

Editorial

Friday, December 29, 2017

Waiting for another beginning

Finally! a year that had witnessed a plethora of unique and amazing, and changes is coming to an in the next two days inevitable end.

People the world over, as is in the State are eagerly anticipating the sunset to wait out the fog end of the day and start the revelry and celebrate the successful closure of a period in one's life, but perhaps more for the sheer luck of surviving yet another precious year in this unpredictable and volatile society of ours. Whatever the reason, it would be an understatement to state that people everywhere is hoping in their hearts of better things to come, and wishing dear and near ones for good fortune and a better future has come to signify a great deal lot than just the thought, for it actually tells without actually mentioning the fact that we all still care and thought of the welfare of others, and that the spirit of festivity and celebration enthused all to warm up to beautiful and positive thoughts, save for a very few souls who are either beyond earthly desires or beyond redemption. This is the time when hope spring forth and reinvigorate our lives.

It gives us a renewed vigour and desire to better ourselves. This is the gist of our future. We have a lot to wish and hope for, and indeed it is this hope that has and will sustain us in our life. Yet hope without the pursuit will only relegate it to a daydream, a waste of time. We have seen and experienced instances of excess, of violation and unwarranted aggression. Violence and fear has been driving factor that has made us scurry for safety and become cynical of the promises made by those who are at the helm of affairs, the very people who were entrusted to provide safety and progress for the people who chose them.

The people of Manipur may feel cheated and betrayed, as they should, but hope is eternal, and as long as we have it in our hearts and work to realize it, nothing can stop us from achieving the things we hoped for. We need to be proactive and not wait for the tall promises to be delivered. It is now time to make things happen, and for that we have to get involved, make ourselves heard and be counted. It has been our collective endeavor here at ImphalTimes to provide the facts, real and undistorted, for the people to draw up an informed decision and opinion.

There has been many challenges on the way, and we also know that there will be bigger ones which might slow us down, but we will not stop, nor will we bog down or bow to pressure because that would be betraying our own beliefs and hopes. As Albert Einstein famously suggested: Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning. Perhaps, Franklin D. Roosevelt sums up the feelings of every one of us when he said "We have always held to the hope, the belief, the conviction that there is a better life, a better world, beyond the horizon". Wishing everyone a happy and better future from ImphalTimes.

Natl. & Intl News

President Trump Said the Freezing East Coast Could Use Some 'Good Old Global Warming'

By Associated Press
Florida, Dec 29: President Donald Trump said Thursday the East Coast "could use a little bit of that good old Global Warming" as bitterly cold temperatures are expected to freeze large swaths of the country this holiday weekend. Trump wrote on Twitter, "In the East, it could be the COLDEST New Year's Eve on record." He added: "Perhaps we could use a little bit of that good old Global Warming that our Country, but not other countries, was going to pay TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS to protect against. Bundle up!" The president did not acknowledge the difference between the weather and the climate. Weather refers to the atmospheric conditions during a shorter period, while climate is a longer view of weather patterns. Trump has repeatedly expressed skepticism about climate change science, calling global warming a "hoax" created by the Chinese to damage American industry. He announced earlier this year his intention to pull out of the landmark Paris climate agreement aimed at curbing greenhouse gas production. The accord set goals for slowing the rate of climate change by reducing the emissions that contribute to melting Arctic ice, increasing sea levels and changing

weather patterns across the globe. The U.N.'s weather and climate agency said last month that 2017 was on track to become the hottest year on record aside from those impacted by the El Niño phenomenon, which can contribute to higher temperatures. Last year set a record for Earth's average global temperature. In an impromptu interview with *The New York Times* Thursday at his golf club in West Palm Beach, Florida, Trump said he thinks special counsel Robert Mueller is "going to be fair" with respect to Mueller's investigation of Russian meddling in the U.S. presidential election last year and alleged ties between Trump campaign associates and Russia. He said that "everybody knows" his people did not collude with Russians, insisting in the interview that the "real stories" involve Democrats and their relationship with Russians during the campaign. Trump also told the *Times* he wasn't worried about the uncertainty concerning when the Mueller investigation might be concluded. Of the Mueller probe, Trump said, "It makes the country look very bad, and it puts the country in a very bad position. So the sooner it's worked out, the better it is for the country."

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National & International News

Crimes against women on rise in Kerala

PTI Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 29: A total of 16,755 cases of rape have been reported in the last one decade in Kerala, which boasts of 100 per cent literacy, progressive outlook and high socio-development index. While 11,325 cases related to rape of women, 5,430 involved children in the period from 2007-2017 (up to July). According to crime statistics provided by the Kerala Police, 1,475 cases of rape were reported in the first nine months of this year alone. In 2016, as many as 1,656 rape cases had been registered from January-December, as per the statistics.

There has been a general upward trend in the number of rape cases with 500 in 2007, 548 in 2008, 554 in 2009, 617 in 2010, 1132 in 2011, 1019 in 2012, 1221 in 2013, 1347 in 2014, 1256 in 2015, 1656 in 2016 and 1475 in 2017 (up to September). According to statistics uploaded on the Kerala Police website, the total number of crimes against women reported during the 10-year period was a whopping 1,32,365. Senior IPS officer Ajeetha Begum said speedy investigation and fast track trials and conviction of the guilty besides grassroot level awareness would help reduce crimes against women.

Commenting on the high number of rape cases, she said it was a positive sign in one way as it happens because more women were aware of their rights and were ready to fight crimes against them. "Registration of cases is just the initial step of the investigation. Speedy and professional investigation will help ensure that the guilty are convicted," Begum told PTI. "We need to develop a culture of registering complaints immediately after the occurrence of the crime," she said. Of the total 11,001 various crimes reported against women this year,

3,407 were incidents of molestation, 147 kidnapping and abduction, 9 dowry deaths, 2,452 cruelty by husband and relatives and 3,222 other offences, statistics revealed. The highest number of rapes were reported this year from Thiruvananthapuram (rural)-157, followed by Malappuram-136 and Palakkad-105. Meanwhile, the total number of crimes reported against children in the southern state during the last 10 years (from 2017-2017 July) stood at 16,624. Of the total 2,581 cases reported up to July this year, 825 were rape cases, it said.

Apartment fire kills 12 in New York's Bronx: mayor

AFP New York, Dec 29: A fire tore through a Bronx apartment building, killing at least 12 people and leaving four others fighting for their lives in New York's deadliest fire in decades, officials said. The devastating blaze broke out shortly before 7:00 pm (local time) yesterday in the 25-apartment building opposite the Bronx Zoo, one of the most popular tourist attractions in the US financial capital. A one-year-old child was among those killed in the fire on a bitterly cold night with temperatures well below zero, as Red Cross volunteers handed out blankets and set up makeshift shelter in a nearby school.

"This will rank as one of the worst losses of life to a fire in many, many years," New York Mayor Bill de Blasio told reporters. "This is the worst fire tragedy we have seen in this city in at least a quarter century," he added. The fire began on the first floor and spread rapidly to all floors of the five-floor building on Prospect Avenue, officials said. The cause of the blaze was not immediately clear. "I am sorry to report 12 New Yorkers are dead, including one child as young as one year old," de Blasio told reporters after fire fighters extinguished the flames. "There are four people critically injured who are fighting for their

lives, other serious injuries as well," he added. Television footage showed fire fighters plucking panicked residents to safety from a fire escape. Two of the dead were discovered in a bath tub full of water, where they had apparently sheltered from the blaze, US media reported. Fire fighters rescued at least 12 people who will survive but the search of the building continues, and the death toll could rise further, the mayor warned. "This tragedy is, without question, historic in its magnitude. Our hearts go out to every family who lost a loved one here and everyone fighting for their lives," said Fire Department chief Daniel Nigro.

"People died on various floors, they range in ages from one to over 50," he added. "In a department that's certainly no stranger to tragedy, we're shocked at this loss." It was the second deadly New York residential blaze in less than two weeks. A mother and three children were killed in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn when a fire tore through their home on December 18. In March 2007, 10 people were killed in another fire in the Bronx that tore through a house that was home to two immigrant families, which had been the worst fire in the city since 1990 apart from the September 11, 2001 attacks that brought down the Twin Towers.

14 killed, 19 injured in Mumbai building fire

PTI Mumbai, Dec 29: Fourteen people were killed and 19 others injured after a major fire broke out in a building in Kamala Mills Compound in Lower Parel here, an official said today. The fire broke out shortly after midnight on the third floor of the four-storeyed building on Senapati Bapat Marg, a commercial hub of the city, a civic official told PTI. "The cooling operations are underway. Some of the injured people are in critical condition," the official said. The injured are undergoing treatment at the civic-run KEM and Sion hospitals, the official from the BMC disaster management unit said. Several fire tenders, water tankers, emergency ambulance and police personnel rushed to the spot for rescue operation, he said. The building, in Central Mumbai, houses some commercial establishments including hotels. According to the official, the cause of the fire remains to be ascertained.

US diplomat meets Venezuela FM over detained American

AFP Caracas, Dec 29: The top diplomat at the United States' embassy in Venezuela briefly met with that country's foreign minister today to "press" for the release of an American man detained since June 2016, the mission said in a statement. Charge d'affaires Todd Robinson had a "frank" discussion with Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza for 20 minutes, in which he asked for Joshua Holt, a 25-year-old Mormon missionary from the US state of Utah, to be freed, the statement said without giving further details. Holt was arrested by Venezuelan intelligence officers on June 30, 2016 at his home on the outskirts of Caracas. He is being held in the headquarters of the SEBIN intelligence agency under accusations of possessing weapons, being a spy and plotting against President Nicolas Maduro. His family, which rejects the charges, says Holt's health has deteriorated in captivity. His detention is one of several thorny issues festering

between the United States and Venezuela. Relations between the two nations have long been fraught and have worsened as US President Donald Trump's government has ratcheted up

sanctions on Maduro, whose tightening grip on power has seen him criticised as a "dictator." Venezuela and the US have not had ambassadors in the other country since 2010.

Three arms smugglers arrested

PTI Kota, Dec 29: A special team of Special Operation Group (SOG) arrested three arms smugglers and seized 14 pistols, 56 cartridges and 18 magazines from their possession in Bundi district, police said today. On a tip off on smuggling of arms, a special SOG team stopped a car coming from Kota at the toll plaza near Hindoli town. On checking, 14 pistols (32 bore), 18 magazines and 56 cartridges were recovered from a box hidden in the backside of the car, SOG Inspector General Dinesh MN said in a release here. The seized arms were purchased from Madhya Pradesh and were being smuggled to Jodhpur and Pali districts of the state for sale. Three arms smugglers

identified as Mangilal Devasi (45), Devaram Devasi (40), and Babulal Vishnoi (55), both residents of Jodhpur district were today arrested and pistols cartridges were recovered from their vehicle. The three accused said the seized arms were purchased for Rs. 150,000 from Madhya Pradesh and were meant to be supplied on demand in Jodhpur and Pali districts of the state, Dinesh MN said. A case has been lodged in SOG headquarters and further interrogation is on, he said. It is the second seizure of arms in the last seven days. A special team of SOG from Jaipur had earlier arrested three arms smugglers from Chittorgarh district and recovered 19 pistols and one revolver from their possession.

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