

# Editorial

Imphal Monday, February 20, 2017

## Rajnath on Framework agreement is sceptical

'Cheap politics' - this was what Union Home Minister Rajnath stated during his visit here in the state to the kind of game being played by specific political party to the 'Frame Work' Agreement signed between the NSCN-IM and the Government of India. On the other hand the Union Home Minister also took a dig to the Congress government over its failure to contain the prolonged economic blockade in the state, saying that the state government is deliberately aiming to cover up its wrongdoings in the last 15 years by playing with the issue. 'Political conspiracy' was what he termed to the kind of turmoil.

Amid the protest by sections of people in the state including the AMSU and other civil society organisation demanding disclosure of the content of the framework agreement; the visit of the Home Minister is significant, even though the purpose was for election campaign. It is a known fact that, BJP, which is power in the center is the key player of this 'framework' agreement. Next to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Rajnath is a key person who should know every contents of the framework agreement. People in the state need to appreciate him when he said that the 'framework agreement will not affect the territorial integrity of the state. But when he tried to convince the people that it was because 'Manipur' is nowhere mention in the 'framework' agreement instead of revealing at least the preambles of the framework agreement, he seems to have some hidden agenda.

It is a known fact that the major demand of the NSCN-IM is to create a separate state for Naga. The outfit has been spreading about a separate state call 'Nagalim' by carving out portion of territory from Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. It is also known that there is no need to mention Manipur in the so call 'framework agreement' as it is solely for the call Naga and its dream land. No wonder why the Union Home Minister who knows everything about the framework agreement did not showed the people 'the agreement' signed. So the assurance about protecting the territorial integrity of Manipur is sceptical.

Well on economic blockade Mr. Rajnath had rightly pointed out that some political parties particularly, the Congress has been politicising it for mere electoral gain or perhaps to cover up its wrongdoing in the past 15 years.

Yes, the Congress now has no other agenda than the economic blockade for the upcoming state assembly election. And as the issue is a sentimental one sometimes it is going well by striking hard to this issue.

This game being played by congress can be easily sideline if the Union Home Minister Mr. Rajnath show the public a copy of the agreement signed between the NSCN-IM and the Govt. of India of Aug 4, 2015.

## DAYLIGHT ROBBERY IN MANIPUR (Demonetisation)

By: Likhendro Keisham

Contrary to the simple and honest goal to tackle fake currencies of high denominations demonetisation is our government's very first practical step towards curbing unaccounted and black money. Leaving aside the rest of the country and talking straight this initiative by our decision makers is unofficially a flop show here in Manipur, a brand new crap among the already existing filthy issues of the state making our lives more miserable. With economic blockade since 1st November, 2016 on all national highways of the state by United Naga Council the demonetisation on 8th of November has fried our lives by the government as well as the civil organisations.

When we heard about demonetisation we were all taken by surprise, such a bold act by the government. We and the nation cheered for being really practical on illegal money. Few days later the doubt arises.

1. Did the insiders secretly warn their friends and allies before the public declaration?

2. Are the unaccounted money still in its unaccounted states with various concern authorities slipping away valid currencies to those unaccounted money holders?

3. Why would government keep on changing the banking strategies if it was a stable and well thought out plan?

4. Lack of transparency on currency conversion at bank branches. Citizens are kept in dark from real-time stocks of currencies at banks. They have no idea how many new or old monetised currencies were exchanged among how many people. People had to go back disappointed after being

in queue for whole day.

5. Rumour is taking advantage of the situation bank staffs charges a cut for converting the old notes with valid ones in close doors. Few even charges 20% of the real value of the old notes. Unaccounted money holders are their clients and the reason to why banks remain cashless all the time for common public.

6. Said that the Reserve Bank of India sanctioned Rs. 1,500/- crores to exchange for demonetised currencies. While all other states in the country seems to have solve the shortage of currencies with no more queues by 20th Dec. 2016 we still see them here in Manipur. How long does it take for all the banks and its branches in Manipur to exchange Rs. 1,500/- crores? How comes the much populated, bigger and industrious states including our neighbours had enough currencies by 20th Dec. and not ours?

7. According to 2011's census the population of Manipur is around 27, 22,000. Than on an average we get Rs. 5510.65/- each to exchange from the Rs. 1,500/- crores allotted for the state. So, to do the math the question is how many citizens exchanged their demonetised currencies in accordance to the daily limits and for how many days per person?

8. How many demonetised cash are deposited at banks so far? All the above has to align in its proper space if the concern authorities did not involve in any close door affairs during demonetisation.

The aftermath of demonetisation day is what explains the effectiveness of demonetisation. From the

beginning the situation seems under organised with no concrete and stable decisions to solve the scarcity of currencies. Questions were raised on what extend the demonetisation is going to bring back black money. It would be wrong to politically blame the ruling for there is no reason to praise the opposition either. Believe it or not the ruling Congress government in Manipur is on cloud nine now. Every event here seems to be in favour of the ruling India National Congress. In the history of Manipur under the Republic of India this government credited for making some of the most reasonable decisions in critical times.

The central government said they have been planning it since eight months and have increased the production of 100 rupee and lower denomination currencies to meet the replacement demands. But looking at the scenarios the process of demonetisation looks like a sudden, wild and hush - hush decision. It seems to lack proper planning and strategies. We the common citizens of the country are also the ones who are hit by the decision. Onboard passengers travelling on days long train journey panic for food expenses, money laundering business was on complete halt and people in badly needs for loan were left empty handed in wilderness. Private transporters had the least of passengers, daily wage earners ran out of jobs as their employers didn't hire them due to shortage of valid cash. Individuals planning for start-ups or investors halted their investments, cultural and religious event felt short of cash,

wholesale grocery stores were totally shut for few days and many local markets remained dry due to unplanned reasons.

The whole nation paid a heavy price and the reason why demonetisation is a bold step by the Government of India. Compared to the financial gains it has caused a great deal of losses to the country too. It may wipe out few fake currencies but not the whole racket. It is obvious, like oppositions in parliament the fake currency makers will strike back with new prints. Whether you agree or not our own bankers whom we call brothers and sisters are the ones who are involved in all the dubious process in demonetisation. To be practical the politicians, the bureaucrats, the soldiers, the media, the musicians and the people are not to be blame. They do not handle banking activities.

Fact is the many extra effects and hardship Manipur felt were all man-made. Critics will be there but if implemented well and with due steps targeting unaccounted money the nation will surely succeed in its financial accuracy. Had all wealth and transactions of the country be accounted accurately India will sure rise its share in the world economy. Our modern era of administration is built on financial stabilities. With accounted income and expenditure we will be able to check the accurate number of families living under poverty line and those who are hiding it as well. But as you see most of us are dishonest citizens and anytime opportunity strikes, no matter how unsocial they are we don't leave any stone unturned. And in Manipur it's the paradise of all broad daylight robbers.

## National & International News

### Disclose Godse's Statement Before Court In Gandhi Assassination Trial: CIC

**New Delhi, Feb 20:** The statement of Nathuram Godse, along with other relevant records related to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, should be "proactively disclosed" on the website of the National Archives, the CIC has ruled.

Information Commissioner Sridhar Acharyulu said, "One may disagree with Nathuram Godse and his co-accused but we cannot refuse disclosure or circulation of his opinion."

"At the same time, neither Nathuram Godse nor the holder of his theme or opinion can go to the extent of killing a person whose philosophy he cannot agree with," he said in his order.

Godse, a right-wing activist, had assassinated the Mahatma on January 30, 1948. Petitioner Ashutosh Bansal had demanded the charge sheet and

Godse's statement, among other details, from Delhi Police which forwarded the application to the National Archives of India (NAI), saying the records have been handed over to it.

The National Archives asked Bansal to inspect the records and call out the information. After failure to get the information, Bansal approached the Central Information Commissioner (CIC). Acharyulu directed the Central Public Information Commissioner (CPIO-NAI) not to charge Rs three per page for photocopying because the Right to Information Act overrides any such provision of the Public Records Act by virtue of Section 22 of the RTI Act.

Although neither Delhi Police nor the National Archives cited any objection on the disclosure of the information, Acharyulu said that the information sought does not

"At the same time, neither Nathuram Godse nor the holder of his theme or opinion can go to the extent of killing a person whose philosophy he cannot agree with."

attract any of the exemption clauses.

He said since the information is more than 20-years-old, it cannot be withheld unless it attracts section 8(1)(a) of the RTI Act which prohibits disclosure of information that prejudicially affects security of the State or relations with foreign countries.

Acharyulu said in the present case, even section 8(1)(a) does not apply as the argument that disclosure of Godse's statement could lead to enmity between Hindu and Muslim communities would not apply.

He said Gandhi's life, character and image as a champion of peace, Indian Independence and Hindu-Muslim unity cannot be tarnished either by his physical elimination or writing hundreds of pages of adverse analysis of his policies.

"The Commission also directs the NAI to place the index of records available now with it about the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi on its official website along with the procedure to gain access, and recommends development of an archive to include present digitised records and collect as many as possible from various sources to be part of their disclosures under Section 4(1)(b)," Acharyulu said. He directed the NAI to provide certified copies of the charge sheet and the statement of Godse from the CDs of the archives as sought by the appellant upon payment of copying charges at Rs two per page, within 20 days from the date of receipt of this order.

### Death toll rises to 39 in Mogadishu bombing

**Mogadishu, Feb 20 (AFP)** The toll has climbed to 39 dead in an unusually deadly suicide bombing at the weekend in the Somali capital Mogadishu, rescue workers said today, the first since a new president was chosen this month.

The suicide car bomber struck a busy market in the Madina neighbourhood yesterday, the explosion ripping through shoppers, stalls and vehicles. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack, but suicide bombings are commonly carried out by Somalia's Shabaab jihadists who have threatened a "vicious war" against the new government.

"Thirty-nine people died and 27 others were wounded," Abdulkadir Abdurahman Adem head of Mogadishu's Amin Ambulance service, said today.

Authorities yesterday said at least 20 people were killed by the blast.

The attack drew condemnation from international backers of Somalia's newly-elected President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, known as Fartajo, who has offered a 100,000 (94,000 euro) reward for information on who carried out the attack.

Fartajo, a dual American and Somali citizen, is due to be sworn in on Wednesday.

The latest attack underlines the challenge facing the new president, who has inherited an administration with limited control over Somali territory due to the presence of Shabaab, and is heavily propped up by the international community.

The Shabaab, an al-Qaeda-aligned militant group, was forced out of the capital by African Union troops in 2011 but still controls parts of the countryside and carries out attacks against government, military and civilian targets seemingly at will in Mogadishu and regional towns.

### Global Crude oil price of Indian Basket was US\$ 54.56 per bbl on 17.02.2017

PIB

The international crude oil price of Indian Basket as computed/ published today by Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas was US\$ 54.56 per barrel (bbl) on 17.02.2017. This was higher than the price of US\$ 54.49 per bbl on previous publishing day of

16.02.2017.

In rupee terms, the price of Indian Basket increased to Rs. 3657.88 per bbl on 17.02.2017 as compared to Rs. 3647.88 per bbl on 16.02.2017. Rupee closed weaker at Rs. 67.05 per US\$ on 17.02.2017 as compared to Rs. 66.95 per US\$ on 16.02.2017. The table below gives details in this regard:

### WHENEVER YOU SEE CONSTRUCTION AND MINING EQUIPMENTS, JUST THINK OF US

A SOLUTION FOR EVERY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT



**Automobile Engineering Works-1**  
**R K WORKSHOP**  
New Checkon Road, Purana Rajbari  
Imphal East,  
Manipur - 795 001

Authorised dealer **BEML Limited**

(A Government of India Mini Ratna Company under Ministry of Defence)

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: [imphaltimes@gmail.com](mailto:imphaltimes@gmail.com). For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (O)

### Economic growth will make sharp recovery: RBI governor

**New Delhi, Feb 20:** News Content Reserve Bank Governor Urjit Patel yesterday said India's economic growth will make a sharp recovery following the recall of old 500 and 1,000 rupee notes. In an interview to CNBC-TV18, Mr Patel made a strong case for continuing with globalisation, even in the face of a potential shift to trade protectionism under US President Donald Trump, as India has benefited from open trade. He said, the remonetisation has happened at a fast pace and that was part of the plan.

RBI last week lowered economic growth projection for the current fiscal to 6.9 per cent from the

previously estimated 7.1 per cent, but saw it bouncing back in a big way to 7.4 per cent in 2017-18. Mr Patel said, the benefit of junking 86 per cent of currency in circulation will take time to fully play out and needs more work to ensure they are lasting.

Asked when India could achieve 9 per cent GDP growth, he said it is difficult to predict sustainable growth rates. The six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) headed by Patel had last week kept interest rates unchanged at 6.25 per cent for the second straight meeting and changed policy stance to neutral from accommodative.