

# Editorial

Imphal, Saturday, April 2, 2016

## Dismissed concerns

In a display of blatant disregard for the many dead and injured in the Kolkata flyover collapse, an official of the company constructing the very flyover dismissed the tragic incident as an act of god; perhaps one of the most absurd and irresponsible statement that could have been made. Things however were soon moving in the right direction with five officials of the firm being detained and a forensic team having collected samples from the accident site for investigation. Police on Friday have opened a case of culpable homicide against the company and results of the investigation is expected to be forthcoming shortly which will definitely set in motion a chain of events and hopefully the guilty will be exposed and punished accordingly. Consider this turn of events with that of the earthquake which shook the state with a 6.8 magnitude tremor. The most significant damage was that of the Ima Keithel structure completed just a few years before. Other than a few perfunctory inspections and a visit by a team of experts from IIT Roorkee to assess the damage, there was not the slightest effort on the part of the state government to ascertain the human factor which could have contributed to the state of the structure after the quake. Despite the hue and cry about the alleged shoddy workmanship and gross negligence on the part of the builder which incidentally was a firm from outside the state with considerable presence and control of large construction projects in Manipur, no step was taken up even to ascertain the exact cause for the extensive damage to the structure which could have solved a lot of unanswered questions and more importantly, helped in preventing such potentially life threatening conditions which could be averted. That the timing of the tremor kept the number of casualties and a possible violent public outburst to the minimum would be putting it mildly. The continued malpractice of profiteering from public development works especially by those at the helm of affairs of the state needs to be curbed as such practices breeds corruption, inefficiency and nepotism which in turn impedes the pace of progress and development. Putting personal gain over social responsibility and abuse of power and rank to gain undeserved material benefits has become the order of the day. Such a social condition foments the creation of groups taking opportunity of the uncertainties and frustrations of the people to serve their own vested interests. Gradual erosion of faith of the general public on the government further poses a serious detriment to the activities of the state further aggravating the situation. There have been more than enough controversies and apparent botch-ups in the state to keep it deviated from the real efforts towards progress. The state government should show commitment and concern for the welfare of its public rather than wasting resources and efforts in covering up its faults and misdeeds, for a forthright admission of its mistakes, if made inadvertently, will be understood and accepted by the public.

## Two KPLT militants killed in Assam

**PTI**  
**Diphu (Assam), April 2:** Two militants of the Karbi Peoples Liberation Tigers (KPLT) opposing the state Assembly elections were killed in an encounter with security forces in Karbi Anglong district, police said today. The insurgents exchanged fire with a joint team of police and Army in which two of its cadres were killed at Borlangso last night, Superintendent of Police Debojit Deuri said. The arms and ammunition recovered from the slain ultras include one HK-36 rifle with two magazines of 45 cartridges, a point 22 pistol with cartridges, a 303 pistol with eight cartridges and two INSAS rifles, he said. The KPLT issued threats to media persons recently after journalists at a meeting in Diphu Press Club had unanimously decided not to publish the outfit's press releases calling for bandhs opposing the elections scheduled in the district on April 4 during the first phase of elections in the state, a press club official said.

## Four CRPF jawans injured in IED blast

**PTI**  
**Ranchi, April 2:** Four CRPF personnel were today injured in a series of IED blasts carried out by Naxals in Dhanbad district of Jharkhand. Officials said the incident occurred near Topchanchi-Jitpur axis when bike-borne troops of the force were out on patrol in the Left Wing Extremism affected areas of the district. "Four troops have been injured after a series of IED blasts occurred in the area. The team was led by a senior officer in the rank of Second-in-command. The injuries are not critical," they said. CRPF troops belonging to the 154th battalion, along with those from state police, were out for a Long Range Patrol when they encountered a series of IED blasts around 12:15 PM. Reinforcements have reached the spot and the injured are being evacuated to a nearby hospital, they said.

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## Thailand Education System vs Manipur Education System

**Classroom:** Most of the classrooms install computer and projector, and TV along with whiteboard. They use modern teaching and learning aids in the classroom. All the rooms will be fitted with fans, power outlet, microphone jack, wall speaker, overhead projector, air conditioners in most of the classrooms, smart-board which is connected to main computer and it works as touch screen. Library is equipped with computerized system. Mini theatre room is arranged with audio-visual, screen for seminar or meeting. There is usually auditorium hall for every school for meeting, gathering, and to perform activities. Computer literacy is good at school level and it is accessible to all students. When the students are in class 8th level they have done Microsoft office, creating games using Microsoft office, multimedia-sound and video editing, and basic programming and learning computer languages. Every student has his own place and is accepted if he is good at any field not only in academic field. Hardly any students will fail. Whether good or bad, students are kept in the school and their education will be going on and on, and when it comes 9th standard, weaker students will be sorted out and they will be sent to vocational training schools. This is very important point we can learn

from them. School will not remove them straight by failing them. When they have grown up, and knew their sense of responsibility, they started thinking and taking up any course suitable with them even though they are not allowed to continue in general course. Otherwise their career might have been ruined by failing them.

**Wave of English Learning:** English learning and class with English medium have been growing popular in Thailand over the past 10-15 years with program such as MEP (Mini English Program) and EP (English Program). Most of the schools hire teachers from USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Filipinos constitute the largest number of teachers from Asian countries. Many language courses are offered at school. Popular foreign languages are English, Chinese, French, Japanese, Korean, and German. **Student Exchange Program:** Foreign student exchange program through AFS (American Field Service of youth exchange program) which is intercultural interaction program for one year exchanging students is popular. Many foreign students come to Thailand, and many Thai students go to foreign countries under this program. The students are exposed to outsiders, and this

reflects to their personal job, career, and business later in their future. When European and American students return home, they got special credit points from the exchange program that added to their overall high school scores. Most of these foreign students came to get cultural exposure and to have experience of different culture before joining to university. Students from Thailand will go for exchange program at any level. In our education system of Manipur, when a class 10th or 12th students spend one year and came home after exchange program, his credit or certificate will not be accepted in mainstream education, so the whole point and value of exchange will be useless and time wasting things. For example, a Thai student joins exchange program during class 10, then he comes back the following year, he can join class at 11th standard. They value the experience as an important part of learning. This is not the case in Manipur. In Manipur, we learn for examination only and it doesn't matter much for your participation or experience as long as you show a certificate with good score and that influences for unfair means during exams to get good score. **School-A Mini Community:** This pay much more attention to extracurricular activities, sports,

health education, and art. In India, schools are considered for only text book learning. In Thailand, schools and social activities are closely related. All social activities, religious ceremonies will be organized and celebrated within the school system. Students learn all kinds of skills such as cooking, weaving, farming, recycling materials, etc through projects. In many schools, students will cook and sell food once a week inside the campus. Healthy life and sports are highly encouraged. Annual sports days are celebrated around the same time in many schools all over Thailand. In the same way universities sports days are also celebrated almost at the same time throughout the whole country but in different time from high school. School children run bank inside school and they learn money management from early age. Art, music, handicraft, hydroponic plantation, etc are actively participated by students. School is a place for social gathering and it is the place where children love to come and play but in Manipur, school is such a boring and burdensome place. Students tried to avoid school in Manipur. All school children have their lunch at school, so every school manages school canteen very well. (To be contd.....)

Contd. from yesterday issue

## Ethics of Ethnic Crisis in North East India : An Unchanging Phenomenon in Contemporary Manipur. Its Solutions.

Manipur, despite its different names such as the 'Paradise on earth,' 'Switzerland of the East' 'Land of Jewels' etc inhabited by different ethnic communities who are basically Mongoloids is now turning into a land of Self-inflicted mayhem, waywardness and confusion. People are of the utmost ethnic divides ranging from remote villagers to the urban elites, the weak and the mighty all live in a state of perpetual fear and uncertainty. Majority in community and tribe asserted its dominance over the areas of their stronghold whereas the minor communities, tribes needs and poor are hopelessly suppressed, marginalized, socially excluded and deprived of their natural rights in different ways. Political and budding young leaders stoke communal passion for their personal benefits and political exigencies. The spirit of honesty and belongingness to the land is hardly respected and is no longer considered as "Individual Interest" rather than "Common Interest" has completely overpowered the public psyche<sup>15</sup>. Instead of having or adopting a right way of economically secured environment, people look for the easiest and shortest way of making money and most luxurious style of living without slightest concern of the fairness of the reasons and means they landed to and to bring to complete stop. The Manipur State Mental Health Authority in one of its reports in 2012 stated that about 50 percent of the population is suffering from depression due to law and order related problems<sup>16</sup>. The State like her neighbouring sister is also haunted by the severe degradation of environment, deforestation and displacement of people without proper rehabilitation and resettlement and their source of livelihood in the name of modern development projects such as the Loktak Project, Khuga Dam, Mapithel Dam, Khoupum Dam, etc. Thousands of settlers are homeless with no proper compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement even after so many years of completion of these projects. The real settlers and dwellers are displaced and deprived of their rights including to work, livelihood and food and never benefited from these multipurpose dams and projects except politicians, contractors, high

ranking to petty officials of the concerned department of the Governments<sup>17</sup>. It is empirical fact that the contention of Rajiv Gandhi, "Development is not about factories, dams and roads alone. Development is about people. The goal is material, cultural, and spiritual fulfillment for people. The human factor is of supreme value in development."<sup>18</sup> **II. Some of the key factors to extremity of Ethnic Clashes:**  
i) **Administration:** We find it for nobody to blame for the reasons unknown at present what is happening around us today. Indeed, the facet of the present society in terms of ideological differences and growing distrusts among different communities on various outstanding issues concerning general public welfare are nothing but it may be attributed to the legacy of past governance and absence of single administrative structure in the State; when traces it back the origin of administrative systems which were prevalent in the Hills and Valley before the State was merged with the Union of India in 1949. As such, this aged old hegemony of governance based on customary laws for devoid or oppressive to public administration, has still continued to influence the activities and lifestyle of the people within their communities even after democracy came into existence. However, it may also be noted that while the State was already confronting with the issues of declaring the status of Sadar Hills and Jiribam Sub-division as full fledged Revenue District, there also arises a number of demands for creation of new Revenue District by clubbing together of some Sub-divisions in the hill areas in the name of administrative conveniences and developmental purposes. Some of these demands for creation of new districts include Phungyar Sub-division out of Ukhrul District, Tengnoupal Sub-division out of Chandul District, Tonjini Marin to be bifurcated from Tamenglong District<sup>19</sup>. All these demands have taken place in the hearts of all parties concerned resulting from lack of effective governance and timely intervention on many issues pertaining to local administration and socio-economic development of the local people on the part of

Government. It is, therefore, these barriers and divisions of man made between communities and individuals can only be removed from the face of the society as and when rule of democracy is effectively strengthened at grass root level with the help of all sections of the society, so that the sense of belongingness to one nation, one composite culture and identity consciousness of unity in diversity have been promoted and achieved in a long way<sup>19</sup>.  
ii) **Corruption offences:** Prevailing of corruption has led to a certain degree of "privatization" of state and is steadily transforming social perception of a democratic state into a mercantilist state<sup>20</sup>. Most crusades against corruption in their nationwide manifestation under Jai Prakash Narain, Anna Hazare, Guru Baba Ramdev, Kejriwal, etc led total revolution movement produced, dialectically starting with the imposition of a national emergency in 1975-76<sup>21</sup> and that what we witnessed at present times major constitutional crisis. In the absence of authoritative indication of guilt or political honour, the folklore of corruption grows apace, causing considerable stain on the still fragile system of liberal democracy and illustrates, in the process, the high social cost of privileging investigation, prosecution and punishment for corruption offences<sup>22</sup> to starting from Top to Down or vis-à-vis stimulates the more in social exclusions divisiveness. We need a positive law in order to secure basic human needs through judiciary as well for "have" and "have not" issue be solved first. It is also considered imperative to frame a policy to eradicate corruption especially in an organized sector with a view to ensure that all officials from lower rank to higher ranking shall have to perform their duties compulsorily according to the assignment of works while rendering their services for the welfare of the public, and also it will help in making distribution of all kinds of beneficiaries and facilities under different schemes whether TPDS or PDS of the departments to have reached to all sections of the society, so that transparency and developments are maintained in the

manner as desired by the public, thereby leaving no room to practice corruption by all walks of life.  
**III. Industry, Economy & Employment:** The absence of any major industries in the region before and after independence has not only crippled the pace of growth and development but also it has failed to keep sustaining the economy and livelihood of the people<sup>23</sup>. The aged old practice of jhumming cultivation and agriculture alone which have contributed the main source of the State economy did not even meet the basic minimum requirement of life and existence. It may be mentioned that majority of the citizens are living below poverty line. The cost of living is rapidly increasing day by day but the economic condition of the masses is not improving. Hence, it would be a far cry to bring changes and transformations to the society without the help and support of the industry in the midst of globalized economy. The Government of Manipur who habitually depends on contract funding, rarely contemplates beyond what is given by the Centre and hardly think about bringing development even within the level of their capacity and to depend on other. Whatever projects or developmental programmes initiated by the central government have also failed to achieve their stated objective owing to lack of sincerity and poor implementation by the state government<sup>24</sup>. It will be no wrong to say that in the absence of industrial, market and infrastructure, there is no defined occupation and profession except employment in the government sector that caters to around 15 % of the population only<sup>25</sup>. The rest of the source of livelihood is unorganized, seasonal, temporary and incidental that can be easily interrupted by bandhs, as change of climates, landslides and sudden breakdown of law and order<sup>26</sup>. And unfortunate hilly terrain, of course, one tenth area with fertile soil cannot meet the needs of the entire state, compounded with primitive methods of cultivation, lack of market and preserving its agricultural produce further aggravates its economy. (To be contd.....)