

Editorial

Imphal, Saturday, April 16, 2016

Hope bargains

"Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there" - the adage perhaps sums up the present political and economic scenario in the state more succinctly than anything. It must be said for the Ibbot led government that its efforts in displaying an apparent proactive approach towards developmental activities- or most of it- cannot be faulted, nor is it second to one. There have been a slew of activities ably and distinctly reported and mentioned in various media in the state regarding the inauguration, implementation, ideation or proposal of various public development activities and schemes ostensibly aimed at quickening the pace of progress in Manipur. It would not be an exaggeration to state that the publicity machinery of the government must be on an overdrive to cope with all the pressures that comes with such a blitzkrieg. Or has the focus been shifted so acutely towards publicizing its development activities- both implemented and conceived- that there is neither the time nor the resources to actually pursue them? Reports and images of inaugurations, seminars, dedications, groundbreaking ceremonies bombards the consciousness of the general public day in and day out without any let-up. Yet the end result for almost all such announced and declared undertakings is yet to be enjoyed or even materialize. The only logical outcome, as has been experiencing by the public is the gradually intensifying social unrests and disruptions, deterioration in the law and order and escalation in inexplicable aberrations in public administration. For long, the public has been fed only on hollow promises and empty assurances. Make-shift solutions and haphazard steps to escape the present problem or sideline issues have started to yield an even more serious and complex problem. Procrastination has perpetuated pandemonium, and indecision has become endemic along the corridor of power in the state. Take any issue plaguing the state- AFSPA 1958, Inner Line Permit System, recruitment of state security personnel, Mapithei and Tipaimukh Dams, ring road, education, Public Distribution System, minor irrigation, Loktak Development Agency, Suspension of Operation or rather the disintegrating process. All of these issues have a common thread of inadequacy running through them. All and every single one of them started off as an insignificant and containable hitch. It has been the continuing indifferent attitude and the dismissive behavior of those at the helm of affairs that have perpetuated the matter to the present situation. Too many minor glitches have been left to fester and grow instead of taking prompt and appropriate action. The public is getting restless and is starting to openly question the sincerity and integrity of the government and its myriad activities. There is a pressing need to take remedial measures if the smouldering public displeasures are to be relieved. Only an earnest introspection coupled with a proactive and sincere approach towards the declared promises and purposes can make smoother the road towards a better future.

Name change

I have renounced and abandoned the use of my former name Manish Kumar Jain and instead I assume my new name Manish Kumar Jain Sablawat and from this day (15/4/2016) I shall be known as with my new name.

Sd/-
Manish Kumar Jain Sablawat
Kl. Vaiphei Building, 1st Floor Ward No. 25, Imphal, Manipur

Certificate Lost

I have lost my original certificate bearing Roll No 3139564 of 2013 issued by CBSE on way between Heirangtoing to Mongshangei. Finders are requested to handover the same at the undersigned.

Sd/-
Luckyson
Mongshangei

Wallet Lost

I, the undersigned have lost my wallet containing my SBI ATM Card, Adhaar Card, Voter ID and Driving license (issued by Transport Dept. bearing no. 153180) on the way between Poana Bazar to Keishamthong. Finders are requested to handover it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Huirem Robert Singh
S/o H. Stoi Singh
Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai
Ph. No. 8794552361

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National & International News

29 killed, more than 1000 injured in twin quakes in Japan

Mashiki, April 16: Two powerful earthquakes a day apart shook southwestern Japan, killing at least 29 people and injuring 1,500, as thousands of army troops and other rescuers on Saturday rushed to save scores of trapped residents before the weather turns bad. The exact number of casualties remained unclear. Rainfall was forecast to start pounding the area soon, threatening to further complicate the relief operation and set off more mudslides in isolated rural towns, where people were waiting to be rescued in collapsed homes. Kumamoto Prefectural official Tomoyuki Tanaka said the death toll was climbing, with the latest standing at 19 from Saturday's magnitude-7.3 quake that shook the Kumamoto region on the southwestern island of Kyushu at 1:25 a.m. On Thursday night, Kyushu was hit by a magnitude-6.5 quake that left 10 dead.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said that 1,500 people have been injured, 80 of them seriously. Nearly 70,000 have left their homes, he said.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed concern about secondary disasters as the weather forecast showed rain and strong winds later in the day. Rainfall can set off mudslides as the soil has already been loosened by the quakes.

"Daytime today is the big test" for rescue efforts, he said. Landslides have already cut off roads and destroyed bridges, slowing down rescuers.

Police received reports of 97 cases of people trapped or buried under collapsed buildings, while 10 people were caught in landslides in three municipalities in the prefecture, Kyodo News reported. TV footage showed of a collapsed student dormitory of Tokai University, which was originally two floors, but now looked like a single

story building. A witness said he heard a cry for help from the rubble. Two students were reported to have died.

In Mashiki, where people have been trapped beneath the rubble for hours, an unconscious elderly woman was dragged out from the debris of her home. Her son-in-law Tatsuhiko Sakata said 93-year-old Yumiko Yamauchi had refused to move to shelter with him after the first quake Thursday.

"When I came to see her last night, I was asking her: 'Mother? I'm here! Do you remember me? Do you remember my face?' and she replied with a huge smile filled with joy. A kind of smile that I would never forget. And that was the last I saw of her," Sakata said.

The area has been rocked by aftershocks, including the strongest with a magnitude of 5.4 Saturday morning. The Japan Meteorological Agency said that Saturday's may be the main quake, with the earlier one a precursor. The quakes' epicenters have been relatively shallow - about 10 kilometers (6 miles) - and close to the surface, resulting in more severe shaking and damage. NHK TV said as many as eight quakes were being felt an hour in the area.

Japan media reported that nearly 200,000 homes were without electricity. Drinking water systems had also failed in the area. TV footage showed people huddled in blankets, quietly, shoulder to shoulder, on floors of evacuation centers. An estimated 410,000 households are in need of water.

One massive landslide tore open a mountainside in Mimamiaso village in Kumamoto Prefecture all the way from the top to a highway below. Another gnawed at a highway, collapsing a house that fell down a ravine and smashed at the bottom. In another part of the village, houses were left hanging precariously at the edge of a huge hole cut open in the earth.

Suga told reporters the number of troops in the area was being raised to 20,000, while additional police and firefighters were also on the way. He said 1,500 people were injured, including 80 seriously, and nearly 70,000 had left their homes. He pleaded with people not to panic. "Please let's help each other and stay calm," he said in a nationally televised news conference.

In a hot springs resort, dozens of people trapped were picked up by military helicopters, Asahi TV reported.

Mount Aso, the largest active volcano in Japan which is located on Kyushu, erupted for the first time in a month, sending smoke rising about 100 meters (328 feet) into the air, but no damage was reported. It was not immediately clear if there's a link the seismic activity and the eruption. The 1,592 meter (5,223 foot) high mountain is about 1 hour drive from the epicenter.

The historic Aso Shrine, a picturesque complex near the volcano, was seriously damaged, with a number of buildings with curved tiled roofs flattened on the ground like lopsided fans. A towering gate, known as the "cherry blossom gate" because of its grandeur especially during spring, had collapsed, totally damaged. The more than 1,700 year-old shrine is designated an "important cultural

property" by the government, and has been a popular tourist spot in Kyushu.

The Nuclear Regulation Authority reported no abnormalities at Kyushu's Sendai nuclear plant. NHK TV showed stones tumbled from the walls of historic Kumamoto Castle, and a wooden structure in the complex was smashed. At the Ark Hotel, east of the castle, hotel guests woke up to strong shaking and a warning siren.

Paswan urges Nagaland Govt to implement Food Security Act
Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan has asked Nagaland government to implement the Food Security Act, FSA, for the benefit of the people. Addressing a press conference in Dimapur, Mr Paswan said the national food security act was passed in July 2013 and within one year, 28 states implemented it. He said, Nagaland is the only state where the act is yet to be implemented. The Minister said, if FSA is implemented, about 80 per cent population living in the rural areas will get wheat at the rate of 2 rupees per Kg and rice at 3 rupees per Kg.

Chief Minister TR Zeliang assured that the food security act will be implemented in the state at the earliest.

Name change

I am the father of **Shougrakpam MOULIN** who is studying in the Kendra Vidyalaya School R.K. Puram, Sector - VIII New Delhi and her name is recorded as **Shougrakpam MOULIN** in the school records. That I would like to change my daughter name as **Shougrakpam AASHVI** instead of **shougrakpam Moulin** in the school records.

Sd/-
Shougrakpam Tarunkumar Singh
Permanent resident:-
Pishumhong Oniam Leikai
Nongthombam Leirak Imphal/Manipur
Present resident:-
R.K. Sector - III
Quarter No. 466
New Delhi, Contact No. 9863410015

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When Imphal becomes a nucleus of trade and commerce in

Manipur, with its Chief Secretary - Oinam Nabakishore - who is the first Meitei to hold the post in the state and who is also considered to be the brain behind bringing back Manipur to a trading and commercial linking point between the South Asian economy and the South East Asian economy, along with the support of the Government of Manipur and the Government of India and the embassies/high commissions of foreign countries, has begun to launch the North East - ASEAN Business Summit in Imphal. The North East - ASEAN Business Summit went parallel with the 1st Manipur Industrial Expo to stress on their themes - Make in Manipur and North East for Employment Generation. The 1st Manipur Industrial Expo, 2016, deliberated on textiles, handlooms, handicrafts of silk products, bamboo based products, entrepreneurs and skill fair (*Kaushal Mela*). The North East - ASEAN Business Summit, which was made successful with the cooperation of the state government of Manipur and Union Ministries of DONER and External Affairs, Union Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Power, Food Processing Industries and MSME, in particular, and Government of India, in general, and the officials from 8 North Eastern states and each of the 10 members of ASEAN countries (Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Brunei Darussalam), stressed on - attracting investment and entrepreneurship in North East India; development through connectivity in NE-ASEAN for trade & commerce and tourism; energy

and mining potential in the North East India; agro and food processing; ASEAN perspective on services exports; promotion of art and culture of the North East; Ease of doing business in the North East; sericulture and cocoon industry; aromatic and medicinal plantations, and laying the foundation stones of industrial estates and MSME Technological centre in Manipur. The representatives from Thailand, Egypt, South Africa, Bangladesh and Myanmar and traders from 15 Indian states were to present their products in the Manipur Industrial Expo. Bangladesh's Commerce Minister, Tofail Ahmed, who came with 18 members trade delegation led by the President of FBCCI (The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry), expressed the need to sign a memorandum of understanding with Manipur Chamber of Commerce so that imports of fish from Bangladesh by Manipur and other trades between Bangladesh and Manipur can take place. Along with the Department of Commerce and Industries of Manipur, Indian Chamber of Commerce and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India organised the NE - ASEAN Business Summit.

The economic significance of having such an international business summit is also not only to make Manipur and the North East India grow economically faster and steadier but also helps in ensuring the stability and maturity of the economies of the 10 member countries of ASEAN. The economic agenda of the summit, though primarily focuses on Manipur and the North East India, as of today, could also be a part of exercising an

economic diplomacy between New Delhi and other South East Asian countries, so that more interdependence of economies between India and ASEAN becomes practically meaningful and such economic integration and trade cooperation will also help in making the Asian markets, including East Asian economies, competitive and open to many global players, instead of a few traditional economic giants. Manipur is a traditional friend of Japan since the 2nd world war, and the Japanese, whether the people or the national government, have been kind enough to express their desire to fund many projects worth billions dollars in Manipur. Manipur, though not connected in terms of rail connectivity to its capital Imphal with the rest of India, has an international airport in Imphal and the airport has the potential to be a connecting air link between India and the major cities of the South East Asian countries. Flying to Singapore or Hanoi or Hong Kong or Kuala Lumpur from Imphal will be more shorter in distance and time saving, along with being cost effective, rather than taking a flight from Kolkata or Mumbai or Chennai. In fact, Imphal - Beijing, Imphal - Tokyo, Imphal - Seoul, Imphal - Washington, Imphal - Sans Francisco, Imphal - Los Angeles flights will be much shorter and less in time than going to such world cities from New Delhi or Mumbai. If such dream ever happens and becomes real in this century, then Imphal will easily surpass Dubai's economy within a decade. Such will be the existential reality of Imphal's global economic boom, if not in the 21st century, but certainly in the early 22nd century. By then, the

issues of national security and international trade embargo, like from today's WTO, would become a moment of historical past in an archive, and a new presentation of WEF (World Economic Forum) could be a strong possibility.

Imphal has to grow, as history repeats itself and so shall economic history, and its growth has to not only cater to the needs of the local population of the state of Manipur but also to the requirements of mankind of Asia and the world as the economy of Imphal would be a major Asian economic player in a near future. It is in such a scenario that a local question - who, whether the locals or the foreign investors, will control the trade and economy emanating from Imphal and who will have a final say in Imphal's economy? - is not merely going to remain local but also has a far deep and heavily weighing political implications, not only in the state's politics or national politics but also in the political engagements of the countries bordering Manipur and those which are going to be influenced directly by the dynamic Imphal's economic powers. It is at such juncture that a discussion on whether Imphal is for Manipur or India or South East Asia or Asia will become crucial and the lingering fear of the common populace of today's Imphal could be whether "that Imphal" would still remember them, who now reside happily, with Mother Nature, in "today's Imphal" of Manipur. Whether Imphal goes global, the indigenous population of Manipur must be the owner of the Manipur as they are bestowed as the true children of Mother Manipur for thousands of centuries of years since B.C (Before Christ).