



People want to see Siddaramaiah as CM, says Karnataka Minister

Page 5



Prasar Bharati to co-produce film on Mujibur Rahman

Page 7



Govt. asks SC to rethink elevation of two HC judges

Page 10

Mumbai Indians crushes Super Kings, moves into the final

Page 16



NEARBY



PM has understanding with Pakistan: Kejriwal

HISAR
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

NEW DELHI
Two labourers died while three others are battling for life after they entered a septic tank at an under-construction 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

NEW DELHI
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 Assembly segment "to

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 to review its April 8 verdict



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

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

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
EC ► PAGE 10

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 DELHI

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. Swaminathan, a Humanities student at Malviya 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 Martinier 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

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 for me."

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 examinations 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
AMBALA

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 1".

"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."

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

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
PURI

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



Battered home: Trees uprooted by cyclone Fani near the Balukhand forest in Odisha. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

lakh trees, mostly casuarinas," said Harsabardhan Udgatta, Divisional Forest Officer of Puri (wildlife) division.

"As many as 20% of the trees were uprooted, while the rest were found snapped and broken. The devastation has

left around 400 spotted deer homeless," he said.

Apart from deer, the sanctuary, 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 cyclone's fury.

Nandankanan closed

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

been affected forcing authorities 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 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