

Editorial

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The Great Security Circus

With the coming of 71st Republic Day of India, there has been whole lot of security measures being taken in the state particularly in Greater Imphal area and the justification for these measures are to curb anti social activities.

One can see many security personnel frisking and checking commuters in important locations and at times performing Combing Operation in different localities in early morning. This is good in one way taking in view of the law and order of the state and other past incidents.

In spite of all these whole security measures, bombs have blasted in different places in this month alone. This can be termed as a complete failure on the part of authorities whether it may be Intelligence or Manipur Police department. What is surprising is that, such types of incidents have occurred before in the rundown to Independence Day and Republic Day. Here, mention may be made of the security measures taken Post 9/11 attack in the United States, more than 263 organizations were either created or reorganized after the attack and many security measures were taken up to prevent any unwanted activities. Doesn't mean we need to act like what is being done in the US, but at least security thing could be taken a lot more seriously and prevent such untoward things from happening. If they cannot prevent such unwanted activities and protect common people lives and properties, then there is no point in conducting activities like frisking and Combing Operation in the name of security. The whole setup can be termed as a charade or a way to harass the common people in the name of security, if such unwanted activities keep on happening. Commuters, mostly those in two wheelers are stopped by the police and frisked as if they are some petty criminals. How far is this frisking and Combing Operations fruitful?

The need of the hour is to beef up Intelligence activities and a complete recheck of the whole setup and not to stick on just some aged old activities for namesake. After all, it is the sworn duty of the Police department to protect the public and not to trouble them.

Aseismic Building Design in reference to Seismic Microzonation

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'Earthquake never kills; but the buildings do kill'. Hope all can perceive the irony of the quote and is much in relevance with the present day. The process of globalization is at the peak throughout the world, and the best known impact is the present day urbanization which particularly for our state is seen agglomerated in and around the Imphal city. Nevertheless, other parts of the state are on the boom of constructional phase. With the implementation of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and onset to launch Online Building Plan Approval System (OBPAS), logical and scientific approach to the urban development needs to be sought or else will regret in the future. Much insight needs to be considered for the interdisciplinary fields like social engineering and design sciences while focusing on urban planning. The primary concern is the public welfare, which includes considerations of efficiency, sanitation, protection and use of the environment, as well as effects on social and economic activities. Although it predominantly concerns with the planning of settlements and communities, urban planning is also responsible for the planning and development of water use and resources, rural and agricultural land, parks and

conserving areas of natural environmental significance. Practitioners of urban planning are concerned with research and analysis, strategic thinking, architecture, urban design, public consultation, policy recommendations, implementation and management.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) [IS 1893 (Part 1): 2002], has grouped the country into four seismic zones, viz. Zone II, III, IV and V and the entire state of Manipur falls under the zone V which defines the maximum seismic hazardous scale. In this perplex seismicity and earthquake hazard have a vital role to play owing to the location of Imphal city. Seismic knowledge can be explained in terms of three basics; Source, Path & Site Response. Source here implies the origin of the earthquake wave or the epicentre. It depends on the depth of the earthquake. Path indicates the route which will propagate the seismic waves; so to say the material of propagation of the wave. Practically it's the medium of seismic wave transmission. Lastly Site Response collectively represents the spot where the intensity of the earthquake responds to the earthquake wave. For our state, findings suggest higher risk as the Path- the medium of the transmission of the seismic waves prone to disaster as the underlying rocks are soft sedimentary rocks. The entire

Imphal valley has a thick alluvial cover which is highly susceptible to seismic waves and tends to magnify the earthquake intensity. Thus the Site Response factor also predict to a more disastrous outcome. It's the Source factor which may be the protective reason withstanding from a gloomy earthquake disaster in our area where the depths of most of the earthquakes are either medium to deep seated earthquakes. So whenever shallow earthquakes do happen, the extent of damage can be manifold as the other factors are catalysed to hazard.

Questionable thoughts nowadays: Are the buildings and constructional projects obey building bylaws? Are the projects have written approval from the concerned authorities? How much of the public have awareness of the building bylaws? Are the concerned departments do faithful researches about the seismic hazard zonation?

The author believes all the answers are negative. Then most part of the state, or to specify the urban Manipur itself is exposed to the most dynamic disaster EARTHQUAKE. Manipur itself by nature is prone to seismic which should be minimised by technical combat against earthquake. Few simplified basics could prevent possible wraths of earthquake.

An earthquake-resistant building has four virtues in it, namely: (a) **Good Structural Configuration:** Its size, shape and structural system carrying loads are such that they ensure a direct and smooth flow of inertia forces to the ground. (b) **Lateral Strength:** The maximum lateral (horizontal) force that it can resist is such that the damage induced in it does not result in collapse. (c) **Adequate Stiffness:** Its lateral load resisting system is such that the earthquake induced deformations in it do not damage its contents under low to moderate shaking. (d) **Good Ductility:** Its capacity to undergo large deformations under severe earthquake shaking even after yielding is improved by favourable design and detailing strategies. BIS has prepared guidelines for retrofitting in existing structures. A list of code books on construction practices of buildings and structures, to

minimize the earthquake losses, is available. In addition to this, Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) & Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) have also published guidelines and brochures for construction and retrofitting of buildings.

Loss of life and damage of property due to earthquakes could be considerably reduced through proper planning and implementation of pre- and post-disaster preparedness and management strategies by respective State and Central Government agencies in a coordinated manner following the above mentioned guidelines. These studies involving preparation of geological, geomorphologic and land use maps followed by drilling, geological logging, standard penetration test and geophysical studies to demarcate the zones of least to most damage prone areas within the urban areas so as to help the respective town and country planning agencies to formulate perspective planning within the overall earthquake impact minimization efforts. Based on the above steps it is mandatory for all infrastructure/building/development agencies (Public and Private) to design appropriate earthquake resistant building plans based on the relevant BIS Codes and other guidelines of BMTPC, HUDCO and NDMA for across the country.

Imphal Municipal Corporation Building Bye-laws (First Amendment) 2019 has incorporated all the 14 provisions of the Model Building Bye-Laws, 2016. However, only considering the provisions will not solve the issue. The reason is quite evident as symptomatic treatment will not cure this natural disaster. We need to diagnose the root cause of this disaster and pre channel our efforts to minimize its impacts. In the context, the scientific inputs about the seismically microzonated parts of Imphal city should be the base for any constructional projects. Recently concluded studies by GSI in 300 sq. km areas in and around Imphal City indicated 15.54 sq. km and 67 sq. km areas respectively as very high hazardous and high hazardous areas. Henceforth much technical rather strong administrative monitoring is vital to combat the menace of earthquake disaster.

Mysterious absence of Phungting Shimrang is "well oiled strategy" of NSCN (IM)

Source NEN
Guwahati, Jan. 23,

While the peace initiative with the NSCN (IM) is inching towards a final settlement, mysterious absence of a top insurgent leader from the ambit of talks has started to raise many eyebrows.

Sources said Phungting Shimrang, former commander-in-chief of NSCN (IM), who was always a key member in every round of talks, went missing during the final round in October last year.

The final round of talks was "extremely crucial" for NSCN (IM) because R.N. Ravi, the interlocutor of the peace process, had announced to complete the process by October 31, 2019.

Soon, a section of media reported that Phungting Shimrang was not happy with New Delhi's carrot-and-stick approach, and had gone to Yunnan province in China with two of his most trusted lieutenants.

The reports claimed Phungting Shimrang, a NSCN (IM) Steering Committee member, was trying to talk to the Chinese authorities for "aid in their fight against India". Interestingly, Thuingaleng Muivah, ato-kilonarsar (Prime Minister) of NSCN (IM) neither confirmed, nor contradicted the media reports on the mysterious absence of the top insurgent leader.

Though the exact terms and conditions of the agreement have not been disclosed, sources said one of the key demands of NSCN (IM) for granting of "autonomy" to the Nagas of Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh has been accepted.

Knowing it well that a separate flag and constitution may not turn into reality, Muivah still has kept all the doors open with New Delhi to finalise

the final modalities for a peace agreement.

On January 18, Muivah and a group of NSCN (IM) leaders met RN Ravi at the Police Complex in Chumukedima and submitted their "competencies" and a Naga "integration map".

If Muivah is still complying with New Delhi's peace initiative, why he is silent on Phungting Shimrang's move to open up with China? This is the most serious question which is now troubling every peace-loving people in Nagaland.

People in Nagaland are of the opinion that Muivah is still keeping his options open, and Phungting Shimrang is the protagonist of his multi-pronged strategy.

At the crucial juncture, NSCN (IM)'s management of dissent is a well oiled strategy, and is agreed and approved by Muivah, informed sources closely following the peace development, said.

People in Nagaland believe Muivah has one of the finest political brains of northeast, and has learnt a lot of lessons from the failure of the Shillong Accord, which was signed in 1975.

Muivah, the tallest NSCN (IM) leader, has a definite exit plan, and would not like to repeat Phizo's mistakes.

In fact, it was Thuingaleng Muivah, Isak Chisi Swu and S S Khaplang who had termed Phizo as a "traitor" after the Shillong Accord, and had subsequently laid the foundation of the NSCN in early 1980s.

If Phungting Shimrang continues to be away from the path of final peace settlement, Muivah can use him sprucely to tell New Delhi that "hardliners" of NSCN (IM) are "unhappy" and are now looking at China.

Moreover, if Phungting Shimrang

leads the "hardliner" group, Muivah will not be branded as a "traitor" if the peace agreement is not "respectable enough".

But, the NSCN (IM) leadership is confident that New Delhi is always caught nervous when China gets involved with insurgent outfits of northeast.

Phungting Shimrang in an interview to *The Week* in April, 2017, had said that their movement was always suppressed as an "internal problem", and New Delhi only after cadres had reached China in 1966.

During the course of 23 year-long peace initiative with New Delhi, the NSCN (IM) always tried to maintain a concealed relationship with China. On January 25, 2011, Wang Qing, a Chinese spy disguised as a TV reporter, was arrested and deported after she reportedly visited the NSCN (IM) headquarters in Nagaland.

Qing was a spy for the People's Security Bureau, a Chinese intelligence agency, and had a four-hour-long, closed-door meeting with Thuingaleng Muivah.

In October 2010, Anthony Shimray, the commander-in-chief of NSCN (IM) was arrested for gun-running, and had strong connections with Chinese agencies.

Shimray had reportedly confessed that Muivah had written a letter to senior Chinese intelligence officials to formally appoint Kholose Swu Sumias the permanent representative of the NSCN (IM) in China.

Muivah, according to reports, went to China three times, and has always been smart to play the China card against New Delhi.

But, New Delhi, and especially the interlocutor of Naga talks, R.N. Ravi have also mounted a counter-pressure on NSCN (IM), and especially Thuingaleng Muivah.

The NIA was quick enough to establish a terror-funding case against Pungting Shimrang alias James Jamir.

On December 17, Alemla Jamir, wife of Pungting Shimrang was detained at Domestic Airport (T-1) in New Delhi, with a cash of Rs 72 lakh, and

was later arrested. Alemla Jamir reportedly told the NIA that she was carrying the cash to Nagaland on the instructions of Icrak Muivah, the wife of Thuingaleng Muivah.

Based on Alemla's confession, NIA teams conducted raids in multiple places in New Delhi, Dimapur and Imphal and claimed to have seized ammunition of prohibited bores, bullet-proof jackets and several documents to establish the terror-funding case. Caught in the terror-funding mess, it remains to be seen what new strategy Thuingaleng Muivah now adopts for his "respectable" peace settlement with New Delhi.

A case of cheating against former skipper Mohammed Azharuddin

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai Jan 23

A case was filed at City Chowk Police station in Aurangabad (Maharashtra) against former Indian cricket team captain and ex-MP Mohammed Azharuddin and two others for allegedly cheating a local travel agent for Rs. 20,96,31/-.

The complaint was lodged by Shahab Y. Mohammed (49), proprietor of Danish Tours & Travels and a former executive with the defunct Jet Airways.

The first information report (FIR) was registered against Mujeeb Khan (Aurangabad), Sudheesh Avikkal (Kerala) and Mohammed Azharuddin (Hyderabad). No arrests were made and further investigations were on, Investigating Officer A.D. Nagra said.

According to the complainant, Avikkal booked several international airline tickets like Mumbai-Dubai-Paris, Paris-Turin, Turin-Paris, Turin-Amsterdam, Turin-Munich-Amsterdam, Paris-Dubai-Delhi, Copenhagen-

Amsterdam, Amsterdam-Manchester, Amsterdam-Zagreb, etc. in various names, between 9 and 12 November, 2019.

On one occasion, Azharuddin and Avikkal, travelled to Paris where they met three others and booked other tickets, mostly business class, in top airlines. Though Avikkal didn't have money, he insisted that it was an emergency and told Mohammed Shahab, that he would pay the ticket charges. Mohammed, relented only after Mujeeb Khan (who is the personal secretary to Azharuddin) gave an assurance on behalf of Sudheesh Avikkal. Whereas Avikkal said he would make a part-payment of Euro 13,500 (Rs 10,60,000), for the tickets through his bank account in the "Croatian National Bank".

He showed Shahab an email purportedly sent by him to the bank on 12 November 2019. "I was instructed to book many tickets, cancel tickets, re-book fresh tickets, re-issue, reschedule, etc, which I did on the assurance that the payment was

forthcoming. But, on 15 November 2019, the Croatian National Bank informed me that no payments was received from Avikkal."

Saddled with a ticketing bill of over Rs 2 million, Mohammed tried to speak to Azharuddin and Khan, but they reportedly evaded him, although Avikkal on 24 November said that he was clearing the full payment of Rs 21,45,000 in favour of the travel agency. Avikkal also sent a copy of the cheque issued in favour of "Danish Tours & Travels" for the amount on WhatsApp, to Mohammed. But the cheque reportedly bounced and Mohammed did not receive any payment. Resultantly he lodged a complaint with police.

Mohammed allegedly that for the past two weeks, Khan and the others have been even hoodwinking the police that the payment will be made "anytime", but nothing came and finally the FIR was registered against them. Mohammed Azharuddin couldn't be reached.

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