

# Editorial

Monday, April 9, 2018

## Of attack and threat to common men

Much as we would like to think ourselves as ones who are abreast of the times, with a more than adequate awareness of our rights and responsibilities, yet the fact remains that the mentality of most of those who appointed themselves as saviours of the society from enemies both real and imaginary has been one of "is always right" and "my cause is the most important one".

What the common people has not been able to comprehend yet is the "why" of it. Why are these self appointed guardians of the society turning their guns and bombs on the society who are their source of sustenance? Why are they still adamant on "serving" the common man, despite the overwhelming reluctance of the public to accept their "service"? Why does a crime becomes less evil after an amicable settlement with the perpetrators? Why do they insist on "donations" with fixed amounts? Why are they not "interfering" with the known and notorious smugglers and black marketers in spite of the glaring evidences? Why are they harassing the weak and vulnerable public when their targets should be the corrupt and the unscrupulous elements taking undue advantage of the weak and helpless? Why are they so keen on changing the world when there are so many small hurdles we need to remove to make our society visibly better? Why are they conveniently looking the other way while various atrocities are being committed against the society everyday?

It would not be an exaggeration to state that the society would be a much better place for their absence. The ulterior motives of these guardians of the society have been laid bare, yet the fear of physical harm, which is so real and possible, has the public to keep mum. It does take two hands to clap the cheatings forgeries misappropriations and underhand dealings being carried out in Government Departments and officers are the excuse and the reasons for their existence. Yet in their purported quest to cleanse the society of things evil and bad, it is the common man, clueless and defenceless, who are bearing the brunt of the anger and threats getting caught in the crossfire without the connection or the influence to secure a better bargain of their lives.

Insecurity and the fear psychosis has been so deeply suspicion for everything and everyone even remotely out of the ordinary. The outcome of such a society can never be a positive one as has been witnessed and felt by everybody.

The only real and plausible solutions - Take away the sinner and the saint disappears! How easier can things get?

## More State News

### Assam Rifles recovers huge cache of automatic weapons



Imphal, April 9

A Huge cache of automatic weapons and other warlike stores was recovered by 5 JAK RIF of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis HQ IGAR (South) in a joint operation with Bishenpur Commandos. Based on input from sources a search operation

was launched and weapons were recovered from Pat area of Ishok Makha Leikai, Bishenpur District. The recovery included two M 16 Rifles, four AK-56 Rifles and one A4 Rifle along with UBGL. This recovery is a major success on part of Assam Rifles to thwart nefarious designs of the UG groups.

### INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION SOCIETY (INTEPS) GENERAL BODY MEETING

Imphal the 8<sup>th</sup> of April, 2018

The Integrated Environment Protection Society, Manipur is organising a General Body Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> of April, 2018, Sunday at 8. a.m. at the residence of Takhellembam Nabachandra Singh, Soibam Leikai, Khanglabung Leirak, Imphal East.

Sd/- Secretary (INTEPS)

### Money bag lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my money bag with my Aadhar Card, Service ID Card, Driving Licence, Voter ID, ATM Card(SBI) and vehicle card on the way between Heirangthong to Singjamel on 7/4/2018. Finder are requested to kindly handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/- Mayengbam Ranjan Singh S/o M. Ibochou Singh Khagempalli Panthak Contact No. 8794562718

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## National & International News

### Understand the future, Arundhati Roy urges radical Left

Hyderabad Courtesy - The Hindu

Celebrated writer-activist Arundhati Roy urged the country's Left to understand the future that is set to be controlled by technology and data-gathering. While the radical Left was still talking about revolution, a revolution has already taken place wherein a former Brahminical elite was replaced by a new elite, which would survive only by manipulating the minds of the next generation, the Booker Prize winner said while delivering her address at the Civil Liberties Committee's first Telangana State Congress here on Saturday. Peasants and workers would not find a place in the future as there would not be any work. The future would pivot on technology, artificial intelligence and data-gathering, all of which would be used for surveillance of people. "And we all know what fascism has done with surplus people," she said,

and warned of impending 'micro fascism' which would keep tab on the mass of unemployed people in cities with no access to resources, and who would be controlled using data gathered about them through Aadhaar and such tools. The same corpora pushing for Aadhaar has set up large foundations to fund intellectuals, so as to buy their silence. "Each time we agree to divide ourselves along caste, gender, communities, ethnicities, and language, it's a success for the new aggressive capitalism masquerading as benevolent democracy," Ms. Roy warned. The complexity with which the future is coming up us needs to be understood, as it would not be about winning elections, she said. The real danger to the society is not fundamentalism, but 'cretinism' and 'idioty' which seeks to attack every form of intelligence through attacks on universities. "They have to break every single educational institution. They have

to make every single history book, the work of a moron, so that the link between any kind of intelligent and radical politics is broken in the next generation," she said. Likening the note ban to "breaking the backs" of citizens, she said people rioted when it was sought to be implemented in other countries such as Venezuela. In India, there was anger, but the move was accepted. Similar situation prevails around Judge Loya's mysterious death. These are tests to see how far people would accept control. "This is how fascism is creeping in on us today," she said. Academic-activist Nandini Sundar said the combination of state power and vigilante forces has become the norm across the country, and law itself has become a tool of harassment. Fascism is using technology to promote medievalism, and the fight would not stop with the 2019 elections, but would be continued till the "poison" is removed from minds, she said.

### 'New aggressive capitalism is masquerading as benevolent democracy'

Another academic G. Haragopal observed that the development model of the present dispensation was inhuman, and that was why it needed exercise of power. The destruction which had begun during the Congress regime was continuing now with more viciousness, he said, condemning the arrest of students on false allegations of conspiring to kill the Vice-Chancellor of University of Hyderabad. Writer and intellectual Katayani said civil rights were not only about Maoists, but the awareness needs to be created among citizens, especially the middle-class.

### NIA brands Pakistani diplomat 'wanted,' to seek Interpol RCN

Agency New Delhi, April 9

In a first, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has put a Pakistani diplomat on its 'wanted' list and released his photo, seeking information. It said the diplomat — Amir Zubair Siddiqui, who was posted as visa counsellor in the Pakistani High Commission in Colombo — had been included in the list along with two other Pakistani officers for conspiring to launch 26/11-type attacks on US and Israeli consulates besides Army and Navy commands in south India in 2014. NIA said a fourth Pakistani officer posted in the high commission in Sri Lanka was also involved in the conspiracy. The development comes even as

the agency is preparing to send a request to Interpol seeking red corner notices (RCNs) against the Pakistani officers, who have reportedly been repatriated to Islamabad. While the NIA chargesheeted Siddiqui in February, the other three officers could not be identified. The two, who have been put on the 'wanted' list apart from Siddiqui, are a Pakistani intelligence officer who went by his alias 'Vineeth', and another official codenamed 'Boss alias Shah'. This is the first time that India has put a Pakistani diplomat's name in the 'wanted' list or sought a red corner notice against one, an official said. According to the NIA, the Pakistani officers, while serving in Colombo from 2009 to 2016, planned

to attack vital installations in Chennai and other places in south India with the help of their agents. Siddiqui allegedly hired Sri Lankan national Muhammed Sakir Hussaeni and others, including Arun Selvaraj, Sivabalan and Thameem Ansari, all of whom were arrested by agencies here. After recruiting them, Siddiqui and the other Pakistani officers instructed them to collect information about defence installations, nuclear establishments and movement of arms and click photographs of such places, the NIA claimed. The Pakistanis also asked them to steal laptops of senior Indian Army officers and supply fake Indian currency notes (FICN), the agency said. They planned to attack the US

consulate in Chennai, the Israeli consulate in Bengaluru, the Eastern Naval Command headquarters in Visakhapatnam and various ports, the NIA claimed. The US shared key information with India in the case which helped investigators nail the Pakistani officers. The code name for the plot to attack the US consulate in Chennai was 'wedding hall' which was to be executed by 'cooks', a code for terrorists who were to gain entry from the Maldives into India. Hussaeni gave a detailed description of his meetings with various Pakistani officers based in Sri Lanka as well as two 'fidayeen' (suicide attackers) whom he had met in Bangkok. 'Spice' was the code name for the bombs, which were to be planted at the consulate.

### Syrian media report missile attack; US says it didn't fire

Agency Beirut, April 9

Missiles struck an air base in central Syria early on Monday, the country's state-run news agency reported. Although the agency said it was likely "an American aggression," US officials said the United States had not launched airstrikes on Syria. The missile attack followed a suspected poison gas attack on Saturday on the last remaining foothold for Syrian rebels in the eastern suburbs of Damascus. At least 40 people were killed, including families found in their homes and shelters, opposition activists and local rescuers said. SANA said the missile attack on the T4 military air base in Homs province resulted in a number of casualties but provided no specific figures. Earlier, President Donald Trump had promised a "big price to pay" for the suspected chemical attack. After the airstrikes were reported, however, Pentagon spokesman Christopher Sherwood said in a statement that "at this time, the Department of Defense is not conducting airstrikes in Syria." The US launched several dozen Tomahawk cruise missiles at a Syrian air base last year, after a chemical attack in the northern Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun killed dozens of people. Israel has also struck inside Syria in recent years. The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the Syrian reports of the struck air base. The suspected poison gas attack Saturday on the besieged town of Douma came almost exactly a year after the US missile attack prompted by the Khan Sheikhoun deaths.

In response to the reports from Douma, Trump on Sunday blamed Syrian government forces for what he called a "mindless CHEMICAL attack." In a series of tweets, Trump held Russia and Iran, Syrian President Bashar Assad's chief sponsors, responsible. The Syrian government denied the allegations, calling them fabrications. First responders entering apartments in Douma late Saturday said they found bodies collapsed on floors, some foaming at the mouth. The opposition's Syrian Civil Defense rescue organization said the victims appeared to have suffocated. They did not identify the substance used, but the civil defense organization, also known as the White Helmets, and the Syrian American Medical Society, a medical relief organization, said survivors treated at clinics smelled strongly of chlorine. Those reports could not be independently verified because of a government blockade around the town. Hours after the attack, the Army of Islam rebel group agreed to surrender the town and evacuate their fighters to rebel-held northern Syria, Syrian state media reported. The group also agreed to give up its prisoners, a key government demand. The government agreed to halt its assault after three days of indiscriminate air and ground attacks. "There's nothing left for civilians and fighters. We don't have anything to stand fast," said Haitham Bakkar, an opposition activist inside the town. He spoke to The Associated Press by WhatsApp. "People now are going out in the streets looking for their loved ones in the rubble," Bakkar said. "And we

don't have any space left to bury them." More than 100 buses entered the town Sunday night to transport fighters and their families to Jarabulus, a town under the shared control of rebels and Turkey, Syrian state-affiliated al-Ikhbariya TV. The preparations follow a pattern of evacuations around the capital and other major Syrian cities as the government reasserts its control after seven years of war. Human rights groups and United Nations officials say the tactic amounts to forced displacement, a war crime. The UN Security Council planned to hold an emergency meeting Monday to discuss the chemical attack. The Army of Islam could not be immediately reached for comment. In his tweets Sunday, Trump called Assad an "animal" and delivered a rare personal criticism of Russian President Vladimir Putin for supporting him. Trump has declared his intent to withdraw US troops from Syria in the coming months, despite resistance from many of his advisers. Bakkar said several bombs laced with chemicals landed in Douma Saturday night. Another activist, Bilal Abou Salah, said a large, yellow cylinder smashed through the roof of an apartment building and came to rest on the third floor and started to discharge gas. The Syrian Civil Defense group documented 42 fatalities but was impeded from searching further by strong odors that gave rescuers difficulties breathing, said Siraj Mahmood, a spokesman for the group. A joint statement by the civil defense group and the medical society said

that more than 500 people, mostly women and children, were brought to medical centers complaining of difficulty breathing, foaming at the mouth and burning sensations in the eyes. Some had bluish skin, a sign of oxygen deprivation. The symptoms were consistent with chemical exposure. One patient, a woman, had convulsions and pinpoint pupils, suggesting exposure to a nerve agent, the statement said. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights issued a higher death toll, saying at least 80 people were killed in Douma, including around 40 who died from suffocation. But it said the suffocations were the result of shelters collapsing on people inside them. "Until this minute, no one has been able to find out the kind of agent that was used," Mahmoud said in a video statement from northern Syria. The Syrian government, in a statement posted on the state-run news agency SANA, denied the allegations. It said the claims were "fabrications" by the Army of Islam and a "failed attempt" to impede government advances. "The army, which is advancing rapidly and with determination, does not need to use any kind of chemical agents," the statement said. Russia denied any involvement in the attack. Maj. Gen. Yuri Yevtushenko was quoted by Russian news agencies Sunday as saying Russia was prepared to send specialists to Douma to "confirm the fabricated nature" of the reports. Douma has been crippled by close to five years of siege by government forces. It was once one of the hubs of the 2011 Arab Spring uprising against Assad's government.