

Editorial

Tuesday, January 2, 2018

In the process of making change- Manipur

With exception to few, majority of the people of the state hopes for a better, developed, self sustain and peaceful and prosperous year. People in the government especially the Chief Minister and his cabinet colleagues showed their enthusiasm in bringing a change-Manipur. The last nine months witnessed many innovative programme being taken up to bring change by those in the government. Leftover unsolved problems by the last regime were settled and the communication gap which created misunderstanding between various ethnic communities of the state has been bridged in the short span. The fear psychosis of enjoying evening life after hard day works has been eradicated by introducing night life in every weekend, and endless measures to make the Imphal city free from pollution by garbage is seen taken up. The good needs to be appreciated while those still needed to be taken up needs to be closely watch and media have every reason to pin-point and criticized for the delay. Like those in the government hoping for a change Manipur, media too is a platform of people who also wanted a change Manipur.

New Year begins yesterday, and wishes from all the top level government functionary showed their aspiration to serve the state for a better, developed and prosperous society.

After nine months in power, it can be expected that those running the government could now have every details of those government servant who are paid for converting into action, the ideas of those running the government. Some among the bureaucrat officers are the best among the best and the government need to utilize the skill of this bureaucrats in converting the ideas of the government into action by not giving them any political interference.

If a government employee fails to rectify the proposal it is time that those in the government to have no mercy for them. There are many, still left to be streamline. Among them is the failure to maintain proper traffic regulations.

Some people blame both the public and the traffic regulation enforcers for the mess, but when those enforcing agency fails to make the people follow the regulation, why is the need for spending so much money as salary for them. But then those enforcers of traffic regulation are also reported to be helpless as there are no appropriate laws to handle the situation. The question to the government is whether they have a transport policy and for how much year. If not then how the people in the traffic management section act effectively to control the situation happening in the state, particularly in Imphal West and Imphal East district.

When it comes to people, we have seen many of them following rules when they drive at metropolitan city like New Delhi or any other places including cities at various countries across the globe, they follow the traffic regulations. When the same comes to Imphal they don't bother to follow the rules. Why?

It is simple; they are not being forced to follow the rules. So, it will be definitely wrong to blame the public as it is the enforcers that should compel them to follow the regulation. Almost every people of the state knows that our Chief Minister N. Biren Singh have great desires for smooth flow of traffic in the city. He had once posted at social networking site facebook about his eagerness to make people follow the rules after seeing the smooth flow of traffic at Yangon. And we hope our chief Minister find a way to end the traffic mess by utilizing the wisdom of those people paid for the service.

Six murders in two hours, Haryana police arrest former Army man

Palwal, Jan. 2: An ex-serviceman was arrested by Palwal police Tuesday for allegedly beating six people to death with an iron rod. According to police, all six of the murders were executed between 2 am and 4 am in the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday.

The accused, identified as Naresh Dhankar, served as a lieutenant in the Indian Army. He is the youngest of five brothers and hails from Macchar village in Faridabad, and was currently residing in Palwal's Omaxe City.

Dhankar left the Indian Army under the Medical Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in 2003 and joined the Agricultural Department as ADO in 2006. Currently, Dhankar was posted as SDO in the department in Bhiwani. The murders first came to light at half past two on Monday night when police received information about the first body being found near the Palwal hospital, with the victim appearing to have sustained a head injury.

Even as police was taking custody of the body, they received information about a second victim, a woman named Anjum, who was a

patient at Palwal hospital, being beaten to death inside the establishment with an iron rod. In the next few hours, four more murders came to light, which included a *kabadi wallah* and a guard.

"During the night itself, checkpoints were set up across the city, and police personnel deployed on foot at all junctions and markets. PCR vans were sent out as well," said Sanjay Kumar, PRO of Palwal police. The dead bodies, meanwhile, were taken to a government hospital in Palwal. All of the victims had sustained head injuries.

"The accused was finally arrested at 7 am, from Rasulpur Chowk in Palwal," said the PRO.

According to police, Dhankar was also planning to murder his wife, from whom he was separated, and their 8-year-old son. However, police managed to nab him before he could execute his plan.

"Even when police apprehended him, he tried to hit them with the rod, but the team succeeded in nabbing him and also seizing the rod. Further investigations are being conducted," said PRO Kumar.

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National & International News

RS creates record, completes entire Zero Hour agenda

PTI New Delhi, Jan 2: The Rajya Sabha today made a record of sorts as it took up all the Zero Hour issues and special mentions listed in the agenda for that period, Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said.

"The Rajya Sabha today made a history. For the first time, all Zero Hour submissions, all Special Mentions were fully completed," said Naidu amid thumping of desks by members in the House of Elders. Naidu said this record depended on the cooperation of the members.

"Your cooperation is good, so my operation was very smooth...that's why the House was able to set this record," he said.

The Chairman expressed hope that in future too, the members would

not waste time and stick to the schedule.

Before taking up the Question Hour, he also suggested that the ministers concerned should go through the Zero Hour submissions and Special Mentions and reply to the members at the earliest as it would enhance productivity of the House.

Uproarious scenes and adjournments have been witnessed on several occasions in the past two weeks due to various reasons during the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament.

In all, the House took up all the 10 listed and one additional Zero Hour submissions today.

The members also paid obituary reference to a former member of the

House, R Margabandu.

In his Zero Hour mention, Naresh Agrawal (SP) highlighted the "plight" of mediapersons, particularly those working at the district level.

He said there was a trend to hire correspondents on contractual basis and there was no provision for pension or provident fund for them. Those working at the district level were paid according to the number of stories approved.

Agrawal said media supports the government and if a correspondent writes facts, pressure is built to get them removed.

The SP member also said nine prominent journalists, including Gauri Lankesh and Naveen Gupta, were killed.

He also alleged that mediapersons who were injured in the violence while covering court proceedings relating to self-styled preacher Ram Rahim in Panchkula were not paid for their hospital treatment.

Senior Congress member T Subbarami Reddy highlighted "frequent" close shave at various airports involving aircraft.

In his Special Mention, Motilal Vora (Congress) raised the issue of infant deaths in hospitals of Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat among others.

Other members who made Special Mentions included Ram Nath Thakur (JD-U), R Vaithilingam (AIADMK), Naryana Lal Panchariya (BJP) Husain Dalwai and Chhaya Verma (both Cong).

Iran protests have violent night; at least 13 dead overall

AP Tehran, Jan 2: Protests across Iran saw their most violent night as "armed protesters" tried to overrun military bases and police stations before security forces repelled them, killing 10 people, Iranian state television has said.

The demonstrations, the largest to strike Iran since its disputed 2009 presidential election, have seen five days of unrest across the country and a death toll of at least 13 with the slaying of a police officer announced late last night.

The protests began Thursday in Mashhad over Iran's weak economy and a jump in food prices and have expanded to several cities, with some protesters chanting against the government and the supreme

leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Hundreds of people have been arrested.

Iranian state television aired footage of a ransacked private bank, broken windows, overturned cars and a firetruck that appeared to have been set ablaze. It said 10 people were killed by security forces during clashes Sunday night.

"Some armed protesters tried to take over some police stations and military bases but faced serious resistance from security forces," state TV said.

In a later report, state TV said killed six people were killed in the western town of Tuseykan, 295 kilometers southwest of Tehran, and three in the town of Shahinshahr, 315 kilometers south of Tehran. It did

not say where the 10th person was killed.

Earlier Monday, the semi-official ILNA news agency quoted Hedayatollah Khamenei, a representative for the town of Izeh, as saying two people died there Sunday night. He said the cause of death wasn't immediately known, though authorities later described one of the deaths as the result of a personal dispute.

Late last night, Iran's semi-official Mehr news agency said an assailant using a hunting rifle killed a policeman and wounded three other officers during a demonstration in the central city of Najafabad, about 320 kilometers south of Tehran. The slaying marked the first security force member to be killed in the

unrest.

Two protesters also were killed during clashes late Saturday in Doroud, some 325 kilometers southwest of Tehran in Lorestan province, authorities have said.

On Sunday, Iran blocked access to Instagram and the popular messaging app Telegram used by activists to organize.

President Hassan Rouhani acknowledged the public's anger over the Islamic Republic's flagging economy, though he and others warned that the government wouldn't hesitate to crack down on those it considers lawbreakers.

That was echoed yesterday by judiciary chief Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani, who urged authorities to confront rioters, state TV reported.

Proposed tweak in H-1B visa rules may deport upto 75,000 Indian workers

TOI New Delhi, Jan. 2: In sync with the "Buy American, Hire American" vision, the Trump administration is deliberating on a proposal which may result in large scale deportation of Indians from the US. The proposal which is being shared as a memo in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), can potentially stop+ foreign workers from keeping their H-1B visas while their green card applications are pending.

The move would mean that thousands of Indian employees in the US, a huge chunk of which works in the IT sector, will not get their H-1B visas extended as their applications for Green Card- which grants permanent residency- stay pending. The existing rules allow the administration to extend the H-1B visas beyond the allowed two three-year terms if a green card is due for approval.

If the move comes to fruition, an estimated 50,000- 75,000 Indian H-1B visa holders will be deported back to the country. Software industry body Nasscom has reportedly flagged its

concerns+ around visa- related issues in the US with the senators, congressmen and the administration, and will engage further in a dialogue over the next few weeks over the proposed legislation.

The move came as a reaction to a proposed US bill 'Protect and Grow American Jobs'. The bill proposes new restrictions to prevent abuse and misuse of H-1B visas. It tightens the definition of visa- dependent companies, and imposes fresh restrictions in terms of minimum

salary and movement of talent. Apart from prescribing higher minimum wages, the Bill places the onus on clients that they will certify that the visa holder is not displacing an existing employee for a tenure of 5-6 years.

The US grants 85,000 non-immigrant H-1B visas every year - 65,000 to foreigners hired abroad and 20,000 to foreigners enrolled in advanced degree courses in US schools and colleges. An estimated 70 per cent of these visas go to Indians - hired mostly by IT companies.

Dutch tourist dies after falling off train

PTI Jaipur, Jan 2: A 54-year-old Dutch tourist died today after he jumped off a moving train in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district after realising that he had boarded a wrong train, police said.

Erik Johannes from the Netherlands and his friend from Britain jumped off the moving New Delhi-bound Jan Shatabdi Express soon after it left the platform after finding that they had boarded a wrong train,

they said.

Johannes suffered fatal head injuries, SHO GRP, Sawai Madhopur, Giga Ram said, adding his British friend was unhurt. Both the tourists had come to Sawai Madhopur yesterday and had to catch a train for Agra but mistakenly boarded a train for New Delhi.

The matter has been registered and the body kept in a mortuary for post mortem, he added.

Famous poet Anwar Jalalpur passes away

PTI Lucknow, Jan 2: Famous poet Anwar Jalalpur, who translated Bhagwat Gita and Gitanjali into Urdu, today died here at the trauma centre of King George's Medical University.

His son, Shahkar, said the 70-year-old passed away at 9.15 am. "On December 28, my father went for a bath but didn't come out for long. When we broke open the door, we found him lying unconscious. He was admitted to KGMU," he said.

The last rites of the poet will be held tomorrow in his native village of Jalalpur in Amedkarnagar district. Jalalpur is survived by his wife and three sons.

Some of his important literary works include "Rahrau se Rahnuma Tak", translations of Gitanjali and Bhagwat Gita in Urdu, and he also wrote dialogues for TV serial "Akbar the Great".

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