

MEANWHILE IN DELHI

# All The PM's Men

And you thought there would be new faces running the Prime Minister's Office in UPA Mark 2? Disabuse yourself. It looks like the PM's men, otherwise known as the "Mallu" lobby, aren't going anywhere. Both his main lieutenants, principal secretary T K A Nair and national security advisor M K Narayanan, have settled back comfortably and if anything, become more powerful than they were in Manmohan Singh's last term. With Pranab Mukherjee being replaced by a lightweight novice in the external affairs ministry (S M Krishna) and a fellow Malayali as minister of state (Shashi Tharoor), Narayanan has reclaimed foreign policy as his exclusive domain. Notice his sudden visibility after lying low for many months following the Mumbai terror attacks last November. In the past one month, he has given television interviews, newspaper interviews and made public pronouncements on a range of diplomatic issues including the recent controversy over Chinese incursions into India.

Arati Jerath

Nair is more low profile and prefers to work quietly behind the scenes. But he is no less powerful. He controls the levers of the government through another fellow Malayali, cabinet secretary K M Chandrasekhar. Between them, they have set up the unusual system of nominating Nair to all important committees of secretaries, which is one of the key decision making instruments of government. He is also the PM's pointsman for the row between the Ambani brothers. Contrary to public perception, Nair, not the PM, is the one the warring siblings meet when they go to the PMO. So does Amar Singh. Congress circles had predicted that both Narayanan and Nair would be shifted out of the PMO to make way for 10 Janpath favourites in the new dispensation. They're eating their words now. Mallu lobby, zindabad!

It looks like the PM's men, otherwise known as the "Mallu" lobby, aren't going anywhere

The rebirth of the Mallu lobby in the PMO is a blow to the ambitions of former Indian ambassador to Washington and one of the main architects of the Indo-US nuclear deal, Ronmen Sen. Believed to be a 10 Janpath loyalist, Sen returned to India hoping to find a slot in the PMO. If the Congress grapevine is to be believed, the PM requested him to remain in Delhi on the assurance that his services would be suitably utilised. Accordingly, Sen cancelled his retirement plans and moved into an apartment in the Indian Foreign Service Officers' colony across the Yamuna river. But with the PMO putting up a "houseful" sign, Sen is at a loose end. He spends his days in the Delhi Gymkhana Club, reading, swimming and meeting old friends. It's called cooling his heels. The other new face that was widely expected to grace the PMO was that of recently-retired foreign secretary Shankar Menon. His appointment is up in the air too and he has taken off for a longish holiday abroad. All eyes are on Manmohan Singh. Will he buck the domination of the Mallu lobby? Or is he content to let things remain the way they are?

TAILPIECE

An increasingly assertive PMO has decisively clipped telecom minister A Raja's wings. Not only does a group of ministers headed by Pranab Mukherjee take all major decisions of the ministry, Raja is finding it difficult to get a secretary of his choice to succeed the incumbent, Siddharth Behura, who retires at the end of September. Telecom giants are lobbying hard for officers of their choice. But poor Raja is not getting a look-in. He will just have to swallow the PMO's choice.

a\_jerath@dnaindia.net

## ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2009

### Details of Election Observers for Mumbai City District

The Election Commission of India has appointed Election Observers to observe the Election preparedness, Law and Order situations in Mumbai City District. Details of the observers are published herewith for information of citizens. For any complaints regarding the elections, you may contact the Observers at the address given below or the Office of the Returning Officer.

No. & Name of Assembly Constituency	Name of the Observer & Mobile No.	Name of Guest House, Address, Telephone No.
178 Dharavi	Kennegi Packian 9594056860	Mumbai Port Trust's Evelyn House, Room No. 403, Colaba, Mumbai - 400 005. Ph. 22040850 obsrdharavi178@gmail.com
179 Sion Koliwada	Smt. Dheera Khandelwal 9594056861	Mumbai Port Trust's Evelyn House, Room No. 402, Colaba, Mumbai - 400 005. Ph. 22040842 obsrsionkoliwada179@gmail.com
180 Wadala	Sayyad Omar Jaleel 9594056862	Jolly Maker Apartment - 2, 1st Floor, Room No. 01, Cuffe Parade, Opp. IDBI Tower, Colaba, Mumbai 400 005. Ph. 22158983 obsrwadala180@gmail.com
181 Mahim	C. Arokkiasamy 9594056863	Jolly Maker Apartment - 2, 1st Floor, Room No. 02, Cuffe Parade, Opp. IDBI Tower, Colaba, Mumbai 400 005. Ph. 22154794 obsrmahim181@gmail.com
182 Worli	Smt. Sumitra Das 9594056864	Mumbai Port Trust's Evelyn House, Room No. 404, Colaba, Mumbai - 400 005. Ph. 22040841 obsrworli182@gmail.com
183 Shivadi	Arun Prasad 9594056865	Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association, Room No. 309, Cooperage, Colaba, Mumbai - 400 005. Ph. 22023869 obsrshivadi183@gmail.com
184 Byculla	K. Shrinivasanulu 9594056867	Indian Oil Corporation's IOC Rest House, Rashmi Building, Room No. 03, M. L. Dahanukar Road, Mumbai 400 026. Ph. 23525308 obsrbyculla184@gmail.com
185 Malbar Hill	P. B. Patni 9594056869	Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association, Room No. 310, Cooperage, Colaba, Mumbai - 400 005. Ph. 22040153 obsrmlbarhill185@gmail.com
186 Mumbadevi	Ravi Inder Singh 9594056960	Indian Oil Corporation's IOC Rest House, Rashmi Building, Room No. 01, M. L. Dahanukar Road, Mumbai 400 026. Ph. 23525304 obsrmumbadevi186@gmail.com, drravi_inder@yahoo.com
187 Colaba	Lucose Wallathrai 9594056961	Indian Oil Corporation's IOC Rest House, Rashmi Building, Room No. 02, M. L. Dahanukar Road, Mumbai 400 026. Ph. 23525305 obsrmumbadevi186@gmail.com, obsrcolaba187@gmail.com

The Affidavits of all the candidates for the election are available on our website : www.mumbaicityelection.org (link - Assembly Election 2009)

ELECTION CODE OF CONDUCT CELL :- Shri. BHOYE  
Mob.: 9594056976 Telefax : 22701153 eMail : mcccumbaicity@gmail.com

www.mumbaicityelection.org

निव्हा निवडणूक अधिकारी, मुंबई शहर  
District Election Officer, Mumbai City

VOTER HELP LINE 1290

# Twenty crore new jobs in next two decades

DNA Bureau. NEW DELHI

India could add around 20 crore new jobs in the organized sector over the next 20 years if the economy grows at the rate of 7 per cent, according to Mohandas Pai, director HR and training, Infosys Technologies. Pai was speaking on 'Employment and Employability-The Road Ahead' at the India Leadership Conclave 2009 Summit, an initiative of Wockhardt Foundation, in the capital on Saturday. The summit was presented by business chamber Assocham and DNA newspaper.

Going by Pai's estimate, there will be around 27 crore well-paying jobs in the country by the year 2030, up from 7 crore now. While there are 2 crore government jobs, 1 crore come from the public sector, and 4 crore from the private sector, he said.

Chief guest at the summit, minister for corporate affairs, Salman Khurshid,

## List of Winners at India Leadership Conclave 2009

- Youngest And Dynamic Entrepreneur: Nikunj Kirtibhai Kanatia, CMD, Lifeline Industries Ltd
- India's Upcoming Biogroup Company: Sanjay Pawsay, chairman, Synergy Diagnostics Pvt Ltd
- Upcoming Pharmacy Retail Chain: Hemant Botha, MD, Trust Chemists and Druggists
- Technically and scientifically most advanced biotech company: Samrat Pharma Pvt Ltd
- Innovation In Blood Products In IV/IG: R Muthukrishnan, chairman, El Shaddai Biologicals Ltd
- India's Most Admired Electronics Brand: Videocon
- Infrastructure Company Of The Year: GVK Industries Ltd
- India's Most Promising Web-Based Solutions Company: Dotcom Services Pvt Ltd
- India's Most Admired Bank: State Bank of India
- CSR Woman Of The Year: Mrs Sudha Murthy, chairperson, Infosys Foundation
- Bank Of The Year: Bank of Baroda
- Brand Of The Year: IPL
- India's Best Airline: Kingfisher Airline
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Ratan Tata, K V Kamath, Yash Chopra

spoke of trust and verification as the government's attitude towards corporate India. "We often think of corporate India as a separate segment, but they

are an integral part of governance." Speaking on banking reforms, Bank of Baroda managing director MD Mallya said that the FDI limit in the

banking sector must be increased to make banks more competent and also spoke of the need for huge funding of the infrastructure sector, and how that can be provided by the banking industry.

Others who spoke included former Assocham president Anil Agarwal, managing director of ITZ Cash Card Ltd Navin Surya, president and CFO of the UB group AK Ravi Nedungadi, writer Shobha De, managing director (English News) at NDTV Barkha Dutt, global CFO of Mediech Ltd Pravin Iyer, vice chairman of the Akshaya Patra Foundation Chanchalapati Dasa, Indian Premier League CEO Sundar Raman. The welcome address was given by the chairperson of the Wockhardt Foundation, Nafisa Khorakiwala. At the same event, Huzafa Khorakiwala's book 'Reflections' was launched. DNA editor in chief R Jagannathan thanked the Wockhardt Foundation for giving the newspaper an opportunity to be a partner in the initiative.

## COPS AND ROBBERS EXCHANGE FIRE FOR OVER AN HOUR

# Family held hostage in Gurgaon home

Eklavya Atray. NEW DELHI

The family of a senior executive was held hostage by a group of armed robbers for over two hours in their house in an up-market colony close to the Delhi airport on Friday night. The stand-off came to an end after over 60 commandos of the Haryana police and robbers exchanged fire for over an hour, in which two of the robbers were killed.

According to witnesses, five men armed with weapons arrived at the Palam Vihar, Gurgaon residence of Anoop Choudhary, a general manager with a car company, at 9.30 on Friday night.

The five men overpowered Choudhary's son Ankur, who had just returned from work, at gunpoint and took away his car. Ankur's father, overhearing the commotion, called the police. Three men drove the car into a dead end of sector A and abandoned it along with their weapons.

"Ankur was parking his car when five robbers took the car away from



Crowd gathers after the police encounter at Palam Vihar in Gurgaon PTI

him at gunpoint. Three of them got into the car whereas the other two got inside the house. The ones inside the house took Choudhary and four others hostage," said Anil Dhawan, DCP Crime, Gurgaon.

Meanwhile, the other two assailants rushed into the house and took all the five family members

hostage who were inside the house. The hostages included Choudhary, his wife, daughter and two relatives.

The hostages were rescued by eleven commandos who got into the house. After evacuating the family members, a gun battle took place in which 22 rounds were fired and both the robbers were shot dead.

## BRIEFLY

### MAN HELD FOR THREAT TO PRIME MINISTER

Ranchi: A man has been arrested from a Jharkhand village for allegedly issuing threat letters to PM Manmohan Singh, Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Home Minister P Chidambaram, in July this year, police said on Saturday. Dhananjay Kumar Mehta was arrested in Narayanpur village on Friday. A pistol, live cartridges and documents were found in his possession, the police said. AGENCIES

### RS 1 LAKH-BID TO SPEND A DAY WITH INFOSYS CHIEF

Bangalore: One lakh to spend a day with Infosys' N R Narayana Murthy. That's what Indian School of Business (ISB) students bid in 'Shadow a CEO' programme. Among the 26 business leaders, the highest bid was for Murthy. The next highest bid was Kumar Mangalam Birla. The on-line bidding got maximum bids in the last 12 hours. There were 1,196 bids. AGENCIES

### INDIA'S FINANCE MINISTER IS NOW A PRIEST

Kirnahar (West Bengal): Away from laying down national policies on tackling the slow-down, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee is busy being the priest for the traditional Durga Puja. He performed the puja rituals and read from the religious script and fasted too. Durga Puja celebrations at Mukherjee Bhavan were started by his grandfather over 100 years back. -IANS

## Mobile phones to verify ID soon

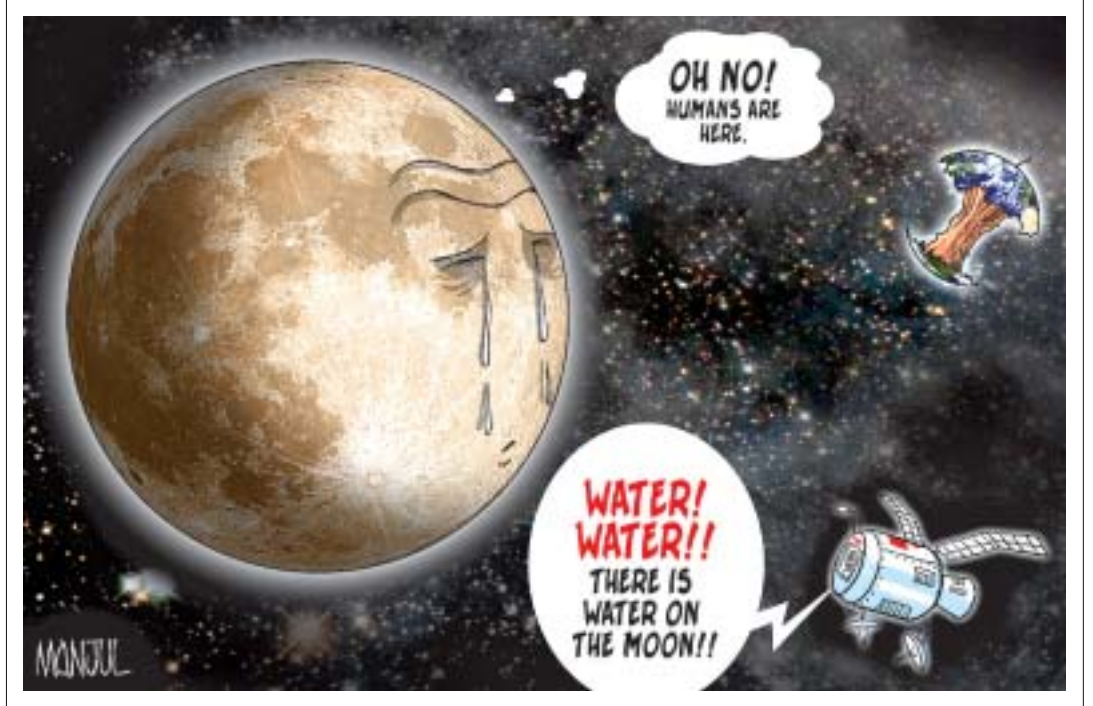
New Delhi: Move over passport and PAN card! Now the mobile phone will be used to verify your credentials, for authentication at banks, gas connection centres or while providing rural jobs, Unique Identification Authority chief Nandan Nilekani said on Saturday.

"Our project will provide a unique identification (UID) number not a card. The authentication will be made by using mobile phones," Nilekani said.

"This will verify whether you are the person you are claiming to be," the former Infosys managing director said, delivering the Foundation Day lecture of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

"This will not require much details to be divulged," he said. "It will cut down the fake or duplicate records," Nilekani said. He said his team will roll out the first batch of UIDs in the next 12 to 18 months. In five years from now we will issue atleast 600 million UIDs Nilekani said. -IANS

## POLITICKLE



# Editor criticises two separatists' marriages in column, gets thrashed

Police had to rush in to rescue Shabnum Qayoom, editor of a bi-lingual weekly at a press conference

Srinagar: Supporters of two top separatist leaders on Saturday went on a rampage and thrashed a prominent journalist and writer in full media glare for writing a critical column against their marriages.

Shabnum Qayoom, editor of bi-lingual weekly Quami Waqar, was addressing a press conference in a local hotel when supporters of Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and J&K Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Yasin Malik barged into the hall, shouted slogans, ransacked furniture and later assaulted him.

Police immediately rushed to the spot and saved Qayoom besides rounding up five activists. "We have received a formal complaint from Qayoom and we are registering the case of intimidation", said Hemant Kumar Lohia, DIG central Kashmir range.

Qayoom said he was forced to call a press conference after he received death threats for criticising the marriage of Yasin Malik with a Pakistani painter Mushaal Mullick. When the press conference started, a JKLF supporter entered inside and raised slogans accusing Qayoom of being the agent of Indian intelligence agencies. However after brief disruption Qayoom



Supporters of two separatist leaders ransack furniture and go on to assault editor Shabnum Qayoom in Kashmir on Saturday

Qayoom said he was forced to call a press conference after he received death threats for criticising the marriage of Yasin Malik with a Pakistani painter Mushaal Mullick

again resumed his address and when he touched upon the issue of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, all hell broke loose in the hall. Supporters of Mirwaiz entered into the hall and shouted slogans and later assaulted him. However, his son and some other associates laid a siege around him trying to save him from the wrath of the angry supporters. "This is not the way to react", he said.

A waiting police contingent then entered into the hall and rounded up some people. Later Qayoom was also escorted to safety by the police. "If the need arises, we will definitely provide security to him", said Lohia.

Shahid-ul-Islam, spokesman of Mirwaiz led Hurriyat, later told media persons that Qayoom was a liar and Mirwaiz has married a Kashmir girl and no body should have an objection to that.