



Save nation from Modi-Shah duo: Kejriwal
NEW DELHI
Aam Aadmi Party chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday repeated his request to voters to take money from other political parties and then vote for AAP, during the second day of his roadshows in Delhi. This election, he said, was to save the country from the Modi-Shah duo.

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CBI clarifies in SC on ex-Kolkata CP
NEW DELHI
The CBI on Thursday clarified that it is seeking lifting of protection granted to former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar by the Supreme Court and not permission for his "custodial interrogation".

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Hans Raj Hans is a Muslim, claims AAP
NEW DELHI
The Aam Aadmi Party on Thursday alleged that BJP's North West Delhi candidate Hans Raj Hans had converted to Islam and can't fight from a reserved seat. It said it will move court to disqualify him. The BJP denied the allegation and demanded an apology from AAP.

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Decide on Modi, Amit Shah 'hate speeches' by May 6, SC tells EC

Congress has alleged that the poll body was not applying rules uniformly

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday gave the Election Commission of India (EC) time till May 6 to take a final call on the complaints filed by the Congress against the alleged hate speeches and misuse of the armed forces as political propaganda by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah.

The Commission repeatedly protested, saying it would need time to call for the entire transcript of the speeches and decide the context of the allegedly offending words in them. This would take time, it said.

"So, you have today, then Friday and even Sunday... You can do it," Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi told the commission, represented by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi.

They martyred 40 of our soldiers in Pulwama and now we have killed 42 terrorists. This is our way of working.

- PM MODI IN VARANASI, Uttar Pradesh, on April 25



Rahul was contesting in such a place where it was impossible to say when a procession is taken out, whether it is a procession in India or Pakistan

- AMIT SHAH IN NAGPUR, Maharashtra, on April 9



Mr. Dwivedi submitted that there were a total of 11 complaints against the two leaders. "Of this, four have been effectively decided. We need time till at least next Wednesday to decide on the rest," he said.

But the court put its foot down. "You come on Monday," CJI Gogoi responded.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi began the hearing by submitting that the EC had

not decided on the complaints for the past three weeks. "What was spoken by them [Modi and Shah] cannot be taken back... the damage caused is irreversible. But the EC has to take a decision by tomorrow [Friday]," he submitted.

Direct attack

In one of the most direct attacks on the EC, a 146-page petition filed by Congress

lawmaker Sushmita Dev, represented by advocate Sunil Fernandes, alleged that there was one set of rules for Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah and another for the rest of the candidates.

The Congress said several representations of "violation" of the model code of conduct were made to the EC, but no action had been forthcoming from the poll body, which should be devoted to the concept of free and fair elections in a democracy.

Since March 10, when the general election was notified, Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah had "specifically in sensitive areas and States, *ex facie* violated the provisions of the Representation of the People Act and the election rules and the process," the petition said.

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Before the storm: Locals and visitors taking snaps of the sea from the beach in Konark, Odisha, just hours before Cyclone Fani made landfall. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

Odisha evacuates over 11 lakh

Extremely severe Fani to hit coast with 180 km wind speeds

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR/KOLKATA

With the extremely severe cyclonic storm Fani expected to cross the Odisha coast between Gopalpur and Chandbali, south of Puri town, on Friday morning, the State government on Thursday evacuated over 11

lakh people from low-lying areas in 15 districts.

Heavy rainfall had started at many places in the coastal districts by Thursday evening under the influence of the storm. Fani is expected to make landfall between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and continue to rage up to noon, offi-

cials said. The cyclone will hit the coast with a maximum sustained wind speed of 170-180 kmph, gusting to 200 kmph. Storm surge of about 1.5 metre height may flood low-lying areas.

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NAVY GEARS UP ► PAGE 7

Chargesheet filed against Zakir Naik

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday filed its first chargesheet against preacher Zakir Naik and others, accusing him of money laundering. It identified assets worth ₹193 crore and attached properties valued at ₹50.46 crore in the case so far.

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Plea for recusal of CJI in Assam case rejected

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi on Thursday refused activist Harsh Mander's request that he recuse himself from hearing a PIL petition highlighting the "sub-human" living conditions of detainees in Assam's detention centres.

Mr. Mander said his petition, which was solely intended to release those lan-

guishing in the detention centres for years, transformed itself, through oral observations made by the CJI during hearings, into a premise for "more people being detained and deported" in Assam.

The CJI said it was the judge who decided whether to recuse himself from a case and not the litigant.

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Trunk call



Blast from the past: A tree fossil that was found at Kharapathar in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh on Thursday. The fossil belongs to the Mesozoic geological era (67-250 million years ago), according to State Museum curator Harish Chauhan. ■ ANI

'Cover lotus references in city schools that are polling stations'

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

An election observer on Thursday asked for 'Rashtriya Phool - Kamal (national flower - lotus)' embossed on a school building wall in West Delhi to be covered as it is a violation of the model code of conduct. Lotus is the BJP's election symbol.

A police officer said that the observer has asked them to identify such walls in schools that are listed as polling stations in Delhi.

During a visit to polling stations, the election observer found that in several

schools information such as national bird, national animal among other things were mentioned on the walls. "We have been instructed to cover the word 'Kamal' painted/embossed on the walls in schools where polling will be held on May 12. We are in the process of identifying such walls and they will be covered with the help of the district administration," said the police officer.

The election observer has also asked for photos of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and B.R. Ambedkar to be covered in schools listed as polling

stations.

Reacting to the observer's objection, a schoolteacher said: "There are so many parties and each of them has an election symbol that represents something that we use in schools. It doesn't mean they start covering everything."

In 2012, the Election Commission had ordered to cover up the statues of then U.P. Chief Minister Mayawati and elephant, the symbol of her Bahujan Samaj Party, ahead of the Assembly polls. The same have not been covered this time.

Girls outshine boys in CBSE Class 12

Overall pass percentage is 83.4%



Winners all: An elated Hansika Shukla and Karishma Arora after the results were declared. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Girls outperformed boys in this year's Central Board of Secondary Education's Class 12 examinations with a nine percentage point advantage in pass percentages. Overall, 83.4% of the 12.87 lakh students who attempted the examination held in February and March 2019 have passed, the CBSE said on Thursday. While 88.7% of girls cleared the examination, only 79.4% of boys did so. Among transgender students, the pass percentage was 83.3%.

Joint toppers

The joint toppers — who scored 499 out of a possible 500 — were also girls, both from Uttar Pradesh.

For Karishma Arora from the SD Public School in Muzaffarnagar, her love

for classical dance helped her take regular breaks from her books during the school year and also fits into her dreams for the future. "I want to do Psychology Honours and hopefully specialise in dance therapy," she told *The Hindu*.

Favours Psychology

Her fellow topper Hansika Shukla from the Delhi Public School in Ghaziabad also wants to study Psychology, but hopes to join the Indian Foreign Service. "I never thought of marks, I just concentrated on giving my 100%. I kept away from social media," she said.

Three girls also grabbed the second rank, and 11 out of 18 students in the third rank were also girls.

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