

Editorial

Understanding responsibility

There is no dearth of the voice of dissent in the society against various discrepancies no matter who is in the power. Yet the protests and agitations have been somehow put under control. Yet absurd as it may sound, it would do us much good to take a long hard look at the genesis of the problems, for, at the heart of the matter, one would almost always find ourselves to blame.

It is no mean feat, by any standard, to run a Government, especially in a topographically challenged state such as Manipur. The diverse cultures, customs and traditions, while adding to the charm and magnetism of the place, isn't helping much when it comes to framing policies and plans that would appeal to every section of the population.

Add to it the universal conflict of limited funds versus the unrelenting demand for employment and development, the situation becomes primed for an impending social cataclysm. And the resulting situation is unfolding right in front of us, getting a little more vivid with the passage of time. We, the informed public have become more than accustomed to reciting our rights, and are increasingly becoming vocal and aggressive. Much as we would have loved to deny, the uncomfortable truth remains - that we have become habitual in condemning the Government and holding it responsible for all and every social ills, forgetting the fact that we are effectively discrediting ourselves of our choice made during elections to select our representatives who is duty bound to work for us, on our behalf and with us. Our society has seen and experienced disruptive forces and divisive attempts masked in the garb of social emancipation and freedom.

Freedom to do what? We are not exactly under the rule of a tyrant or even a military junta. Granted, the inhuman AFSPA and other restrictions that even threaten the very existence of a person are very real and intimidating, but do not come in our way while we go about with our daily activities and lives. One is still free to speak out, write up, work and keep our earns. We can still move around anywhere anytime and pursue any of the many engagements a normal person might ever think of. We are free to voice our concerns and publicise our objections. We even have courts of law to settle disputes and address our legitimate complaints.

What we really need is not patience for the Government to deliver, with our hands between our legs, or even resort to violence and destructions to assert our rights. We need to force the system work in the manner it ought to. And to do that, we need to first be mindful of our conduct and mentality. We need to follow our conscience and stand for what is right, and be prepared to make sacrifices to uphold it. We need to gather up the courage to wean ourselves away from the temptations and the lure of unethical and easy gains. But above all, we need to be firm and be considerate of the needs and rights of others as well. It is when we are being true to ourselves, then we can really hope and expect the changes we are shouting ourselves hoarse about.

It would be the greatest blunder if we keep discarding the potent weapons of democracy which are devised to serve and protect our interest.

Bank pass book lost

I, undersigned have lost my State Bank of India (SBI) pass book, account no. 32826544457 issued by the SBI Canchipur branch, on the way between Bamol Leikai to JNIMS Porompat on Oct. 30, 2017. Finders are requested to kindly hand over the items to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Thongbam Rosi Devi
Brahmapur Lalji Lakpa Leikai
Imphal East

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National & International News

Myanmar's Suu Kyi makes 1st visit to northern Rakhine

AFP
Yangon, Nov 2: Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi arrived on her first visit to conflict-battered northern Rakhine State today, an official said, an unannounced trip to an area that has seen most of its Rohingya Muslim population forced out by an army campaign. Suu Kyi, a Nobel laureate who leads Myanmar's pro-democracy party, has been hammered by the international community for failing to use her moral power to speak up in defence of the Rohingya. Some 600,000 of the stateless minority have fled to Bangladesh since late August carrying accounts of murder, rape and arson at the hands of the Myanmar's army, after militant raids sparked a ferocious military crackdown. The UN says that crackdown is

tantamount to ethnic cleansing, while pressure has mounted on Myanmar to provide security for the Rohingya and allow people to return home. "The State Counsellor (Suu Kyi's official title) is now in Sittwe and will go to Maungdaw and Buthidaung too. It will be a day trip," government spokesman Zaw Htay told AFP, mentioning two of the epicentres of the violence but without elaborating on her schedule. It is her first trip in office to northern Rakhine, which has hosted the worst of the communal violence that has cut through the western state since 2012, severely damaging Myanmar's global reputation. It was not clear if Suu Kyi would visit some of the hundreds of Rohingya villages torched by the

army - allegedly aided by ethnic Rakhine Buddhist locals - or if she would be taken to see remaining clusters of the Muslim group, who are living in fear and hunger surrounded by hostile neighbours. Thousands of others are believed to still be camped on a beach near Maungdaw awaiting boats to Bangladesh in increasingly parlous conditions. The Rohingya are hated in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, where they are denied citizenship and widely dismissed as illegal "Bengali" immigrants. Observers say Suu Kyi has chosen not to criticise the army in fear of a backlash from a powerful institution that controls all security matters. The plight of the Rohingya also garners little sympathy inside Myanmar, making any defence of the

minority a politically unpopular cause amid surging Buddhist nationalist sentiment. Suu Kyi heads a committee charged with rebuilding Rakhine and repatriating Rohingya from Bangladesh who meet strict criteria for re-entry to Myanmar. Yesterday, spokesman Zaw Htay accused Bangladesh of delaying the start of the repatriation process. Dhaka has yet to send an official list of the Rohingya who have fled since August 25, he told AFP. The Rohingya have packed into makeshift camps on a poor, already overcrowded slip of border land inside Bangladesh. Aid groups say the risk of major outbreaks of disease is high while they struggle to deliver food and basic supplies to the unprecedented number of refugees.

UK Defence Secretary Quits Over Sexual Harassment Claim

NDTV
London, Nov. 2: British Defence Secretary Michael Fallon resigned on Wednesday after a highly publicised allegation of sexual harassment, the first politician to step down in a developing scandal at Westminster. "A number of allegations have surfaced about MPs in recent days, including some about my previous conduct. Many of these have been false but I accept that in the past I have fallen below the high standards that we require of the armed forces that I have the honour to represent," Fallon wrote in a letter to Prime Minister Theresa May. "I have reflected on my position and I am therefore resigning as Defence Secretary," he said, adding that he would continue as a member of parliament.

Fallon had apologised this week for putting his hand on the knee of a journalist, Julia Hartley-Brewer, in 2002, but he was not being investigated over the incident. Hartley-Brewer said she was "incredibly shocked" by Fallon's resignation and did not think his decision was based solely on the 2002 incident. "I'm assuming there are more allegations to come," she told Sky News. "I doubt very much it's because of my knee and if it is I think that's really mad and absurd and crazy." "I think he's actually been a very good defence secretary and I'm sad that a leading member of the cabinet has fallen now when the government is on very shaky ground," she said. She added that while there had been

"rumours doing the rounds for some time" over sexual harassment within politics, no one had contacted her directly about specific concerns. May has called for rules on MPs' behaviour to be toughened after the emergence of several allegations of sexual harassment at Westminster. In a letter to Fallon, May thanked him for "a long and impressive ministerial career." "I appreciate the characteristically serious manner in which you have considered your position, and the particular example you wish to set to servicemen and women and others," she wrote. As Fallon appeared on television to read a prepared statement, repeating his letter to May, the US government said the resignation

"should in no way impact our relationship" with Britain. "It should not impact the schedule" of meetings with UK representatives, a Pentagon spokesman said. May's government has been struck by several claims of sexual harassment, with an investigation underway into allegations that her de facto deputy Damian Green touched the knee of journalist Kate Maltby and later sent her a suggestive text message. Green, who was at university with May, said it was "absolutely and completely untrue that I've ever made any sexual advances" towards the journalist. Junior trade minister Mark Garnier is also under investigation for breaches of the ministerial code for asking his former secretary to buy him sex toys in 2010.

Both NDA and UPA ignored tourism sector, says Shashi Tharoor

PTI
New Delhi, Nov 2: The former UPA regime has been knocked by one of its own — MP Shashi Tharoor. The ex-Union minister believes that his former government and the one led by Narendra Modi have ignored the all-important sector of tourism. India, the Kerala MP said, was not investing money in building the infrastructure needed to draw tourists. "I am taken aback by the fact that both my own government and the

present one seem oblivious of the fact that there's a whole series of studies that says a thousand dollars invested in tourism will employ eight times as many people as the same amount invested in manufacturing," Tharoor said on Tuesday at the concluding session of the literary festival Penguin Fever 2017. At a panel discussion on "The Rise of the Elephant" where the other speakers included principal economic advisor Sanjeev Sanyal and author Gurcharan Das, Tharoor

asserted that investment in the tourism sector would help the elephant — a metaphor for India — rise. "Dubai and Singapore gets more people visiting them in a day than we get in terms of foreign tourists in a year. Very clearly this has been a missed opportunity for a very long time," he said. The Congress MP also wondered what there was to celebrate in the recently out World Bank 'Doing Business 2018' report which showed

that India's rank on the 'ease of doing business' index had improved from the 130th position last year to 100th out of a list of 190 countries. "Modi promised to us that we will be in the first 50 positions within two years of his government and the fact is that after four years we are at number 100. "When the prime minister of India announces a target and fails spectacularly... it's worth pointing that out before we start celebrating too much on this," he noted.

Government to frame rules for civilian drone use; unmanned aircraft to have ID, radio frequency tags

PTI
New Delhi, Nov. 2: Drones for civilian use will require a unique identification number as well as radio frequency tags, according to the civil aviation ministry as it today unveiled draft norms for the unmanned aircraft systems. The regulations, once finalised, would permit commercial use of drones in the country, Civil Aviation Secretary R N Choubey said. On whether companies can use drones to deliver goods, Choubey said the answer is "yes". Drones would require unique identification numbers while nano drones, those weighing below 250 grams, would be exempt from seeking one-time approval, including the unique number requirement, as per the final draft rules prepared by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). "We are making the rules very user friendly," Choubey told reporters here. Noting that the draft norms have been prepared after extensive consultations internally, he said the final and formal Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) for drones is expected to be in place by December. Various restrictions have been

proposed to ensure that drones are used only for valid purposes and there would be 'no drone zones'. "All drones are proposed to be operated in visual line of sight, during day time only and below 200 feet," the ministry said in a release. Drones have been classified into five categories, with those weighing up to 250 gram described as 'nano'. Those weighing more than 250 gram and up to 2 kilogram would be classified as 'micro' while 'mini' would be those having weight of over 2 kilogram and less than or equal to 25 kilogram. 'Small' drones would be those weighing up to 150 kilogram and above that threshold would be classified as 'large'.

Drones would be issued unique identification numbers and those falling in the mini category would need to comply with remote pilot approval requirement. Besides "RFID/SIM", drones should have return to home option and anti-collision lights, as per the draft rules. RFID (radio frequency identification) is used for the identification purpose electronically. Apart from barring these drones to be operated within 5 kilometre of an airport, they would be restricted from "within 50 kilometre from international border and beyond 500 metre (horizontal) into sea along the coastline". Drones would not be allowed within "5 kilometre radius from Vijay Chowk

(in national capital)" and also from a mobile platform such as a moving vehicle, ship or aircraft. Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju expressed hope that the draft norms would encourage genuine and "discourage nefarious activities". About the draft norms, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha said the ministry has opened the door for lot of experiments and innovations in India. Currently, aircraft rules do not cover use of drones as well as their sale and purchase. Aviation regulator DGCA had in October 2014 restricted the use of drones and unmanned aircraft system by civilians.

Upper air circulation to bring more rains today

The Hindu
Chennai, Nov. 2: With the northeast monsoon intensifying, Met officials have predicted more rain or thundershowers on Thursday in most places over the northern coast, southern Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Isolated instances of heavy to very heavy rainfall are also likely over these places.

"An upper air cyclonic circulation is bringing the rains," said S. Balachandran, Director, Area Cyclone Warning Centre, Chennai. On Wednesday morning, it was lying over Sri Lanka and the adjoining southwest bay. "The rains are likely to continue for one or two days and the circulation is not likely to intensify under current conditions," he explained.

For Chennai city, the sky condition is likely to be generally cloudy with intermittent spells of rain or thundershowers likely at times. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 26 and 23 degree Celsius, respectively. "Compared to Monday, Chennai had lesser rains on Wednesday. They came in spells and we did have gaps in-between," he noted.