

Editorial

“Framework agreement” on the limelight again

Accord, framework, unique history, interlocutor, sovereignty, contiguous, collective leadership- terms the people of the state, and more of those of other states in the North Eastern part of the country have been trying to make head or tail of for too long. The so called Naga accord, entered on August 3 of this year yet again after 40 years when, on November 11, 1975, then Nagaland Governor L P Singh signed what came to be known as the “Shillong Accord” with six representatives of the Naga rebels in the capital of Meghalaya. Any rationally thinking individual would naturally start questioning what four decades of talking and dialogues have done to change the previous state of affairs or ‘status quo ante’. It is also incomprehensible, and remains to be seen, as to how the government of India would step outside the constitution of the country to negotiate terms with the NSCN-IM rebels as per their demands. This clearly indicates that the ‘collective leadership’ of the NSCN-IM had made the representatives of the Indian government, either through coercion or conviction, to recognise ‘Nagas’ as a separate entity parallel to the ‘Indian’ entity. It would prove rather unfortunate and myopic, not to mention catastrophic, if the Government of India or its Interlocutor who is by definition a person who takes part in formal discussion of conversation, sometimes as a go-between, decides to wrap up the protracted issue without giving due consideration to the concerns of those whose rights and realms stand to be violated. Further, it would be interesting to sit back and watch how the Indian government would concede to granting ‘sovereignty’ to one of its subject states. Perhaps it would prove to be a blessing in disguise for other groups waiting and watching in the wings- even if it would lead to the beginning of the disintegration of the erstwhile Indian republic. Every part and member constituting the present Indian subcontinent has their own peculiar and diverse history. It would be plain narcissistic to claim a particular region or state’s history as ‘unique’ and nothing more- period. It is high time to take a cold hard look into the facts and accept the obvious reality. The cloud of secrecy engulfing the contents of the peace accord needs to be blown away and the details be revealed before things take a nasty and unfortunate turn which will negate all efforts- if any were really made. To prevaricate on the issue will only prolong the suffering and insecurity of the people in the region. It would invariably lead to fomenting distrust and suspicion amongst the different communities coexisting in the region for centuries. It is time for the Government of India to come clean and put an end to the stalling game. It is also time for all of us to come together and make sincere effort to solve our problems instead of delegating it to a third party whose interests and understandings of our way of life is limited.

More State News

4 RPF / OG held

NENA
Imphal, July 6: Four active or ground workers of the proscribed RPF/PLA were arrested by security forces yesterday near Khudengthabi Assam Rifles checkpoint along Imphal-Moreh highway. A combined team of police commandos of Moreh post and 12 Assam Rifles personnel led by SDPO Moreh Lawrence K Munluo arrested the four around 6:10, police said. They said one Maruti Alto car in which they were travelling was seized from their possession. The arrested were L Jiteshwar Singh (51), son of late Nobin Singh, resident of Irengband Saban Leikai under Kachhing Police Station, Asem Brojendro Singh (49), son of

late Asem Tomba Singh, resident of Irengband Hawairou under Kachhing Police Station, Konthoujam Indramani Singh (47), son of late K Tomcha Singh, resident of Irengband Laibung Leikai under Kachhing Police Station and Mayengbam Gopal Singh (55), son of late M Chingkhui Singh, resident of Irengband Mairembam Maning Leikai under Kachhing Police Station. The police claimed that they were returning from Tamu in Myanmar after meeting their commanders namely Nelson and Rishikanta who are leaders of RPF/PLA. They have been handed over to Moreh Police Station for necessary legal action.

Confronting the challenge of mounting waste

By: Sudhrendar Sharma (PIB)

Mini-mountains of accumulated untreated urban waste are common sights in most big and medium cities and towns in the country. Waste dumps greet visitors to any city, reflecting the rapidly rising prosperity in each bit of trash at the waste dump. With cities having literally failed to develop effective ways to dispose of their waste, the resulting mountains of waste in almost all cities have become a serious health hazard. The Government of India is seized of this exacerbating problem, more so having embarked on the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) and the Smarts Cities Mission (SCM) to turn things around by driving growth to improve the quality of life through area-based development and city-level smart solutions. In developing Three-Year Action Agenda (2017-18 to 2019-20), the Niti Aayog has drawn a broader framework for addressing the issue of municipal solid waste (MSW). To align the development strategy with the changing reality, the Niti Aayog has been tasked with developing tools and approaches for impacting policy change within the three year period. It will back up its Three Year Agenda with Seven Year Strategy and Fifteen Year Vision for taking the agenda to its logical conclusion. Given the enormity of the situation, the Agenda has recognized the need for speeding

up action on managing municipal solid waste. It is a timely assertion by the Niti Aayog to develop a time-bound agenda, given the fact that 377 million inhabitants (Census 2011) residing in 7,935 urban centers generate 170,000 tons of solid waste per day. Left unresolved, the nature and magnitude of urban waste will be insurmountable by 2030 when the cities will burst at its seams with 590 million inhabitants. The social and economic reality calls for quick-fix technological solution and NITI Aayog’s Agenda seeks to address the issue. The solution being suggested by the Action Agenda is twin-fold: waste-to-energy incinerators for bigger municipalities and composting method of waste disposal for small towns and semi-urban areas. It further suggests establishing a new Waste to Energy Corporation of India (WECI), akin to the National Highway Authority Of India (NHAI), ‘to speed up the process of cleaning up municipal solid waste’ by developing public-private partnerships to build the plants. Once established, the proposed corporation would play a key role in fast-tracking ways to energy incineration plants across 100 smart cities by 2019. The Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has already recommended setting up of such plants in its Aug

2015 report. This hi-tech solution finds widespread favor as these plants, while reducing the volume of waste, will generate 330 megawatts of electricity by 2018 and 511 megawatts by 2019. While proposing incineration as a solution, the Niti Aayog has also assessed the benefit-cost ratio of thermal pyrolysis and plasma gasification technologies. Both of these are costly options. It must be noted that the proposed Niti Aayog Action Agenda is suggestive in nature, and much will depend on how the States respond to it. But given the fact that the incinerator option was proposed by the Chief Ministers, the proposal is likely to find favour with most states. There are, however, mixed reports on existing waste to energy plants operating in the country on technical and environmental grounds. At the core of the problem is the nature of urban waste in the country, it contain a mix of materials that is unsuitable for efficient incineration. Since 80 per cent of urban waste consists of organic materials such as damp food scraps, the existing plants have found it difficult in meeting prescribed air quality standards. However, existing waste disposal methods are no better. City municipalities spend between Rs 500-Rs 1500 per ton on waste management. Since 60-70 per cent

is spent on waste collection and remaining 20-30 per cent on transporting collected waste to the landfill sites, there is almost nothing that gets spent on treatment and disposal. And to top it all, setting aside shrinking urban spaces for unhealthy dump sites remains a formidable challenge. The Action Agenda has highlighted the constraints of space in discounting the option of large-scale composting and biogas generation from waste. In reality, however, composting is currently being inefficiently tried at several dumping sites. The government may now consider re-examining the feasibility of composting as an option and converge it with National Skill India Development mission to generate alternate sources of employment for uneducated youth. These are still early days to arrive at a consensus. However, it is clear that there cannot be one-size-fits-all for diverse socio-economic realities in the country. But the Government must be credited for initiating timely discussions on a pressing social and environmental problem. With Swachh Bharat Abhiyan being the leitmotif to make the country clean and green, the proposed Action Agenda, containing among others a prescription for Waste Management, by the Niti Aayog is a step in the right direction.

National and International News

G20 Summit begins amid violent protests; Narendra Modi meets BRICS leaders

PII
Hamburg, July 7: The G20 Summit began today in this port city as world leaders assembled to discuss fight against terrorism and ways to improve open trade while Prime Minister Narendra Modi met his counterparts from the BRICS bloc. While host German Chancellor Angela Merkel welcomed the leaders to open the 12th G20 Summit, a

separate meeting of BRICS leaders took place on the sidelines. The official details of the BRICS meet could not be immediately ascertained. Outside the Summit venue, violent protests continued by various rights groups, including anti-capitalist groupings. The police had to resort to water canons, tear gas and pepper spray. Modi reached here last evening and has bilateral meetings lined up with various leaders, including from Japan, South Korea and Vietnam. Modi will participate in the leaders’ retreat and the sessions on Global Growth and Trade and on Sustainable Development, Climate and Energy. Later in the evening, he will attend a concert for leaders at Elphharmonie. This port city has been converted into a fortress for the Summit, which is being attended by 4,800 journalists from more than 67 countries. Fighting terrorism, climate change and global trade are expected to be the key areas of discussion at the

two-day Summit, whose theme is “Shaping an Inter-connected World”. The meet is taking place at a time when differences have emerged among several leaders expected to be present — mostly on publicly stated views of US President Donald including on issues like climate change and open trade. Russia’s Vladimir Putin, Turkey’s Recep Tayyip Erdogan, France’s Emmanuel Macron and the UK’s Theresa May will be participating in the Summit. While Hamburg happens to be city of birth for the Summit host Merkel, it is also known as an ‘anti-establishment bastion’ of Left-wing radicals. At least 30 protests are expected to be held here ahead of the Summit that may attract thousands of people, including from anti-capitalist groups. Local authorities expect these protests to remain peaceful and around 15,000 police personnel will be deployed to protect the venue. Besides, nearly 4,000 personnel will keep a tab on the airport and train

security. While counter-terrorism and economic reforms will dominate the discussions, the Summit will also discuss issues like free and open trade, climate change, migration, sustainable development and global stability. Prior to the Summit, Modi had said he was looking forward to “engaging leaders from other G20 countries on the vital issues affecting our world today that have a bearing on economic growth, sustainable development, and peace and stability”. The prime minister had said the world leaders would review progress on decisions since the Hangzhou Summit last year and deliberate on issues of terrorism, climate, sustainable development, growth and trade, digitisation, health, employment, migration, women’s empowerment, and partnership with Africa. Modi is to hold meetings with leaders of countries like Canada, Japan, and the UK on the sidelines of the Summit.

Girl raped by school music teacher

PII
Lucknow, July 7: A three-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her music teacher at her school in Aashiyana locality here, police said today. The accused was arrested yesterday. The incident came to light on Wednesday when the girl complained of uneasiness. The girl was taken to a private doctor, who suspected rape. The family members informed the school principal and also the police. A medical examination later confirmed rape.

The accused teacher Pawan Gupta was arrested on rape charges and under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) ACT, police said.

Train mows down elephant in Assam

PII
Tezpur, July 7: A speeding train today mowed down a wild elephant while it was trying to cross a railway track in north Lakhimpur district of Assam, a forest official said. A herd of elephants from the nearby Dulung reserve forest was crossing the railway track at Pathalipam area, when the train hit the jumbo, killing it on the spot. Veterinarians have reached the accident site, located behind the reserve forest, for carrying out postmortem, the official said.

No. 104/1/2017-DHS GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR MEDICAL DIRECTORATE

NOTIFICATION Imphal, the 7th July, 2017

It is hereby informed to all the NEET-UG, 2017 qualified and eligible candidates of Manipur are informed that the NEET-UG, 2017 merit list for Manipur are notified in the Medical Directorate Notice Board and official website : www.manipurhealthdirectorat.in.

Also the following information are given:

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| a) | Issue of Application Forms: | 10 th to 13 th July (10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.) |
| b) | Submission of Application Form : | 13 th to 15 th July, 2017 (10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.) |
| c) | 1 st Counselling : | 22 nd July, 2017 (10 a.m. onwards) |
| d) | 2 nd Counselling : | 18 th August, 2017 (10 a.m. onwards) |
| e) | Venue of counselling: | Main Auditorium Hall, JNIMS, Porompat. |
| f) | Cost of Application Forms/Counselling : | Rs. 500/- for Gen/OBC and Rs. 300/- for SC/ST |

Application forms will be available from the office of this Directorate, Lamphelpat.

Further information of the counselling process will be uploaded on our website or can be had from this Directorate.

Dr. K. Lokendro Singh
Directorate of Health Services, Manipur

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