

Editorial

Imphal, Saturday, October 10, 2015

Opposing development

Two incidents, as stark in their contrasts as can be, happened in two different states in the last couple of days which revalidate the truth that a government can either be as decisive as can be desired or as lethargic as can be imagined. Arvind Kejriwal, the Chief Minister of Delhi, considered by many to be a maverick politician, sacked a minister from his government immediately when allegations of wrongdoing and corruption backed by recorded evidence emerged. An enquiry into the allegations has also been ordered, and if the past is any indication, he is expected to pursue the matter to its rightful conclusion. This is what is expected of a decisive government, and what also needs to be done. Closer home, allegations of corruptions and misappropriations regarding various projects of irrigation sector in the state have cropped up, with the state unit of BJP taking a decision to hand over the investigation into the matter to the CBI. Furthermore, Ram Madhav, National Secretary and In-Charge, North East for the BJP accused the Ibbi-led Congress government in the state of not cooperating with various development programs and schemes in Manipur being initiated by the Narendra Modi-led BJP government at the centre. Corruption, nepotism and favoritism have been an undeniable truth in our society as is elsewhere, and no effort or method to eradicate the practice seemed to be having much success as of now. Although undesirable, the lure of personal benefits and profits by those in power and influence is understandable. What is inexplicable is the reluctance of the government to implement development measures meant to uplift the living experience of the public. While those in power and governance might be sheltered to a certain extent from the negative impacts which the public are experiencing on a daily basis, they certainly stand to gain more from any progress the state might make, and yet they continue to dither on various matters, treating the mandate of the public as their birth right. Of the meagre feeble attempts being made to display some semblance of development activities, the priorities are evidently misplaced. Corruption is a scourge which, even though seemingly difficult to remedy, is possible to eradicate. But to achieve it, the society needs a leader who can stand up to established traditions, concepts and defy conventions. We need an individual who can shun material pleasures and inspire others to be altruistic. But above all, we need someone with the conviction to carry out his or her sworn duty without consideration of the consequences, one who has the temerity to declare right from wrong and the enthusiasm to fight for the people - a decisive, upright and prolific human in short. But going by the general perception, the obvious question that is on everyone's mind is: will such a person ever appear on the political horizon of Manipur?

Hardcore criminal re-arrested in Jammu

Jammu, Oct. 10: Police has re-arrested a hardcore criminal, who was wanted in several cases, after he had escaped from Government Medical College (GMC) hospital where he was undergoing treatment. On specific information about the presence of hardcore criminal Sunny Choudhary alias Sunny Baba along with his associate Avneet Singh alias Naggi at Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab border, a police party raided the area and arrested both from Lakhnupur area of Kathua district yesterday, SSP Jammu Uttar Chand said. He said that Sunny, who was earlier arrested and was on judicial custody, had managed to escape from GMC on August 22. He said that Sunny Baba was wanted in more than 14 cases in various police stations across

Jammu region. Two sharp-edged weapons were also recovered from his possession, the SSP said. "We are also investigating the role of police officials who were deployed at GMC at the time of his escape, though it was a clear case of negligence on their part but we are investigating their role in it," he said. SSP said that after escaping from GMC Jammu, Sunny Baba had stayed in Badhi area of Himachal Pradesh and various other places. The arrest was significant as his escape had raised various question marks on the efficiency of Jammu police, he said. He is being questioned and we will keep you on briefing if he makes any startling revelation, he said. Police said that scientific techniques were used to re-arrest Sunny Baba.

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National & International

Northeast emerging as new education hub

ANI
Kohima, Oct. 10: Despite inheriting a legacy of good education, students of Northeast have to seek a college outside the region for higher education. However, the announcement of new educational projects by both the Centre and the state is set to pave way for a new era in the education sector of the Northeast. The Northeast region is going through a phase of development, and education will be the next sector which the region would seek to excel. Recently, Union Minister of Human Resource and Development, Smriti Irani laid the foundation of the first Tata

Institute of Social Science (TISS) in Nagaland. The institute was inaugurated in the presence of Nagaland Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang at a function held at Chuchuyimlang vilkillage in Mokochung District. The campus will be developed on a sprawling 232 acres of land donated by the villagers. The other such proposed centres are Institute of Social Work, Institute of Agriculture Development, Institute for Teachers' Training, Institute for Vocational Studies and Training, Cultural Resource Centre for Naga Art and Crafts, besides a Gandhi Museum and Study Centre comprising Gandhian and

Nagaland/North Eastern affairs. Speaking on the occasion, Irani said that the setting up of new institute is aimed at providing a better future for the youth. "This is an opportunity of a perfect example that how a community comes together to profess the educational needs and also the skill needs of children & strengthen them so that they can have a better future," she said. Meanwhile, the Nagaland Chief Minister lauded the locals for donating land for the institute. "I also congratulate the village council and the citizens of Chuchuyimlang vilkillage who have exhibited exemplary by donating 232 acres of land without any cost

or condition. I am sure you will nurture this new academy like you have nurtured the Gandhi Ashram in past six decades. By doing so you will be serving not only your interest but also the interest of the future generation," he said. The Centre has announced a number of similar projects for the Northeast including the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Assam, an Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Nagaland and a Centre for Film Production, Animation and Gaming in Arunachal Pradesh. Also, new IIMS will come up in all north-eastern states other than Meghalaya.

Military civic action sweetens lives in Nagaland

ANI
Dimapur, Oct. 10: The pineapple canning plant, a joint venture of the Medziphema Village Co-operative Society and Assam Rifles through military civic assistance has not only sweetened the lives of security forces but also the lives of civilians in the insurgency-hit state of Nagaland. Medziphema village, a picturesque village located some 30 km from commercial hub in Dimapur, and surrounding villages is famed for growing the 'sweetest' pineapples in the world. The plant funded under Military Civic Action (MCA) of the Assam Rifles (AR) was

inaugurated on June 17, 2014 by Director General Assam Rifles, Lt. Col R.K. Ran. Medziphema villagers donated land of the plant site. The plant has gone in boosting the grass root economy of the area. Already 12 local people including four females have been employed in the factory and they are working overtime churning out pineapple juice and slices, which has hit the retail market under the brand name "Ananya." The plant will absorb more local educated unemployed youths in the coming years. Pelevolie, an educated unemployed youth who completed his MSc, beamed with pride as he gave a demonstration


on how to check the acidity and sugar levels of the pineapple juices before they are canned. Pelevolie has been appointed technical manager of the plant. The four married women employees are equally content that they are bringing additional income to their families. "I am getting a monthly salary of Rs. 5000 a month. This has improved the economy of our family to some extent," one Hoinu stated. A pine apple farmer said he was once compelled to sit on the highway to sell his farm products all day long. "There was no guarantee of selling all what I brought for sale when I was selling on the highway. Now I don't have to waste my time here. The factory buys all the products in a minute," he said. "This joint venture is the idea of our IGAR and the first time in the history of the Assam Rifles to form a co-operative society with villagers. The main vision behind this venture is to set up a sustainable project to boost the economy at the micro level", an AR official who preferred to

remain anonymous said. A feasibility study on the canning plant was carried out in August 2013, the financial sanction came in November 2013 and by June 2014, the plant's infrastructure was completed in record time. The approximate cost of the project excluding the land donated by the villagers stands at Rs. 32 lakh. Today Assam Rifles are one of the highest consumers of the pineapple juice and slices as the products have become alternative fruit juice and food supplement to the other fruit juices available in the market shelves and canteens, an AR official said. The canning plant is never idle even when the pine apple season is over as the co-operative society also produce juices of orange from Wokha district and kiwi from Phek district, besides canning bamboo shoots and every seasonal fruits. Presently, the Assam Rifles is providing round-the-clock security to the plant to dissuade anti-social elements from disrupting the smooth functioning of the plant.

Two more detained in Japanese national murder case in Bangladesh

ANI
Dhaka, Oct. 10: Bangladesh police has confirmed detaining two private bank employees for questioning in connection with the murder of Japanese national Kunio Hosh. Shushanto Chandra Roy, a spokesperson for Rajshahi Metropolitan Police confirmed the detention of Shahriar and Nahid, both an employee of a Brac Bank branch in Rajshahi. The Daily Star reports. Both are colleagues of Jahangir Alam Bulbul, brother-in-law of Humayun Kabir Hira, who is one of the two suspects in Kunio's murder case. Hira is presently in a ten day police remand. Babul, on the other hand, is presently on large. According to the reports, police are searching for Bulbul to question him on Kunio's visit to India months ago. Hira had referred Hoshi to his brother-in-law Babul to help the deceased to get Indian Visa. It is said that Shahriar and Nahid

in the process. Hoshi Kunio was gunned down in northern district of Rangpur on October 3. The incident took place five days after an Italian citizen was killed in Dhaka's diplomatic zone



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 Imphal, the 7th October, 2015

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