

Editorial

Imphal, Tuesday, July 26, 2016

Future perfect

Hope and ambition are an intrinsic part of human beings. People almost always find a way to wriggle out of any situation however difficult or seemingly hopeless it might seem. This irrepressible human trait can most vividly be witnessed and experienced in our state. Beset with problems and disappointments in every sphere of life- be it the crony politics and contract culture pervading every public development projects and schemes taking precedence over concepts of progress and development, the duality and conflicts on culture and increasingly alienating stands, artistic constraints and vigilantism that is slowly yet surely chocking freedom of artistic expression and individuality, or worse still, the rise of a breed of human parasites and opportunists ready to pounce on and capitalize upon the slightest hint of weakness of anybody or anything, employing any and every means at their disposal- connections, coercions, threat or even violence to have their way. The perfect ingredients for a superb blockbuster, one might even summarise with enthusiasm, only if it isn't for the grim reality of the situation. Just as the darkest hour precedes the dawn, so does the seemingly endless feeling of gloom and despondency in the society gives rise to an undying flicker of hope and expectations, for as things stand now, things couldn't get any worse than it already is, and that we can only go forward, for the uncomfortable fact remains that our society as a whole is standing with its back against the wall at the moment. And so we move, or at least we hope to. The Imphal-Dimapur national highway has been assured of upgrading to make it withstand the vagaries of nature throughout the year which will translate to increased efficiency in connectivity, decrease in disruptions in transportation of essential commodities thereby stabilizing prices, increase in comfort and safety to travelers, among others. The Thoubal Multipurpose Project is scheduled to be made operational from this year onwards, and efforts are being made to complete the project in the shortest timeframe possible, never mind the fact that the project commenced more than three and half decades earlier. After completion, and on operation of the multipurpose project, acres of fields and arable lands will be provided water for irrigation thereby helping in increasing production while thousands will have access to safe drinking water thereby improving sanitation and decreasing instances of water-borne diseases. The project also proposes to help generate electricity which will add to the available resource at present and help make the state less dependent on others. The Solid Waste Treatment Plant at Lamdeng is scheduled to begin operation by October this year. This will clear the city and adjoining areas of the filth and stench that is proving to be a big hindrance in the efforts to beautify the state, not to mention the clogging of drainages causing flooding and water stagnation raising the threat of spreading vector-borne diseases such as Malaria, Dengue, Japanese Encephalitis etc. A host of other developmental works are either in the offing or are already in various stages of completion. While the increasing pace and seemingly increasing amount of developmental activities bodes well for the state which has been reeling under numerous forms of disruptions mainly due to the lack of opportunities for development and infrastructures that could make it so, past experiences has put a huge question mark on the end result of these efforts. Those entrusted with the projects should take a proactive role in seeing that these vital activities are carried out according to specifications and in time for the people of this state to stand a fighting chance of catching up with the rest of the world. It is the end result which will ultimately prove the intentions of the leaders true- or otherwise.

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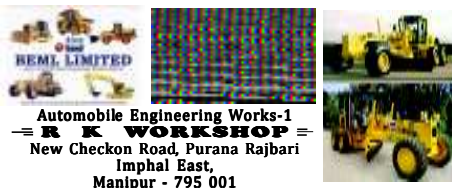
Government of Manipur
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Department : Manipur
PRESS RELEASE
Imphal, the 22nd July, 2016

It is hereby informed that Forest Department, Manipur is in the process of giving appointment under the Die-in-harness scheme. All the applicants from SI No. 1 to 70 of the list maintained in the Forest Head Office are to submit their original testimonials and appear in person within 29th July, 2016. Details of list can be seen from the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Manipur during office hours.

Sd/-
(P.N. Prasad)
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Government of Manipur

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Jammu and Kashmir, Adivasi belt and North East; why the middle class ignores India's conflict areas

By: Akar Patel

India has three large and long running conflict areas. First, Jammu and Kashmir. Second, the Adivasi belt of central India that touches states like Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh. Third, the tribal belt of North East India.

In the first, the problem is that the Muslims of the Kashmir valley feel they had no say during Partition. A promise made to them by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru over a plebiscite, meaning a referendum on what they wanted to do, was withdrawn. Later the state was integrated into the Indian Union through a series of steps that many Kashmiris did not accept as legitimate.

The United Nations was pulled into the matter early on, but the Cold War and a divided Security Council left matters opaque. Not being able to accept the reality, Kashmiris rebelled violently just under three decades ago. Two generations of Kashmiris have grown up with a powerful military presence. And the Hindus of the Valley were sent packing.

The Kashmiri separatist violence did not leave the state. No bombings and no attacks by Kashmiris happened in Mumbai or Delhi in these decades. Those Kashmiris who took up arms did so in their state and against the Indian armed forces. These men are not seen by most Kashmiris as terrorists though that is how they are seen in the rest

of India.

India says the problem there has been external. If there were no mischief from Pakistan, there would not be an issue. However, we seem to be unable to treat Kashmiris as Indians as the extreme violence against them shows.

The second conflict area is about the taking of resources in traditional Adivasi areas. These are rich in minerals and coal and the Indian state wants to exploit these resources as 'national wealth'. Unfortunately, we have been unable to treat the Adivasis whose lands we have taken and are taking, with fairness. To some extent this is not deliberate. India is not an efficient place and not a rich one. The government cannot competently deliver education and health to the majority of Indians, especially the poor. But in the case of the Adivasis, who are 8% of India's population, there is the added insistence that they make a sacrifice. It is from their lands that the coal powering air conditioners and washing machines in urban Indian cities is taken. It is their forests that are cut down and polluted. If seams of coal were to be discovered under south Mumbai and south Delhi, we can be assured that there would be much more talk of human rights, exploitation and the environment than we have. But the Adivasi does not have many allies in his fight for his rights. The violence against this



Picture for representation only

exploitation is called Maoism or Left Wing Extremism. Such neat phrases make it easier for urban Indians to ignore underlying causes and to accept these people as 'terrorists'. Words like extremist, terrorist, Maoist and Jihadist are drilled into us for this reason alone. Like the Kashmiri violence, the Maoist violence has not reached Chennai or Calcutta, it is contained in the Adivasi belt. There are no landmines that go off in our cities and there are no sieges of corporate offices. The third area of conflict is the North East. This is a part of India that was not under Mughal rule. The British made the tribes submit and these areas were brought into India fairly recently. Some of these tribes resisted the integration even before 1947. They have continued their violence. And for decades this resistance has been pacified by the Indian Army which has a strong presence there. But the rebels of the North East do not fight their war in

Bangalore and Hyderabad. No attacks are made against our airports and no hostages are taken in our schools. Lakhs of Kashmiris and North Easterners live in urban Indian centres where they work. They come into the news every now and then when they are refused a house on rent or when they are attacked because of their race. They have left the conflict of their land behind them. It is as if all that killing and exploitation is happening in someone else's country. This central fact has enabled the Indian middle class to ignore our three conflicts. The violence does not touch us at all and so we are able to easily look away from the underlying reasons and grievances. From our drawing rooms and our television studios we call all of this terrorism. We can distance ourselves from it and we are fortunate to be able to do this. It allows the government to be as firm as it wants, and as hard as it wants, with these people because its actions do not affect or interest the rest of us.

National & International News

All leads have turned out to be bad: Parrikar on missing AN-32

PTI New Delhi, July 26: The search and rescue operation for the missing AN 32 aircraft entered its fifth day today even as hopes of finding alive the 29 defence personnel on board receded as all leads till now have turned out to be bad. "A lot of resources are in place. All leads till now have turned out to be bad. We are trying to concentrate on some links or sound which has emitted from some area. Trying to find out, that needs to be ascertained but there were some false leads but false leads of similar type," Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar said here today. He said that a state of art ice-class research vessel, Sagar Nidhi, of the

National Institute of Ocean Technology has been called for from Mauritius. "That will reach but any deep vessel to operate, it will need specific area. "Because deep vessels which go inside cannot go and search per se unless you have some definite small area. So last time (Dornier crash), submarine had identified the location and then we had sent it (deep sea vessel of Reliance). It is a secondary operation after initial identification," Parrikar said. Sagar Nidhi comes with Dynamic Positioning System which keeps its position stable, which is required for oceanographic research. It has a huge deck area for

deploying ROV/Manned submersibles/Tsunami monitoring system. Gondola arrangement is also made for precision acoustic measurements. Drop Keel facility is made to fit any underwater transducers without dry docking the vessel. One separate lab is designed and installed with integrated survey systems with modern scientific survey equipments like single and multi beam echo sounder for shallow and deep waters, sub bottom profiler, acoustic current profiler. Parrikar also refuted claims of a senior Coast Guard official who said that the the Emergency

Locator Transmitter (ELT) had not functioned during the Dornier crash also. "I think the submarine finally located the Dornier with the same beeps. Initially sound might not have come due to depth of water but when the submarine went in there, they identified the location. Can't say whether it is operating or not now but we have not been able to hear it," he said. Meanwhile, sources in the Air Force said the reason of the incident is too early to be ascertained but indicated that weather could have played a role. "The weather was bad but the pilot had taken the required steps," a senior source said.

Security forces kill nine militants

Dhaka, July 26: In Bangladesh, a joint team of RAB, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and SWAT in the operation 'storm 26' killed 9 militants in Dhaka today morning. Their den in a multi-storied building in Kalyanpur near Mirpur in Dhaka was stormed. One of the captured accomplices claims allegiance to the IS. He is admitted in the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. AIR correspondent reports Operation 'Storm 26' comes hardly a month after 'Operation Thunderbolt' on July 1st in which 22 people including 17 foreigners and 2 policemen were killed and 5 terrorists were neutralised. Police sources say the militants had gathered in Kalyanpur to carry out a large scale terror attack like the Gulshan cafe attack on 1st July. But acting on intelligence inputs and a tip-off, police had tracked down their hideout out and executed the joint-forces specialized operation and killed the nine militants. They have also captured one of them alive. Although he claims allegiance to the IS, police sources say the militants most probably belong to the banned JMB. Meanwhile the security has been further tightened in the capital and in Mirpur. All schools in the Kalyanpur area has been declared closed for the day. Earlier on July 21st police had raided another JMB den in Tongi area of Gazipur and arrested 4 militants including a regional chief.

Barring Anantnag, curfew lifted from all parts of Kashmir

PTI Srinagar, July 26: Curfew was on Tuesday lifted from all parts of Kashmir, except Anantnag town, after 17 days of unrest in the Valley in which 47 persons were killed and 5500 others injured in clashes following killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani. "Curfew has been lifted from all parts of Kashmir except Anantnag town, today (Tuesday)," a police official said. The official said there is no curfew or restrictions on the movement of the people in the district. "However, in other parts of the Valley, restrictions on assembly of

four or more people will continue to maintain law and order," the official said. Curfew was imposed across Kashmir on July 9, a day after killing of Wani, as a precautionary measure. However, violent clashes between protestors and security forces saw 47 persons including two policemen killed while 5500 others were injured. Mobile telephony, mobile Internet services and train services remained suspended for 18th day while schools, colleges and other educational institutions also remained closed due to a strike called by the separatist groups. The separatist camp, which is spearheading the protests against

civilian killings, has already announced a relaxation in the strike from 2 PM onwards today. However, they have called for three days of shutdown from tomorrow to July 29. The separatist groups have also called for a march to Kulgam tomorrow.

4 militants killed, another apprehended in Kupwara

PTI Srinagar, July 26: Four militants were today killed and another apprehended by security forces during an encounter in Naugam sector near the LoC in Kupwara district of Kashmir, an army official said. "Four terrorists have been killed while one has been apprehended alive during an operation in Naugam sector," the official said. He said all the militants were foreign nationals. The operation was in progress when reports were last received from the encounter site. The official said as the operation was still going on, it would be premature to say whether it was an infiltration bid or not. "We have got one of them alive and expect some vital information from him," he added.

Two explosions kill 8 near Somali's Mogadishu airport

AFP Mogadishu, July 26: At least eight people were killed on Tuesday when two huge bombs went off near Mogadishu's airport, including one close to the UN's political office in the Somali capital, a security source told AFP. An AFP journalist at the scene heard gunfire after the explosions tore through the area, one of which was believed to be a car bomb. Somalia's al-Qaida-linked Shabaab

has carried out a string of similar attacks. The city's airport is heavily fortified and adjoins the capital's main base for the African Union mission to Somalia, the 22,000-strong force backing the government in the battle against Shabaab insurgents. The jihadists were chased out of Mogadishu in 2011 but remain a serious threat in both Somalia and neighbouring Kenya, where they carry out frequent attacks.