

SC PANEL ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CJI MEETS TODAY

After complainant raises concerns, Justice Ramana opts out, Malhotra in

There should be no fears about probity in our institution... will go to any extent to protect trust: Judge on his recusal

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M & ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

JUSTICE INDU Malhotra was Thursday appointed member of the Supreme Court in-house inquiry committee constituted to look into a former woman employee's allegations of sexual harassment against Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, hours



Justice Indu Malhotra heads SC's complaints committee

after Justice NV Ramana recused himself from the panel. Justice Ramana opted out after the woman complainant raised concerns over his presence in the panel, saying he is "a close friend of the CJI and like a family friend to him", and that she "fears" her "affidavit and evidence will not receive an objective and fair hearing".

The reconstituted committee, which includes Justice SA Bobde and Justice Indira Banerjee, is scheduled to meet Friday.

Incidentally, Justice Malhotra heads the Gender Sensitisation Committee on Page 2

Retd judge to probe claim of conspiracy against CJI

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

THE SUPREME Court Thursday asked its retired judge Justice AK Patnaik to conduct an inquiry into a lawyer's allegations that there was a conspiracy to frame Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi using sexual harassment charges. Ordering the probe into alle-



Justice (retd) AK Patnaik to probe allegations of lawyer

gations made in affidavits filed by advocate Utsav Bains, a bench of Justices Arun Mishra, RF Nariman



His roadshow in Varanasi on Thursday. Anand Singh

PM points to Lanka: Prosperity means nothing if no security

They killed 40 in Pulwama, we killed 42 in same area: Modi in Varanasi

LALMANI VERMA
VARANASI, APRIL 25

CITING THE recent terror attack in neighbouring Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday said prosperity and development without security is of little value to a country. Undermining the challenge of terror even for a single moment is an injustice to the country, he said.

Addressing party leaders and eminent citizens at a city hotel after completing a two-and-half

hour roadshow and performing Ganga aarti, he said, "Abhi kuch din pehle Sri Lanka mein serial bomb dhamake hue. Uss din Easter tha. Log badi-badi gadiyon me khushi-khushi apne parivar ke saath church aaye they... Bible ka paath padh rahe they. Sapne aur sankalp leke aaye they lekin zinda ghar nahin ja sake. Dhan tha, vaibhav tha, karobar tha, bangla tha,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONG FIELDS AJAI RAI FROM VARANASI P 9

Bangladesh workers at Lanka bomber's factory rush to return home



EXPRESS IN COLOMBO

ARUN JANARDHANAN
APRIL 25

ABOUT 2 KM from the three-storey bungalow in Colombo's Dematagoda, where a ninth bomber blew herself up along with her three children after the Easter Sunday blasts, a grim si-



A factory owned by Inshad Ibrahim. Arun Janardhanan

lence hangs over a copper smelting factory with a bright blue roof. The factory, investigators suspect, is linked to the terror plot behind the serial blasts that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Maruti makes it official: No diesel cars from 2020

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

BRINGING AN end to a segment that accounts for almost a quarter of its total sales, Maruti Suzuki announced Thursday that it will stop selling diesel cars next year.

"From April 1, 2020, we will have no diesel car on sale. Depending on how customers react... if we find there is a market for diesel cars (after the new emission norms kick in) we will develop it in a reasonable amount of time," R C Bhargava, chairman MSIL, told reporters at a press conference in Delhi, while announcing the fourth quarter results of the company.

MSIL has seven cars that have diesel variants — Swift, Dzire, Baleno, Vitara Brezza, Ertiga, Ciaz and S-cross — and together they account for over 23 per cent of the domestic passenger car sales of the company.

Industry experts and company sources said that the company's decision to stop sales of diesel cars is in line with the

EXPLAINED

Rising costs, pollution worry

AMID MOUNTING technology costs and pollution concerns, Maruti Suzuki, with a market share of over 51% in the Indian passenger car sector, is the first company to make its decision public. With new emission norms coming into force from April 2020, it will double the price gap between diesel and petrol in the price-sensitive market. How other manufacturers respond is to be seen.

mandatory upgrade for auto makers from BS-IV to BS-VI

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IN CONVERSATION

Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Vice-Chancellor of Ashoka University and Contributing Editor with *The Indian Express*, and Vandita Mishra, National Opinion Editor, at the Express Adda in Mumbai on Thursday. Pradipt Das

CoA cleared its own World Cup trip, Edulji says won't go

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, APRIL 25

LESS THAN a fortnight after the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) cleared their own World Cup trip to England, one of its members, Diana Edulji, has objected to the move on "moral grounds".



'Not right to go at BCCI expense'

Edulji said she isn't sure if the other two CoA members — former CAG chief Vinod Rai and retired Lt Gen (ret) Ravi Thodge — will fly to England for the event but said she would not go on the BCCI's expense.

"I am sure I am not going. I don't know yet whether the other two will be travelling or not. May be they are, but I have objected. Even in the meeting (which decided the travel plans),

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CAT stays suspension of officer who searched PM chopper, EC seeks action

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR & RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

THE CENTRAL Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Thursday stayed the Election Commission's move to suspend an IAS officer who, as a poll observer, had searched the helicopter of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Odisha's Sambalpur during a campaign rally last week.

Shortly after the CAT passed the interim order, the EC revoked Mohammed Mohsin's suspension, but barred him from election duty and recommended disciplinary action against him

to the Karnataka government. The poll panel, simultaneously, also warned the District Election Officer (DEO) of Sambalpur for his involvement in the helicopter search.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* on the CAT order, Mohsin, a 1996-batch IAS officer from the Karnataka cadre, said: "I have gone strictly by the rules. I have not done anything wrong. Whatever are the rules will have to be followed". Asked if he feared retribution for his action, he said: "I have an unblemished record in my 22 years of service. I have always followed what the law says."

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THE EXPRESS P8 INTERVIEW



RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD
UNION MINISTER, BJP CANDIDATE
SHATRUGHAN SINHA
MP, CONGRESS CANDIDATE

FIR against Giriraj: My ancestors had no grave, you need space to bury

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, APRIL 25

TAKING SUO motu cognizance, the Begusarai district administration in Bihar Thursday booked Union Minister Giriraj Singh for violating the model code of conduct by making controversial remarks against Muslims at a rally Wednesday, where BJP president Amit Shah was also present.

According to Begusarai district magistrate, Rahul Kumar, an FIR was lodged at the Town Police Station against Singh for "hurting religious sentiments".

Addressing the rally at GD College in Begusarai Wednesday, Singh had said: "Jo Vande Mataram nahin keh sakta, jo Bharat ki matrabhumi ko naman nahin kar sakta, arre Giriraj ke to



Singh is contesting from Begusarai

baap-dada Simaria ghat me Ganga ke kinare hi mare, usi bhoomi par kabr bhi nahin banaya, tumhe toh teen haath ka jagah bhi chahiye, agar tum nahin kar paoge to desh kabhi maaf nahin karegi."

(Those who cannot say Vande Mataram or cannot respect the motherland, the nation will never forgive them. My ancestors died at the Simaria ghat

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

YOUTUBE REMOVES BJP CANDIDATE'S CLIP P 9

Modi looms over new Bihar faultlines as an old one travels from Bollywood to Darbhanga

ACROSS A NATION

LENGTH & BREADTH
KARGIL KANYAKUMARI



BREADTH
PORBANDAR PASIGHAT
2 LINES, OVER 7000 KM
30 DATELINES, 15 STATES

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

VANDITA MISHRA
DARBHANGA, APRIL 25

COME TO Darbhanga to get a glimpse of the new contest in Bihar. This district is home to its newest player, a caste leader who calls himself "Son of Mullah" (not translated in Hindi even when written in Devanagari) and is making his election debut at the head of a six-month-old party in the Bihar cauldron.

But first, the cauldron: In the 2014 Lok Sabha election, the Modi "wave" swept across caste and class cleavages, the overrid-



Vikasheel Insaan Party's Mukesh Sahani, the 'son of Mullah'

ing need and demand for "parivartan" propelling the chief minister of Gujarat into the national imagination. It relegated Bihar's

own leaders, Nitish Kumar, who had walked out of the NDA, expressing distaste for Narendra Modi's leadership, and Lalu

DECISION 2019

Yadav, to the sidelines. In sum, in that election, "Hindutva plus" was seen to lay low the forces of "social justice" in a state where caste is still etched deep.

In the 2015 Assembly election, Nitish and Lalu buried their fierce political rivalry and came together with the Congress in a "Mahagathbandhan" or grand alliance which stitched together a formidable arithmetic against Modi — and succeeded spectacularly. The alliance won Bihar,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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