

Editorial

Imphal, Friday, June 17, 2016

Responsibilities before rights

The increasing participation of the general public in the governance can be visibly seen and is a positive sign of growing awareness amongst the public and their just demand for the implementation of the rights and privileges as bestowed on them by the Indian constituency. This has led to various welcome changes in the system of governance and the people in power are becoming more wary of committing or abusing their powers and privileges to gain financial and other material gains thus making the government more alert and stricter, though a lot more needs to be done to make things ideal- at least it's a start. The indictment of former Haryana Chief minister of five terms, Om Prakash Chautala, his son and other officials who were hand in glove in the state teacher's appointment scam, arrest of Suresh Kalmadi (MP from Pune) who is being tried for financial misappropriation as the chairman of the Commonwealth Games Organising committee-2010 and various other cases are reminders of the once lethargic and archaic legal system making an impressive effort of catching up with the times. These incidents and developments point to the undeniable fact that the country is changing and the force behind this change is none other than the general public- common people who have learnt the wily ways of those in positions of power and influence, and are starting to assert their rightful place in the scheme of things. But one thing still yet to be seen, amongst all these inspiring changes is the discharge of our responsibilities as citizens. Demanding and agitating for our rights, sometimes to the extent of inflicting damages to the unwary and incidental persons and properties is a common enough scenario- common enough in fact to be taken for granted, yet deep down, it would not be out of place to say that so much leaves to be desired from the public when it comes to doing our bit as individuals and as a collective group. Our efforts and actions still fall short of the required level in almost every sphere, for which most of us again tries and put the blame on others. It is now the time to start discharging our duties towards society as individuals and as a collective unit. Blaming the Government alone- which has a lot to be blamed for, no doubt, without being proactive about our duties will only widen the chasm and create more mistrust and accusations which will eventually affect the workings of the system and the development works being carried out- albeit unsatisfactorily and unconvincingly as of now. Different methods of agitating and demanding our rights and priorities should be explored and put to use lest another person's rights and liberties will be infringed upon. Stopping or disrupting of developmental works and activities meant for the welfare of the general public will delay and deprive ourselves of the benefits we so rightly deserve. Vigilantism and mob culture should make way for lawful and reasonable representations. An atmosphere of mutual trust and respect between the Government and the public will be able to balance the equation of an ideal society, waiting for handouts and aids, and more recently snatching and pilfering other's hard earned wealth without any effort to contribute to the society will ensure the downfall and disgrace of ourselves and the society of which we as well as our loved ones are an integral part of.

JKLF chairman Yasin Malik arrested for addressing an election boycott rally

Pampore, June 17: Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Yasin Malik, who was en-route Anantnag for addressing an election boycott rally, has been arrested by the police. The separatists have called for boycotting the upcoming by-elections in Anantnag constituency from where Jammu

and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti is contesting. Asserting that this election process is against the interests of Kashmiris, Malik had earlier urged the people to keep away from by-polls to be held in holy month of Ramadan. The seat was left vacant after the death of former chief minister Mufti Muhammad Sayeed.

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Should I blame on Google or Manipur Government?

By: Naorem Mohen
 "Where is Leimram Waterfall?" a tourist asked me. I replied back without a moment of pause, "Bishnupur district". It was not the right answer. Some says it's in Senapati district, some says in SADAR Hills and some says in Imphal West too. Searching on Google will show different data and references. Should I blame on Google or State Government? Why so much confusion and why the government of Manipur silent? Improper documentation and records will flare up tensions and even paved ways for communal riots. Recent incident in Thoubal districts where signboards with Chandel district being destroyed and even mob exhorts to violence by dismantling properties and harassing the innocent people must be taken seriously. This will not be the end, if swift actions are not taken up by the authorities. It is the fault of government and they should accept the fact for review and reprimand the culprits. A man has the right to cast votes in Saikul Assembly Constituency in Senapati District; his MGNREGS job card is registered in Ukhrul

district and when it comes to open a bank account, Pin Code of some Imphal East post office is used. It seems the election office has a separate register; the settlement office, post office, and even the Panchayat office in the state have their own separate registry books. Publishing a white paper is highly recommended from the government side at the earliest. If a child is born somewhere in a Quarter around the Game village, will the birth certificate be registered with Imphal West or Senapati district? Why so much errors in the administration of the present government. Recently, several kuki villages came up around the Langol Game Village and Langol Housing Complexes. These villages have their own name and districts of their preferences, off the records of the government of Manipur. Definitely there will be a big misunderstanding among the adjoining villagers if the authorities remain a mute spectator. Similarly, new villages in Keithelmanbi, Yaingangpokpi, Singda and Sangaiporou have come up in the last few decades.

They should not be harassed and discriminate them due to the failure of our administration. State leaders must see that their rights - freedom to live, express and religions be secured for peaceful co-existence among the communities. Tangkhul Villages like Hongman Tangkhul and Wunghon which are around 22 kilometers from Imphal Capital often treated as a village in the Imphal East district of Manipur, due to its proximity with other villages in the Imphal East district. However, administrative establishments and voting rights have different districts. Imagine the pain of people living there when the domicile or the residential certificates need to be produced for student's admission and other official proof of identity. When will the present state government try to understand such problems and solve the issues seriously? Another important issue which is to be taken up is the renaming of different villages in Manipur. We must be proud to revive our lost cultures, heritage and traditions to keep our rich civilization intact for the future generations. We have seen many agitations for renaming

of the Ima keithel and other important places. If we are so concerned about our cultures, we must also show respect for other cultures and communities. Why should we interfere in the process of renaming other community's villages and places in their own rights? I did not find any name called "HONGMAN TANGKHUL" in Google search, but I find the same place if I typed in "KHONGBAL TANGKHUL"; I did not find "RAMVAI" or "OKNAOPOKPI" either. But these places are found out easily if I changed to "LAMBUI" and "YAINGANGPOKPI". This is gross discrimination of our society, forced Meiteisation and failed government policies. We must allow other communities to survive and breathe the air we are enjoying. The civil society organization working for the benefit of Valley based people must understand that sweet words will not satisfy or bring reformation in the region. We have to show by work and prove by action how much we want to bring peace and development in both hills and valley.

National & International News

Jammu Kashmir government revokes suspension of Internet services across state

Jammu, June 17: The ruling PDP-BJP government in Jammu and Kashmir has revoked the suspension of broadband internet services in the state. Earlier, describing incidents of sacrilege at two temples in Jammu city in less than 48 hours as a "well planned conspiracy to flare up situation" ahead of the Amarnath yatra in South Kashmir, the government had suspended internet services across the state. Pawan Kotwal, divisional commissioner, Jammu, described the incidents of sacrilege at Roopnagar and Nanak Nagar temple "a big, big conspiracy" to "flare up communal tension ahead of Amarnath yatra".

Pointing out that the accused held at Nanak Nagar was talking to someone on a cell phone while committing the crime, he said, "We are trying to find out as to with whom he was in touch at that time." Identified as Gurbachan Singh alias Minta, a suspended constable of Jammu Kashmir police, who kicked the Shiva idol at Nanak Nagar temple on Thursday evening, he was overheard telling someone on his cell phone, "I have done the task...now deposit money in my account." Singh was later detained under Public Safety Act on orders of the District Magistrate, Jammu,

Simrandeep Singh. The police and local people said he was a drug addict and he was suspended two years ago as he used to remain under inebriated conditions even during duty hours. This is second such incident in less than 48 hours in Jammu city after a similar sacrilegious act was committed by a youth from Doda. Identified as Yasir Alfaz, he was stated to be of "unsound mind" by his family members. Though he was arrested by police, angry people attacked Janipura police station and torched vehicles including buses. Nearly two dozen people were rounded up by police who resorted to cane charge and

lobbed teargas shells to disperse them. While all the 22 people held during arson were released unconditionally, the state government has ordered medical examination of Yasir by a Board of Doctors to find out whether he was of unsound mind and needed psychiatric treatment. People committing such acts may be of unsound mind or even addicted to drugs, but there must be someone who may have used them, said a police officer who wished not to be named. "We have to unearth this conspiracy before people involved in it do something more," he added.

Militant killed in encounter

PTI Srinagar, June 17: A militant was killed today in an ongoing encounter with security forces in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, police said. Security forces launched an anti-militancy operation in Bomai area of Sopore this morning following information about presence of militants in the area, a police official said. He said militants opened fire on the advancing security forces, who retaliated. In the ensuing gunfight, one militant has been killed. The official said the operation was in progress when reports last came in.

Suspected IS sympathiser gets NIA custody till 23/6

PTI Mumbai, June 16: A special court today remanded to NIA custody till June 23, Mohsin Sheikh, who had left him his home in suburban Malwani here, allegedly to join ISIS. Sheikh and two others had gone missing in December last year after another youth Ayaz Sultan's disappearance in October. Sultan had reportedly reached Syria and joined ISIS. Sheikh was arrested from Delhi in

February by the local police and the case was transferred to NIA. A case was registered in Mumbai NIA against Sheikh and the local court issued production warrant against him, after which he was brought from Delhi. In the court, NIA today said that Sheikh was involved in instigating and influencing Muslim youths in suburban Malwani in Mumbai on the instructions of a Syria-based handler. NIA also said that he provided

logistical support to another accused Rizwan during his Mumbai visit, arranged accommodation and SIM card. The remand application said that Moshin visited Hubli in Karnataka, Hyderabad and Chennai. He also took two persons with intention to make them join jihadi organisations in India having affiliations to ISIS. The court accepting the NIA's request remanded him to the agency custody for eight days.

Russia bombing US-backed rebels in Syria: US official

Washington, June 17: Russia has bombed US-backed fighters in southern Syria, according to a US official in Washington, who said the aggressive action by Moscow raises "serious concern." "Today, Russian aircraft conducted a series of air strikes near al-Tanf against Syrian Counter-ISISIL forces that included individuals who have received US support," said the senior defence official yesterday, who requested anonymity. "Russian aircraft have not been active in this area of southern Syria for some time, and there were no Syrian regime or Russian ground forces in the vicinity," the official said. It was not known how many fighters were struck and the extent of casualties or which group they belonged to. The US military launched a USD 500 million program in early 2015 to train elite units of "moderate" Syrians to fight ISIS jihadists. But the program drew

heavy fire last fall after admitting the efforts had floundered, with numbers of trainees falling massively short of the planned 5,000. One group even handed over ammunition and other gear to a local Al-Qaeda affiliate, known as the Al-Nusra Front. Since then, the Pentagon's new strategy is to work with just a handful of members from each fighting group, instead of an entire unit. Much of the attention is being focused on the Syrian Democratic Forces, a largely Kurdish coalition that has scored some significant gains against IS jihadists. The CIA has also been involved in training Syrian rebels, though the secretive agency has not officially provided any details of its efforts. The bombing would likely further strain already tenuous ties between Moscow and Washington on the Syrian issue. "Russia's latest actions raise serious concern about Russian intentions. We will seek an

explanation from Russia on why it took this action and assurances this will not happen again," the defence official said. Russia and the United States co-chair a 22-nation group that supports a UN-led process to end Syria's five-year civil war through a negotiated deal. On Wednesday, US Secretary of State John Kerry told Russia and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to respect a fragile ceasefire, warning that Washington's patience was running out. World powers have failed to turn the cessation of hostilities, in effect since February 27, into a durable truce and Damascus has stepped up its military campaign against the Islamic State group and rebels, especially in the city of Aleppo. The US has accused Russia of working to consolidate the regime of Assad, its ally, and continuing to attack the opposition.