

# Setback For Government, Supreme Court To Examine Classified Rafale Papers

Agency  
New Delhi April 10,

The Supreme Court will examine secret, leaked documents on the Rafale fighter jet deal as it decides on requests to review its order giving the government a clean chit on the deal that the opposition alleges was corrupt. The judges today unanimously dismissed the centre's objections to considering classified documents leaked from the defence ministry as evidence.

The top court said it would go ahead with the hearing of review petitions in the light of new documents cited by petitioners alleging wrong-doing in the Rafale deal. The petitions would be decided on merits.

This means classified documents sourced by the media without authorisation can be considered evidence. It is a huge win for free press at a time questions have been raised over strong-arm tactics to suppress the media. Citing internal notes of the defence ministry, a series of reports published by *The Hindu* said the ministry had objected to "parallel negotiations" for the jets by the Prime Minister's Office.

Pointing to the documents, petitioners had called for a review of the verdict. "These are sensitive documents relating to defence, but that was precisely what we said too - that because they are documents of importance, they must be treated as part of supporting

documents," said former union minister Arun Shourie, one of the petitioners.

The centre had told the court that the documents filed by the petitioners are "sensitive to national security", those who conspired in photocopying the papers have committed theft and put national security in jeopardy by leaking them to the public. The court today dismissed that argument and said it would fix a date to hear the petitions.

Petitioner Prashant Bhusan had argued that "if a document is relevant in deciding a fact, how it was obtained becomes irrelevant". Citing the US verdict on Pentagon papers leak, he said once documents are published, the government can no longer claim privilege.

N Ram, chairman of The Hindu Publishing Group, said that the documents were published in public interest, and the media group will fiercely protect its sources.

In December, the top court had dismissed petitions alleging that the government had gone for an overpriced deal for 36 Rafale fighter jets to help Anil Ambani's rookie defence firm bag an offset contract with jet-maker Dassault Aviation. There was no reason to doubt the decision-making process of the government, the court had said.

*The Hindu* newspaper published reports which said the deal became more expensive for India because of France's refusal to provide bank guarantees.

# RGU ranked among top 100 Universities in India by NIRF

From a Correspondent  
Itanagar, April 10,

The Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) has been ranked among the top 100 Universities in India by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India. The rankings were announced by President Ramnath Kovind at New Delhi on Monday and comprises the ranking among the 907 Universities in the country. Chairing a meeting held to discuss the ramifications of the ranking, RGU Vice-Chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha said that it is indeed a great achievement of the University and expressed deep appreciation to the RGU team and the stewardship of Chief Rector and Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Brigadier (Dr.) B. D. Mishra, former VC Prof Tamo Mibang for the achievement. He lauded the efforts of the team of Director of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell Prof Amitava Mitra, Prof Utpal Bhattacharjee (CSE), Chemistry Head of Department Rajesh Chakrabarty, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering Ani Taggu and Firoos A. Asst Prof also of the CSE for their contributions in facilitating the evaluation process with the NIRF.

"We at RGU try our best to relentlessly follow the mandate of the University. As the only Central University in the State, our role goes beyond just providing access to higher education and pushes us to contribute in the best manner to the socio-cultural development of the Arunachal society. Continuing to excel in the NIRF rankings is not an option for us at the University. I believe that it is a must", he said. Prof Kushwaha extended his gratitude to the Govt of Arunachal of Arunachal Pradesh as well as its



active civil society for supporting RGU all through its evolution and said that the University will continue to strive to excel and work with a collective vision to take RGU to the top 5 of the NIRF rankings. RGU Registrar, Prof Tamo Riba said that the University has constantly been focused on a core value of expansion- in its outreach and inreach initiatives, its enrollment, its fair and diverse recruitment as also ensuring better access to the best in higher education. "Our efforts have now resulted in this and we are really much encouraged by this recognition", he said.

Applauding this achievement of the University, both the Rajiv Gandhi University Students' Union (RGUSU) and the Rajiv Gandhi University Scholars' Forum (RGUSF) congratulated the students, research scholars, faculty members and administration of RGU for the good work accomplished. Terming it as a matter of great pride not only for the University but also for the

state, the key student bodies of the RGU expressed hope that this benchmark of performance would continue in the years to come and assured the students' contributions in the best manner. The rise in rank for the RGU from 124 in last year's ranking to 99 signifies a watermark achievement in the RGU's evolution. Considering its location in the border state of Arunachal Pradesh, with its own challenges of connectivity, communication and lack of adequate resources, this achievement of the RGU really stands out as a salute to the efforts put in by University fraternity. Not only has this brought the University in the same league as the other 99 top Universities in the country but has also opened up avenues for better collaborations and partnerships considering that this ranking is a major criteria for even international funding institutions. With the recent visit of the delegation of the European Union and the USEIF to the RGU

campus, this ranking comes as great boost to its credibility and efficiency.

It is interesting to note that 7 Universities from the northeast region from feature in the list of top 100 Universities with NEHU, Tezpur University and RGU among them, while at the same time even some major states do not feature in the list. Tamil Nadu tops the list with 20 Universities, followed by Maharashtra with 11 and Karnataka with 10.

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was launched by the MHRD, Govt of India in September 2015 and has been published since 2016. Its framework outlines a well-defined methodology to rank institutions across the country. It has identified broad parameters for ranking various universities and institutions, mainly in Teaching, Learning and Resources, Research and Professional Practices, Graduation Outcomes, Outreach and Inclusivity and Perception.

# Scrutiny of nominations for 4th phase of LS polls takes place

Agency  
New Delhi April 10,

Scrutiny of nominations for the fourth phase of elections is taking place today. Yesterday was the last date for filing of nominations.

71 constituencies spread over 9 states will go to polls in this phase on the 29 of this month. April 12 is the last date for withdrawal of candidature.

In Uttar Pradesh, 253 candidates have filed their nominations till last date for filing nominations.

One hundred and sixteen candidates filed their nominations yesterday.

The constituencies that will go to the polls in this phase are Shahjahanpur, Kheri, Hardoi, Mishrikh, Unnao, Farrukhabad, Etawah, Kannauj, Kanpur, Akbarpur, Jalaun, Jhansi and

Hamirpur. Around two crore 38 lakh voters are registered in this phase.

In Madhya Pradesh, 180 nominations have been filed by 130 candidates for 6 Parliamentary constituencies of Sidhi, Shahdol, Jabalpur, Mandla, Balaghat and Chhindwara.

Meanwhile, 23 nominations have been received from 17 candidates including Chief Minister Kamal Nath for Chhindwara Assembly By-Election.

In Rajasthan, 172 candidates have filed nominations for 13 seats. More than 100 candidates filed nominations yesterday including Congress leader Vaibhav Gehlot and Ravi Jhunjhunwala.

Rashtriya Loktantirk Party's president Hanuman Beniwal also filed nomination from Nagaur seat.

In Maharashtra, 452 candidates have filed nomination papers for 17 constituencies which will go to the polls in the fourth phase.

The constituencies going to the polls in this phase are Nandurbar, Dhule, Dindori, Nashik, Palghar, Bhiwandi, Kalyan, Thane, Maval, Shirur, Shirdi and the six seats in Mumbai.

In Bihar, 106 candidates have filed nomination papers for the fourth phase of elections. 55 candidates filed nomination papers yesterday. Former JNU President Kanhaiya Kumar has filed nomination paper from Begusarai constituency as CPI candidate.

The fourth phase of polling will be held in five constituencies namely Darbhanga, Ujjiarpur, Samastipur, Begusarai and Munger.

# Cash seizure across NE India- Assam tops the chart followed by Arunachal, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim & Manipur

Agency  
New Delhi April 10,

The amount of cash being seized across Northeast India has been increasing with every passing day with the agencies engaged by the ECJ seizing crores of rupees from different parts of the region every day. On Tuesday, the total amount of the seized cash in Arunachal

Pradesh alone stood at Rs 6.28 crore. The figure in the previous day in the state had stood at Rs 6.01 crore, according to ECJ. The total amount of cash seized stood at Rs 6.01 crore on Monday, as against Sunday's Rs 5.94 crore.

Among the Northeastern states, Assam topped the list of states with the highest seizures, with

the authorities recording seizure of Rs 9.32 crore, followed by Arunachal, Meghalaya (Rs 1.30 crore), Nagaland (Rs 0.92 crore), Tripura (Rs 0.21 crore), Sikkim (Rs 0.14 crore) and Manipur (Rs 0.1 crore).

Mizoram and Lakshadweep remain the only state and union territory, respectively, from where no cash seizure has been reported so far.

# All arrangements in place for 1st phase of LS polls

Agency  
New Delhi April 10,

All arrangements are in place for the first phase of Lok Sabha elections on April 11 in which 91 Parliamentary constituencies spread over 20 states and union territories will go to polls.

These include 25 constituencies in Andhra Pradesh, eight in Uttar Pradesh; seven in Maharashtra; five each in Uttarakhand and Assam; four each in Bihar and Odisha; two each in Jammu and Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and West Bengal; and one each in Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep. Simultaneously, voting will also take place for single phase Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and for 28 of 147 seats in Odisha.

In Uttar Pradesh, tomorrow's polling will decide the electoral fate of 96 candidates, including Union Ministers VK Singh, Satyapal Singh and Mahesh Sharma, RLD leaders Ajit Singh and Jayant Chaudhry and Imran Masood from congress.

Security forces held flag marches in sensitive pockets while liquor shops are closed till the end of the polling. Interstate borders with Delhi, Haryana and Uttarakhand have been sealed along these the constituencies.

In Uttarakhand, BJP and Congress are in a straight contest for five Lok Sabha seats. 52 candidates are in the fray including Union Minister Ajay Tamta from the reserved seat of Almora and Congress General Secretary Harish Rawat from Nainital.

In West Bengal, elections will be held in Cooch Behar and Alipurduar Parliamentary constituencies. The State Election Department has taken all necessary measures to ensure free and fair voting.

Security personnel have already taken positions for confidence-building measures and the safety and security of voters and poll workers. Altogether 18 candidates are in the fray for the 2 Seats.

The Commission on Tuesday transferred the Superintendent of Police of Cooch Behar District Abhishek Gupta and posted Amit Kumar Singh in his place. Special Police officer Vivek Dubey will visit the district today to take

stock of the security-related situation. In Odisha, elections will be held for four Lok Sabha and 28 Assembly segments. Chief Electoral Officer Surendra Kumar said more than 60 lakh three thousand voters will exercise their franchise in this phase.

In Bihar, 44 candidates are in the fray for this phase. Our correspondent reports the polling will be held in Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada and Jamui. In Assam, 75 lakh voters will decide the political fate of the 41 candidates including 2 women in the first phase.

In Mizoram, six candidates are in the race for the lone Lok Sabha seat. 13 candidates are in the fray for West Tripura Lok Sabha constituency.

In Telangana, election authorities are making last minute preparations for tomorrow's polling. In Nizamabad, where 185 candidates are in the contest, additional poll staff and hundreds of engineers have been pressed into service.

# Narendra Modi biopic receives 'U' certificate from CBFC

Agency  
Mumbai, April 10,

The biopic on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, starring Vivek Oberoi, has received a certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), ending days of uncertainty over its release. The film, titled "PM Narendra Modi" and directed by Omung Kumar, has been criticised by the opposition parties, who claim that the biopic could give undue advantage to the BJP in the polls as it will arrive in theatres before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court had dismissed a petition filed by a Congress activist seeking stay on the film's release, saying the Election Commission would be an "appropriate" place to seek the redressal. The CBFC issued a 'Universal' certificate to the film ahead of its release on April 11, the same day when the seven-phase polls begin. "We are very happy that we got the 'U' certificate from the Censor Board, and finally the film will be releasing on April 11. We are also very relieved that the Supreme Court has rejected the plea... It is

clear now from everywhere," producer Sandeep Singh said in a statement.

"I hope no political parties across India has any problem, because the Election Commission, the CBFC, and all the courts have cleared all the pleas, and our film is ready for release. We are grateful to each and everyone who have prayed for us," he added.

Producer Anand Pandit said "justice has been served" as the film has cleared its "final hurdle" towards getting released in theatres.