



Gadchiroli attack probe indicates lapses in adherence to SOP

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First Apache attack helicopter handed over to IAF in Arizona

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Mohamed Nasheed wants preachers visiting Maldives to be screened

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Harmanpreet leads Supernovas past Velocity in T20 Challenge final

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NEARBY

61,000 personnel to keep vigil as Delhi goes to polls

NEW DELHI
A total of 61,000 personnel have been deployed to ensure smooth conduct of polls in Delhi on Sunday. The BJP, AAP and Congress are locked in a triangular fight on all seven seats.

CITY ► PAGE 3

Held as ‘Bangladeshi’, Assam villager returns as ‘Indian’ after 3 years

‘Discrepancy’ in age led a tribunal to doubt his citizenship

RAHUL KARMAKAR
KHOPANIKUCHI

Moments before he left the Goalpara Central Jail in western Assam on May 7, Rehat Ali had promised the jail superintendent he would not say anything bad about his “home” of more than three years.

The jail doubles as a detention centre – one of six in Assam – for people declared foreigners by a quasi-judicial Foreigners’ Tribunal (FT). The State has 100 such tribunals that adjudicate the Fo-

reigners’ Act of 1946 to decide the fate of people suspected to be Bangladeshi by the Assam Police’s border wing, formed in 1962 to initially prevent infiltration of Pakistani nationals.

“I gave him my word,” said Mr. Ali. “But it is better to be dead than live there like a *laash* [corpse],” he added.

Having dropped out of primary school almost 60 years ago, Mr. Ali had such a poor knowledge of numbers that he never noticed that

his voter ID showed him to be a 55-year-old, which was at odds with the “66” that he orally submitted as his age to the tribunal in 2015. The “discrepancy” in age was a key reason that led the FT at the nearest town Hajo, about 35 km west of Guwahati, to doubt his citizenship.

He could also not recall the date when his father Muniruddin had shifted from Bagnapota, 20 km away in Nalbari district, because the village was facing erosion by the Brahmaputra. And his name was recorded variously as ‘Rehat Ali’ and ‘Rehaja Ali’ in different documents.



Rehat Ali and his son Lukman Ali. ■ RAHUL KARMAKAR

But life in captivity taught him to count his days unlike four other inmates, who died of depression during his stay. “How can I forget the number of days I was

deemed a Bangladeshi? They killed the Indian in me every day for 1,197 days before I walked to freedom,” he said.

SPECIAL

What kept him going was his conviction that he would come out of *dozakh* (hell) because his sister, Mannbahar Bibi, whose case as a suspected ‘foreigner’ had been examined by the FT around the same time, had been promptly declared an ‘Indian’ based on the same set of documents that he had provided.

The documents, the Gauhati High Court found in ordering Mr. Ali’s release on May 3, showed his grandfather Goni Sheikh possessed a land deed at Bagnapota, dating back to 1947.

More sad than happy

Almost everyone in Khopanikuchi turned up to welcome Mr. Ali back home. But for the man who had just won back his freedom, the overwhelming feeling was one of sadness rather than happiness.

His wife, who went into delirium after he was taken away and has been unstable

since, barely recognised him. “My sons never told me they had to mortgage our land, sell eight cows and a commercial vehicle to spend ₹7 lakh for my case,” he said, his voice tinged with grief.

More painful for him is the haplessness of the detention camp inmates he left behind. “They come in my dreams, begging me to pray for their death. Zehirul Islam, Noor Mohammed, Satya Sadhu, Abdul Samad... in detention for seven, eight years and too poor to get out,” he said.

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10.17 cr. electors to vote in 59 seats

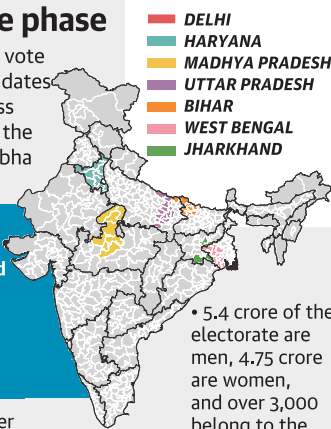
Lok Sabha election enters the penultimate phase across six States and Delhi

The penultimate phase

Over 10 crore people will vote to choose from 979 candidates in 59 constituencies across six States and one U.T. in the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha election today

A few prominent candidates are Sheila Dixit, Digvijaya Singh, and Jyotiraditya Scindia (all Congress), Varun Gandhi, Maneka Gandhi, and Rita Bahuguna Joshi (all BJP), and Akhilesh Yadav (SP)

• Polling will be held in over 1.13 lakh booths



• 5.4 crore of the electorate are men, 4.75 crore are women, and over 3,000 belong to the third gender

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As many as 10.17 crore voters will decide the fate of 979 candidates on Sunday in the sixth phase of polling in 59 Lok Sabha seats across six States and the Union Territory of Delhi.

In the 2014 Lok Sabha election, the BJP had won 45 of these seats. Voting will be held for 14 seats in Uttar Pradesh, eight seats each in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, four seats in Jharkhand, all seven seats in Delhi and all 10 seats in Ha-

ryana. The BJP would not only seek to retain its seats but also expand in newer territories like West Bengal where the Trinamool had won all the eight seats in the last election.

In Uttar Pradesh, however, the BJP will face a tough challenge from the grand alliance of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Samajwadi Party (SP) that will seek to consolidate the anti-BJP votes in the State.

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TOUGH TEST ► PAGE 10

Who will rule?

Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings — the IPL’s two most successful sides — face off in Sunday’s final at Hyderabad. A look at how they stack up against each other:

INDIANS	TALE OF THE TAPE	KINGS
12	No. of seasons played	10
5	Finals made	8
3 (2013, 2015, 2017)	Champion	3 (2010, 2011, 2018)
1	Runner-up	4
	H2H	
16	In IPL (overall)	11
2	In Finals	1
3	This season	0



TOP PERFORMERS THIS SEASON

	MOST RUNS	
Quinton de Kock	500	M.S. Dhoni
414		
	MOST WICKETS	
Jasprit Bumrah	17	Imran Tahir
24		

AT HYDERABAD THIS SEASON

Matches played: 7
Won by team batting first: 4
Won by team batting second: 3

BATTING FIRST	BATTING SECOND
Average score: 175	Average score: 142
Average run rate: 8.75	Average run rate: 7.74

REPORTS ON PAGE 17

Initial estimate pegs Fani crop damage at ₹150 crore

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

The initial estimate of Cyclone Fani’s damage to standing crops in Odisha has been pegged at ₹150 crore, but the State Agriculture Department warns that the destruction of storage facilities and harvested crops stored in the open could further spike the losses.

Low insurance penetration could also exacerbate

farmers’ losses, especially in the poultry sector. “Because of the advance warning, it was possible to evacuate larger livestock, but it was impossible to move poultry. A large number of birds, mostly broilers, were killed,” said Saurabh Garg, Principal Secretary, Odisha’s Department of Agriculture. According to the latest situation report, poultry casualties had hit 34.52 lakh, and more

than 53 lakh birds were affected.

Livestock casualties included 2,082 larger animals, mostly cows and buffaloes, and 2,202 smaller animals, mostly goats.

Compensation estimate

Initial calculations of compensation to be paid for poultry and livestock losses are about ₹10 crore, according to Vishal Gagan, Secre-

tary of the State’s Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Department.

Another concern is the safe disposal of the carcasses. “There has been some concern about contamination of waterbodies, although we are ensuring that burial is done away from homes,” said Mr. Gagan, adding that health and sanitation teams had been called in to ensure safe disposal.

ITC chairman Deveshwar is no more

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Yogesh Chander Deveshwar, the ITC’s longest-serving chairman, passed away on Saturday morning in Delhi. He was 72.

An alumnus of IIT-Delhi and Harvard Business School, Mr. Deveshwar joined ITC in 1968 and rose to become its CEO and chairman of the board in 1996.

OBITUARY ► PAGE 13

Pulwama reference cut for UN listing of Azhar

U.K. played a key role, says diplomat

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Concessions were made to secure the designation of Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar as a UN Security Council-sanctioned terrorist, Britain’s most senior diplomat Simon McDonald said on Saturday, asserting that the United Kingdom had played a “central role” in ensuring that the listing went through after talks with New Delhi and

Islamabad. He was here for consultations on the India-U.K. strategic partnership.

In an interview to *The Hindu*, Mr. McDonald, Permanent Under Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the U.K. government, did not deny a suggestion that China had agreed to the listing after all references to terror attacks in J&K were dropped.

INTERVIEW ON ► PAGE 10

IS claims it set up a ‘province’ in India

REUTERS
NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR

For the first time, the Islamic State said it has established a “province” in India, after a clash between militants and security forces in Kashmir killed a militant with alleged ties to the group. Its Amaq News Agency late on Friday issued a statement, announcing the province “Wilayah of Hind”.

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‘We will vote only to keep our names on the rolls’

Elections are no game changer for the Sahariya tribals of Gwalior

DAMINI NATH
GHATIGAON

“We have electricity, but we also have to pay for water tankers as the handpump is broken and the water level in the well has gone down. Nothing has really changed here since my grandfather’s time,” said Narayan Singh as he stood outside his hut in Nayapura village in Gwalior district’s Ghatigaon area.

Like him, the village is home to members of the Sahariya tribe, one among the 75 tribes declared Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Over the years, the tribe has faced issues of malnutrition and stunting among chil-



A woman carries water in Nayapura, Ghatigaon in Gwalior. ■ DAMINI NATH

dren in Madhya Pradesh.

On the eve of polling for the sixth phase of the 2019 Lok Sabha election, which includes the Gwalior constituency, residents of Nayapura on Saturday said they will cast their votes but without

harbouring any hope.

“We only go to vote so that our names don’t get cut [from the electoral rolls] so that if the government comes out with any scheme, we can apply,” said Prakash, a resident of Nayapura who works as a labourer.

The village handpump has been broken for about three months now, forcing residents to buy water from private tankers for ₹30 to ₹50 per “drum” every other day or scrounge for whatever is left in the well a little distance away, said Rekha, who works in the Anganwadi centre in Nayapura.

“Paani hi samasya hai (Water is the only problem),”

said Budh Bai.

All around the village are symbols of the Narendra Modi government’s flagship schemes – toilets built under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, gas cylinders given through the Ujjwala Yojana and a handful of homes built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Scattered throughout the hamlet are the locked-up and unused toilets. With no running water and limited supply through a government tanker every two-three days, the residents who have built toilets don’t use them.

In Gwalior, the BJP’s Vivek Shejwalkar is up against Congress candidate Ashok Singh.