

Editorial

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Govt. needs to look back in the past if have strong will to introduce ILPS

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's announcement to introduce an ILPS like Bill in the upcoming state legislative Assembly session, while delivering speech on Khongjom Day is a good gesture. However, the past incidents should be kept in mind if the Bill is introduced as the matter is a very sensitive issue which has the tendency to spark mass agitation.

The unenviable credit for the unfolding social and political circumstances leading to the decision to withdraw the much maligned Manipur Regulation on Visitors, Tenants and Migrant Workers' Bill 2015 (MRVTMW Bill) by the state Government after drawing much flak from every quarter of the society as well as the violent protest after 3 ILPS Bills were introduced on August 31, 2015, had spark unprecedented protest resulting unfortunate loss of many lives with many more agitators subjected to police excesses must undoubtedly go to the state government. And yet, the present fallout had already been prophesied at the outset when much furor was raised even as the government raised the subject.

Had the state government have the temerity to discuss the matter with every single stakeholder or representatives thereof and effected any rectifications or modifications as needed, things would definitely have been a lot more pleasant and satisfying. It is easier said than done, and worse still, old habits die hard - or in this particular instance - old habits proved to be the defining factor in every decision or resolution ever made by the state government. Politics have always been about numbers, but the state government have literally taken things a bit too far when it introduced the MRVTMW Bill or the 3 ILPS related Bills due to its sheer majority in the house despite a vehement and justified protest from all spheres of the population including a number of opposition members of the state assembly.

Perhaps those at the helm of power failed to realize that the number of representatives present in state the assembly is not the ultimate number which needs to be coerced or influenced for things to happen, but that they are mere representatives of the public who outnumber them in excess of a thousand to one ratio.

Like the two serious event, if the ILPS like Bill which the Chief Minister announced to introduce in the next assembly session without consulting the stakeholders, the public will once more felt cheated of the trust they imposed on their representatives, and the consequence will be spontaneous decision of the enraged public to take their grievances and demands to their doorsteps.

Now that the milk has been spilled, it is the perfect, and possibly the final opportunity for the state government to make things right and reclaim for itself some of the credibility and respect which have taken a deep plunge.

It goes without saying that the opinions and suggestions of every section of the society need to be sought and analysed in detail. It must, however have the political will and determination to resist any unwarranted pressure, and must convey its intent to the public in no uncertain terms. It would be interesting to keep a close watch on the unfolding of events. And while every eye and ear will be tuned in to the developments, one can only hope and pray that lessons have been learnt, and that the tantalizing wait for the elusive peace will finally be over.

Assam ministry expanded, seven ministers inducted

Agency Guwahati, April 26
Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today expanded his cabinet by inducting seven new ministers.

The expansion of the ministry was done for the first time since the NDA government came to power in 2016. While four ministers are of cabinet rank, three are in the post of ministers of state. Siddhartha Bhattacharyya, Bhabesh Kalita, Sum Ronghang, Tapan Gogoi and Pijush Hazarika of the BJP, Phani Bhushan Choudhury of the AGP and Chandan Brahma of the BPF were

sworn in by Governor Jagdish Mukhi at a function at the Raj Bhawan. Of the seven, the MLAs of the AGP and the BPF have previous experience as ministers in the previous governments in the state.

The Sarbananda Sonowal ministry was sworn in on May 24, 2016 with 11 ministers — the chief minister, eight Cabinet ministers and two ministers of state with independent charge - taking oath. Assam can have 19 ministers, including the chief minister. So, even after the induction of seven new ministers one more position remains vacant.

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National & International News

Delhi MP accuses cleric in alleged rape of girl rescued from Ghaziabad Madrasa

Agency New Delhi, April 26
The alleged abduction and rape of a 10-year-old girl, who was rescued from a Ghaziabad madrasa, took a political turn on Wednesday with East Delhi MP Maheish Girri demanding the immediate arrest of a cleric in the case.

The Ghazipur resident, who went missing on April 21, was rescued a day later from the madrasa in Arthala area of Ghaziabad. The police apprehended a 17-year-old student of the madrasa and booked him for rape. But the family alleged three others, including a cleric heading the madrasa, had also sexually assaulted her. After meeting the girl's family on Wednesday, Girri claimed the cleric was the mastermind. Fellow BJP workers and a few other people blocked roads on both sides of the

Delhi-Ghaziabad border in the day. Girri later led a candlelight march from the Central Secretariat metro station to India Gate in the evening. "The cleric and others should be immediately arrested as the apprehended boy is a pawn in the larger conspiracy the Maulana hatched. We demand the rapists be hanged and the madrasa where the crime took place be sealed with immediate effect," said Girri. Crime branch officers, who took over the probe from the east district police, said the girl had named only the boy in her statement before the magistrate. But Girri said the girl was sedated and was in a mental trauma, and so he was relying on the statements of her family. However, Girri said he hadn't spoken to the girl directly. Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari, who also met the family, said he would

talk to UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath. Delhi Police spokesperson Dependra Pathak said all allegations and circumstances will be taken into account. "We have apprehended the boy and the case has been transferred to the crime branch. We are examining all allegations and will act if these are substantiated," Pathak said. A crime branch team visited the madrasa. Investigators continued to question the cleric, saying they had not given him a clean chit yet. Traffic movement was affected when locals and members of different outfits protested on NH-24 on both sides of the Delhi-Ghaziabad border — near Khoda and the Ghazipur chicken market — and demanded immediate arrest of the 40-year-old cleric. The residents of the Ghaziabad

neighbourhood where the madrasa is located held a candle light march on Tuesday night. "We demand closure of the madrasa. The cleric and the girl's family were neighbours but were not in touch. The cleric's family ran away after locking their house after police raided the madrasa," said Pramod Kumar, a local resident. The girl's religion was mentioned in the placards the protesters were carrying during the India Gate vigil. But Girri and his fellow workers said they wanted justice for the child and did not want to communalise the matter. The name of the boy, a minor, was on the posters, banners, placards and slogans. This is in violation of the Supreme Court directions prohibiting naming of any accused under the age of 18 on public platforms.

Fight Karnataka Assembly elections on development agenda: PM Modi tells BJP workers

Agency Kuma, April 26
BJP workers and candidates in Karnataka must fight the May 12 Assembly elections on the development agenda of the NDA government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday. While addressing party workers via the NaMo mobile app, Modi said one should not be disheartened by the spread of false propaganda and lies by rival parties like the Congress.

"They do not want to discuss the issues of development because development is something that can be measured. We can measure what

existed earlier and what exists now. This is not acceptable to the rival parties because they have always played politics on the basis of caste, creed and tradition," he said. While terming the offerings made to caste groups by rival parties as "lollipops", the PM said, "They always offer a lollipop to some caste or community to lure them before the elections. By the time the next elections arrive, they will abandon this community and make someone else their target." "Can anyone deny the fact that the mainstream culture of India's politics is linked to the lies and sins of the Congress party? The

shortcomings in other parties are also due to the Congress culture. Unless we free mainstream politics of the Congress culture, I do not think we can purify politics in the country," he added. Stressing on the need to win the hearts and minds of the people, Modi told his party workers, "We want to fight the elections on the basis of development. We want to fight the polls based on the strength of the organisation. We want to win the confidence of the people and win the elections. We do not want to cheat people and will the electoral battle. If we win the hearts and the minds of the people, no one will be able to

defeat us." "After losing in the last few elections, the Congress has been making false promises. Workers should not lose confidence. We have to fight on our principles and ideology," he added. The PM also shared details of projects related to road work, toilet construction and use of renewable energy in Karnataka ever since the BJP came to power at the Centre. He said, "The development of Karnataka is development to India." He also called upon voters to give BJP a clear mandate as rival parties are trying to send a message that the polls will throw up a hung assembly.

Coached by Army, martyr's daughter hopeful to clear SSB

Agency Samba (JK), April 26
Coached at the Army initiated 'Samba Super 40 project'. Roshni Devi, daughter of a martyred soldier is hopeful of cracking upcoming Services Selection Board (SSB) examination to become commissioned officer in armed forces.

Devi is among seven students preparing for upcoming Services Selection Board (SSB) examination after clearing CDS and AFCAT examinations. They thank the Army which provided them necessary infrastructure and coaching to help them chase their dream to serve the nation.

The students, who underwent extensive coaching over the past six months, are ecstatic over their achievement of clearing Combined Defence Services (CDS) examination and Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT) and are hopeful of repeating the performance in the SSB.

While four students including Devi cleared the CDS examination results of which were declared in March, three others made it to AFCAT.

Lt Col Anand said the initiative has not only helped the youth to prepare themselves for the competition and to make their dreams of joining the armed forces come true but has also strengthened the bonds between the Army and the people of Samba.

The students were among 40 students who were shortlisted for the 'Samba Super 40 project' after three screening tests organised at Army Public School, Samba last year. It was my childhood dream to be

part of the Army because of my father Vijay Kumar who sacrificed his life in a terror attack in Manipur in the defence of the country in June 2015. Devi told PTL.

Kumar was among 18 army personnel killed in an insurgent ambush on a military convoy in Manipur's Chandel district. Almost three years down the line, Devi said she is seeing her dream getting fulfilled and I am very thankful to the Army for starting first of its kind 'Samba super 40 project' for the defence aspirants like me.

Defence spokesperson Lt Col Devender Anand said the project started on September 16 last year involved screening and selection of potential candidates, setting up infrastructure for the classes, selection of teachers and preparation of study material.

The project involved identification, screening and selection of potential candidates, for which extensive interactions were done by Army officers of Samba brigade at schools and colleges of Samba and Vijaypur and nearby Kathua (district), he said.

He said a state of the art classroom with e-class facility as well as a well stocked library was established at Samba Brigade for running the project. Apart from the regular classes conducted daily by a competent team of teachers, the aspirants were also provided with professional coaching by director, Star Officers Study Circle (Chennai), Lt Col Muruganatham (Retd) and also by experts from Pune through Aseem Foundation (a Pune based NGO) via e-learning classes, he said. It is a very good initiative taken

by the army. The environment was very motivating and we did not deviate from our chosen goal. We are now waiting for the SSB exam, scheduled later this year, and are hopeful of donning the army fatigue, said Vishal Verma, who is also preparing for the SSB.

Verma, whose is the first in his family hopeful of joining the army, said the project provided them the required platform as the teaching faculty was excellent and the reading material, which was otherwise beyond their reach, was made available. Devi said she came to know about the project through her NCC teacher and without wasting any time joined the course.

Brainchild of Brigadier Anil Raman of the Samba brigade who

had earlier served in Kashmir where army is training local youth for professional courses under operation goodwill, the project was the first of its kind in the region and the preference was given to the course because of the interest of the students.

I hope this is just a beginning and more and more results are awaited. It is a good initiative started by the brigade, an army officer said asking not to be named.

Hailing from nearby Kathua district, another aspirant Gaurav Sharma said they had an opportunity to interact with senior rank army officers during the course and recently we had an interaction with a Lt Gen rank officer. It all boosted our morale and strengthened our resolve to join the army and serve the country.

Indian women's cricket team to hire a bowling coach

Agency New Delhi, April 26

The Indian women's cricket team will soon have a bowling coach as the BCCI is all set to invite applications for the role. The players get batting inputs from head coach Tushar Arothe, former Baroda all-rounder who scored 6105 first-class runs and took 225 wickets. Biju George has been doing a decent job as fielding coach. The women's team management has expressed the need of a bowling coach. We will soon start the hunt for a suitable candidate by inviting applications, a senior BCCI official told PTL. The applicants need not have an

international background. Even Tushar has not played for India so that really is not a factor, the official said.

He added that the team for the Asia Cup will be announced later this week.

India have had a mixed run since making the World Cup final in England last July. They beat hosts South Africa in their ICC ODI Championship opener before being thrashed by Australia at home.

They also failed to make the final at home in the subsequent T20 triseries involving Australia and England in March. The Mithali Raj-led squad then made amends by beating England 2-1 in a three-match ODI series.