

# Demonetisation: Guj HC seeks replies of Centre, RBI Pansare murder: Virendra Tawde named accused

**AHMEDABAD, NOV 30** /-The Gujarat High Court has sought responses from the Centre and RBI on a PIL challenging the legality of demonetisation and exclusion of district cooperative bank account holders from exchanging or withdrawing currency notes. A division bench of Chief Justice R Subhash Reddy and Justice V M Panchohi sought the response on a PIL moved by farmers' body Gujarat Khedut Hitrakshak Samiti, and kept the matter for hearing on December 5,

together with another PIL on the same issue by Bhavnagar District Cooperative Bank that was heard yesterday by the high court. The petitioner raised the question on the legality of Centre's decision to demonetise Rs 500 and Rs 1000 currency notes, saying it cannot be carried out merely on the basis of a gazette but an Act is required to be passed through Parliament. Citing the example of demonetisation carried out in 1978, the petitioner said the then Morarji Desai government had

issued an ordinance and passed an Act in Parliament to make currency notes of Rs 1000, Rs 500 and Rs 10,000 illegal. "According to section 26(2) of the RBI Act, only a certain series of currency notes of particular denominations can be demonetised, and not entire currency notes," the petitioner said, adding that the government's order is illegal and unconstitutional. The petition also challenged the limitation imposed on bank account holders from limitation on withdrawals, saying

that the Centre has no right to pass such an order. It further said that DCCBs are on par with nationalised or private banks as all these banks registered with the RBI are guided by the same Act. "All the banks have been registered under the same section of the RBI Act and hence, RBI cannot discriminate among them. Rights taken away from the DCCBs to allow their account holders from withdrawing or exchanging currency notes are illegal," the petitioner said. (PTI)

**PUNE, NOV 30** /-The SIT probing the Govind Pansare murder case has filed a supplementary charge sheet against Sanatan Sansha member Virendra Tawde at a court in Kolhapur.

The over 400-page supplementary chargesheet was filed in Kolhapur sessions court yesterday. Tawde, earlier arrested by the CBI in the Dabholkar murder case, was in September taken into custody by Kolhapur police in connection with the murder of CPI leader and rationalist Govind Pansare. Tawde is the second accused named in Pansare murder case by the state Special Investigation Team. The SIT had already filed a charge sheet against Sameer Gaikwad, another member of Sanatan Sansha, in the Pansare murder case. "We filed the supplementary charge sheet against Tawde here in Kolhapur sessions court," said Additional Superintendent of Police Sushil Sharma, the investigating officer in the murder case. Tawde refused to divulge any information on the

charges levelled against Tawde. "I can only confirm that the charge sheet of over 400 pages has been submitted in the court," he said. However, police sources said that charges against Tawde are likely to be similar to the ones under which Sameer Gaikwad has been charged. Tawde was first arrested by the CBI in the Dabholkar case in June this year from Panvel and later the state SIT arrested him on September 2 this year in the Pansare case. Gaikwad was arrested in September last year in the Pansare murder case. Tawde had worked as an organiser for the conservative Hindu outfit Sanatan Sansha in Kolhapur for some time, and therefore he came under the scanner of state police SIT probing the Pansare murder case. Tawde had earlier worked as an organiser for his rationalist views, was shot dead in Kolhapur on February 20, 2015. His wife too was injured in the attack. Dabholkar, a noted anti-superstition activist and rationalist, was murdered in Pune on August 20, 2013. (PTI)

## Minor girl among seven rescued from prostitution

**BUNDI, NOV 30** /- Six women and a minor girl forced into prostitution were rescued by the anti-human trafficking unit of Rajasthan police from a locality near here, officials said today. The women and the minor, all belonging to the Kanjar nomadic community, were produced before a court last night which directed that they be sent to a women's shelter home.

The six women were also sent for a medical examination to determine their age as some of them appeared to be under age, said Kaniz Fatima, Circle In-charge (CI), Anti Human Trafficking Cell, Bundi. The sudden raid was carried out yesterday by police in Ramnagar Kanjar colony about 10 km from the city, after receiving inputs about minor girls in the area, she said. According to the CI, the women said they were forced into prostitution due to heavy debts of their parents.

A case under sections of the Anti Human Trafficking Act was lodged in Sadar police station against Suresh Kanjar, the father of rescued minor girl in this connection, the CI said. "If some other rescued women are confirmed underage in the coming tests, further cases would be lodged accordingly."

Efforts would be made to bring the rescued women under some state government rural welfare schemes," the official said. (PTI)



People cross a railway track in front of an onrushing train on a foggy winter morning in Allahabad—REUTERS

## Minutes of inter-ministerial meeting can't override Act: HC

**NEW DELHI, NOV 30** /- The rights conferred under an Act cannot be taken away by a mere inter-ministerial decision, the Delhi High Court has observed while quashing the minutes of a March 2010 meeting of the erstwhile UPA government regarding citizenship to children born to Tibetan refugees in India. It said the minutes of inter-ministerial meeting of March 30, 2010 and the August 2011 communication issued by Ministers of Home Affairs (MHA) to the Election Commission of India (EC) on the issue were "contrary" to the Citizenship Act.

The MHA, in a letter to the EC, had conveyed the minutes of the inter-ministerial meeting which said, "The children born to Tibetan refugee in India will not be treated as Indian citizen automatically based on their birth in India before July 1, 1987 under section 3(a) of Citizenship Act, 1955". The minutes had also said that all such persons will have to submit

an application individually under the provisions of the Act to the MHA, after which the nationality status of all such children would be determined by the ministry as per the prescribed procedure. In his order, Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva said, "Section 3 of the Act very categorically lays down the conditions under which a person acquires citizenship by birth. By a mere correspondence or an inter-ministerial meeting, the statutory provisions cannot be defeated." "No decision taken in an inter-ministerial meeting can over-ride a statutory provision. The petitioner has been given rights under the Act, those rights cannot be taken away by a mere inter-ministerial decision," the court said.

"The communication dated August 28, 2011 and the minutes of meeting dated March 30, 2010, being contrary to the Act, are quashed," it said. The verdict came on a petition by

Tenzin Tselha, a girl child born to Tibetan parents in May 1987, who claimed Indian citizenship and that she cannot be denied an Indian passport. The court allowed her plea and held that she is an Indian citizen and is entitled to all the benefits and privileges as available to the Indian citizens. "The respondents (Centre) cannot require the petitioner to make any application under section 9 of the Act. Petitioner cannot be denied Indian passport by the respondents on that ground," the court said, asking the Centre to issue an Indian passport to her in accordance with the rules. During the hearing, the Centre's counsel had relied on the MHA's August 28, 2011 letter issued to the EC in which minutes of inter-ministerial meeting were conveyed. The counsel said that as per the minutes, all children born to Tibetan refugees here would not be treated as Indian citizens "automatically" based on their birth before July 1, 1987 and they have to submit applications individually under section 9(2) of the Citizenship Act. (PTI)

KCR directs early completion of Metro Rail project

**HYDERABAD, NOV 30** /- Telangana Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu today directed that the Hyderabad Metro rail project works be completed as early as possible. Rao, who held a meeting with L&T Metro Chairman S N Subrahmanyam and other officials here, said the state government is ready to extend all cooperation to the firm in the execution of the project, a release from his office said. He favoured early completion of works as the Metro rail project would resolve traffic woes in Hyderabad to some extent. It was decided at the meeting that the Miyapur-LB Nagar main section of the project be completed by November, 2017 and that the remaining work wrapped up by August, 2018, the release said. The Hyderabad Metro Rail project is the world's largest Public Private Partnership (PPP) in the metro sector.

## Vigilance gives KM Mani clean chit in mass marriage case

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 30** /- In a relief to former Kerala finance minister and KC (M) supremo K M Mani, the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau today gave a clean chit to him in a corruption case related to a mass marriage held by his party in Kottayam in October, 2014. Investigators submitted a report in a special vigilance court here, stating that prima facie there was no evidence to prove corruption charges against him.

Vigilance sources said the agency dismissed the report and it was now up to the court to take a final decision on this. Special Court (Vigilance) Judge A Badaruddin, in last September, had ordered a Quick Verification against Mani on a complaint that the money used for the mass marriage was raised through "corrupt means". The complaint had stated that the 150 couples who got married at the function, organised by KC(M) as part of its golden jubilee celebrations, were given five sovereigns gold ornaments and Rs 1.5 lakh cash at the time of marriage. Mani had to resign as Finance Minister from the previous Oommen Chandy government after an adverse remark from Kerala High Court in bar scam on an allegation by state Bar Hotel Owners Association working president Biju Ramesh that an amount of Rs one crore bribe was paid to him for reopening the closed liquor bars. KC(M) had snapped its decades-long ties with Congress-led UDF and left the front following differences over the bar scam issue. (PTI)



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and Yog Guru Baba Ram Dev during foundation stone laying ceremony of the Noida Patanjali Park, in Lucknow.

## Political isolation of BJP in Kerala is complete

**P. SHEEKUMARAN**  
**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** The most striking feature of the post-demonetisation phase in Kerala has been the complete political isolation of and rising anger against the BJP. The sense of indignation has been caused by the BJP's apathy bordering on cruelty towards the people's suffering in the wake of the so-called surgical strike against black money announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 8. Rubbing salt into the wounds has been the Kerala BJP's concerted campaign

against the cooperative sector in the State on the speculative plea that the cooperative banks in Kerala are vehicles for parking black money. That there is a method to the madness unleashed by the BJP in the state goes without saying. The sinister objective behind the campaign is not all an accident: It is the destruction of the cooperative sector, a stronghold of the left parties and where the BJP has little share. What compounds their offence is the fact that cooperative banks constitute the backbone of the State's rural economy.

And any collapse of the sector will have calamitous consequences for the State's economic health. It is nobody's case that the cooperative banks and the network of primary cooperative credit societies are paragons of virtue. If there are irregularities in their functioning, there are enough legal provisions to correct the same or end the malpractices. But to resort to a sweeping generalization - repeated ad nauseum in Goebelsian fashion - that the entire cooperative banks need to be dismantled is an insult to lakhs of farm-

ers, ordinary workers and housewives whose only hope of financial success is these banks. And no less a person than the Prime Minister has added insult to injury by refusing to meet an all-party delegation headed by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, which wanted to impress upon the need to remove the restrictions imposed on the cooperative institutions in participating in the exchange of demonetized high-value notes. The Prime Minister's appalling decision has drawn lakhs cutting across political barriers.

Parties have roundly condemned it as an insult to Kerala and the Keralites. This is the first time that a Prime Minister has refused to meet an all-party delegation headed by a Chief Minister. The decision also amounts to a blatant violation of the spirit of cooperative federalism about which Modi and his cabinet colleagues was eloquent day in and day out. The PM should have realized that together, the LDF and the UDF represent 95 per cent of the State's population. His party boasts of only a meager 14 per cent of the votes. To say

that the BJP will have to pay a very high price for this violation is not surprising. This is the only state to state the obvious. The Prime Ministerial lapse would also nullify whatever gains the BJP in Kerala had made in the local bodies and Assembly elections. That way, the party has set itself back by many years. The battle will now shift to the Supreme Court with the district cooperative banks deciding to move the apex court for legal relief. The whole of Kerala is holding its breath for the outcome of this legal battle. (IPA)

## NGT refuses to lift ban on 10-year-old diesel buses in Haryana

**NEW DELHI, NOV 30** /- The National Green Tribunal today refused to permit over 10-year old diesel vehicles from plying in Karnal in Haryana and asked the state government to expedite installation of CNG stations.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar passed the order on the plea of Karnal Independent Schools Association seeking permission to ply diesel vehicles over 10 years old until adequate number of CNG filling stations are set up in their city that falls in the NCR. "Why can't you buy new vehicles? Karnal is almost Delhi and it is as thickly populated as any colony here. You run international schools, charge handsomely, why can't you buy new vehicles. We are not going to permit old buses in Karnal, you can be rest assured," the bench said. When the NGT asked the lawyer appearing for association to file an affidavit stating that it was ready to fit new engines in the old buses, he withdrew his petition. In its plea, the association had said that it runs 100 CNG and 77 schools which were all private and unaided CBSE schools in Karnal. "The member schools do not have substantial means and resources to immediately procure approximately 175 new diesel buses. The schools cannot purchase new CNG fitted buses as well due to lack of adequate resources and as well due to non-availability of CNG filling stations in the area. Many of the children who attend these schools come from far flung, rural and remote areas as well and have no means of transport besides school buses. Many of these children come from under privileged backgrounds as well," the plea had said.

The tribunal had earlier asked Uttar Pradesh and Haryana governments to mull over the possibility of installing CNG stations in NCR and consider the proposal after it was informed that there was an NGT order in Meerut. On July 18, the green panel had directed authorities in Delhi-NCR to cancel the registration of all diesel-powered vehicles which were over 10 years old.

## Delhi govt asks pvt schools to plan visit to election museum

**NEW DELHI, NOV 30** /- Delhi Government has asked private schools in the national capital to plan a visit for students to the Election Museum so that they gain electoral knowledge. The museum, christened 'Journey Through Elections', has been developed in the office premises of Chief Electoral Officer to create an environment and learning place to know about the country's electoral legacy and management, and the views of Mahatma Gandhi on the democracy and election process.

"The centre has been envisaged to impart knowledge and education related with elections to citizens in general and students in particular which shall remain open from 11 AM to 4 PM on all working days. School children, especially students of secondary and senior secondary classes who are aspiring voters in the near future will find it very useful," a communication sent to schools by the Directorate of Education (DOE) said. The schools have been asked to book a slot in advance through the Election Commission's website. The directorate has also clarified that the exercise is voluntary. (PTI)

## Siberia birds make Chambal sanctuary winter abode

**MORENA (MP), NOV 30** /- Exotic winged visitors from different parts of the world are descending in droves to the Chambal National Sanctuary here to avoid cold-climates in central Asia and southern Europe. Migratory birds of multiple hues from Siberia, Mongolia, China, Kazakhstan, Tibet and North India are coming to the sanctuary. Their chirping is soothing music to the ears of the tourists along extended Chambal river, ornithologist Dr Rishikesh Sharma said today. These birds start leaving their habitats due to snow fall and extreme cold conditions and make Chambal their home during winters, he said. The winged creatures start coming to Chambal in the last week of October and return by March end, he said. Around 22,000 to 24,000 winged visitors flock the sanctuary annually, Sharma said. The sanctuary is spread over an area of 427 sq km, including ravines on the sides of Chambal river. He said this sanctuary is home to around

**RE-CONDITIONING OF GMS CROSSING WORKS**  
S- tender (Open Tender Notice No. 16-2016) (MCOE/NER/24) invited by the Chief Track Engineer, S.E. India, Gandhinagar, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India in "Siding and crossing works" from contractors who fulfill the specified eligibility criteria for unindentured work. Name of work: Undertaking in-situ re-conditioning of GMS crossings by using Transmastic Rodite Welder complete job with contractor's trained work force. Estimated cost of work: ₹ 4,22,76,576/- EMD: ₹ 3,61,980/-  
Cost of tender form: ₹ 10,000/-  
Bid validity: 90 days  
Date of completion: Within a period of 12 months from the date of award of work (DOS). DOS is one month from date of award of work. Details of online tender closing date and time: 05.11.2016 at 05.00 hrs. Complete details and instructions for tendering and online participation for the above work is on website www.prr-84.gov.in PR-84  
South Eastern Railway