



'PROJECT FINANCING
WAYS MUST CHANGE'

P8



NITISH TO HOST
LUNCH FOR MODI

P2



PAK PM HOLDS
TALKS TO COUNTER
TRUMP THREAT

P9

DHONI-KUMAR
SNATCH VICTORY
FOR INDIA

P12



SENSEX 31,596.06 +28.05 | NIFTY 9,857.05 +4.55 | ₹ vs \$ 64.04 +8 PAISE | GOLD 27,860.00 -145.00 | SILVER 39,000.00 -100.00 | BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 52.46 -0.11

WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky. Rain/thundershower in some areas. Maximum and minimum temp 34/27 degree celsius, respectively.

RAINFALL: 1.2 mm

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 97% Min: 67%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 33.6°C (+1) Min: 26.2°C (0)

SUN RISES

05:18 hrs SUN SETS

MOON RISES

08:24 hrs MOON SETS

First quarter of moon on 2 Sept

THUMBNAILS



Narendra Modi and Nepalese PM Sher Bahadur Deuba during a joint Press meet at Hyderabad House, Delhi, on Thursday. Deuba said Nepal will not allow anti-India activities on its soil. SNS

Nilekani back at Infosys as chairman: Succumbing to pressure from co-Founders and investors, Infosys named ex-CEO and Aadhaar-architect Nandan Nilekani as its chairman, replacing R Seshasayee. Ravi Venkatesan quit as co-chairman, but remains an independent director. P8

Rs 200 notes launch today: The RBI will launch Rs 200 banknotes today, increasing availability of lower denomination currency. The yellow coloured notes will hit the market a day after FM Arun Jaitley said that the government has given the go-ahead to RBI in this regard. P8

Supreme Court now rules: Privacy is a fundamental right

Judgment to have major impact on pending issues including Aadhaar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 24 AUGUST

In a landmark judgment deepening and enriching the rights and liberties of Indian citizens, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Thursday unanimously declared that the right to privacy is a fundamental right under the Constitution.

Delivering the historic verdict dubbed as a "watershed" in the history of freedoms and constitutional rights available to Indian citizens, the nine-judge Bench, headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar, unanimously ruled: "The right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution."

The Bench also comprised Justices J Chelameswar, S A Bobde, R K Agrawal, R F Nariman, A M Sapre, D Y Chandrachud, S K Kaul and S Abdul Nazeer. It overruled the apex court's two earlier judgments - by an eight-judge Bench in the MP Sharma case in 1954 and by a six-judge Bench in the Kharak Singh case in 1962 - which had stated that the right to privacy was not a fundamental right under the Constitution.

This judgment is set to have immense, long-term

We welcome the SC judgment that privacy should be a fundamental right... Govt has been of the view, particularly with regard to Aadhaar, that right to privacy should be a fundamental right and should be subject to reasonable restrictions.

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD
UNION LAW AND IT MINISTER



The SC verdict declaring privacy a fundamental right heralds a new era for individual rights and human dignity. It is a blow to "fascist forces" and the "unbridled encroachment and surveillance" by the State in the common man's life.

SONIA GANDHI
CONGRESS PRESIDENT

ramifications for a slew of major issues and pending legal cases ranging from the Aadhaar matter to the question of beef-eating, to criminalisation of gay sex under Section 377 of the IPC and the issue of protection and regulation of data in the current technological age.

Observers pointed out that an individual's sexual orientation and eating habits formed the core of his or her privacy which has now been declared by the apex court to be a constitutionally-protected right. It was in this context that they stressed the point that this judgment could upset the two-judge Supreme Court Bench's December 2013 verdict setting aside the Delhi High Court's July 2009 order decriminalising gay sex.

Not surprisingly, the civil society groups, women organisations, and human rights activists hailed this Constitution Bench's judgment as a path-breaking

event for the cause of individual rights, civil liberties and constitutionalism in the country.

The question - whether Indians have a fundamental right to privacy - was referred to the nine-judge Bench by a five-judge Bench on 18 July after a clutch of petitions challenging the Aadhaar Act came up before the latter.

The nine-judge Bench's judgment is thus limited to the right to privacy issue. The question whether Aadhaar violates right to privacy or not will be dealt with by the five-judge Bench.

The nine-judge Bench's judgment is now, however, going to be the touchstone for all such cases which have a bearing on a citizen's right to privacy.

Justice Khehar read the operative portion of the judgement which ran into 547 pages. Several judges on the Bench authored their orders separately, but all of them reached the

same unanimous conclusion pronouncing the right to privacy as a fundamental right. The Bench had reserved its verdict on 2 August after hearing high-voltage arguments for six days over a period of three weeks.

The Supreme Court observed that the right to privacy cannot be denied to members of the LGBT community merely because they have unconventional sexual orientation and form a minuscule fraction of the over 1.32 billion Indian population.

The Bench, which held that the right to privacy is a fundamental right, made this observation while assailing the earlier apex court verdict in the appeal by an NGO on behalf of the LGBT community in which it said they formed a minuscule fraction of the country's population and the right to privacy cannot be a ground to set aside a penal law.

Bimal misssive to CM for talks as bomb thrown at police station

SILIGURI, 24 AUGUST

Stating that the two previous autonomous bodies in the Hills failed miserably, the chief of the Gorkha Jan Mukti Morcha (GJMM) Bimal Gurung has requested the state government to initiate political dialogue on Gorkhaland.

Even as the relations between the two sides - state government and the agitating Hill parties - showed signs of thawing after the agitators agreed to sit for talks and chief minister Mamata Banerjee said she would invite the agitators to the talks table, a bomb was hurled at the police station at Sukhia Pokhari, around 20 km away from Darjeeling town, in the wee hours this morning. However, no one was hurt in the explosion.

In a letter Mr Gurung sent to CM Mamata Banerjee, he said: "...in Darjeeling, the creation of autonomous bodies, first as the DGHC in 1988 and then as the GTA in 2011 has failed miserably and never fulfilled the people's aspirations... Such bodies or councils do not quite align with the ground realities of the place and its people."

Meanwhile, the GNLF is set to table the 'Gorkha people's aspiration' before the state government at the all-party meeting at Nabanna on 29 August. GNLF general secretary Mahendra Chhetri today said his party representatives would convey the same to the government. SNS

HC raps Haryana govt for failing to control Dera men



SHIV RAWAL
CHANDIGARH, 24 AUGUST

With followers of Dera Sacha Sauda thronging Panchkula city despite imposition of Section 144 of the CrP, Punjab and Haryana High Court on Thursday not only pulled up the Haryana government for failing to control the congregation but also directed the government to make some firm efforts to ensure that the Dera followers return to their homes.

Hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) which has been filed seeking directions for the states of Haryana and Punjab for adequate security arrangements in Panchkula and adjoining areas ahead of the special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court's verdict in a case against Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, the HC slammed the Haryana government for letting the Dera followers to assemble at Panchkula in large numbers causing inconvenience for the local residents. The Full Bench of the HC comprising Acting

Chief Justice SS Saron, Justice Surya Kant and Justice Anvesh Jhingan has also directed the Centre to ensure that the additional forces sought by the states of Haryana and Punjab, reach by the night or Friday morning. It has also been directed to keep Army on standby in case of emergency. Moreover, SK Garg Narwana, advocate appeared on behalf of Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim, also assured the HC that the Dera chief would appeal to his followers to maintain peace and return to their homes.

The HC Bench orally observed that the state government failed to stop the assembly of the Dera followers at Panchkula while the government officials remained mute spectators. The Bench observed that it was the lack of will power of the government that has encouraged the Dera followers to camp at Panchkula in such large numbers. The Bench said the residents of Panchkula have the right to live and to live in a dignified manner and it is the duty of the state to ensure it.

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