

Editorial

Monday, February 18, 2019

The unwanted season for no good reason

Incidentally or otherwise, if anyone would care to ponder over, there is this thing with trouble which come calling once or twice a month every year like an unwanted guest who stays back for dinner. There has been this inexplicable and uncanny coincidence of all sorts of things that could go wrong actually going wrong most frequently in the middle of the year for a while now. It does not mean to indicate a happy, calm state for the rest of the time- just an increasingly visible and consistent pattern that was not given much thought about before now.

Could it be the change in the weather that drives most people to commit crimes and offences, the Government to be crowded out with scandals and revelations of misappropriation of funds, inaction and false promises. The public, not to be outdone, has been bringing up issues- some genuine and some blown out of proportion, jumping in amidst the fray that makes the whole scene rather ironically comic.

One thing is for sure- good or bad- the season for excitement and enthusiastic agitations is just round the corner once again. We can pretty much expect, without fail, an increase in the blockades and bandhs- to the point when three or four blockades are being imposed on the same road on the same day concurrently. We can then be seeing almost everyone out of their homes and into the streets to have a first-hand taste of the bandh.

The rains will be bringing another set of issues from floods to accusations of apathy by the Government and delayed help- or no help as the case might be, to allegations of distributing live tadpoles, toads and other living organisms through the water supply system. A positive way to look at it would be to take heart in the fact that the water so supplied, though apparently undrinkable, proves for itself that it has not been poisoned.

Could it be the logical explanation as to the question of why so many in the State have been taking to drinking from the local breweries? Social activism will be taken to with renewed vengeance by seasoned as well as wannabe social minded individuals and organisations. Power cuts will be on the rise once again- raising the temperature and lowering the tolerance level of the common people, while the fortunate ones will be hogging the meagre supply of power so generously provided after allocation to the less fortunate neighbouring region has been made.

All in all, the season promises to be anything but idle. After all something is better than nothing and normal is as boring as always. For those of us in the news media and journalists, a hectic yet rewarding period. What we really have been wanting to say all along is "Keep up the good work people!"

4 Soldiers Killed In J&K

Gunfight; Suspected Pulwama Bomb-Maker Shot Dead

Agency
Pulwama, Feb. 18:

Four soldiers including an officer were killed in an overnight encounter with Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama, just 10 km from the site where over 40 soldiers were killed in a terror attack by the same terror group on February 14. Two terrorists, one of them suspected to be the bomb maker, have been killed. The soldiers killed in the operation belonged to the 55 Rashtriya Rifles. A civilian was also killed in the encounter, said the police. A targeted operation was launched a little after midnight on a tip-off that three Jaish terrorists, including the handler of the Pulwama suicide bomber Adil Ahmed Dar, were hiding in Pinglan, sources have told NDTV. The firing resumed around 9 am as the

forces assessed that two or three Jaish terrorists were still hiding in the area.

Personnel of the 55 Rashtriya Rifles, two battalions of the CRPF and the Special Operation Group of the Jammu and Kashmir police were involved in the encounter. Two soldiers have also been injured.

The main target of the operation was Gazi, a terrorist believed to be the mastermind of the February 14 attack, the worst on security forces in Kashmir. On that day, Adil Ahmed Dar drove his car close to a CRPF convoy of 78 buses on the Jammu-Srinagar highway and detonated around 60 kg of RDX, killing over 40 personnel reporting to duty after leave. Gazi was the bomb-maker, believe investigators, sources told NDTV.

Adil Ahmed Dar had joined the Pakistan-based terror group a year ago.

PPFA urges for responsive actions against terrorists

By A Correspondent
Guwahati, Feb 18

Strongly condemning the Pulwama attack, where over 40 soldiers lost their lives, Patriotic People's Front Assam (PPFA) urges the government to take responsive actions against the terrorists so that they can learn a lesson for life. The forum of nationalists however appealed to the aggrieved nation to be careful on expressing angers

as it may be misused by the anti-nationals living inside the country. Media reports confirmed that Pakistan based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) mentored by dreaded criminal Masood Azhar has already claimed responsibility for the attack in J&K locality, which was carried out by Adil Ahmed Dar, a local suicide bomber. Need not to mention that convincing a young man to be a suicide squad member needs an enormous psychological

treatment, which was done for Adil. "We must understand that the armed revolution for an independent Kashmir (comprising all parts of Kashmir) has already lost its relevance as the Islamists have grabbed the space. Now it is no longer orchestrated for the Kashmiri people, but for the Islamists only, which was reflected with Adil's pre-attack video recording claiming that he was moving for the heaven," said a

statement issued by PPFA. Offering heartfelt thanks to the government as well as various patriotic organization & individuals for taking pledge to take care of the families of martyrs, the PPFA pleaded the people of northeast India to remain attentive against those individuals who often come out with voluminous logic on the basis of India's constitution, rule of law, humanity etc, but never stand with the victims of terrorism.

Indian Media Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (IMCAB) gets new executives



Siam Sarower Jamil,
Dhaka, Feb. 18

The new executives of Indian Media Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (IMCAB) have been elected unopposed for the year 2019-2020.

Bashudeb Dhar of the Daily Statesman, Qudus Afrad (Daily Anandabazar Patrika, Kolkata) and Rafiqul Islam Sabuj (Daily Desher Katha, Agartala) have been elected president, vice president and general secretary respectively.

The other elected office-bearers are: joint general secretary- Sahidul Hasan Khokon (The India Today),

treasurer Masum Billah (Daily Jugashankha, Assam) and organizing secretary Mir Afroz Zaman (United News of India-UNI), said a press release on Sunday evening.

Executive members are Anisur Rahman (Press Trust of India-PTI), Aminul Hoq Bhuiyan (Daily Ei Somoy), Layek Uzzaman (Daily Din Darpon, Kolkata), Rajib Khan (Zee Akash Media) and Abu Ali (Daily Jagaran, Agartala).

Dip Azad (Times Now Tv), general secretary of outgoing committee of IMCAB will remain as member of the executive committee according to the constitution of the organization.

Those opposing Citizenship Amendment Bill want to attack Assam's culture & civilization: Himanta Biswa

Agency
Guwahati, Feb. 18

Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said those opposing the Citizenship Bill want to "attack" the culture and civilisation of Assam. Addressing a rally of Bhartiya Janata

Yuva Morcha (BJYM) in the presence of BJP president Amit Shah in Assam's Lakhimpur, Sarma claimed that his party will win 10-11 Lok Sabha seats out of the 14 in Assam in the upcoming elections. "Lots of misinformation is being spread about the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, ST status to six tribes

and Clause-6 of the Assam Accord," he said. "They (those opposing the bill) want to mislead the Assamese community. They want to attack the culture and civilisation of Assam. We want to tell all that we will protect the Indian culture and civilisation. It is our resolution," he added.

Agency
Guwahati, Feb. 18

There is still disbelief at the Basumatary household in Kalbari Village of Baksa district, one of the four in the Bodo Territorial Administrative Districts.

The confirmation that Maneswar Basumatary was killed in Thursday's suicide attack on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir only on Friday. Maneswar was the sole bread winner of the family of four.

"All of last evening we were seeing on WhatsApp and Facebook that one M Basumatary was one of the victims in the bus. But we were still hopeful that it may have been someone else," said Kamal Boro, the nephew of the slain 48-year-old CRPF havildar. "It is too sudden," Boro said.

Inside the house, Sanmati Basumatary, Maneswar's wife, sobbed as she recounted how he wanted to get a transfer to Assam soon. "He would say it is dangerous in Jammu and Kashmir. There are too many bombs and attacks," she said as the house saw a steady stream of visitors, including politicians coming to grieve the death.

During the day, Ranjeet Kumar Dass, the BJP president of Assam, visited

the family and made Sanmati talk to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. The phone call lasted less than 20 seconds. Sonowal later announced a compensation of Rs 20 lakh late last evening.

"I spoke to Malik (Maneswar) last early morning yesterday. He just said he was leaving Jammu for Srinagar," Sanmati said.

Maneswar, had returned to Jammu on February 4 after spending over a month in Kalbari.

"He will be cremated here tomorrow," said a villager who was part of a group clearing up the plot adjacent to the house.

Dhananjai Basumatary, one of his two children who is finishing his graduation in Kokrajhar, recalled how he would tell him that he should take voluntary retirement and come back. "But he would tell us that he wanted to continue to ensure that we finish our studies," Dhananjai said.

Assam based Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) operative arrested in Kolkata

Agency
Guwahati, Feb. 18

One, Ariful Islam, an operative of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) was arrested by the Special Task Force (STF) in Babughat, Kolkata.

Ariful Islam hails from Barpeta in Assam. Islam was arrested in connection with the blast in Bodh Gaya in January 2018.

Police also seized several suspicious documents and currency notes from his possession. Further details are awaited.

Chanu Creations organized RPL-PMKVY Certificate Distribution Ceremony in Ziro, Lower Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh

Greetings from Chanu Creations!!!

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implemented through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). It is India's largest skill certification scheme and the objective is to enable and mobilize a large number of Indian youth to take up outcome based skill training and become employable and earn their livelihood. It is the first step towards making India the skill capital of the world. It was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 15th July 2015.

Under this scheme, Chanu Creations, Imphal, Manipur has been trained RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning) training to 200 weavers in Ziro, Lower Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh on the job role "Two Shaft Handloom Weaver" (QP No: TSC/Q7303, conforming to NSQF Level-4) as PIA through NSDC. The training was imparted in accordance with National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) with strict monitoring guidelines



enforced by NSDC. The assessment of the trainees (both theory and practical) was conducted by Intouch Professional Services Pvt. Ltd., Chandigarh assigned by Textile Sector Skill Council (TSC). RPL is an important step towards getting formal acceptance and respect for informally acquired knowledge and skills. It shows the trainees a path to bridge their current knowledge and skill levels to reach a competency level or go for higher skills for professional growth. Altogether 191 trainees were successful the assessment and certified for RPL Certificates. All

these certified trainees are also covered Personal Accident Insurance Scheme under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) for three years provided by New India Assurance Company. The certificates distribution ceremony of the RPL-PMKVY certified trainees of Lower Subansiri District, Arunachal Pradesh was held in Ziro at Kasturba Gram Seva Kendra, Hong-Village on 16th February 2019. The event was graced by Shri Tilling Duri (Head Man) Gaon Bura of Niitii Ziro (Arunachal Pradesh), Smt. Chiroam Indira a National Awarded, Nari

Shakti Puraskar Awardee, Women Transforming India Awardee, DMA All India Women Entrepreneurs Awardee, Vasundhara Hall of Fame Awardee and Proprietor/CEO of Chanu Creations, Shri Hibu Yanii, Gaon Bura of Niitii Ziro (Arunachal Pradesh), Miss Mrinalini Gogoi Asst. Incharge of Kasturba Gram Seva Kendra, Ziro of Arunachal Pradesh and Shri W. Joyshankar Luwang Project Manager of Chanu Creations as Chief Guest, President and Guest of Honours respectively. All the certified trainees of Lower Subansiri District were awarded RPL Certificates at the event.

The small loom industry has been making all possible efforts to not only provide livelihood but also promote the traditional products. By giving women skills and new opportunities, we can unlock their full potential and enable every woman to find a new meaningful place in society. It is truly gratifying that the efforts of Chanu Creations bring smiles to thousands of women weavers in the region through RPL-PMKVY and moving towards the fruitfulness tomorrow's generation with a new identity.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail : imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.