

Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, June 16, 2016

Deliberate dementia

The incessant reports of various deliberate misdeeds for the sole purpose of profiteering without the slightest regard for the safety of others have continued to hit the news, and yet precious little, if ever, have been done to curb these unscrupulous practices- whether be it in terms of adulteration of foodstuffs, supply of vital components for development activities in the state or even for critical healthcare items, not to mention the sloppy workmanship adopted by contractors in every construction works. The free run granted to these elements is too evident to be coincidence. The unabated malpractices being continued despite desperate actions by concerned groups and civil society organizations clearly shows the strong nexus between these unscrupulous elements and those who are supposed to be preventing the very practice- that the authority vested with those who are trusted to be safeguarding the interest of the general public have turned against the people and are in cahoots with those who are profiteering. Is it any wonder then that the general public, having gone beyond the tipping point of patience, decided to take the matters in their own hands and dispense instant justice the way they see fit. What is most inexplicably surprising is the abject failure of the state government and its machineries to even make a slight dent in the activities of the adulterators till now. There has not been a single indication of the state authority looking into the reports which deepens the suspicion and frustration of the general public. Yet amidst the growing din of frustration and defiance against the state government's inaction and deliberate ignorance of what is shaping up to be a social agitation and unrest, there are still uncomfortable reports flooding in about local MLAs interfering and attempting to disrupt the proper distribution of food grains under the just commenced Food Safety Act in the state. The alleged high-handed attitudes of the people's representatives demonstrated in no unclear manner the arrogance and thin regard for the rightful beneficiaries which has been trampled on in their quest for pleasing ad retaining their cronies and personal coffers. Acts and schemes are only as good as the authority implementing them. While it is prudent for the public to exercise restraint, there are certain instances when the patience of the public has been tested to the limit, and the current social unrest is one such instance. Utilizing resources and power to discourage the civil society organizations and other concerned bodies from keeping vigil on the atrocities being committed against the public rather than to plug the crack in the law and order at the initial stage tantamount to shielding the perpetrators. The general public, despite their rising consternation and disappointment in the state government's sloppy handling of socially sensitive issues, have been keeping a relatively level head and are waiting for the state government to follow up on their assurances and tough-talk with bated breath. But time is running out, and the next social outburst might very well prove to be the accumulation of the innumerable disappointments and frustrations snowballing into a massive and unstoppable force for a radical change.

Bangladeshi publisher Tutul's 'attacker' held by police

ANI
Dhaka, June 16: The law enforcers on Thursday claimed to have arrested a militant, who directly took part in the murder attempt on Bangladeshi publisher Ahmedur Rashid Tutul last year. Identified as Shihab alias Saiful alias Sumon alias Shakib, he is said to be a member of the banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) - a group accredited with several militant killings, reports the Daily Star. Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) media wing, Masudur Rahman, said Shihab was arrested from airport road in Dhaka last night. The Bangladeshi Police had circulated photos and placed a bounty on the heads of some militants on May 19 this year, including Tk 2 lakh bounty on

Shihab's head. Unknown assailants hacked to death Faisal Arefin Dipan of Jagriti Prokashani and attacked Ahmedur Rashid Tutul on October last year. Tutul's publishing house 'Shuddhoswar', whose publications were deemed blasphemous by extremists, had reportedly published writings of local secular writers. Sudhushchar won the Shaheed Munir Chowdhury Award in 2013 and Tutul was nominated for the IPA Freedom to Publish Prize 2016. Tutul and two bloggers Ranadip Basu and Tareque Rahim came under machete attacks at the Lalmatia office of Shuddhoswar. A group "Ansar Al Islam" (al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent's Bangladesh branch) claimed responsibility of the attacks through an e-mail sent to different media outlets.

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National & International News

Remove fear of harassment among taxpayers, PM tells officials

PTI

New Delhi, June 16: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today asked the tax officials to remove fear of harassment from the minds of taxpayers and focus on five pillars of administration — revenue, accountability, probity, information and digitisation (RAPID).

Inaugurating the two-day Rajasva Gyan Sangam here, Prime Minister asked the officials to "move towards digitisation" in a bid to make tax administration better and efficient and work towards bridging the "trust deficit". Modi also suggested that officials

should endeavour to remove "fear of harassment" from the minds of assesses and emphasised that their behaviour should be "soft and sober", Minister of State for Finance Jayant Sinha said while briefing reporters about the meeting. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and

senior tax administrators of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) are participating in the two-day annual conference. Prime Minister also underlined the need for increasing the number of tax payers to 10 crore from 5.43 crore, at present.

Army kills two militants in Kashmir

Srinagar, June 16: Two militants were killed and an army soldier was injured when the troops engaged a group of infiltrators who sneaked into Jammu and Kashmir early on Thursday, officials said.

The incident took place near the Line of Control (LoC) in the northern district of Kupwara. Military sources told IANS that the army noticed suspicious movement on the LoC at Tangdhar.

"When challenged, the infiltrating group fired at the soldiers, triggering a gun battle in which two terrorists were killed and a soldier was injured," a source said. "The operation is still on but the infiltration attempt by the terrorists has been foiled," the source added.

On Wednesday, a soldier succumbed to his injuries and a terrorist was shot dead by the army in a gun battle after militants infiltrated into the Kupwara district, near Macchil sector. Five soldiers were also reportedly injured in that operation.

Assam Congress chief passes away

PTI
New Delhi, June 16: Assam Pradesh Congress Committee president Anjan Dutta passed away this morning at the AIIMS hospital here following cardiac failure.

Dutta, 64, was admitted to the hospital on May 18, and was under treatment at the department of Pulmonary Sciences.

He was initially admitted to the Apollo Hospital in New Delhi on May 12 with complaints of severe chest infection. He died due to cardiac failure at 7:11 this morning. Dutta's close relative Geetabar Darshan Baruah said.

The Congress leader leaves behind his wife and three daughters, one of whom had unsuccessfully contested the recent Assembly elections in Assam.

Congress Vice-President Rahul Gandhi had met him on May 25.

Dutta, a close confidante of former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, was a Cabinet Minister handling several departments including transport, in the state in the past.

He was appointed APCC President on December 13, 2014 and had been holding the post ever since.

IPS officer dies of bullet injury 'under mysterious circumstance' in Andhra

posting after his first stint at Allagadda in Kurnool district. He came to Paderu in January. Additional details are awaited.

Centre removes CISF cover to Amar Singh

PTI
New Delhi, June 15: The Centre has withdrawn the paramilitary security cover to Amar Singh, newly-elected Rajya Sabha member from Uttar Pradesh, while asking the state government for a fresh threat assessment.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Home Ministry after which armed commandos of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) deployed with Singh for long, were withdrawn earlier this week, official sources said.

The sources said the decision was taken based on a threat analysis report prepared by central security agencies.

The Uttar Pradesh government had been asked to make a fresh threat assessment of Singh and provide state security, if need be.

Singh was recently elected as a Rajya Sabha member from Samajwadi Party.

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Win-win solution to the 3-controversial bills

Meaning, the new amendment bill will extend and cover the Hill Areas currently outside the MLR and LR jurisdiction in order to enable the Non-Manipur persons to purchase land in the Hill Areas even while non-tribal brethren of the state are still prohibited therefrom. This is the crux of the problem. The comment of various experts and government officials either spoken or written that the bill does not extend to Hill Areas and, hence, not affecting the rights and interest of the tribals seems to be duping and misleading the people of both hill and valley. Such comments appear to be lopsided and lack universal standard-quality required in building a vibrant and pluralist society in Manipur. The tribals will fully support the amendment bill which provides adequate procedural safeguard in the purchase of land by outsiders in the MLR and LR extended valley districts but not to the Hill Areas where the Principal Act itself is not extended and where sale of land to non-tribals is prohibited leave alone the Non-Manipuri persons (not even defined in this Act), firms, etc. as envisaged in the proposed bill. I see no credible justification for such a move inasmuch as it violates their standing customary laws and the Constitution of India which sanction prohibition of absolute transfer of land belonging to Scheduled Tribes to non-tribals. Thus, the bill will certainly affect the tribals if not rectified.

The 2nd and in fact the most important issue is the ambiguous nature of the PMP Bill, 2015 which is now being withheld by the President of India. The reason for such rejection could obviously be not on the constitutionality of the bill but its defectiveness in substance and in procedure. PMP Bill was virtually an ordinary bill and not a Money Bill as such. The substance of the draft-bill wholly relates to restriction and regulation on the movement, works and residence of Non-Manipur persons (migrants and

immigrants) entering the state of Manipur. The question of Money Bill will arise only in the subsidiary bill evolving fiscal and other financial structure for implementing PMP Bill only after being enacted into law. This has deprived the democratic space and privilege in the legislative process of the House and more particularly that of the Hill Areas Committee. Comprehensive consultation would have avoided or at least minimized the gravity of the present crisis. Another general defect is the non-feasibility of the execution of the PMP law by sheer reliance of the 3-Registers of 1951 (a basis for determining Non-Manipuri persons). This is due to the non-availability of the relevant registers and other records in the obscure Hill Areas where there was extremely poor communication and administrative system in those days. The bill is also vague and uncertain as the term, "Native people of Manipur" in section 8 (A) who are to be exempted from the application of the bill remains undefined. The principal of legislation opposes any vague and uncertain legislation. Let us not forget to always remember that it is not sweet words alone that we often utter but our good attitudes and actions that will ultimately count in making a harmonious, equitable and progressive society. In that perspective, a win-win approach can be had with these options of workable solution:

1. As regards to MLR & LR (7th Amendment) Bill 2015, maintain status quo by inserting an exemption clause for the Hill Areas concurrent to the Principal Act.
2. Manipur Shops And Establishment (2nd Amendment) Bill 2015 may be thoroughly reviewed by consulting the stake holders of the tribal society and the Hill Areas Committee.
3. A new PMPlegislation be initiated to protect and safeguard the

demographic interest of the indigenous peoples ('Yelhoomi' in Meiteilon and 'Haomi' in Tangkhul dialect) of Manipur. It appears that there is no immediate threat to the demographic interest of the tribals in Hill Areas as they have the constitutional protection in this regard. However, if the Government desires to enforce PMP law in Manipur including Hill Areas all stakeholders including tribal Village Chiefs/ Headmen, ADC members and Civil Societies must be thoroughly consulted prior to such legislation. Over and above this, mandatory procedural requirements including House debate and reference to Hill Areas Committee must be fully exhausted for

consensus and better result. Any repeated legislative attempt without addressing the genuine concern of the tribals of Manipur may further alienate them to the extent of resorting to peaceful non-cooperation and non-participation of the ensuing Manipur Legislative Assembly Election 2017. May the good office of the Government of Manipur be guided by the will and wisdom of God, and may we all be given the wisdom & ability to have sound judgment over the crisis so as to peacefully resolve it in the interest of all.

(Note: This write up is purely an academic exercise for public discourse without ill will or prejudice to anyone.)

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR TOWN PLANNING DEPARTMENT

No. 2/8/2016-TP

Imphal, the 15th June, 2016

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Town Planning Department, Government of Manipur intends to select an agency having experience in cleaning, sweeping & transportation of municipal solid waste in Imphal Municipal Corporation areas "cleaning/sweeping office & premises, maintenance of office toilets & transportation of Municipal Solid Waste of Town Planning Department". The scope of work, instruction to the agencies, eligibility criteria and prescribed format etc. may be downloaded from the website <http://manipur.gov.in>.

The proposal complete in every respect may be delivered to the undersigned by Post/Courier/Registered Post or through special messenger on or before 14:00 hrs of 25.06.2016 (Saturday) in a sealed envelop superscribed with "REP - cleaning/sweeping office & premises, maintenance of office toilets & transportation of Municipal Solid Waste of Town Planning Department". Submission of proposal through other mode will not be accepted. Documents received after the above mentioned date will not be entertained. Town Planning Department will not be responsible for any delay/postal delay or bids lost/damaged in transit in receiving the proposal.

In case of queries and clarification on the above, please contact:

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Sd/-
(N. Gitkumar Singh)
Chief Town Planner

IT/Bill/16-6-2016