

Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, July 28, 2016

Discounting lives

The state government has gone and done it - yet again! The acquired and most contagious habit of making impulsive decisions on matters which are bound to have repercussions beyond its limited ability to control or concur with, despite the simmering social tensions and uncertainties brought about by similar previous spurts of half-baked resolutions and announcements have once again brought the possibility of sparking another bout of unrest and agitations across the state. The unilateral decision of the Ibbi-led state government to trim down the list of fake encounter victims whose families are to be compensated as per the recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission from 34 to 28 is nothing but an invitation to the families of the bereaved as well as the civil society organizations and human rights activists at large to commence another bout of disruptions, agitations and social upheaval. It may be recalled that the National Human Rights Commission directed the state government to pay Rs 5 lakh each as compensation to the families of all 34 victims on 13 April 2015 after a government instituted magisterial inquiry to probe their deaths found every single case to be that of a 'Staged-encounter' or fake encounter. On December 8, 2015 the SC passed an order that compensation should be given by the State to the victims recommended by the NHRC. There was a delay by the State in giving the compensation amount and a fine of Rs 50,000 had been slapped by the SC in addition to the compensation amount of Rs 5 lakh. The turn of events in this particular sensitive case with wider social implications than the state government would care to give credence to clearly go to show the extent of deliberate negligence and callous attitude of the leaders of the state. What is more, such blatant disregard for human lives reflects the very core of the thinking of the state government and its approach towards dealing with the public, steeped as the government machinery and its operators are in buying off oppositions and bribing their way out of any uncomfortable situation. Meanwhile, the state being the social tinderbox that is, is sure to catch on to the simmering flare and we can expect the usual mode of venting collective frustrations. Another report of a father of a fake encounter victim being handed a cheque of Rs 4 lakh instead of the Rs 5.5 lakh as directed by the Supreme Court also points to the depth to which the representatives of the people have stooped down, all for a measly few lakh- an amount which would not have even covered a fraction of the expenses of a single family occasion of these leaders, as have witnessed more times than anyone would care to remember. Call it disregard or contempt of a ruling, the state government have a moral and social obligation to make transparent the rationale behind the decision to whittle down the list, if ever there is any rationality to talk of. The public does not need nor desire another social eruption. After all, the people of the state are more than a collection of individuals whose universal suffrage can be brought for a sum to make up the required number. That is the only universal truth the leaders should keep in mind.

Hardcore Maoist surrenders

PTI Malkangiri, July 28: A Maoist carrying a Rs four lakh reward on her head surrendered before the police in Malkangiri district today. More than 50 cases were pending in different police stations against 32-year-old Radha, who functioned as an 'area committee member' of Kalimela Maoist dalam, Superintendent of Police Mirabhawan Mohapatra said. She also used to operate the women's wing of Maoists, he said. Radha would now be rehabilitated in accordance with the surrender policy being followed for ultras who are giving up arms, he said. Radha's surrender is seen as a

major boost to the anti-Maoist operation in Odisha as it came a week after a dreaded Maoist couple carrying a combined reward of Rs nine lakh on their head and involved in many offences, including murder, surrendered before the police in Malkangiri. Sukhdev and wife Rukmini, involved in Maoist activities for over a decade, had surrendered before the Malkangiri SP on July 21. Meanwhile, security has been tightened in several Naxal-hit districts of Odisha including Koraput, Rayagada and Malkangiri in view of the Maoists' plan to observe the week as Martyrs week till August 3.

NE states reeling under grip of ATM fraud

Technological advancement may not always be a boon for the recipients, especially in cases when it poses a threat to a person's privacy. In an era where everything is dependent on technology, from waking up in the morning to ending the day at night, from ordering a food to shopping online, do we ever think how much risk does this online culture pose to our privacy? That being said, everytime we make online payments of our shopping bills, how certain are we about the safety of our ATM pin-code or the customer password? Are we always 100% assured that no third party will encroach upon our vital information that may risk us our entire savings? Can we trust the net banking system of our respective banks when we log

into them from our cell phones or computers that no other person will get access to our Account number, phone number or even the pin? Questions like these and more constantly haunt our minds, but the easy online culture is so enticing that it does not fail to keep us away from itself for long and hence, every minute, we are susceptible to a risk that may befall upon us any unfortunate hour as in the cases cited in police records. As per recent records, it was seen that Rs. 45,000 was debited from the SBI account of one Ashok Mukherjee as per his police complaint on July 1. Earlier, on June 28, one Raj Kumar Sen Thangkhiel lodged a complaint that he received a phone call from one Rahul Sharma who

identified himself as the Branch Manager of SBI and asked the victim for his ATM details. The very next day, Raj Kumar found that Rs. 37,000 had been debited from his account. These are only a few out of the innumerable cases cited in police records. Two ATM hackers were arrested by Dhubri police in Assam in July 9. The gang has already withdrawn over Rs 4 crore from different ATMs in Assam. In most cases, the gullible people are asked to give their ATM details over phone by perpetrators who claim to be bank officials. Despite various awareness programmes carried out not only by the state police but also by the banks, such as SBI, the people seem to fall an easy prey to these miscreants.

It may be worthy to mention in this regard that Meghalaya police has received innumerable complaints of fraudsters who cheat the public by sending them false offers through emails, messages, letters and even phone calls. Moreover, various cases whereby huge sums of money have been withdrawn from people's personal bank accounts by collecting their ATM details are piling up despite various awareness campaigns. It is high time we start apprising our friends and family of such fraud calls and not give in to this menace. It is only when we help each other to be aware can we collectively overcome these fraudsters who are always on the lookout for easy money thereby depriving innocent, ignorant people of their hard-earned money. (Courtesy NP)

National & International News

Curfew lifted from Kashmir except Anantnag town

PTI Srinagar, July 28: Curfew was today lifted from across Kashmir, barring Anantnag town, following improvement in situation, a day after it was re-imposed in parts of the Valley to thwart a separatist march to Kulgam district. "There is no curfew anywhere in the Valley except Anantnag town of south Kashmir," a police official said. He said the restrictions on movement of people have been lifted in view of the improving situation. "The situation throughout the

Valley remained peaceful and under control yesterday. There was no report of any untoward incident from anywhere in the Valley," the official said. Yesterday, the authorities re-imposed curfew in entire Kulgam district and Anantnag town as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order. Curfew had also been imposed in five police station areas of Srinagar city — Khanayar, Rainawari, Maharaj Gunj, Safa Kadal and Nowhatta — while restrictions were imposed on assembly of four or more persons in jurisdiction of Maisuma and

Kralkhud police stations. However, the official said, there were no restrictions in the city today. The postpaid mobile telephony services have been restored across all networks in the Valley where 47 persons have died in violent clashes between protesters and security forces following the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani on July 8. The incoming facility on prepaid connections has also been restored, but the outgoing calls are barred on such numbers, the official said.

He said no decision yet has been taken on the resumption of mobile internet services in the Valley. Meanwhile, normal life remained paralysed for the 20th consecutive day today in view of the strike called by the separatist camp. Schools, colleges and business establishments remained closed due to the strike while public transport remained off roads. Attendance in government offices was very thin, the official said. Two policemen were among those killed in the violence while 5,500 people, including over 3,000 security personnel, have been injured.

Dubai-Kozhikode Indigo flight makes emergency landing in Mumbai after passenger creates ruckus

PTI Mumbai, July 28: An IndiGo flight from Dubai to Kozhikode made an emergency landing at the Mumbai airport Thursday morning following alleged unruly behaviour of a passenger. "An IndiGo flight from Dubai to Kozhikode made an emergency landing at Mumbai airport at 0915 hrs due to unruly behaviour of a passenger," a Mumbai airport official said. "After offloading them, the flight

took off to its scheduled destination at 1050 hrs," he said. The airport police said one passenger has been detained for questioning. However, the official denied reports that the passenger raised pro-ISIS slogans. The details of the detained passenger were awaited. In a statement, IndiGo airlines confirmed the diversion of its flight (Dubai-Kozhikode) to Mumbai this morning on grounds of unruly behaviour on board.

A little before landing, a passenger seated on 5D (who was accompanied by his brother) suddenly started misbehaving with the crew. He jumped on the forward cart (which is used for food and onboard merchandise) and sat on it. The crew immediately informed the Captain-in-command and the lead crew. The crew politely requested the passenger to step down from the cart and he obliged. After stepping down from the cart, the passenger suddenly got violent

and started physically abusing the co-passenger, IndiGo said. Taking precautionary measure, the Captain immediately informed the Air Traffic control (ATC) and the ground security staff about the situation onboard. The flight made the precautionary landing at the Mumbai airport where this passenger was handed over to the CISF for further investigations. The matter is now with the local authorities, the airline further said.

Joint Team Inspects Flood Affected Areas of Namsai and Changlang in Arunachal

Arunachal, July 28: A joint administrative team inspected the flood affected areas of Namsai and Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday and surveyed the entire bank of Noa Dihing River from Diyun to Innao. The team led by Chow Kyaseng Mounghang and Lalaja Singhpo surveyed the areas along with PRIs members and public leaders from both the districts. The team will propose to the state government for funds to carry out immediate measures to control the

situation. They will also apprise the Deputy Chief Minister for deputing the concerned department for their survey and preparation of proposals. The recent floods in Arunachal Pradesh has left a trail of devastation which could be seen as flood water has started to recede in many places now. Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein during his recent visit to flood-affected areas had directed the district administration to form the joint inspection team from Namsai and Changlang to conduct a thorough survey of the areas.

Aid and support for flood affected people has started to pour-in with the members of All Namsai Area Youth Association led by its president Chow Tichanang Singkai and general secretary Chow Rajana Manpoong distributing food items, packaged drinking water, ORS and clothes to flood-affected people at Lekang. Similarly, the Namsai Women Welfare Society has also provided relief materials to the flood victims at Jenglai Relief Camp, Piyoung circle. In an effort to bring smile to grief stricken flood victims

of Namsai, Lilly R Jamoh, assistant professor at Dera Natung Government College and Nobin Jamoh contributed cash amounting towards the victims. "Director C.T.Bhunia responded to my appeal and donated the amount when I went there today for my dustbin Installation programme", said Lilly. The amount was deposited in account of All Namsai District Students Union, she added. Lilly R Jamoh is well known face in Itanagar who has been distributing homemade dustbins in various institutions and important places in the capital region in an effort to create awareness on cleanliness among the masses.

Amid Sharp India-Pak Tension, Rajnath Singh to Visit Islamabad Next Week

New Delhi, July 28: Amid searing tension with Pakistan, Home Minister Rajnath Singh will fly on Wednesday to Islamabad to attend a summit of SAARC, which has eight South Asian countries as members. India has accused Pakistan of instigating the violence that tore through Kashmir over the last few weeks after 22-year-old terrorist Burhan Wani was shot dead, triggering outrage among residents. Pakistan has eulogized Wani as a martyr and accused India of the blatant use of excessive force and violation of human rights in the Kashmir Valley in attempts to curb the huge demonstrations and attacks on


police stations and security force bases. In its most aggressive comments in recent months, India on Saturday retaliated by warning Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that his "dream of Kashmir becoming Pakistan" will not be realized even "to the end of eternity". Pakistan's "unabashed embrace of terrorism" and its use of "dirty money" were highlighted by Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj as she stressed, "All of Kashmir belongs to India." More than 45 people have died and nearly 3,000 left injured as civilians and stone-throwing protestors clashed with security forces after

Wani was shot on the night of July 8. Recruited by the terror group Hizbul Mujahideen when he was in his teens, Wani rose quickly through the ranks to become a top commander of Kashmir's largest terror group, successfully using social media to recruit other young men like himself who say the state has ignored their rights and needs. In January, Pakistani terrorists crossed the border in Punjab for an audacious attack on the Pathankot Air Force Base that killed seven military personnel. The assault lasted nearly three days, and resulted in the cancellation of high-level talks scheduled between India and Pakistan.

Man detained for unruly conduct on Indigo flight

Mumbai, July 28: An Indigo airlines Dubai-Calicut flight was diverted to Mumbai on Thursday after a passenger's "unruly behaviour", an official said. A Mumbai Police spokesperson said the passenger was detained for "his unruly behaviour" on the flight but denied that he had raised slogans supposedly hailing the Islamic State. The passenger was handed over to the airport police around 9.15 am. The flight departed about an hour later minus the offloaded passenger, airport sources said.

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