

Editorial

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Where the mind is without fear

In democratic India, all people irrespective of their social status are equal before the law of the land. Any person is free to exercise his or her rights when he or she feels that he or she is deprived of what he or she were supposed to enjoy. It may be in the form of democratic protest, criticisms through various channels of mass media or by organising mass campaign that the people in the society can be made understand that, rights of a common person is deprived. Once people are convinced, it is natural that the people join hands to the fellow citizen whose rights has been deprived, not because for individual cause but because justice to the single fellow will also mean justice for all people in the society.

Mass media in today's world is playing tremendous role in bringing up issues which they think is for the cause of the common people. India is not lagging behind; there have been many cases that common people who were victims of atrocities were delivered justice. Many God men had been put behind bars, business tycoon are declared wanted and many politicians were not spared for the wrongs they had committed which affect the livelihood of the common people by the people in media risking their lives.

Paid news, reporting of cooked stories and yellow journalism are some of the familiar words coined to defame the people in mass media by those who had been exposed for their wrongs. Saying so it does not mean that some people in the profession are all pure and sincere in rendering their duty.

The mass media in this little state Manipur too has been playing its role effectively. Without bothering the kind of returns they enjoyed as payment to their service, people in this profession have been taking all risk in exposing what is not right when it comes for the cause of common people. Eight people in the field had lost their lives some remain as disabled in unfortunate accidents and incidents when they were on duty. Inappropriate salary in returns to their service had also forced many to quit the profession. Yet there is no shortage of manpower in this field.

From hand written pamphlets to letter press and then Offset printing machine and then come multi-coloured Web printing machines besides the emergence of electronic media like Television channels, mass media in Manipur too is marching ahead. Now it is the digital media that is slowly dominating the world of mass media. The traditional way of spreading news has been slowly changing converting the system to two ways channel- as both receivers and senders can communicate in a nick of time. The changing media trends showed that criticism, debate, arguments will be the future of media and it is already doing at many of the national and international media, even though it still seems way to go for the state of Manipur.

Saying so, it would be wrong to advocate a free speech of any individual or freedom of press without limit as legitimate. In democratic India a breached of privilege for some individuals or groups by any mass media can be challenged, but taking the law in hand to stand up or protest against any trespassing to individuals or groups is rather a sign of lawlessness. Government's silence on such matter will only be recorded as 'weak' or 'inefficient', by the future generation.

On one hand, when lawyers, advocates protest on the street for failure of law and order, and when media goes protest for some peoples' threat to sue them through proper channel, it showed the timidity character of the group of people in the profession which should be the most courageous people.

Steps like boycott of those voices against media which they felt not correct would be a more unjustified decision. Space for criticism to media should also be provided if someone felt that their image have been maligned by any writings or comment of a media house.

A hurriedly managed staged demonstration by any groups including political parties or media groups or anybody driven by emotion and sentiments is not a sign of civilized society.

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Procurement)
Dated : 09.04.2018
BID NO:- EE/IE/BID/2018-19/1

1. The Executive Engineer, Imphal East Division, P.W.D Manipur invites bids for construction of works detailed in the table from registered contractors and firms. The bidders may submit bid for the following work:-
Name of Work : Improvement of Koirengai - Sekmai Road i/c bridge approach from Sangakham to Salanhong in Manipur.
Approx Value of Work :- Rs. 19,12,43,310/-
Bid Security :- Rs. 38,25,000/-
Tender Fee :- Rs. 10,000/-
Details can seen/downloaded from the www.manipurtenders.gov.in or www.manipur.gov.in

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Imphal East Division
PWD, Manipur

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail : imphaltimes@gmail.com.
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National & International News

7th Pay Commission: Salary Increased; here's the hike details

Agency
New Delhi, April 12

The Centre has increased the salary of the Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories made it on a par with the emoluments of secretaries of the central government. The decision has been taken by the BJP-led central government at a meeting of the Union Cabinet presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday. The Union Cabinet has given its nod for the revision of salary and allowances of Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories and it will be on a par with that of the secretary to

the government of India, an official statement said.

The proposal for increasing the pay and allowances of LGs with effect from January 1, 2016 from Rs 80,000 per month plus dearness allowance, sumptuary allowance at the rate of Rs 4,000 per month and local allowances to Rs 2,25,000 plus dearness allowance, sumptuary allowance at the rate of Rs 4,000 per month and local allowances at the same rate as applicable to the officers of the rank of secretary to the central government.

It will be subject to the condition that the total emoluments (excluding sumptuary allowance and local

allowances) shall not exceed the total emoluments drawn by the Governor of a state, PTI reported citing the statement.

The decision came two months after Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced in his 2018-19 Budget that emoluments of the President would be revised to Rs 5 lakh, Rs 4 lakh for the vice president and to Rs 3.5 lakh per month for the governors, the news agency reported.

Moreover, the judges of the Supreme Court and the 24 High Courts are set to get enhanced dearness allowance, months after they received a nearly two-fold salary hike.

According to a Law Ministry order issued on April 5, the SC and HC judges will get 7 per cent DA with effect from January 1. So far, they were getting 5 per cent DA.

However, the government is yet to take a final call over the demands of the lakhs of central government employees who have been demanding a hike in the minimum pay. They demand for hike in the present minimum pay by Rs 8000 (presently getting Rs 18,000 and demand Rs 26,000), stating that the recommended hike by the 7th Pay Commission is not enough and it must be raised taking into account their financial condition.

Minaret at Taj Mahal complex collapses after heavy rain

Agency
Agra, April 12

A minaret at the entry gate of the Taj Mahal crashed as heavy rain and high winds lashed Agra last night. The 12-feet metal pillar at the entry gate, referred to as *Darwaza-e-Kauza*, collapsed as wind speed during the thunderstorm crossed 100 km per hour.

Sources say the pillar fell just past midnight on Thursday and the minaret and dome on it broke into several pieces.

The Archeological Society of India (ASI), which maintains the iconic heritage site, had appealed

in the Supreme Court for sorting out the ownership of the Taj Mahal, against the Waqf board's decision to declare the Taj as its property.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday has asked the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Waqf Board, to show documents signed by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, to prove that it owns the Taj Mahal.

"Who in India will believe that it the Taj belongs to the Waqf board," asked the Bench, comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud, and added that such issues must not waste the time of the top court. The ASI told the top court that Taj

Mahal was taken over by the British and since Independence, the society has been maintaining the Taj Mahal.

The Supreme Court on March 23, directed the Uttar Pradesh government to place before it a draft of vision document on protection and preservation of the Taj Mahal and environment in the Taj Trapezium Zone.

The Uttar Pradesh government informed the top court that it was working on the vision document which would help in the protection and preservation of the 17th century mausoleum. It sought four weeks time from a bench of justices Madan B Lokur, Kurian Joseph

and Deepak Gupta for completing the work on the vision document. In January, the ASI, after a study said the Taj has been losing its sheen and the structure is suffering due to increased pollution levels in Agra. Experts said the abrasive nature of the particulate matter in the air is damaging the surfaces of the Taj. The ASI, in October 2017, temporarily stopped restoration work at the Taj Mahal and sought help from engineers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). Some experts are of the opinion that repeated mud packs to clean the white marble may weaken the structure.

Not only F-16 fighters, Lockheed ready to make Javelin missiles in India

Agency
New Delhi, April 12

With the Indian Air Force beginning the process of buying 110 fighter jets, in a deal that could be worth more than \$15 billion, Lockheed Martin has expressed its readiness to shift its F-16 fighter aircraft manufacturing unit to India — and the US government, according to the manufacturer, will allow it to do that.

That apart, the American global aerospace and defence major is also prepared to transfer the technology of its third generation anti-armour Javelin guided missile system to India for its future manufacture. At least two Lockheed officials at the DeExpo 18 told IANS that if the defence procurement deals were signed with the company that is all geared to bid for the world's biggest fighter jet order, it would walk the extra mile and transfer technology to local partners for sophisticated parts of defence products.

"We are offering a deal that is completely compatible with 'Make in India' — offering a stand-up production line in India," said Randall L. Howard, who heads International Business

Development for aircraft at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics.

He said more than 4,000 F-16s have been sold to countries across the world. "We are offering to shift the manufacturing base and produce all of our F-16s in India; not just for India, but for the whole world — across South East Asia, across South America, across Middle East."

Asked if the Trump administration would allow it to do so, Howard said the company had "full support of the US government".

He said the single-engine supersonic multirole fighter aircraft that has seen action in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars was currently being built around the world, and setting up facilities in India would not impact jobs in the US.

"So whenever we have a situation, we will be able to build the entire aircraft in India. But we will continue to have parts that come from the US. That will continue to create jobs in the US. This absolutely supports American jobs," he said, adding Lockheed was also looking at the possibility of setting up the entire ecosystem, including one with a runway, to produce the fighters in

flyaway condition.

Another Lockheed official, Haley Donoho, who is business development head of the shoulder-fired anti-armour Javelin missile, said a possible joint venture for the system "is in good standing with the Indian government".

"Should the Indian government be interested in the third generation missile system, we are ready to sell Javelin under a foreign military sale contract which is the most transparent acquisition contract you can find. You can trace at every step where the money is going."

He said Lockheed has got the US government's nod to transfer its "high-degree" technology to its partners in India for the development of the 22 kg, portable missile system that comes with a combination of "fire and forget" and "man in the loop" capability, with a range of up to four km.

The missile, which automatically guides itself to the target after launch, has been used by US forces in the cold mountains of Afghanistan and in the hot deserts of Iraq. With its arched top-attack profile, Javelin climbed above its target for improved

visibility and then strikes where the armour is weakest, he said.

"The US government was ready to transfer high-degree technology under US-India Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) when the previous deal was done. The US government has indicated to us, and to the Indian Defence Ministry, that we will continue on the discussion with similar levels of transfer of technology."

"I can speak for the US government, and they are interested in the same type of deal for transfer of high-degree technology, specifically for India. We have done this for no other country."

Asked about the future of India's fledgling indigenous defence-building capabilities, the two officials said it was only a matter of time before the country emerges as one of the major military manufacturers in the world.

"I think it is coming. We will see whether it will take off quickly or slowly. But I think it is coming. This is India. Lots of engineers, lots of researchers, people with lots of capabilities. It is only a matter of time. We see it is coming." Donoho said.

CBSE leak case solved: Una teacher arrested for leaking Class 12 Economics paper, also leaked Class 10 Maths exam

Agency
New Delhi, April 12

The Delhi Crime Branch has solved the CBSE Class X Mathematics paper leak case, reported media outlets.

According to *News18*, Rakesh Kumar Sharma, the CBSE exam superintendent in Una, Himachal Pradesh had leaked the Class X Mathematics paper in addition to leaking the Class XII Economics paper. The Delhi Police will take a press conference shortly where it will share more details about the investigation, reported *India Today*.

On Saturday, a Special Investigation Team of the Delhi Police had arrested Sharma along with a clerk and a support staff of a private school in Himachal Pradesh on charges of leaking the CBSE

Class XII Economics paper. The SIT had found that the Economics paper was leaked in handwritten format two days prior to the exam held on 26 March.

Police had said the accused — Kumar, a teacher, Amit Sharma, a clerk and Ashok Kumar, a support staff in DAV Centenary Public School in Una — were taken into custody on Friday. According to Delhi Police's Special Commissioner RP Upadhyaya, Rakesh Kumar was working as a teacher in the school since 2010 and had been made Central Superintendent of CBSE Examination Centre in Una, where he was responsible of conducting board examination in at least three schools including Jawahar Narvodaya school, since the last three years.

"He had access to the Union Bank of India branch where sealed question papers were kept under his

custody. It was his duty to further take these papers in schools," Upadhyaya had said, adding that two days before the Class XII Economics paper, he, along with

Sharma and Kumar went to collect the question paper of computer science but also took out the economics question paper from the bundle.

Pregnant Pakistani singer shot dead for refusing to stand while singing

Agency
New Delhi, April 12

A pregnant Pakistani singer was shot dead after she reportedly refused to stand up while singing at a ceremony. The incident took place on Tuesday in Larkana district of Pakistan. According to a news report by *Dawn*, the accused was drunk and got miffed at the 24-year-old singer Samina Samoon, also known as Samina Sindhu, for sitting down while she performed at the gathering.

The accused, Tarique Ahmed Jatoti repeatedly insisted that she should stand while she sang and when she refused to comply with his request he shot her dead. Samina was rushed to a hospital but was pronounced dead.

The singer's husband revealed that she was six months pregnant and demanded that a case of double murder should be filed against the accused. Jatoti and two of his accomplices have been arrested.