

Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, October 8, 2015

Making a clean intent

The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan or Clean India Mission, the ambitious national campaign by the Government of India, covering 4041 statutory towns, to clean the streets, roads and infrastructure of the country has reached Manipur, and reports of various local and state authorities preparing awareness campaigns for the mission appearing in the dailies. The campaign which was officially launched on 2 October 2014 at Rajghat, New Delhi, witnessed Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself cleaning the road - a symbolic gesture of remembrance to Mahatma Gandhi's words. It is India's biggest ever cleanliness drive and 3 million government employees and school and college students of India participated in this event. The Government of India restructured the Comprehensive Rural Sanitation Programme with effect from 1 April 1999, and launched the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) which was later (on 1 April 2012) renamed to Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA). To give a fillip to the Total Sanitation Campaign, with effect from June 2003 the government launched an incentive scheme in the form of an award for total sanitation coverage, maintenance of a clean environment and open defecation-free panchayat villages, blocks and districts called Nirmal Gram Puraskar, and again on 2nd October 2014 the campaign was relaunched in its latest avatar - Swachh Bharat Abhiyan - With the declared objective to accomplish the vision of a 'Clean India' by 2nd October 2019, the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi and is expected to cost over ₹ 62,000 crore. While the focus on cleaning and maintaining public hygiene is commendable, and about time, considering the rapidly increasing health issues and rising threats of hitherto unknown epidemics, one could not help but wish that such a comprehensive and ambitious campaign be initiated to clean the scourge of corruption, nepotism and favoritism that has become institutionalized in the public offices throughout the country. One could safely surmise that of the massive cost (₹ 62,000 crore) involved in the campaign, a few thousand crores will be siphoned off and misappropriated by various authorities involved. It goes without saying that any project or campaign, be it for cleanliness, promotion of quality education, infrastructure or connectivity, such initiatives are doomed for failure from the moment of inception until and unless those who are empowered or authorized to implement it are under the influence of the existing system where the priority is not the attainment of the objective but the undue personal benefits such a campaign presents for them. If the government is earnest in its intention of making positive and enduring changes, it must start with cleaning up the very system which is bogging down the progress of the country. It should be stoic enough to award the efficient and punish the defaulters purely on the basis of their given duties and nothing else. The government both at the national and state level also needs to purge itself of the innumerable tenderpreneurs (a South African term for a person in government who abuses their political power and influence to secure government tenders and contracts) dotting the corridors of the government. Cleaning the streets need to be augmented with cleansing the system.

Militant hideout busted, arms cache recovered in J&K

PTI Jammu, Oct. 8: Security forces have busted a militant hideout and recovered large quantity of ammunition and explosives in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir. Acting on a specific information, police along with CRPF conducted a joint search operation at Bandhara Dewal forest area of Mahore tehsil in Reasi district on Wednesday, a police officer said here on Thursday. During the search, 60 AK-47 rounds and six Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBGL) grenades were recovered from the hideout, he said. A case was registered in this regard at Police Station Mahore, he said.

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Dynamic Startup 1.0 Launchpad of Aspiring Entrepreneurs

By: Roshnikumar Yambem

Do you have a killer business idea or concept but don't know how to start your business? You have the business idea but reluctant to take the risks? You want to start the business but don't have the fund? If your answer is YES and you have the conviction that becoming an Entrepreneur is the ultimate goal of your life, then this event, Dynamic Startup 1.0, is for YOU. Startup - is a buzzword today in every corner of the world. Startup Events turn out to be the most catalytic platform and launch pad for Aspiring Entrepreneurs across the world to realize their dream of becoming a successful Entrepreneur. Startup Weekends, Startup Bootcamp, Bootcamp I/O, Lean Startup Machine are some of the globally recognized Startup Events happening in major cities of the world including Metro cities of India.

Realizing the need of creating such a platform for the aspiring Manipuripreneurs, Dynamic Manipur, one of the most responsible social organizations has created a localized version of Startup Event by terming it "Dynamic Startup". The event is

being organized by the Dynamic Manipur in association with MIMS - Manipur University, Gobiz Web Solutions Pvt Ltd & WOL Media, along with a few dozen of other sponsoring partner organizations.

This year, Dynamic Startup 1.0, is going to be happened on Oct 10 & 11 as a two days event at Auditorium of MIMS, MU. The event is based on the Lean Startup Methodology which is a globally accepted scientific approach for validating a business idea by using the scientific tools like Business Canvas, Lean Canvas, Javelin Board etc. Such an event simulate the real life experience of being an entrepreneur and its business process so that the entrepreneurs can gain maximum learning about his or her business idea. The overall objective of such an event is to reduce the risk of business failure, shorten the timeline of idea to market, scale up the business through private funding.

In the first day of the event, the entrepreneurs will get in depth knowledge about how to apply Lean Startup Methodology in their business ideas. The knowledge

will be imparted by those entrepreneurs who already had been practicing Lean Startup. The entrepreneurs will get mentorship from the coaches and they will need to get out of the room to interact with their prospect customers to get the first hand information of the market and their idea. The business idea will be pivoted and iterated by consulting with their mentors till the profitable business idea is found. In the second day, the entrepreneurs will get the opportunity to showcase their business ideas and plan to a panel of juries who are usually highly successful entrepreneurs. The top three best business ideas will get cash award as well as other recognitions. And the top 10 business ideas will get six months of mentoring program at Startup Incubation program run by Gobiz Web Solutions & WOL Media. Incubation program is a follow up to the Dynamic Startup event to handhold the entrepreneur until they succeed by providing the mentoring, technical support and financial support through private investors. And also the winners get Advertising Credit from Manipur Times for showcasing

their ads to the 1.35,000 online user base of ManipurTimes.com. Recently, there was the "Startup India, Stand up India" initiative by the India Government as a part of the "Make In India" programme. Already there was the 10000 Startups programme of India Government implemented by NASSCOM. All these initiatives show that India is entering into a new era of Entrepreneurial age. Hence, so I would like to bring the attention of our youths to take this opportunity of riding the wave of entrepreneurship which can bring economy self reliant and social peace to our society. Get up and join the event by writing to dynamic.manipur@gmail.com or visit the facebook event page for Dynamic Startup 1.0. Be an Entrepreneur, Serve the Society!!!

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National & International News

Death toll from Guatemala landslide rises to 191: Officials

Agency Santa Catarina Pinula, Oct. 8: Rescue workers pulled 20 more bodies from a landslide outside the Guatemalan capital, bringing the number of confirmed dead to 191, officials have said. "The latest toll of victims is 191," said Julio Sanchez on Wednesday, a spokesman for the firefighters and other rescue personnel working at the site on the outskirts of Guatemala City. Authorities said about 150 people still have not been accounted for, as they searched for more bodies at the disaster site in the village of Cambray II.

A growing stench from decomposing bodies has filled the air at the scene of the tragedy, requiring workers to don face masks as they carry on with their grim recovery efforts. The village — in a section of the town of Santa Catarina Pinula, some 15 kilometers east of the capital — was buried late Thursday by a mountain of mud and debris following heavy rains. Rescuers said it would be nothing short of a miracle if anyone were found alive at this point, as they continue their search for more bodies, aided by specially-trained dogs. Officials said they also



have opened an investigation to determine who or what might have been responsible for the disaster.

Omar condemns thrashing of independent MLA in J-K Assembly

ANI Srinagar, Oct. 8: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday condemned the thrashing of independent legislator Engineer Rashid by the BJP MLAs in the state assembly, saying the elected members should exercise control over their emotions. "Whatever happened is

condemnable. A member is being beaten up, this is the first time I am witnessing this in any House. If these members do not have control over their emotions then they should not attend the House. The Speaker is usually quick to suspend the members of the opposition but in this matter he is saying that he will investigate the matter," Omar told the media here.

"After the Supreme Court's order, what Engineer Rashid had done was not illegal. When he has not broken any law then why punish him?" he asked. Meanwhile, Rashid cried foul over the incident and said that the BJP MLAs tried to kill him. "The BJP MLAs started kicking and hitting me. They tried to kill me," he said.

The BJP MLAs earlier today thrashed Rashid for hosting a beef party at the MLA hostel yesterday. The beef ban had led to violent protests in Jammu and Kashmir earlier. The Supreme Court has suspended the ban for two months and constituted a three-judge bench to decide on the matter.

US negotiating civil nuclear deal with Pakistan?

PTI Washington, Oct. 8: Ahead of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit in October, the US is negotiating a pact on new limits on Pakistan's nuclear weapons and delivery systems, a deal that might lead to an agreement similar to the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, according to a media report. "Pakistan has been asked to consider what are described as 'brackets'," The Washington Post quoted a source familiar with the talks between the two countries as saying. It said Pakistan would agree to restrict its nuclear programme to weapons and delivery systems that are appropriate to its actual defence needs against India's nuclear threat.

"Pakistan might agree not to deploy missiles capable of reaching beyond a certain range," the Post said. In return for such an agreement, the US might support an eventual waiver for Pakistan by the 48-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group, of which it is a member, the paper said. "At US urging, that group agreed to exempt India from rules that banned nuclear trade with countries that evaded the Non-Proliferation Treaty," The Post said. It said that such an agreement might eventually "open a path toward a Pakistani version of the civil nuclear deal that was launched with India in 2005". The White House neither confirmed or denied the report. It just said that the US is in regular contact with Pakistan on a range of issues ahead of Sharif's trip. "We are in regular contact with the Government of Pakistan on a

range of issues as we prepare for the visit on October 22 of Prime Minister Sharif. We'll decline comment on the specifics of these discussions," a senior Obama Administration official told PTI on condition of anonymity. In recent past, the US led international community has expressed concern over the fast growth of Pakistan's nuclear weapons stockpile. The Post said on this issue would be slow and take long. "Pakistan prizes its nuclear programme, so negotiations would be slow and difficult, and it's not clear that Islamabad would be willing to accept the limitations that would be required. But the issue is being discussed quietly in the run-up to Prime Minister Sharif's visit to Washington," it said. "Any progress would break a



stalemate that has existed since the US detected Pakistan's nuclear programme in the mid-1980s, and especially after Pakistan exploded its first weapon in 1998," the daily reported. The paper said a nuclear dialogue is especially important because it would begin to address what US officials for two decades have viewed as one of the world's most dangerous security problems.