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UPSET OVER SMEAR CAMPAIGN, CO-AUTHOR OF BILL SANTOSH HEGDE THREATENS TO QUIT COMMITTEE

Lokpal: One wicket down?

DNA Correspondent NEW DELHI

As allegations and counter-allegations flew thick and fast over lawyer Shanti Bhushan's alleged conversation with Mulayam Singh Yadav and Amar Singh about trying to influence a judge, former Supreme Court judge N Santosh Hegde on Thursday hinted that he might quit the Lokpal Bill drafting committee.

"I am seriously considering quitting. I am in consultations with my team," said Hegde, who is expected to reach New Delhi on Saturday. He added: "I am fed up with people picking on panel members. I am hurt by Digvijay Singh's comments."

The Congress leader accused Hegde, the Karnataka Lokayukta, of protecting Karnataka chief minister BS Yeddyurappa, who is facing corruption charges. Hegde defended himself by saying: "There is no one who has fought Yeddyurappa, the way I have. My hands are tied, yet I have taken action, issued notices and sought explanations," said Hegde.

Meanwhile, other civil society members refused to resign from the drafting committee even as the Central Forensic Sciences Laboratory (CFSL) said the CD containing Bhushan's conversation may have not been doctored. Reports by Hyderabad's Truth Labs and US audio forensic expert George Papcun had established the tapes were doctored earlier.

"No one has seen the (government forensic lab) report till now. We expected an adverse report. Had it been in our favour, we would have been surprised,"

The good, the bad and the ugly...

SONIA'S REPLY: ANNA HAPPY

Social activist Anna Hazare on Thursday said he was happy and satisfied with Congress president Sonia Gandhi's letter, assuring him that she does not support or encourage the politics of smear campaign. Gandhi said the Lokpal Bill was on the agenda of the National Advisory Council.

IS CD DOCTORED OR NOT? REPORTS DIFFER

Delhi police said the CD allegedly containing conversation between Shanti Bhushan, Mulayam Singh Yadav and Amar Singh has not been tampered with. The Bhushans say a Hyderabad lab has confirmed it is doctored.

WILL INTRODUCE BILL IN MONSOON SESSION: PM

Prime minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday said the government would introduce the Lokpal Bill in the monsoon session of Parliament in July. He promised to ratify the United Nations Convention on Corruption.

I am seriously considering quitting. I am in consultations with my team... I am fed up with people picking on panel members. I am hurt by Digvijay Singh's comments
— Santosh Hegde (right)

Corruption is a barrier to faster growth, and hurts the poor most. We are committed to tackling this challenge
— Manmohan Singh, PM

If you attempt to measure society and individuals by moral yardsticks, then there is a need to very seriously introspect whether you measure up to that yardsticks
— Manish Tewari, Congress spokesperson



Related reports, p8

Will Sathya Sai survive? Slim chance

Docs say spiritual leader not responding to treatment

Soumita Majumdar & KV Ramana
BANGALORE, HYDERABAD

Sathya Sai Baba is alive, but just barely. The team of doctors attending to him declared on Thursday that the 86-year-old was not actively responding to their efforts. The bulletin on Baba's health issued by Dr AN Safaya presented a grim picture. "Baba continues to be in a very critical state of health. There is very poor response from various vital organs for the treatment. The parameters of various organs of the body are also erratic. His breathing is still assisted by ventilator," he said.



The godman is suffering from multi-organ failure. "His lungs have failed and we are using ventilator and a pacemaker to keep his heart going. His kidneys have failed so he is on dialysis. His liver condition is deteriorating. Most of his body parts are currently infected and we are doing our best to provide him medical support," said a doctor from the team of 27 top-notch doctors attending to him.

There are reports that prime minister Manmohan Singh and president Pratibha Patil are likely to visit Sathya Sai on Friday. Andhra Pradesh chief minister K.R. Reddy is also expected to visit Puttaparthi.

SHORT STORIES



UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon at a rehabilitation centre in Moscow on Thursday — Reuters

Airport runways to be shut for 5 hours on April 23, 30

Both runways at the Mumbai airport will remain closed between 11.30 am and 4.30 pm on April 23 and 30 for repairs. Lights at the intersection of the widened runways have to be realigned.

2G scam: Court defers bail hearing of business honchos

The Delhi High Court on Thursday deferred a hearing on the bail pleas of five business executives charged in the 2G spectrum allocation scam. The court will resume its hearing on April 26. p8

SC cancels bails of Satyam's Gupta, PwC's Gopalakrishnan

The Supreme Court on Thursday cancelled the bails granted to Price Waterhouse partner Subramani Gopalakrishnan and Satyam's internal auditor V S Prabhakar Gupta, directing them to surrender by April 30. p9

Single entrance test for engineering courses

The government plans to introduce a National Aptitude Test (NAT), a single-entrance examination for engineering. The test will replace all other entrance exams such as IIT-JEE and AIEEE.

CITY WEATHER

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------|
| 37.8°C | | 20.1°C |
| Sunrise 6.13 am | Humidity 51% | |
| Sunset 6.54pm | Rainfall Nil | |
| Forecast: Partly clear sky | | |

IRREGULAR

Manju



No, it is not the draft. These are the latest controversies related to the co-chairman.

MARKET INDEX

| Indices/rates | Close | Change | Indices/rates | Close | Change |
|---------------|----------|---------|---------------|-------|--------|
| SENSEX | 19602.23 | 131.25▲ | DOLLAR** | 44.37 | 0.04▲ |
| NIFTY | 5894.70 | 33.05▲ | EURO** | 64.66 | 0.26▲ |
| GOLD* | 21760.00 | 40.00▲ | | | |

* ₹/10gm ** ₹

Terror skews playground for Hinjewadi IT Park



The Central Industrial Security Force's quick response teams put on a show of strength on the Infosys campus at Hinjewadi on Thursday — Naresh Natu DNA

Report, p3

Radioactive iodine found in milk of Japanese women

Tokyo: The milk of four Japanese women has been found to contain small quantities of radioactive iodine. The radiation contamination came to light after breast milk samples were taken from nine women living northeast or east of Tokyo.

Four of the nine women were found to be contaminated, with the highest reading of 36.3 becquerels of radioactive iodine per kg detected in the milk of the mother of an 8-month-old baby in Kashiwa, Chiba prefecture, *The Telegraph* reported. Becquerel is a unit of

measuring radioactivity. Japan on Thursday declared the 20-km evacuation area around the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant as a no-go zone. Anyone entering the banned area could be subject to fines. The plant was hit by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. It has leaked radiation into the air, ground and sea in the world's worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl 25 years ago. Japan's health ministry will undertake more checks on human breast milk around the nuclear plant. —Agencies

No power for all in state by 2012, says CAG

DNA Correspondent MUMBAI

The state government's promise of power for all by 2012 may well remain on paper in the absence of adequate planning that was necessary to enhance the generation capacity to overcome the deficit of up to 5000 MW by 2012.

The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India for March 2010 released on Thursday has highlighted a worrying scenario in the power sector in the state.

"The state government did not plan capacity additions to achieve the objective of the National Energy Policy (NEP) to provide power for all by 2012. The deficit at the end of 2009-10 was more than 4,000 MW," said the CAG.

When planning new projects, the government did not factor in adequate land acquisition and statutory permits.

It said the availability of power in state ranged from 66.36% to 74.86% of the total peak demand and 70.67% to 75.01% of the total average demand.

Turn to p12

Court orders Ajit Pawar, wife named in Mulshi land grab case

DNA Correspondent PUNE

The court of civil judge, SM Belkar, on Thursday ordered that deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar and his wife, Sunetra, be made parties in suit alleging land grab.

A 55-year-old resident of Sangvi, Chandrakant Dattatray Gundgal, filed a private suite against one Raghunath Nana Tapkir, according to

which Tapkir, who owned land (group number 1189 and 1190) in Ghotwade village in Mulshi taluka had sold it to Sunetra Pawar.

According to Gundgal's lawyer, Ranjit Thite, Tapkir told the Pawars to also take possession of 26 gunthas of additional land (13 gunthas each in group number 1175 and 1176), claiming that the land belonged to him (Tapkir). "But in

reality the 26 gunthas are owned by Gundgal," claimed Thite.

"The Pawar couple encroached upon Gundgal's 26 gunthas and constructed a wall, a water tank and cut trees and damaged the property," Thite alleged. "So we pleaded before the court on April 17 to make the Pawar couple a party to the case along with Tapkir," Thite said.

PUNE-BASED ENTREPRENEUR TO HELP HARASSED COMMUTERS ACROSS 20 CITIES

Mouse to tag banks, count cab fare

Arun Jayan PUNE

It was in one of those heated arguments with an autorickshaw driver over fare that later ignited a simple idea in the mind of Swapneel Shah, a 28-year-old computer engineer from Pune, to start a website that gives pre-calculated fares to commuters.

After working for five months on the idea, he started www.taxiautofare.com, which is attracting more than a lakh visitors a month. Requests are also pouring in



Swapneel Shah (28) is a Pune-based computer engineer — Ravindra Joshi DNA

from people across the country to add more cities to the existing list of 20. The site is a free service

that allows a user to estimate the taxi and autorickshaw fare between any two locations in a city. Not only are

fares calculated, but the service also displays a Google map with the detailed route and distance. The website also has a mobile version.

"Each time we have to take an autorickshaw outside the railway station or bus stand in an unknown city — or sometimes even in your home city — we aren't very excited about it. During my stay in Mumbai and Bangalore for more than five years I had to take an autorickshaw twice a day," he remembers. Turn to p12

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