

# Editorial

Monday, March. 12, 2018

## Congress speaks: Changes expected in the near future

Opposition Congress finally break silence. Former Chief Minister and the present leader of Opposition, Okram Ibobi Singh yesterday comes out with slashing criticism to the N. Biren Singh led government.

In democracy - people expect hot debate between opposition and those ruling the government. The silence of the congress party in the last one year portrayed bad image of the party, making the people think whatever those in the ruling says in public platform as 'true'. Of course many are true.

Well, the N. Biren Singh led government will complete one year on March 15. Almost all ministers in his government are busy inaugurating newly constructed building since the last couple of days. As per the government planning, they are targeting to inaugurate over 100 such construction which they said are left incomplete by the previous government. The effort is praiseworthy. Every single citizen wants the state march ahead toward development. And for development, establishment of proper infrastructures is a much. It is not only the infrastructures that people are expecting but also a state free from corruption.

Well and good the N. Biren Singh Administration have done something to fight corruption by establishing a full time police station of the Anti-corruption cell.

When the N. Biren Singh government was young, people have reason to appreciate what he had taken up. There were appreciations from all corners when the spokesperson of his government said that all re-engaged retired officers will be taken out.

Yesterday Congress leader Okram Ibobi threw a word of war saying that the N. Biren Singh Government is fooling the people of the state on the ground that the inauguration spree includes many incomplete structures. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Rajnath will be inaugurating the some of the important mega project and hectic preparation is taking up.

According to former speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly Th. Lokeshwar, the Mapithel Dam which the government is trying inaugurates is only 30% completed. As per his statement to media persons yesterday 70% of the infrastructures of the Dam is yet to be completed. There is reason to be believed in what the former speaker had said because inauguration of the project means it should be able to serve the purpose.

On fight against corruption, people across the state know the situation. How contractors spent money to clear their pending bills is in open secret. The only problem is that there are no concrete evidences on how, where, they paid the money to make their works done. However, as stated yesterday, in this column the way that things are going on to either in the appointment of Chairperson of the MSPCR or at some other department and also the way some retired officers still continue to hold office is a concrete evidences to show how sincere is the government in tackling the issue of corruption.

Well and good the congress comes up now and is likely to take the role of a perfect opposition. Lets hope the congress continue the kind of work they should do for the people of the state.

## HC grants bail to AAP MLA in chief secy assault case

**Agency New Delhi, Mar 12:** The Delhi High Court today granted bail to AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan in the Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash assault case.

Justice Mukta Gupta granted relief to the Okhla MLA, who was arrested on February 21, with certain conditions as imposed on AAP legislator Prakash Jarwal earlier.

"The petitioner (Khan) has served an incarceration of more than 20 days and no further custodial interrogation is required. So the petitioner is released on bail," the court said.

During the hearing, the Delhi Police counsel submitted a status report stating that Khan was named in 12

criminal cases, out of which he has been discharged in three cases.

The court had on March 9 granted bail to AAP MLA Prakash Jarwal in the chief secretary assault case with a warning that any such illegal activity in future would lead to the cancellation of his bail.

Deoli legislator Jarwal was arrested on February 20 for allegedly assaulting the chief secretary during a meeting at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence on the midnight of February 19.

A magisterial court had earlier denied bail to the two legislators, saying the matter cannot be treated in "a casual and routine manner" while dubbing them as "history-sheeters".

## Name Change

My old name is Kharga Bahadur and Father's name is Ratnamam Singdam and my new name is Kharga Tamang S/o Ratnamam Tamang as per my document I shall be known as Kharga Tamang S/o Ratnamam Tamang.

Sd/-  
Kharga Tamang  
S/o Ratnamam Tamang  
9<sup>th</sup> miles paodel Basti Irang part 1  
Kangpokpi Manipur

## Document lost

I have lost my Postal Life Insurance document bearing policy no. AP-517887-CC on the way between Thoubal to Imphal on 4th Feb. 2018. Finders are requested to handover it to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
N. Upendro Singh  
Thoubal Ningombam

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## More State News

# Power vital for industrialisation process: Minister Biswajit

**Imphal, March 12:** The industrialisation process is not possible without electricity, said Power Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh, adding that the target to provide electricity to all households of the State by December 2018 is a commitment of the State Government made to the people.

Minister Biswajit said this while attending the Ringui Laira Phanit cum Cultural Festival, 2018 at Ringui Village in Ukhrul District on Sunday evening.

He also said that for inaccessible areas in the interior villages where installation of poles is inconceivable, power supply will be made through off-grid electrification by installing solar energy units.

He further urged village authorities



and all concerned to identify households which are yet to get electricity and said that the Prime Minister of India has launched a scheme to provide free or low-cost electricity connections to such households. He explained that the scheme Saubhagya was launched with the mission to ensure that all households in the country have electricity by the set deadline.

Minister Biswajit also explained various schemes including UJALA, Kisan Sampada, ZED - Zero Effect Zero Defect, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Sukanya Samiti, etc. and urged the people to take benefits of the schemes.

The celebration was also attended by Chingai A/C MLA Shri Khashim Vashum. Cultural items and songs also highlighted the celebration.

## National & International News

# PM Modi, French President Macron Inaugurate UP's Biggest Solar Power Plant

**Agency**

**Varanasi, March 12:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron have inaugurated Uttar Pradesh's biggest solar power plant in Mirzapur district's Chhanvey block. The prime minister and the French president pressed a button to energise the solar panels and dedicated the 100 MW facility to the people of the state.

Built at a cost of around Rs. 500 crore by French firm ENGIE, the 100 MW solar plant has come up at Dadar Kalan village on the hilly terrain of the Vindhya range. Some 1,18,600 solar panels have been set up in over 380 acres. The solar plant will generate 15.6 crore units of electricity annually, which is about 1.30 crore units per month. The electricity would be transmitted to Mirzapur's Jigna sub-station which belongs to the Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd, officials said.

Prime Minister Modi, Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath received the French president and his wife Brigitte Macron at the Lal Bahadur Shastri International airport Varanasi earlier today.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President

Emmanuel Macron co-hosted the first edition of the International Solar Alliance or ISA summit at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. The spotlight was on India which is being viewed as a key player in tapping solar energy.

The International Solar Alliance is a treaty based international inter-governmental alliance of 121 solar resource rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. The aim of the alliance is to promote solar energy and reduce the use of fossil fuels in sunshine-rich countries. Prime Minister Modi also pledged to generate 175 gigawatts (GW) of electricity in India from renewable energy sources by 2022, out of which 100 GW would be generated from solar power.

23 heads of state, senior representatives of many countries, including deputy prime ministers and energy ministries attended the summit yesterday. Of the 121 potential countries, 61 have already joined the International Solar Alliance. 32 have ratified the Framework Agreement.

Earlier today, the French President was given a welcome reception at the airport in Prime Minister

Modi's parliamentary constituency - Varanasi. From the airport, the two leaders took a helicopter to Mirzapur for the inauguration of the solar power plant.

From here the two leaders will proceed to Deen Dayal Hastkala Sankul - a trade facilitation centre in Varanasi.

President Macron and Prime Minister Modi will also visit the Varanasi's Assi ghat, where the two leaders will take a boat ride on the

ghats of the Ganga - from Assi to Dashashwamedh ghat. The two leaders will then have a private meeting over lunch, following which PM Modi will head to the Manduadih railway station, from where he will flag off the Varanasi-Patna intercity train.

The French President will leave back for New Delhi shortly after lunch. The prime minister will then address a public meeting before flying back to Delhi from the Varanasi airport.

## Polling underway in Charilam Assembly seat in Tripura

**Agency**

**Agartala, Mar 12:** Polling is underway in the Charilam (ST) Assembly constituency in Tripura, which was postponed due to the death of the CPI(M) candidate a week before the February 18 election.

Newly-appointed Deputy Chief Minister and state BJP vice-president Jishnu Deb Burman is contesting from the seat.

He is pitted against Arjun Debbarma of the Congress, Uma Shankar Debbarma of the

Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura (INPT) and Independent contestant Jyotilal Debbarma.

Additional Chief electoral Officer Tapas Ray said, 35.45 per cent of votes were cast till 11 am and no untoward incident was reported.

After the death of Ramendra Narayan Debbarma on February 11, the CPI(M) had fielded Palash Debbarma from the seat. However, on Friday, the party withdrew his candidature alleging large-scale post-poll violence in the constituency.

# Chinese President Xi Jinping's rise crushes political reform predictions

**Agency**

**Beijing, March 12:** China's Xi Jinping strode onto the leadership stage in 2012 to sunny predictions that he would usher in a new era of political reform. But after a stunning power grab, all bets are off.

His path surprised allies and adversaries alike, culminating in Sunday's historic vote by the Chinese parliament to abolish presidential term limits.

Few had expected that the leader — whose own family suffered under the chaotic rule of Mao Zedong — would one day overthrow the system of orderly succession put in place to prevent the return of another all-powerful strongman.

Quite the opposite: in a 2013 op-ed in the New York Times, journalist Nicholas Kristof wrote Xi would "spearhead a resurgence of economic reform, and probably some political easing as well."

"Mao's body will be hauled out of Tiananmen... and Liu Xiaobo, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning writer, will be released from prison." But Mao's embalmed body is still there, while last year Liu became the first laureate to die in captivity since the Nazis ruled Germany.

Kristof was far from the only one to get it wrong: many journalists, politicians and analysts in China and abroad had high expectations for the leader who had come of age in the

Cultural Revolution and sent his daughter to Harvard.

But "Xi the reformer was as much a chimera as Hu (Jintao) the reformer or Deng (Xiaoping) the reformer," Kerry Brown, director of the Lau China Institute at King's College London, told AFP, referring to China's past leadership.

"A construct of our imaginations that was never going to happen."

- **'Wishful thinking'**

When Xi became Communist Party chief in 2012, China's future looked quite different: social media had vastly increased the room for public debate, the economy was liberalising, lawyers were fighting back against government abuses of power, and the southern village of Wukan had forced authorities to allow a democratic election.

In the years since, there has been a dramatic about-face: China's internet, its private businesses, its human rights defenders, and Wukan have all been crushed in Xi's tightening grip on power. "There was a lot of wishful thinking and there was a lot of complacency that the West was such a light on a hill," said David Kelly, director of research at Beijing-based consultancy China Policy.

But the thinking was different in Beijing: "after the Great Financial Crisis... China could say it was the last man standing and the West had

demonstrated a failure of its institutions."

When Xi took office, he may have been forced to accept some compromises to his authoritarian vision "because he had not yet consolidated his assets," Kelly said. At the time, Xi seemed to be respecting the norms of leadership transition, said Daniel Piccuta, a retired US diplomat and political affairs consultant who was once a top US embassy official in Beijing.

"Back then, I had little reason to predict Xi's successful attempt to 'adjust' the timing on the next orderly transition of leadership." Few in China saw Xi coming either. When he was appointed party secretary of Shanghai in 2007, he was a "compromise candidate" who the party's elders hoped to "co-opt", according to a US embassy analysis written at the time.

He "was an easy candidate for most in the Politburo to accept," wrote the American diplomat, citing the opinions of mainland Chinese scholars.

"The reason they picked Xi is because they thought he was a very mediocre person," said political analyst Willy Lam.

"He was a team player." They were proven wrong as Xi launched an anti-corruption campaign that punished one million officials and felled top politicians who

posed a threat to him, sending a clear message to any potential adversaries.

- **'The Xi Dynasty'**

The decision to eliminate term limits "was a kind of coup", Kelly said. But no one except the CCP leadership knows for sure why it took place and what Xi's plans are going forward. "You do it for one of three reasons: because you can, because you want to, or because you have to."

Legislators have argued that Xi needed more power to finish carrying out his mandate to make China great again and crush the country's endemic corruption, a goal that is within his reach thanks to another constitutional amendment creating an anti-graft authority with almost limitless power to punish and purge. Others are not convinced.

"While to some, this may provide more assurance of 'continuity' in Beijing, there will also likely be disillusion and backlashes in- and outside of China especially among the liberals and pro-China well-wishers," said Fei-ling Wang, a China expert at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

As for Kristof, he is still making predictions.

"China's emperor system didn't work so well in the Qing Dynasty, he wrote on Twitter, referring to China's last imperial regime.

"I suspect it'll be an equal mistake in the Xi Dynasty."