

Editorial

Thursday, October 25, 2018

When arrogance meets ignorance

Arrogance, overconfidence, dismissive - traits that have proven to spell the downfall of an individual. And if that individual happens to be the elected leader of a state, then it would not be much way off the mark to state that the state is bound to regress, and the very leader would have been digging his own political grave. Could it be the practically limitless power derived from the position he holds, or is it a manifestation of the money and muscle power he has inherited as the Chief Minister of a state with one of the most heinous record of human rights abuse and state-sponsored terrorism? Is it just a natural progression of the vagaries of being in power? While it is still not possible to put a finger on the exact reason or cause of the emerging facet of the present Chief Minister hitherto assiduously kept away from public, it has become increasingly clear that N Biren is a man who does not like to have his decisions questioned. There are also recent incidents which have surfaced through various social media strongly indicating that he does take affront to unfavorable comments or critical opinions of his actions and tends to take these expressions personal - a frightening revelation given the power and resources he wields due to his position as the elected head of the state. And there are an increasing number of people questioning the wisdom in putting him to power, more convinced than ever after witnessing the intolerant and intimidating manner in which dissenting voices are sought to be suppressed.

Despite the much publicized effort of connecting with the people of the state, the increasingly impregnable official residence which had put untold pedestrians not only to much inconvenience but also to risks of physical injury is an ironic twist to the whole public stunt. While the compulsive obsession with safeguarding the heavy iron gate from the frustrating kicks of the enraged public may be explained away as a personal indulgence of someone in power, the real issue of why the public has to resort to such dire acts has been sidelined. Imphal Times has been trying to put the issue of barricading the Chief Minister's official quarter in the correct perspective, pointing out the futility and the symbolic detachment of the Chief Minister from the grave and immediate concerns of the general public. Truth be told, no amount of barricades and rolls of barbed wires will be able to keep the enraged public away for long - it will only result in the public feeling neglected and pushed away by the very person they looked up as a leader to allay their fears and listen to their concerns.

Another sign of immaturity is the failure to reign in the chest-thumping attitude even after enough incidents that should have taught the elected leaders that the only way forwards is to make radical changes and pave new roads towards progress. So long as the present government keeps comparing the result of their actions with that of the previous government, the focus will never be on the future development. Spending crores on posters, hoardings and advertisements to announce their achievements will impress very few. Real progress should be felt and experienced, not projected. The myriad schemes and uncountable yojanas being brought out to purportedly benefit the general public and the downtrodden section of the population can only become meaningful when implemented efficiently and swiftly. The top leaders should communicate with the real targets of the beneficiary schemes to gauge the actual performance and efficiency.

What started out as an optimistic change of guard in the state has withered to one which is increasingly intolerant, impotent and megalomaniac. More than anything, the people of the state needs to confide in the government but for that to happen the leaders of the state need to show empathy, humility and tolerance - attributes hard to detect among the present breed.

Lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my Vehicle Registration Certificate bearing registration no. MN-01AC-5514, Engine no. JF16EEGGDO6941 and Chesis No. MBLJF16MGGDO2774 on the way between Canchipur to Bazar. Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Yambem Milan Chanu
Bashikhong Kongba Irong
Ph. No. 8732893257 and 7005376257

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Four IB Operatives Held for Snooping Outside CBI Director Alok Verma's Residence

Courtesy The Wire
New Delhi, Oct. 25

Four men, identified as Intelligence Bureau (IB) operatives, were caught outside the residence of former Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) director Alok Verma around 4 am on Thursday. Verma was ousted as director of the premier investigation agency in the early hours of Wednesday. A move he has described as "patently illegal" in a petition before the Supreme Court. The men were observed loitering in a motor car outside the perimeter and were confronted by Verma's official security detail. They have been handed over to Delhi Police. The suspicion is that they were either looking for ways to plant listening devices or were keeping an eye on all visitors to the residence.

The Wire has the names and identification numbers of the four IB operatives but is withholding those details. This snooping on Verma, like the entire search and raid of the CBI headquarters on Wednesday that was carried out by unidentified intelligence and police officials, is believed to have been conducted by a team working under national security advisor Ajit Doval. Doval played a key role in implementing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision that the CBI director be removed forthwith. Under the official rules of business, the NSA has no executive authority to direct such operations. However, since the IB and RAW chiefs report to the prime minister, who, like his predecessor, has outsourced this supervision to the NSA, Doval can play a key role in such actions.

Sources close to Verma say that the apparent attempt to snoop on him is "vintage Gujarat model" - a reference to the police tactics Modi and Amit Shah, currently BJP president, used when they ruled the state to stymie any opposition or threat to their position. The action is bound to fuel the opposition campaign that the Modi government acted against Verma because of its fears over what steps the CBI may take on crucial investigations. Sources say that the situation became untenable for Verma the moment he sought "verification" of the Rafale papers handed over to him by former BJP ministers Yashwant Sinha, Arun Shourie and senior advocate Prashant Bhusan. Sources point out that Rakesh Asthana, who floated an expensive video and a hashtag on social media to buttress his credentials,

has used the same media networks regularly used by the BJP and its social media cell to try to muddy the waters by making "spurious allegations" about Verma on Twitter. Despite repeated attempts, Delhi police and Verma were not available for comments. According to the *Indian Express*, Verma was dealing with seven sensitive cases when the prime minister decided to pull the plug on him. The first was the Rafale deal, in which Sinha, Shourie and Bhusan have alleged corruption in the decision to acquire 36 fighter jets from Dassault Aviation. Then there charges against two former high court judges for their alleged involvement in the medical college bribery case, a coal scam case in which the name of top PMO official Bhaskar Khulbe figures and the case against Asthana.

BJP MLA withdraws resignation in Assam

Agency
Guwahati, Oct 25

BJP MLA Terash Gowalla Thursday withdrew his resignation from the Assembly, two days after he submitted it to the Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal on some issues. Gowalla, however, had not submitted his resignation to the Assembly Speaker. "The chief minister called me for a meeting last night to discuss the issue. He explained the complexities regarding appointments as different communities and regions have to be accommodated," the first time MLA told Agency. "The CM appreciated my concerns

and assured that these will be addressed in future. As he personally requested me to withdraw the resignation, so I have decided accordingly. I sent a mail to him this morning and withdrew the resignation," Gowalla said. On October 23, the BJP legislator had alleged that he was neglected in recent appointment in the Assam Gas Company Ltd (AGCL). "That is one reason. AGCL is in Dulaijan and people have made me their representative. They have some expectations from me. Without any consultation to me, the appointment in the company was made. I am not saying that you (government) give the post to me, but at least I should have been consulted," he had said.

Prez dismisses plea to disqualify 27 AAP MLAs

New Delhi, Oct 25

President Ramnath Kovind is learnt to have dismissed a plea to disqualify 27 ruling Aam Admi Party MLAs of Delhi for allegedly holding office of profit by being appointed as chairpersons of Rogi Kalyan Samitis attached to various city hospitals. The President signed the order dismissing the plea based on an opinion given by the Election Commission (EC) in July, a senior poll panel functionary said Thursday. The EC had found no merit in the plea.

Such pleas are sent to the President who forwards it to the EC. The EC then gives its opinion based on which the President has to issue orders. According to an order issued by the Delhi government's health and family welfare department on April 26, the Rogi Kalyan Samitis' (Patient Welfare Committees) are advisory in nature which will assist health facilities, develop and customise strategies among others. It stated that each Assembly Rogi Kalyan Samiti will be provided Rs 3 lakh per annum as grand-in aid.

Militants kill 4 workers of oil and gas exploration company in Pakistan

Peshawar, Oct 24

Four kidnapped employees of an oil and gas exploration company in Pakistan have been killed by militants near the country's restive northwest tribal region bordering Afghanistan, officials said

Wednesday. They were abducted from North Waziristan's Spinwam Abakhel area on Tuesday. Later, their bullet-riddled bodies were discovered. Security forces have launched an operation to nab the militants. No group has claimed responsibility for the killing.

Certificate, Admit Card and Mark sheet Lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my Certificate, Admit Card and Mark-sheet for my Class X passed examination issued by Board of Secondary Education, Manipur bearing Roll No. 1600 of 1980 on the way between Thangal Bazar to Babupara on 20/10/2018. Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Soma Das
D/o Basanta Das
Thangal Bazar, Dharmasala

CECB wants strict adherence to SC ruling on firecrackers

Agency
Raipur, Oct 25

The Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board (CECB) has directed officials to ensure strict implementation of the Supreme Court's order on bursting of firecrackers during Diwali and other festivals. The SC said Tuesday that people can burst firecrackers from 8 pm to 10 pm only on Diwali and other festivals. It allowed manufacture and sale of just the "green crackers" which have low emission of light, sound and harmful chemicals. The apex court carved out an exception for the Christmas and the New Year eve saying that crackers for these occasions would be burst between 11.55 pm and 12.30 am, since these celebrations start at midnight. In view of the SC's ruling, all district collectors and senior police officials in Chhattisgarh have been asked to ensure that fireworks take

place during the designated time and at the designated places, CECB's PRO Amar Prakash Savant told Agency Thursday. In case any violation is found, the station house officer of the police station area concerned shall be held liable, and it will also amount to committing contempt of court, he said. He said the officials have also been asked to ensure manufacture and sale of "green" (eco-friendly) crackers that cause minimum noise and air pollution, and that they should be sold through licensed traders only. A public awareness campaign is also being run on the FM radio stations and television channels to follow the order, he said. The state-run CECB had banned the use of crackers in six cities - Raipur, Bilaspur, Bhilai, Durg, Raigarh and Korba - for two months from December 1 last year to January 31 this year, as part of its initiative to control air pollution, Savant said.

Parrikar being pressured to continue as CM, alleges Velingkar

Agency
Panaji, Oct 25

Former Goa unit RSS chief Subhash Velingkar has alleged that the BJP high command is pressuring Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar to continue in the post despite his ill health, to retain power in the state. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), however, rubbished his charge, saying Parrikar was not being forced to continue as the chief minister and that his health condition was improving. Velingkar demanded that the state government give an update on the chief minister's health. "They (government) are fooling people. Parrikar needs proper rest. Unfortunately, the BJP high command in Delhi wants to retain power in Goa, that is why they are not allowing him to rest. They are power hungry," he alleged. He was talking to reporters Wednesday evening after addressing a meeting of his supporters in Mandrem Assembly constituency, where a bypoll is due after Dayanand Sopte, who had won from there last year, resigned and joined the BJP. Velingkar was ousted from the post of the Goa Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief in 2016 after his critical

comments against Parrikar. Later, he formed a political outfit called the Goa Suraksha Manch, which fought against the BJP in the state Assembly polls held last year. Velingkar said the state government should have appointed another person as the chief minister till Parrikar recovered from illness. "I feel this government will be dissolved and the Goa Assembly elections would be held along with the Lok Sabha polls," he said. He said the BJP was "no more a party of ideology". "The elected representatives don't have anything to do with the party's ideology. They have imported leaders from other parties. The loyal cadre is disturbed. In the next election, the BJP will be completely wiped out from the state," he claimed. When contacted, BJP Goa unit chief Vinay Tendulkar said there is no issue of the party high command forcing Parrikar to continue in the chair. "His health condition is improving now and he will resume office in November," he said. Dismissing Velingkar's claims that BJP leaders were not following the party's ideology, Tendulkar said, "Whosoever is in the party is because he/she believes in our ideology."