

Editorial

Imphal Wednesday, January 11, 2016

The unfulfilled promises: Who should be blamed?

Desperate times calls for desperate measures. It would only be fooling ourselves to think otherwise. Despite the rosy pictures and the recent indication of the Government finally waking up to the realities, we still have a long way to trudge along and uncountable promises to be kept before we can truly call ours a stable and well-governed society- a common knowledge yet to be acknowledged by those who matters. What is still beyond comprehension and logical reasoning are some of the most baffling questions on the minds of all the thinking public- baffling as to why the problems- if one could ever term them as such- are allowed to exist in the first place. Instances like increasing transparency in governance: the bitter truth can be sampled if one has the patience of a saint- to try and access information of various departments through the numerous obsolete official websites launched with much fanfare and reams being written about, updated every decade with unerring accuracy. MGEL (Manipur Government Employee's List): is it still valid? What is the current position of the project? Teachers not in the list still get their pay. Relevance of such protracted exercise? If authentication and verification of employees of the Government is the target, why couldn't it constitute a separate and dedicated body to do the work? Has the department heads and employees been apprised of the procedures and workings of PIS and EIN? Is the NIC handling the technical support as efficiently and regularly as they should?

Drugs: why haven't any breakthrough been achieved till date regarding the source, the supply route and the people behind such mammoth hauls- a cartel that obviously enjoys the support and collusion of those in the highest echelon of power and influence? Pulling up and shoving a few pawns up our faces to earn few brownie points does not impress anyone. Everybody knows of the existence of a virus that is spreading the vicious disease- apparently behind a wall of immunity and protection. Sewage project: what exactly was the purpose of the whole project? When is the completion period, after factoring in the delays in funding and others? Who will be the beneficiaries? How are the sewage from private residences be connected to the main pipe- is there any provision for it at all? How about the drainage system along the roadsides that sits way above the roads seeping water down in the middle of the road and flooding stretches of otherwise perfectly good roads?

PDS (Public Distribution System) Translation- a system conjured up to efficiently distribute Government largesse and benefits amongst the people elected by the public.

Terrorism and Militancy: the most prospective and fastest growing commercial venture in the region, with the armed personnel of the State Government proving to be great catalysts (read- more armed personnel being caught posing as militants and extorting money and terrorizing the public)

Just a few of the realities facing the society today. Bottomline- it's high time to take the velvet gloves off and deal with the issues as they should be. Things can change, and for that to happen, people entrusted with making the changes must start acting their part without further delay- or else they need to be changed.

Delhi temperature drops to 4 degrees Celsius on coldest day this winter

New Delhi, Jan. 11: After a relatively mild winter so far, temperature dropped to 4 degrees Celsius in Delhi, and to five degrees in Gurgaon, in the early hours of Wednesday, making it the coldest day of the season. Temperatures are not expected to rise over 16 degrees Celsius during the course of the day according to the Regional Weather Forecasting Centre (RWFC). The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is expecting the temperature to drop further to 3 degrees Celsius by Friday in Delhi. They also do not expect the

temperature to rise above 18 degrees Celsius in the coming days.

In Gurgaon, similarly, the minimum temperature is likely to fall by 1 to 2 degree Celsius during the next 24 hours, said the Indian Meteorological Department. Meanwhile, the maximum temperatures will hover around 17 degree Celsius. Even with temperatures dropping to the lowest levels of the season, Delhi experienced a relatively fog free day on Wednesday. Visibility never dropped below 500m and even peaked to 1200 m by 8:30 am in parts of the city.

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Hearing loss is one of the most common congenital anomalies, occurring in approximately 2-4 infants per 1000. Detection of hearing loss in newborns are very important to help their speech language, learning and social development. This is necessary for the children as well as their families and society. So, reliable screening tests that minimize referral rates and maximize sensitivity and specificity are essential.

Newborn Screening for communication Disorder is a program of screening hearing/ testing hearing sensitivity carried out in all the newborns soon after their birth for identification of at risk babies for communication disorder. The screening program are conducted by the Department of Prevention of Communication Disorder (POCD) at the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) Mysuru. AIISH Mysuru under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had launched this project in six centre of India i.e Cuttack, Ajmer, Imphal, Ranchi,

Jabalpur and Puducherry. Newborn screening program started in RIMS, Imphal in collaboration with AIISH from the year 2012.

The program is focussed on newborn baby other than children and adults to make early detection/ identification and intervention of speech and hearing disorder leading to accomplish good communication skills and better quality of life. Early identification and intervention make the utilization of critical period for development of speech and language skills.

The hearing of newborn can affects by various causes
Prenatal causes (before birth): late pregnancy, ototoxic medication, alcohol, medication, alcohol, cigarette, viral/bacterial infection, Rh incompatibility, TORCH.
Natal causes (at the time of birth): low birth weight, delayed birth cry, absent birth cry, lack of oxygen supply, hypoxia, Asphyxia, premature, post mature delivery, neonatal jaundice, Hyperbilirubinemia, aspiration of amniotic fluid.

Post Natal causes (after birth): craniofacial structural abnormalities (CLP), congenital condition, convulsions, fits, trauma of head and neck. Young children can lose their hearing after they get some illnesses, including meningitis, encephalitis, TORCH, measles, chickenpox and flu. Head injuries and exposure to very loud noise and some medications can also cause hearing loss.

Aims and objective of Newborn Screening program (NBS)

1. Prevention of hearing loss in newborns
 2. Early identification
 3. Rehabilitation/Intervention
- Programs of NBS**
- Awareness program
 - Orientation program
 - Hearing screening and school screening camps
 - Outreach and Extension services

Types of hearing loss

1. Conductive hearing loss
 2. Mixed hearing loss
 3. Sensorineural hearing loss
- Conductive hearing loss occurs when sound is not conducted efficiently through the outer ear canal to the eardrum and the tiny bones (ossicles) of the middle ear. It occurs in newborns or children with abnormality or deformity in

the structure of outer ear canal. Otitis media is also one of the most frequently diagnosed diseases in infants and young children. The condition can be temporary or permanent and can occur in one or both ears. More commonly, it begins during childhood as the result of middle ear infections. This type of hearing loss present in children with Downs syndrome also.

Sensorineural hearing loss involves problems with the transmission of sound information from hair cells deep within the ear to the nerve that sends sound information to the brain. It is a permanent condition that usually affects both ears. This can be present at birth or it can occur if there is a family history of deafness or the cause is likely to be inherited (genetic). If the mother had rubella (German measles), cytomegalovirus (CMV), or another infectious illness that affects hearing during pregnancy, the fetus could have been infected and may lose hearing as a result.

Mixed hearing loss is both presence of both conductive and sensorineural. (To be contd.....)

National & International News

HC notice to advocate Khaitan on CBI's plea to cancel bail

New Delhi, Jan 11 (PTI) The Delhi High Court today issued notice to advocate Gautam Khaitan on CBI's plea seeking cancellation of bail granted to him by a lower court in AgustaWestland chopper scam case.

Justice IS Mehta fixed the petition filed by CBI for hearing on January 18, when it is scheduled to hear pleas against former IAF chief S P Tyagi and his cousin Sanjeev Tyagi, who were also granted bail by the trial court. The agency has challenged the bail granted to all the three

accused on the ground that they are influential persons and may hamper the ongoing probe into the scam.

The court has listed all the matters for hearing on January 18 after CBI said the grounds for cancellation of bail are the same in all of them. S P Tyagi was granted bail by the trial court on December 26 last year. Thereafter on January 4, the lower court here had also granted bail to Sanjeev Tyagi and lawyer Khaitan in the scam, saying that no purpose would be served by keeping them in custody.

The CBI has alleged that the accused persons could "hamper" its probe and "alert" other accused if he remained out of custody.

71-year old S P Tyagi, who was arrested by CBI on December 9, 2016 along with Sanjeev Tyagi and Khaitan in the case relating to alleged irregularities in procurement of 12 VIP choppers from UK-based AgustaWestland during the UPA-2 regime, was granted bail by a trial court on December 26 last year. During the earlier hearing, the agency had claimed in the high

court that if S P Tyagi remained out on bail, he could "alert other potential accused".

The agency had also said that its probe was "multi-layered" as it was spread across several countries since various companies were allegedly used to "camouflage the bribe money".

A trial court had granted bail to S P Tyagi, who had retired as IAF chief in 2007, saying CBI has failed to state the alleged bribe amount and when it was paid. All the accused have denied the allegations levelled against them by CBI.

North Korea has plutonium for 10 nuclear bombs: South Korea

Seoul, Jan 11: North Korea now has enough plutonium to make 10 nuclear bombs, South Korea said Wednesday, a week after leader Kim Jong-Un said it was close to test-launching an intercontinental ballistic missile.

The isolated communist state, which has carried out five nuclear tests and numerous missile launches, is thought to be planning

a nuclear push in 2017 as it seeks to develop a weapons system capable of hitting the US mainland.

Analysts are divided over how close Pyongyang is to realising its full nuclear ambitions, but all agree it has made enormous strides since Kim took over as leader from his father Kim Jong-Il who died in December 2011.

Seoul's defence ministry said the North is believed to have some 50 kilogrammes (110 pounds) of weapons-grade plutonium as of the end of 2016 — enough to make about 10 weapons — up from 40 kilogrammes eight years earlier.

The North also has a "considerable" ability to produce

weapons based on highly-enriched uranium, it said in a two-yearly white paper, but did not estimate weapons-grade uranium stocks, citing impenetrable secrecy in the state's uranium programme.

US think tank the Institute for Science and International Security estimated in June that the North's total nuclear arsenal was more than 21 bombs, up from 10-16 weapons in 2014, based on estimates of plutonium and uranium.

The North has boosted plutonium supplies by reactivating its once-mothballed nuclear reactor in Yongbyon, the defence ministry said.

North Korea deactivated the

Yongbyon reactor in 2007 under an aid-for-disarmament accord, but began renovating it after Pyongyang's third nuclear test in 2013.

The type of plutonium suitable for a nuclear bomb typically needs to be extracted from spent nuclear reactor fuel.

Kim Jong-Un said in a New Year's speech that Pyongyang was in the "final stages" of developing an intercontinental ballistic missile of the kind that could threaten US territory.

The address drew a swift response from US president-elect Donald Trump, who took to Twitter vowing to halt Pyongyang in its tracks.

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