

# Editorial

Imphal Friday, November 11, 2016

## NH-37: Forgotten or intentionally neglected?

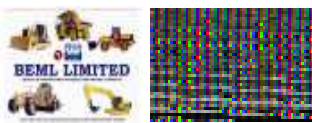
The State of Manipur and other North Eastern region have quite a few common socially accepted and sanctioned practices which would definitely sound peculiar and rather unnecessary to the rest of the country. The socially proactive people had come to learn to fend for themselves, to not depend on the promises and assurances doles out with such generosity and frequently, and to voice their plight and frustrations in no uncertain terms and in many ingenious ways and means. The recent act of repairing a stretch of dilapidated and severely damaged road along the National Highway 37 is just another example of the many instances of volunteerism of the people of this State. Indeed everyone involved in the exercise ought to be applauded in public for their heroic efforts and selfless conduct. But such acts also brought out questions that would be uncomfortable for those in the thick of things to answer. What prompted the volunteers to take up such extreme steps? Was it necessary if those who are supposed to look after the welfare and maintenance of these roads have done their bit to keep it in good condition? The State is witnessing such extreme steps in every sphere of our lives - it with the repairing or replacement of transformers in the localities when they go bust, forcing the residents to suffer months of darkness, or with water supply where the people are forced to dig up and repair the faults with resources pooled in by themselves, or even with schools and community centres in most far flung places where the villagers had to share the burden of building the infrastructures and utilizing them. It seems more convincing with each passing year about the allegations of the Government relying on this very characteristics to shy away from their sworn duties. Such social norms had become a convenient ploy that the Government has so effectively been using to turn a blind eye to the happenings in the State. The state of the National Highways, especially the Imphal-Jiri road (NH37) has been reported for the past so many years now, and the Government has been reporting the advances made, yet the recent report reveals otherwise, laying bare the blatant lie and face saving techniques employed to while away the inevitable facts that would surface one day. Unforgettable comments of those who had the bad fortune of travelling on this road, like the participants of the ASEAN Car Rally, some years back, who described the road as an impossibly damaged road, or the lone Japanese tourist, having crossed some of the most treacherous and hostile terrains, describing the Imphal-Jiribam road as the worst one he came across the seven continents. It is also clearly evident that the Government does not think much about the feelings of its people, even less about their well being. Is it that the development funds being doled out by the centre from time to time has more appeal and utility, albeit for a different purpose, than the earnings a developed and industrialized Manipur could provide for them? Why is the State Government hell bent on keeping the State in this sordid condition? The answers still elude the common man. What is certain is that these acts of volunteerism are indications of the public reaching the breaking point, of having had enough of the apathy and indifferent attitude of the authorities. It would be prudent to note that another practice of the common people of making their frustrations and angst known to those who matters is still to come. It would be wiser, and more beneficial to get things going and address the needs of the people before another spontaneous upheaval would bring the State and those who are lordling over to their arthritic knees, proving these roads to be their roads to perdition.

## India aims to be world's most open economy: PM

**PTI Tokyo, Nov 11:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today invited Japanese investments, saying India has a huge and substantial need for finances and his government was pursuing reform policies to make the country the world's "most open" economy. Addressing business leaders at the India-Japan Business Leaders' Forum, he mentioned

progress on GST and talked about other reforms in policies and rules to make investments and doing business easier in India. He said his government was committed to further reform policies to boost 'Make in India' and for creating conducive business environment through stable and transparent regulatory mechanisms. "India is pursuing a new direction of economic reforms..."

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## Master stroke on black money to make India Swachch Bharat

Prime Minister's sweep shot on corruption is the biggest ever exercise launched anywhere in the world to broom and clean up the economy

By : Prakash Chawla

The mid night scrapping of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 currency notes, as announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in his address to the nation on November 8, is being seen as a master stroke against black money and corruption that has been eating into the Indian economy like a termite for several decades. The sudden announcement of a decision which may be well thought over several months with only a handful of the top echelons in the government having a whiff of it, would cause some disruptions in the interim, but then as the Prime Minister called upon the people, it is the price each citizen is called upon to pay for defeating the monster of corruption and black money which, combined with counterfeit currency and terror funding, can strike at the root of a nation.

"There comes a time in the history of a country's development when a need is felt for a strong and decisive step," Shri Modi said. But for the Donald Trump victory, India's war on black money would have created instant ripples the world over. In any case, the ripples of the Modi move to hit at the hoarders of ill-gotten money where it would hurt them the most, would be felt for the Indian economy far too long.

While Swachch Bharat is being implemented for cleaning up streets, roads and building toilets, PM's sweep shot on corruption is the

biggest ever exercise launched anywhere in the world to broom and clean up the economy which was growing at the fastest clip among the global peers, yet yielding low results for the common people. Imagine the scale at which the brooming exercise can clean up the system. By some estimates as much as Rs 14 lakh crore currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 denomination are in circulation and would be withdrawn by December 31, 2016 or at the most March 31, 2017. Some bankers feel that there could be as much as one-third of this amount which may not be deposited with the banks, since taking the ownership of the loads of money stashed in gunny bags may land some people in trouble. Now that would mean the country gets a windfall of Rs 4.33 lakh crore which would accrue to the nation in terms of reduced liability of the Reserve Bank of India which will replace the surrendered currency that much less.

Going forward, this huge cleaning up would lead to a much better fiscal position of the Central Government with several positives for the macro picture, the biggest being on the inflation front. As is common knowledge that inflation is fuelled by a large margins by the black money which finds its way into a conspicuous spending on theme parties and building of assets like real estate. In fact, the real estate market has been thriving only on the

cash part of the deals which of course would stop, giving a jerk to the sector in the transit till it readjusts itself to the new reality. So, it is being rightly interpreted by the analysts that the crack down on black money would be a big deflationary move, ultimately helping the common people, who may have to go through some temporary pains.

Besides, the decision to scrap high value notes would drastically reduce premium on corruption in the public services since the risk-reward would be highly tilted towards the peril of being caught off-guard. As enumerated in the PM's address to the nation, the NDA Government has taken several other measures to check the black money in the last two years. These include: a law for disclosure of foreign black money; agreements with many countries to add provisions for sharing banking information; strict law to curb benami transactions; and a scheme for declaration of black money after paying a stiff penalty. As much as Rs 1.25 lakh crore has already been brought out through these efforts and if we add another Rs 4.33 lakh crore which may not return to the banking system and become junk, over Rs 5.50 lakh crore, a humungous figure, would have been neutralized. The benefits would certainly accrue in the medium to long term.

The only challenge for the government in the interim is to ensure that a minimum inconvenience is caused to the common people and the banking system is geared up to instill a sense of confidence among the people that the common households' money is very much safe.

"Honest citizens want this fight against corruption, black money, benami property, terrorism and counterfeiting to continue. Which honest citizen would not be pained by reports of crores worth of currency notes stashed under the beds of government officers? Or by reports of cash found in gunny bags?", a decisive Prime Minister said.

He is so right when he says that in spite of being ranked as the fastest growing economy in the world, India figures so high on the global corruption index. With so many steps having been already initiated, India still ranks 76 on this dubious distinction.

Even though initial reactions in the stock markets were adverse, as was expected, the sentiment was also related to the Trump victory which had spooked the global markets which would slowly digest the new global paradigm of challenging the status quo.

The Modi master stroke would take India several leaps ahead as being real Swachch Bharat (Courtesy PIB)

## National & International News

### 4 killed in Taliban claimed attack on German consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif

**Kabul, Nov. 11:** A Taliban suicide bomber rammed a car packed with explosives into a wall around the German consulate in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif late on Thursday, killing at least four civilians and wounding scores, officials said.

A Nato spokesman said the explosion had caused "massive damage" to the building, where around 30 people normally worked. Heavily armed attackers followed up the blast, battling with Afghan and German security forces late into the night.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was in retaliation for Nato air strikes against a village near the northern city of Kunduz last week in which more than 30 people were killed.

The Islamist movement's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said by telephone that heavily armed fighters, including suicide bombers, had been sent "with a mission to destroy the German consulate general and kill whoever they found there".

Noor Mohammad Faiz, the head doctor in Mazar-i-Sharif provincial hospital, said four dead bodies and 120 wounded had been brought to the hospital and that the numbers may rise.

The attack highlighted the security problems spreading across Afghanistan in recent months, with heavy fighting in areas from the volatile southern province of Helmand to Kunduz in the far north. More than 30 people, many of them children, were killed last week when US aircraft carried out air strikes in

support of Afghan and US special forces who came under attack during a raid against suspected Taliban militants threatening Kunduz.

Germany, which heads the Nato-led Resolve Support mission in northern Afghanistan, has about 850 soldiers at a base on the outskirts of Mazar-i-Sharif, with another 1,000 troops coming from 20 partner countries.

A foreign ministry spokesman in Berlin said the attack was suppressed in the early hours of Friday by Afghan and German security personnel, as well as Nato special forces.

"All German employees of the Consulate General are safe and uninjured," he said. It was not yet known how many Afghan civilians and security personnel were killed or wounded, the spokesman said.

**Shattered Windows**  
The explosion occurred about an hour before midnight local time, a spokesman for the German military joint forces command in Potsdam said.

Witnesses reported sporadic gunfire from around the consulate and said the huge blast had shattered windows in a wide area around the compound.

"It was a prepared attack for which we made all arrangements," Mujahid said. "As per our plan, first a suicide bomber driving an explosives-laden vehicle rammed the main building of the consulate and that enabled other fighters to move in and kill all the foreigners there."

By the early hours of the morning, Afghan special forces were conducting search operations but

were not encountering any more resistance, said Sayed Kamal Sadat, police chief of Balkh province.

Another provincial official, deputy police chief Abdul Razaq Qaderi, said at least one suspect had been arrested from the area of explosion.

The Nato spokesman said at least one car packed with explosives had been rammed into the high outer wall surrounding the consulate, but authorities were investigating

if a second car had been involved. The heavily protected consulate is located in a large building close to the Blue Mosque in the centre of Mazar-i-Sharif, where the Indian consulate was also attacked by militant gunmen earlier this year.

A crisis task force was set up in Berlin and Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier was receiving continual updates, the German foreign ministry spokesman said.

## MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

NOTIFICATION  
Dated, the 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2016

No. 1/13(6)/2014-LA(E)Rct: It is hereby informed to all the candidates who have already received their admit cards for direct recruitment to the following posts in the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat that the written test/shorthand & speed test (Computer typing)/ viva-voce for the same will be held on the date and time as shown below:

Sl. No.	Date	Name of post	Mode of Examination
1.	11-11-2016	Legal Assistant	Written test
2.	12-11-2016 (2nd Saturday)	LDA	Speed Test
3.	13-11-2016 (Sunday)	Reporter Grade - III	Speed test + Short hand Test
4.	15-11-2016	Office Assistant-cum-Computer Opt.	Speed test (Roll No. 0001-0420)
5.	15-11-2016	Legal Assistant	Viva Voce
6.	16-11-2016	Office Assistant-cum-Computer Opt.	Speed test (Roll No. 0421-0842)
7.	16-11-2016	LDA	Viva Voce
8.	17-11-2016	Office Assistant-cum-Computer Opt.	Speed test (Roll No. 0421-0842)
9.	17-11-2016	Reporter Grade - III	Viva-voce
10.	19-11-2016	Office Assistant-cum-Computer Opt.	Viva-voce

Time of reporting : 10.30 AM  
Time of Interview : 11.00 AM  
Venue : Assembly Secretariat.

Sd/-

G. Tapankumar Sharma  
Deputy Secretary (Admn),  
Manipur Legislative Assembly  
Secretariat

### 4 killed in house collapse in China

**PTI Beijing, Nov 11:** Four persons were killed and two others injured when a house collapsed in central China's Henan Province, local officials said today.

Six persons were trapped in the debris when a house under construction collapsed at 2:30 pm (local time) yesterday in an economic

and technological development zone in Zhangxingzhuang village, Xinxiang City, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

All the six were rescued and admitted to hospital but four of them died as of this morning, the report said, quoting the officials.

An investigation into the incident is underway.