

Editorial

Imphal, Saturday, January 23, 2016

Governance déjà vu

What is this thing with trouble which come calling with the beginning of the year like an unwanted guest who stays back for dinner? There has been this unexplainable and uncanny coincidence of all sorts of things that could go wrong actually going wrong most frequently with the starting of the year for a while now. It does not mean to indicate a happy, calm state for the rest of the time- just an increasingly visible and consistent pattern that was not given much thought about before now. Could it be the change in the weather that drives most people to commit crimes and offences, the Government to be crowded out with scandals and revelations of misappropriation of funds, inaction and false assurances? The public, not to be outdone, has been bringing up issues- some genuine and some blown out of proportion, jumping in amidst the fray that makes the whole scene rather ironically comic. One thing is for sure- good or bad- the season for excitement and enthusiastic agitations is just round the corner once again. We can pretty much expect, without fail, an increase in the blockades and bandhs- to the point when three or four blockades are being concurrently imposed on the same stretch of road on the same day. We can then be seeing almost everyone out of their homes and into the streets to have a glimpse of the bandhs. The rains will be bringing another set of issues from floods to accusations of apathy by the government and delayed help- or no help as the case might usually turn out to be, to allegations of distributing live tadpoles, toads and other living organisms through the water supply system. A positive way to look at it would be to take heart in the fact that the water so supplied, though apparently undrinkable, proves for itself that it has not been poisoned. Could it be the logical explanation as to the question of why so many in the state have been taking to drinking from the local breweries? Social activism will be taken to with renewed vengeance by seasoned as well as wannabe social minded individuals and organisations. Power cuts will be on the rise once again- raising the temperature and lowering the tolerance level of the common people, while the fortunate ones will be hogging the meagre supply of power so generously provided after the mandatory allocation to the less fortunate neighboring region has been made.

All in all, the season promises to be anything but idle. After all, something is better than nothing and normal is as boring as always. For those of us in the news media and journalists, a hectic yet rewarding period awaits. What we really have been wanting to say all along is "Keep up the good work people!"

Former Kerala Assembly Speaker passes away

PTI Kochi, Jan 23: Senior Congress leader and former Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly A C Jose died at a private hospital here today after suffering a cardiac arrest. Jose (79) was taken to the hospital after he suffered chest pain early in the morning. He died due to heart attack, according to party sources. Jose, who played a dominant role in the formation of Kerala Students Union (KSU), the student wing of Congress in Kerala, served as Mayor of the Kochi

Corporation in 1970s. Later in 1980, he was elected Member of the Kerala Legislative Assembly from Paravur Constituency. Elected as Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1982, he used casting vote to retain the Congress government headed by K Karunakaran. Jose, a former Vice President of KPCC, was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1996, 1998, 1999 general elections. Jose also served as Chief Editor of Veeekshnam Daily, a mouthpiece of Congress party in Kerala.

Wanted Sub-Editor

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National & International News

China's richest man to invest \$10 bn in Haryana

Agency New Delhi, Jan. 23: Dalian Wanda group to set up industrial park at Kharkhoda, near Delhi BS Reporters Weeks before Haryana hosts a global investor summit in March, the state has received investment commitments from eight Chinese companies, with the Dalian Wanda group looking at investing \$10 billion in an industrial park at Kharkhoda in Sonapat, outside

Delhi. Promoted by Wang Jianlin, the richest Chinese in 2015, the group claims to be the largest real estate developer in China with ownership of the largest number of 6,000 cinema screens across the world. Sixty-one-year-old Jianlin, who served in the Chinese Army for 16 years till 1986, met Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Friday during the latter's visit to Beijing. The group will invest \$10 billion to

develop a comprehensive industrial park known as "Wanda Industrial New City". Haryana's industry minister Captain Abhinav told Business Standard from Beijing a preliminary agreement was signed between the Wanda Group and Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation on Friday. The final agreement will be signed after the terms and conditions are agreed upon by both sides. He said there

was no proposal of any equity participation by the Haryana government in the project. The first phase of the city will come up over an area of approximately 13 sq km. Wanda will be responsible for investing in the project's initial infrastructure. In addition, it would attract other international and Chinese industrial, tourism and residential companies to operate in the park, said a Haryana government press release.

BSF's camel contingent participates in full dress rehearsal

ANI New Delhi, Jan. 23: Contrary to reports appearing in a section of the media that the Border Security Force's (BSF) camel contingent will not be participating in this year's Republic Day parade, the contingent participated in the full dress rehearsal here on Saturday. Earlier reports had said that the 90-member camel contingent - 54 troops and the rest with band personnel - would not be participating in the Republic Day

rehearsal in the absence of official directions. However, the Centre finally decide to keep alive the 66-year-old tradition of the ceremonial parade by including the BSF camel contingent and the camel-mounted band. The camel contingent became a part of the Republic Day parade for the first time in 1976, replacing army squad which had been participating since 1950. The BSF camel contingent is the inheritor

of the Bikaner Royal Camel Force known as "Ganga Risala", which is based in Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. The lead camel contingent on Republic Day showcases smartly-dressed and large-moustached armed BSF border guards, followed by bandsmen in beautiful multi-colour dresses on the back of the camels playing martial music. The BSF headquarters raised this issue before the defence ministry and on Wednesday the Centre reconsidering the

matter took a decision to include the camel contingent in the parade.

Bomb Scare On GoAir Flight, Which Made Emergency Landing, Declared A Hoax

PTI Nagpur, Jan. 23: A Mumbai-bound GoAir flight carrying 150 passengers on board was diverted to Nagpur due to a hoax bomb call. The flight, which took off from Bhubaneswar at 0820 hours landed at Nagpur at 0929 hours safely, the airlines said. "GoAir flight G8 243 took off from Bhubaneswar for Mumbai at 8.20 am and post-receiving the bomb threat call, was diverted to Nagpur and landed at 9.29 am," GoAir said. All the 150 passengers were deplaned immediately after the plane landed and the security agencies carried out a thorough search of the passengers, their baggage and the aircraft. "However, no bomb was found onboard the aircraft," GoAir said. The aircraft has been cleared for departure to Mumbai. The local police is investigating the matter, GoAir said.

Mumbai Train Commuters Get Free Wi-Fi

Mumbai, Jan. 23: Google Inc. has begun offering free Wi-Fi to Mumbai train passengers in the hopes of boosting its role in the huge Indian market. Giggling groups of students, bored commuters and snack-shop vendors were all logging on Friday at Mumbai Central Train Station, the first of 400 stations the company plans to eventually reach with the service. "If my train is leaving, and I need to search, don't know where to go, then immediately I will get

the answer," student Divya Patel said excitedly while waiting for a train to her hometown of Ahmedabad in Gujarat. Free Wi-Fi is rare across India. Most of the country's 300 million Internet users pay for personal access and often rely on slow-loading smartphone connectivity. With a massive 1.25 billion population in India, including six million new Internet users every month, Silicon Valley tech giants such as Google, Facebook and Microsoft have set sights on

expanding in the Indian market. With more than 23 million people using the railways every day, Google said free Internet in train stations will give high-speed access that many can't afford. "Most of India is still not online," Google CEO Sundar Pichai told reporters last month in New Delhi. "We want to bring access to as many people as possible," he said. For the project, Google teamed up with Indian Railways as well as communications infrastructure provider RailTel.

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)

(Full contents of all these lengthy memorandums can be found in the appendix section of my book: **Nagaland and India, the Blood and the Tears with a subtitle A Historical account of the fifty two year Indo-Naga war and the story of those who were never allowed to tell it.** The book was clandestinely published by myself since no publication company was willing to take the risk of publishing it). Meanwhile, a British scheme of forming an independent North Eastern Agency on the pattern of a Crown Colony comprising all the eastern peoples between Burma and India was offered to the Nagas. If the Nagas had accepted this scheme, a British Crown Colony with over 200,000 sq. km could have come into existence with Chittagong as its sea outlet. The colony would be comprised of people like the Nagas, Kachins, Karens, Mons, Shans, Khasis, Assamese, Mizos etc - a people who were then more devoted to the British than their own citizens. The lands were also very rich in oil and other mineral deposits. If the Nagas had acted selfishly, they could easily have gotten the lion's share in such a scheme. Knowing that the Nagas were politically the most advanced tribe, this scheme was thoroughly discussed with the NNC leadership during its formative years. However, the NNC leadership rejected this offer on the grounds that they could not betray the eastern peoples rights to their respective freedoms. It was evident that a "Yes" from the Nagas could have resulted in all the eastern peoples being condemned to many years of subjection to a British Crown Colony. Another obvious reason was the Naga love of their own freedom, which they were sure the British would not treacherously betray into the hands of the new emerging Indian

Government. **Subsequent events would however show that the Naga sense of integrity and honesty and also the recognition of other people's rights would be betrayed and trampled by both Britain and India.** Besides these events, many other important representations and actions were made by the NNC and the Nagas to clearly declare and demonstrate their political will to become a free nation again when the British left their South Asian Empire. Up to 1947 six different memorandums and representations were given to the British Government before they handed over power to India. One possible reason for the apathy and indifference shown to the Nagas by the British may be because of the Naga rejection of the British Crown Colony scheme. Britain was also too exhausted from the 2nd World War and the mood of the British was to quickly retreat from their South Asian Empire. Hence, what was so desperately important for the newly emerging Naga people did not impinge on a people weary of their world responsibilities. They left behind a legacy Nagas could not accept. In turn their later rejection of the legacy produced the Indo-Naga conflict. As for India, the NNC made many representations to the Indian leaders before India became a free nation on 15th August 1947. Among those many representations and actions, when the Indian Constituent Assembly constituted a Sub Committee for the North East region in 1946, the then NNC President T.Aliba walked out from the meeting at Shillong saying: **We the Nagas cannot sign our names to be under India. He further said, I cannot return to my people as a traitor.** Saying thus, he resigned from the committee and came back to Nagaland. At that time the NNC had

a Constitution of their own and refused to be under any other Constitution. Even when the Constituent Assembly Sub-Committee again visited Kohima in May 1947, the NNC still refused to join the Indian Union. In that confrontation in 1947, the NNC stated its position that it was willing to co-operate with India only under the ten-year period of an interim agreement, details of which had earlier been submitted to Her Majesty's Government and the Indian Government on March 27, 1947. A further proposal was offered by the Governor of Assam, Akbar Hydari, called the Nine Point Agreement on June 27, 1947. However, even though the NNC was willing to co-operate with India under the provisions of the Nine Point Agreement, a dispute arose over the ninth point as to whether Nagas could choose their own political destiny at the end of the ten-year agreement. The proposal was later unilaterally abrogated by India. The NNC next met Mahatma Gandhi on July 19, 1947 at Bhangi Basti in Delhi. After a thorough discussion of all the political and historical facts about Nagaland and India, Gandhi assured the Naga delegation that Nagas had every right to be a sovereign independent nation. Gandhi even promised the Nagas that in case the Indian Government tried to forcefully annex the Naga territories into India, he would be the first person to lay down his life in opposing the annexation. Assured by the father of the Indian nation, the Nagas came back and declared their independence on 14th August 1947 - one day prior to India's declaration of her own independence. A cable was also immediately sent to the United Nations on the same day and an acknowledgement was received from Salt Lake, New York. In order to

further consolidate their intention in the light of India's indifference, the NNC further conducted a national Plebiscite on 16th May 1951 where an overwhelming majority of the adult Naga population (99.9%) gave their verdict that they would not join the Indian Union of 1947. Prior to the Plebiscite, information and invitations were also given to the Indian Government to come and see the conduct of the Plebiscite with their own eyes. India never responded to the invitation. The result of the Plebiscite was sent to both the Indian Government as well as the United Nations. The result of the Plebiscite along with a long letter was given to Jawaharlal Nehru on December 29, 1951. In the letter Phizo, the NNC President had written: **...With the verdict of the Naga adult population embodied in the Plebiscite papers go our sincere feeling of goodwill to the Government and people of India. It is the prayer of the Naga people that the Government of India will respect the desire of the Naga people for having their own independent state, separate and sovereign. To ally the fear and suspicion of India, Nagas on their part will agree to accept an Indian national to be the President of independent Nagaland for a stated period...** (Please note that, the Nagas far from trying to violently oppose India, offered themselves to be even governed by an Indian President for a stated period. This was in 1951. The Nagas took up arms to defend themselves only when, as B.N.Mullik put it in his book: **troops moved into Tuensang by October 1955, and the war (of invasion) with the Nagas started from then.** Italics mine. (To be contd.....)