

Saturday
28 January, 2012
Bhopal

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MUSTREAD

Age row: SC to hear Army chief's petition on Feb 3

New Delhi: The Supreme Court will hear on February 3 the petition filed by Army chief General VK Singh seeking a direction to the government to declare his date of birth as May 10, 1951 instead of May 10, 1950. A PIL on the issue has already been dismissed by the apex court earlier this week. Gen Singh's unprecedented action in dragging the government to the apex court followed the Defence Ministry's insistence that May 10, 1950 would be treated his official date of birth and that he would consequently retire on May 31 this year. In his 68-page petition, Gen Singh had told the Supreme Court that he was treated by the government in a manner which reflects total lack of procedure and principles of natural justice in deciding his age. Challenging the government's decision to determine his date of birth as 10.5.1950 and not 1951, he has maintained that his acceptance of his year of birth as 1950 was given in good faith at the behest of the then chief of Army Staff and not due to agreement with the conclusion of the Military Secretary's Branch.

Cabinet to decide on future of UID project

New Delhi: The Cabinet Committee led by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will meet on Friday to take a decision on the continuation of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) project led by Nandan Nilekani. Today's meeting comes a day after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh held discussions with senior Cabinet colleagues to resolve the issue amid reports of difference between Home Ministry and Planning Commission over continuation of UIDAI project. Reports claim that a compromise formula has been reached according to which Nilekani-led Unique ID Authority of India and the Registrar General of India will be carrying out parallel exercises to collect biometric data. While the UIDAI will do it in 13 states, the Registrar General of India will collect data in coastal areas and areas where UIDAI has no presence. The two bodies will reportedly share some data. The Cabinet Committee will today take a decision on what data the Registrar General must share with the UIDAI. The Cabinet committee meeting led by PM Singh will take a final call on extension of the UIDAI project, under which national identity cards are issued to entire population.

FINAL SAY



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UP elections: BJP promises temple, Congress jobs & quota

Agencies
Lucknow, Jan 27
Revising the Ayodhya issue, the BJP today promised to build a Ram temple but Congress came out with plans to create 20 lakh jobs for unemployed youth in their manifestos for the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh where both the parties are trailing major players BSP and SP. The BJP also outlined its economic plans including creation of one crore jobs in five years, sops to farmers and those below poverty line. BJP, which has been

struggling hard to regain its pre-eminent position in the state, brought back the Ayodhya issue which had once propelled the party to the centre stage of national politics in the late 80s and through the nineties. "Construction of a grand temple is associated with the faith of crores of people of the country. Ram is the symbol of prestige, pride and dignity of the country. Unfortunately due to pseudo-secularism and vote bank politics it is being opposed. BJP is committed to removing

all the hurdles in the path of construction of Ram temple," said the manifesto, released by a battery of leaders including Uma Bharati, the hindutva mascot. The party also opposed religion-based reservation and attacked the Congress for the Centre's decision to carve out a 4.5 per cent sub-quota for Muslims from the 27 per cent reservation for OBCs in jobs. On the other hand, the Congress party brought out a "Vision Document 2020" for Uttar Pradesh, where it has been out of power for

over two decades, by promising to set up 1000 skill centres and create two lakh jobs. The document was released in 10 different cities by a host of leaders. Union Minister Salman Khurshid and UPCC President Rita Bahuguna released the document here which promised to provide sub-quota for most backward classes and eliminate corruption. The document also envisioned job and education quota for socially and educationally backward minorities among OBCs commensurate with their population.

Why are you silent on Raj Thackeray, supporter asks Anna

New Delhi, Jan 27: As Team Anna members debated corruption and participatory democracy here, a man created a mini stir at the event by asking why Anna Hazare did not speak up against Raj Thackeray in his home state where the politician had targeted north Indians. At a seminar on 'Rebuilding the Republic' organised by Team Anna, the man named Liladhar Bhat demanded to be heard on stage and after being offered the microphone raised the issue. Lawyers Shanti Bhushan, Prashant Bhushan, activists Vandana Siva and Gopal Rai, and psephologist Yogendra Yadav among others, were holding a panel discussion after the seminar and taking written questions from the people present there.

PC, Nilekhani reach consensus on UID



Agencies
New Delhi, Jan 27
The ongoing conflict between the Plan panel and the Home Ministry over issuance of chip-based smart cards to all residents was put to rest on Friday as the government cleared the UIDAI's proposal to enroll an extra 40 crore people in 16 states, while the biometrics in other states will be collected under the NPR project. While the government has cleared additional Rs 5,791.74 crore for the UIDAI, the Nandan Nilekani-led UIDAI has assured that the security concerns raised by the Home Ministry would be addressed. The entire process by the two agencies will be completed by June next year. "We will review the security concerns in the next six to eight weeks and begin the process of collection of data from April," Nilekani told reporters here after his proposal was cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Briefing reporters, Home Minister P Chidambaram said there was no difference with the Planning Commission over the issuance of the cards. However, in case of "discrepancies between UIDAI data and NPR data, NPR will prevail," Chidambaram said and added the new system is as secure as humanly possible. "Aadhaar (issued by UIDAI) is voluntary and NPR is mandatory...It is a government programme," Chidambaram said and maintained that the issue of duplication of the data has been avoided. "Most avoidable duplication and avoidable costs have been avoided," he said and explained that residents who had been issued "Aadhaar" number issued by UIDAI will not have to give their bio-metrics again for the NPR.

Blackmoney: India signs multilateral agreement

Agencies
New Delhi, Jan 27
Taking another step towards combating blackmoney, India has signed a multi-lateral agreement with economic powers like France and Germany to check both tax evasion and avoidance. The agreement, convention on mutual administrative assistance in tax matters, is a multi-lateral agreement of 31 other nations which "promotes international co-operation while respecting the rights of taxpayers." The agreement has been signed under the aegis of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a top global financial body, at its headquarters in Paris recently. A Finance Ministry official said the agreement was signed by CBDT official and Joint Secretary in foreign tax division of Finance Ministry Sanjay K Mishra along with OECD Deputy Secretary General Rintaro Tamakio. "The convention provides for administrative co-operation between the parties in the assessment and collection of taxes with a view to combating tax avoidance and evasion," an OECD statement said in this regard. By joining the agreement, India and other 31 signatories, according to

OECD, "send a strong signal that countries are acting together to ensure that individuals and multinational enterprises pay the right amount of tax, at the right time and in the right place." "India has moved very quickly since its commitment to the convention at the November G20 ceremony in Cannes and I expect it will be the first non-OECD G20 country for which the updated convention is in force," Jeffrey Owens, Director of the OECD Centre for Tax Policy and Administration said in a statement today. "With taxpayers increasingly operating on a global basis, tax authorities are moving from bilateral to multilateral co-operation and from exchange of information on request to other forms of co-operation. The convention is an effective and practical tool to help tax authorities in their everyday work," the statement said. The other members under the convention are Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Manipur polls tomorrow, start of crucial elections in 5 states

Agencies
Imphal, Jan 27
Manipur goes to polls tomorrow in the shadow of bomb attacks by militants to mark the start of crucial Assembly elections in five states including Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. Authorities are keeping a close watch on the security situation in this North-Eastern state during voting to elect the 60-member Assembly amid reports that some insurgent groups might disrupt polling at some places. A total of 279 candidates are

in the fray to enter the 10th Assembly. Official sources said today that only central para-military personnel would be deployed at the polling stations where no state security personnel would be present. But if required, state personnel would join the central forces in manning the polling stations, the sources said. Elections in Punjab and Uttarakhand will be held on January 30 and in Goa on March 3, the same day when the final phase of the seven-phased polls

in UP will end. Counting of votes is due to be taken up on March 6. A majority of the polling and security personnel have reached the polling stations across Manipur, the election office said. In Imphal East and Imphal West districts, they would reach by tonight. There would be 12,967 polling personnel to conduct the voting at 2,357 polling stations. The polling would begin at seven am and end at four pm, the election office said.

Probe against Krishna in illegal mining premature, rules SC

Agencies
New Delhi, Jan 27
External Affairs Minister S M Krishna today got a major relief from the Supreme Court which stayed the ongoing probe by the Lokayukta police against him in an alleged illegal mining case during his tenure as Karnataka Chief Minister saying the proceedings were "premature". "We are inclined to stay the proceedings. Accordingly, the proceedings arising out of the FIR on the issue ordered by the Karnataka Lokayukta will remain stayed," a bench comprising justices Altamas Kabir and Gyan Sudha Misra

said while hearing the petition filed by Krishna challenging the January 20 order of the Karnataka High Court refusing to give relief to him. The bench said the probe ordered by the Lokayukta court was "premature" as the proceedings before the ombudsman was "incomplete" on account of the failure of the submission of the supplementary report. The bench, which issued a notice and sought response within three weeks from Karnataka government and the complainant, on whose plea the FIR was registered, also said "we are all anxious that truth should come out".

Anchor

'13/7 bomb planter was a member of gangster's gym'

Agencies
Mumbai, Jan 27
A wanted accused in the 13/7 Mumbai blasts, who had planted one of the bombs that went off that fateful evening, had enrolled himself at a gymnasium owned by the family of underworld don-turned-politician Arun Gawli, the Anti-terrorism Squad said on Friday. While announcing a breakthrough in the blast probe on Monday with the arrest of Naqi Ahmed and Nadeem Akhtar from Bihar, the ATS had withheld the names of the two



planters of the bombs whom its chief Rakesh Maria referred to only as wanted accused 'A' and 'B'. Maria told reporters that nearly a month after the blasts, one of the bomb planters, who had enrolled himself at a gym at Kumbharwada in south Mumbai, also became member of another gym named after Gawli's late father. Gawli, facing several cases of extortion and a murder, and a former rival of fugitive mafia don Dawood Ibrahim, is cur-

rently lodged in Talaja jail in Navi Mumbai. "One of the planters in the 13/7 blasts case had enrolled himself on August 10 last year for three months in Gulabpura Gawli Medical and Fitness Centre belonging to Gawli family at Byculla. The bomb planter is the same person, who had joined a gym at Kumbharwada of south Mumbai," Maria said. The wanted bomb planter had paid Rs 3,500 as fee for three months including Rs 200 entrance fee, at the gym located at Dagadi Chawl, Gawli's den, he said.

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