

**THE EDITORIAL PAGE**

**OPPN SHOULD FOCUS ON ECONOMY**  
BY SUHAS PALSHIKAR  
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**Jallianwala massacre: May calls it a shameful scar**



May reiterates 'regret'

ADITI KHANNA  
LONDON, APRIL 10

BRITISH PRIME Minister Theresa May on Wednesday described the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar as a "shameful scar" on British Indian history, as she marked the 100th anniversary of the tragic incident, but she stopped short of a formal apology.

At the start of May's weekly Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons, she fell short of a formal apology sought by a cross-section of Parliament in previous debates and reiterated the "regret" already expressed by the British government.

"The tragedy of Jallianwala Bagh of 1919 is a shameful scar on British Indian history. As Her Majesty the Queen (Elizabeth II) said before visiting Jallianwala Bagh in 1997, it is a distressing example of our past history with India," she said in her statement.

The massacre took place in Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar in April 1919, when troops of the British Indian Army fired at a crowd of people holding a pro-independence demonstration. It claimed thousands of lives and injured thousands others. **PTI**



**ONE-SIXTH OF LOK SABHA DECIDES TODAY**

Polling officials and security personnel in Majuli, Assam, on the eve of the first phase of Lok Sabha polls on Wednesday. **AP**

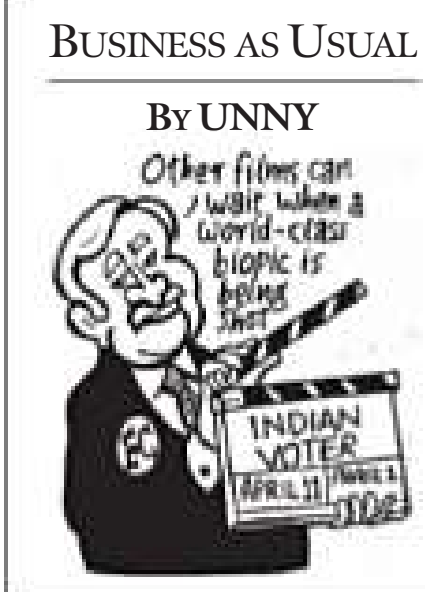
**EC stops PM biopic launch, web series will be hit too**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 10

THE ELECTION Commission (EC) on Wednesday deferred the release of PM Narendra Modi, the biopic starring actor Vivek Oberoi, "till further orders", a day before its scheduled release.

In a separate order, the poll panel also imposed a ban on public screening of "any biopic material in the nature of biography/hagiography" which could serve the interest of a political party or candidate, while the Model Code of Conduct is in force. The order was sent to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and all state Chief Electoral Officers.

Following the EC's directive, the CBFC, which certified the biopic on Tuesday, wrote to the



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**EC TO ISSUE NOTICE TO MAYAWATI**  
**PANEL REPRIMANDS REVENUE DEPT**  
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film's producers — Anand Pandit, Suresh Oberoi, Acharya Manish and Sandeep Singh — asking them to defer its release till the elections are over.

Apart from PM Narendra Modi, the EC has also stopped the screening of two more biopics — Lakshmi's NTR on TDP founder N T Rama Rao and Udyama Simham on Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's struggle for the separate state of Telangana.

According to sources, the EC's "umbrella order" will also apply to the 10-part web series *Modi: Journey of a Common Man* which is currently being streamed on Eros Now platforms. A copy of the order, *The Indian Express* has learnt, will be sent to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

The order came a day after **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**PM's Balakot remark prima facie violation: poll officer**

RITIKA CHOPRA  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 10

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's appeal this week in Latur to all first-time voters to "dedicate" their votes to the "brave soldiers" who carried out the Balakot air strike and to the "braves martyred" in the Pulwama terror attack is a violation of the Election Commission's instructions prohibiting the use of armed forces for political gains, the Osmanabad District Election Officer (DEO) is learnt to have said in his report submitted to the Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer (CEO).

According to sources in the state CEO office, the DEO's report **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**TWO SEPARATE BUT CONCURRENT RULINGS**

**Supreme Court rejects Centre's objections to Rafale deal papers**

CJI bench allows three documents relied upon by petitioners, dismisses Govt's claim of privilege



"I saw an interview of PM... he was telling the journalist that SC has given him a clean chit... But today Supreme Court has made it clear that *chowkidar chor hai*"

— RAHUL GANDHI  
CONGRESS PRESIDENT



"Congress president probably doesn't read even half a para of court's order... saying the court has said '*chowkidar chor hai*', it is verging on contempt of court"

— NIRMALA SITHARAMAN  
DEFENCE MINISTER

IN A setback for the Centre, the Supreme Court Wednesday allowed three documents relied upon by petitioners seeking a review of its December 14, 2018 judgment in the Rafale aircraft deal matter, and dismissed the government's preliminary objection on the maintainability of the review petitions and claim of privilege over these documents.

In two separate but concurring rulings — one by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justice S K Kaul, and the second by Justice K M Joseph — the bench, which went into contentions raised by Attorney General K K Venugopal on behalf of the government, said "we deem it proper to dismiss the preliminary objections raised by the Union of India questioning the maintainability of the review petitions and we hold and affirm that the review petitions will have to be adjudicated on their own merit by taking into account the relevance of the contents of the three documents, admissibility of which, in the judicial decision making process, has been sought to be questioned".

The documents at the centre of the row had been published by *The Hindu* newspaper in February, and one of these had also been released by the *ANI* **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**The three documents that Govt didn't want in the public domain**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 10

PETITIONERS SEEKING a review of the Supreme Court's December 2018 ruling in the Rafale deal matter relied upon three documents to which the Centre had objected, claiming it had privilege over these documents and that these had been illegally obtained.

On Wednesday, the Supreme Court rejected the Centre's objections and allowed the documents in the review petitions.

These are the three documents:

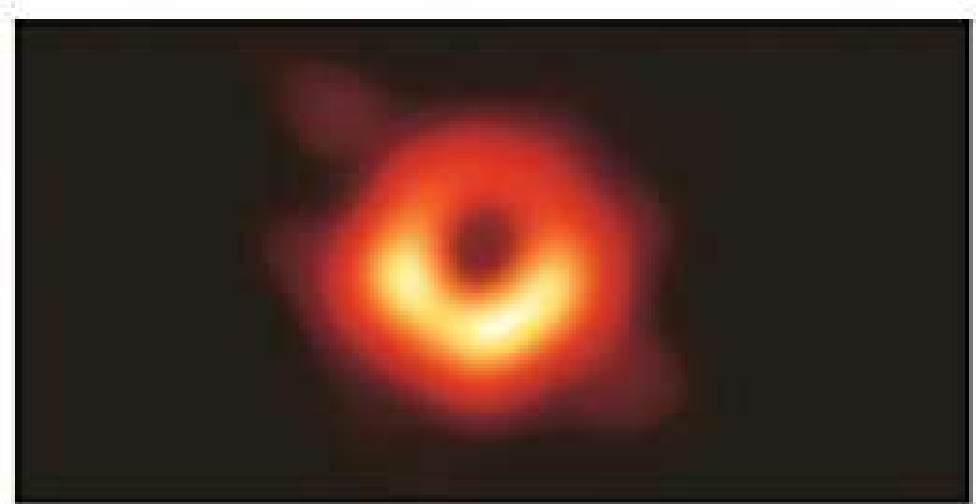
■ A Ministry of Defence note initiated on November 24, 2015 flagged the PMO's discussions to then Defence Minister, Manohar Parrikar. In the note, Defence Secretary G Mohan Kumar wrote: "RM may pl see. It is desirable that such discussions be avoided by the PMO as it **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**EXPLAINED**

**Round 1 to petitioners**

THE DECKS have been cleared for hearing petitions seeking a review of the Supreme Court's December 2018 order in the Rafale matter. The judges have underlined "test of admissibility of evidence lies in its relevancy" and "unless there is an express or necessarily implied prohibition in the Constitution or other law, evidence obtained as a result of illegal search or seizure is not liable to be shut out".

**BLACK HOLE CAPTURED**



FIRST IMAGE of black hole released. Even light can't escape a black hole.

55 MILLION light years from earth, this black hole is in the Messier 87 galaxy. **P17**

**Imran says better chance of talks if BJP wins, Oppn targets Govt**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 10

PAKISTAN PRIME Minister Imran Khan has said that there may be a better chance of peace talks with India and "some kind of settlement in Kashmir" if the BJP wins the Lok Sabha elections.

Speaking to a group of foreign journalists in Pakistan, Khan, according to a *Reuters* report, said that if the Congress



Says Cong may be too scared to hold talks on Kashmir

leads the next government, it may be too scared to seek a settlement with Pakistan over

Kashmir, fearing a backlash from the right. "Perhaps if the BJP — a right-wing party — wins, some kind of settlement in Kashmir could be reached," he said.

While the Opposition parties targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi over Khan's statement, neither the BJP nor the government issued an official response.

"Pakistan has now officially allied with Modi. Pakistan Prime Minister appears to say that a **CONTINUED ON PAGE 13**

FULL COVERAGE  
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**PM MODI IS GAMECHANGER OF ODISHA POLITICS... WE ARE GOING TO BE NO. 1 PARTY'**

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN  
UNION MINISTER

**BSP, SP supporters rally behind gathbandhan but cracks are visible in western UP Jat base**

RAVISH TIWARI  
ALIGARH, FATEHPUR SIKRI,  
APRIL 10

"I HAVE never voted for the cycle. But there is an alliance this time, so I will vote for it," says Ravindra, a middle-aged man running a cycle-repair shop near a temple at Khaditpuri in Jasrana assembly segment of Firozabad Lok Sabha seat in UP.

Ravindra belongs to the Jatav community, the core support base of Mayawati's BSP which

was the arch rival of Akhilesh Yadav's SP in the state till they formed a poll alliance last year. But as Ravindra's choice indicates, there is no confusion among this community in Firozabad, and across Aligarh, Hathras, Fatehpur Sikri, Mathura and Etah.

Cutting through this swathe in western UP, which goes to vote in the second phase on April 18, there is no confusion either for the other bulwark of the UP gathbandhan — the Yadav community that is the SP's backbone. Except in Firozabad, where



FULL COVERAGE  
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many of them find themselves in the middle of a family feud, between Akhilesh Yadav and his uncle Shivpal Yadav. Here, Akhilesh's cousin Akshay Yadav

is pitted against Shivpal himself.

Amid these multiple strands, one binding factor is their anger against the BJP governments in the state and Centre. "Milk prices have crashed. We are outcasts in this Modi-Yogi government," says Ram Kumar Yadav, in his early 30s, from Toli village along the GT Road in Hathras Lok Sabha constituency. "I voted for BJP during the 'Modi wave' in 2014 but I won't this time," he says.

But it's not so straightforward for the third pillar that the **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**In Cooch Behar, BJP's social media boss is 36-yr-old shop owner who juggles 1,114 WhatsApp groups**

PAGE 1  
ANCHOR

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA  
COOCH BEHAR, APRIL 10

AT A political rally, inside the party office, at home or in the small pharmacy that he runs in Gopalpur village, Dipak Das is always on the edge, his eyes glued to his two cellphones, a battery charger on standby.

For the BJP, this 36-year-old "IT yodha (warrior)" is a key

player in Cooch Behar, which votes in the first phase of the Lok Sabha elections Thursday. "I am the party's district IT cell convenor. Here, I am an admin in 1,114 WhatsApp groups, I manage the party's Facebook page and I organise Twitter trends," says Das.

But that's not all. He says it's because of workers like him that his party is able to reach voters in "many places" where "social media is a silent weapon", where "it is not physically possible for BJP to campaign because of the terror and supremacy" of the



Dipak Das at work in Gopalpur, Cooch Behar. Partha Paul

Trinamool Congress.

"I am an admin in 229 groups on one number, and 885 on another. In each group, there are a minimum of 30 people and maximum of 250. The numbers change every day as some leave and others are added. But I have no time to waste from 6 in the morning... during the air strikes in Pakistan we worked 24 hours straight," says Das, who is married with a five-year-old daughter.

"During one of our early campaigns, we had gone door to door to talk about governance **CONTINUED ON PAGE 13**

**WHAT DO INDIA'S LARGEST SUGAR MANUFACTURERS HAVE IN COMMON?**

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