

Editorial

Imphal, Monday, October 5, 2015

A matter of concern for the future

Tragic is not the word to describe the present state of affairs of our state, even though the feeling in the hearts of the general public cannot be far from it. The Government has shown, in fits and spurts, that things can and does happen if the rulers so put their hearts to any task, which begs the very relevant and necessary question: is the Government deliberately keeping the state on tenterhooks with engineered chaos and calculated mayhem? Nothing that has been done for the development of the State so far looks and feels systematic or sustainable - from the various infrastructures being constructed with shoddy workmanship and dubious results, to the haphazard and stop-gap measures in terms of the essential services being provided, mostly on paper to dispense off with the official requirements without ever taking the trouble or the initiative to check on the efficacies of such schemes and welfare measures. The reality we are undergoing today is a far cry from the trumped up reports and statistics that make up the records meant for display at the centre, the most obvious result being the promotion of Manipur from the least developed state category to the less developed one without having nothing to show for it. Yet the Government, in its quest to prolong the reign, have failed to address the situation with pragmatic solutions and progressive steps that would steer the state in the right direction of inclusive growth - the most prominent shortcoming being the failure to harness the potential of the youths - the future of the state. According to house listing and housing census data 2011, the number of youths between ages 18-22 in the country is 149.36 million. That's about one-fifth of the total electorate of 725 million estimated by the Election Commission. Stating that almost, if not all, the problems ailing the present society can be remedied by molding the youths of today to bring about the still elusive change and progress would not be an exaggeration. No amount of resources or materials can effect change or usher in progress unless those who are to direct and utilize these resources be prepared and groomed to take on the responsibilities and challenges with confidence and determination. A radical mental revolution based on progressive thinking and broadened outlook beyond self preservation and personal enrichment, tempered with the spirit of equality and infused with the dignity of labour is the panacea for our society long festered with enmity, greed, doubts and subdued mindset. The Government should make the most and invest in the one true asset it ever has - the teeming youths.

Hong Kong Former Leader Charged Over Corruption

NDIV
Hong Kong, Oct. 5: Hong Kong's former leader Donald Tsang, who ended his term in disgrace after accepting favours from tycoons, appeared in court Monday charged with misconduct in the latest high-profile corruption case to hit the city.

Tsang, 70, has been under investigation by the city's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) since he left office in June 2012. He was released at magistrates' court on cash bail of HK\$100,000 (\$13,000) and will appear again on November 13.

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In Bihar polls, Owaisi

Shah emphasised that the real issue in these elections is Bihar's development and that his party and its allies are fighting the polls to bring about progress in the state. "People of Bihar know that the development of the state is not possible under the jungle raj of

Lalu and amid the corruption of Congress. Anyone can see the graph of growth in the state's where the BJP is in power. They will be able to see that every village has electricity 24 hours a day, water, schools and teachers. If NDA forms a government, Bihar will develop at a faster pace," he said.

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National & International News

4 soldiers, militant killed in gun battles in north Kashmir

Agency
Srinagar, Oct. 5: Four soldiers and a militant were killed in two gun battles in Kupwara district of north Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, a day after two terrorists were killed in in Tral area of Pulwama district of the state.

Four soldiers were killed in the gun battle with the militants, the army said. The gunfight, which erupted on Sunday night, was still on, said an army spokesperson in Srinagar.

The slain militants were identified as Salim, alias Adil Pathan, and Rehman, alias Burmi, police sources said, adding they were suspected to be Pakistani nationals. Pakistan-based JeM has been blamed for several major attacks in militancy-hit Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi, including the one on Parliament on December 13, 2001.

encounter in Pulwama. The state comes against the backdrop of a sharp downturn in relations between India and Pakistan following the cancellation of talks between the national security advisers in August. India has insisted that Pakistan must address the issue of terrorism to create grounds for the resumption of bilateral talks.

Omar slams Mufti's 'overnight Army removal' formula

ANI
Srinagar, Oct. 5: National Conference (NC) working president Omar Abdullah today slammed Chief Minister Mufti Muhammad Sayeed's statement that the Army needs to vacate the state immediately, saying that how could he maintain his stand with soldiers being martyred till date fighting terrorism.

However, Mufti ji is not taking any concrete steps to put his words into action," Omar told the media here. Omar asserted that it was not the time to talk about the Army vacating the state, even though Mufti had said that their internal role in Jammu and Kashmir is over.

He, however, maintained his stand that the Indian Army had to leave the state, but gradually. He also added that he was surprised by Mufti's u-turn on the AFSPA.

handing over to the police," Omar said. The Chief Minister while chairing the Civil-Military Liaison (CML) conference in Srinagar had reportedly insisted that the Army must vacate the land occupied by it and should not ask for more land. He also said there is a perceptible change for the good in the overall situation on the ground and logistic requirement of the army to deal with internal strife has considerably reduced.

JD (U) challenges BJP to announce CM candidate for Bihar polls

ANI
Patna, Oct. 5: Asserting that the grand alliance in Bihar is united, the Janata Dal (United) on Monday challenged the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to declare its chief ministerial candidate for the state assembly polls.

then let the fight be between Nitish Kumar versus Narendra Modi," JD (U) leader Sanjay Singh told ANI here. "There is desperation in the BJP. All the leaders of the BJP are in Bihar. All the five star hotels are booked for them. Nitish Kumar has beaten all in the competition and till now the BJP has not announced its CM candidate," he added.

The JD (U) leader also expressed confidence that the grand alliance would form the next government in the state. "The grand alliance is together and it will remain united. Its government will be formed in Bihar," Singh said while rubbishing reports that Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi are avoiding RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav and would not

be sharing the dais with him. "We did the 'Parivartan Rally' and it showed that we are united. There is division in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) alliance," he added. The elections for the 243-member Bihar Assembly will be held in five phases between October 12 and November 5. The counting of votes will take place on November 8.

Search area expanded to locate missing Indonesian plane

AP
Makassar, Oct. 5: Six planes and four ships embarked on Monday on a widening search for a plane with 10 people on board that went missing in eastern Indonesia three days ago.

Mandiri airline, was focusing on the sea near Bone Gulf, the largest inlet between the two southern peninsulas of Sulawesi Island, said Henry Bambang Soelistyo, the head of Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency. Three military aircraft, a search and rescue helicopter and two

similar Twin Otter planes owned by the airline and four patrol boats joining Monday's search operation. The DHC-5 Twin Otter plane lost contact with air traffic controllers 11 minutes after taking off in good weather Friday from Masamba in South Sulawesi province.

It was on a routine flight to Makassar, the provincial capital, carrying three crew members and seven passengers, including three children. No distress signal was received. Weekend search efforts were hindered by bad weather and rough terrain, Soelistyo said. Rescuers have checked locations reportedly by the locals, but they were found nothing.

Doctors without Borders calls for independent probe of Afghan hospital bombing

ANI
Washington D.C., Oct. 5: Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has called for an independent investigation into the deadly bombing of its hospital in the Afghan city of Kunduz that killed 22 people.

collateral damage to a nearby medical facility. In a statement later in the day, President Obama said that the U.S. Department of Defense has launched a full investigation and that they would await the results before making any judgment. On Sunday, MSF's general

director, Christopher Stokes, called the strike a war crime, and added that "relying only on an internal investigation by a party to the conflict would be wholly insufficient". The blast killed 12 staffers and 10 patients, and left the hospital in flames and rubble.

Yesterday, two aircraft and two helicopters combed areas around the location where the missing plane was believed to have made the last contact and areas where villagers allegedly heard or spotted the plane before it went missing, said Ivan Ahmad Titus, the agency's operation director. Soelistyo said the plane may not have been equipped with an emergency locator transmitter, a device attached to the so-called black boxes, which emits a signal indicating its position.

3 arrested in journalist assault case

Agency
Kolkata, Oct. 5: Three persons were on Monday arrested on charge of attacking journalists during Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation polls on October 3. "We have arrested Ashis Ghosh, Bittu Das, Gopal Routh. We will move the lower court with prayer of test identification parade," a senior officer of Bidhannagar P o l i c e Commissionerate said. Several reporters and camera persons were allegedly assaulted by "musclemen" when they covering the polls. The opposition - CPI(M), Congress and BJP - blamed the ruling Trinamool Congress for

the attack and alleged malpractices, but the TMC said CPI(M) instigated the violence. The West Bengal State Election Commission last evening postponed counting of votes in the election to Bidhannagar as well as Asansol Municipal Corporations in the wake of allegations of large-scale violence by the opposition which also demanded fresh elections. The counting of votes in the elections was earlier scheduled to be conducted on October 7. The SEC said it would go through reports and video footage of violence from its own sources and also news channels before taking any further decision.

Director General of Air Transportation Suprasetyo said officials were investigating that possibility. The 1981 Canadian-made plane joined Aviatar in January 2014 and underwent its most recent maintenance on September 15. Indonesia, a sprawling archipelago nation of about 250 million people, has been plagued by transportation accidents in recent years, including plane and train crashes and ferry sinkings. It is one of Asia's most rapidly expanding airline markets, but is struggling to obtain qualified pilots, mechanics, air traffic controllers and modern airport technology.