

Editorial

Imphal Monday, January 2, 2016

The inevitable

The new year has arrived, and with it the renewed hopes and aspirations of the much harried and harassed society. A detached and impersonal look at the present developments around us strongly suggests a growing tussle between a section of the society who are starting to assert their own natural freedom and spontaneity of right to life without the enforced support of any individual or group on the one hand and a group, while acutely aware of the disillusionment being increasingly felt by the long intimidated public, still conveniently ignore the subtle changes since the outgoing social order renders them smooth opportunists living off on the fear and insecurity of the common public who have been bearing the brunt of the undeclared war between the Government and the self declared emancipators of the society. The society is starting to wake up to the sordid reality behind the slogans and show of concern by the opposing parties who have been hemming in the collective enthusiasm and liberties for so long. This is a very positive and necessary turnaround- a breakthrough of sorts. Fear of physical harm has been the one driving force behind the relentless search for improvements ever since the evolution of mankind which has been continued till the present day. Yet this very inherent insecurity has been used by a reckless and inconsiderate few to take advantage of others in various ways. Realizing the things that needs to be done in spite of the dangers posed by such threats and intimidations has made the society to take calculated risks and step up the efforts to progress and prosper. Fortifying our minds against such unwanted distractions and instead focusing on the tasks at hand, not only to sustain ourselves but also to make the future that little more efficient, developed and safer should be our common goal. All of us have a huge stake in this line of thought. Aberrations and exceptions notwithstanding, a concerted effort would bring about a desirable chain reaction of help and cooperation and sense of togetherness. Most of us are still wary of the next person. We all need to step out of this mental cocoon and try to reach out with sincerity and goodwill. The response will almost always be more pleasant and positive than we expect it to be. We only need to open up our minds and reach out in good faith. This is so much more necessary for those who are still harboring hatred and revenge, their precious efforts and manpower being diverted towards scheming other's downfall. Live and let live.

Jammu & Kashmir: Budget session of State Legislature begins

Jammu, Jan. 2: In Jammu and Kashmir, amid noisy scenes, the budget session of State Legislature began today. Governor N N Vohra addressed the joint session of the Legislature in the winter capital city of Jammu this morning. However, amid opposition's sloganeering and protests by opposition on various issues, the governor had to cut-short his address. The government has criticised the opposition's protest during the Governor's address and said that opposition should raise its

concerns on right time and place. After the Governor's address, the two Houses of the state legislature, the state legislative Assembly and the Council met for obituary reference to those members of the Legislature and other Parliamentarians, who has passed away during last six months. This is the third budget session of the PDP-BJP Government. Finance Minister Dr Haseeb Drabu will present general budget for the year 2017-18 on the 10th of January and session would conclude on 6th of next month.

Certificate Lost

I have lost my Original Certificate of HSLC Examination of 1995 bearing Roll No.25254 issued by the BOSEM on the way between my Residence and Thoubal Bazar on 26/11/2016. Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

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National & International News

India successfully test fires Agni-IV ballistic missile

PTI
Balalore, Jan 2: India today successfully test-fired its nuclear-capable strategic ballistic missile Agni-IV with a strike range of 4000 km as part of a user trial from a test range off Odisha coast. Supported by a mobile launcher, the surface-to-surface missile was flight tested from launch complex-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Dr Abdul Kalam Island, formerly known as Wheeler Island, at about 11.55 hours. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) sources said. Describing the trial as successful, they said this was the 6th trial of

the indigenously developed Agni-IV missile which met the mission objectives. The last trial conducted by the specially formed strategic force command (SFC) of Indian Army on November 9, 2015 was also successful. The sleek missile having 4000 km strike range is a two stage missile. It is 20 meter-long weighing 17 tonnes. "The sophisticated surface-to-surface missile is equipped with modern and compact avionics to provide high level of reliability," DRDO sources said. Agni-IV missile is equipped with state-of-the-art Avionics, 5th

generation on board computer and distributed architecture. It has the latest features to correct and guide itself for in-flight disturbances. The most accurate Ring Laser Gyro based Inertial Navigation System (RINS) and supported by highly reliable redundant Micro Navigation System (MINGS), ensures the vehicle reaches the target within two digit accuracy, they said. The re-entry heat shield can withstand temperatures in the range of 4000 degree centigrade and makes sure the avionics function normally with inside temperature remaining less than 50 degree centigrade. Ballistic missiles like

Agni-I, II and III and Prithvi are already in the arsenal of armed forces, giving India an effective deterrence capability. Radars and electro-optical systems had been positioned along the coast of Odisha for tracking and monitoring all the parameters of the missile, the sources said, adding two Indian naval ships anchored near the target area to witness the final event. The successful trial of Agni IV came close on the heels of a similar test on December 26, 2016 of long range missile Agni 5 which was successfully carried out from the same launch site.

Cannot seek votes in name of religion, caste: SC

PTI
New Delhi, Jan 2: In a majority verdict, the Supreme Court today held that any appeal for votes on the ground of "religion, race, caste, community or language" amounted to "corrupt practice" under the election law provision. Referring to the term 'his religion' used in section 123(3) of the Representation of The Peoples (RP) Act, which deals with 'corrupt practice', Chief Justice T S Thakur

and three others in the 4:3 verdict said it meant the religion and caste of all including voters, candidates and their agents etc. However, the minority view of three judges - UU Lalit, AK Goel and DY Chandrachud - held that the term 'his' religion means religion of candidate only. The majority view, also shared by Justices M B Lokur, S A Bobde and L N Rao, said 'secularism' has to be considered while dealing with such issues.

Petrol price hiked by 1.29 per litre & diesel by 97 paise from today

New Delhi, Jan. 2: Petrol price has gone up by one rupee 29 paise and diesel by 97 paise per litre excluding state levies as the new rates will come into effect from midnight tonight. With this Petrol will now cost 70 rupees 60 paise a litre in Delhi, 73 rupees 13 paise in Kolkata, 76 rupees 91 paise in Mumbai and 70 rupees 7 paise in Chennai.

For diesel, the consumer will have to pay 57 rupees 82 paise per litre in Delhi, 60 rupees 6 paise in Kolkata, 63 rupees 61 paise in Mumbai and 59 rupees 47 paise in Chennai. In a statement, Indian Oil Corporation said, the upward revision of the price was necessitated due to increase in international prices of Petrol and Diesel and rupee-dollar exchange rate.

Delhi Police Head Constable shoots self at Supreme Court

PTI
New Delhi, Jan 2: A Delhi Police head constable posted at the Supreme Court today allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service revolver in court premises.

The deceased, identified as head constable Chandpal, shot himself around 8.15 AM, said a senior police officer. His duty hours were from 7 AM to 1 PM. He had been posted at the Supreme Court since April 2014.

The cause of the suicide was not known yet, the officer said, adding crime and forensic teams were on the spot.

Police will be questioning Chandpal's family members and colleagues to ascertain the reasons for him taking the extreme step.

26 crore accounts open under Jan Dhan Yojana across country till date

New Delhi, Jan 2: Over 26 crore accounts have been opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana across the country till date. The Scheme was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August, 2014 with the objective of covering all households with at least one bank account.

According to latest data released by Finance Ministry, 26 crore three lakh accounts have been opened under the scheme. Of the total, nearly 16 crore accounts are in rural areas and more than 10 crore in urban. Over 71 thousand 500 crore rupees have been deposited in these accounts and zero balance accounts has come down to nearly 24 per cent. Around 20 crore RuPay Debit cards have also been issued under the scheme. More than 44 lakh accounts were allowed overdraft facility as on 23rd of last month and nearly 24 lakh account-holders availed overdraft facility.

Contd. from previous issue

Intensifying Global Crisis and Conflict

(This paper was presented by Malcolm Guy on 6th Ojha Sanajaoba Memorial lecture held at VC's Court room on Dec. 30, 2016)

As a result, in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia, Libya, Syria, Yemen and other countries the terrorist groups that were supposedly the targets of these US-led attacks have grown in number and spread even farther. The fundamental failure of these policies led to what writer Samir Amin calls the "empire of chaos". The US military has trained and armed surrogate armies and paramilitary groups including jihadists such as Al Qaeda and the Daesh (ISIS/ISIL) to attack or destabilize countries not aligned with US imperialist designs in the oil-rich region of West and Central Asia and North Africa. Together with its NATO allies, the Zionist State of Israel and the Wahhabi Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the US has deliberately stoked sectarian divisions within the region and has sought to destroy or weaken any regime that upholds the cause of national independence and self-determination of the Arab peoples. The specific aim to dismember and balkanize Syria, for example was confirmed in a recently declassified August 2012 US Defense Intelligence Agency report. Washington also just committed \$38 billion over the next decade to sustain Israel's apartheid policies and brutal occupation of Palestine. The US-led war for oil in the Greater Middle East has resulted in the deaths and injury of millions in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and of course Libya. Across the Africa continent, US-led militarization has escalated over the last two administrations of Obama and his predecessor, President George W. Bush, Jr. and will

undoubtedly continue under Trump. The founding of the US Africa Command (AFRICOM) in early 2008 has led to instability and displacement on the continent. As Abayomi Azikiwe, Editor of the Pan-African News Wire (Nov. 2016) points out: "The bombing of Libya under false pretences, its destabilization and brutal assassination of long time leader Col. Muammar Gaddafi can still be felt. (...) Today Libya has become a major source of human trafficking and flight from the African continent across the Mediterranean into Europe. Pentagon bombing operations are being conducted on a daily basis in this North African state. Several attempts by Washington and its allies to create a stable neo-colonial dominated regime in Tripoli have failed miserably (...). "In the Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti, a burgeoning military base at Camp Lemonier is serving as a staging ground for an ongoing air and ground campaign under the guise of fighting 'Islamic terrorism' in Somalia. The Republic of Sudan once the largest geographic nation-state in Africa, was partitioned at the aegis of Washington in order to undermine the emerging country's oil industry that was in partnership with the People's Republic of China." **Crimes against humanity** US, NATO and allied forces have committed the most despicable crimes against humanity such as the massacre of civilians, torture and murder of prisoners of war and the use of weapons of mass destruction. US forces have used

white phosphorus bombs and depleted uranium ammunition banned under international conventions for causing painful deaths and cancer among the affected population. These wars of aggression and proxy wars using jihadist groups have levelled towns, villages and industrial centres, wrecked civilian infrastructure such as dams, bridges, hospitals, schools, energy facilities, historical sites, churches and mosques, etc. 80% of casualties of these wars have been civilians, including women, children and the elderly. According to a report released in 2015 by Physicians for Social Responsibility, Physicians for Global Survival, and the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, at least one million Iraqis were killed between 2003 and 2012 as a direct result of the US invasion and occupation. That same study found that at least 1.3 million people have been killed in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan as the result of the so-called "War on Terror" waged in the aftermath of September 11, 2001. (Testimony presented at the People's Tribunal on Iraq held on December 1-2, 2016, in Washington D.C.) And these figures do not include the more than 12 million people displaced from their homes, which has resulted in the largest stream of refugees since World War II - straining the governments of neighboring countries and Europe where they have become targets for rising xenophobic and racist attacks.

Young Americans sacrificed The US is the biggest military spender in the world. In 2012, its military spending of US\$ 711 billion dwarfed those of the next 2 big spenders: China with US\$ 166 billion and Russia with US\$ 91 billion. In 2015, the US spent close to 60 billion dollars - accounting for 37 percent of total world military spending and more than the combined amount spent by the next nine biggest military spenders. Its resort to a kind of military Keynesianism with stepped up production by the military/industrial complex to create jobs and economic activity back home has not checked but has accelerated its strategic decline and served to aggravate its economic and political crisis. Faced with its own debilitating economic difficulties, the US has begun pressuring its NATO allies to increase their military spending and contribution to NATO. A new arms race has commenced between the US, Russia and China to develop hypersonic missiles, new drones, anti-satellite systems and tactical nuclear weapons to enhance the pre-emptive first-strike capabilities of their respective armed forces. The Obama government has green lighted the spending of 1 trillion dollars over the next 30 years to "modernize" all aspects of its nuclear arsenal. The US also leads the world in arms sales. Super profits for US corporations such as Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, Boeing and General Dynamics skyrocket together with the spread of death and destruction. (To be contd.....)