

# Editorial

Imphal, Monday, May 9, 2016

## The waiting game

Even as the state is making efforts to portray a semblance of normalcy, the bitter unspoken truth is that the brief interlude is nothing but the proverbial calm before the storm. If the past is any indication, we should be bracing ourselves for yet another bout of more intense social agitations, disruptions and mayhem. It is evident that the state administration on one side, and the agitating public spearheaded by the JCLIPS Manipur on the other have taken their unwavering stances, and thus the stage is set for a showdown that is guaranteed to shake the very foundation of the socio-political setup of the state and its agents. On the face of it, the announcement by the state government of its intentions of pursuing the matter of the three Bills passed unanimously by the state assembly last year in a bid to address the rising concern of the numerous civil society organizations, rights groups and the larger public in general on the burgeoning influx of migrants without a mechanism to effectively keep a check on them should be appreciated, even encouraged. The ground reality however has been proving different, much to the disappointment and chagrin of the public who have reposed their trust and faith on the empty verbiage of the state government. The All Political Parties meeting which is being convened to discuss the matter will most likely turn out to be a ploy to stall the pressure, as it only lays bare the complacent attitude of the government who only stirs when all other avenues have been exhausted. Nine months of inaction on an assurance intimately linked to the sentiments of the public will undoubtedly result in what the state is in today. There can be no other way, and the government, in all its accumulated wisdom should have foreseen the consequences. Yet here we are, back to square one, as always. Playing to the gallery is all well, but without the required political will to stand its ground when the necessity arises, no political party worth its name should expect the respect and loyalty from the public they so desperately require for the very survival. Money and muscle-power might succeed in inducing temporary amnesia for a section of the public for a little while, but at the end of the day, self-worth and integrity will win hands down eventually. This goes also for every other political party bidding their time to grasp the opportunity of a reluctant and recalcitrant bunch of representatives who have turned their back on their promises and pawned the trust and faith of the public for personal enrichments. The dwindling public tolerance and increasing impatience should serve as a glaring sign for the state government to shore up its act and deliver what it has promised before all sensibilities, rationalities, laws and orders goes to the dogs; literally. It is time to wrap up the waiting game.

## Army recovers large quantity of ammunition in Rajouri sector

**ANI**  
**Srinagar, May 9:** The Indian Army has recovered a large quantity of arms, ammunition and explosive material during a search operation at Phulwari Gali in Rajouri sector in Jammu and Kashmir. According to reports, the troops conducted searches in Phulwari Gali after developing specific information about a dump of ammunition and explosives yesterday and after day-long searches, the troops recovered the

cache. Recoveries included one Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBGL), two magazines of Chinese pistol, one .22 pistol magazine, one electric detonator, nine detonators of No. 27, one grenade delay fuse, 1751 rounds of AK-47 rifles and 52 blank rounds of AK-47. After the recoveries, the troops conducted search operations in and around Phulwari Gali. However, no arrests were made from the spot.

## SC seeks Centre's reply on plea for CBI inquiry

**PTI**  
**New Delhi, May 9:** The Supreme Court today sought response from the Centre on a plea seeking CBI inquiry against Indian offshore bank account holders named in the Panama papers. A bench comprising justices Dipak Misra and Shiva Kirti Singh issued notices to Centre and the CBI on the petition filed by advocate M L Sharma. A Multi Agency Group (MAG) of various investigative agencies has been formed by the government to go into the disclosures made in the list which includes about 500 Indian entities. The Panama Papers leaks contain an unprecedented amount of information, including more than 11 million documents covering 2,10,000 companies in 21 offshore jurisdictions. Each transaction spans different jurisdictions and may involve multiple entities and individuals.

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## National & International News

# 10 killed, 31 still missing in China's landslide

**PTI**  
**Beijing, May 9:** At least 10 people have been killed while 31 others remain missing in a massive landslide that engulfed the construction site of a hydropower station in China's southeastern Fujian Province. Thirteen people who were rescued have been admitted to hospitals of which three are in serious condition. Search is on for 31 others who were reported missing. The mudslide occurred yesterday in Taining County, where about one lakh cubic meters of mud and rocks flowed downhill, burying a temporary shed at the hydropower station construction site and damaging its offices. Ten bodies have been retrieved out of the piles of mud. The bodies have not been identified yet. "We were still asleep when the mountains began to jolt very

strongly and before we know it, sand and mud are flowing into our room," said Deng Chunwu, who survived the landslide by hiding underneath a supporting pole along with three other people in their work camp. Deng added that their room has been pushed 10 meters further by the flowing mud. "It's been raining all the time over the past couple of days and I didn't think it was a big deal," Deng was quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency. The site under construction is an extension of the Chitan hydropower station, an affiliate of Huadian Fuxin Energy Limited Company. The construction of the hydropower plant began in November 2015 and is expected to get operationalised in August 2017. Rescuers are also working to clear the roads leading to the landslide site after multiple cave-ins.



Boulders, mud and twisted steel bars are scattered around the landslide site. Sniffer dogs are working alongside over 600 rescuers to help detect any signs of life from the debris. Dozens of excavators are digging through the pile, the report said. Dozens of ambulances and army

vehicles are on standby should anyone be uncovered from the debris. Intermittent rainfalls have complicated the rescue efforts. Authorities said precipitation in Taining is 35 per cent higher than historical average since this year. In the last 24 hours, precipitation has hit up to 215.7 mm in parts of Taining, triggering landslide.

## Kanhaiya writes open letter to Irani, calls her 'anti-rational' mother

**PTI**  
**New Delhi, May 9:** JNU students union president Kanhaiya Kumar, who is out on bail in a sedition case, wrote an open letter to HRD Minister Smriti Irani on Sunday, on the occasion of Mother's Day, and asked how a "mother" can punish her children on the basis of biased probe reports and doctored videos. Referring to the university investigation report of the controversial February 9 event during which anti-national slogans were allegedly raised, Kanhaiya, who has been attacking Irani for her reference to all students as her children, said in the letter, "we are trying hard to study in the warmth of your motherly love. Under your reign, we are learning how to study

despite police canes and hunger". In an open letter with sarcastic overtones, the 29-year-old researcher referred to Irani as "anti-rational" mother of "anti-nationals" and extended her Mother's day wishes on behalf of students. "Today a friend sent asked me how under Mr Modi's regime—where besides our own mother, we also have Mother Cow, Mother India, Mother Ganges and Mother Smriti—how could Rohit Vemula die. I am asking you this because I have no answer. The same anti-national friend also said that Mother Smriti's ministry sent several letters to punish Rohit and was also responsible for withholding his fellowship for

seven months," he said in the letter. "In a great country like India, can a mother force drive her child to suicide? Can a mother accept punishments on her children based on doctored videos and a biased probe? Your children, starving for 11 days, are asking you this question. Please reply, if you find the time. The friend also called you an 'anti-rational mother of anti-nationals'. I hope you will prove this allegation false in your factual reply," he added. Meanwhile, the indefinite hunger strike by JNU students in protest against the punishments awarded by university in connection with the Afzal Guru event, ended 11th day on Sunday. Kanhaiya had

withdrawn from the fast last week after his health deteriorated and he had to undergo treatment for dehydration and ketosis at AIIMS. So far, six students have withdrawn from the strike while 14 others are still continuing their fast. In celebration of mother's day at JNU, various mothers residing on campus and outsiders including an 80-year-old wheel chair bound woman, joined the fasting students by going on a one-day hunger strike in solidarity. ABVP member Saurabh Sharma, who was complainant of the February 9 event and has been slapped with a fine of Rs 10,000 for blocking traffic, started a donation campaign on Sunday to pay his penalty.

## PM Modi too scared to arrest Sonia Gandhi, claims Arvind Kejriwal

**New Delhi, May 9:** Launching a frontal attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said the Centre was "scared" of taking action against Congress president Sonia Gandhi in the AgustaWestland chopper scam. Addressing an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) protest at Jantar Mantar over the AgustaWestland scam, Kejriwal said: "Why is the central government not arresting Sonia Gandhi when she is involved in the AgustaWestland scam - because Modi does not have the courage to arrest her." Scores of AAP leaders along with their supporters protested at Jantar Mantar over the VVIP chopper bribery scam. Kejriwal said though the scam came to light two years ago the Modi government did not do any investigations. "What has the central government done in the last two years? Modi ji promised to fight against corruption

but he has betrayed the nation by not taking any action against the AgustaWestland scam accused," Kejriwal, the AAP National Convenor, said. He also lambasted the central government for not taking any action against Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra who faces several corruption charges. "During his election campaign in 2014, Modi would often talk about Vadra at his rallies. But what action has he taken against Vadra in the last two years? He can send CBI to raid my office but not to Vadra's office," Kejriwal said, addressing supporters. Kejriwal on Friday had taken potshots at the central government for not taking any action against the accused in the AgustaWestland scam. The bribery charges in the chopper deal has rocked parliament with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party at the Centre and the opposition Congress trading charges.

## One killed, 30 hurt as bus plunges into valley

**PTI**  
**Rajahmundry (AP), May 9:** A 55-year-old woman was today killed and 30 pilgrims injured when a bus they were travelling in plunged into a valley in the deep forest area of Mareduhilli in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh, police said. The mishap occurred in Rampachodavaram division of the district around 5 AM. The bus carrying 35 devotees from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh was returning after a pilgrimage to a Rama temple at Bhadrachalam in Telangana, Mareduhilli police station Sub-inspector D Ramesh Babu said. The victims were proceeding to

take a holy dip in Pushkar ghat of Godavari here when the mishap occurred. When the bus reached Tiger Camp in Mareduhilli forest area, the driver of the vehicle tried to negotiate a narrow curve and lost control over it, after which it fell into the valley, the sub-inspector said. He said 30 injured have been rushed to Rampachodavaram government hospital. The body has been sent for postmortem while four others escaped unhurt, he added. Being a thick forest area, rescue teams took time to reach the spot and begin work, police said.

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## State Government thrust on.....

Intensive campaigns were undertaken through Print and Electronic media in order to create awareness as well as to generate RTE Act compliance school. Hoarding carrying message on RTE mandates could be seen in all the district of the State. SSA Manipur has been trying to target all the stakeholders through leading Local Journal, Magazines, University Festivals, Street plays etc. RMSA, Manipur has provided the infrastructure support to enhance the access and to provide enabling condition for quality education. To improve the infrastructure of existing govt. secondary schools, various components have been strengthened under RMSA. With a vision to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all children of the age group of 14-17 years, 159 Jr. High Schools were upgraded to High Schools under RMSA based on School mapping exercise.

To improve the quality of Govt. Secondary Schools, RMSA, Manipur has recruited 884 trained Graduate teachers purely on merit basis. Recruitment of another 138 trained Graduate teachers will be taken up shortly. Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for Secondary section of Manipur has increased from 72.98% in 2013-14 to 76.9 in 2014-15. Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) has increased from 64.88% in 2013-14 to 68.86 in 2014-15. In terms of absolute number, enrolment in Secondary section has increased from 15464 in 2013-14 to 17159 in 2014-15. In line with the objective of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, cleanliness campaigns under the themes: "Clean India makes Healthy and Rich India, Dirty India makes weak India" and "Learn Cleanliness, Spread Cleanliness, Be a clean Future Indian" were carried out in different schools, Institutes and offices under the Department of Education (S).

## Seven dead in Philippine Election Day ambush

**Manila, May 9:** Seven people were shot dead and another was wounded when a convoy of vehicles was ambushed in the Philippines today just hours before polls opened for national elections, police said. Unknown gunmen opened fire on the jeep and two motorcycles before dawn in the town of Rosario, just south of the capital Manila, said Chief Inspector Jonathan del Rosario. The motive for the attack was not yet known. However the incident took place in the province of Cavite which has been identified by election officials as an "area of concern," due to heated political rivalries, said del

Rosario, spokesman of a special election violence monitoring task force. The task force previously said 15 people had been killed in election-related incidents since the start of the year. But there are many other cases of violence that have yet to be fully linked to the elections. Millions of Filipinos are expected to cast their votes on Monday to select new leaders ranging from president to town councillor. Political violence is a recurring problem in the country, fuelled by lax enforcement of laws and entrenched political "dynasties," some of whom have their own private armies.