

Editorial

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018

Gangnam style is better

"Rules are necessary things. The more the better rules the status of the Some are hard and fast rules, like the rule of the road, which cannot be broken without danger to life and limb. But to the new kid in Imphal city he will definitely say there seems to be no rules in the roads of Imphal city. The rules which are frame by the so called government which runs the state, if failed to follow by the citizens and the enforcing agency fails to make the people follow it what is the use of the rules.

Recently, during the state assembly session, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had expressed his seriousness to the problem of noise pollution. He had assured the house about the need of some hard rules to control the noise pollution which has been distracting the mind of students during exam time. Not only the sound population created from vehicles but from construction machineries which has been using every day at many places particularly in residential area have been distracting the aged people.

Chief Minister's assurance to frame some hard rules to control sound pollution is indeed appreciating. But what about the already existed rules framed by the state government to control the noise pollution. If the assurance of the Chief Minister during the session is converted into action and if the rules itself is failed to follow by the public and also failed to impose by the enforcers, than it will be another waste of time.

Similarly, there is a transport policy of the state government. But the way the traffic went uncontrolled surprises every people of the state on the answer by the chief Minister about the state following a transport policy. The traffic is a mess here in Imphal. Even though there are traffic rules no people follow the rules and the traffic regulation enforcers too fail to make the people follow the rules.

When the rules that are meant to make the people follow fails, when the rules that are supposed to be enforced by government agency could not handle either intentionally or due to lack of experience and skill, then people as well as the law enforcers have no respect for the government. Either the ruler is inefficient or did not have the guts to make his paid employees follow the rules of the government.

Sometimes, we in the media felt that, is our chief Minister so weak as we have seen government officials still not attending office till 11 am at various offices located the DC office complex Lamphel.

On one hand the assurance not to engage retire government officers is becoming another joke. As there are report of re-engaging retired government official and another on the process to re-engage in the Manipur State Power Company.

It is not only the people or the paid government employees which have no respect for the rules, but the government too is no less. For a mere political benefit the government selected a Chairman without having second thought about the faith of the statutory body. Yes it is about the Manipur State Commission for Child Rights. How on the earth does this government think that a musician is capable of serving the commission as chairperson.

Yeah every thing happening in the safronsation style. Gangnam style is better when it come of the state of Manipur

National & International News

Former Bihar CM and Hindustani Awam Morcha leader Jitan Ram Manjhi quits NDA, joins Grand Alliance

Agency
Bihar, Feb. 28: Former Bihar Chief Minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha leader Jitan Ram Manjhi quit the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance government on Wednesday, ANI reported.

Manjhi said his party will join the Rashtriya Janata Dal -led Grand Alliance, *The Hindu* reported. On February 25, the former chief

minister had demanded a Rajya Sabha seat for his party in the upcoming elections. Manjhi had threatened to withdraw support to the coalition in the next Lok Sabha election and Assembly bye-polls. "The NDA must announce at least one Hindustani Awam Morcha leader among its candidates for the six Rajya Sabha seats in Bihar," Manjhi had told PTL. "If that does not happen, our party workers will

not campaign for candidates of the coalition in the by-polls." RJD's Tejaswi Yadav, also Leader of the Opposition, called Manjhi his "guardian", and said he "will get his due respect in our grand alliance". In 2017, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar broke the Grand Alliance, or "mahagathbandhan" between his party, the Janata Dal (United), the Congress and Rashtriya Janata Dal. He resigned as chief minister on

July 26, and a day later allied with the BJP and was sworn in as chief minister again.

The Congress also welcomed Manjhi to the Grand Alliance. "It's a happy moment for us," State Congress president Kaukab Quadri said, according to *The Hindu*. "Though Manjhi took a late decision to come out of NDA, where he was not getting due respect, but it is the right decision."

Ahead of Holi, Delhi University student says 'semen-filled' balloon was thrown at her, police trying to contact girl

Agency
New Delhi, Feb. 28: A Delhi University college student has claimed in a social media post that a group of unidentified men allegedly threw a "semen-filled" balloon at her recently. Police said the incident has come to their knowledge and they are trying to contact the girl so that an investigation can take place. "We have not received any complaint regarding this yet," a

senior police official said. In her Instagram post on 24 February, the girl, who is from the northeast, said, "I went out with a friend for lunch to a cafe in Amar Colony Market. At around five when heading back in a rickshaw there came flying my way a liquid-filled balloon hitting me in the hip where it burst open, its content seeping into my dress. "It dried white on my black

leggings... I did not guess what it really was. Only when I returned to my hostel to hear another friend of mine talking about semen-flinging," she said. "Not a single person in that busy market batted a single eyelid at the sight of men throwing such balloons," she said in the post. The student recalled the ordeal she underwent and said, "Ever since in moved to this city seven months ago, I've been bumped

by more than once by men." "All accidentally of course. Hands have patted on me inappropriately," she said adding that she has also been called derogatory names.

The Delhi University had on Monday announced elaborate internal and external security arrangements on campus, hostels and other colleges to counter any possible threat under the garb of Holi celebrations.

India Could Top China's Growth Rate For October-December Quarter

Agency
New Delhi, Feb. 28: India might have regained the status of the world's fastest-growing major economy in the October-December quarter, driven by higher government spending and a pick-up in manufacturing and services. The median in a Reuters poll on annual growth in the December quarter was 6.9 per cent, the best pace in 2017. Forecasts ranged from 6.4 per cent to 7.3 per cent.

The government will release GDP data on Wednesday around 5:30 pm. If there was 6.9 per cent growth, that would top China's 6.8 per cent annual pace for October-December. The last time the economy had a faster growth rate was in the final three months of 2016. The expected improvement on 6.3 per cent growth in July-September for the country comes as its manufacturing and services sector have been overcoming teething troubles rooted in the bumpy launch of a national sales tax also known as Goods and Services Tax or GST in July. "After muted activity until September, signs of a pick-up in economic growth are starting to appear," said Aditi Nayar, principal economist at ICRA, the India arm of rating agency Moody's.

A strong gross domestic product reading could lift domestic shares, and boost the rupee, which has been Asia's second weakest currency this year, losing about 1.6 per cent against the dollar. The GDP data could help Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who faces criticism over mounting bad loans of state banks and a \$1.77 billion fraud at state lender Punjab National Bank, the biggest in the country's banking

history. Last week, PM Modi told industrialists that his government, which got a "twin balance sheet" problem resulting from bad debt in banks and many businesses, was determined to put the economy back on a higher growth trajectory. PM Modi is trying to accelerate growth through higher state spending including Rs. 2.1 lakh crore (\$32.36 billion) for recapitalisation of state banks, beset with mounting bad loans of nearly \$148 billion.

He has stepped up spending on infrastructure and welfare projects to boost growth ahead of national elections in 2019. This has widened the fiscal deficit for the current fiscal year, ending in March, to 3.5 per cent of GDP, instead of the earlier projected 3.2 per cent. In November, Moody's raised the country's investment grade rating one notch, the rating agency's first upgrade in nearly 14 years.

NASCENT RECOVERY
India jumped 30 places to break into the top 100 for the first time in World Bank's Doing Business report 2018. The International Monetary Fund forecasts the country's economic growth could reach 7.4 per cent in 2018 and 7.8 per cent in 2019, overtaking rates projected for China of 6.5 per cent and 6.4 per cent, respectively. The world's seventh largest economy, which grew at more than 9 per cent a year from 2005 through 2008, is still far from firing on all cylinders. Domestic demand and private investment remain weak. Urjit Patel, governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), earlier this month said the economic recovery was at a nascent stage and called

for a cautious approach. The central bank has kept its key rate unchanged since a 25 basis points cut in August. India's investment rate fell close to 30 per cent of GDP in 2017 from a peak of 40 per cent in 2011.

The Centre is worried that higher global crude oil prices pose a major risk to its efforts to regain growth momentum as this could hit domestic investment and push up consumer price inflation.

MP by-polls: Congress leads in both Assembly seats

Agency
Bhopal, Feb. 28: The Congress was leading in both the Madhya Pradesh assembly seats where by-elections were held last week, an official said. In Kolaras constituency, Congress candidate Mahendra Singh Yadav maintained his lead, established in the first round. He was ahead by 1,331 votes after the end of the fourth round of counting, an election official said. In Mungaoli, Congress' Brijendra Singh Yadav was ahead of his rival BJP candidate by 1,332 votes after the fourth round, he added. The postal ballots were counted first, he said.

The outcome of the two by-polls, held on February 24, are being seen as a possible pointer to the mood of people ahead of the Assembly elections due later this year in the BJP-ruled state.

The by-polls were necessitated due to the death of Congress MLAs Mahendra Singh Kalukhed (Mungaoli in Ashoknagar district) and Ram Singh Yadav (Kolaras in Shivpuri district). A total of 13 candidates are in the fray in Mungaoli while 22 candidates are contesting in Kolaras. The BJP has fielded Baisahab Yadav from Mungaoli and Devendra Jain from Kolaras.

BJD ahead of BJP in Bijepur Assembly constituency

Agency
Bhubaneswar, Feb. 28: The ruling BJD today marched ahead of BJP establishing a huge margin in the by-election for Bijepur Assembly seat in Odisha as per latest trends, poll officials said. BJD nominee Rita Sahu is leading by a margin of 22,739 votes over her nearest BJP candidate Ashok Panigrahi after ten rounds of

counting of votes, they said. While Rita Sahu polled 54,104 votes, Panigrahi got 31,365 votes at the end of ten rounds. Congress nominee Pranaya Sahu has so far got 2,788 votes. The by-poll for Bijepur Assembly seat was held on February 24. The by-poll was necessitated due to the death of Congress MLA Subal Sahu in August, 2017.

Afghan president offers to recognise Taliban to end war

Agency
Kabul, Feb. 28: The Afghan president, Ashraf Ghani, has offered to recognise the Taliban as a legitimate political group as part of a process that he said could lead to talks to end more than 16 years of war.

The offer, made on Wednesday at the start of an international conference aimed at creating a platform for peace discussions, is the latest signal from the western-backed government and the Taliban of greater willingness to consider dialogue.

Ghani proposed a ceasefire and the release of prisoners as part of a range of options including elections, involving the militant group in the political process and a constitutional review as part of a pact with the Taliban.

"We are making this offer without preconditions in order to lead to a peace agreement," he said in opening remarks to the conference attended by officials from about 25 countries involved in the so-called Kabul process.

"The Taliban are expected to give input to the peacemaking process, the goal of which is to draw the Taliban, as an organisation, to peace talks."

The comments represented a significant shift for Ghani, who has previously referred to the Taliban as "terrorists" and "rebels", although he has also offered to talk

to parts of the movement that accepted peace.

The Taliban, which is fighting to restore Islamic rule in Afghanistan after its 2001 ousting by US-led forces, has offered to begin talks with the US but so far refused direct discussions with Kabul. It was unclear whether it would be prepared to shift this stance, despite growing international pressure.

However, Ghani said momentum for an end to the conflict was building from neighbouring countries that increasingly believed in the necessity of a stable Afghanistan. "The Taliban show awareness of these contextual shifts and seem to be engaged in a debate on the implications of acts of violence for their future," he said.

Ghani said a framework for peace negotiations should be created, under which the Taliban is recognised as a legitimate group, with a political office to handle negotiations in Kabul or another location.

Taliban officials acknowledged that they have faced pressure from friendly countries to accept talks and said their recent offer of discussions with the US reflected concern that they could be seen as standing in the way of peace.

In return for recognition as a legitimate political group, the Taliban would have to recognise the Afghan government and respect the rule of law, Ghani said.

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