

Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, April 7, 2016

Citizens' expectation from the government

Notwithstanding the plethora of development measures being taken up by the State Government aimed at improving the quality of life of its residents, the sense of satisfaction and achievement has been lacking in everything that has happened here in the collective minds of the majority of the population. A slew of promises have also been made on an increasing frequency, the ultimate fate of which has not yet been ascertained. The trend is not one of recent origin. Successive parties and Governments, without any exception, have carried out the same modus operandi of garnering votes and ditching the promises made afterwards. The question here is not how much the Government has done for its people, as it is a given that the Government is there for the very purpose of providing governance, utilizing the resources at its disposal for the betterment of its people. A more important and pressing question pertains to the manner in which the precious resources at the disposal of the State Government are being utilized to maximize the rate of development and progress. It is no secret that the heads of state, entrusted with the task of overseeing and regulating the development of the state as a whole, has been playing hide and seek with their responsibilities while utilizing more than their fair share of the rights. They have evidently lost their connection with the real world, cocooned inside their own safety arrangements. The everyday travails of the common man being a thing of make belief. The ever increasing congestion and traffic snarls being faced by the common man does not concern them, as their way has been cleared and guarded by their cronies and security guards and insulated from the grime and dirt, not to mention the deafening sound of vehicles jostling for space in the narrow roads on which shoddy repair works have been carried out in fits and starts. The inconvenience is compounded by the perennially flashing orange lights along every intersections and junctions, serving nothing in particular. The everyday ordeal does not end when an ordinary person reaches home after a hard day. Greeted with a dark and chilly welcome, the wait for one's quota of electricity becomes an all consuming obsession for those who are not fortunate enough to have the right influence or the means to afford a VIP line. And the whole cycle starts from the very moment one wakes up, with the efforts to collect the precious water which the PHED so generously provides every other day for a few minutes, the quality of which is better left unsaid. And these inconveniences are for the city dwellers. Imagine the plight of those who could only dream of being in such a place as Imphal. Without going into the details of the deficits the government has so prominently and frequently vocalized, it should be made clear that the most important thing lacking with the present government is the political will to make things happen. Providing clean water, adequate and fair distribution of available power to the people and upgradation of road and other basic infrastructures does not call for someone with qualifications of a rocket scientist. More than anything, a proactive and transparent approach with a genuine concern for the betterment of the common man will work wonders in making a visible and positive change. That will be the greatest gift the government can give its embittered people.

2 militants killed in gun battle in J-K

PTI Srinagar, April 7: Two wanted Hizbul Mujahideen militants, including a former policeman, were killed on Thursday in a gun battle with security forces in Shopian district of south Kashmir. An encounter broke out between security forces and militants in vehil village of Shopian, 55km from here, after the troops of 62 Rashtriya Rifles launched a search operation in the area, an army official said. He said two militants were killed in the encounter. Two weapons were recovered from the militants. The official said the dead militants were identified as Naseer Ahmad Pandit and Inamul Haq alias Waseem Malla, both wanted militants of Hizbul Mujahideen. Pandit had joined militant ranks after deserting police force last year. He was posted on security duty at the residence of PDP MLA and then works minister Altaf Bukhari at the time of quitting the force.

Srinagar: CRPF, SSB deployed at NIT campus

ANI Srinagar, April 7: Security forces have been deployed outside the NIT campus in Srinagar as tensions rose after few students were lathi-charged by the police on Monday. The SSB, Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF have been deployed inside the NIT Srinagar campus. With the situation being tense, CRPF was deployed at the campus on Tuesday night and the state government has assured full security to the students from other states studying here.

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National & International News

Niranjan Jyoti smells controversy, demands probe

ANI Fatehpur (UP), April 7: Smelling controversy behind the killing of National Investigation Agency (NIA) Deputy Superintendent of Police Mohammad Tanzil Ahmed, Minister of State for Food Processing Niranjan Jyoti on Thursday demanded a thorough investigation into the matter.

"The investigating officer of Pathankot terror attack has been killed. In most of the cases, terrorists from Azamgarh and Bijnor are arrested. There is some controversy in that. This is a matter of investigation," Jyoti told the media here.

The Uttar Pradesh Police earlier today detained two prime suspects

for their alleged role in the murder of Pathankot terror attack has been killed in front of his wife and children last week. According to police sources, the bike used in the murder has also been recovered.

It is also suspected that property dispute could be one of the reasons behind Tanzil's murder. Tanzil was on his way back from the marriage ceremony of his niece, along with his wife and two children, when two armed bike-borne assailants shot at him and his wife in a village under Syohra Police Station area late in the night of April 2.

The NIA officer died on the spot while his wife was rushed to the Fortis Hospital in Noida.

Pathankot attack probe: JD (U) pulls up Govt. as Pak blames India

ANI New Delhi, April 7: The Janata Dal (United) on Thursday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government following Pakistan's assertion that the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) probing the Pathankot terror attack received limited cooperation from the Indian authorities.

"It was naive and immature for India to believe that by inviting a Pakistani team, including an ISIS senior leader, to Pathankot and India, they are going to get any admission from Pakistan about their obvious guilt in the perpetuation of terrorist," JD (U) leader Pawan Verma told ANI here.

"So, now we will see one excuse after the other. It is surprising that everybody knew this sequence of event except the government of Mr. Narendra Modi which is implementing its policy with Pakistan almost as if it is operating in the dark, in a blind manner," he added.

The Pakistan Foreign Office in its statement, which came almost a week after the members of the JIT reached home following the probe,

said that no conclusions had been reached in the ongoing investigations.

In a detail report about the activities undertaken during the March 27-April 1 visit, the Foreign Office said the JIT received a presentation from the Indian National Investigation Agency (NIA), which was leading the probe.

The Foreign Office also said that the JIT briefed the NIA on investigations made in Pakistan, in addition to visiting the crime scene and interviewing some of the witnesses.

"The JIT visited the crime scene and also recorded the statements of some witnesses. However, witnesses belonging to the Indian security forces were not produced before it," the Dawn quoted the Foreign Office statement as saying.

The Foreign Office further said that the visit of the JIT took place in the context of the cooperative approach being pursued by the government of Pakistan as part of its commitment to effectively fight terrorism in all its forms.

Lack of tie-up with Left may split secular votes: Gogoi

PTI Guwahati, April 7: Fighting perhaps the toughest electoral battle in his life, Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi apprehends division of secular votes in the absence of an understanding with parties like the Left with whom he is not averse to having a post-poll tie up.

However, he ruled out any post-poll tie up with AIUDF led by Badruddin Ajmal, the face of Bengali Muslims, who has been gaining in strength after every election.

The 81-year-old Congress veteran feels his party and Left parties should have formed an alliance before the polls to defeat the BJP.

"Yes, some secular votes will be divided because of absence of any understanding between us (Congress and Left). We have the understanding now that we must defeat communal forces," Gogoi told PTI in an interview in the midst of his busy electioneering schedule.

He was responding to a query whether secular votes will get divided in the absence of a broad alliance between Congress, Left parties and some other like-minded parties.

"Their (Left) ideology and our ideology are identical. They did not come to us and we also did not go to them for a seat sharing understanding. It (tie up)

was possible with Left parties, but somehow it did not happen," said Gogoi fighting hard to get a fourth consecutive term in office.

Congress has entered into a pre-poll alliance with United People's Party (UPP) for four constituencies in Bodoland Territorial Area Districts, while six Left parties — CPI(M), CPI, CPI(ML)-Liberation, RSP, RCPI and Forward Block are fighting together in 59 seats across Assam.

The first phase of polling for 65 constituencies of Assam Assembly took place on April 4, while the second phase of voting for the remaining 61 seats will be held on April 11.

Asked about his options in case of a hung verdict, Gogoi said: "We will

Pak forces kill 12 militants attacking near Afghan

PTI Peshawar, April 7: At least 12 militants were killed today in a gun battle with Pakistani security forces after they attacked a security post along the Afghan border in the restive north-western tribal region. The Mangaro outpost in Kurram district came under pre-dawn raid by more than 50 rebels who came from Afghanistan, a security official said.

"The security forces responded the attack with heavy fire, killing 12 attackers and forcing others to retreat back into Afghanistan," a security official said.

Radio Pakistan confirmed the raid and reported that the security forces had launched search operation in the area.

Afghanistan and Pakistan share a 2,250-kilometer border and militants from both sides routinely launch cross-border attacks before fleeing back over the border. Much of the border area is remote.

It is said that hundreds of Taliban militants have fled Pakistan through porous border to Afghanistan.

BJP wants to bring dictatorship in Assam: Sonia Gandhi

ANI Bhopal (Assam), April 7: Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wants to bring dictatorship in Assam and said that the ruling party at the Centre has done nothing to improve the plight of the people of the state.

"The BJP wants to bring dictatorship in Assam. Modi ji and his leaders are making all kind of promises here but they have not highlighted their achievement in these two years at the Centre," Gandhi said in rally here.

She said that the Congress is the only party that takes along all communities without any discrimination.

Gandhi added that Prime Minister Modi talks of peace and development when he is on visits abroad but maintains silence at home when his colleagues make hate statements.

She also accused the ruling dispensation of favouring big businessmen and corporate.

"What have they done for small businessmen? They have only increased the burden of tax on them," she added.

In Assam, campaigning for the second phase of polls has been intensified. Polling will be held on April 11 in 61 seats in Lower and Central Assam.

The first phase of Assam Assembly elections across 65 constituencies was peaceful with a voter turnout of 70 percent.

JIT received limited cooperation in India: Pak

ANI Islamabad, April 7: Pakistan Foreign Office has said that the investigators, who visited India to probe the Pathankot attack, received limited cooperation from the Indian authorities.

The Foreign Office in its statement, which comes almost a week after the members of the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) reached home following the probe, said that no conclusions had been reached in the ongoing investigations.

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Secular activist killed for criticizing Islamism in Bangladesh

Dhaka, April 7: In the latest in a series of killings of secular activists and bloggers in the country, Bangladeshi law student Nazimuddin Samad, who had posted against Islamism on his Facebook page, was murdered on Wednesday.

The 28-year-old was on the list of 84 atheist bloggers that a group of radical Islamists drew up and sent to Bangladesh's Interior Ministry.

"At least four assailants hacked Nazimuddin Samad's head with a machete on Wednesday night. As he fell down, one of them shot him with a pistol from close range. He died on the spot," the Guardian quoted Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Syed Nurul Islam as saying to a foreign media.

