Editorial

The real taste of Independence Day

The nation celebrated it's 71st years of independence on the August 15 this year with much fervour and fanfare, as has been done every year since India attained independence from the British rule in 1947. The occasion was initially observed to remind and redeem the pledge of rebuilding and redirecting the nation towards the path of development and progress from the state of despair and disarray in which the British rulers left it in. 71 years on, what we are actually experiencing is a far cry from the dreams and visions which every citizen of this country hoped to see unfold into reality. There has been a perceptible loss of foresight and vision amongst the so called leaders who have grown to take their positions and the powers entrusted to them for granted, making a mockery of the democratic set up that was designed to aid in the speedy and judicious dispense of duties and justice. The law and order situation in almost every part of the country leaves much to be desired and development index seems to be going southwards. There has not been any significant increase in the basic amenities for a very large number of citizens who are struggling to make ends meet in the rural areas and in the far flung villages. In this day and age when space travel is no longer a figment of the imagination, a substantial percentage of the population still dreams about electricity. Roads still remain basic and unpaved and social upliftment measures like the Public Distribution System has been proving to a colossal waste of precious food grains, being manipulated by those entrusted to ensure their proper implementation in order to aid the underprivileged and the needy. Perhaps these people have taken the slogan "Public property is our property" to mean that they are thereby authorized to hoard them and use them for their personal purposes. Social unrest and agitations are on the rise, and the governments are taking undue advantage of these to fill their own coffers instead of looking for measures to address these unrest and upheaval. The nation is rather regressing into a vortex of chaos and unrest, while the leaders and officials are busy giving lip service without the will or the temper to carry out their empty promises. The symptoms of social ills are pretty evident closer home. The police personnel, trained to protect the public are in total disconnect with the common public, their very presence causing panic and concern rather than reassurance and safe. The representative of the people are unreachable once they assume power, and amidst all these mayhem, various unrest and social chaos, amassing wealth through hesitation kill or be killed, justifying their actions and deeds by citing noble ideals and espousing selfless sacrifice with their fingers on the triggers of their guns all the while. The altruistic meaning of Independence has been lost in the chaos. The maddening rush for survival and personal enrichment has caught the public and the powerful alike in it's wake. Development and progress are concepts that have been relegated to the dark corners. Unless we come to our senses and redeem ourselves now, it would be too late to salvage whatever little we have achieved as a society and as progressive humans. It is in us all to change things. It is in us to stand up and start working on it.

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More State News

Kidney Transplantation in Manipur – 1 year & looking ahead

IT News
Imphal, Aug 16: Shija Institute of Kidney Science completed 1 year of Kidney Transplantation on the 14th of August, 2017. In the last one year, it has successfully performed 10 (ten) Kidney Transplantations on 6 female and 4 male recipients including 3 (three) from Nagaland. The Transplantation team is led by Dr. Guliver Potsangbam, Director and Consultant Nephrologist and Dr. Somorendro Paonam, Consultant Urologist & Renal Transplant Surgeon, Shija Institute of Kidney Science. The donor Nephrectomy (removal of kidney) is done Laparoscopically.

The institute is now equipped with 14 Dialysis machines and uses Double RO water and is pioneering in comprehensive Kidney Care in the region. The dialysis facility at the centre includes advanced machines like CRRT, SLED, etc. CRRT is used to treat critically ill, hospitalized patients in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) who develop acute kidney injury (AKI). SLED is used as a renal replacement modality in critically ill patients with acute kidney injury (AKI) and hemodynamic unstability. The unit has 2 separate dialysis units for high risk patients.

Empanelment of Shija Hospitals by Govt. of Manipur for reimbursement of Renal Transplantation is under process. The Govt. of Nagaland and Mizoram have already empanelled Shija Hospitals for reimbursement.

Shija is aspiring to perform liver transplantation in the near future.

Shija Foundation is initiating awareness program on Cadaver Donation in collaboration with Mohan Foundation, Chennai.

Contd. from page 1

CM calls for peaceful settlement of issues in his I-day speech

Earlier, the Chief Minister took salute from 43 march-past contingents of BSF, CRPF, Assam Police, civil police, India Reserve Battalion, Manipur Fire Service, Home Guards and VDF personnel, NCC Cadets, Government Department employees and college and school students.

Commandant of 3rd India Reserve Battalion, Shri Thokchom Vikramjit Singh, MPS was the parade commander.

Eleven band platoons of different security forces, Home Guards and Sainik School also took part in the march past.

Chief Minister N. Biren later decorated two police officers with President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and presented Police Medal for Meritorious Service to 20 personnel. Recipients of the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service were A Ghanashyam Sharma, MPS (Dy. SP of Imphal West) and Jemadar Bisham Dev Thakur of MPTC, Pangei while the recipients of Police Medal for Meritorious Service were H. Gyaneshwar, MPS (Dy. CO of 7th MR), Inspector T Sanatomba Singh (CID SB), Inspector Kh. Shashi Kumar Singh (CID SB), Inspector O. Jibonchandra Singh (CID Security), Inspector Palmei Shantikumar Kabui (CID Security), Inspector A.S Masongam Shimray (Senapti), Subedar T.S Chamna Anal (8th Bn. Manipur Rifles), Inspector Th. Nilamani Singh (Noney district), Sub-Inspector S. Guni Singh (CID SB), Sub-Inspector Kh. Debananda (CID SB), Jemadar Th. Bharatchandra Singh (1st IRB), Assistant Sub-Inspector N. Dilip Singh (CID SB), Assistant Sub-Inspector O. Achoubi Devi (CID SB), Havildar Y. Manglemjao Singh (MPTC), Havildar Lunkhosei Haokip (2nd MR), Havildar R.K Sarat (2nd MR), Havildar Md. Rahimuddin (2nd MR), Head Constable L. Khamba Singh (Imphal West), Rifleman Mangjathang Haokip (MPTC) and Rifleman Kh. Babudhon (MPTC).

The Chief Minister also presented Police Trophy for Community Service and Police Trophy for Anti-Drug Campaign for the first time from this year at the function.

The award included a trophy, a cash reward of Rs. 20,000 and a Chief Minister's Commendation Certificate.

The recipients of Police Trophy for Community Service were Shri K. Meghachandra Singh, MPS (SP Thoubal), Inspector Yaikhom Shanta Singh (Imphal East District) and Constable Okram Yaipharenba Meetei (Kakching District) while the winners of Police Trophy for Anti-Drug Campaign were Shri Kabib K, IPS (Imphal East SP), Sub-Inspector H. Koyaingam Maring (Narcotics and Affairs of Border) and Havildar Md. Islamuddin (2nd Battalion Manipur Rifles attached to Bishnupur District).

The Chief Minister also handed over the State Level Swachhata Award, 2017 on Cleanliness and Sanitation at the occasion.

Churachandpur, Imphal West and Thoubal districts were adjudged first, second and third positions in the competition respectively.

Certificate of honour and cash award of Rs 10,000 was also awarded to Shri Wangkheimayum Shanta Singh of Shamurou Bazar for his innovative works of manufacturing various reeling and spinning machines. The award also included a medium term loan of Rs. 5 lakh.

Ministers, MLAs, top civil, police and military officers, Government employees and general public also took part in the celebration.

3 members of PWG- KCP held

Imphal, Aug 16: The Delhi Police Special Cell claims to have arrested the commander-in-chief, finance secretary and another member of the Manipur-based banned terror outfit Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP). The accused were arrested from north Delhi on Sunday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah said they had received a tip-off that KCP leader Laishram Ranjit Meitei alias Manao alias Apik alias Tamnganba alias Loya was in Delhi to set-up the organisation's base at new Delhi

"It was learnt that he had plans to set-up a hideout in Delhi to carry out anti-national activities," Mr. Kushwah said.

The trio were arrested after specific input that Laishram would meet the outfit's finance secretary, Khumanthem Naobicha Singh alias Jack, and Thoidam Chaothoi alias Chingsang alias Raju at a Tibetan market near Kashmere Gate Inter-State Bus Terminus.

"We have seized a laptop, a tablet, two phones with Nepal and north-east SIM cards, a pen drive containing KCP letterheads, railway tickets and some personal diaries," said Mr. Kushwah.

According to the police, Laishram and the other members operated out of Kakarbeta near the West Bengal-Nepal border to evade arrest.

Laishram, who was on the run for the past five years for carrying out alleged anti-national activities, was earlier arrested by the Manipur police.

During interrogation, the accused told the police that they used to extort money from various government authorities, businessmen, local political parties and operators of oil tankers.

The group had recently fired at oil tankers after the association refused to pay up, the police said.

National & International News

Suspected militant killed in Dhaka hotel raid

By Siam Sarower Jamil, IT News
Dhaka, Aug 15: A suspected militant was killed during an operation conducted by the law enforcers at a hotel in Panthapath area of the capital.

Sanowar Hossain, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC), said the first phase of the operation at the hotel has been ended, leaving a suspected militant dead.

Sounds of heavy gunfire and explosion were heard from the Hotel Olio International near Square Hospitals around 9:50am, witnesses said.

Earlier this morning, Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit cordoned off the hotel suspecting it a militant hideout.

Officer-in-Charge (OC-Investigation) of Kalabagan Police Station Samir Chandra Sutradhar said, "We have the information that militants are staying in the No. 301 room of the hotel's fourth storey but we are not sure about their number."

NIA raids 12 locations in Srinagar, north Kashmir

Kashmir, Aug. 16: In a fresh crackdown against separatist leaders in Jammu and Kashmir, the National Investigation Agency is conducting searches at 12 locations in Srinagar and north Kashmir in connection with terror funding.Officials in the central probe agency said the searches are being carried out at 12 locations in Srinagar, Baramulla and Handwara districts. They said those being raided Wednesday have alleged links to persons being investigated in this case.

According to *India Today TV*, the locations being raided include properties of relatives of Zahoor Watali, a prominent businessman in the Valley and a known Hurriyat supporter.

The current crackdown is a part of NIA investigation against allegations that separatists leaders were receiving funds from Pakistan and were using the money to fuel unrest in the Valley.

Watali's residence in Gurugram, Delhi and Srinagar were raided on 4 June as part of the ongoing investigation.

The NIA had also questioned the sons of pro-Pakistan separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani on 8 August over his alleged links with Hafiz Saeed.

Saeed, leader of the Pakistan-based Jamaat-ud-Dawa and the banned terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba, is reportedly said to be a prominent source of funding for the pro-Pakistan separatist factions in the Valley and the money is subsequently being channeled to fund protesters and militants in the Valley, sources told *PTI*.

The NIA had also questioned Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) Faheem Ali, who handles separatist leader Mirwaiz Umer Farooq's security, in connection with the case. Ali was the first police officer from the state to be interrogated by the NIA.

The NIA had arrested seven persons — Altaf Ahmed Shah, Nayeem Khan, Peer Saifullah, Raja Mehrajuddin Kalwal, Aftab Hilali Shah alias Shahid-ul-Islam and Ayaz Akbar Khandey and Farooq Ahmad Dar alias Bitta Karate — on 24 July.

They were arrested on the charges of criminal conspiracy and waging war against India.

Altaf Ahmad Shah is the son-in-law of Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, who advocates Jammu and Kashmir's merger with Pakistan.

Islam is a close aide of Hurriyat leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq. Ayaz Akbar is the spokesperson for the Geelani-led Hurriyat.

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