

Editorial

Imphal, Monday, December 7, 2015

Smart city dream may be sabotage by fail police system

Smart City is now the talk of the town. The euphoria of Imphal becoming a dream city has hit almost all platforms - either it may be in a formal or informal way. Media advertisement, sensitization programme, calls for feedback and discussion are being taken place under the initiative of MAHUD and IMC in a very speedy way as it is necessary for the Govt. to finalize choosing one priority from the Pan city development and another priority of the area base development in a stipulated time period, probably before Dec 15. This selection of priority area will be done as according to the wish of the people living in Imphal, which is being listed among the 100 chosen cities to be developed into smart city. According to Gitkumar, Director of Manipur Housing and Urban Development department selection of priority area is the need of the hour as that should be forwarded to the Ministry of urban development. Well this is the enthusiastic part of the government Machinerics working effortlessly to make the dream come true.

Another area of concerns for citizens is the purpose of smart city. Well according to the guideline provided by the Ministry of Urban development, government of India it is being stated that there is no universally accepted definition of Smart City. It said the conceptualization of Smart city varies from city to city and country to country, depending upon the level of development, willingness to change and reform, resources and aspiration of the city residence.

But one thing that is commonly understood is that a smart city is some innovative government project to improve the standard of life of the people living in the city. For that, people need to be smart in everything by providing the best infrastructures including technology.

Earlier, this editorial column had discussed about the condition of the traffic management and parking system in Imphal area which is included in the section urban mobility. We also drew the attention of those implementing the smart city project to make the government officials, politicians including Ministers and MLA 'smart' before imagining a life with all the urban facilities.

When we said 'smart' it literally means people with more civic sense, creating sense of patriotism and making them more sincere and dutiful to make a civilized developed city. Crime free city should also be a priority area of smart city. This is being stated because for a smart city the there should be a smart police. But how smart are our police who are mean to control the smooth flow of our society.

According to Women Action for development, an NGO working in the field of crime against women and children, a total of 279 cases of crime against women and children are reported in 2015 counting from January 1 to December 16. The NGO recorded 29 cases of rape; 7 cases of attempt to rape and murder; 12 cases of attempt to murder; 20 cases of murder; 9 cases of suicide; 2 cases of burnt alive; 16 cases of suspicious death; 5 cases of delivery dead; 2 case of molest; 85 cases of assault; 63 missing cases; 6 kidnapping; 5 trafficking; 8 cases of cyber crime; 2 cases abuse to girl child and 1 force abortion. WAD said this are reported case but there are also equal number of cases which are not reported to police. Surprisingly, none of the victims had been delivered justice. In some of the cases police even denied to carry one a free and fair investigation to punish those involved in the gruesome crime. There are reports of high corruption among some of the police officers.

In a city where the police are not smart enough to deliver justice to the people how could the city which is harnessing with all its energy to make it smart will ever become smart?

Wanted Sub-Editor

Imphal Times is looking for an experience sub editor with excellent writing skill in English who can read Bengali written script. Working hour is 12 noon till 3 pm. Honorarium is Rs. 3000 p.m. Preference will be given to candidate who had already work in English daily as desk editor. Age no bar, and Imphal Times have no problem with those candidates working in other newspaper at night shift.

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Peace and Ethnic Conflict in Northeast India: Cultural Borderlands of Southeast Asia: A Case Study of Nagaland-Manipur Crisis

(Paper presented in ICSSR, N. Delhi sponsored International Seminar on Movements in Recent Past and Present Northeast India with special reference to Manipur, 27-29 Nov 2015, orgd. by Centre for Manipur Studies, Manipur University)

Contd from yesterday

The issues of Phizo's consolidation of national forces amongst the Nagas and engagement with the Indian state on issues of Naga Independence provide deep insights for the rest of human rights scholars and peace campaigners for understanding of the phenomenon of Naga ethno-national movement. Much literature has been produced both by international scholars as well as policy makers and higher government representatives and media people. Though the struggle of the Naga people for their own independence, their desire to remain outside the Indian union, their self recognition as being non-Indian, and their early efforts at negotiation with the Indian leaders, the Gol refusal to discuss the realities of 'development of an other people in history', parts of whose territory were not colonized by the imperial powers, had not entered into the mindset the post-colonial leaders of the Indian National movement. Zapu Phizo and NNC had not taken up arms at the beginning, waited for understanding and acceptance, quoting MK Gandhi, suffering the humiliating treatment of Pandit Nehru to the Naga delegation etc. His holding of the Naga plebiscite in May 1951 was an effort to let the international community know the fact of peoples' support also for Naga Independence which was celebrated on 14 August 1947, one day before India became independent. Negotiations with the Nehru Government was attempted till 1952, when the Naga people got tired with the intransigence, arrogance and Brahministic attitude of the Indian national leaders and hence forth NNC ceased official connections with the Indian Government. This culture of self-determined

collective negation, not to communicate nor relate, is an obvious signal to the world of the intrinsic pride and stubborn, immovable stance of the Naga people. This deeply held conception of natural justice, if neglected, ignored and not reciprocated, to the Nagas would not yield, whatever the odds. Nehru's Government and subsequent Governments did not bother to understand peripheral peoples' psychologies, and their stubborn ability to resist the hegemonic moves to incorporate colonial territories and peoples in their so-called post-colonial state. War was the inevitable result.

The counter-insurgency measures adopted by the Indian Government to counter the 'Naga Hostiles' movement were imitative models of the British activities in insurgent prone Malaya (1948-1960), but a much more cruder form and more virulent. The Indian authorities in fact were less civilized than their British masters. The British masters were subtle enough to raise indigenous police and military to face the protracted conflict where racial indicators of the confrontation were reduced, but for the Indian military it was a brutal, savage method with deep racial prejudice. Massive onslaughts both in the air and land was exercised in the Naga areas destroying villages, enforcing village groupings with sub-standard facilities, concentration camps was introduced with torture and intimidation. Houses, granaries, crops and cattle were burnt including sacred Christian churches. Combatants and non-combatants were killed, Naga national workers were tortured and women raped. After gang-raping a woman (Mayangkhookla) and satisfying their sadistic desires, she was forced to copulate with her male colleague inside the

sacred church. The rape of women, not simply violation of women's body, had racist impulses of subjugation and domination magnified at times of conflict. The Indian political authorities ignored such acts so as not to discourage and lower the morale of the security forces. Racially superior feelings provided counters to the degree of resistance by indigenous militancy in Northeast India. The decisive use of direct violence and military action for suppressing political dissidents were thus obvious in Northeast India, which was in contrast to the British ploys of using strategies of utilizing local and indigenous methods of countering the protracted insurgency of the Malayan Communist Party. The counter-insurgency methods in Mizoram in the late sixties and seventies were so brutal and devastating that even Napalm bombing, burning and strafing from the air were exercised over the Mizo population. Brigadier T. Sailo, who earlier as an Indian soldier had earlier sacrificed his entire soul and body to the Indian nation, was so devastated by the experience of the excesses of the Indian military over his people, and that he formed the Human Rights Committee before other Northeasterners were aware of the ascendancy internationally.

Nation making of the Naga was thus the direct result of India's dealing with Naga insurgency, a discourse which was often neglected by contemporary discourse analysts of ethno-nationalism in Northeast India. From ethnic category to ethnic community (Paul Brass 1991), to ethno-nationhood was a prolonged journey and progressive development, and the Naga, having suffered the pains and agonies of

the struggle later could secure International recognition as the 'Oppressed Nation' through UN principles of recognizing Indigenous peoples causes. This was the contribution of Thuingaleng Muivah (a Tangkhul from Manipur), who became the leader of Naga National Movement after the death of Zapu Phizo. His nation making efforts was lauded as well as derided by critics, but this was another story. Beshikho Chamai a Shepou Naga from Manipur was the first entrant into the Naga Army in 1956. Muivah joined in 1964. The hill areas of Ukhrul, Senapati and Tamenglong were involved in the insurgency since the 60s.

What was important is that after prolonged and protracted conflict for more than forty years, interposed with tense and agonizing break-ups, temporary cease-fires and suspicious interactions amongst peace builders and the stakeholders, a process of peace negotiations was agreed upon in August 1997, with a cease-fire between the Government of India and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM). The peace process started by recognizing mutually three principles (i) that the negotiation status was at the highest Prime Ministerial level, (ii) without pre-conditions of the talks (which enabled the discussion on the sovereignty of the Nagas), and (iii) the negotiation to be held in a third country (which enlarged the scope of the negotiations enabling third party mediation which actually occurred in the Bangkok Conference in 2006). The processes of the peace negotiations were held in secret, with rounds of talks with well structured media hand-outs, and continued for the last thirteen years. (To be contd.....)

National & International News

Govt to make statement on foreign policy issues soon in Lok Sabha

PTI New Delhi, Dec. 7: Government will soon make a statement on its foreign policy initiatives after the Opposition in Lok Sabha on Monday moved an adjournment motion seeking a debate on the crucial matter. Parliamentary affairs minister M Venkaiah Naidu said external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj

was busy with visiting Mauritius President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim and hence was not present in the House. "We have taken note of the concerns of the House and will convey to the external affairs minister and a response will be given to the House at the earliest," he said in Lok Sabha. Naidu's statement came after

Speaker Sumitra Mahajan dismissed a notice for adjournment of the Question Hour by Trinamool Congress leader Saugata Roy seeking a debate on the NDA government's foreign policy initiatives. The move came a day after National Security Advisor A K Doval met his Pakistani

counterpart Lt Gen (Retd) Nasir Khan Janjua in Bangkok and discussed "peace and security, terrorism, Jammu and Kashmir and other issues including tranquility along the LoC". The Speaker also dismissed a few other adjournment motions seeking discussion on issues like price rise, alleged fake encounter in Punjab.

Militants attack CRPF convoy in J-K's Anantnag, 5 jawans injured

PTI Srinagar, Dec. 7: At least five CRPF jawans were injured when unidentified militants on Monday opened fire on their convoy on Srinagar-Jammu national highway in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Militants fired at a CRPF bus, which was part of a convoy on way to Jammu from Srinagar, near Green Tunnel at Samthan in Bijbehara, 50 kms from Srinagar, a police officer said.

He said six CRPF jawans were injured in the attack. The injured have been shifted to a hospital in Anantnag, the officer said, adding the area has been cordoned off and a manhunt has been launched to nab the attackers.

Afghan official: Suicide bombing in east wounds 9 people

AP Kabul, Dec. 7: An Afghan official says a suicide car bombing in the country's east has wounded nine people, including six policemen. The provincial governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khugyani, says the bomber targeted a police compound early on Monday morning in the Surkh Rud district

in Nangarhar province. He says three civilians were among the wounded and that the blast damaged both the compound and two dozen shops nearby. Police spokesman Hazrat Hussain Mashreqiwal says the bomber tried to get into the compound but blew the car up prematurely

outside the facility. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Taliban are active in eastern Afghanistan. Insurgent attacks against both Afghan troops and civilians have escalated across the country since the withdrawal of all foreign combat forces by the end of last year.

Airlifted pregnant woman delivers healthy twin girls

PTI Chennai, Dec. 7: A nine-month pregnant woman, who was ailing, was airlifted last week from one of the worst rain-affected areas of the city, has given birth to healthy twin girls at a hospital here, bringing some cheer as residents grapple with the aftermath of the unprecedented deluge. The IAF, which had rescued 28-year-old Deepthi Velchamy on December 2, again airlifted her to a

hospital two days later when she went into labour. She was initially evacuated from rain-hit Ramapuram area near Guindy and brought to the Tambaram Air Base, nearly 30 kms from here, which served as one of the nodal points during the aerial rescue operations. "She was rescued on December 2 and was nine months pregnant. I was in Bangalore when I received a call and reached Tambaram the next day. She then went to labour

and had to be airlifted again to a hospital in Chennai. The two girls were born on December 4," her husband Karthik Velchamy told PTI. Deepthi went into labour but her pregnancy history papers were lost in the flood. The Velchamys, native of Hosur near Bangalore, were racing against time when the IAF came to their rescue again and airlifted her to a hospital which had her medical record.