases have been registered by the Jammu and Kashmir Police in the recent past, in



which it is found that the TuM has played a major role in commission of terrorist acts and a number of its cadre have been arrested. In the cases, it was also

found that the group is running terrorist training centres for Kashmiri youth and is likely to recruit more youth from the

## Karnataka Budget session: BJP disrupts Governor's address, some Congress MLAs absent

(Gns. News) BJP members protest as Governor V.R. Vala addresses the State Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru on Wednesday.BJP members protest as Governor V.R. Vala addresses the State Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru on Wednesday. The Budget session in Karnataka Legislature began on a stormy note on Wednesday with BJP MLAs disrupting the Governor's address by walking into the well of the House and shouting slogans against the Congress-JD(S) coalition government. he Governor, Vajubhai Vala, had to cut short his address. He read out only two pages of his 22-page speech. The BJP contended that the government did not enjoy support of its MLAs and is therefore a "sham." Some Congress MLAs, who are displeased with the ruling coalition and are believed to be in touch with the BJP, were conspicuous by their absence in the House. This further fuelled speculation on the BJP's continued efforts on bringing down the government.



Speaking to presspersons later, BJP leader Sriramulu claimed that nearly 15 MLAs of the ruling coalition were absent on Wednesday.

## Editorial

## **Unedifying episode:** On Kolkata stand-off



In its ostensibly even-handed intervention in the stand-off between the Central and West Bengal governments over the manner of investigation of the Saradha Chit Fund case, the Supreme Court has de-escalated political tensions, at least for now. The decision allowed both sides in the face-off to claim "moral victory" — even if it was West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who was forced to climb down from the aggressive posture she took in denying the Central Bureau of Investigation room to question Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar. However, while ordering him to cooperate with the CBI in "neutral" Shillong, the Court restrained the CBI from taking any coercive action against Mr. Kumar. The Police Commissioner and his Special Investigation Team investigating the chit fund case had been served a number of notices to appear before the CBI before it sent a team to his house in Kolkata. While Ms. Banerjee may have reason to believe that the timing of the CBI's operation was politically motivated, her government's response — manhandling and detaining the CBI officials — was shocking and inexcusable. In the polarised political atmosphere, her belligerence expectedly secured the backing of a large number of Opposition parties, and even had the Congress rally around her during an impromptu sit-in protest. However, in attempting to obstruct the CBI action in a court-ordered investigation, Ms. Banerjee once again demonstrated that she is prone to taking arguments over administrative procedures to the streets. A decade ago, she burnished her credentials as the Opposition leader who would dethrone the Left Front combine in West Bengal with her agitation over the Singur land acquisition. But her attempt now to bring the State, where she heads the government, to a grinding halt speaks poorly of her political maturity. Ms. Banerjee is free to read political motives into the actions of a Central agency — but she must conduct that fight politically and by heeding her responsibilities as a Chief Minister. To hold a dharna in aid of an officer who is required for questioning does her no credit. There are bound to be questions whether this matter should have been escalated to such an unpleasant level. The CBI says there was no proper response to the earlier summonses it sent to the Police Commissioner, and alleges that he could have destroyed evidence that was initially gathered by the Special Investigation Team that he had supervised in the initial stage of the probe. But it is doubtful whether descending on a senior officer's residence on a Sunday evening with a large team of officers was the right course of action for the CBI, as it was liable to be interpreted as a high-handed attempt to browbeat and embarrass the State government. The only way the CBI can escape this impression is by showing that it was justified in demanding the questioning of Mr. Kumar and establishing proof of its suspicions about his role in covering up the scam.

## The 2019 election is going to be all about alliances: Ruchir Sharma

(Gns. News) The global investor on the forthcoming general election, the anti-incumbency trend and why he thinks the Indian state is socialist.

In his latest book, 'Democracy on the Road: A 25 Year Journey Through India', investor Ruchir Sharma has catalogued the 27 national and State elections that he has covered over a quarter of a century in his personal capacity. Mr. Sharma, who is the head of emerging markets and chief global strategist at Morgan Stanley Investment Management, discusses the 2019 general election, explains why India has the highest anti-incumbency rate among major democracies and why it can never be a China on economic reforms. Excerpts: There is a thread running through your book about India's "deep distaste for incumbents". Do you mean Indians instinctively throw out governments, whatever their record? The word antiincumbency was coined in India. When I write for The New York Times or such publications, and I use the phrase, they don't know what I'm talking about because the phrase was coined here. That's because India has the highest rate of anti-incumbency among major democracies in the world. In the U.S. and the U.K., most incumbents tend to get reelected. In the U.S., for example, two-thirds of Presidents and Governors who stand get re-elected; in India, two-thirds lose their elections. That's what the data say. There are two or three reasons why this happens. The foremost is that the state in India is broken. Politicians want to do stuff and promise stuff, but the state is just broken and cannot deliver. It just falls through the cracks. For example, yesterday, I was in Bijnor [Uttar Pradesh], and before the District Magistrate's office, a big protest broke out by sugar cane farmers over the question of dues. The whole issue is that you can keep announcing things, like minimum support price, but the moment you take your payment slip to the Food Corporation of India, they give you the runaround. The mechanism is so broken that your daily interaction with the government is very frustrating and possibly the only thing you can do is vote people out. Secondly, it doesn't take much to vote people out because of the fragmented



polity. In most States in India, you can win most seats by securing 30% of the vote share, so then just a 3-4% vote swing is enough to change the fortunes of a government, or if the Opposition comes together, it can change things. These are factors that distinguish India from other countries. There have been many instances of governments being voted back. How do you explain that? Again, there are a couple of things. There was a period of time, between 2005 and 2010, when a lot of incumbents won elections in India. A couple of things happened in that period. One, the economy was booming and inflation was fairly low, and two, because the economy was booming there was a lot of welfare that could be done, as governments were able to spend on these programmes. This really helped those governments come

back to power. Having said that, one of the more insightful statements which I have repeated twice in the book is by a Mangaluru MLA, U.T. Khader, who said that winning elections in India is like fighting a battery of six tests with aminimum passing mark on each. You can't rely on just one factor

if you don't do enough welfarism, you will lose; you have to get the caste arithmetic and religious politics right; or some huge allegation of corruption hits you. In American politics, there is a far more obvious connection between economics and politics. That argument appears simplistic in the Indian context. You say that India's national elections are a series of State elections. Can you explain? That's what happened in 2004, in 2009, and, in fact, in most non-wave elections, unlike the 1984-85 Rajiv Gandhi wave and the mini wave, mainly in north

In Delhi and Mumbai, we are preoccupied by questions like, "If Modidoesn't return in 2019, then who comes in his place?" But it doesn't work that way in the rest of India. We are a truly parliamentary system. One bit of data that I keep quoting is that in 2004, the gap between Atal Bihari Vajpayee's popularity and that of Sonia Gandhi's was much larger than the current one between Modi and Rahul Gandhi, and yet because she was able to stitch good alliances, the Congress was able to win. Even this election, it's going to go State by State. Coming to political personalities, you say that Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati hasn't been able to accrue much influence outside Uttar Pradesh or grow beyond it.It's amazing to me how no regional leader has been able to grow nationally, and with Mayawati, you would have thought with a large Dalit population across the country, she would have become a pan-Indian presence. But the fact remains that Dalits are not a monolithic bloc of votes. The one State where I remember people telling me that Mayawati could have a big influence was Maharashtra, and yet she is a complete non-entity there. Being a prime ministerial candidate is a different matter and more a negotiation based on how many seats she gets, but her case proves to me that India is truly a continent' of 29 States and it is almost impossible for a leader who is strong in one State to replicate it everywhere else. A part of your interest in politics was also to see whether there would be a leader

the conclusion that the Indian DNA is statist and socialist.In this country, there is no constituency for privatisation today. Is there any scenario in which you think that any big push for privatisation will be launched after the 2019 polls? I don't think so. There was some chance in 2002, there was some chance with Modi in 2014. To me that is the evidence — that what I said about statism stands. The good thing in India is that the private sector is so vibrant because of some liberalisation in the past that it can carry the can, but that is also why India can never grow like China. In the early years of its development, China had no welfare state; it spent entirely on roads and infrastructure. The Indian polity will not allow that. Through your many years of covering polls, you have met several political leaders — right from the time they were introduced to politics to when they were more ma-ture in politics. What are the changes in Rahul Gandhi from when you methim in 2007 to now? In 2007, it was a two-hour-long meeting in which he spoke for an hour and 59 minutes. He didn't want to engage much despite the fact that he had just entered politics and it was a roomful of fairly experienced political watchers. The unfavourable impression was of being spoken down to. Over the years we found that he was much more interested in engaging and listening. We don't know how much of that is change and how much is based on feedback. There is, of course, no doubt that he has improved a lot as a campaigner from 2007. What

her formal entry into the Congress? Will she able to make a critical difference to the Congress's fortunes?I think the days are gone when you could just land and your charisma would work. That India is not there anymore. You also know how deeply entrenched caste equations in Uttar Pradesh are. To disturb them at this stage will be a very difficult thing to do. If I were to be asked on how she can make the biggest difference, it would be to get her to focus on one thing. Let's say she manages to be the combined Opposition candidate from Varanasi against Modi. Then you can focus that energy on one thing, but the idea of building the Congress so that it's a serious contender by April 2019 based on just charisma... that concept no longer exists. The deliverables from Priyanka should be adjusted in that way if she is to make an impact. You have described several tense meetings of your travel group with Prime Minister Modi and BJP president Amit Shah. Why is that? They have a belief that the entire media is 'liberal' and out to get them. It's a different situation from, say, 15 years ago, when the word liberal was not used so pejoratively. They really believe that the media is out to get them and it colours that interaction.But a lot of it also informs a narrative of Modi versus all, and if not Mr. Modi, then anarchy. How well do you think that will work in 2019? Rajiv Gandhi tried something similar in 1989 and that didn't work so well. It may work with some sections of the people, especially the middle

# A martyr's mother

who could push economic re-



spite of all the felicitations re-

garding her son's courage. Her

grief was heart-wrenching.

Dinesh was the first thing in her

mind when she woke up and the

last thought whenever she fell



asleep. Major Raman was given the nation's highest peace-time gallantry award, the Ashoka Chakra, for his exceptional courage, camaraderie, fighting spirit and supreme sacrifice. Yet, her wound never healed and the void never vanished. Her culinary skills would awaken even a dead palette. Her garden was an expression of her green fingers. Her hospitality and kindness were legendary among kith and kin. She made friends with ease in any neighbourhood her husband's transfer took her. At 24 and 27 years of age we were more like best friends than anything else and only six weeks apartin our pregnancies (my first, her second). She gave birth to a baby boy on April 6, 1978, a brother to her daughter. To our great admiration, Mala and her husband Murthy had motivated her daughter and son to serve our nation and humanity. Her daughter Aparna serves as the most-loved and well-respected gynaecologist in a military hospital. Dinesh Raghuraman joined the National Defence Academy

in 1996 and was commissioned into the 19 Battalion of the Jat Regiment and later became a Major. Its not easy to find a life partner when you are constantly living in the shadow of death. He was fortunate to find his wife Latha, with whom he lived on and off as his duty would allow, for three years. In June 2007, Major Raghuraman conducted a successful operation, 'Op Narawar'. On October 2, 2007, he was assigned the task of launching an operation in

Baramulla to flush out terrorists

hiding there. During the operation he crawled towards his fellow-officer who had been injured in hostile fire and moved him and two more injured soldiers to a safer area. Soon afterwards, he took several bullets from another front of gun battle opened by terrorists, and was seriously injured. He succumbed to his injuries in a Srinagar hospital. At 67, she was too young to die, but 12 years of inward grief took a toll. Her kindred spirit has now become part of our family folklore.

## the last century. Young Johnsy and her artist companion, Sue, lived in an apartment in Green-

Beyond the last leaf

wich Village. Winter came and Johnsy caught pneumonia and she became critically ill. The doctor told Sue to be prepared for the worst. Outside their window there was a vine with attractive foliage, but it started shedding leaves one by one as summer passed through fall into winter. Finally, only one last leaf remained. Johnsy told Sue that when that leaf fell, her life would also go. A concerned elderly artist friend of the girls, hearing this story, climbed outside the window in the bitterly cold night and painted a life-like leaf at the spot from where the last leaf had just fallen. Came dawn, when Johnsy looked out of the window from her sick bed, lo and behold, the leaf was still there and it continued to be there on the following days. The girl regained her will to live and was fully recovered in a few days.

lightful, highly sentimental story

by O. Henry about a young artist

in New York in the early part of

Far removed in time and far away from O. Henry's America, in the hot climes of Chennai, I also have my own leaf or, rather, many leaves, which I have adopted and whose growth I follow closely. Leaves are a weakness for me. Leaves in their variety of shapes and hues are things of beauty in their own right. In addition to being providers of shade and solace to weary eyes, they are the primary producers of food on earth and the most important agents of carbon fixation and a shield against global warming. During my morning walks along the beach I spend time watching the trees on the way. I observe new buds appear at the nodes and then bloom out into leaves. One particular tree, Cocoloba uvifera, the Sea Grape tree, has fascinated me. It is short, sprawling but sturdy, capable of withstanding the salt-laden sea wind and survive in the saline terrain. This tree is a wonder in its own right. When the seabombards the beach vegetation with salt spray, the leaves of most other species literally get 'burnt' — but not the sea grape tree. The tree seems to drink the sea water and spit out the salt. The early morning dew drops sticking to

the underside of the leaves are

strongly salty to taste. I have I follow closely. Leaves are a adopted one tree out of the many, weakness for me. Leaves in their as my own. I watch a new bud variety of shapes and hues are appear at a node which grows things of beauty in their own and in a few days it opens up right. In addition to being probringing out a small honeyviders of shade and solace to coloured leaf, thick, fleshy and weary eyes, they are the primary shining.It is a slow process. It producers of food on earth and takes weeks, even months, for the most important agents of the leaf to grow to its full size, carbon fixation and a shield circular in shape, about half a against global warming. During foot or more in diameter. More my morning walks along the leaves appear one by one, slowly. beach I spend time watching the The leaf is sturdy. It may be a trees on the way. I observe new year or more before signs of old buds appear at the nodes and age set in, first as a browning at then bloom out into leaves. Unthe edges, which spreads inder the onslaught of wind, my wards. A concerned elderly artleaf finally falls. Unlike O. Henry's ist friend of the girls, hearing this Johnsy, I am not sentimental; I story, climbed outside the winhave not attached my life to that dow in the bitterly cold night and particular leaf. There are many painted a life-like leaf at the spot more buds peeping out from the from where the last leaf had just stem of my tree and there are fallen. Came dawn, when Johnsy many more trees. I adopt another looked out of the window from tree, another bud, and life goes

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live and was fully recovered in a

few days. Far removed in time

and far away from O. Henry's

America, in the hot climes of

Chennai, I also have my own leaf

or, rather, many leaves, which I

have adopted and whose growth

never ending process. I had never seriously thought

fears and anxieties. She immersed on. It will end for me when the herself into the lofty ideal that time comes as it did for the leaf, her son joined armed forces to but life, death and rebirth is a make the world a better place. But the void created by the demise of her son never felt right in

about the meaning of life and death. Being a born Hindu, I am familiar with the idea of punarapi jananam, punarapi maranam... but the trees have given a fresh clarity to the concept.

#### tinguishes the avarekalu from any (Gns. News) Avarekalu upma or uppittu is a seasonal breakfast other bean, and the word carries dish which is made when the flat with it so many fond memories of beans is availabale in karnataka, dishes you have eaten that it can India. Of the wintry dishes in make the heart sing and the mouth Bengaluru made from avarekalu A water. Let it be known that in this foggy Bengaluru morning in latecity when the sogadu permeates December that makes it tough for the air and lingers on the fingertips the pilot to land the aircraft, is the of everyone because avarekaluperfect welcome home for this dieshelling is a family activity; anticihard Bengalorean who has been pation for the next meal always globe-trotting, even if it is just for reaches a fevered pitch. The cracka fortnight. For, this is the seales, hisses, pounding, grinding and son... No, not the Christmas seawhistling coming out of the

son but the avarekalu season. The kitchen can give you a clue to what roiling morning mists that envelop is cooking, but nothing compares Bengaluru and its surroundings is to the first taste of biting into the what is needed to draw out the bean, buttery smooth and melt-insogadu from the avarekalu ripenthe-mouth, or offering the slighting in the fields and encourage the est resistance before it gives. It all plant to coat the pods with an oil depends of what the dish requires, so they glisten when piled up for with the only accepted constant sale at the market. And it stands to being that for every bite you take you should encounter at least one reason that this is when the bean is at its most fragrant and tender bean.A Bengalorean believes in best. Although there are some pleliving the avarekalu season to the beians who would challenge the fullest, although it is passed off as word sogadu (drawn from the Sana joke. It is most likely that except skrit sugandh) being associated for the coffee, everything that with the robust smell of the comes out of the home kitchen in avarekalu, the sogadu is what disthis season is bound to be made of

avarekalu. The list of dishes that can be encouraged to incorporate and be enhanced by the avarekalu from breakfast to dinner is delightful. Uppitu, shavige, pongal, akki roti, kadubu, nucchin urundai usli, saaru, huli, saagu, chitrana, bisibelebath, to name a few.And of course there is the ever-popular avarekalu mixture, sometimes enhanced with peanuts, cashew or dried coconut (although I believe it does just fine on its own) deserves special mention. Spicy, crunchy and flavourful, it is everyone's favourite seasonal guilty pleasure. The city now boasts of an avarekalu mela that goes overboard selling everything made of avarekalu including a shock Avarekalu Manchurian. It is, however, the home kitchens that are the true custodian of dishes that enmesh tradition and flavour. From the moment of the peeling and measuring the bean while the water is kept on the boil, ready to accept the beans so none of its flavour is lost while making the fluffy white akkithari uppitu studded with green

That special bean in the air avrekalu; to the art of segregat ing the beans for each dish, the most tender for the akki roti, the medium sized beans for the uppitu to the more mature beans that will need to be further skinned for the hitikida avarekalu saaru; each family has its traditions when it comes to avarekalu and it goes without saying special flavours too. For a Bengalorean to think you have missed a part of this short-lived season and been deprived of all the dishes coming out of various kitchens; friends, family, colleagues and neighbours is almost tragic. Heading home, you get to delight in the mist blurred landscape, to sniff the air for the sogadu and to anticipate the spicy, gingery avarekalu uppitu garnished with slender curls of coconut and crisp curry leaves that is sure to be waiting for you. This I must admit, was not

the standard 45-minute early morning ride home from the airport but a gastronomic dream filled with anticipation, sogadu and all things avarekalu.

#### **Brazil education overhaul aims** at ousting 'Marxist ideology'



(Gns. News) President Jair Bolsonaro is taking his anti-Leftist ideological war to Brazil's classrooms and universities, causing angst among teachers and education officials who say the government wants to fight an enemy that doesn't exist. Bolsonaro and top officials have announced plans to revise textbooks to excise references to feminism, homosexuality and violence against women, say the military will take over some public schools and frequently bash Paulo Freire, one of Brazil's most famous educators, whose ideas had worldwide influence. "One of the goals to get Brazil out of the worst positions in international education rankings is to combat the Marxist rubbish that has spread in educational institutions," Bolsonaro tweeted on the eve of his inauguration. While students may not yet find many differences as they return to school this month, changes are afoot. "We are still waiting to see how, in practice, all this is going to turn out,' said Nilton Brandao, president of one of Brazil's largest teachers' unions, PROIFES Federacao. "Right now, it does not make any sense." For the government, the ideological battle begins with the removal of Freire's legacy in schools, which Bolsonaro and other conservatives say turns students into "political militants." Freire, who died in 1997, was one of the founders of critical pedagogy. Conservatives contend Freire's method encourages students to challenge traditional values such as family and the church. A socialist, Freire was briefly imprisoned during the 1964-1985 military dictatorship that Bolsonaro has repeatedly praised. On the campaign trail, Bolsonaro said he wanted to 'enter the Education Ministry with a flamethrower to remove Paulo Freire." Bolsonaro and his education minster appear to be looking for inspiration in philosophers like Olavo de Carvalho, a Brazilian who lives in the U.S. and is known for his antiglobalism and anti-socialist views. While Freire believed in the state's mission to educate the Brazilian people, including poor rural farmers and the illiterate, de Carvalho advocates reducing the state's role in education, favoring private or religious schools. "The government does not have to educate anyone; it is the society that has to educate itself," de Carvalho said last year during a talk about education on his YouTube channel. He added that proposals "based on the idea that the federal government is the great educator I am going to fight to the death." After Bolsonaro took office Jan. 1, the Education Ministry dismantled its diversity department and published a new set of guidelines for textbook publishers that eliminated references to topics such as violence against women and sexism. Receiving an outpouring of criticism, officials backtracked on the revised texts, saying the new guidelines had been written by the previous administration and published by mistake. Even so, Education Minister Ricardo Velez Rodriguez vowed in his inaugural speech to end the "aggressive promotion of the gender ideology." Velez instead defended what he called traditional values, such as family, church, school and the nation, which he said were threatened by a "crazy globalist wave." Bolsonaro has said he would review the content of Brazil's national high school exam to rid it of any questions on gender or LGBT movements. He made the announcement in a YouTube video after seeing a question from last year's exam on a "secret dialect used by gays and transvestites," called Pajuba. The Pajuba dialect mixes Portuguese and West African languages and is mostly used in Afro-Brazilian religions but has also been adopted by the Brazilian LGBT community. "Don't worry, there won't be any more questions like this," Bolsonaro said. After his inauguration, Velez told the newspaper folha de S. Paulo that his office will encourage municipalities interested in letting their schools be run by the military or the police.Brazil has 13 military-run schools, which are aimed at educating children of soldiers but also accept some students based on merit. The military is the most respected institution in the country and its schools have a better reputation than many public schools."We are still waiting to see how, in practice, all this is going to turn out," said Nilton Brandao, president of one of Brazil's largest teachers' unions, PROIFES Federacao. "Right now, it does not make any sense." For the government, the ideological battle begins with the removal of Freire's legacy in schools, which Bolsonaro and other conservatives say turns students into "political militants." Freire, who died in 1997, was one of the founders of critical pedagogy. Conservatives contend Freire's method encourages students to challenge traditional values such as family and the church. A socialist, Freire was briefly imprisoned during the 1964-1985 military dictatorship that Bolsonaro has repeatedly praised. On the campaign trail, Bolsonaro said he wanted to "enter the Education Ministry with a flamethrower to remove Paulo Freire." Bolsonaro and his education minster appear to be looking for inspiration in philosophers like Olavo de Carvalho, a Brazilian who lives in the U.S. and is known for his anti-globalism and anti-socialist views. While Freire believed in the state's mission to educate the Brazilian people, including poor rural farmers and the illiterate, de Carvalho advocates reducing the state's role in education, favoring private or religious schools. The military is also sometimes called in to co-run public schools and bring back order. Last year, 39.5 million students attended a public school, while private institutions, which can cost several thousand dollars a month, served 9 million. Opponents say the selective admission process of military schools would end up being discriminatory in impoverished areas. In general, critics say the administration is focused on the wrong things. Claudia Costin, director of Brazil's Center for Excellence and Innovation in Education Policies, a think tank based in Rio de Janeiro, said efforts should focus on improving training and salaries for teachers, making the entrance exam for teachers tougher and building a common syllabus for schools across the country. The government "complains about indoctrination at school," Costin said. "But it is not with laws that you solve these things." Brazil ranked 63rd out of the 72 countries and regions in the 2015 Program for International Student Assessment, conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. According to the group, Brazil has as one of the largest shares of adults without secondary education. Schools are overcrowded, teacher salaries and low and school buildings are often crumbling. More than 5.800 schools had no water supply in 2017, nearly 5.000 had no electricity and 8.400 had no sewage, according to government figures. Many Brazilians don't appear convinced by Bolsonaro's plans. In a poll published Jan. 8,71 percent of those surveyed said politics should be discussed at school and 54 percent thought it was fine to discuss sexual education inside the classroom. The poll, however, indicated that the new administration's conservative views played well with evangelicals, a powerful voter base for Bolsonaro during the campaign. Fifty-nine percent of evangelicals said they did not approve of sexual education being discussed at school. The Datafolha poll was based on 2,077 interviews carried out Dec. 18 and Dec. 19, with a margin of error of two percentage points. Caua dos Santos Borges, a 15-year-old public school student in Rio de Janeiro, said that in her experience teachers rarely spoke about politics in the classroom and gender had never felt like a core area of the curriculum."Once, a student asked the teacher if he supported Bolsonaro, but the teacher didn't respond and changed the subject," dos Santos Borges said.

## Pak SC clips wings of armed forces, ISI; says stay away from politics, act within law



(Gns. News) Pakistan's Supreme Court on Wednesday prohibited members of the armed forces from engaging in political activities and directed state agencies like the ISI to operate within the law as it ordered the government to act against those propagating "hatred, extremism and terrorism". The order by a two-member bench of the apex court came while delivering a verdict on the 2017 Faizabad sit-in by the hardline Tehreeke-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) and other smaller groups. "We direct the federal and provincial governments to monitor those advocating hate, extremism and terrorism and prosecute the perpetrators in accordance with the law," the Bench comprising Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Mushir Alam ruled. The court also directed all government agencies and departments, including those run by the army like Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), to operate within the limits defined by the law. The court ordered that members of the Armed Forces were prohibited from engaging in any kind of political activity, which includes supporting a party, faction or individual. "The government of Pakistan through the Ministry of Defence and the respective Chiefs of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force are directed to initiate action against the personnel under their command who are found to have violated

(Gns. News) About C\$180

million (\$137.21 million) in

cryptocurrencies have been

frozen in the user accounts of

Canadian digital platform

Quadriga after the founder, the

only person with the password

to gain access, died suddenly

in December. Gerald Cotten

died aged 30 from complica-

tions with Crohn's disease while

volunteering at an orphanage

in India, according to the

Facebook page of Quadriga

CX, which announced his

death on Jan. 14. The platform,

which allows the trading of

Bitcoin, Litecoin and Ethereum,

filed for creditor protection in

the Nova Scotia Supreme Court

last week. Quadriga has 363,000

registered users and owes a

total of C\$250 million to 115,000

affected users, according to an

affidavit filed by Cotten's

widow Jennifer Robertson on

behalf of the company. Ms.

Robertson said in the affidavit

that Cotten's main computer

contained a "cold wallet" of

cryptocurrencies, which is only

accessible physically and not

online, and his death left "in

excess of C\$180 million of coins

in cold storage." Ms. Robertson

said she was not involved in

Cotten's business while he was

alive and did not know the pass-

word or recovery key. "Despite

repeated and diligent searches,

I have not been able to find

them written down anywhere,"

she said. Ms. Robertson said

that she has consulted an ex-

pert who has had "limited suc-

cess in recovering a few coins

and some information" from

Cotten's other computer and

cell phones, but the majority

remains untouched on his main

computer. Quadriga's troubles

highlight the unique challenges

of cryptocurrencies, Dean

Skurka, vice president of rival

platform Bitbuy.ca, said in an

interview with the Canadian

Broadcasting Corp. "This re-

ally highlights the need for the

government to take action and

regulate cryptocurrency ex-

changes," Mr. Skurka said. Ms.

Robertson said in her affidavit

she has received online threats

and "slanderous comments",

including questions about the

nature of Cotten's death, and

whether he is really dead.

Meanwhile,"This really high-

lights the need for the govern-

ment to take action and regulate

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Mr. Skurka said. Ms. Robertson

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derous comments", Halifax

their oath," the court said. Several experts were of the view that Prime Minister Imran Khan was supported by the country's powerful army in the last year's general election. Pakistan's powerful military has ruled the country through various coups for nearly half of the country's history since independence in 1947. The military plays an important role in the country's decision making. The apex court also outlawed religious edicts called fatwas that aimed to harm others. "A person issuing an edict or fatwa, which harms another or puts another in harm's way, must be criminally prosecuted under the Pakistan Penal Code, the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 and/or the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016," the court ruled. The court upheld that subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by law, citizens have the right to form and to be members of political parties. They can also assemble for peaceful protest. The order by a two-member bench of the apex court came while delivering a verdict on the 2017 Faizabad sitin by the hardline Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) and other smaller groups. "We direct the federal and provincial governments to monitor those advocating hate, extremism and terrorism and prosecute the perpetrators in accordance with the law," the Bench comprising Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Mushir Alam ruled. The court also directed all government agencies and departments, including those run by the army like Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), to operate within the limits defined by the law. The court ordered that members of the Armed Forces were prohibited from engaging in any kind of political activity, which includes supporting a party, faction or individual. "The government of Pakistan through the Ministry of Defence and the respective Chiefs of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force are directed to initiate action against the personnel under their command who are found to have violated their oath," the court said. Several experts were of the view that Prime Minister Imran Khan was supported by the country's powerful army in the last year's general election. Pakistan's powerful military has ruled the country through various coups for nearly half of the country's history since independence in 1947. It said the right to assemble and protest is circumscribed only to the extent that it infringes on the fundamental rights of others, including their right to free movement and to hold and enjoy property. The court ordered that those

#### protesters who obstruct people's right to use roads and damage or destroy property must be proceeded against in accordance with the law and held accountable. Millions in cryptocurrencies frozen in Canada



judge Michael Wood on Tuesday ordered a 30-day stay that precludes filing of claims against Quadriga. Ernst & Young has been appointed the company's third-party monitor,

to help manage Quadriga's finances during the process. Lawver Maurice Chiasson told the court the company wants time to find the C\$250 million it owes users. According to court fil-

ings the company is considering selling its platforms to cover its debts. The wallet in question was "cold," which means it was not connected to the internet so as to prevent hacking

### 6 new schemes, sops for ryots, women in interim Budget

#### Please-all

crore

Expenditure ₹1,80,369.33

- REVENUE RECEIPTS Share of Central taxes
- ₹3,630.3 cr. State taxes ₹75,438 cr.
- Interest receipts ₹283.2 cr. Other non-tax revenue
- ₹66,188.4 cr. REVENUE EXPENDITURE Development expenditure
- ₹1,31,907.3 cr. Debt servicing ₹18,529.7 cr.
- Tax collection charges ₹1,343.1 cr.
- Administrative charges ₹8,975.4 cr.
- Other expenditure ₹19,613.9 cr.

agenda that promotes inclusive development. YANAMALA RAMAKRISHNUDU, Finance Minister

developmental

Our government

has been quite

conscious

inequalities in society.

deliberately opted for

Therefore, we have

a welfare-oriented

of the increasing

(Gns. News) Ahead of the upcoming general elections, the State government on Tuesday showered sops on the farming community, the women and the entrepreneurs in the vote-on-account Budget presented for 2019-20 with an outlay of ?2.26 lakh crore. Deviating from the convention followed in the vote-onaccount budget, it announced six new major schemes including Annadata sukhib hava. It is estimated that the new schemes would require ?6,200 crore. Presenting the Budget in the Assembly, Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrish nudu said, "Our government has been quite conscious of the increasing inequalities in society. Therefore, we have deliberately opted for a welfareoriented developmental agenda that promotes inclusive development." A step in that direction, 'Annadatha sukhibhava', a scheme to give economic support to the farmers with an allocation of ?5,000 crore, was being launched. Land acquisition for house sites, incentives for industrial promotion, infrastructure facilities in urban local bodies etc top the agenda, he said. During his 98-minute speech, the Finance Minister said, "To empower the Self-Help Groups (SHGs), the government would give assistance of ?10,000 to each member in three spells to benefit 93.81 lakh people." The revenue expenditure was estimated at ?1,80,369.33 crore. The capital expenditure was estimated at ?29,596.53 crore including ?8,994 crore towards principal repayment of public debt. The revenue deficit would be around ?2,099 while the fiscal deficit ?32,390.68 crore, he said. In his 11th Budget and the last of the present government, Mr. Ramakrishnudu said the government proposed to increase the allocations for important schemes including the Andhra Pradesh Market Intervention Scheme, farm mechanisation, livestock insurance, fodder and feed development, promotion of horticulture activities and development of fisheries. The Budget for these schemes had been increased to ?1,924 from ?1,140.68 in 2018-19. The welfare pensions would require ?12,819 crore during next fiscal as against ?5,012 crore in

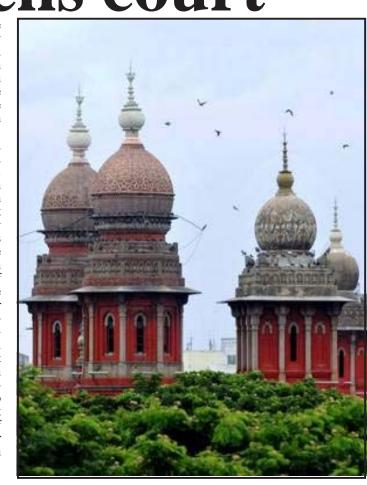
2017-18. Along with this, the government had decided to increase the Chandranna Yuva Nestam pension to ?2,000. "Our government has been working not only for the people who voted for us and who did not vote for us but also for the people who could not have voted for anyone — our children and grandchildren." It is estimated that the new schemes would require ?6,200 crore. Presenting the Budget in the Assembly, Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrish nudu said, "Our government has been quite conscious of the increasing inequalities in society. Therefore, we have deliberately opted for a welfareoriented developmental agenda that promotes inclusive development." A step in that direction, 'Annadatha sukhibhava', a scheme to give economic support to the farmers with an allocation of ?5,000 crore, was being launched. Land acquisition for house sites, incentives for industrial promotion, infrastructure facilities in urban local bodies etc top the agenda, he said. During his 98-minute speech, the Finance Minister said, "To empower the Self-Help Groups (SHGs), the government would give assistance of ?10,000 to each member in three spells to benefit 93.81 lakh people." The revenue expenditure was estimated at ?1,80,369.33 crore. The capital expenditure was estimated at ?29,596.53 crore including ?8,994 crore towards principal repayment of public debt. The revenue deficit would be around ?2,099 core, while the fiscal deficit ?32,390.68 crore, he said.The Panchayat Raj department and rurai development received a lion's share at ?35,182 crore. The expenditure on State development schemes had gone up from ?49103 crore in 2018-19 to ?65486 crore in 2019-20. The Scheduled Castes component went up from ?11,229 crore to ?14,367 crore. The ST component had gone up from ?4,176 crore to ?5,385 crore. The BC component, which Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had emphasised at the recent Jayaho BC, was pegged at ?16,226 crore, 33% increase compared to this fiscal. The budget, however, was silent on mobile phones promised to the DWCRA groups by the Chief Minister recently

# 7,324 officials will face action, DGP tells court

(Gns. News) No one would have expected that the hearing of a civil appeal filed by a knitting company in the Madras High Court would lead to the unearthing of 2.14 lakh criminal cases in the State that were closed abruptly between 2009 and 2014 for non-filing of final reports by the police and another 1.72 lakh cases pending before trial courts without being taken on file.After Justice M.V. Muralidaran smelt a rat and dug out the details, the Home Secretary and the Director-General of Police told the court on Tuesday that they had taken steps to initiate disciplinary action against the investigating officers concerned by issuing show cause notices to 7,324 officials, who failed to file final reports within the statutory period. The court was also told that the DGP had issued a circular to all his subordinate officials on January 30 listing steps to be taken to streamline the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases from scratch to end.After recording the submissions made by Public Prosecutor A. Natarajan, the judge reserved his verdict. It was on December 18 that Justice Muralidaran stumbled upon a

copy of a communication between a short span of six years in Kanchee the Inspector of the Uthukuli police station in Tirupur district and the jurisdictional judicial magistrate relating to 87 criminal cases pertaining to the police station alone having been closed between 2006 and 2014 for non-filing of final reports on time. The communication was produced before the judge when he was hearing a civil appeal related to compensation awarded under the Workmen's Compensation Act and wanted to know the status of a police complaint lodged by the victim's brother regarding alleged wrong treatment after he suffered injuries at his workplace. Shocked to learn that 87 cases pertaining to just one police station were closed due to non-filing of charge sheets on time, the judge called for reports from all criminal courts across the State. The judge found that 2,14,105 cases had been closed in Tamil Nadu, besides 796 cases in Puducherry, between 2009 and 2014 for want of charge sheets. The reports submitted by the lower courts to the High Court's Registrar General C. Kumarappan also revealed that the highest number of 28,573 cases had been closed in

puram district. It was followed by 26,351 cases closed in Madurai; 13.836 in Chennai; 11,190 cases in Villupuram and 10,877 in Tiruchi.Cumulative figures for the six years in other districts were less than 10,000 with Nagapattinam recording 9,761 cases, Vellore- 9,540 cases; Thoothukudi-8,441;Salem-8,355; Tiruvannamalai - 8, 295 and so on. The judge came down heavily on the police for allowing such closures.In response, an affidavit was filed in the court on Tuesday on behalf of the Home Secretary as well as Director General of Police stating that instructions have been issued to all Commissioners of Police, Superintendents of Police and others to nominate an officer in the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police to monitor investigations and ensure filing of final reports. Further stating that 1,72,602 cases were pending in various trial courts since 2010 without being taken on file, the two officials told the High Court that the problem could be solved if every court maintained a register for entering the dates on which final reports were filed.



# Save Assam, Save North East, Save North East, Save North East, Save India P Citizenship MECHALAYA Ingreship described Bill 2016 Save Mizoram Save Mizoram Save Mizoram Applicationship MECHALAYA Ingreship described Bill 2016 Save Mizoram Save Mizoram Save Mizoram Ingreship described Bill 2016 Save Mizoram Save Mizoram Save Mizoram Ingreship described Bill 2016 Save Mizoram Save Mizoram Ingreship described Bill 2016 Save Mizoram Ingreship described Bill 2016 Save Assam, Save North East, Save North East, Save India Ingreship described Bill 2016 Ingreship described Bill 2016 Save Assam, Save North East, Save North East, Save India Ingreship described Bill 2016 Ingreship described Bill 2016 Ingreship described Bill 2016 Save Assam, Save North East, Save India Ingreship described Bill 2016 Ingreship

(Gns. News) Parliamentarians from the northeastern States protest outside the Parliament on Tuesday. Parliament proceedings Lok Sabha adjourns for the day to mourn the death of its Odisha member L.K. Swain Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day on Wednesday to mourn the demise of Odisha lawmaker Lodu Kishore Swain. Rajya Sabha was adjourned till 2 pm as Congress members pressed for the resignation of the Home Minister on the NRC issue. The latter half of the session was also washed out as Samajwadi Party members raised slogans and disrupted the upper House in protest against the 13-Point Roster. Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar speaks to the media regarding the 13-Point Roster. Reservation on teaching staff in Universities were being done considering the whole University as a single entity. But Allahabad University recently passed a judgment and the Roster system was changed. "We filed a SLP (Special Leave Petition) in the Supreme Court, but the verdict was not in our favour despite our arguments," Mr. Javadekar says. Mr. Javadekar says the government will file a review petition and they are committed to the upliftment of the socially-backward classes. Samajwadi Party member Ramgopal Yadav raises the issue of 13-Point Roster. He seeks a discussion. Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar says the government had moved a Special Leave Petition and now we will move a review petition. "We will pursue the matter," he says. But the protesting members are not happy with the Minister's reply. House is adjourned for the day. Rajya Sabha reassembles. Deputy Chairperson Harivansh is in the Chair. Opposition members chant anti-government slogans. Kiren Rijiju introduces a Bill to amend the Constitution. The Constitution (125th Amendment) Bill, 2019 seeks to bring in tribal dominated autonomous district councils of North East under purview of the Finance Commission. Rajya Sabha takes up Motion of Thanks to the President's address. Bhupinder Yadav is the first speaker. His speech is interrupted. Congress member Ripun Bora had moved an adjournment motion seeking explanation from the Home Ministry and a statement from the Home Minister over Supreme Court's indictment of Home Ministry on the NRC issue. The Congress members have demanded the Home Minister's resignation. Speaking to The Hindu in the Parliament premises, Mr. Bora says Congress will raise the issue in the second half of the session and would demand the Home Minister's resignation. The Supreme Court on Tuesday accused the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of attempting to "destroy the Assam NRC [National Register of Citizens] process from the very beginning." The outburst from a Bench of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Rohinton Nariman came as soon as Attorney General K.K. Venugopal urged the court to keep the ongoing work on the NRC in abeyance during the Lok Sabha polls. Rajya Sabha assembles. Chairperson M. Venkaiah Naidu is in the Chair. Members tables papers listed under their names. Mr. Venkaiah Naidu informs the House that two members won't be able to attend the proceedings. House approves. Mr. Naidu says the members must give valid reason for absence. "Ill-health is fine, but party work, family work are not accepted as valid reason," he says. Jose K. Mani had cited party work as reason for absence. However, the House approved his absence is approved this time, since he is a first-time member. As the Chair proceeds to Zero Hour, members troop into the Well. House is adjourned till. Lok Sabha assembles. Speaker Sumitra Mahajan is in the Chair. She announces the demise of Odisha member Ladu Kishore Swain. House pays silent tribute to the member. House is adjourned for the day. Mr. Swain represented Odisha's Aska constituency. He was reportedly suffering from kidney-related ailments. It is a parliamentary convention that the House is adjourned for the day as a mark of respect if a sitting member passes away when a session is underway. The parliamentarians from northeastern States protested against the Citizenship Amendment Bill that seeks to provide citizenship to non-Muslim refugees from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Veteran lawmaker Mulayam Singh Yadav also joined a protest against the 13-Point roster introduced in recruitment of teaching staff in Universities. The Samajwadi Party argues that the new method is discriminatory against the Dalits, Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes.

## 200 forest officers transferred

The recently confiscated timber products in Adilabad. 11 officers placed under suspension; memos issued to many others In a major reshuffle of staff, the Forest department has effected transfer of a total of 200 of its officials, posting the officers with proven record of commitment towards protection of forests in key positions. This is in view of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's instructions for increased vigilance for protection of forests and control of timber smuggling. The Chief Minister himself has signed on the file of proposed transfers, right from the beat officers to the chief conservators, on Tuesday. Accordingly, Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF), Medak, A.K.Sinha has been posted as the CCF/Field Director, Project Tiger (FDPT), Amrabad Tiger Reserve, Achampet. The present conservator of forests and FDPT of Amrabad C.P. Vinod Kumar has been posted to Kawal as the new FDPT.C. Saravanan, the Conservator of Forests/FDPT, Kawal Tiger Reserve, Nirmal has been transferred to Medak. The Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) Shivani Dogra will now be the District Forest Officer (DFO) of Mancherial, while the DFO of Nizamabad V.S.N.V.Prasad will be the new DFO of Nirmal. DFO, Khammam, Sunil S. Hiramath has been transferred to Nizamabad to take Mr. Prasad's place.DFO, Mancherial, G. Ramalingam, has

been transferred to Warangal (Ur-

ban) and Jangaon, while Forest

S.V. Pradeep Kumar Shetty will now take charge as DFO, Jayashankar Bhupalpally. FDO of Kinneras ani Wildlife Sanctuary M. Nagabhushanam has been transferred as FDO of Mancherial, while Assistant Conservator of Forests S. Sujata will take over as FDO, Paloncha. ACFK. Damodar Reddy who is serving as DFO, Nirmal has been transferred as FDO, Kinnerasani, and ACF J. Venkateswar Rao has been posted as Forest Genecist, Warangal. FDO, Bellampalli, T. Tirumal Rao has been transferred to Khanapur, while FDO, Amrabad, S. Venkateswarlu, will take over as FDO, Nizamabad. DFO, Vigilance, K. Sudhakar, has been transferred as FDO, Amrabad, and Deputy Director of TS Forest Academy, P.Sagar, has been posted as FDO, Banswada. Another Deputy Director, TSFA, P.Anil Kumar will now be FDO of Yellandu, and ACF(Law) M. Raja Ramana Reddy has been given full-time charge as FDO, Kagaznagar. These apart, a total of 19 range officers and 160 beat officers have been shifted from their present positions, and given new responsibilities. Following Chief Minister's instructions to take tough action against smuggling, the department has placed a total of 11 officers under suspension on the allegations of being hand in glove with smugglers and issued memos to many others, a statement from the CMO informed.

Divisional Officer, Eturunagaram

Wild Life Management Division,

# Robert Vadra appears before ED in money laundering case

(Gns. News) Robert Vadra arrives at the ED office at Jamnagar House, in New Delhi in connection with a money laundering probe, on Wednesday. Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra on Wednesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a money laundering probe case relating to alleged possession of illegal foreign assets. Mr. Vadra's wife Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accompanied him, in a white Toyota Land Cruiser along with SPG personnel in tow, and dropped him outside the agency's office in Jamnagar House in central Delhi. She soon left in her convoy of vehicles. Mr. Vadra entered the ED office at around 3:47 pm even as a team of his lawyers had arrived minutes before him. This is the first time Mr. Vadra, also the brotherin-law of Congress president Rahul Gandhi, is appearing before any probe agency in connection with alleged criminal charges of dubious financial dealings. Mr. Vadra has denied these allegations in the past and termed them a political witch hunt against him. Mr. Vadra was directed by a Delhi court to cooperate with the investigation being carried out by the central probe agency after he knocked on its door seeking anticipatory bail in this case. The court had asked him to appear before the ED on Wednesday after returning from London. Official sources said Mr. Vadra will be put through questions on transactions, purchase and possession of certain immovable assets in London and his statement will be recorded under the



Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The case relates to allegations of money laundering in the purchase of a London-based property — located at 12, Bryanston Square
— worth £1.9 million, which is allegedly owned by Mr. Vadra. The agency had told the court that it has received information about various new properties in London which belongs to Mr. Vadra. The ED had carried out raids in this case in December last year and grilled his aide Manoj Arora, an employee of a firm linked to Mr. Vadra, Skylight Hospitality LLP. This is the first time Mr. Vadra, also the brother-in-law of Congress

president Rahul Gandhi, is appearing before any probe agency in connection with alleged criminal charges of dubious financial dealings. Mr. Vadra has denied these allega-tions in the past and termed them a political witch hunt against him. Mr. Vadra was directed by a Delhi court to cooperate with the investigation being carried out by the central probe agency after he knocked on its door seeking anticipatory bail in this case. Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's son-inlaw Robert Vadra on Wednesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a money laun-

dering probe case relating to alleged possession of illegal foreign assets. The court had asked him to appear before the ED on Wednesday after returning from London. Official sources said Mr. Vadra will be put through questions on transactions, purchase and possession of certain immovable assets in London and his statement will be recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Mr. Vadra has also been directed by the Rajasthan High Court to appear before the ED on February 12 in connection with another money laundering case being probed by the agency.

#### Priyanaka Gandhi Vadra takes charge, Robert Vadra at ED office, and other news in pictures



(Gns. News) Priyanka Gandhi Vadra takes charge as a AICC General Secretary at Congress headquarters in New Delhi on Wednesday. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at Congress HQ riyanka Gandhi Vadra took charge as the AICC General Secretary for Uttar Pradesh (East) at the party's headquarters in New Delhi. Ms. Vadra made a surprise visit to the party office, after dropping her husband Robert Vadra at the Enforcement Directorate office in central Delhi She has been alloted a room next to her brother and party chief Rahul Gandhi's room at the Congress headquarters. Robert Vadra arrives at the ED office at Jamnagar House, in New Delhi in connection with a money laundering probe, on Wednesday. Robert Vadra arrives at the ED office at Jamnagar House, in New Delhi in connection with a money laundering probe, on Wednesday. Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra on Wednesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a money laundering probe case relating to alleged possession of illegal foreign assets. President Ram gives away Sangeet Natak Akademi awards President Ram Nath Kovind presenting the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2017 to Hindustani singer Lalith Jayavanth Rao at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Wednesday.President Ram Nath Kovind presenting the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2017 to Hindustani singer Lalith Jayavanth Rao at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Wednesday. Noted flautist Rajendra Prasanna, Kathak dancer Shobha Koser, folk singer Anwar Khan Manganiyar, and Odissi dancer Sujata Mohapatra among others were conferred with Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards by President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday. In a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President awarded a total of 42 artistes in five categories for the year 2017, including a joint award to Umakant and Ramakant Gundecha for their contribution in Hindustani vocal music. Firefighters at the scene of a fire at the Ocado robotic warehouse in Andover, England, after a huge blaze that swept through the building was brought under control on February 6, 2019. Firefighters at the scene of a fire at the Ocado robotic warehouse in Andover, England, after a huge blaze that swept through the building was brought under control on February A fire at the flagship robotic distribution centre of British online supermarket pioneer Ocado is now under control but has badly damaged the complex, the fire service said on Wednesday. Around 20 fire engines and 200 firefighters were called to the highly automated site in Andover, southern England, at 0244 GMT on Tuesday to tackle a blaze that raged for over 24 hours, prompting part of the roof to collapse. While Ocado's first two centres required humans to load thousands of crates traveling on miles of conveyor belts, Andover has hundreds of robots speeding along at four metres per second on giant grids. Ocado said on Tuesday the fire had broken out on one of the grids of robots, forcing it to suspend operations. Protest mars Governor address in Karnataka BJP members protest as Governor V.R. Vala addresses the State Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru on Wednesday.BJP members protest as Governor V.R. Vala addresses the State Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru on Wednesday. As Karnataka Governor V. R. Vala began addressing the Karnataka Vidhana Sabha on the inaugural day of the Budget session, he was greeted by protests from the Opposition benches claiming that the alliance between Congress and the JD(S) in the State has collapsed. Even as Mr. Vala continued his speech, the BJP members trooped into the Well of the House raising slogans. People pose for a picture as a self-propelled trailer transports a Boeing 747-400 plane through farmland from Schiphol Airport to a nearby hotel in oevedorp, near Amsterdam, Netherlands 2019. people pose for a picture as a self-propelled trailer transports a Boeing 747-400 plane through farmland from Schiphol Airport to a nearby hotel in Badhoevedorp, near Amsterdam, Netherlands, on AP A self-propelled trailer is transporting a Boeing 747-400 plane through farmland from Schiphol Airport to a nearby hotel in Badhoevedorp, near Amsterdam, Netherlands. The Boeing is making its way, hardly at jet pace, to its final resting place. The 150ton jumbo jet will take a total of five days to cover just a few kilometres. The plane was formerly owned by Dutch flag carrier KLM and is being turned into a Boeing 747 Experience by the hotel's owner, a Dutch travel company.MPs from north-eastern States during a demonstration against the Citizenship Amendment Bill at the Parliament House in New Delhi. MPs from north-eastern States during a demonstration against the Citizenship Amendment Bill at the Parliament House in New Delhi on The parliamentarians from northeastern States on Wednesday protested against the Citizenship Amendment Bill at the Parliament House. The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, passed by the Lok Sabha on January 8. seeks to grant Indian citizenship to non- Muslims who fled religious persecution from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, and entered India before December 31, 2014. Protests against the bill have rocked the entire northeast over the past five weeks, with several organisations and political parties vehemently opposing it. The protesters claim that the bill will nullify the provisions of the Assam Accord of 1985, which fixed March 24, 1971, as the cut-off date for deportation of illegal immigrants, irrespective of religion. Katie Gurrey of New Zealand bats during game one of the International T20 Series between the New Zealand White Ferns and India at Westpac Stadium on February 06, 2019 in Wellington, New Zealand. Katie Gurrey of New Zealand bats during game one of the International T20 Series between the New Zealand White Ferns and India at Westpac Stadium on February 06, 2019 in Wellington, New Zealand. Indian women hope for a solid showing during in the opening encounter of the three-match T20I series against New Zealand, which began in Wellington on Wednesday. The threematch series, a part of the Women's ODI Championship, was won by India 2-1 but it suffered an eight-wicket loss at Hamilton on February 1 after being bowled out for 149. It will be India's first game in the format since the loss to England at the Word T20 in the Caribbean, where Mithali was dropped for the all-important semifinal. U.S. President Donald Trump having a word with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) after concluding his second State of the Union address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress in the House Chamber of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, U.S. February 5, 2019.U.S. President Donald Trump having a word with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) after concluding his second State of the Union address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress in the House Chamber of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, U.S. February 5, 2019. Facing a divided Congress for the first time, President Donald Trump on Tuesday called on Washington to govern "not as two parties, but as one nation" a message that clashed with the rancorous atmosphere in the nation's capital after the longest government shutdown in history. Mr. Trump, who has spent two years leveling fiercely personal attacks on his Democratic rivals, declared that it was time "to bridge old divisions, heal old wounds, build new coalitions, forge new solutions and unlock the extraordinary promise of America's future." As he stood before lawmakers, the president was surrounded by symbols of his emboldened political opposition. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi,

who was praised by Democrats for her hard-line negotiating during

the shutdown, sat behind Trump as he spoke.

# Hindu Mahasabha leader who recreated Mahatma Gandhi's assassination arrested

Nathuram Godse at the central office of the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha in Puja Shakun Pandey, secretary of the rightwing outfit, says she has "no regrets" and likens the incident to "burning Ravan" during Dusshera. The Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha (ABHM) secretary Puja Shakun Pandey and her husband Ashok Pandey, who were accused of recreating the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary in Aligarh last week, were arrested on Wednesday. ASP Aligarh Neeraj Jadaun said the two were intercepted at Tappal, a cut into the Yamuna Expressway near Aligarh. Both had applied a surrender application in court. An FIR had been lodged against Ms. Pandey, Ashok Pandey, ABHM spokesperson, and a dozen other members of the right-wing outfit were charged with committing deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings and for promoting enmity between different groups, among other sections of the Indian Penal Code. With the arrest of the Pandey couple, so far nine out of the 11 persons identified in the video related to the case have been arrested, said Mr. Jadaun.

While being taken to court, Ms. Pandey reiterated her stand, saying she had "no regrets" regarding her act. "It is unfortunate that the equality for the right to express is different for different people on the basis on religion," she told reporters. Her husband Ashok Pandey said this was the "second punishment for Gandhi's murder." While the incident took place within the private compounds of the ABHM, it came to light through a video shared online by the outfit itself.

In the footage, Ms. Pandey, dressed in a saffron saree, was seen firing shots at an effigy of Gandhiji with an artificial pistol thrice. Fake blood oozed out of the effigy, which some participants termed as "dirty." The participants then hailed Nathuram Godse, the man who assasinated Mahatma Gandhi. Slogans such as "Mahatma Nathuram Godse amarrahe (Long live Mahatma Nathuram Godse)' were raised. The effigy was then set on fire, while an image of Godse was later garlanded. Defending the act, Ms. Pandey had later told reporters that the assassination of Gandhi was like a shaurya diwas (a day of valour) for the ABHM and the beginning of a "new tradition" like the burning of the effigy of Ravan every year during Dusshera.She

had also said that Gandhiji had a



minor role in the independence movement and criticised him for "the murder of Bharat Mata," a reference to the partition. The ABHM will work to promote Godse, through the slogan, "Har har Godse, ghar ghar Godse," said Ms. Pandey. This is not the first that Ms. Pandey has been in a controversy. Last year, the ABHM set up the first self-styled "Hindu court" in Meerut, appointing her as its first "judge." The Allahabad High court issued notice in the matter after a

PIL was filed. In December, 2018 she had felicitated the then Aligarh district police chief Ajay Sahani for his campaign on adoption of destitute cows, while in August 2017, Ms. Pandey had run a campaign demanding a ban on slaughtering of animals during the Muslim festival of Bakrid. Her alleged connection to the ruling BJP was also speculated on social media after pictures of her sharing space with top leaders such as Uma Bharti and Shivraj Singh Chouhan were

widely shared. Munna Sharma, national general secretary of the ABHM, however, told The Hindu last week that he was "not aware" of Ms. Pandey's links with the BJP. "She is working under the banner of the Hindu Mahasabha... Where is the proof? If there will be, then we will see what to do about it," Mr. Sharma had said. Mr. Ashok Pandey had contested in the 2017 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls from Koil on a ABHM ticket, but could manage poll only 442 votes.

# Delhi court adjourns JNU sedition case to February 28

(Gns. News) The court grants more time to the police to get obtain the mandatory sanction from Delhi government A Delhi court on Wednesday directed the Delhi Police to request the Delhi Government to expedite sanction to prosecute former JNU Students' Union president Kanhaiya Kumar and others in a sedition case. The case pertains to the raising of "objectionable" slogans at the event in 2016 against the hanging of Parliamentattack mastermind Afzal Guru. The charge sheet and other material evidences related to the JNU sedition case being produced before a Delhi court on Monday. Chargesheet filed in sedition case against Kanhaiya, 2 others Granting more time to the police to get obtain the mandatory sanction, Metropolitan



, adjourned the case to Feb 28.
The magistrate had on last date refused to take cognisance of the chargesheet stating that

sanction for prosecution. The probe agency had then promised to get the required sanction within ten days.

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