

Editorial

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

Haunted by the past

The hauntingly beautiful Loktak lake have stirred and is sure to be haunting a few souls and give them long sleepless nights. The emerging picture is however not surprising given the fact that those who once flexed their might behind the guns and muscle power fed by the undeserved wealth snatched from the hapless public whose voice of dissent and complaints were kept drowned with coercion, threats and intimidations have already begun their social decline, and skeletons are bound to tumble out of the overfilled closets. In a state as ours steeped in symbolism, it comes as no surprise to anybody when any developmental project or progressive step which started off with much aplomb and show of sincere intent ultimately comes out a cropper. Perhaps the public, having had to face the frustrating situation for far too long, have become inured to the unfortunate reality to a degree, and therefore the ability to be awed and shocked by the still rampantly prevailing irregularities and malpractices. Is it that the people have inadvertently got used to the system and have made peace with the unfortunate facts of the government? Or is it that the general public have given up on the collective hope of any improvement on the part of the state government and instead chalked out the means to survive and prosper in their own ways? Or worse, still, have the people become attuned to the system and have become a part of it in spite of the apparent flaws instead of fighting and resisting its regressive influence on the society? While a definite answer is a distant possibility, the unfortunate fact remains that the state as a whole had been regressing backwards on all parameters despite the state government shouting itself hoarse to the contrary. Corruption, coercion and commodification of any and every progressive aspect have become the norm rather than an exception. Selection of candidates for essential services has effectively become an auctioning exercise with the opportunity going to the highest bidders. The result - as everybody is experiencing - is inefficient, unqualified and inexperienced administration. While the voice condoning the manner of governing the state has been unanimous and loud, it remains to be seen when everybody stand up to corruption and coercion against the unscrupulous bureaucrats and officials. As long as the general public gives in to pressures and prefers the easy way out, corruption and coercion is bound to thrive.

However, things are looking better and more promising with the change of guard a year back. The only way to proceed is to practice progressive politics and pragmatic governance. Transparency, inclusivity, expeditiousness and resoluteness should be the hallmarks of effective and enduring governance. Confusing the job for the person will bring everybody back to square one. Presidents, Prime Ministers, Chief Ministers, ministers, MLAs and bureaucrats are descriptions of jobs that need to be performed and not privileges that should be abused. The past does catch up sooner or later.

SSC exam fraud: Delhi Police, UP STF bust racket that used screen sharing software to cheat

Agency
New Delhi, March 28: A joint team of the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force and Delhi Police have busted a gang of Staff Selection Commission (SSC) examination solvers who helped candidates cheat in the exams by using remote access tool softwares like Team Viewer.
The UP STF identified the accused as Sonu Singh, Ajay Jaiswal, Param and Gaurav. Police said they have identified two other persons — Harpal and Anni — who are absconding. The gang would take around Rs 3 lakh to Rs 10 lakh depending on the exam from the candidates, the police said. Furthermore, the gang was also running more than ten examination centres where the candidates would cheat using the Team Viewer software.
“The accused persons would gain access to the computer systems of the candidates who paid the money. The solver would then answer all the questions using the software. When the Team Viewer software could not be used, they would take control of the computer by fixing the LAN connections with that of another computer in the exam centre and answer all the questions,” DSP (UP STF) Brijesh Singh said.

According to sources in the UP STF, Harpal and Sonu were the main gang leaders. The two accused were in a partnership as Harpal would provide the necessary infrastructure while Sonu would help in getting candidates. The Delhi Police said the gang members were arrested after the cops had raided a building in Timarpur area in North Delhi. The police also recovered ten mobile phones, three laptops, three luxury cars, a pen drive, hard disk and Rs five lakh in cash.
The mobile phones will now be looked into to ascertain the number of candidates who had cheated in the exams. The police have said that the candidate's number may shoot up to “several hundred”. “We have their WhatsApp screenshots, call details and other crucial evidence,” said a police officer.
According to the police, the gang started operating in 2011. The members had made their initial forays into the cheating gang by setting up dummy candidates in written exams. Later, when the online exam format had begun, the gang members thought of using team viewer software and also procured examination centres to facilitate cheating, police said.

Lost

I, the undersigned have lost my original certificate for my CBSE Examination appeared in the year of 2013, bearing roll no 3142218, issued by CBSE on the way between Singamei to Chanchipor on 20/3/2018.
Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.
Sd/-
Khaidem Rojit Singh

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail : imphaltimes@gmail.com.
For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (O)

National & International News

SC dismisses plea seeking re-probe into Mahatma assassination

Agency
New Delhi, March 28: The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea seeking a re-investigation into the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.
A bench of Justices S A Bobde and L Nageswara Rao, which heard the matter, dismissed the petition filed by Mumbai-based Pankaj Phadnis from Abhinav Bharat.
The apex court, which reserved its verdict on March 6, had made it clear that it would not go by “sentiments” but rely on legal submissions to decide on the petition.
The apex court had said the plea seeking retrial of the case was based on academic research but that could not form the basis to reopen the matter which happened years ago.

The petitioner had questioned the ‘three bullet theory’ relied upon by various courts to hold the conviction of Nathuram Godse and Narayan Apte, who were hanged. He had contended that there was a need to examine whether there was a fourth bullet, which was fired by someone other than Godse.
Phadnis, a trustee of charitable trust Abhinav Bharat, had also sought the expunction of “adverse, unfounded” remarks made by the Kapur Commission in 1969 report against Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and the setting up of a commission to probe the conspiracy behind the incident.
Phadnis alleged that the Maratha community was “maligned” due to these adverse remarks, which

should hence be removed. He said there should be a retrial of the case, which led to the conviction and execution of Godse and Apte on November 15, 1949.
The court, however, said it did not share his sentiments that Marathas have been maligned and observed, “Maratha people have survived in spite of all this. You are talking about two persons who happened to be from Maharashtra. They do not represent the state. Observation about two persons does not malign whole Marathis.”
Phadnis claimed in his affidavit that the alleged conspirators were hanged even before the murder trial had attained legal finality from the top court.
Gandhi was shot dead at point blank

range in New Delhi on January 30, 1948, by Godse, a right-wing advocate of Hindu nationalism. The assassination case had led to the conviction and execution of Godse and Apte on November 15, 1949. Savarkar was given benefit of doubt due to lack of evidence.
Phadnis had challenged the decision of the Bombay High Court which on June 6, 2016 had dismissed his plea on two grounds — first, that the findings of fact have been recorded by the competent court and confirmed right up to the apex court; second, that the Kapur Commission had submitted its report and made observations in 1969, while the present petition was filed 46 years later.

UN chief urges Saudi prince to seek political solution in Yemen

Agency
United Nation, March 28: Saudi Arabia today presented a USD 930 million check to the UN for humanitarian aid in Yemen as the UN chief pushed for an end to the war in which Riyadh leads a military coalition.
United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres thanked Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for the contribution, but stressed that the war in Yemen requires a political solution, and not just a humanitarian response.
“There is no humanitarian solution for humanitarian problems,” Guterres said after receiving the check, which also came from the United Arab Emirates.
The Emirates plays a major role in the coalition, which intervened militarily three years ago to support

Yemen's government against Iran-backed Huthi rebels.
Civilian casualties from coalition air strikes have drawn criticism from rights groups, and in October the UN placed the alliance on a “blacklist” for killing and maiming children.
Riyadh insists the coalition respects its obligations under international humanitarian law.
“The solution is political and we are entirely at your disposal to work to find a solution” that will “end the suffering in Yemen,” Guterres said.
The United Nations is making a fresh push for peace talks in Yemen, where the coalition acted to support the internationally-recognized government after the Huthis seized the capital.
About 10,000 Yemenis have been killed in the war.

The UN calls it the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with 22.2 million people in need of aid, a growing risk of famine, and a severe outbreak of cholera.
It was the second meeting between the UN chief and the crown prince, who has bristled at Guterres' description of Yemen as a “stupid war” that is harming the interests of the countries involved.
Prince Mohammed said Saudi Arabia was working to uphold UN principles which he said meant “not interfering in the affairs of other countries,” an apparent reference to Iran's support for the Huthis.
“We try as much as we can to solve the problems of the Middle East politically and if things get out of control, we try as hard as we can to

avoid all the other impacts,” said the crown prince, speaking through a translator.
“We will continue to comply, as we always have, with international law,” he said.
The UN chief has appointed a new peace envoy, Martin Griffiths, who was in the rebel-held capital Sanaa this week for talks on kick-starting the political process, following a first round of meetings in Riyadh.
UN diplomats believe the new effort could succeed because Iran has sent signals that it is willing to pressure the Huthis to seek a settlement.
Guterres will travel to Geneva for a donors' conference hosted by Switzerland and Sweden to raise funds for Yemen.

More State News

Centre seeks report from West Bengal government on violence during Ram Navami

Agency
New Delhi, March 28: The Centre has sought a report from the West Bengal government on incidents of arson and violence during Ram Navami processions in the last two days and offered assistance to deal with the situation, an official spokesperson said.
In a communication, the ministry of home affairs asked the West Bengal government to send a report about the incident, the steps being taken to restore normalcy and the action taken against those involved in the violence.
The Centre also offered assistance of paramilitary forces in the light of reports of

continuing violence and tension in some districts of the state, the MHA spokesperson said.
At least two persons were killed and nearly a dozen others injured, some of them seriously, in intermittent violence involving Ram Navami processions at various places in West Bengal, including Purulia, Murshidabad, Bardhaman West and Raniganj.
The injured included several policemen with a senior police officer losing a hand after a bomb was hurled at him during a clash in Raniganj area.
The state government has ordered heavy deployment of police force in violence-hit areas, besides lodging several cases of arson and rioting.

Disruptions in Rajya Sabha finds mention in PM's speech

Agency
New Delhi, March 28: The continued disruptions in the Rajya Sabha found mention in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech for retiring members today when he said they would not be able to participate in debates when the House decides on important bills such as the one which seeks to criminalise the practise of instant triple talaq.
Addressing members at the Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister said, “We bid farewell to some of our MP colleagues in the Rajya Sabha. All of the outgoing parliamentarians have their significant contribution, importance, and each one of them has tried to contribute to the best of their capacity for the bright future of this country, and the country will not forget them.”
The Prime Minister also mentioned few of the eminent members of the House appointed

by the President, “We will always remember the distinguished work of Parasaran Ji. The players who have made India proud, Dilip (Tirkey) ji and Sachin (Tendulkar) ji - in the coming, days we will not have the privilege of their presence. Everyone will remember Professor (P. J.) Kurien and his smiling face; this has been his speciality and he played an important role in running the House.”
In his brief speech, Modi said “unfortunately”, the retiring members will not be part of Parliament when the decision on instant triple talaq is taken.
He also said the outgoing members must have prepared speeches on important issues so that their contribution is remembered.
But they could not do so. He said the responsibility of smooth functioning lies not only with the opposition but also with the government.

Rajput Regt conducts a lecture on Tuberculosis at Phaisanjang village

Imphal, March 28: 28 RAJPUT of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of Headquarter IGAR (South) conducted a lecture on “Tuberculosis, Its Causes and Precautions” at Phaisanjang village on 25 March 2018. The aim of the lecture was to make the local populace aware about the tuberculosis popularly known as TB, its causes and necessary precautions. The event was attended by a total strength of 79 villagers including 38 Children. The Medical Officer laid special emphasis on healthy life style and

how smoking, drug misuse, alcohol misuse make a person prone to acquiring TB. He explained in detail about the symptoms of TB and the preventive measures to be taken.
The Medical Officer clarified many of their queries on the subject. The audience showed keen interest in the lecture and conveyed a heartfelt gratitude to the team. Conduct of such events is a mark of selfless concern of Army for the local populace, thus affirming the Battalion's commitment towards their welfare.

Assam Rifles conducts cleanliness drive under 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' at Govajang village

Imphal, March 28: Inspired by the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, 11 Assam Rifles of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of Headquarter IGAR (South) conducted a cleanliness drive at Govajang village on 27 March 2018. A total of 51 Villagers including 15 males, 17 females and 18 children were briefed regarding the importance of cleanliness and were also motivated to keep their village clean. Assam Rifles personnel along with overwhelming support from the villagers made combined efforts to make the village area

clean and spread awareness amongst the locals. The villagers were briefed regarding proper waste disposal and they were also encouraged to reduce the use of polythenes to preserve the environment. They were also advised to throw the waste only in dustbins and earmarked pits which should regularly be cleaned/regulated. The villagers were also encouraged to make use of toilets for keeping the atmosphere clean. The vigorous efforts concluded with tea and refreshment for the participants.

Career Guidance program by Assam Rifles

Imphal, March 28: In continuous efforts to reach out to the local youth of Yariyok and encourage them to join the Armed Forces, a Career Guidance Program was conducted by Yariyok Company Operating Base of 26 Assam Rifles of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) at Yariyok. The aim of the event was to increase

awareness and motivate the students to choose Armed Forces as a profession. A total of 30 Students and ward member from the villages in and around Yariyok attended the event. The Student and locals expressed their gratitude to the Assam Rifles personnel for organizing the event for guidance of the youth.