

# Rahul Gandhi wants Rafale contempt plea closed, says BJP seeking political mileage

Agency  
New Delhi April 29,

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Monday asked the Supreme Court to dismiss the contempt petition filed against him by BJP's Meenakshi Lekhi, insisting that it was the BJP lawmaker who was trying to drag the court into a political controversy for personal gains and political mileage.

The Congress president said the court should also make Meenakshi Lekhi pay up for abusing the judicial process by filing the contempt petition against him for his campaign remarks.

Rahul Gandhi had last week filed a similarly-worded affidavit to explain his first reaction to the April 10 court ruling on use of leaked defence ministry documents for the Rafale review petition. Gandhi had then remarked that the court had said "Chowkidar



chor hai "(the watchman is a thief), repeating a slogan that Gandhi and the Congress have used to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Gandhi has told the court that his remarks were not meant to obstruct administration of justice or scandalise the court in any manner. Gandhi also apologised for ascribing comments to the court and said this happened in the "heat of campaigning." The fresh affidavit is a response to the top court notice issued after Rahul Gandhi's lawyer Abhishek

Manu Singhvi last week pointed that the judges had "not issued notice" to his client but only sought an explanation. At this, CJI Gogoi had issued notice to "cure that defect right away". The court will take up Rahul Gandhi's affidavit in response to the contempt notice tomorrow. Rahul Gandhi does not need to be present in court when the three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and justices Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Khanna hear the case. The judges had exempted Rahul Gandhi from personal

appearance. In his earlier explanation, Rahul Gandhi had, however, underlined that if he had misinterpreted the court's order on the review petition, so have many ministers of the government who passed off the order in the original case, given on December 14, 2018, as a "clean chit" to the deal. That ruling had turned down a court-monitored probe of the Rs 59,000 crore Rafale jet fighter deal. "This court must not allow this political flogging to go on," Singhvi had said, recalling that at the last hearing, the court had only sought Rahul Gandhi's explanation, and not issued a formal notice. The court had tagged the contempt petition along with the main review petition and decided to hear the case on Tuesday. The centre, however, wants the hearing on the main review petition to be deferred on the ground that it needs more time to file its affidavit.

# Sri Lankan expert interacts with Guwahati scribes

From a correspondent  
Guwahati, April 29,

Chennai based expert on Sri Lankan affairs, N Sathiyamoorthy is interacting with Guwahati scribes today at 3 pm where he is expected to highlight the socio-political background of the island nation and also the implication of Colombo terror attacks for India as a whole. A former journalist and presently a senior fellow & Chennai chapter director of Observer Research Foundation (www.orfonline.org) Sathiyamoorthy will be available to



members of Guwahati Press Club through video-conferencing. Sathiyamoorthy has developed expertise on Indian politics, elections, public affairs along with political affairs of Maldives and Sri

Lanka. After writing weekly columns on Sri Lankan politics and society for Colombo-based Daily Mirror and The Sunday Leader, now he contributes analytical pieces to the Ceylon Today and the Colombo Gazette. He also worked as the editorial consultant/chief news editor of the trilingual Sri Lankan television group MTV, Shakti TV and Sirasa. Moreover he authored/edited books on Sri Lanka and contributed chapters on India's two immediate southern neighbours.

# Camapaigning gains momentum for remaining three phases

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Campaigning has gained momentum for the remaining three phases of Lok Sabha elections. Top leaders of various political parties are holding rallies across the

country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address three rallies in Jharkhand and West Bengal today. In Jharkhand, Mr. Modi will address public meeting at Giridih, while in West Bengal, he will address two rallies at Srirampur and Barrackpur in

the afternoon. BJP President Amit Shah will address rallies at Chitrakoot, Pratapgarh, Jaunpur and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh. Congress President Rahul Gandhi will campaign at Dhaulpur, Churu and Jaipur in Rajasthan.

# Sadhvi Pragma says cow urine cured her cancer. Doctors not convinced



India Today  
News Delhi, April 29,

"A mixture of gau mutra (cow urine) and other cow products cured my cancer." BJP candidate from Bhopal, Sadhvi Pragma, told India Today TV on Monday as she filed her nomination from the Lok Sabha seat in Madhya Pradesh. Soon after, the interview went viral with social media debating the benefits of cow urine. But can cow urine really cure cancer? Doctors are not

convinced. "Scientifically, there is no evidence of cow urine curing cancer. There may be anecdotal evidence, i.e. someone may say that he/she benefited, but that is different. It has to be tested on patients. Only then, can we say with surety that cow urine cures cancer," says Dr. Vikas Goswami, medical oncologist senior consultant at Max Super Specialty Hospital in Delhi's Patparganj. Agrees Dr. Biswajyoti of

Artemis Hospital, Gurugram. "I have never prescribed cow urine for cancer. Also, there is no record of patients getting cured after consuming cow urine or other cow products. We always prescribe allopathy treatment. Patients undergoing alternative treatment, in fact, have returned with much worse condition that is inoperable," he says. Sadhvi Pragma, who is also accused in the 2008 Malegaon blasts case, is a breast cancer survivor. "I was a patient of cancer and I cured myself by consuming cow urine and panchgavya-mixed ayurvedic herbs," she said. Panchagavya is a mixture of five cow products and used in traditional Hindu rituals. These are cow dung, urine, milk, curd and ghee. These are mixed in proper ratio and then allowed to ferment. Sadhvi Pragma called the cure scientific, saying, "I am a living example of its effectiveness."

# Heat wave sweeps several parts of the country

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The severe heat wave has gripped several parts of the country. In Gujarat, heat wave conditions prevailed in many parts, especially in the southern and the Saurashtra-

Kutch regions. The Kandla airport remained the hottest place in the state with the maximum temperature at 46.8 degree Celsius yesterday. The maximum temperature at Surendranagar in Saurashtra touched 44.7 degrees, while it was recorded

at 44.6 degree Celsius in Amreli. In Maharashtra, Met Department has issued a heatwave warning for North Central and Marathwada regions for today. The warning comes as Akola, Parbhani and Chandrapur districts in Vidarbha region recorded the highest temperature in the country at 47.2 degree Celsius on Saturday. As the mercury climbed up, Amravati and Wardha, also in Vidarbha region, sizzled at 46 degree Celsius each while Yavatmal, Parbhani, Nanded, Jalgaon and Ahmednagar districts each recorded 45 degree Celsius temperature. Delhi also reeled under the scorching heat. Yesterday, the maximum temperature was recorded at 41.2 degrees Celsius, with the minimum settling at 25.4 degrees, a notch above normal. Met office said the maximum temperature will hover around 42 degrees and minimum 25 degrees today.

# Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman holds bilateral meet with her Chinese counterpart at SCO

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Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held a bilateral meeting with her Chinese counterpart General Wei Fenghe at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO Defence Ministers' Meet at Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan today. She reached Bishkek yesterday on a three-day visit. The SCO Defence Ministers

will explore ways to further boost defence and security cooperation among the member countries in the wake of evolving security challenges in the region. India is also keen on deepening its security-related cooperation with SCO and its Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) which specifically deals with issues relating to security and defence.

# Sport News

## IPL: KKR beat MI by 34 runs at Edens

Agency  
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In IPL Cricket, Kolkata Knight Riders beat Mumbai Indians by 34 runs at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata last night to strengthen their chances of making it to the playoffs. Put in to bat, Kolkata posted a mammoth 232 for 2, riding on quick-fire half-centuries by West Indian Andre Russell, and opens Shubman Gill and Aussie Chris Lynn. Russell top scored with an unbeaten 80 off just 40 balls comprising six



four and eight sixes. Gill made a 45-ball 76, while Lynn scored 54.

In reply, Hardik Pandya's 91 off just 34 balls, featuring six fours and nine sixes, went in

vain as Mumbai managed to make just 198 for 7 in the allotted 20 overs. Russell, who bagged two wickets along with scoring 80 not out, was named man of the match. Earlier in the day, Delhi Capitals became the second team to qualify for the playoffs after they defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore by 16 runs at Delhi. Delhi has joined Chennai Super Kings in the playoffs. Today, Sunrisers Hyderabad will take on Kings Eleven Punjab at Hyderabad at 8 PM.

## ISSF World Cup: India wins 3 golds, 1 silver

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New Delhi April 29,

India topped the standings at the International Shooting Sport Federation, ISSF World Cup on the final day in Beijing on Sunday, bagging four medals comprising 3 Gold and a Silver. In the last edition in New Delhi, India had jointly topped the standings with Hungary. China followed India in the Beijing edition by bagging 2 gold, as many silver and a bronze. For India, Anjum Moudgil and young Divyansh Singh Panwar started the medal hunt with a gold in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team competition. The teenaged pair of Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary won another yellow metal in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team Pistol event. Divyansh then won India's first individual medal by clinching a silver in the men's 10m Air Rifle. Abhishek Verma won India's third gold in men's 10m Air Pistol event.

## Hima Das included in World Relays team despite pulling out of Asian Championships



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Top quartermiler Hima Das has been named in India's women 4x400m relay team for the World Relays which begin in Yokohama, Japan next month. Hima made the cut despite pulling out of the Asian Athletics Championships in Doha earlier this month due to lower back pain. Hima dropped out midway through her 400-

metres heats and was later ruled out of the Women's 4x400m relay and Mixed 4x400m relay races. India's Women 4x400m relay and Mixed 4x400m relay teams had won a silver each while the Men's 4x400m relay team was disqualified for a rule infringement after initially being declared as silver medal winner. For the World Relays, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has now named the

same Men's and Women's 4x400m relay teams which featured in the Asian Championships. The teams are: In Men's 4x400m Relay: Muhammed Anas, Rajiv Arokia, Jeevan KS, Kunhu Muhammed, Jithu Baby and Alex Anthony. In Women's 4x400m Relay: Hima Das, MR Poovamma, VK Vismaya, Saritaben Gayakwad, Prachi and Sonia Baishya.