

# Editorial

Imphal Friday, December 30, 2016

## Engineering chaos or helpless indignation?

'Tragic' sounds a trifle lame to describe the present state of affairs of our state, even though the feeling in the hearts of the general public cannot be far from it. The Government has shown, in fits and spurts, that things can and does happen if the rulers so put their minds and hearts to any task, which begs the very relevant and necessary question: is the Government deliberately keeping the state on tenterhooks with engineered chaos and calculated mayhem? Nothing that has been done for the development of the State so far looks and feels systematic or sustainable- from the various steps reportedly taken up to ease the present unrest and increasing frustrations and infrastructures being constructed with shoddy workmanship and dubious results, to the haphazard and stop-gap measures in terms of the essential services being provided, mostly on paper to dispense off with the official requirements without ever taking the trouble or the initiative to check on the efficacies of such schemes and welfare measures. The reality we are undergoing today is a far cry from the trumped up reports and statistics that make up the records meant for display at the centre, the most obvious results being the huge leap in law and order situation and promotion of Manipur from the least developed state category to the less developed one without having nothing to show for it. Yet the Government, in its quest to prolong the reign, have failed to address the situation with pragmatic solutions and progressive steps that would steer the state in the right direction of inclusive growth- the most prominent shortcoming being the failure to harness the potential of the youths- the future of the state. The present social imbroglio which is posing a very real and looming threat of overflowing into an unfortunate and unwanted communal conflict which is solely based on archaic outlook and overriding sense of exclusivism needs to be looked at from a radically different perspective- one which can bridge the gap and prepare for the future instead of dwelling in the past: literally and metaphorically. Stating that almost, if not all, the problems ailing the present society can be remedied by molding the youths of today to bring about the still elusive change and progress would not be an exaggeration. No amount of resources or materials can effect change or usher in progress unless those who are to direct and utilize these resources be prepared and groomed to take on the responsibilities and challenges with confidence and determination. A radical mental revolution based on progressive thinking and broadened outlook beyond self preservation and personal enrichment, tempered with the spirit of equality and infused with the dignity of labour is the panacea for our society long festered with enmity, greed, doubts and subdued mindset. The Government should make the most and invest in the one true asset it ever has- the teeming youths who are still at tenterhooks regarding the realization of the innumerable promises and assurances to become a reality. Wasting any more time in pondering over the inevitable steps would only invite further frustrations and agitations which never have a desirable ending.

## Magnitude 6.2 earthquake hits region in eastern Indonesia

**Tolotangga, Dec 30:** The US Geological Survey reports that a magnitude 6.2 earthquake has hit a region in the eastern part of Indonesia. The agency says the earthquake hit about 6.30 AM today in the Sumbawa region. The epicenter was about 30 kilometers south of Tolotangga. The agency says the earthquake was about 72 kilometers deep. A resident tells The Associated Press that there are no reports of

damage. The USGS says no tsunami warning has been issued. On December 7, Indonesia's Aceh province was hit by a magnitude 6.5 quake that killed more than 100 people. The world's largest archipelago, Indonesia is prone to earthquakes due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin. A 2004 quake and tsunami killed a total of 230,000 people in a dozen countries, most of them in Aceh.

## National & International News

### Jharkhand coal mine mishap: Seven bodies recovered; PM condoles loss of lives

**New Delhi, Dec. 30:** In Jharkhand, seven bodies have been recovered so far from the crushed open-coal mine site of Bhorai of Lalmatia in Rajmahal of Godda district while about 40 coal miners along with many heavy machines and vehicles are feared trapped underground. The accident took place when earth around the coal mine collapsed yesterday evening.

Jharkhand government has announced ex-gratia payment of two lakhs rupees each to the kins of dead and 25 thousands rupees for the injured. Joint teams of Coal India, NDRF and State government are undertaking rescue and relief operations in full swing. State Chief Secretary and DGP are on the spot. Dhanbad based Director General Mines Safety Rahul Guha has said

that his team has reached the spot and started investigation into the incident. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has condoled the death of miners in Jharkhand. In a tweet, he said, he is saddened by the loss of lives there. He said, his prayers are with those trapped inside. Mr Modi said, he has spoken to Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar

Das on the situation. The Chief Minister along with Union Minister Piyush Goyal are supervising restoration of normalcy. Chief Minister Raghubar Das also expressed grief over the incident and has asked Deputy Commissioner of Godda to speed up the rescue efforts. All senior officials have been asked to stay at the site, he said on twitter.

### Deadline to deposit old Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 notes ends today

**New Delhi, Dec. 30:** The 50-day deadline to deposit the old Rs. 500 or 1,000 notes in banks comes to an end today but the cash crunch and queues before ATMs are likely to continue for some more time as currency printing presses have failed to meet the huge demand for new bills. People will still have time to exchange the currency notes at designated RBI counters till March 31 after giving valid reasons for not depositing defunct notes in their accounts by December 30. The government has come out with

an ordinance, making possession of more than 10 notes of old Rs. 500 and 1,000 denominations for numismatic or curation purposes, illegal and punishable with a minimum fine of Rs. 10,000. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a surprise announcement on November 8 declared the old Rs. 500 and 1,000 notes invalid. The banks started accepting deposits in scrapped notes from November 10. However, a very few ATMs opened on November 11, as most of the machines had to be recalibrated, for people to get cash

which was available in Rs. 2,000 denomination. Saddled with cash crunch, banks resorted to rationing of valid currency notes and fixed a withdrawal limit of Rs. 24,000 per account in a week. Although the overall situation at banks has improved, ATMs still have to do some catching up. Many cash vending machines are still out of cash even after 50 days since demonetisation or notes ban. The government move was sharply criticised by the opposition parties led by Congress, Trinamool

Congress and the Left front. After the demonetisation, the government had fixed a limit of Rs. 24,000 per week on withdrawal from bank accounts and Rs. 2,500 per day from ATMs in view of the currency crunch. Bankers believe that restrictions on withdrawal of cash from banks and ATMs are likely to continue beyond December 30. The government and the RBI have not specified when the restrictions will be withdrawn. Finance Secretary Ashok Lavasa had said the withdrawal cap would be reviewed after December 30.

### Advanced Landing Ground at Tuting becomes operational

**ANI Tuting, Dec. 30:** The IAF Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) at Tuting, a small town located in the Upper Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh, was inaugurated by Pema Khandu, Chief Minister in the presence of Air Marshal C. Hari Kumar, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Air Command (EAC) on Wednesday. The event was attended by large number of civil and military dignitaries including Air Vice Marshal Manavendra Singh, Senior Officer-in-Charge Administration, Eastern Air Command, Air Commodore K P S Virk, Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station

Jorhat and Senior Army Officers. Consequent to the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approval in June 2008, the IAF had embarked on an ambitious reconstruction plan to upgrade Tuting ALG along with other ALGs under the EAC's area of responsibility. The land of Tuting ALG was taken over by the IAF on January 15, 2010. The ALG up-gradation project was executed by Chief Construction Engineer (North East Project) and Works Department at Headquarters Eastern Air Command. Close supervision and active monitoring by the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) under Air

Force Station Jorhat (Assam) made it possible to execute the task in spite of the difficult location and natural hindrances in sustaining the supply chain of material and machinery. The ALG has been upgraded with a full-fledged runway and all the associated facilities. The strategic location of Tuting ALG will make it a launching pad for the IAF operations as well as a facilitator to the Administration in the management of border area. The ALG will be used to bring in vital supplies from cities in Assam via fixed wing aircraft and helicopters besides meeting challenges during natural

calamities. Commencement of civil flights operations from ALG Tuting has been proposed to Director General Civil Aviation and Airport Authority of India. The opening of ALG Tuting will facilitate air connectivity with rest of the country and give a huge fillip to tourism in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. The pristine and picturesque landscape of Tuting on the banks of river Siang, will become accessible to the world. The unspoilt natural beauty of the area is sure to attract many tourists, which in turn will usher in a new round of the prosperity and happiness for the local population.

### 12 BJP MLAs backing govt. led by Khandu: Ram Madhav

**ANI Itanagar, Dec. 30:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) general secretary Ram Madhav on Friday said that around 12 BJP MLAs in Arunachal are supporting the government led by suspended Peoples' Party of Arunachal (PPA) leader Pema Khandu. "12 BJP MLAs in Arunachal

strongly backing government led by Pema Khandu," Ram Madhav to ANI. Meanwhile, Arunachal Pradesh BJP president Tapir Gao also extended support to Khandu and said that the latter was unanimously elected and their party still considers him to be the chief minister. "Our alliance is with the PPA and at

this juncture, I would like to appeal to the PPA that for the development of the state for the security of the state. There should not be any such clash between the PPA legislator," he said. According to sources, Peoples' Party of Arunachal (PPA) MLA Takam Pario is likely to be the next chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh after Khandu was

suspended temporarily last night. Khandu, his deputy Chowna Mein and five other legislators of ruling PPA government were suspended temporarily for alleged anti-party activities. Khandu, who became chief minister in July after exiting from the Congress along with 42 other MLAs to join the PPA in September.

### Supreme Court rejects plea challenging Justice Khehar's elevation as CJI

**New Delhi, Dec. 30:** A plea by a group of lawyers challenging the elevation of Justice J S Khehar as the next Chief Justice of India (CJI) was dismissed today by the Supreme Court which asserted that there was "no question" of him being considered ineligible for the post. The apex court rejected the arguments that Justice Khehar, while heading a five-judge constitution bench that had struck down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), had benefitted himself as the judgement had revived the collegium system for appointment of judges in the higher judiciary. While disapproving the grounds for entertaining the PIL, a bench of Justices R K Agrawal and D Y Chandrachud noted that there were averments in the petition praising the "quality" of the judge who is to be sworn as CJI on January 4. "Since the petitioners have praised the quality of Justice J S Khehar, there is no question of him being considered ineligible for being appointed as the Chief Justice of India," the bench said. "So far as this allegation is concerned, it is sufficient to mention that collegium not only

consist of the CJI but also four other senior-most judges of the Supreme Court," the bench said. The apex court also said that as far as correctness of the NJAC case judgement is concerned, "we are of the opinion that petitioner has the right to apply for review or file curative petition". "We do not find any merit in the

petition and the same is dismissed," the bench said while rejecting the plea filed by National Lawyers' Campaign for Judicial Transparency and Reforms. Advocate Mathews J Nedumpara, appearing for the lawyers' body, argued that the issue of judiciary's independence and appointment of judges was important and it was "painful" for

them to approach the apex court with such a petition. He claimed that judges in the higher judiciary were coming from "a few families only" and "it cannot be the exclusive domain of some persons". "This court has to listen to the critics. Democracy is all about criticism," he said, adding that Justice Khehar should refuse to become the next CJI.

### Takam Pario likely to be next Arunachal Pradesh chief minister

**ANI Guwahati, Dec. 30:** Peoples' Party of Arunachal (PPA) MLA Takam Pario is likely to be the next chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh. The final statement is yet to come out after the PPA meeting. On Thursday night, Pema Khandu, his deputy Chowna Mein and five other legislators of ruling PPA government were suspended temporarily for alleged anti-party activities. Khandu, who became chief minister in July after exiting from the Congress along with 42 other MLAs to join the PPA in September.

petition and the same is dismissed," the bench said while rejecting the plea filed by National Lawyers' Campaign for Judicial Transparency and Reforms. Advocate Mathews J Nedumpara, appearing for the lawyers' body, argued that the issue of judiciary's independence and appointment of judges was important and it was "painful" for

### Lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my Pension Payment order bearing A/C no. 0651010162722 issued by UBI Singjamei Branch on the way between Singjamei to Bazar on 24/12/2016. Finders are requested to handover it to the undersigned. Sd/- L. Pobrito Singh Singjamei Leishangthem Leikai

### High Security No. Plate lost

I, the undersigned, have lost High security no plate lost for my vehicle bearing Registration No. MN01AC 2727 on the way between Khurai popular High School to Lamlong Bazar on Dec. 28, 2016. Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned. Sd/- M. Sanjit Sharma Singjamei Wangma Bheigyabati Leikai Golimayum Leirak Contact No. 9862330718

**WHENEVER YOU SEE CONSTRUCTION AND MINING EQUIPMENTS, JUST THINK OF US**  
**A SOLUTION FOR EVERY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT**



**Automobile Engineering Works-1 R K WORKSHOP**  
 New Checkon Road, Purana Rajbari  
 Imphal East, Manipur - 795 001

Authorised dealer **BEML Limited**  
 (A Government of India Mini Ratna Company under Ministry of Defence)

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: [imphaltimes@gmail.com](mailto:imphaltimes@gmail.com). For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (O)