

Editorial

Imphal, Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Embellished credential

The ruling of the high court of Manipur nullifying the result of the 2012 state assembly election for seating MLA Prithviraj of Moirang AC for submitting fake affidavit comes as a huge psychological succour for the much misled and deceived public of the state. The verdict however, is just a precursor to the much anticipated saga of a privileged yet immature mind trying to impress everyone for no apparent reason, but then, that could just have been the problem- that he does lack the mental faculty to understand that he does not need to impress anyone with his embellished credentials. What must definitely follow in this sordid case will surely be remembered for its folly for according to the criteria laid down by the Election Commission of India, there is no minimum educational qualification for contesting the state legislative assembly election even though certain other criteria are still to be fulfilled.

As expected, the court ruling raised more serious concerns as well as questions which will have a direct impact on the next state assembly election which is just around the corner, and therefore has to be answered with increased immediacy. Since the submission or supply of fake documents is an offence committed deliberately and knowingly, the act must compulsorily attract punitive action, and the public is eagerly awaiting the verdict of the court in this regard with a feeling of anticipation tinged with cynicism. More importantly, the discredited people's representative have managed to make a mockery of the people and the system while enjoying the perks and facilities that comes with his elected position, including the emoluments till then. What will be done in this regard, or what are the steps the authorities will be taking up is one issue which will be keenly followed by the public, not only because this case serves as a classic example of willful deceit and deliberate fraud of the system which has taken more than two years to bring the truth out and the legal verdict of such act, but also because the inexplicable delay in justice is viewed as a lacuna in the legal system which presents a real and present danger for other prospective fraudsters desperate enough for fame or fortune- or both, to try their luck. While the final step regarding the case rests with the legal and other concern authorities, it must always be kept in mind that the ultimate power in a society rests with the general public which certain politicians and public figures are either deceiving or scheming to, and any sense of protracted injustice or deliberate miscarriage of justice will only succeed in fomenting trouble and unrest. "Open-and-shut" cases where the allegations could have been obtained in a couple of days should be dispensed of at the earlier, especially for cases that insult the collective intelligence of the affable public who are no longer naive onlookers.

Armed robbers loot Rs 17 lakh from bank; 4 injured

PTI Siwan, Mar 1: Armed robbers today looted around Rs 17 lakh before shooting at and wounding four persons at the Punjab National Bank (PNB) branch in Deendayal bazar in Bihar's Siwan district, a police officer said. ASP Arvind Kumar Gupta said that four armed robbers stormed the PNB branch at around 11.30 A.M and fired at four persons comprising three bank employees and a customer, leaving them injured before looting approximately Rs 17 lakh in cash. Two robbers stood guard outside the bank while their four associates committed the heist, he said. The injured have been taken to Sadar hospital for treatment, Gupta said. A case has been registered in this connection and a suspect has been detained for questioning, the ASP said, adding raids are being carried out to arrest the culprits.

12 killed in Shawal area of Waziristan

ANI Peshawar, March.01: Pakistan security forces have claimed to have killed 12 militants in Shawal area of North Waziristan while advancing to capture strategic points in the valley adjoining the Afghan border. The Dawn reported that the suspected militants, including a commander identified as Hezbollah, were killed when planes bombed and destroyed three hideouts. Hezbollah was affiliated with the Sheheryar group of Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan. The claims could not be verified through independent sources. Officials said that ground troops were advancing into the militants' strongholds and had captured Kund Ghar and Jung Top so far. The offensive was launched last week after Army chief General Raheel Sharif ordered troops to eliminate the hideouts.

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National & International News

Pollution in northern India affecting Bengal

PTI Kolkata, March 01: Scientists have found out that polluted air generated in industries in northern India travel over 2000 km to reach the hills of Darjeeling and islands of Sundarbans in West Bengal. A huge and thick mass of air carrying particulate matter (PM) of less than 2 micrometre travels to West Bengal under the influence of the strong north-westerly winds. Abhijit Chatterjee, an environmental scientist at Bose Institute here told PTI. Travelling at a speed of about 20 km per hour, the soot or black carbon takes four days to cover a distance of about 2000 km between northern India and parts of West Bengal, he said. Under a research project, a team of scientists from the institute, installed aethalometers in Sundarbans and Darjeeling and have been monitoring the quality of air since the last few years.

"Black carbon concentration over Sundarban was found to be around 15 microgram per cubic meter of air which is quite high for a remote and virgin island. In Darjeeling, the average concentration was 3.5 microgram per cubic meter which is also high compared to a high altitude hill station in the Himalayas," he said. In Darjeeling, the researchers analysed the origin of the soot and found that 43 per cent did not originate locally.

In the riverine Sundarbans there are hardly any local sources of pollution. "We have analysed that 60 per cent of soot in Sundarbans is from Kolkata, both vehicular and industrial emissions, while 40 per cent is from industrially rich areas of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh," Chatterjee, who is also the station-in-charge of National Facility on Astroparticle Physics and Space Science, Darjeeling said.

5 Women Among 8 Maoists Slain on Telangana-Chhattisgarh Border

Khammam, March 01: CPI (Maoist) Telangana state secretary Harihbhushan is believed to have been killed along with seven other Maoists, including five women, in an encounter with the police of Telangana and Chattisgarh in a forested area on the interstate border on Tuesday morning. The encounter was a joint operation by the Telangana Greyhounds, the Chhattisgarh police and central security forces. Senior police officers of either state were unable to confirm whether Harihbhushan was among the slain Maoists. They said an identification experts of the Greyhounds anti-naxalite force was expected to go to the site to confirm the identity. Police also gave out conflicting details about the site of the encounter. Local reports said the encounter took place on the interstate border between Telangana and Chhattisgarh near Cherala in Pamed police station limits in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh. According to the Bastar inspector-general of police Siva Rama Prasad Kalluru, a joint police team launched a combing operation in the area after receiving specific information about the movement of the CPI (Maoist) Telangana state secretary Harihbhushan and guerilla squad

commander Kunja Veeranna alias Lakshma alias Lachchanna and other leaders of CPI (Maoist). "After spotting the Maoists, the police asked them to surrender, but the Maoists opened fire, prompting retaliation by the police in which eight naxalites were killed," said Kalluru. The police recovered an AK-47, three SLRs and several .303 rifles and ammunition from the spot. From the discovery of an AK 47, police are deducing that Harihbhushan was among the Maoists. While the local police hesitated to confirm the death of Harihbhushan, they confirmed that Lachchana was

indeed killed in the gunfight. Local reports said another major Maoist leader Bader Chokka Rao alias Damodar too escaped. The bodies of the eight slain Maoists were scheduled to be airlifted by helicopter to the Bhadrachalam government hospital, according to police sources. Three helicopters of the Border Security Force were requisitioned at Bhadrachalam to airlift the bodies. One chopper landed at a school ground in the temple town to stock up on food packets to be supplied to the Greyhounds personnel still at the encounter site. Police are continuing combing operations in the area.

Railways to augment amenities for differently abled

ANI New Delhi, Mar. 01: Indian Railways has said that it plans to introduce several facilities in 'A-1', 'A' and 'B' category stations to provide better amenities for patients and differently abled passengers. Information in this regard was given out by MoS Railways Manoj Sinha in the Rajya Sabha on Saturday. The Railways would introduce a standard ramp to ensure barrier free entry for the differently abled. It would also identify at least at least two parking lots specially reserved for them. A non-slippery walk-way from parking lot to building has also been proposed along with the use of signage with appropriate visibility. The Railways proposes to have at

least one dedicated toilet on the ground floor and at least one drinking water tap suitable for use by differently-abled persons. A 'may I help you' booth is also going to be introduced at the stations for their convenience. In addition to these initiatives, a provision for inter-platform transfer and engravings on edges of platform are also likely to be introduced shortly.

Social service by Assam Rifles

IT News Imphal, March. 01: 20 Assam Rifles of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) provided purified drinking water to St Joseph's High School in Chandul district of Manipur state on 26 Feb 2016. This committed effort of the Assam Rifles will go a long way in strengthening the security force-local populace bonding. The School was suffering due to lack of drinking water facilities. Sensing the requirement 20 Assam Rifles swung into action and provided drinking water to the school and villagers. School authority, civil administration and parents of students expressed their gratitude to the Assam Rifles for providing purified water to the school.

Highlights of Union Budget 2016-17-1

Affirming that the economy is right on track, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley presented the Union Budget for 2016-17. Citing that the CPI inflation has come down to 5.4% from 9 plus, he said it is huge relief for the public.

Tax
 Infrastructure and agriculture cess to be levied.
 Excise duty raised from 10 to 15 per cent on tobacco products other than beedis
 1 per cent service charge on purchase of luxury cars over Rs. 10 lakh and in-cash purchase of goods and services over Rs. 2 lakh.
 SUVs, Luxury cars to be more expensive. 4% high capacity tax for SUVs.
 Companies with revenue less than Rs 5 crore to be taxed at 29% plus surcharge
 Limited tax compliance window from Jun 1 - Sep 30 for declaring undisclosed income at 45% incl. surcharge and penalties
 Excise 1 per cent imposed on articles of jewellery, excluding silver.
 0.5 per cent Krishi Kalyan Cess to be levied on all services.
 Pollution cess of 1 per cent on small petrol, LPG and CNG cars; 2.5 per cent on diesel cars of certain specifications; 4 per cent on higher-end models.
 Dividend in excess of Rs. 10 lakh per annum to be taxed at additional 10 per cent.

Personal Finance
 No changes have been made to existing income tax slabs
 Rs 1,000 crore allocated for new EPF (Employees' Provident Fund) scheme Govt. will pay EPF contribution of 8.33% for all new employees for first three years
 Deduction for rent paid will be raised from Rs 20,000 to Rs 60,000 to benefit those living in rented houses.
 Additional exemption of Rs. 50,000 for housing loans up to Rs. 35 lakh, provided cost of house is not above Rs. 50 lakh.
 Service tax exempted for housing construction of houses less than 60 sq. m
 15 per cent surcharge on income above Rs. 1 crore
Social
 Rs. 38,500 crore for Mahtma Gandhi MGNREGA for 2016-17
 Swachh Bharat Abhiyan allocated Rs.9,500 crores.
 Hub to support SC/ST entrepreneurs Government is launching a new initiative to provide cooking gas to BPL families with state support.
 LPG connections to be provided under the name of women members of family: Rs 2000 crore allocated for 5 years for BPL families.
 2.87 lakh crore grants to gram panchayats and municipalities - a quantum jump of 228%.
 300 urban clusters to be set up under Shyama Prasad Mukherji Urban Mission
 Four schemes for animal welfare.
Health
 2.2 lakh renal patients added every year in India. Basic dialysis equipment gets some relief.
 A new health protection scheme for health cover upto 1 lakh per family.
 National Dialysis Service Prog with funds thru PPP model to provide dialysis at all district hospitals.
 Senior citizens will get additional healthcare cover of Rs 30,000 under the new scheme
 PM Jan Aushadhi Yojana to be strengthened, 300 generic drug store to be opened
Education
 Scheme to get Rs.500 cr for promoting entrepreneurship among SC/ST 10 public and 10 private educational institutions to be made world-class.
 Digital repository for all school leaving certificates and diplomas. Rs. 1,000 crore for higher education financing.

Meanwhile, there are provisions of providing wheel chairs at stations currently. This facility is provided, duly escorted by porters (on payment) as per present practice. Moreover, zonal railways have been authorized to introduce 'battery operated vehicles' at major railway stations for disabled, old aged and sick passengers on first come first served basis.

HPCL launches Milcy campaign

Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL), India's largest lube marketer and base oil producer has launched a nation-wide campaign, aimed at owners, drivers, retailers and mechanics of diesel vehicles. This integrated outreach campaign will target nearly 50 tier I and tier II cities in 90 days. The main aim of the campaign is to educate consumers on the benefits of the premium quality engine oils. The campaign consists of various educative engagement activities with people including a skit, games and quizzes. "India is driven by diesel engines. Across the nation trucks, buses, LCV's jeeps, tractors, cars etc. move people and goods. Due to the economical viability of diesel, there is growing demand for diesel engine vehicles. Globally there is a lot of research and innovation being conducted to increase efficiency of diesel engines. To enhance efficiency and improve performance, a good engine oil is important," stated an HPCL official. The HP Milcy range comprises technologically enhanced premium quality diesel engine oil known for its fast lubricating action for assured smoothness and high performance. With the enhance drain period, Milcy is a dependable companion for all class of diesel engines. The tag line for Milcy is *Diesel engine ka dumdaar year*. **About HPCL:** HPCL is a Government of India



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Enterprise with a Navratna Status, and a Forbes 2000 and Global Fortune 500 company. It had originally been incorporated as a company under the Indian Companies Act 1913. It is listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange (NSE), India. For the last 40 years and more, Hindustan Petroleum has meant different things to different people. For some it represents an abundant supply of Petrol and Diesel. For others it stands for the easy availability of LPG and lubricants. Thousands of others see in it an inexhaustible reservoir of Kerosene and other petroleum products for meeting their energy needs. For all of them HP signifies an ever-radiant source of energy. Energy, that is making a big difference to millions of lives. HP is all set to unveil an exciting new phase in its growth with diversification into oil Exploration and Production, Power Generation, Renewable Energy ventures and much more. Confident of Creating a Future full of Energy.