

# Editorial

Imphal, Wednesday, October 7, 2015

## Acting east policy

The briefing of the Governors of North Eastern states by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraaj about various cross-border connectivity projects aimed at linking it to the wider region of the South-East Asian countries including Myanmar and Thailand as part India's 'Act East Policy' (AEP) should be taken as a positive step towards improving the socio-economic prospects of the country, especially the North-Eastern region and appreciated as such. The shift in focus, or more precisely, the increasing importance given to the North-eastern region of India by the centre bodes well for the people as the cultural, social and dietary affinity with the neighboring countries is evidently greater than with those of mainland India - a fact which risk being misconstrued by those with vested interest. Talks of hidden agenda aside, the North-East serves as the land bridge to ASEAN countries, and the Act East Policy is being touted as a means to strengthen the stability, economy and prospects of the country, especially the North Eastern region. While the whole exercise is laudable, concerns still remain on whether the implementation and execution of the plans and decisions will eventually match the expectations and objectives. Going by previous experiences, there has always been a slip between the lip and the cup when it comes to actually getting down to doing the deed. Examples abound at this very moment all over the state, from the Sanjenthong bridge to the repairing and construction of bridges and roads along the national highways, to the innumerable abandoned construction projects taken up by the Manipur Development Society (MDS). It goes without saying that the infrastructures and connectivity of the NE states should be made to develop and be maintained properly for any project to commence. Unfortunately, things are not looking very promising at the moment with the state and the Border Roads Organisation getting into loggerheads at the slightest instance, every single time. If any effort on this front has to have any significant impact, there is the pressing need for the monitoring process to make radical changes. The present work-culture prevailing in the state, deeply ingrained and institutionalized, if not remedied, will prove to be the undoing for the much hyped and highly expectant grand scheme. But such a change, as drastic as suggested here will be easier said than achieved. A conscious, sustained and concerted effort need to be made by all concerned to bring about a changed mindset. We need to learn and take pride in the successful completion of any given task and enjoy the sense of achievement as a cohesive group. The mad scramble for credit and undue benefits needs to be contained. It may be said with a fair degree of accuracy that the state, and indeed the North Eastern region of the country would have been much better and developed had the funds and assistances been utilized properly. Blaming the centre for negligence and inadequate funds just does not cut ice with anyone, especially in this time and age of instant information and connectivity. Meanwhile, by the look of it, we still have a long way to go before things change for the better and our expectations delivered.

## 19 Terrorists Killed in Russian Airstrikes in Syria

**Beirut, Oct. 7:** At least 19 Islamic State terrorists were killed in Syria in airstrikes carried out by the Russian air force, according to a rights group. At least 15 people were killed in al-Karma and its surroundings in eastern areas of al-Raqa province, an Islamic State stronghold in Syria, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The other four were killed in airstrikes targeting IS locations in the ancient city of Palmyra in the province of Homs. The report said that the Russian air force carried out 34 missions in al-Karma and Palmyra, where two armies and 12 vehicles were destroyed. Since September 30, Russia has been targeting Islamic State positions in Syria with aerial bombings, according to Russian and Syrian officials. Opposition activists have condemned the Russian airstrikes claiming they targeted civilians and opposition fighters, not IS terrorists.

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## National & International News

### Speaker revokes suspension of 2 MLAs, NC to continue protest

**HT Srinagar, Oct. 7:** The National Conference (NC) on Wednesday said it will continue to boycott the proceedings of the Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly even after the speaker revoked the suspension of two of its MLAs. The main opposition party, which staged a sit-in protest outside the state assembly house, demanded that the suspension of two of its council members must be revoked as well. "Speakers of both assembly and council have played partisan politics. The government wanted to divide the opposition and we have decided to boycott proceedings until suspension of four members is not revoked," said Omar Abdullah, NC's working president and former chief minister, who led his party's legislators in the sit-in at the assembly gate. The NC had decided on Tuesday to boycott the rest of the autumn session of the assembly after the speaker suspended its members in the legislative council or the upper House, Ali Muhammad Dar and Showkat Ahmad Zargar, following an uproar in the House over article

35 A, which upholds the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. MLAs Altaf Kaloo and Abdul Majid Bhat (Larmi) were marshalled out of the assembly after the opposition benches moved towards the well of the House and starting protesting. Abdullah had called the suspensions a "dictatorial practice" of the PDP-BJP coalition. The NC wanted a discussion on strengthening article 35 A. A think tank, Jammu & Kashmir Study Centre, recently challenged the validity of the article in the Supreme Court, which has served a notice to the state government. The NC has vowed to defend the law. The situation in the assembly worsened when speaker Kavinder Gupta ordered the house proceedings to be continued in spite of the protests. NC general secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar led the sloganeering saying, "Modi-Mufti sarkar ko, ek dhakka aur do (give another blow to the Modi-Modi government); RSS ka jo year hai, gaddar hai gaddar hai (RSS supporters are traitors) and



370 kayam rahega, kayam rahega (Article 370 will last forever). "We are not carrying bombs. We want you to allow us to speak on article 35A... the demand is under the Indian constitution," Sagar shouted. Abdullah was the only NC member, apart from Nazir Gurezi (also the deputy speaker of the House), who were sitting on their seats. CPI (M)'s Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami and another MLA Hakeem Yaseen also did not leave their seats. Later, however, the members of the NC, the Congress, and even Tarigami and Yasin, walked out, leaving the House with only one opposition member, independent

MLA Engineer Rashid. Though the proceedings of the house continued according to the listed business, Rashid continued disruptions till the last minute. As speaker Gupta disallowed the opposition their adjournment motion, the NC and Congress started a parallel legislative assembly session with senior leader and former speaker Mubarak Gul in the 'chair'. The opposition started addressing Gul as "Mr speaker" and started a debate. The debate, however, was inaudible as speaker Gupta had ordered the opposition mikes to be switched off.

### Bangladesh youth delegation calls on President

**ANI New Delhi, Oct. 7:** A youth delegation from Bangladesh called on President Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan yesterday. Addressing delegation members, the President said he was glad to have the opportunity to welcome the budding minds and aspiring persons from Bangladesh who

were looking forward to make their country develop and occupy its rightful place in the comity of nations. He said he deeply appreciated that the youth had the vision and dream which they wished to achieve for their country. This motivating force would take them to success. He said that India and Bangladesh

are both part of the Indian sub-continent. Both the nations have a shared history, cultural and linguistic ties. He stated that as the President of India, his first visit abroad was to Bangladesh in 2013. He has always cherished his deep connection with Bangladesh. The High Commission of India in Dhaka in co-ordination with the

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Government of Bangladesh organizes the visit of Bangladeshi Youth Delegation to India every year since 2012. The exchange programme involves interaction with local youth, visits to tourist and cultural sites and introduction to economic and social activities.

### DoNER Minister asks Northeast States to expedite fund utilization

**PIB New Delhi, Oct. 7:** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh has asked the North-Eastern States to expedite the process of Central fund utilization by them. Presiding over the first meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Eastern Council (NEC) here yesterday, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the most common factors responsible for delay in the completion of various developmental projects include failure by the States to produce Utilization Certificates on time, delay in submission of DPRs and inability of the State to provide its share of funding. As a result, not only the projects get delayed but the consequent escalation in the budget leads to further difficulties in timely completion of these projects, he added. At the meeting attended among others by Union Secretary, DoNER, Ameishing Luikham, Secretary, NEC, Ram Muivah, Chief Secretaries of all the eight Northeast States and Member, NEC, C. K. Das, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the NEC is no longer an advisory body but, in fact, a regional planning body with a wider and more crucial role. He referred to the recent initiative of constituting inter-ministerial committees of the Ministry of DoNER with other Ministries and at the same time, engaging the Delhi-based Resident Commissioners of different States for the follow up of projects so that the targets could be achieved more

smoothly. For this, he also hinted at revisiting and revitalizing the entire functioning of the NEC. However, he noted with satisfaction that the NEC headquarter at Shillong has become fully functional and reverberating with activity because the newly appointed Secretary and members are regularly attending the office on full-time basis. On India's "Act East" policy, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, it is his considered view that to "Act East" effectively, we first need to act east proximal and empower the North Eastern region along the international borders. In this regard, he suggested a number of measures including encouraging the local produce which could find takers for business across the Northeast borders, single window check-posts and limiting the list of items for cross-border trade to products exclusively originating from the region. Taking a note of the suggestion that the annual budget of NEC had not been enhanced for past

almost 40 years in spite of change in fiscal and market scenario, Dr. Jitendra Singh advised Secretary NEC to prepare a comprehensive brief drawing comparative statistical differences in the annual budget allocation and disbursement as it existed in the earlier years vis-à-vis the current year, so that the same could be presented before the Union Finance Ministry with a request to seek

appropriate enhancement. Expressing dissatisfaction over delayed progress of work at the airports at Gangtok, Guwahati and Itanagar as well as slow pace of rail and road projects, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, this adversely affects the progress in every sphere. He also asked the Chief Secretary of Manipur to personally follow up the land transfer issue for the proposed Sports University at Imphal.

### MSPDCL POWER DRIVE

A team of Manipur State Power Distribution Company Limited (MSPDCL) during one of its drives caught many defaulter power consumers for unauthorized connection from various locations.

**IED-I defaulters are:**

1. M. Jakarta Singh of Keishamthong was fined Rs 15028/- as penalty
2. Laishram Momo of Keishamthong was fined Rs 8573/- as penalty
3. H. Juggling of Kwakeithel Thoudababok Leirak was fined Rs 7144/- as penalty
4. Maipakpi Rice Mill of Pishum Ningom Leirak was fined Rs 39912/- as penalty

**IED-III defaulters are:**

1. L. Rabei Singh of Singjamei Leishangthem Leikai was fined Rs. 2000/- as penalty
2. L. Madhumangol Sharma of Singjamei Leishangthem Leikai was fined Rs. 1000/- as penalty

**IED-IV defaulter is:**

Maibam Tomba Singh of MLS Brick Field, Waiton Lamkhai was fined Rs. 10000/- as penalty

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 Imphal, the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015

No. E/1/RIMS-06: Sealed Tender (two bid system) from registered firms/manufacturers/Authorised Dealers are invited for supply and instalment of equipments for dermatology RIMS Imphal listed at annexure-A. Tender documents containing detail specifications of the above items for RIMS Imphal along with terms and conditions of supply can be had from the office or it can be download from the Institute's website i.e. [www.rims.edu.in](http://www.rims.edu.in) and CPP Portal website i.e. [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in) on or after 05/10/2015. Tender documents will be supplied on request upto 26/10/2015, during office hour. The sealed tender should be submitted through post/courier/hand latest by 4.00pm of 28/10/2015. Sealed tender will be opened on 31/10/2015 at 2.00pm.

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