

Editorial

Imphal Thursday, February 16, 2017

Time to walk the talk

The increasing social turmoil in the state does not present a sustainable solution in sight for the much harassed people in the foreseeable future. The law and order situation, despite the reassurances and claims to the contrary, is going from bad to worse with political parties and CSOs trying to play up the deplorable condition to trade charges and accusations as per their conveniences instead of taking up any concrete and positive steps to turn things around. While the recent spurts in developmental activities could only be seen as a last ditch effort by the ruling congress to salvage their dented image might have presented a glimmer of hope for the common public by the high and mighty who are constantly and increasingly drawing flak from every quarter for the dismal failures to curb crimes, corruptions and complacencies yet the continuing eruptions of agitations and feelings of indignations following the audacious step by the UNC to strangle the state by imposing indefinite economic blockade along the highways connecting the state with the rest of the country has thrown the fragile society out of gear yet once again, with neither the solution nor the response of the governments both in the state and the centre in the clear. Yet, since the high and the mighty does not have a direct stake in the outcome of the incident, as was the case in the earlier numerous instances, there is an evident lack of seriousness and gravity attached to these incidents despite the tell tale signs that such threats to the continued existence of the state is politically and economically motivated and can be quashed for good if the required amount of political will and seriousness is displayed. These social instabilities also breeds a group of traders and businessmen who profits from the desperation and haplessness of the common people, taking full advantage of the non-existent and defunct consumer protection mechanism. Add to this the artificial scarcity of essential commodities, while each and every group in the State is demanding their separate "Homeland" or states. Government authorities and departments entrusted with addressing these discrepancies are too busy practicing and promoting corruption and favoritism. The overall picture is one without hope of redemption or resurrection. Yet history bears witness to numerous turnarounds and incredible feats of recovery and progress of societies worse off than ours. A concerted approach with the whole hearted and proactive participation of the public with complimenting support and earnest efforts by the concerned authorities could bring about a perceptible change from the present situation of confusion and unrest. Each aspect of the society needs to be looked into and addressed for a holistic development of the society to be made possible. Small, steady and sustainable steps needs to be taken up in right earnest starting now. The upcoming state election presents the best opportunity for everyone in the state to have a say in how these present malaise of the society can be changed. Political parties need to focus on the positives and project a better future with conviction and commitment instead of indulging in political mud-slinging. Political leaders need to demonstrate their maturity and integrity in order to win the trust and the vote of the public more than the high-pitched rhetoric and empty assurances.

Ph. D Awarded



CMJ University, Jorabat Meghalaya has awarded the Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science to **Esther Jenny Hmar** on her thesis "A case history of MGNREGA in Churachandpur District", under the supervision of Asst. Prof. Dr. Usha Talukdar, Department of Political Science CMJ University. She is presently working as Principal of Savio English Higher Secondary School, Thangmeiband Sinam Leikai, Imphal. Staffs of the school congratulate on her academic achievement.

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My open letter to the politicians of Manipur

By: **Shanta Nahakpam**

My name is Shanta Nahakpam I am an M A in International Business and Research from a Foreign University. I was born in a middle class family where my father and mother worked as an honest Government Employee. I doubt if they ever went out of their way to even take an advantage of their position during their service. Now, don't doubt my parents how they were able to send me abroad if they were so honest! It was an education loan from SBI which was already rejected by Mr Dass the then B M of Secretariat branch Imphal. Somehow I manage to argue with him and get through for whose repayment I had to get maximum humiliation during 2015 and 2016 and my parents sold a part of our paddy field to repay it. Their service to the Government of Manipur which lasted long 30 yrs was the only way to give us better education, food, housing and many other things which we demand and no doubt they might have felt many times if their sons and daughters wished anything beyond their power what would they do? I wonder they would have left it to the situation to convince us through the means they had. My parents had very basic dream for me and my brothers and sisters, like every parents they wanted us to study well and at least get a Government Job and lead a happy married life! My parents would always say try to work hard be honest and they did send me out of the state investing more of their earnings and

savings just because they wanted me to stay away from the bund and blockade of the state so that my studies should not be hindered by the many issues in Manipur. They send me for studies in Chandigarh (1996-2009) for a better environment they believe Chandigarh to be much better than the very trusted State in whose government they worked for their living. We did not have any other means of earnings, I still remember there were times when my father had to borrow rice and cooking gas from a local shop because they did not get their salary on time as the Government failed to pay them for the honest work they did. I know you must be thinking why I am telling this silly story of mine as this is somewhat a part of your story too. As your family too must have faced similar situation no doubt many times during the time of Mr W Nipamacha when he was the Chief Minister of Manipur and in the case of Mr Ibobi when he handled the finance as well as the chief Minister of the State. Let me put it this way today I am 35 yrs old living in Manipur since last 6 yrs and have done a lot of work(I think), tried to utilize the education I have gained, tried to make my life worthy of this birth but ironically nothing seems to work out in the manner it should be. Like my parents always warned me not to do few of the things I wanted to, telling me this is Manipur and its complicated here and I thought why? As this is my homeland I have a birth right to examine my

knowledge and at least do something for my people. They never told me to stop what I was doing but always insisted that I simply leave everything and get a job and live happily. This was the word I usually get angry with and sometimes I would not go home and sleep in my little office thinking I have to win the battle of life and show them what I am. Let me come to as why I am writing my personal life in open letter and the reason for writing this short story is because of the fact that I am a common man and I wish the future politicians (Those who claim to be) to understand the actual common man how they are suffering from today's Ill Governance. For a parent who has used all his savings and earnings in the welfare of his children's future unlike you politicians who have enough cash of various sources which can very well keep your sons and daughter at some level must be having a very tough situation as to if, we (Children) should keep with our dreams and utilize our knowledge in some business for the well being of our self which will in turn make us self dependent or should we buy a job from you? The current situation which you (Politicians) have created in our home state is the kind in which our parents know that you are corrupt but they will be ready to pay you a bounty for a simple Government Job which will make our education completely useless. In the case of a general common student it is very

rare that an educated person gets the job of his qualification. The situation which you have created today is the kind in which our parents are helpless and there is a basic psychology that Jobs are being bought from you. And it is not for a common man that his children will get a job as per their qualification, in the case of a poor educated person his qualification has become useless due to the reason he cannot afford to buy a job from your pocket. Now if we choose the path of a small business firstly their understanding of business doesn't allow us to do anything which they think to be a lower level than we are qualified at and the second case our parents are not ready to invest on any non secured earning formula, for they believe that the investment which they will help by either ways (Savings or selling property) may get lost due to many reason they understand the business may not survive the test of time. More over being a middle class family or a common man they do not have any other source through which they will earn back the money we lose. Being a politician you may argue that there are many schemes of the Union Government of India (irrespective of the party you claim to be) which helps the MSME such as the PMRY & PMEGP, many others related to handloom piggyery etc which is related to small scale Industry (the list may never end when explained by you). (To be contd...)

National & International News

Edappadi K Palaniswami, a Sasikala loyalist who has never tried to carve a niche for himself

COIMBATORE: Edappadi K Palaniswami, who has been appointed as the Tamil Nadu chief minister, fits into two moulds that suit party general secretary V K Sasikala. He comes from the gounder community in the kongu belt - the region that has stood by the AIADMK for many years but feels neglected at not having been accommodated in the leadership. Making him the chief minister would present a symbolic thevar-gounder alliance since she and her family are identified as a thevar clan. Further, Palaniswami is a Sasikala loyalist who has never attempted to carve a niche for himself and has been avid follower of her family. He may be the ideal choice given Sasikala's incarceration. Palaniswami's greatest challenge would be to put together a majority in the assembly and run the government over a sustained period of time. The Sasikala faction would try to isolate OPS and restrict his MLA numbers to ensure this. Some AIADMK seniors, as well as the BJP at the Centre, however, want a broader rapprochement to bring the factions together, which may include a working arrangement with OPS too.

Palaniswami is not known to be a uniting force — he has been unable to keep the flock together in his home base of Salem. And, he may go with the Sasikala strategy and have TTV Dinakaran and others work out the details. Palaniswami has been a strong Sasikala supporter for more than 15 years. By having a gounder chief minister, Sasikala has sought to weaken the hold of Panneerselvam who has been drawing MLAs from the kongu belt. The move to make Palaniswami the CM also nullifies allegations that Sasikala's family wants to grab party posts as well as the CM's seat. Yet, at the end of the day, Palaniswami is likely to be only a titular head. Palaniswami owes his political beginnings and career growth to the Sasikala family. He was inducted into the good books of Sasikala through her brother's son-in-law R P Ramanan. Among the top five ministers in Jayalalithaa's cabinet, when former electricity minister Nathan Viswanathan earned Jayalalithaa's ire and was sidelined, Palaniswami rose to become No 2. He joined the AIADMK in 1983 and remained in the Jaya faction when

the party split in 1989. That was the year he contested assembly elections for the first time and won. "Though Palaniswami got defeated in 1996 assembly, 2004 Lok Sabha and 2006 assembly elections, he again got a ticket in 2011, thanks to Ramanan. But Sengottayan, another gounder leader, got sidelined by Amma in 2011 and it was a natural elevation for Palaniswami," said another functionary. Palaniswami kept a low profile but his proximity to Sasikala and hence Jayalalithaa grew, and he was entrusted with looking after the party's financial affairs. Corruption

allegations have cropped up against Palaniswami but his unflinching loyalty to Ramanan and Sasikala kept his position intact. "From 2011 to 2016, Jaya shunted out several ministers, but Palaniswami held fort for five years," noted a party leader. His growth was aided by the fact that there were no powerful competitors in the AIADMK from Salem and no tough challenger from DMK. That aided his victory in 2016 assembly election with a margin of more than 40,000 votes, in spite of his eroding credibility among the public.

Space debris is a problem but don't blame it on ISRO

By: **Sanchita Sharma**
Courtesy HT

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) sent 104 satellites into orbit on Wednesday and the wild applause was soon followed by growing mutterings about India's space agency adding to space junk. However, it's irrational to blame the agency.

If anything, carrying multiple payloads lowers orbital debris as each rocket used to send satellites to space also adds to the space junk. ISRO is also ideally located for launches because its proximity to the Equator gives the rockets an extra velocity kick into space so they use less fuel to launch heavier payloads. And unlike space tourism, satellites serve a practical purpose, providing data that support communication, navigation, scientific research, weather observation, military support, earth imaging, among others. Each time you navigate using global positioning system (GPS), for example, you use a group of more than 20 satellites that determine where you are. "ISRO has developed the models and software for statistical analysis of risk due to space debris and close approach of debris to the functional

satellites and to prevent in-orbit break-up by designing spacecraft to be not susceptible to on-orbit explosion," said an ISRO scientist, who did not want to be named. **Space junk** Since the launch of the first artificial satellite Sputnik 1 by the former Soviet Union in 1957, dozens of countries have launched satellites, with close to 3,000 working satellites still orbiting the Earth. These functional satellites are just a fraction of the than 500,000 pieces of dead satellites ranging from the size of a marble to much bigger machines that continue to orbit the Earth. There are many millions of smaller pieces of dead spacecraft, abandoned launch vehicle stages, mission-related debris and fragmentation debris that are too tiny to be tracked. "The greatest risk to space missions comes from non-trackable debris," said Nicholas Johnson, NASA chief scientist for orbital debris. Debris shields can withstand impacts of particles smaller than 1 cm. Space junk travels at speeds up to 30,000 km an hour, which turns tiny pieces of orbital debris into deadly shrapnel that can damage satellites, space shuttles, space stations and spacecraft with humans aboard.

Mehbooba Mufti to expand Council of Ministers

PTI Jammu, Feb 16: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti will carry out tomorrow the first expansion of her nine-month-old ministry with induction of one or two PDP members. "There is a cabinet reshuffle. New Ministers will be inducted into the government tomorrow," a top source in the state government told PTI. According to the arrangement between the two allies, PDP has a quota of 14 ministers, including the Chief Minister, while BJP has 11 ministerial berths. Currently, PDP has 12 Ministers and BJP has 11 Ministers including, the Deputy Chief Minister and Sajjad Lone. According to sources, PDP MLA

from Amira Kadal constituency Altaf Bukhari is likely to stage a comeback. Bukhari, who was a minister in the Mufti Mohammed Sayeed government, was not included in the cabinet when Mehbooba was sworn-in as the Chief Minister in April last year. There are unconfirmed reports that Mehbooba is also likely to induct an MLA from South Kashmir in the ministry. Besides Bukhari, Javid Mustafa Mir and two Ministers of State Mohammad Ashraf Mir and Abdul Majeed Padroo, who were part of the previous government led by her father, had been dropped by her. BJP had dropped Sukhnandan Choudhary. The state can have a maximum of 25 ministers.