

# Editorial

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018

## Be a leader of the people, as you were chosen by them

The way the Members of the Legislative Assembly utilize the Local Area Development Fund in their respective assembly constituency is somewhat skeptical to the people. Not only this time but from time to time LAPDF has always been utilized for political benefits by almost all MLAs. Few handed over the LADF to a committee so that the MLA could prove his sincerity in the utilization of the Local Area Development fund. But many still could not be convinced as there is always lack of transparency.

The increase in the LADF of the Members of the Legislative Assembly for developmental activities within their constituencies sometimes back has many eyebrows raised. In one way we can consider this a positive step taken in the interest of public welfare and a step in the right direction, the ground reality is far from satisfactory and does not warrant such a step.

The argument being put up is that the present funds being allocated to the MLAs are apparently underutilized or, as most people suspects, being misappropriated. The recent trend of entrusting these development funds to the Ward Development Committees being set up in each constituency needs to be looked into first to ensure proper and timely utilization of the same before more funds are pumped in from the already stressed state funds.

A mechanism with adequate executive powers to impose proper disbursement needs to be put in place. The present scenario in the state- the issues of misappropriation and underutilization of state funds being faced in almost every Government development projects paints a bleak picture in the minds of the general public and these needs to be cleared. The only way to achieve is to present a more transparent system of working.

Social audits should be allowed to carry for central funded schemes. Also, various social organizations and groups are siphoning off various materials and benefits meant for distribution and benefits of the people in each constituency. This needs to be checked, instead they should make sure of the proper and timely utilization. This could help in the proper functioning of the system thus ensuring speedy development throughout the State.

The ongoing Assembly Session has formulated many good will projects and schemes. All that has been formulated and passed in the budget are for the welfare of the people but than things could have been better of local bodies, clubs and organizations were provided rooms in formulation of projects and decisions to identify works to be taken up according to the priorities of people of the constituencies should be encouraged.

Despite the various development projects taken up by the Central and State Government, it has been seen that much remains to be completed. Thanks to the new chief Minister over his assurance to complete pending project at his level best.

A proactive representative of the people with a knack for sensing the grievances of the people, with the resources to work towards address them is the need of the day. With the increased financial perks and allowances most likely to be approved soon, these expectations of the people should not be much of a problem and should be an impetus to take up various social development activities for which they have been elected in the first place. Accountability of public funds should be maintained. Most importantly, entrusting these development works to those persons capable of delivering results and not to their near and dear ones can only increase the credibility of these Representatives winning the trust and affection of the public bringing in a good system of governance.

## National & International News

### Indian para-cyclists win one silver, two bronze at Asian Championships

**Naypyidaw (Myanmar), Feb 10** - The India team underlined their supremacy in the Asian Para-Cycling Championships by posting three podium finishes, here at the Wunna Theikdi Sport Stadium here in Naypyidaw, Myanmar on Friday. Last year silver medalist and Bangalore resident Divij Shah, led India's charge in the para-cycling category winning yet another silver medal, while BSF soldier Harinder Singh bagged the bronze. Harinder had won a bronze medal in last year's edition as well. New entrant Madhu Bagri, meanwhile won the bronze in the

hand-cycling, a category where India made a maiden participation and Bagri become the first Para Cyclist to win an international medal in Hand Cycling. She is a former national wheelchair nationa tennis champion and shifted her focus recently to para-cycling after coach Aditya Mehta encouraged her to switch sports and try hand in hand cycling in mid 2017. "It is a matter of immense pride for me and the whole contingent to have once again made the country proud at the continental championship. The rich haul of

medal here in Myanmar not only shows our zeal to become a power-house in the field of para-cycling but allows us to show our mettle to the world." Divij Shah, who had started off as an armature cyclists to beat the Bangalore traffic said after the podium ceremony. Aditya Mehta and the AMF Foundation has been the tirelessly working with these athletes and was delighted at their feat and felt that it will only make the athletes more focused and drive them to achieve greater heights.

"I would like to congratulate all the winners. Their achievement once again proves that India is fast becoming a force to reckon in para-cycling. We believe that they are poised for much better things in the future," Aditya Mehta said from Myanmar.

Aditya has been the guiding light for these athletes as Aditya Mehta Foundation (AMF) had been working to train and support Para Sports in India with able support under the aegis of Cycling Federation of India (CFI) as they have been working to promote Para Cycling here in India.

### Domestic tourists scum of earth, North Indians creating Haryana in Goa: NDA minister

**Deccan Chronicle Panaji, Feb. 10:** Goa Town and Country Planning Minister Vijai Sardesai lashed out at domestic tourists on Friday, calling them "scum of the earth" and alleging that "North Indians" are trying to "create a Haryana in Goa."

Speaking at the Goa BizFest in Bambolim, he contradicted Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar's ambitious target of one crore tourists and asked the government to target foreign and upper-class Indian tourists.

Sardesai is part of the Goa Forward Party, which is in alliance with the BJP in the state government.

The minister was addressing an audience of industrialists and experts from the tourism industry and after speaking briefly on the essentials for a smart city and garbage segregation Sardesai veered off to the quality of tourists visiting Goa.

Contradicting Parrikar's push to increase tourists to Goa to one crore, Sardesai said: "Today we have almost six times population of Goa

coming as tourists. Those tourists are not top-end tourists, they are also the scum of the earth. Are they responsible? They are not. If we compare Goans to rest of India, we are high in per capita income, social and political consciousness, we are much superior than people who are coming in. Those people, how will you control (them)? Can you control them?"

"We could control them at one point in time. But we jumped the Russians... We decided to put all eggs in one basket. The British have gone away. And, now we are dependent upon the north Indians and this is what they do. They are not bothered about Goa. They want to recreate Haryana in Goa," he added.

Sardesai, however, told the media that his remarks were in reaction to a bureaucrat who spoke right before him and referred to increased garbage.

"Also, look those who come from Delhi, Haryana and Gurgaon, they have a tendency, they want to

gobble everything. We In Goa have a certain way of living. Fifty years ago, we fought a battle and refused to merge with Maharashtra. Now we are fighting another kind of battle where these FSI people are coming and affecting our ethos. Why cannot they stay in hotels? They come and buy plots here and keep building," Sardesai said.

Sardesai's vision of tourism reeks of sheer elitism as he goes on to explain his idea of model tourism, where the rich visit Goa to benefit the state's poor.

"It's an idea I always have had. It all goes back to what Sir Vivian Richards told me at a tourism meet... He said, we can have the best beaches, best architecture, best beauty, but if we don't have a golf course, it amounts to nothing," he said. "The trick is to attract the rich tourist. That stayed with me. It has left an effect on me. I want to think in those directions. Here too, among foreigners, we have Russian tourists, we have put all our eggs

in one basket. World over, international tourists leave when Russians come. We all need to look at all of this and I think from a regional point of view, cause that is my ideology. We need to now think what kind of tourist we want to welcome?" Sardesai added.

This is not the first time Sardesai has made such distasteful comments about tourists visiting Goa.

At a public gathering in January, Sardesai had said, "Goa should become so expensive that tourists should say that it is not worth coming to Goa. Which tourists? The Indian tourists. We must have high-end facilities and get high-end tourism, which benefits the sons of the soil."

He took it a notch higher at the Biz fest as he said, "You have to orient the people correctly. Tell them brand Goa sells. People will keep coming. You need to get rich because of rich Indians coming here, and not due to poor Indians who is coming here and dirtying here."

### Arun Jaitley responds to Chidambaram: In UPA, economy was under a terrible doctor

**Express News Service New Delhi, Feb. 10:** Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Friday

hoped for a GST Council-like cooperation between the Centre and the states for roll-out of the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS), which promises an annual insurance cover of up to Rs 5 lakh each for 10 crore families. Jaitley told Rajya Sabha that NHPS could be an area of "strategic cooperation" even though health is a state subject and there is no statutory requirement for collaboration between the Centre and states.

When Congress leader Jairam Ramesh asked whether the government plans to set up an agency like the GST Council for NHPS, Jaitley said he was just thinking aloud, and that NITI Aayog and the Health Ministry are

working on the finer details. Jaitley was responding to Congress member P Chidambaram's charges on the government's economic policy, including NHPS, for which he alleged that no budgetary provision had been made.

Refuting allegations regarding India's economic condition, Jaitley said the Narendra Modi government had implemented structural reforms, which may lead to some difficulty initially but will prove to be beneficial in the long run. To endorse this view, Jaitley cited increase in income tax net. "The tax net has widened and the direct tax collection is up by 19.3% between April and January as a result of the campaign against black money," he stated.

Jaitley also slammed his predecessor for being a "know-

all" and said the economy under the Congress-led UPA was in the hands of a "terrible doctor". "Please appreciate the journey we have undertaken. We have covered journey from policy paralysis to structural reforms," he said.

On Thursday, Chidambaram had called Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian "a good doctor" but asked, "what do you do when the patient is very ill?" Responding to this statement, Jaitley said, "A good doctor can cure a terrible illness. But what did you do in 10 years when you had a terrible doctor?"

Jaitley then drew comparisons between the last three years of UPA-II and the performance of NDA-II with help of data on GDP growth, fiscal account deficit, inflation and current account

deficit. He said that GDP growth under UPA in 2012-13 was 5.3% — the lowest in recent years — and 6.3% the following year. GDP growth under the Modi government, he added, was 7.5% in the first year, 8.2% in the second, 7.1% in the third year and 6.7% in the fourth.

Earlier in the day, Trinamool Congress's Derek O'Brien accused the government of "feku federalism", alleging that the Centre was passing on financial burden of railways infrastructure development to states. O'Brien had 12 posers for the government on railways. Neeraj Shekhar of Samajwadi Party called the Budget a "betrayal" of the people, especially because farmers are still being forced to sell their produce below MSP.

### Man killed in blaze in garment factory

**PTI New Delhi, Feb 10:** A 35-year-old man was asphyxiated after a fire broke out at a garments factory in central Delhi's Karol Bagh area early morning. A call about the fire at the jeans factory on Tank Road was received at 4.50 am. Five fire tenders were rushed and it was brought under control at 5.10 am, said a Delhi Fire Services official. The fire had started in a staircase

area on the first floor of the building giving out a heavy plume of smoke.

On the second floor of the building, the body of a man identified as Jumman was found. He died due to suffocation, the official said.

The cause of fire is under investigation, police said. Last month, a fire in a firecracker storage unit in Bawana industrial area had claimed the lives of 17 workers.

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