

Editorial

Imphal, Tuesday June 6, 2017

Unresolved challenges

The recent rise in inhuman crimes of killing people in the most heinous way is not a good sign of good governance. When no words comes out on the homicide crimes, the outburst of the state Government and subsequent show of political conviction against the increasingly violent intimidations and coercion by various armed groups operating in the state professing various lofty ideologies ranging from freedom to emancipation of the society has made the public sit up and take notice, and have even managed to enrage a section of the society. What has sparked the imagination of the people more than the show of military strength is the swiftness and alacrity in implementing its promise. The troubled state has been experiencing more than its fair share of unwanted and unfortunate incidents, so much so that the common people have become inured to these often violent distractions and have started reconciling themselves to this particular way of life. But this does not mean that the very same people have given up on their hopes and aspirations of leading a simple, carefree life free from fear and violence. On the contrary, these elusive dreams have spurred them on to try harder and fuelled their irrefragable spirit to try and rise above the travails being endured everyday. But what exactly is the genesis of such a situation? Would it be possible to ascribe the cause to a particular group of individuals, a particular ethnic group or a set of persons subscribing to a particular ideology? The answer, and therefore the solution, will undoubtedly be a daunting, if not an impossible one. And yet nothing is likely to change, let alone improve, if nothing is done to address the situation. Someone has to make a start somewhere, and by all indications, the task will be fraught with challenges, setbacks and of course danger. Such a perilous undertaking needs to be planned meticulously and executed precisely, with undeterred commitment and tenacity. The obvious choice to take up such a challenge is the State Government, conceived and formed to protect and lead the society towards progress and prosperity. The only question that remains to be answered is: is the present Government committed enough to carry out its promise and see things through to the end? What about the various discrepancies and bureaucratic mismanagements that are, at least in part, responsible for various groups to make an excuse to resort to arms, citing betrayal and suppression of the society, allegations which, in a way cannot be discounted? The tough stance taken by the state Government against the increasing atrocities and violent intimidation by various armed groups is a welcome and a much needed impetus in the right direction. The much harassed public would want it no other way than to see it through, and at the same time to cleanse the government of the rampant abuse and misuse of official positions for personal benefits being practiced at present and have sadly seemed to have been ingrained into the system. Until such stumbling blocks and aberrations in the system is cauterized, there will always be an excuse to espouse further violence and mayhem within the society.

Startup Weekend Imphal 2.0 Edition (26th to 28th May 2017)



For the second time in Manipur, Startup Weekend Imphal successfully concluded its 3 days event at Nibiaa Consultancy Pvt. Ltd. Singjamei, Imphal, Manipur from 26th to 28th of May 2017. The event was jointly organized by three startup companies in Manipur namely Nibiaa Consultancy Pvt. Ltd., Basic Platform (basicP) and Uchan Enterprises.

With the objective of building a startup ecosystem in Manipur, to nurture & validate business ideas and to generate more job creators (entrepreneurs) instead of job seekers for long term economic development of the region, such an event was organized with the support of local sponsors and spirited effort of the organizers who themselves run small startup Companies in Manipur and without assistance from any government agencies. Startup Weekend is a non-profit global network of passionate leaders and entrepreneurs, based in Seattle, Washington who organizes 54-hour events across the globe on a mission to inspire, educate and empower individuals, teams and communities to share ideas, form teams and launch startups. So far, 23k+ Teams Formed, 193k+ Alumni Community Members, 150 Countries (That's more than Starbucks!), 2.9k+ Events to Date. Startup Weekend Imphal is a general edition of a 54-hour event where developers, designers and business development folks come together to pitch a raw idea, which could be in any vertical/theme and work on building a Minimum Viable

Product (MVP) thus propelling them to take their ideas to the next stage of launching a business, all in one weekend. It is a great opportunity to test startup ideas/hypothesis, meet potential co-founders, build a powerful community in Imphal and launch your next startup! This weekend will be a priceless opportunity to pitch the ideas in front of local entrepreneurial leaders and evolve them with their critical feedback and aids from coaches. All together 55 numbers of aspiring entrepreneurs registered and took part in the 54-hour startup marathon (three days event). On today's final day a total of 7 teams (5 members each) demonstrate their MVP (minimum viable product), business model and their execution strategies in front of 4 judges. Each team was given 5 mins time for presentation and 3 minutes for Q&A. The

company names of the ideas which were presented are Sai-yon Services, One-go-Recipe, Mahei Mangal Edu Consultancy, Thoul Event Solutions, Chengtel Inghkol, Beacon Financial Services, Solar Fan on Umbrella. The top three team were selected and awarded were Beacon Financial Services as 2nd runner up, Thoul Event Solutions as 1st Runner up and the winner of the event was One-go-Recipe. As a part of "Post Event" initiative the top three team will be provided with free incubation space for three months at the office of Nibiaa Consultancy Pvt. Ltd., Singjamei, Imphal. During the three months all the business ideas will be nurtured and mentored to bring up to "investable stage". Also, any startup enthusiast can also join the incubation space to validate their business ideas and connect with any one of the organizing partners. The Startup Weekend Organizing

team will continue to organize Startup Weekend every 6 months to nurture more business Ideas and help create Startup Ecosystem in Manipur. Since, this event aims at democratizing the process of starting a new startup company in Manipur, We the organizing team of Startup Weekend Imphal would like to request the State Government and concerned authority to help and support the organizing of future events in all possible way and help develop and creation of entrepreneurial ecosystem in Manipur. Aeroshil Nameirakpam Founder Nibiaa Consultancy, Rojen Leimapakpam Founder Basic Platform and Ningthem Ningombam MD and Co-founder Uchan Enterprises took a lead role in successfully organizing the event. Volunteer student Bony Yunnam and Rajkumar Shitaljit also played a big role helping organize various logistics of the event.

National and International News

4 Indians, 1 Pakistani Plead Guilty In US In Massive Call Centre Scam

Washington, June 6: Four Indians and one Pakistani have pleaded guilty to the charges for their role in a massive telephone impersonation fraud and money laundering scheme in the US perpetrated by India-based call centres, the Department of Justice has said. Three Indians Rajubhai Patel, 32, Viraj Patel, 33, Dilip Kumar Ambal Patel, 53, and Fahad Ali, 25, a Pakistani national each pleaded guilty to money laundering conspiracy before US District Court Judge David Hitner of the Southern District of Texas. Hardik Patel, 31, an Indian national pleaded guilty to wire fraud conspiracy before the same court on June 2. Sentencing dates are pending for all

five defendants, the Department of Justice said. Based on the statements in his June 2 guilty plea, beginning August 2012, Hardik owned and managed the day-to-day operations of an India-based scam call centre before later leaving for the US. While in India, in his capacity as a manager, Hardik communicated extensively via email, text, and other means with various India-based co-defendants to operate the scheme and exchange scripts used in the scheme, coordinate the processing of payments from scammed victims, obtain and exchange lead lists used by callers to target US victims, and exchange spreadsheets containing the personal identifying information

(PII) of US persons misappropriated by the scammers to register reloadable cards used in the scheme. He also managed worker payroll and kept detailed records of profits and expenses for various associated scam call centres. According to his June 6 guilty plea, Rajubhai Patel operated as a runner and assisted a co-defendant in managing the activities of a crew of other runners, based primarily out of Illinois, who liquidated victim funds in various locales in the US for conspirators from India-based call centres. Viraj Patel first became involved in the conspiracy between April and September 2013, prior to entering the US, when he worked at and assisted

with overseeing the operations of a call centre in India engaging in scam activity at the behest of a co-defendant. Dilipkumar A Patel operated as a runner in and around Southern California, along with other co-defendants based in the region. Fahad Ali worked as a member of a crew of runners operating in the Chicago, Illinois area, the Southern District of Texas and elsewhere throughout the country. To date, 56 individuals and five India-based call centres have been charged for their roles in the fraud and money laundering scheme in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in the Southern District of Texas on October 19, 2016.

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Grenade attack on Indian envoy's residential compound in Kabul, all safe

New Delhi, June 6: A rocket-launched grenade landed inside the residential complex of India envoy in Kabul today. The grenade exploded inside a tennis court. No injuries have been reported so far. The grenade attack comes at a time when the Afghanistan capital is hosting Peace Process Conference which is being attended by representatives from 27 countries. The death toll from a truck-bomb explosion in Kabul last week has reached more than 150 people, President Ashraf Ghani said today, making it the deadliest attack in the Afghan capital since the ouster of the Taliban in 2001. The blast occurred when a sewage truck packed with what Ghani called "military-grade" explosives detonated at the entrance to a fortified area of that city that includes foreign embassies and government buildings. "We were not the only targets, the entire diplomatic community was the target of this attack," Ghani told foreign diplomats gathered for a conference in Kabul. Previous official estimates had put the death toll at about 90, with more than

460 wounded. All of those killed were Afghans, and Ghani paid specific homage to 13 policemen who stopped the truck as it tried to enter the fortified district and were killed in the blast. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, which sparked violent anti-government protests. Several protesters were killed in the case today, including making possible arrests," said Gurgaon's commissioner of police Sandeep Khirwar. He said the baby had died of head injuries, and estimated the mother was aged 19 or 20. The mother told the police that the men started molesting her as soon as she sat in the auto rickshaw. When

Pakistan more of a threat than an ally: US think tank

Washington, June 6: Pakistan is still a sanctuary for the Taliban and the Haqqani network and more of a threat than an ally, a top US think tank has said, while asserting that the Trump administration should make it clear to Islamabad that it will face sanctions if it continues to support them.

clashes with police on Friday, and at least a dozen people were killed when suicide bombers attacked the funeral for one of the dead protesters on Saturday. "Afghanistan is currently doing badly both in the fighting and in its civilian politics, governance, and poverty. Pakistan is still a sanctuary for the Taliban and Haqqani network and more of a threat than an ally," the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) said in a report released yesterday.