

Editorial

Imphal, Friday, August 26, 2016

Not a fair game Mr. Dy. CM

State Home department's clarifications about the reason for cancellation of the recruitment of 2000 Manipur Police constable (male) - 2013 batch is nothing but a showcase of how the state government is running the administration. Chief Minister Okram llobi Singh's response to the hostile agitation which puts life to a complete halt is also another reality, which can be kept as "a matter of record" on how his 15 years old regime is taking care of what is happening in the state. Economists and common people worries about the loss of the state during bandh or any such agitations are of no concern for Mr. Chief Minister as he said "Bandh" happens everytime and it is not new. The mischievous smile of our respected CM, when he said that "irresponsible statement", also showed how he is treating to the issue of the state particularly the one which comes up in the aftermath of the cancellation of the recruitment test for 2000 Manipur Police Constable in 2013.

Well, all is not fair in love and war, the one which fails to win the heart of the people will certainly face the music as state assembly election is knocking at the door. Showcasing his loyalty to the supremo, Deputy Chief Minister Gaikhangam too followed the rituals of the Chief Minister by skipping comments on the matter which at the time is burning the state. For around 15 years people of the state has been put to slumber under the magic spell only known to Okram llobi Singh and his team.

This time too, Deputy Chief Minister Gaikhangam, also in charge of Home department, came up with a clarification statement to justify the cancellation of the Manipur Police Constable Recruitment (Male) 2013 batch. As stated it was the finding of the enquiry report by JC Ramthanga, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government of Manipur which left the state government compelled to take the decision for cancellation of the recruitment process.

In his report to the government JC Ramthanga IAS had stated large scale of irregularities and foul play were found both at Physical Efficiency Test as well as during Written Test for the recruitment of the 2000 male police constables. The Deputy Chief Minister shrewdly turned "everyone knows event" a fair game by expressing shocked on finding rampant irregularities in the selection process.

But one thing the Deputy Chief Minister seems to have forgotten is that, he or his government cannot befool the people all the time. The act of cancelling of the police constable recruitment test could have been called justified had his government simultaneously initiated action against those government officials particularly the one who headed the recruitment test by a similar order which cancelled the recruitment process of Manipur Police constable 2013 batch.

'Law will take its own course' - the phrase seems to be an effective mantra to protect themselves and those under their protection. But it should be remembered that people of the state now have lost all faith in the law as the law makers and the law enforcers are making a mockery of the legal system of the country.

Nepal PM expands Cabinet, includes 13 min from NC

PTI Kathmandu, Aug 26: Nepal Prime Minister Prachanda today inducted 13 new ministers from major coalition partner Nepali Congress into his Cabinet, including the important Minister of Foreign Affairs, taking its total strength to 31.

With that expansion, Prachanda's Cabinet has taken a full shape. President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered oath to the newly-appointed ministers during a ceremony at 'Sheetal Niwas' or the Rastrapati Bhawan here. NC president Sher Bahadur Deuba and senior leader Ram Chandra Poudel, other than Premier Prachanda, attended the swearing-in ceremony.

Those sworn-in included: Prakash

Sharan Mahat, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Bal Krishna Khand, Minister for Defence; Sita Devi Yadav, Minister for Peace and Reconstruction; and Jeevan Bahadur Shahi, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation.

The portfolios of nine others were also assigned today.

Earlier, the Nepali Congress had sent Bimalendra Nidhi and Ramesh Lekhak to the Cabinet as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs, and the Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport respectively.

Prachanda was elected Prime Minister on August 4 for the second time after being briefly in power in 2009. He succeeded CPN-UMC chairman KP Sharma Oli.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana: A giant step towards better life for all

By : Ajay Mhamia

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on May 1st, 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh. Subsequently, it was launched in West Bengal, on the eve of Independence Day, on 14th August, 2016 at Nazrul Manch in Kolkata. The initiative, in line with the dream of the Prime Minister of creating smoke-less villages across the country, has come as a moment of pride for the women in BPL households for getting LPG connection as an identity of their own and to lead a smoke-free, less polluted, convenient and healthy life.

In West Bengal there are around 2.3 crore households and 1.06 crore are target beneficiaries which are to be covered in PMUY by 2019. The oil marketing companies (OMCs) have 10 Bottling Plants in the State, with a combined capacity of 990 TMT PA, for the existing LPG customers. In view of the increased need as per the PMUY targets, all OMCs will expand their bottling capacity in coming days to cater to the increased demand for LPG cylinders. Already, more than 6.5 lakh applicants' waiting list is available with the PMCs. The Government has directed them to ensure sufficient inventory of cylinders, regulators and allied equipment.

To carry the scheme forward and implement it on mass level, special Ujjwala Melas for distributing LPG

connections to identified beneficiaries under PMUY have been organised at all the LPG distribution outlets between 15th and 17th August 2016. Under the Government directive, local freedom fighters, ex-servicemen and widows of army martyrs have been invited to attend these melas to mark the 70th Independence Day. The main mantra of this scheme is *Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan - Mahilaon ko mila samman*. On the national level, 5 crore LPG connections will be provided in the next 3 years to eligible BPL households. The scheme provides a financial support of Rs. 1600 for each LPG connection to the eligible BPL households. The connections under the scheme will be given in the name of women-head of the households. The OMCs will provide EMI facility for meeting the cost of stove and the first refill.

The scheme is aimed at replacing the unclean cooking fuels used in the most underprivileged households with clean and more efficient LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas). Ensuring women's empowerment, especially in rural India, the connections will be issued in the name of women of the BPL households. The identification of eligible BPL families will be made on Social-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data that is being provided by the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. To carry the scheme forward and implement it at the grass root

level, District Nodal Officers (DNOs) of the Oil Marketing Companies have been appointed in each and every corner across the country. These officers are the torch bearers for implementation of PMUY. Union Government has already allocated Rs. 2000 crore for the financial year 2016-17 for nationwide implementation of the Ujjwala Yojana. The Government will distribute LPG connections to about 1.5 crore BPL families within the current financial year. A total budgetary allocation of Rs. 8000 crore has been made by the Government for overall implementation of this scheme over the next three years. The scheme is implemented using the money saved in LPG subsidy through the 'Give-it-Up' campaign. This is for the first time that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has launched such an enormous scheme. PMUY aims at empowering the women and protect their health by reducing the serious health hazards associated with the cooking based on fossil fuel. The other aims of this scheme are to reduce the number of deaths resulted by the use of unclean cooking fuel and preventing toddlers from acute respiratory illness caused due to indoor air pollution caused by the unclean cooking fuel. The eligible women candidates from BPL families can apply for the scheme by filling up the Ujjwala Yojana KYC application form. The

interested candidates need to fill the two-page application form and attach required documents along with the form. The basic details such as name, contact details, Jan-Dhan or other Bank account number, Aadhar card number etc are needed to fill in the application form. The applicants also need to mention their requirement cylinder type i.e. 14.2 KG or 5 KG. The KYC Application forms for Ujjwala Yojana can also be downloaded online and submitted to nearest LPG outlet along with copies of the required documents.

The mandatory documents that are to be attached with the application form include BPL certificate authorised by municipal chairperson or Panchayat Pradhan, BPL Ration card, one photo ID proof such as Voter-I card or Aadhar card and one recent passport size photograph of the applicant.

Indian is home to more than 24 crore households out of which about 10 crore are still deprived of LPG as cooking fuel and have to rely on firewood, coal, dung - cakes etc. as primary source of cooking. After the national launch of PMUY by the Prime Minister, the scheme has also been launched in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat in May and in Uttarakhand, Odisha and Bihar during June 2016. Prior to its state-wide launch made in West Bengal last Sunday, the scheme was also started in Madhya Pradesh last month. (Courtesy : PIB Feature)

National & International News

Curfew in several areas of Kashmir ahead of planned March

PTI Srinagar, Aug 26: Curfew was today extended to several areas of Kashmir to foil a planned march by separatists to Eidgah in old city area as normal life continued to remain paralysed for the 49th consecutive day in the Valley in the wake of violence following the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen militant Burhan Wani last month. "Curfew has been extended to entire Srinagar district, Pulwama district and south Kashmir towns

of Shopian and Anantnag," a police official said. He said north Kashmir towns of Baramulla, Pattan and Handwara were also placed under curfew while restrictions on assembly of people were in force in rest of the Valley. The curfew was extended to thwart a march planned by separatist groups of Eidgah ground in Old city this afternoon after Friday prayers. Meanwhile, normal life remained paralysed for the 49th consecutive day due to curfew, restrictions and

separatist sponsored strike. Shops, private offices, educational institutions and petrol pumps remained closed while public transport continued to be off roads. The attendance in government offices and banks was also affected, the official said. Mobile internet also continued to remain suspended in the entire Valley, where the outgoing facility on prepaid mobiles remained barred. The separatist camp, which is

spearheading the agitation in the Valley over the civilian deaths during the protests against Wani's killing, have extended the strike call in the Valley till September 1. As many as 66 persons, including two police personnel, have been killed and several thousand others injured in the clashes that began on July 9, a day after Wani was killed in an encounter with security forces in Kokernag area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Afghanistan government says American University attack 'orchestrated' from Pakistan

Kabul, Aug. 26: Sixteen people were killed after militants stormed the American University of Afghanistan in Kabul, officials said on Thursday, in a nearly 10-hour raid that prompted anguished pleas for help from trapped students. Explosions and gunfire rocked the campus after the attack began Wednesday evening, just weeks after two university professors — an American and an Australian — were kidnapped at gunpoint near the school. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the assault, but it occurred as the Taliban ramp up their nationwide summer offensive against the Western-backed government. The presidential office said the attack was "orchestrated" from Pakistan, Afghanistan's longtime regional nemesis often accused of harbouring the Taliban. "Sixteen people, including eight students, were killed and 53 others were wounded," health ministry spokesman Waheed Majroh told AFP. "Some of the wounded are in critical condition."

The interior ministry said the fatalities included policemen, a university guard and a guard from the neighbouring vocational school for the visually impaired. Hundreds of trapped students were rescued during the overnight operation, many of whom tweeted desperate messages for help. Some used classroom furniture to barricade the doors while others made a mad scramble to escape

through windows. The attack began just after dusk, when the private university is usually packed with students, many of them working professionals doing part-time courses. "Students were pushing each other out of the classroom window," Farzana, a young student who managed to flee told media. "I was reluctant to jump but a fellow student pushed me and I fell down. The rest I don't remember." Authorities refused to confirm whether any hostages had been taken. NATO military advisers

helped Afghan forces to respond to the attack, a US official said, without specifying how many troops were involved. At dawn, after the assault had ended, a few women students, some of them terrified and weeping, were escorted out of the campus by policemen. The attack, apparently the first major militant assault on a prominent university in Afghanistan, has cast a pall on the education sector, seen as a rare symbol of hope for the country's burgeoning youth at a time of rising insecurity.

The growing number of students attending university, especially women, has been hailed as a success story in Afghanistan since the 2001 ouster of the Taliban regime, which banned women's education. "Terrorist groups, by attacking civilians, educational institutions, residential areas, culverts, bridges, electricity stations... want to obstruct growth and strengthening of the values that Afghans believe in," President Ashraf Ghani said in a statement, condemning the "brutal attack".

8 police killed in southeast Turkey PKK bomb attack

PTI Istanbul, Aug. 26: Eight Turkish police officers were killed and 45 people injured on Friday when a car bomb blamed on Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militants exploded outside a police building in the southeast of the country. The bomb attack caused immense damage to the headquarters of the special anti-riot police force in Cizre, with television pictures showing a thick plume of black smoke heading into the sky. Eight police officers were killed and 45 more people wounded, two of them seriously, the state-run Anadolu news agency reported, quoting the local governorate. Television quoted the health ministry as saying 12 ambulances and two helicopters had been sent to the scene.

Early pictures showed that the police building had been completely gutted by the power of the blast, reduced to a shell surrounded by a pile of rubble. Adjacent buildings sustained severe damage and some were still on fire, television pictures showed. *Anadolu* said the bomb had gone off 50 metres away from the building at a control post. It said the blast had been carried out by the PKK. Security forces closed the main road to Cizre from the provincial capital of Sirnak to the north after the attack, *Anadolu* added. The Turkish security forces have been hit by near daily attacks by the PKK since a two-and-a-half year ceasefire collapsed in 2015, leaving hundreds of police officers and soldiers dead. The PKK has

kept up its assaults in the last weeks after the unsuccessful July 15 coup by rogue elements in the military aimed at ousting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The latest attack comes two days after Turkish forces launched an unprecedented offensive in neighbouring Syria which the authorities say is aimed both at jihadists and Syrian Kurdish militia. Turkey on Thursday shelled the Kurdish militia fighters in Syria, saying they were failing to observe a deal with the US to stop advancing in jihadist-held territory. Ankara sees the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) and its People's Protection Units (YPG) militia as terror groups bent on carving out an autonomous region in Syria and acting as the Syrian branch of the PKK.

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