

Editorial

Imphal, Wednesday, August 31, 2016

Ugly truth

The people in the state have had the unique distinction of enduring decades of indifference and negligence on the part of the Government, both at the state and the central level. The present turmoil and volatile situation in the state is arguably an important manifestation of the festering angst and indignation such dismissive attitudes have fomented in the minds of the people of the region, feeling betrayed and ditched by successive governments, one worse than the other. In fact, such shortcomings of the governments have presented a plethora of opportunities for various unscrupulous elements amidst the uncertainties and frustrated nerves. It would not be too far from the truth if anyone observes that the majority of the people are getting more reactive, violent and vindictive, while residing under what is considered the world's largest democracy, where freedom and individual rights are given as birth rights. And one of the most important topic of contention and frustration for the people is the state of the two national highways which serves as the lifeline for the people of the state and which has been kept in its outdated and dilapidated condition for so long notwithstanding the fact that hundreds of trucks are risking everything by using this same route to bring in thousands of tons of essential commodities for the people of the state. That there has been innumerable loss of precious lives and much needed articles which could have been avoided had the Government taken up necessary action in time would be repeating the obvious. The state Government have for long been trumpeting the paucity of funds as an excuse for every conceivable lacunae of developmental activities, while reports of huge amounts of funds being called back due to the inability of the state Government to utilize them in time, have consistently flummoxed the public. Frequent report about trucks getting stranded on their way to Manipur with full loads of essential and often perishable commodities due to the worsening condition of a bridge along the route have once again highlighted the nonchalant approach of the state Government to the protracted problem that has been hampering the progress of the state as a whole, inspite of fervent promises and generous assurances issued at the drop of a hat. Such self-contradictory and reactive system of governance has raised doubts on the validity of the promises made and development activities initiated by the present government. When a 200-odd kilometer stretch of road has overwhelmed the collective will of the state Government and eluded any long term solution, shouldn't we be considering ourselves too optimistic to be eagerly looking forward for the much anticipated railway services to reach Imphal, given the noncommittal approach to almost every development activity being carried out in the state, despite the tall claims and rosy pictures being portrayed with fervent zeal. One could only wish if the action could have matched the speed and zeal of the spoken words. That would really have bridged the yawning divide between the ruler and the ruled- psychologically, ideologically and politically.

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National & International News

North Korea executes vice-premier for showing 'disrespect' during meeting led by Kim Jong-Un

FP Seoul, Aug 31: North Korea has executed a vice premier for showing disrespect during a meeting presided over by leader Kim Jong-Un, South Korea said Wednesday, after reports that he fell asleep. The regime also banished two other senior officials, Seoul said, the latest in a slew of punishments Kim is believed to have ordered in what analysts say is an attempt to tighten his grip on power. "Vice premier for education Kim Yong-Jin was executed," Seoul's Unification Ministry spokesman Jeong Joon-Hee said at a regular briefing. Kim was killed by a firing squad in July as "an anti-party, anti-revolutionary agitator," added an official at the ministry, who declined to be named. "Kim Yong-Jin was denounced for his bad sitting posture when he was sitting below the rostrum" during a session of North Korea's parliament, and then underwent an interrogation that revealed other "crimes", the official told reporters. The mass-selling Joong Ang Ilbo reported on Tuesday that top regime figures had been punished, but identified the education official by a different name. "He incurred the wrath of Kim after he dozed off during a meeting presided over by Kim," it quoted a source as saying. "He was arrested on site and intensively questioned by the state security ministry". **Fall of spymaster** The unification ministry said two other senior figures were forced to undergo re-education sessions. One of them was Kim Yong-Chol, a top official in charge of inter-Korean

affairs and espionage activities against the South. The 71-year-old Kim is a career military intelligence official who is believed to be the mastermind behind the North's frequent cyberattacks on Seoul. Kim is also blamed by the South for the sinking of a South Korean warship in 2010 near the disputed sea border with the North in the Yellow Sea. Kim was banished to a farm in July for a month for his "arrogance" and "abuse of power," the ministry official said. The spymaster, who was reinstated this month, is likely to be tempted to prove his loyalty by committing provocative acts against the South, the official said. "Therefore, we are keeping close tabs on the North", he said. Professor Yang Moo-Jin at the University of North Korean Studies said the vice premier's execution could be indirectly verified when Pyongyang's state media reveals the names of attendees at the government's anniversary ceremony on 9 September. That confirmation will be important, Seoul in February said North Korean military chief of staff Ri Yong-Gil had been executed — only for Ri to turn up at a party rally in May. South Korea's Yonhap news agency put the number of party officials executed during Kim Jong-Un's rule at over 100. The most notorious case was that of Kim's uncle and onetime No. 2 Jang Song-Thaek, who was executed for charges including treason and corruption in December 2013. In April 2015, it was reported that Kim had his defence minister Hyon

Yong-Chol summarily executed with an anti-aircraft gun. Cheong Seong-Chang, a senior researcher at the private Sejong Institute, said the "reign of terror" that is characteristic of a Stalinist state showed no sign of abating under Kim. "But the intensity of the reign of terror depends on changes to the internal and external political environment", Cheong said. Reports of the latest execution coincide with a series of high-profile defections from the North. North Korea's deputy ambassador to Britain sought refuge in the South

with his family, the unification ministry said earlier this month. Thae Yong-Ho was driven by "disgust for the North Korean regime" and concerns for his family's future, it said. Twelve waitresses and their manager who had been working at a North Korea-made headlines when they arrived in the South in April as the largest group defection for years. About 10 North Korean diplomats made it to the South in the first half of this year alone, Yonhap said, quoting informed sources.

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"Claims and Refutations: Compilations on Inner Line Permit System" released

Earlier JCILP had insisted for the inclusion of its five points already made known to the government of Manipur. The points include: cut off base year of 1951 in demographic influx into the state; giving no-land ownership rights to all non-indigenous people; strengthening of labour department for registration and regulation of interstate migrant labourers; and detection and deportation of illegal immigrants. Meanwhile, Indigenous Minority Socio-Cultural Organisation, Manipur (IMSCOM), with its membership consisting mostly from the numerically marginalized Manipur tribes had expressed support that with ILP the indigenous people could retain their tradition without fear of getting overwhelmed. On 12th July 2015, the ruling Congress Legislature Party had resolved to withdraw the MRVTMW Bill, 2015 and accordingly withdrew it on 15th July by convening a special session of the MSLA. Also, at the same time the Chief Minister gave a commitment that a new bill in place of the one withdrawn will be brought out within three months. On 13th March 2015, the Manipur Regulation of Visitors, Tenants and Migrant Workers (MRVT&MW) Bill was introduced in the floor of the MSLA and the same was passed even as 05 opposition MLAs walked out of the house. A day ahead of it JCILP had strongly opposed the bill. On 26th August 2015, the state Governor, Syed Ahmed had given consent on tabling three bills aimed at providing constitutional safeguard for protecting indigenous people of Manipur in the Assembly. As promised, the Protection of Manipur Peoples Bill (PMP) 2015; the Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms (Seventh Amendment) Bill 2015, and the Manipur Shops and Establishment (Second Amendment) Bill 2015 were introduced on 28th August 2015. On 19th August 2015, a breakthrough was achieved in the third round of peace talk between the government and the JCILPS. As its fall out, a joint statement signed by Special Secretary (Home), and JCILPS Convener in Charge was issued agreeing to incorporate all the five points suggested by JCILPS in different relevant bills. As a follow on, a public meeting was held on the following day adopting ten resolutions which include - reiteration of the earlier public convention resolution to include the five-point demand of the JCILPS in the new bill; inclusion of the Electoral Roll of 1948, the Census Report of 1951, and the Village Directory of 1951 in the definition of Manipur People; removing the reference in Section 8 (2) of its draft bill that persons to be exempted

include (a) Private Undertaking (b) Local Authority and that once the bill is passed into an Act, during the framing of rules and regulations, the cut of base year of 1951 should be included in the 'power to make rules' of section 10 (2) of the bill; Putting the 'non-Manipuri Peoples' Firm, institutions or any other similar entities' under section 14 (a) of the proposed draft bill no 2 (The MLR & LR, 7th amendment bill 2015); not allowing outsiders to buy land; provide a copy of the proposed amendment bill of the Labour Act which is under the State purview; replacing section 2 (j) of the proposed draft bill 1 by 'non-Manipuri people means those citizens of India who is not covered by section 2 (b) of this Act; inclusion of JCILPS representatives during the framing of rules and regulations when the draft bill becomes an Act; etc. All the three draft bills were tabled in the Manipur Legislative Assembly sans subsequently passed on 31st August 2015. With it violence erupted in Churachandpur District, more or less exclusively inhabited by tribes belonging to Chin-Kuki-Mizos or otherwise Zomis. Naga frontal organizations find it as a chance occasion to reset their foot in the Churachandpur which for long had not been accessible to the Nagas following the bloody Kuki-Naga clashes in the late 1990s. Grabbing the emerging opportunity without leaving any stones unturned, hoards of frontal Naga organisations with expressed solidarity just jumped the bandwagon of demonizing the bill so passed as 'anti-tribal'. Even though, the issue becomes no longer relevant with the President of India refusing to give assent and returning the bills, the politics by Joint Action Committee against Anti Tribal Bill (JACAATB) over dead bodies is still continuing by refusing a decent ceremonial burial. The credibility of JACAATB, which membership are more or less exclusively from the Zomi community has now begun to be questioned by the Hnars and the Kukis. Against this backdrop of the dynamics unfolded in the sequential progression of the issues surrounding the ILPS in Manipur, this book is a compilation of the claims and counter claims of both the protagonist and antagonist complimented with relevant other documents from the archival and contemporary sources. By bringing into light, the documents and materials which otherwise would remain inaccessible, it is hoped, people interested in the issue will be able to have more awareness and take informed decision to give a positive impact on the impasse surrounding the issue.

Teenager killed in clashes in Kashmir's Sopore

Courtesy TOI Srinagar, Aug 31: A 15-year-old boy was killed on Wednesday in clashes between security forces and violent protesters in Sopore area of north Kashmir Baramulla district, taking the death toll in the ongoing unrest in the valley to 69. Danish Manzoor and six other persons sustained injuries when security forces allegedly opened fire at stone-pelting protesters in Lodora in Sopore area, a police official said. He said Danish succumbed to injuries while being shifted to a hospital in Sopore town. With this death, the toll in the ongoing unrest in Kashmir has gone up to 69. The fresh clashes occurred even as authorities lifted curfew from all areas of Kashmir on Wednesday after 53 days. "There is no curfew anywhere in Kashmir today. It has been lifted even from the two police station areas in Srinagar - M R Gunj and Nowhatta - the only places in the valley where the curbs were in place yesterday," a police official said earlier. He said the improvement in situation across Kashmir prompted authorities to lift curfew. Security forces have been deployed

in strength in sensitive areas of the valley to maintain law and order, the official said. Greater movement of vehicular traffic and people was observed in major areas of the valley, the official said. In Srinagar city, where authorities lifted the curfew on Monday, private cars and auto-rickshaws were seen on roads in and around the commercial hub of Lal Chowk here. However, normal life remained disrupted in many other areas of the valley. Schools, colleges and other educational institutions and shops remained closed. The attendance in government offices and work in banks has witnessed improvement since Monday, the official said. Curfew was clamped in entire valley on July 9 following violence in the aftermath of killing of Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Burhan Wani in an encounter in south Kashmir's Anantnag district a day earlier. The separatist camp, which is spearheading the agitation in the Valley, has extended their strike call till September 1. Meanwhile, mobile internet continued to remain suspended in the entire valley, where the outgoing facility on prepaid mobiles remained barred.

Special MCOCA Court frames charges against Chhota Rajan in Journalist murder case

Agency Mumbai, Aug 31: A special MCOCA court in Mumbai today framed charges against deported gangster Chhota Rajan in journalist Jyotirmoy Dey murder case. The CBI, in its supplementary charge-sheet filed at the special Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) court this month, had said that Rajan got Dey killed because the journalist was

writing two books that were showing the gangster in bad light. The agency had recorded statements of 41 witnesses apart from the transcripts of conversation between arrested journalist Jigna Vora and Rajan. An intercepted conversation wherein Rajan claims to have accepted the responsibility for killing Dey also forms a part of the evidence. Jyotirmoy Dey was killed on 11th June, 2011.