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People want to see Siddaramaiah as CM, says Karnataka Minister



Prasar Bharati to co-produce film on Mujibur Rahman



Govt. asks SC to rethink elevation of two HC judges Page 10

Mumbai Indians crushes Super Kings, moves into the final Page 16



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NEARBY

PM has understanding with Pakistan: Kejriwal

Launching a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a poll rally in Haryana's Hisar on Tuesday, Aam Aadmi Party convener Arvind Kejriwal said Mr. Modi had an "understanding with the terrorists and Pakistan", and had not done any work over the past five years based

on which he could seek votes.

DELHI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

Two labourers enter septic tank, die

Two labourers died while three others are battling for life after they entered a septic tank at an underconstruction house in Rohini's Prem Nagar on Tuesday afternoon. The police have registered a case and begun a probe.

DELHI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

SC transfers Kotkhai custodial death case

The Supreme Court on Tuesday transferred a case related to alleged custodial death of an accused in gang rape and murder of a minor

schoolgirl in Himachal Pradesh's Kotkhai in 2017, from Shimla to Chandigarh.

NORTH ▶ PAGE 3

OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 15 **DELHI METRO** • 4 PAGES

SC turns down Opposition plea for increased VVPAT verification

CJI declines to review April 8 order on VVPAT counting per Assembly segment

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a plea by 21 Opposition parties, led by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, to review its judgment rejecting 50% random physical verification of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) using Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT).

On April 8, a Bench led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi had directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to increase physical counting of VVPAT slips to five random EVMs in each Assembly segment/constituency. Before this April verdict, ECI Guideline 16.6 required

VVPAT case trail

FEB 27, 2019: Opposition parties seek 50 per cent random verification of EVMs with VVPAT slips

MARCH 28: Election Commission says 50% VVPAT slip verification in each Assembly segment is bound to extend the time required for counting to about six days APRIL 8: SC orders increased VVPAT verification to five random EVMs in each

physical counting of only one EVM in every Assembly segment/constituency.

Assembly segment "to

In its April verdict, the court had assured the peti-

generate the greatest degree of satisfaction with regard to the full accuracy of the election results'

APRIL 22: Opposition files review petition seeking at least "33% or 25%" VVPAT verification, if not 50% MAY 7: SC refuses

April 8 verdict

tioners that it would ensure a 'fool-proof' Lok Sabha poll.

"How much counting do you want now?" Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi asked senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, representing the Opposition in the review.

"We asked for 50%, but we can settle for 33% or 25% verification. My Lords had agreed with our plea in principle, but increased the counting from one VVPAT to only five. My Lords had said 50% was not 'viable' at this point of time during the Lok Sabha elections," Mr. Singhvi submitted.

Hearing this, Chief Justice Gogoi straightaway responded. "We decline to review our order". The court dismissed the review plea.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10 OPPOSITION PARTIES MEET

Ordeal ends



Safe return: Reuters reporters Kyaw Soe Oo (left) and Wa Lone with their families after being freed from prison, following a presidential pardon, at Yangon in Myanmar on Tuesday. The duo spent over 500 days in jail after they were convicted for reporting on the Rohingya crisis. Their arrest had triggered a global campaign calling for their release. • REUTERS (REPORT ON PAGE 12)

Two ISC toppers hit a 100

Record score by Vibha of Bengaluru and Dewang of Kolkata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELH

Bengaluru's Vibha Swaminathan and Kolkata's Dewang Kumar Agarwal have set a record by becoming the first students to score a perfect 100% in the Indian School Certificate (ISC) examinations.

"After I did an internship at a law firm at the beginning of Class 12, I decided to study law," said Ms. Swaminthan, a Humanities student at Mallya Aditi International School.

"To me, it's about working with people and understanding how they engage with policies and with the system," she added.



Vibha Swaminathan and Dewang Kumar Agarwal

A science student from La Martiniere for Boys, Mr. Agarwal said it was important to put academics first.

"I enjoy music, books, swimming, but I made sure there was no compromising with my studies. My only advice is to work hard everyday, taking small steps toward a bigger goal and don't

lakh trees, mostly casuari-

nas," said Harsabardhan Ud-

gatta, Divisional Forest Offic-

er of Puri (wildlife) division.

panic," he said, adding he hopes to study computer science in college. "I've always been into scientific logical thinking and reasoning, so it seems a natural choice

A second chance

Meanwhile, there is good news for unsuccessful students as well, with the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) deciding to introduce compartmental exami-

nations for the first time. Of the 86,713 students who attempted the ISC examination, 96.5% passed. **CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 10

SEE ALSO ▶ DELHI METRO PAGE 2

Priyanka Gandhi likens Modi to Duryodhana

'People will not forgive arrogance'

VIKAS VASUDEVA

In a veiled attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday said the Mahabharata character Duryodhana too had such arrogance.

Taking a swipe at Mr. Modi, while addressing a rally in Ambala, Ms. Vadra said the Prime Minister should display the courage to fight the election on issues relating to development, unemployment, and farmers' distress, instead of deflecting

people's attention. Ms. Vadra also took on the Prime Minister for his

recent remark that her father Rajiv Gandhi's life had ended as "corrupt number

"This election is not about any one family. This election is about a crore of families. whose expectations have been completely shattered by the Prime Minister," Ms.

Vadra said. The Congress leader said, "This nation has never forgiven arrogance. Past is witness to this... the Mahabharata is witness to this... Such an arrogance was there in Duryodhana. When Lord Krishna made an attempt to show him the truth, he tried to detain him.'

Have right to copy of Bobde panel report: complainant

If CJI was given a copy, so should I, says former SC staff

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

"If Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi is given a copy of the 'confidential' inquiry report, I should be provided with one too," the former Supreme Court staffer wrote to the in-house panel, which found "no substance" in her sexual harassment allegations against the CJI.

"I have a right to know how, why and on what basis have your Lordships found my complaint to have 'no substance'," the complainant urged the Justice S.A. Bobde-led in-house committee on Tuesday.

"If a copy of the report is being given to the CJI directly or indirectly, I am entitled to a copy thereof in any case," the woman appealed to the committee. The complainant conveyed her shock to the three judges on the committee about how they found no substance in her allegations against the CJI despite filing a detailed affidavit with ample corroborative evidence.



Dissent note: Women protesting outside the SC seeking CJI Ranjan Gogoi's resignation on Tuesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Copies of the report have been provided to Chief Justice Gogoi and Justice Arun Mishra, the fourth senior most judge in the Supreme Court.

She said it was "rather strange that the complainant in a case of sexual harassment is not to be provided with a copy of the report which finds her complaint to be without substance". She said the committee

has found her allegations to be of no substance without

bothering to let her know the reasons for their deci-

"The Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, in Section 13 provides that both parties have a right to receive a copy of the report," her letter said.

> **CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 10 PRISONER OF PROCEDURE

SEE ALSO > DELHI METRO PAGE 1

PM's comment obscene: Cong.

Party MP moves Supreme Court against anti-Rajiv remarks

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks to "malign and tarnish" the image of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was killed in a terror attack, is "obscene", Congress MP Sushmita Dev told the Supreme Court on

Tuesday. In an additional affidavit, she said Mr. Modi's words, "Your father may have been declared Mr. Clean by his courtiers. But he died as

Bhrashtachari No.1", was "derogatory" to the high office he held. It was both "unfortunate and unbecoming" of a Prime Minister. The Congress had filed a

rumbudur in Tamil Nadu in

meant to hit back at Rahul Gandhi, Congress president and son of Rajiv Gandhi, for targeting him on the Rafale deal.

against Mr. Modi's remarks. a suicide bomber at Sripe-

election speech in Pratap-

complaint with the Election Commission on May 6 Rajiv Gandhi was killed by

Mr. Modi's remarks at an

The Supreme Court on Monday allowed Ms. Dev to file the additional affidavit to

its complaint that the Election Commission had dealt with several complaints of hate speech against Mr. Modi and BIP president Amit Shah in an off-hand manner.

garh, Uttar Pradesh, were **CONTINUED ON PAGE 10**

PM's only rally for BJP in Delhi today

JATIN ANAND NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to attack the Aam Aadmi Party over its statehood demand and raise the issue of the 1984 anti-Sikh

riots against the Congress at his maiden and the only rally at the Ramlila Maidan here on Wednesday to canvass for the Delhi BJP candidates, party insiders said on Tuesday. Earlier during the day,

Union Minister and BJP leader Vijay Goel said, "I understand that after this rally, the Congress and AAP candidates will find it difficult to save their deposits."

DETAILS ▶ DELHI METRO PAGE 1

Odisha's wildlife sanctuaries ravaged by Fani

Loss of habitat has forced hundreds of monkeys into residential areas in Bhubaneswar's periphery

"As many as 20% of the trees

were uprooted, while the

rest were found snapped and

broken. The devastation has

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

Severe Cyclone Fani rendered not only several thousand people homeless as it tore along India's east coast last week, but also dealt a body blow to wildlife and forest resources in the region.

The scenic stretch along the tree-lined Marine Drive that bisects the Balukhand Wildlife Sanctuary adjacent to the Bay of Bengal between Puri and Konark, is now a wasteland with hardly any tree left untouched, wildlife officials said.

"As per eye estimate, the cyclone damaged nearly 55



left around 400 spotted deer homeless," he said. Apart from deer, the sanc-

tuary, spread over an area of 87 sq km, was home to wild boar, jackals, striped hyenas, wolves and mongooses. While the DFO asserted that no carcasses of spotted deer had been sighted, it was hard to imagine that the animals had actually escaped the cy-

Nandankanan closed In Bhubaneswar, the cyclone

had uprooted decades-old trees inside the Nandankanan Zoological Park. Several animal enclosures too have

ities to shut down the zoo for an indefinite period. The Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary, which is close by, has also been impacted with thousands of trees uprooted. Authorities are attempting to assess the extent of damage. As a result, hundreds of

been affected forcing author-

displaced monkeys have now entered residential colonies in the periphery of Bhubaneswar. Residents have reported cases of the simians iattacking people after loss of habitat and food sources.

MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 7