

Editorial

Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018

Beware of middlemen

"Where a society has chosen to accept democracy as its creedal faith, it is elementary that the citizens ought to know what their government is doing." - Justice P N Bhagwati

Easier is said than done - the saying still stands true. Like the nail float in water with the plank, a rowdy sometimes saves his or her life from being spoiled. Saying so, it is always the wisdom of the captain of the ship that the crew managed to sail their ship to the destiny amidst storms and whirlpools. But then had the crew member lacks discipline Columbus could never have landed in America's soil to discover the country which becomes the most powerful country in the world today.

The state is more like a ship in the vast stormy ocean. In democratic state like Manipur, Chief Minister is similar to the captain of the ship. It is his wisdom that will sail towards a better direction. It is his command and qualities that will make his crew member follow rules and regulations frame by him. It is only at the time that all the crew members go by their respective assignment that the ship will reached destination. Similar, is with the running of the state. The state goes upwards or falls depends on the wisdom of the Chief Minister and his team.

But then, it is the Indian electoral system that stands as a hurdle to decide on which way to chose for a better society, as it needs a second thought to say no to his electorate. Particularly, the system practice in India showed that without some clique of strong supporters, it will become difficult for one to become Chief Minister as first thing which is important is to get elected as an MLA.

Good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development. But sometimes the effort to bring good governance remains as a dream with the kind of hurdles from his supporters whom the man in the top post cannot deny as without them it will be difficult to get elected again.

Numbers of middle men including relatives are now the talk every people of the state. What more prove is required than checking the bank balance and the properties of these people in this 8 months? We have seen in the earlier days on how a pharmacist in the state health department became a millionaire just because he was a close relative of the then Chief Minister. Can anyone deny the fact that the pharmacist who became millionaire is a clean person because there is no evidence on how dirty is him?

Good leader falls, not because of his personality but because of those around him.

Coming back to what is going on in the state; everybody knows the amount being asked by these middlemen for the recruitment of Police constable.

On the other hand, some of the promises still is yet to be fulfilled as stated by the Chief Minister himself. The more the promises delay the more people will criticize.

Well, instead of defending, it is better checking the middlemen so that what has been assured remains true.

Let's make our state free from corruption.

More National News

Schools, Colleges Shut, Transport Hit Amid Andhra Pradesh Shutdown

PTI Amaravati, Feb. 8: The opposition in Andhra Pradesh called for a state-wide *bandh* today. State-run bus services are suspended and educational institutions remain shut.

Opposition parties are enforcing the day-long *bandh* to protest the "failure" of the centre to implement the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

Parallel to this, the ruling Telugu Desam Party or TDP has been organising rallies across the state in solidarity with its lawmakers "fighting in Parliament to secure the state's rights".

"People and intellectuals irrespective of political affiliations should stand in solidarity with our parliamentarians, who have been fighting in Parliament for the state's rights," state TDP president and Energy Minister Kimidi Kala Venkata Rao said.

The Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation suspended its bus services across the state in view of the simultaneous agitations. Educational institutions declared a "holiday", while business establishments remained shut. A senior police official said no untoward incident has been reported so far and the *bandh* was continuing peacefully.

The Left parties called the *bandh* demanding that the centre honour

its promises and implement provisions of the Reorganisation Act, which led to the creation of Telangana.

The main opposition YSR Congress, the Congress and the Jana Sena extended support to the *bandh*. YSR Congress president and leader of opposition YS Jaganmohan Reddy declared a one-day break from his ongoing foot march today in solidarity with the *bandh*. He is currently in SPS Nellore district.

Left workers staged *dharnas* in front of several Road Transport Corporation depots and also took out rallies in important towns. In Kurnool, Guntur and Tirupati, YSR Congress activists joined protest rallies.

Opposition parties have been protesting the "injustice" done to the state in the Union Budget 2018-19 and the centre's failure to implement the Act in its letter and spirit.

The Act deals with a host of issues like division of assets and liabilities of institutions between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and release of funds for the Polavaram project and other schemes in Andhra Pradesh.

Attendance was reportedly low in government offices and public sector undertakings like Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Visakhapatnam Port Trust, National Thermal Power Corp and Hindustan Shipyard among others.

National & International News

Tezpur University among top 100 in Times Higher Education rankings this year

TNN

Guwahati, Feb. 8: In its silver jubilee year, Tezpur University (TU) achieved the distinction of making it to the list of top 100 universities in Asia, by securing the 100th rank in the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2018 declared on Tuesday night.

"The announcement made by the Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2018 has brought enormous joy not only to

the TU community but to the entire state of Assam as the premier central university achieved the feat by improving its position, after being placed in the 131-140 bracket last year," said a TU statement issued on Wednesday.

Significantly, under the 'research' category, TU was ranked 4th in the country, just behind prestigious institutions like IISc Bangalore, IIT Bombay and IIT Kharagpur. TU has been ranked 7th in India

among all Higher Educational Institutions of the country. IISc Bangalore has become the top ranked institution in the country by securing 29th position in the rankings, while the other five higher education institutions of India which have been ranked ahead of TU are IIT Bombay, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Roorkee, IIT Kanpur and IIT Delhi.

While calculating the rankings, THE uses the same 13 performance indicators as the The World

University Rankings, with the universities being judged for teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook. This year's rankings have covered over 350 universities from across 25 countries and regions with the National University of Singapore being ranked Asia's top university for the third year in a row. Japan, once again, became the most-represented nation with 89 universities from the country making it to the list.

Rescuers brave aftershocks as bodies pulled from teetering

AFP

Hualien, Feb. 8: Taiwanese rescuers today braved aftershocks coursing through a dangerously leaning apartment block that was partially toppled by a deadly earthquake as their search for survivors uncovered two more bodies. At least nine people were killed and dozens remained missing after a 6.4-magnitude quake hit the popular eastern tourist city of Hualien late Tuesday, according to a revised toll from the national fire agency. The powerful tremor left a handful of buildings badly damaged — some of them leaning at precarious angles — as well as roads torn up and hundreds forced to

shelter in local schools and a stadium. The major focus for emergency responders remained the Yun Tui apartment block where six of the deaths occurred and dozens are still missing. The lower floors of the 12-storey tower — which also housed a hotel — pancaked, leaving the structure leaning at a fifty-degree angle and sparking fears of an imminent collapse. Despite those risks rescuers kept going into the building in a desperate search for survivors, recovering two bodies — a Chinese mainland tourist and a hotel worker — on Thursday. Strong aftershocks continued to

strike sending rescue teams scurrying from the building, only for them to return a little while later and resume their grim task. An emergency responder surnamed Lin said it took 14 hours to free the body of the hotel worker, who was partially trapped between the hotel's ceiling and floor. "We saw his hair and were digging for some time," he told AFP. All the while they could hear the victim's mobile phone ringing, he added. The man was later brought out in a white body bag. A Red Cross worker at the scene estimated that the building had tilted another five percent overnight, adding he had little hope of finding survivors on its lowest floors. "Floors one to three are all compressed so it's hard to tell whether there are people," he told AFP, requesting anonymity. He said that there was no risk of a gas explosion in the building but the aftershocks and further slippage remained a persistent danger. In a revised toll, the national fire agency said nine people had now been

confirmed killed in the quake including three Chinese mainland nationals. A previous toll of ten dead had counted a victim twice. The three mainland victims were all believed to be staying at the Beauty Stay Hotel, which was located on the second floor of the apartment block. At least 58 people remain unaccounted for across the city, the national fire agency said. In the apartment block, 33 people are missing from flats alongside 10 hotel guests. More than 250 people were injured in the tremor, the strongest to hit Hualien in decades. Hualien is one of Taiwan's most popular tourist hubs as it lies on the picturesque east coast rail line and near the popular Taroko Gorge. But the mountains that rise up behind the city — and bestow Taiwan's east coast with such majestic beauty — are a testament to the deadly tectonic faultlines that run through the island. The government said 17 foreigners sought medical treatment for minor injuries.

J&K Police accept security lapses led to terrorist's escape

IANIS

Srinagar, Feb. 8: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday said the audacious attack and subsequent escape of a Pakistani terrorist from a Srinagar hospital two days back was a well planned and executed conspiracy that threw open chinks in the security setup. Director General of Police (DGP) S.P. Vaid said the militant attack and subsequent escape of Naveed Jafar alias Abu Hunzullah on February 6 from the SMHS hospital was not possible without connivance at the Srinagar Central Jail.

"An SIT headed by a Superintendent of Police is looking into this incident. I believe a magisterial probe is also being ordered to ascertain all that led to the attack and the subsequent escape," Vaid said. Asked why such a high value catch had been lodged in the Srinagar prison, and not outside the Kashmir Valley, as most other such detainees were, Vaid said Hunzullah had been shifted to Srinagar following a court order.

Gaping holes in the security setup came to light following Tuesday's escape of Hunzullah from the Out Patients Department (OPD) of Karan Nagar's Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS)

Hospital, in which two policemen were also killed. Several questions have been raised following the escape in broad daylight: Why were only two policemen escorting the terrorist when he was taken to the hospital along with other detainees for a medical check up?

Was the standard operating procedure (SOP) prescribed for such visits strictly followed? Unless the exact movement, time and route was known to the militants planning the attack, could such a successful escape be executed?

More important than anything else, unless exact details were leaked to the militants from the Srinagar Central Jail, the attack would not have taken place. As authorities battle answers to these embarrassing questions, intelligence reports here suggest that the escape was planned by the Lashkar-e-Taiba in tandem with the Hizbul outfit.

An all-out effort has been launched by the security forces to hunt down the escaped terrorist, who has already joined back the militant ranks if a video clip released by Riyaz Naikoo, a top ranking militant commander active in south Kashmir is to be believed.

Shatabdi, Rajdhani, Duroto trains to have 4 CCTV cameras in every coach

PTI

New Delhi, Feb. 8: All coaches of the Shatabdi, Rajdhani and Duroto trains will soon have four CCTV cameras each to ensure passenger safety, a railways official said.

Twenty-three pairs of Rajdhani, 26 pairs of Shatabdi and 18 pairs of Duroto trains would have the facility, he said yesterday.

"All Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duroto train coaches are to be fitted with CCTVs — one each on the (two) entry gates and two in the gallery (corridor)," Vishwesh Chaube, General Manager, Northern Railway, said at a media briefing.

Around Rs 3,000 crore were allocated in the 2018-19 Union Budget to install CCTV cameras in more than 11,000 trains eventually, officials said.

They added that the ministry was also looking at different options

to fund the project, including market sources.

The project would eventually extend to cover all the premier and suburban services and the 8,500 stations in the railway network.

Chaube, however, said the money for the project would come from the Nirbhaya fund.

He added that the Northern Railway had achieved a total originating earnings of Rs 15,841 crore in 2017-18 (till January), compared to the Rs 15,663 crore registered in the previous year.

This year's budget announcement has scaled up investments by almost three times to Rs 1,48,528 crore in 2018-19 as against the Rs 53,989 crore in 2013-14. The highest priority has been given to passenger safety with the total expenditure planned under this head amounting to Rs 73,065 crore.

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