

Editorial

Undertsanding the core issues

Like the proverbial aim of the hunter, the focus of our society at present has been drawn to the issues regarding peace talk and its subsequent fallout, so much so that we seemed to have obliterated other equally pressing matters, if not greater. The vagaries of nature that played havoc to crops in the state is bound to adversely affect the supply of foodgrains, and with the approaching winter, things are bound to get more difficult. The disturbances and disruptions in transportation, over and above the human-induced ones have made matters worse.

Even with the two national highways becoming functional for a few weeks now, we still cannot say with certainty that things are back to normal, essential commodities beings almost as difficult

to procure or just as expensive even now. There is also the very real danger of out breaks of water-borne diseases in places where flood water had recently receded. Road connectivity in lot of places other than the two main lifelines of the state still needs to be restored fully, and even the ones which are still functioning are just so.

Fighting for a cause one believes is all very well, and demanding understanding and attention from those who are at the helm of affairs of the state is a prerogative for a citizen. But fighting for one's rights without discharging our responsibilities is nothing short of demanding a signed blank cheque. We have become so ingrained with the idea and experience of existing on subsidies, handouts and quotas. No one can present us a better life on a platter, and even in the unlikely event of such a thing coming true, we will not be able to fully utilize the present. We need to earn our keeps, and for that to happen, we need to radically alter our present mindset from which a lot of the present tussles are generated. Our state still has a lot to offer for those who seek to better themselves. Life very rarely turns out to be the way we envisaged, but that is not an excuse to rebel or revolt. Only a mindset that can accept, understand and persevere can, and will overcome every difficulty life can throw at it.

Manipur, as a state has potentials waiting to be tapped. If we can grow out of the narrow visions of caste, customs, culture or class, we can still turn this unique place into the paradise we have so often been told of. But time is running out- and fast. For all the prep talk by the government and the leaders, what is actually needed is the implementation of the lofty ideas and generous promises. The need of the hour is a leader who leads the way rather than one who shows the way. And we should be able to follow when such a leader emerges. That is our responsibility.

That is our right.

RC book lost

I, the undersigned have lost my registration certificate for my 2 wheeler Maestro vehicle bearing Registration No. MN 01 - L 0393 on 8/10/2017 on the way between Elangbam Leikai to Paona Bazar.

Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Kh. Dineshwori Devi

Keishamthong Elangbam leikai, Imphal

WHENEVER YOU SEE CONSTRUCTION AND MINING EQUIPMENTS, JUST THINK OF US



Faster and Fuel Efficient Construction Solutions Are Here.

Automobile Engineering Works
New Checkon Road Purana Rajbari, Imphal East
Authorised Dealer : Case New Holland Construction Equip. (P) Pvt. Ltd
&
Kiroloskar Engines Oil Limited (Kiroloskar Sitem Generator)
Contact No. 9385-2452151 / 9862599601

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail : imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (0)

Changing role of Public Sector

By : K R Sudhaman

At the time of independence in 1947, India had just five central public sector enterprises with an investment of mere Rs 29 crore. Besides, perhaps India had fairly reasonable network of railways and extensive Posts and Telegraph covering the entire country to serve the British masters. Today India has 320 central public enterprises with investment of around Rs 12 lakh crore. As many as 165 CPSEs earned a net profit of about Rs 1.5 lakh crore and 78 CPSEs, a net loss of Rs 29,000 crore. There is, perhaps, double the number of state public enterprises. The statistics is sketchy with regard to total number of state public enterprises and their investments. But indication is that there are at least 1000 state public enterprises with investment of Rs 4-5 lakh crore. That apart there are central and state corporations, particularly, by way of railways, state road corporations, posts and so on. Investments in them run in to several lakh crores of rupees.

So it is clear that Public Sector Enterprises formed the backbone of industrial development of the country in Independent India. Of course, its role has been changing with the changing time. Initially its role was to help create the much needed industrial base and infrastructure apart from bringing about price stabilization and socio-economic development. They were also engine of growth in true sense of the term. PSEs contributed greatly to job creation by adopting labour-intensive techniques in the early part of independence, nationalization of sick textile units and setting up ancillary industries around major units subsequently.

With the economic liberalization in 1991, its role changed to take on competition including global. This included reduction in jobs as a result of modernization and to improve efficiency. SAIL for example, which employed over two lakh workers to produce less than 10 million tonnes of steel in the past, employs just 80,000 workers today and produces much more. But even today it has surplus employees. It has seven times more employees than Tata steel for per tonne of steel production. This is one of the major reasons for some of the public enterprises still being inefficient. Some other companies like Life Insurance of India, which enjoyed monopoly status after nationalization in the 1950s, took on competition well after Insurance sector was opened up to private players in the late 1990s.

Public sector Enterprises are now slowly trying to exit areas where it is not competitive and drain on resources and public exchequer. Air India is a very good example. Civil aviation was nationalized in the 1950s. Only government was allowed operate airlines particularly for security reasons and to serve social goals like operating in routes which are not profitable but important from social point of view. With opening up of the aviation sector to private players, Air India is just not able take on competition partly because of over-staffing, inefficiency and mounting debt burden due to which government is forced to bail out from public exchequer.

But none can deny the fact the Public sector played a key role all along in nation building. In the early years of independence,

Public sector got into areas of basic and heavy industries where private sector would not venture into as they did not have the financial muscle or wherewithal. In fact 1948 industrial policy encouraged private sector more. But when private sector was not forthcoming in adequate number and in areas where investments are needed, the government modified the industrial policy in 1956 to give more prominence to public sector in the industrial development of the country. This ensured that there was balanced growth. Public sector also helped in removing regional imbalances, development of infrastructure, townships and remote areas. Subsequently Government was forced to nationalized some sick unites particularly in textiles industry to protect the interest of worker. It even had to start manufacturing bread to bring about price stabilization in an era of shortages. Food Corporation of India was set up to improve storage facilities and create buffer stock due to which India is surplus in food production. But the organization has now outlived its utility and it is time it was dismantled as was done in Mexico and perhaps continue only in eastern India where procurement is still a problem as green revolution has not spread far and wide there. In fact it is time for government to exit in several areas, particularly in services sector excepting in railways and telecom where privatization has not worked in many countries. Also there is some strategic interest involved in these two sectors.

In case of Hotel industry, Public sector came into being when

private sector was not forthcoming in an era of controls. Today it should exit totally has private sector does better in this sector. So also Air India as private airlines have shown the way how airlines can be run efficiently. Rightly government has taken a call to go for strategic sale of Air India. Modi government has adopted right philosophy with public sector enterprises. Divest government stake in many areas including banking to the extent of 49 per cent and retain control to fulfil social, economic and strategic considerations. Secondly, it had decided to carry out strategic sale like Air India to improve efficiency and save taxpayers money in bailing them out year-after-year. Thirdly it has decided to exit from areas where private sector can do a better job. In case of sick undertakings, it will try to go outright sale if attempts to revive failed. The government has also chalked out plans to utilize the huge land available with public sector companies for setting up more units, utilizing huge cash of over Rs 6 lakh crore piled up with profit-making public sector enterprises. In the oil sector in particular, public enterprises are doing extremely well earning profits even in an era of falling global oil prices.

In sum, it is clear there no one-size-fit-all solution to the woes of public sector enterprises and rightly Modi government has adopted multi-pronged strategy to deal with the issue.

K. R. Sudhaman, who has over 40 years experience in journalism, has been Editor in Press Trust of India, Economics Editor in TickerNews and Financial Chronicle. (Courtesy PIB Feature)

National & International News

North Korea reveals missile plans as Kim Jong-Un orders production boost

AFP Seoul, Aug. 23: North Korea revealed plans for the development of its missile programme on Wednesday, as leader Kim Jong-Un ordered stepped-up production of rocket engines and intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) nosecones. Under Kim, Pyongyang has made rapid strides in its ballistic missile technology, which it is banned from pursuing under United Nations resolutions that have slapped it with seven sets of sanctions.

Last month it carried out two successful ICBM launches, overseen by Kim and apparently bringing most of its sworn enemy the United States into range for the first time.

A series of threats followed from both sides, and while the rhetoric has since eased, the US and South Korea this week kicked off their annual Ulchi Freedom Guardian military drills, which the North always condemns as dress rehearsals for invasion.

The North says it needs nuclear weapons to protect itself against the US, and analysts said pictures released Wednesday of Kim's visit to the Chemical Material Institute of the Academy of Defence Science

revealed major technological advances and ambitions.

Kim, in a black suit, was shown next to a large brown tube that Joshua Pollack of the US Middlebury Institute of International Studies said on Twitter was a "wound fibre cylinder, evidently a large-diameter solid-rocket motor casing in the making".

It appeared to be made of Kevlar or fibreglass, added independent missile and nuclear analysts George Herber.

Other pictures carried by the Rodong Simnun, the official mouthpiece of the North's ruling party, included missile schematics and what appeared to be production processes.

"We have diagrams and names on two apparent new solid fuel multistage North Korean nuclear capable missiles," one of them an ICBM and the other a medium- or intermediate-range device, said Herber.

Wound-filament casings are significantly harder to manufacture than metal ones but much lighter, giving a missile longer range and the ability to carry a heavier payload for a given distance.

Many of the elements on show were

objectives rather than currently existing technology, analysts said, but even so Jeffrey Lewis, of the armscontrolwonk.com website, noted: "It's all bad."

"If I understand North Korean propaganda, this is their way of telling us what we'll see in the air in the coming year."

The Academy of Defence Sciences develops the North's missiles, and the official Korean Central News Agency reported that Kim said it was "the pride of our Party to have such unassuming heroes".

"He instructed the institute to produce more solid-fuel rocket engines and rocket warhead tips," it added.

Questions remain whether the North has mastered the technology needed to ensure a ballistic missile warhead survives the intense heat generated by re-entering the Earth's atmosphere.

But it says it has done so, and the KCNA report said the nosecones and engine jets were made of "carbon/carbon compound material".

The manufacturing process included carbon fibre weaving, chemical deposition and high pressure liquid deposition, it added.

Nepal PM Deuba leaves for India

PTI Kathmandu, Aug 23: Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba today left for India on a five-day state visit at the invitation of his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi.

Leading a 59-member delegation, Deuba, on his first official trip abroad, departed for New Delhi at around 10 AM (local time).

The prime minister's delegation comprises four ministers, 12 lawmakers from various political parties and nine secretaries. A separate business delegation is also accompanying him.

Deuba's wife Dr Arzu Rana Deuba, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Finance Minister Gyanendra Bahadur Karki, Tourism Minister Jitendra Dev and Commerce Minister Meen Bishwakarma are also in the delegation.

It also includes National Planning Commission vice-chairman Swamin Wagle and National Reconstruction Authority CEO Govinda Raj Pokharel, secretaries of various ministries and 21 lawmakers.

Deuba is scheduled to address Indian business community in New Delhi today. Tomorrow, he will attend the ceremonial reception and inspect the Guard of Honor at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. He will also hold an official meeting with Modi. Deuba is scheduled to visit Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh and Bodh Gaya in Bihar before returning to Nepal on Sunday.

Main opposition leader KP Sharma Oli yesterday urged Deuba to discuss the issues of Nepal's national interest during his India visit, including the problem of floods in border areas, energy development and the 1950 bilateral treaty.

Deuba took over from Prachanda as the prime minister of Nepal in a power-sharing deal in June.

Several trains cancelled, diverted following train derailment

PTI Allahabad, Aug 23: Several trains have been cancelled or diverted in the aftermath of the derailment of the Delhi-bound Kaifiyat Express in UP's Auraiya district early today, according to the North Central Railway (NCR).

NCR spokesman Amit Malaviya said, "A medical relief train was rushed to the site of the mishap from Tundla, while a MEMU rake was sent from Shikohabad to

evacuate the passengers onboard the Kaifiyat express". All passengers were evacuated and the stranded passengers left the site by 8.50 am.

"A number of trains have been cancelled following derailment of Kaifiyat Express. These include the Kanpur-New Delhi Shatabdi Express, the Lucknow-Agra Cantt

express, the Lucknow-New Delhi Gomti Express and all passenger trains running on the

Kanpur-Tundla section", NCR Chief PRO G K Bansal said.

"New Delhi-bound Rajdhani trains originating from Howrah, Rajendra Nagar (Patna) and Bhubaneswar, besides the Garibrath from Ranchi, have been run via Lucknow-Moradabad", he added.

In addition, more than 40 trains scheduled to run through the Kanpur-Tundla route have been diverted, he said.