

Editorial

Imphal, Wednesday, April 6, 2016

The ugly game in politics

The voice of dissent in the society against various discrepancies is rising increasingly with each passing day. The protests and agitations by those who feel short changed by the Government is unlikely to die down any day soon. Yet absurd as it may sound, it would do us much good to take a long hard look at the genesis of the problems, for, at the heart of the matter, one would almost always find ourselves to blame. It is no mean feat, by any standard, to run a Government, especially in a topographically challenged state such as Manipur. The diverse cultures, customs and traditions, while adding to the charm and magnetism of the place, isn't helping much when it comes to framing policies and plans that would appeal to every section of the population. Add to it the universal conflict of limited funds versus the unrelenting demand for employment and development, the situation becomes primed for an impending social cataclysm. And the resulting situation is unfolding right in front of us, getting a little more vivid with the passage of time. We, the informed public have become more than accustomed to reciting our rights, and are increasingly becoming vocal and aggressive. Much as we would have loved to deny, the uncomfortable truth remains- that we have become habitual in condemning the Government and holding it responsible for all and every social ills, forgetting the fact that we are effectively discrediting ourselves of our choice made during elections to select our representatives who is duty bound to work for us, on our behalf and with us. Our society has seen and experienced disruptive forces and divisive attempts masked in the garb of social emancipation and freedom. Freedom to do what? We are not exactly under the rule of a tyrant or even a military junta. Granted, the inhuman AFSPA and other restrictions that even threaten the very existence of a person are very real and intimidating, but do not come in our way while we go about with our daily activities and lives. One is still free to speak out, write up, work and keep our ears. We can still move around anywhere anytime and pursue any of the many engagements a normal person might ever think of. We are free to voice our concerns and publicise our objections. We even have courts of law to settle disputes and address our legitimate complaints. What we really need is not patience for the Government to deliver, with our hands between our legs, or even resort to violence and destructions to assert our rights. We need to force the system work in the manner it ought to. And to do that, we need to first be mindful of our conduct and mentality. We need to follow our conscience and stand for what is right, and be prepared to make sacrifices to uphold it. We need to gather up the courage to wean ourselves away from the temptations and the lure of unethical and easy gains. But above all, we need to be firm and be considerate of the needs and rights of others as well. It is when we are being true to ourselves, then we can really hope and expect the changes we are shouting ourselves hoarse about. It would be the greatest blunder if we keep discarding the potent weapons of democracy which are devised to serve and protect our interest.

One NDFB (S) cadre arrested for killing of innocent civilians in Kokrajhar

ANI
New Delhi, April 6: The investigators of NIA's Guwahati branch arrested a 26-years-old hardcore cadre of National Democratic Front of Bodoland (Sombhijit) on April 4. Jnglaw Narzary alias Jehkhai, a resident of Kokrajhar district of Dulgaon, BTAD, was taken into custody for his involvement in a case relating to killing of innocent civilians in Kokrajhar district of Assam in December 2014. The case was taken over by NIA as NIA case no. RC-06/2014/NIA-GUW as per directions of Central Government. Jehkhai is a trained cadre of 38th batch of the banned terrorist organisation, NDFB(S), who got training in Arunachal Pradesh in 2012. He was wanted for his role in the criminal conspiracy and execution of the killings of Adivasi people

2 CRPF jawans injured in Maoists blast

Visakhapatnam (AP), April 6: Two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans were injured in a landmine blast triggered by the Maoists today in Dhalupudi area near Andhra Pradesh-Odisha border in Visakhapatnam district. Further details are awaited.

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National & International News

Pathankot probe: 'Stage-managed' allegations are double-speak by Pakistan, says India

New Delhi, April 6: Pakistan media reports that the Pathankot terror attack was "stage-managed" by India are seen here as "double-speak" by Pakistan's security establishment. "The report in a Pakistan pro-government daily only shows that ISI and Pakistan Army were doing double-speak. India has provided irrefutable evidence to Pakistan Joint Investigation Team (JIT) during their visit here regarding the involvement of Pak-based terrorists," a government source said. The news report in daily *Pakistan Today* quoted an unnamed JIT member as saying that the attack was nothing but "vicious propaganda" against Pakistan as Indian authorities did not have any evidence to back their claims. "Within hours of the assault, all the attackers were shot dead by the Indian security forces. However, the Indian authorities made it a three-day drama to get maximum attention

from the world community in order to malign Pakistan," the report added. Rebutting the report, another government source said the evidence provided to JIT can stand international scrutiny and expressed surprise over media reports emerging that the NIA had not provided enough evidence to the visiting team. "The JIT was handed over whatever they asked for which included certified copies of statements of witnesses, DNA reports of four terrorists, memos of articles seized from them," the source said. Pakistan had made a request under section 188 of Criminal procedure Code of Pakistan for collecting the evidence from the NIA. The call data records of the two phones snatched from Superintendent of Police Salwinder Singh and his jeweller friend Rajesh Verma which were used by the terrorists to call a number in Pakistan were also shared with the JIT, the

source said. India also shared the conversation recorded between Nasir Hussain, one of the four terrorists who carried out the attack on IAF base during the intervening night of January 1 and 2, with his mother Khayyam Babbar. The NIA has asked for a DNA sample from Nasir's family. The agency has also handed over call recordings of terrorists holed up inside the IAF base with their handlers including Kashif Jaan, who has since been missing. The Pakistani JIT had asked NIA to hand over swabs of four terrorists identified as Nasir Hussain (Punjab province), Abu Bakar, (Gujranwala), Umar Farooq and Abdul Qayum (both from Sindh). However, the NIA handed over to the visitors the DNA report of the terrorists and asked them to match those with their family members, the sources said. The Pakistani JIT headed by Additional Inspector General of Police, Counter Terrorism

Department, Muhammad Tahir Rai and also including ISI's Lt Col Tanvir Ahmed, had recorded statements of 16 people. The list for recording the witnesses was submitted to the NIA by Pakistani team only. The 16 witnesses questioned in all included Singh, Verma and cook Madan Gopal. The three were kidnapped by the Pathankot attack perpetrators belonging to the banned Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed on the intervening night of 31 December, 2015 and 1 January, 2016. The terrorists had allegedly dumped Verma after slitting his throat and continued their journey with Singh and Gopal before jettisoning them a few kilometres away from the strategic air base at Pathankot. The terrorists entered the air base and mounted the brazen assault on the intervening night of 1 and 2 January. In the fierce encounter that ensued, seven security personnel besides four terrorists were killed.

TSR troopers donate blood as CBM with public in Tripura

ANI
Badharghat, April 6: Tripura State Rifles (TSR) troopers and officers donated blood during a mega blood donation camp at the Badharghat technical headquarters of the force. The camp was organised by 10th battalion TSR in association with Tripura State Blood Transfusion Board and Society and inaugurated by DIG Tripura Police Rajesh Sharma. Blood donation is organised by paramilitary forces under the civic action programme and one of the prime cause behind such programme to improve relation between force and local public and gain their confidence.

important to gain the confidence of the civilians. Normally blood donation camps are organised quarterly in a battalion and during the financial year some 254 units of blood were collected from the battalion. He added that though the TSR is basically a counter insurgency force but is also dedicated in service of the people. The blood donated here will be used to save the lives of needy patients at civil hospital. Rajiv Yadav, a TSR soldier who voluntarily donated blood expressed that he is considering lucky being a part of the blood donation camp. "I have donated blood today, it will save someone's life and a great help for the mankind. I have donated blood seven to eight times and in this our 10 battalion's Commandant also takes part and inspires us. I shall consider myself very lucky," said Rajiv. While another trooper Tapan Ray who also took part in the blood donation camp said, "For the eighth time I am donating blood today. Our main role is maintain law and order in the country and help my countrymen. Keeping this in mind I feel very happy as I donate blood."

Moreover, the camp was being organised to spread awareness about the killer disease HIV-AIDS among TSR soldiers and award the TSR troopers and their family members. The programme is scheduled to continue in throughout the month in different TSR battalions as the state during this time of the year

passes through crisis of blood. TSR is the biggest state paramilitary force of Tripura with 12 battalions at present. TSR after successful counter insurgency operation in Tripura has been engaged in election duties in West Bengal and Bihar and was also called for security duties during the Common Wealth Games in Delhi.

Death toll rises to 71 in Pakistan's rain hit regions

ANI
Islamabad, April 6: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Pakistan has said the death toll from recent rains in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Balistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir has risen to 71. The NDMA also confirmed that more than 370 houses have been destroyed as well. The NDMA said that 48 people died in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, 15 in Gilgit-Balistan and eight in AJK. Most of those killed in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa were hit by landslide in mountainous district and flash floods in urban and semi-urban areas, reports Dawn. Similarly, even the highest number of

houses damaged in KP was 196, followed by 173 in Gilgit-Balistan, and one in AJK. According to NDMA figures, in the flash floods and landslides that occurred since March 9 till April 5 caused 212 deaths, whereas 188 persons were injured and 1,428 houses were reportedly damaged. The NDMA has distributed a total of 657 tents, 692 blankets, 36 tons of ration, 606 plastic mats, four tarpaulins and 25 kitchen sets among the rain affected areas across the country. However, the area of concern was that weather conditions which were still not favourable in some flood hit areas.

Contd. from yesterday issue

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

XVI. Social Policy: We have already known that Manipur is a multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic and multi-religious state with diverse culture, prevalent among communities. Concept of "oneness", "inclusiveness", and practicing multiculturalism are completely absent from the mindset of the masses, instead, everyone is highly ethnocentric. "Ism" and "this is mine" are the contextualized ethics of every Manipurian. It is time to formulate by framing a Policy to effectively regulated the social harmonization among the communities locally and vice versa, as a step to "breakthrough" the stereotype which is the essence of identity of any ethnic community. Let us celebrate ethnicities as a source of common strength instead of troubles and problems. Sensitization and conceptualization are equally important tools of multiculturalism subject to, defending and guarding the rights of the minorities- poorest of the poor. Knowing, learning to understand and also paying utmost due regard to another language, food habits, customs, religion, etc. are some of the devices to be adopted, apart from intermarriages, the space to communities promoting perpetual and sustainable peace in the State. Therefore supporting multiculturalism and to foster the same and translate into actions is perhaps the need of the hour.

III. Some of the perspective suggestions for remedial measures are as follows:
i) To frame an internal mechanism to bring harmonization of local administrations of different communities being practiced based on customary laws with the rules of democracy in order create a conducive atmosphere of establishing a good relationship of all communities in the State through public administration.
ii) To strengthen democracy at grass root level with a separate provision of funding pattern to local bodies must be framed so that flow of fund reaches to all destinations in time.
iii) To put pressure upon the Union Government to set up large and small scale industries both at State and district levels after identifying the site and availability of raw materials for the purposes of tapping natural resources and to avoid the burden of scarcity of resources. Besides, initiative also be taken up to approach local rich men to convince them to set up industry and factory as a joint propriety for grouping them together for generation of employment as well as making investment in a long term, so that local industry and factory may become an exporter of the local goods and services to other States of the country.
iv) Apart from improving the infrastructures of the existing offices,

buildings and schools, to set up new infrastructure buildings where such basic amenities are urgently needed by the local people.
v) To make heavy investment of fund on education sector after proper assessment in terms of requirement of infrastructure buildings and student strength are carried out or to start privatization of education sector and handed over its management to local bodies on the basis of Public Private Partnership (PPP) in order to ensure effective management and productive of education in the hands of local people so that eradication of total illiteracy is achieved.
vi) A concerted efforts towards security issue must be chalked out by inviting all groups and masses in order to remove fear of mind and disturbances while rendering services for the welfare of the masses on issues related to security in the State.
vii) Implementation of development schemes and projects at various places shall be done based on approved item-wise to be carried out on phase-wise manner in the approved work programme of the 5th Year Plan, so that choose and pick up in the hands of authorities are avoided in the pursuit of equal footing development of all localities.

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IV. Conclusion:
In present day world, a strong brain wave is sweeping across our universe and removing and eradicating any kind of barriers and divisions between nations and continents, and making it the world 'flat' and inclusive. Though, insecurities of all types, violence and corruption, due to deprivation marginalization and social exclusion continue to negate development which has been on planned processing. To take the state forward, it is high time for us to have a new strategy for governance, development and peace that hinges on political, social and cultural transformation. However, investment in human resource development towards creation of human capital would be crucial to achieving the desired objective without concerted efforts of the Government in collaboration with the civil society's social organization, intellectuals, NGOs, media, etc in a long way. It cannot be left only to politicians and bureaucrats. It is necessary with transparent public and private participation and calls for a new initiative and leadership for development with a strong ethical content. (Concluded)