

Editorial

Imphal Thursday, January 19, 2016

Timely action

A government that cannot feel the pulse of the common man who put them to power in the first place is doomed to be extinct. This adage has been proven time and again, and yet the powers that be, in what seems to be an affliction of sorts that effects and paralyses the vital faculties responsible for rational and logical functioning of the grey matter once they go into governance, have unerringly failed to redress social issues that have affected the sensibilities of the general public in time- everytime. The latest reiteration of this lethargic and delayed response of the Government is the decision of the State Cabinet to hand over investigation to the CBI of the drug haul of over four and a half crore rupees worth from the airport last month, and the subsequent abolishment of the Special Intelligence Unit (SIU) responsible for the breakthrough the very next day, without any explanation for the decision. The swiftness and decisiveness of the abolition left everyone high and dry for a plausible answer and drew more attention on the matter, the very thing they were so very furtively trying to avoid. Now, more than a good month has passed before the Government came out of its stupor, only to take a half-hearted resolve which smacked of an attempt to subsidise and lull the increasingly agitated public and various organisations, rather than a pure intent to unravel the truth and lay bare the perpetrators of the incident. The developments on the issue raises more questions and doubts than the mock attempt of the government at presenting an illogical solution. What prompted the Government to take that swift and spasmodic action of abolishing the SIU- one of the very few Departments/ Units of the State Government excelling in their work? Were they getting too efficient for some highly connected smugglers and drug traffickers that their connections and influences are getting uneasy and are starting to lose sleep? What again prompted the Government to take more than a month to come to a decision of handing over the investigation of the case to the CBI, when it clearly demonstrated that it can and does move with amazing swiftness when circumstances demanded? A plausible answer is being sought by the public. It is the responsibility of a transparent and fair Government to provide one- in time.

3 killed in landmine blast triggered by naxals

PTI Raipur, Jan 19: Two women and a minor girl were killed while four others injured when a pressure landmine, suspected to have been laid by Naxals, went off in a dense forest pocket of Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Narayanpur district, police said today. "The incident took place last evening in the forests of Narayanpur police station limits," Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) SRP Kalluri told PTI. As per preliminary information, the residents of Tumnaar village including some women and their children, were passing through the area where road construction work was underway between Sonpur and Kurushnar villages, he said. They inadvertently stepped over the pressure IED (improvised explosive device) connection near Godagaon village forest, triggering the blast, killing two women and the 15-year-old girl, the IG said. Three more women and a two-year-old baby also sustained injuries in the blast, he added. The incident came to light late last night when the villagers brought the victims to Narayanpur hospital following which security forces were rushed to the place, he said. The body of deceased has been sent for the postmortem while the injured were being treated at Narayanpur hospital, he added. The Maoists have planted the IEDs to target security forces deployed to facilitate ongoing road construction on that axis. They mostly plant landmines close to trees and culverts. Several times in the past security forces as well as villagers have become victims of such Maoist blasts in Bastar region," the IG said. Further details are awaited, he added.

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Naga People, The guardian of "Great Eastern corridor"

By: Dr. Anthony Yanthan (Deputy Kilonser) Health, NSCN

The Naga people and its territorial area still in the yolk of civilization, subjected by forceful occupation by Indian intriguing British colonial legacy claim is currently the most close yet silently watched regions in the world, also known as "Great Eastern corridor". Situated in tri-junction border of the three giant countries India, China and Myanmar, it not only consolidates relationships and trade links with south East Asia and beyond but holds the key and gate way for socio-economic transformation. In fact this untapped and highly potential area is observed by many experts as the "future green economic reserves zone". The shift of interest and policy by Government of India (GoI) towards "Act East" with ASEAN countries and northeast in particular is in fact India's top agenda for "multi-prong Future oriented strategy" besides trade and commerce it shall determine India's future as power house in challenging competitive world. The traditional relationship with war torn Middle East can no longer sustain India growing demands or survival nor its counterpart, the rising red Dragon and the neighboring countries come to its aid. Thus, it has not only initiated major economic reforms and transformation policy within but has set up new approach for long term strategy internationally as well. It is interesting to note that Naga people and its areas (Asia Golden Route) shall be the Game changer across Asia-pacific region in future, which most of us are still blind to. Currently, the main focus and attention is now on the renewed

efforts to solve the Naga political problem honorably and genuinely by Government of India (GoI) under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi, whom he acknowledges that Naga people's rights is betrayed and trampled upon for very long due to wrong reasons, now looks for equal partnership and building the future together as two entities, meanwhile calling the Naga people as "the guardian of eastern corridor" in Historic speech on 3rd August, 2015. We have now entered into new millennia; times when the world has embraced space age technologies and civilization set across space frontiers, we are yet to see the light of the day unless harness the Era of Nagas by seizing the given golden opportunity. Let us all look beyond these realms of realities where time, space, energy and matters can articulate our future. Our forefather's efforts and their sacrifices is today, we are all here with rich legacy of cultural diversity and history passed down to us in this 21st century proud to be known as "Nagas". The Government of India (GoI) recognizing "unique History and Situation of Nagas" on June 11, 2002 is indeed a historical landmark achievement for all of us. Our land has high potential and is still untapped, rich in mines and minerals besides vast Bio-diversity and human Resources too. We are standing on an unimaginable heap of treasures and in putting a little effort to our today's spade work would certainly transform our future prospective. Our orientation based on sustainable regenerating concept

and by refining our culture with modern civilization would guarantee the future. Today's leaders and elders of our times should sow the good seeds they possess to the younger generation "the builder of future" besides encouraging them; psychological revolution starting from each one of us is the need of an hour. The influence of other culture and imitating alien customs into our lifestyle needs to be corrected as it has affected our identity and unless we safeguard it, our history and culture is at the receiving end of vanishing in future. Everything has season, and Time has come for all of us to step out from our conservative and possessive attitude seeded by Indian and Myanmar arbitrary and imaginary boundary lines and policies. Our land and people are indivisible as much as our body is to spirit without which we don't exist at all, Naga people across the universe where ever they may be are one. We are all one family and families don't have walls, instead we should start taking care of our ancestral land and encroachment by vested policies, alien cultures invasion and illegal immigrants around us to name a few. The illegitimate pride and arrogance born from the lust of money and power has tempered of once who we are "honest and humble identity", self destruction is inevitable unless we restore our nature and phenomena with moral and integrity. Humility and messengers of peace and harmony is a way of Christian life, after all of the end of the day down, it is 3 feet

by 6 feet and it's all about love and truth. It is through the continuous unflinching spirit and unwavering support of our people's love, care and support for the Naga people's self determination that NSCN has come thus far to the historic signing of "Framework Agreement" on 3rd August 2015 after 19 years long political negotiation with Government of India (GoI) where now a final settlement is around the corner, which solution is based outside the constitution and union of India while recognizing every aspects of our Nagas legitimate rights without compromising the principles. Right decision at the right time serves the concept and purposes of everything. Squabbling amongst ourselves exhibits our nakedness only; germinating good qualities is an essence of every responsible leaders and individuals. Our past leaders have done their part and left us a rich legacy. Now it is our time to continue the journey and the Era of Nagas has set in, it is right time for all of us to set good examples and inspire. I believe there's no as such things that cannot be sorted out in our Naga family nor the wounds and collateral damages borne by revolutionary times. The coming together of other NPGs in the right platform at these opportune times would commemorate the "final Naga Political solution" in a much cherished and meaningful way. Let us all come together in fulfilling the Naga people's dreams and Aspiration.

National & International News

House panel criticises RBI governor for inability to answer demonetisation questions

New Delhi, Jan. 19: Reserve Bank of India Governor Urjit Patel told the parliamentary standing committee on finance that Rs 9.2 lakh crore of new currency has been issued so far, and said he's confident that cash supply is no longer a problem. But he did not specify a timeline for lifting restrictions on cash withdrawal. Patel said the central bank is yet to estimate how much old currency came back post demonetisation. "The process of arriving at a figure is still on," the governor told members of Parliament on Wednesday. He assured the House panel that RBI will provide those details at a future date. The RBI governor was accompanied by three deputies as he deposed before the committee. He will be called by the Veerappa Moily-headed panel at least one more time, most likely during the recess period of the budget session, sources said. But RBI data showed normalcy could take a while to return. For the first time in 10 weeks, currency in circulation turned positive in the week ended January 13 as the central bank revived printing of notes, which could replenish nearly 80% of the currency pulled out due to demonetisation by late February. Total currency in circulation rose by Rs 52,790 crore to Rs 9.5 lakh crore in the week ended January 13, RBI data show. However, the amount is just 53% of the currency level of Rs 17.97 lakh crore on November 8, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes would cease to be legal tender. The value of high-denomination notes was estimated at about Rs 15.44 lakh crore. Although RBI does not specify reasons behind the rise and fall in these numbers, analysts said the regulator appears to be focussing on printing notes of lower denomination to help achieve the government's goal of a less-cash economy where notes are primarily for transactions than to save and stow under mattresses. "Based on the published numbers, going by the pace at which RBI is

printing notes, it appears RBI is focussing on printing Rs 500 notes," Soumya Kanti Ghosh, chief economic adviser, State Bank of India, told ET. "This is a healthy sign as it is an indication that cash and currencies are being pushed more as a medium of exchange rather than of store value." At Wednesday's hearing, members of the parliamentary panel sought to know whether RBI's "autonomy was undermined", but a ruling party MP intervened to point out that the government was well within its rights to make policy recommendations to RBI. The RBI brass also reaffirmed that the suggestion to withdraw Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes first came from the government, but was eventually

discussed and cleared by the central bank's board. The officials did not specify the cost of printing these new currencies despite a few probing questions. To a question on the preparations made to deal with the fallout, the RBI officials said there had been a series of meetings involving the finance ministry and RBI starting as early as January 2016. At one stage, they added, the meetings were held even on a weekly basis. The House panel's interaction is believed to have been "cordial". Former prime minister Manmohan Singh, a member of the panel, is believed to have asked fellow MPs ahead of the governor's appearance to ensure the "prestige of the institution" was respected.

The committee held two rounds of sittings on Wednesday — one with senior finance ministry officials and the other with the RBI brass. The finance ministry was represented by the secretaries of the departments of finance, revenue and financial services. Officials from the Central Board of Direct Taxes were also present. One fact the finance ministry officials stressed while elaborating the reasons for demonetisation was a recommendation to this effect by the Supreme Court-monitored Special Investigation Team in its report on black money. The SIT report, they said, also suggested moving towards a cashless society to check accumulation of black money.

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