

Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, January 21, 2016

Backlog bedlam

"The gap in India has always been between the promise and the execution":- RBI governor Raghuram Rajan. The year started with a flurry of wishes and hopes and resolutions as usual. And yet, even before the first month of the year has completed, the turn of events have made everybody believe that the wishes were what they will always be - mere wishes. The present developments in the state - almost every single one of them regretfully negative - have once again posed as an ominous dark cloud over the state, threatening to wash away the hopes and with it any feeble signs of the fickle sense of stability and peace that has been so hard to come by in a deluge. Reports of stalled projects turning out to be white elephants have cropped up with alarming regularity, and as if these regularly occurring "phenomena" is not enough to grab the attention of the slumbering and scheming state government, the aftermath of the recent earthquake have opened up more than a few cracks and is threatening to tumble the government off its highly prized and exorbitantly procured pedestal. The tragedy, however, is not as much about the failure to implement the various projects and schemes in a proper manner as it is about the failure of the state government to acknowledge and admit the lapses and blunders as a matter of fact. What is still happening on the contrary is that most of the ministers and bureaucrats, acting as cheerleaders for the state government could not be less bothered with the details and technical minutiae - all that matters to them is that their positions and political clouts are still not on the wane. While it might be argued by various sympathizers with varied vested interests in the survivability of the present government that the real hurdle to the implementation of various public development activities in the state is the unstable social and political atmosphere, the fact remains that the very social tensions and uncertainties being faced by the public at present is the deliberate and planned product of the system which stands to benefit and gain from all the chaos and confusions that has so far marked our volatile society. That a stable society free of disturbances and tensions will definitely turn to the inadequacies and inefficiencies of those at the helm of affairs of the state is a foregone conclusion. It is therefore a logical extension that to mask the discrepancies and misappropriations in governance and administrations, there has to be as much distractions and diversions so that the attention of the public does not remain fixed on any one aspect, or that their concerns are not shared effectively. Case in point: why is the state government hell bent on spending more on the construction of a temporary market shed in the middle of the most congested stretch in such a hurry when, even after the visiting experts on earthquake declared that the damaged market sheds can be repaired, have kept the sheds shielded with no evidence of repairing activities even weeks after the expert pronouncement?

Heavy snowfall at Tawang

Itanagar, Jan 21: Bomdila and Tawang have witnessed snowfall in Arunachal Pradesh with temperatures dipping to subzero level, informed a Facebook friend of mine from Arunachal Pradesh with a photograph of snow covered new settlements in Bomdila - the headquarters of West Kameng Districts. It is said that the Bomdila-Tawang road was covered with more than one foot of snow for the last few days. The road goes up to China border and considered as a lifeline of the Indian Army. The road has been blocked completely and it would take a few days to clear the snow. Though with the heavy snow fall tourists are thrilled but the life of the local tribal people have become miserable with chilling winds. This time, the state has been witnessing a cold wave situating for the last few weeks, which has thrown local life out of gear. The entire Twang valley is presently covered with a thick blanket of snow and whole of Arunachal is going to be gripped with unusual long spell of cold wave this time, it has been predicted. Arunachal Pradesh is in the most northeast region of India. It borders the states of Assam and Nagaland to the south, and shares international borders with Bhutan in the west, Burma in the east and China in the north.

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National & International News

BSF kills suspect crossing Indo-Pak border near Pathankot

TNN Amritsar, Jan. 21: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Thursday morning foiled a cross-border intrusion bid after it shot dead one of the three intruders who were trying to enter India from the area of Tash Lassian in the Pathankot sector. BSF Inspector General, Frontier,

Anil Paliwal told TOI that three intruders from Pakistan attempted to cross international border at around 6.40am but were spotted by the force's patrolling party following which the intruders opened fire. "Our jawans also retaliated and shot dead one of the intruder while two managed to flee back to

Pakistan," he said adding that the body of an intruder was later found lying between international border and border fence. Paliwal said the intruders wanted to take advantage of thick layer of fog and enter India but were intercepted by alert BSF personnel. This intrusion bid happened

nearly three weeks after six heavily armed militants had entered India and stormed the Pathankot's Air Force base. Sources said the intruders were 'launched' into India from Jalalabad village of Pakistan which is close to international border facing Tash Lassian and Bhariyal villages in India.

CBI to challenge order on release of documents against Rajendra Kumar

ANI New Delhi, Jan. 21: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will challenge the order on release of documents in a case against Principal Secretary Rajendra Kumar in the Delhi High Court. A trial court yesterday made scathing remarks about the CBI's conduct in probing the corruption case against Rajendra Kumar and others, saying the agency seemed to be in "haste" and appeared to have "abused

its power". The court further alleged that the agency did not even carry out a preliminary enquiry before filing the FIR. The court, however, rejected the government's prayer for stringent action against the investigating agency officials, who had seized the documents in alleged violation of the provisions of the CBI manual. The CBI had earlier opposed the government's plea and argued that even the court had no

powers to decide the admissibility of the documents at this stage. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had yesterday welcomed the court's verdict and said the judiciary has vindicated the AAP Government's stand that the raid at Rajendra Kumar's office at the Delhi Secretariat was 'politically-motivated'. On December 15, the CBI raided the office of Rajendra Kumar in connection with a corruption case.

Suicide bombing kills seven staff members of Afghanistan's Kabooa Production

ANI Kabul, Jan 21: At least seven staff members of Afghanistan's Kabooa Production were killed and 26 others injured in a suicide bombing targeting a civilian bus that was carrying over 30 staff persons near the Russian embassy. According to TOLONews, Kabooa Production is a sister entity to TOLO TV, Lemar TV, Arman FM, Arakozia FM and TOLONews. TOLO TV condemned the terrorist attack in an official statement, saying that they await an update from security and government officials on the details of the attack. The attack occurred after 5 pm on Wednesday on the Darul Aman Road close to the Russian Embassy. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani condemned the attack "in the strongest possible words". The Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Magnitude-6.4 quake strikes China, damaging dozens of homes

PTI Beijing, Jan. 21: A magnitude-6.4 earthquake struck a remote region of northwest China today, damaging a few dozen homes but causing no casualties. The official Xinhua News Agency said the epicenter of the 1:13 am quake was in an unpopulated area about 33 kilometers (20 miles) from the county seat of Menyuan in

Qinghai province. The US Geological Survey put the quake's magnitude at 5.9 and said it struck at a depth of 10 kilometers on the western edge of the Plateau of Tibet, where the collision of the India and Eurasia plates generates numerous earthquakes and makes the region one of the world's most seismically hazardous. Xinhua quoted local officials as

saying the quake caused cracks in about 20 homes and other damage in more than 30 others. Authorities sent 700 tents to the area. "The tremor lasted one to two minutes... With a rumbling noise," the agency quoted Menyuan country resident Ma Wulong as saying. The tremor also was felt in the provincial capital of Xining.

Contd. from previous issue

The Indo-Naga conflict: a question of internal Indian ethnic conflict or a conflict between two nations?

(Write up produced here is the lecture delivered at the Centre for Manipur Studies by Kaka D. Iralu)

SECTION - II
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF ETHNIC GROUPS INTO MULTI-ETHNIC NATIONS STATES (13th - 20th CENTURY)
 The process of the formation of ethnic groups begins with a single-family unit. With the passage of time, the descendants or offspring of this one single-family unit develop into clans. With further passage of time, these various clans merge themselves into tribes. Tribes, in turn, form themselves into nations as history progresses. This multiplication of families into clans into tribes and on to nations may take hundreds of years. This process is a universal phenomenon that applies to every nation inhabiting the planet earth. Here the Bible provides the clearest answer to this universal phenomenon. The Bible states that the history of humankind began with the creation of Adam and Eve, the first male and female of the human species. From these two first human beings, the nations of the earth evolved through the passage of human history. There are also of course other so called scientific and mythological theories about the origin of man and nations, but none of them conform to historical reality as we know it. On the one hand, Darwin's theory of evolution remains unproven even after 150 years of extensive scientific research. On the other hand, mythological theories of man, having crawled out of caves or from stones or trees or the sea are matters of pure fiction and superstition. An investigation into past human history reveals that the evolution of nations follows the pattern mentioned above. For example, today's modern German nation state evolved from the Germanic tribes of past history. Similarly the modern nation state of Great Britain is a conglomeration of

various ethnic groups like the Iberians, Celts, Nordic tribes and Anglo Saxons etc of past history. In fact all modern nations were formerly savage tribes and headhunters! It is also a universal fact that in ancient times and even as late as the 20th century, nations were mostly ruled by Kings and Monarchs. Today with the exception of a few kingdoms most nations follow the modern nation state pattern. The Nagas, with the exception of some Chiefdom systems like the Konyaks and the Semas, never had any King to whom they bowed. When the British first encountered them and asked them about their King, they thrust their spears into the ground and said: *That is our King*. In the modern era of human history a new phenomenon overtook the human race in the form of the formation of modern nation states. The history of this new phenomenon will be briefly outlined here tracing its history right up to the point where it also overtook both Nagaland and India in the late 1940s. In this new development, different and even diverse ethnic groups began to merge together to form new nation states. It is difficult to pinpoint one single event in history as the sole cause for this new development. However in the western world, this phenomenon began to develop towards the beginning of the 13th century with the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215. In this epochal event, the paramount authority of the King of England (John) was curtailed by the English Nobles. This event paved the way for Constitutional form of Government. Following a series of similar changes in France, Italy, Germany etc, by the end of the 1st World War in 1918, the concept of modern nation states under Constitutional form of Government was firmly established in the western world. By the end of the 2nd World

War in 1945, this phenomenon had become a global reality effecting even Asia and Africa. One important factor to be noted here is the fact that beginning from the 16th century and on to the first half of the 20th century, for nearly five centuries, the western world marched out from their cities and forts to conquer and rule most of Asia, Africa, the two Americas, Australasia and the South Pacific. Along with these conquests, the concept of modern nation states and Constitutional form of Government came with these western conquerors. The western nations owe the insights and principles of this modern nation state concept to Martin Luther's reformation of the 16th century. In this reformation, besides the religious reformation of salvation through Christ and not the Church (Papacy), Martin Luther also set the ordinary citizen free from the clutches of the political powers of both the King and the Pope. The new political development that emerged was 'sphere sovereignty'. Sphere sovereignty was founded on the Biblical principle that the state was divinely instituted by God to control and curb the evil actions (lawlessness) of fallen men. However sphere sovereignty also brought into glaring focus the fact that the laws of the state are not sovereign in themselves but subject to the sovereignty and authority of God who is the ultimate lawgiver of the universe. Under Martin Luther's reformation, everything under heaven - the King, the law, the state, the church and every citizen within the state was brought under the sovereignty of God. "Coram Deo" the Latin words meaning "in the face of God" was the catchword of the reformation. In this way, every facet of human existence was brought under the sovereignty of God. The founders of the American Republic of 1776 incorporated these concepts into their Constitution by clearly

defining the separate powers of the Judiciary, the Legislature and the Executive. This model was based on the Biblical teaching that God is our Judge, Lawgiver and King (Isaiah 33:22) What emerged was a Government of the people by the people, and for the people based on the rule of law which was in turn based on the word of God - the lawgiver. Martin Luther's Bible-based reformation thoughts were further developed by Christian intellectuals like John Calvin in the 16th century and Samuel Rutherford in the 17th century. Samuel Rutherford wrote Lex Rex which means Law is King. Samuel Rutherford's main thesis in Lex Rex was that the rule of law (rather than the law of the ruler) was supreme. He was asserting that the law stands even above the King and that the King is also subject to it like all other citizens. All these preparatory steps and the subsequent events of western imperialism from the 16th century to the first half of the 20th century eventually led to an explosion of modern nation states in Asia and Africa by the end of the 2nd World War. In today's eastern world of modern nation states, whether we acknowledge it or not, it is still an undeniable fact that our Constitutions are based on Biblical principles which have their roots in the great Protestant reformation of Martin Luther in the 16th century. Acknowledging this fact of the dominance of the western and Bible-based British common laws in the Constitution of India, noted Indian Jurist, Nani Palkhivala wrote thus in his book: *Let us not pretend that the rule of law is a concept which can be regarded as a part of the rule of law exists anywhere in the Vedas, Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharata, the Bhagwat Gita or the Puranas.* (To be contd.....)