

# Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, October 29, 2015

## What the public actually want

As with every iterations of the elections, whether for the Lok Sabha or the State Assembly approaching the home stretch, the fevered pitch of all the political parties in the fray for their share of public attention and the all important sympathy is building up to a climax, more so with this edition of the election for the Lok Sabha representatives of the state being speculated to be the forerunner of the changes in the political scenario that is slowly but surely gathering storm in the country. And as always, the political parties have spread out their agenda and manifestos to woo the so-far neglected voters, doling out assurances and promises with uncharacteristic generosity. What has escaped the collective understanding of the people of the state is the absence of the actual show of consideration and genuine concern for the actual aspirations of the people by any of the political parties, a so-called manifesto of the people. Their presumption of the needs of the people only goes to show the lack of connect and respect for the wish of the public who still hopes for their opinions and suggestions to be sought and understood. Well then, what does the common man expect from a good government- the one everyone hopes to usher in? A better, progressive and stable life: not a great deal to ask of, as almost everybody will concur with. On second thought, has the government ever made any effort to ensure such a life for its people or made any attempts to understand how such a seemingly simple wish can be granted? For one, fear (read AFSPA) should be removed from the society. Stability means a stable society assured of disturbances against any threat to its territory, means of livelihood, traditions, customs and cultures. Providing legal and administrative safeguards to protect the rights of the indigenous population over the natural resources as well as against exploitation of these people, particularly women and children in view of the increasing importance of the "Look east policy", reviewing the claims of many deserving and willing indigenous communities to be granted the constitutional status of Scheduled Tribes, framing of a State Drug Policy to check the increasing instances of trafficking and abuse of psychotropic drugs in the State, making every public place in the State "Barrier Free access" for people with disability, enabling active public involvement and maintaining transparency in implementation of all flagship programs with establishment of legally enforceable accountability structures, proper promotion of Tourism after social/gender impact assessment to ensure greater community participation for an ecologically friendly and culturally correct and beneficial interaction to the community as a whole and not be swayed by the corporate culture. Progress marches ahead only when food security is ensured. Thus, it becomes crucial to adopt appropriate agricultural land and water policies as well as uninterrupted and unhindered access to public distribution by implementing National Food Security Act. with special focus on marginalized sections of the society i.e. BPL, PLHIV, disabled, conflict widows and orphans and other disadvantaged populace. Ensuring effective and accessible healthcare services to each and every nook and corner of the state with adequate infrastructure, human resources and medicines will negate the predatory commercialization of healthcare services. Last but not the least, providing a solid legal foundation will ensure equal and swift justice for everyone in the state. These are a few basic requirements for ensuring a safe, stable and progressive society. The public doesn't have to wait long before it can decide on the most likely candidate who can deliver the goods.

## Afghan leaders condemn Taliban for recruiting teens

**ANI**  
**Kabul, Oct. 29:** Afghan leaders and officials have expressed concern over recent reports of Taliban recruiting teenagers to fight the security forces in Kunduz and Badakhshan provinces. Abdul Malik, a teenager who was recently arrested for allegedly fighting for the insurgents, said that Taliban

forced him to take up arms to fight against security forces, the TOLONews reported. The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Afghan National Army Gen. Murad Ali Murad said that Taliban are recruiting children and students from madrassas to fight for the insurgent group.

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## National & International News

# PM Modi to take part in Inaugural Session of Paris Climate Summit

**PTI**  
**New Delhi, Oct. 29:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Paris on November 30 to take part in the inaugural session of the UN climate change summit along with 80 Heads of States where they will aim to achieve a global climate pact. French Ambassador to India Francois Richier in his tweet said PM Narendra Modi, US President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping will be among the top leaders who will attend the inaugural session of Conference of Parties (CoP21) which concludes on December 11. "80 Heads of State & Govt present for #COP21 opening, incl US, China Prez & PM Modi to give final impetus to negotiation, said @LaurentFabius." Mr Richier said while quoting French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius. Though there is no official announcement on the Prime Minister's visit, sources said PM

Modi, who will have a hectic overseas itinerary in November with two back-to-back visits covering four countries, will leave for Paris after he returns from his Singapore trip scheduled for November 23-24. This is probably among the very few occasions when heads of states and governments will attend the inaugural session of a CoP apparently to avoid a Copenhagen summit-like situation when the top leaders, who were present at the concluding session, failed to arrive at a consensus. India had announced its climate action plans or Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) of cutting carbon emissions by up to 35 per cent from the 2005 level. India has made it clear that it expected developed nations to come out with more ambitious climate action plans. PM Modi himself has talked about "climate justice" and sustainable



lifestyle by developed countries to help combat the threat of climate change. Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has said that India expects an "equitable and just" climate agreement in Paris and does not want the Paris summit to fail unlike the Copenhagen summit which the minister said people have termed as "flopopenhagen". For the first time in over 20 years

of UN negotiations, the Paris conference aims to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius. The Paris conference is expected to attract close to 50,000 participants including 25,000 official delegates from government, intergovernmental organisations, UN agencies, NGOs and civil society.

## Pakistan loses UN human rights council election

**PTI**  
**United Nation, Oct. 29:** Pakistan failed to win re-election to the top UN human rights body, garnering just 105 votes in the 193-member General Assembly. The General Assembly on Wednesday elected 18 members of the UN Human Rights Council through a secret ballot. Pakistan's current term at the Council is set to expire on December 31 and it was seeking re-election to the 47-member Human Rights Council. Sources said the loss came as a setback to the Pakistani delegation that had appeared confident of winning the seat. The sources attributed the loss to the way the

Pakistani delegation fought the election, adding that it could not lobby effectively for the vote. The new members, who will start their three-year terms beginning January 1 next year, are Belgium, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Kenya, Panama, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Togo, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. Pakistan lost the seat in the Asia-Pacific category in which five seats were vacant. India is also a member of the Council and its term will end in 2017. Members of the Council are elected directly and individually

by secret ballot by the majority of the members of the General Assembly. Geneva-based non-governmental human rights group UN Watch welcomed the defeat of Pakistan, terming it as a "major surprise." Days before the vote, several human rights bodies had opposed the re-election of Venezuela, Pakistan and UAE to the UN Human Rights Council due to widespread criticism of these governments for egregious human rights violations. According to a report by UN Watch, Human Rights Foundations, and the Lantos Foundation, Pakistan, UAE, Burundi and Ecuador were cited by human rights groups for having

committed serious violations of numerous articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including curbs on the freedoms of speech, press, religion, and assembly, along with disregard for fundamental due process. The candidate countries were also found to have voted against UN resolutions taking action for victims of human rights abuses in various hotspots, UN watch said. Sources in the Indian Mission to the UN welcomed the election of Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan against the backdrop of historical visits undertaken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to these nations earlier this year.

## Top Lashkar Man and Udhampur Attack Mastermind Abu Qasim Killed in South Kashmir

**PTI**  
**Srinagar, Oct. 29:** In a major success for security forces, top Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Abu Qasim, accused of masterminding the Udhampur attack, was killed in an overnight encounter in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir. 30-year-old Qasim, who was from Bahawalpur in Pakistan, had planned the attack on a Border Security Force convoy in Udhampur on August 5, according to the National Investigation Agency. Two BSF

personnel were killed in that attack. While one of the terrorists, Mohammed Noman, was killed in retaliatory fire, another, Mohammad Naveed, was later captured by villagers. Last night, a joint team of the Army and police launched an operation in Khandipora village of Kulgam following a tip-off about Qasim's presence in the area. A fierce gunbattle broke out around 2 am in which Qasim was killed. "It is a major success as Qasim was directly or indirectly involved in all major LeT attacks

in Kashmir over the past three years," SJM Gillani, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir told reporters. Qasim was accused of involvement in some of the major attacks on security forces in the state in the last couple of years. In June 2013, he attacked an Army convoy in Hyderpora on the outskirts of Srinagar, killing nine soldiers and injuring 11 others. He was also said to be involved in the killing of Altaf Ahmad, one of the best counter-terrorism police officers in Jammu and

Kashmir, earlier this month in a gunbattle in Bandipora district. Police say Mr Ahmad, along with two colleagues, was on a covert mission in the district to track down Qasim. Qasim was carrying a reward of Rs. 20 lakh on his head. After the Hyderpora attack, the police had announced a Rs. 10 lakh bounty. Later, the National Investigation Agency, which is investigating the Udhampur attack, announced Rs. 10 lakh for any information leading to Qasim's arrest or killing.

## Govt. reiterates commitment for zero tolerance against terrorism

**ANI**  
**New Delhi, Oct. 29:** Reiterating the NDA regime's commitment for zero tolerance against terrorism, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh on Thursday said the killing of top Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Abu Qasim is an achievement of the government. "Certainly, this is an achievement for which the entire nation feels proud of. You must appreciate that during the last 18 months ever since the present government has been in place, you must have witnessed a decisive crusade against terrorism, which lives up to the present government's commitment for zero tolerance against

terrorism," Singh told ANI. "The entire nation would also like to know why this could not have been made possible during the ten years of UPA rule. I think the answer to this that is there is determination, will, clarity and there is also conviction on the part of the present government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi to deal with terrorism," he added. Former Mumbai police commissioner and BJP leader Satyapal Singh dubbed it to be a big achievement of the Indian security forces and intelligence agencies. "We must congratulate them. Certainly it will help contain the terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir," Singh said.

Qasim was killed today in an encounter between the security personnel and militants in Khandipora area of Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam. Qasim was involved in the

Udhampur attack on a BSF convoy in Jammu and Kashmir's Hyderpora District in 2013. He was also involved in the killing of Sub-Inspector Altaf Ahmad.

## Quake death toll rises to 267 in Pak

**ANI**  
**Karachi, Oct. 29:** Over 267 people have died and 1,865 people injured in Pakistan following the 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck major cities of the country on Monday. Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said that at least 11,389 buildings were damaged across the country, reported the Dawn. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province has been the worst hit

area in the country, with 220 people reported dead, 1,656 injured and over 10,586 houses damaged. Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has announced Rs 0.6 million relief package for those killed in the earthquake and Rs 0.1 million for those who have been injured. The epicenter of the earth quake was 82 km southeast of Fyzabad in a remote area of Afghanistan in the Hindu Kush mountain range.