

Editorial

Imphal Friday, December 2, 2016

Thinly veiled vandalism

With the Ministry of Home Affairs categorically stating that the indefinite economic blockade being imposed on National Highways leading to Manipur is unconstitutional and also assuring the state government that the Ministry of Home Affairs would provide additional Central paramilitary forces, if necessary, so as to ensure uninterrupted movement of vehicles on National Highways connected to Imphal, the people of the state can finally start to hope for respite from the protracted issue of various groups using the national highways which are the lifelines of the state as a convenient tool to hold the state government - and effectively the people - at ransom and force their demands. Another clear indication of the seriousness with which the state government has started considering the predicament is the fact that the Chief Minister holding a high level security meeting which was attended by high ranking officials from the Indian Army, CRPF, BSF and Manipur Police. Now that the deliberations and discussions are done and over with, the state government should waste no more time in escorting the loaded vehicles which have been left stranded for a month at Mao and beyond along the Imphal-Dimapur road safely to Imphal.

What is still a matter of great concern is the failure of the armed security escorts from preventing vandals from damaging and pilfering goods from the convoys and torching vehicles. Such incidents which are far too frequent than one would like to admit goes to show that more stringent measures still needs to be applied, and that it must be made amply clear that the National Highways can never be used by any group or organisation to air their protests or make demands for whatever issue. And with each passing day, it is also getting increasingly clear that these 'Economic Blockades' are pathetic excuses for miscreants to loot and plunder the goods being transported - a thinly veiled act of vandalism and nothing more. It is also absurd to try and settle a political issue by holding the people of the state to ransom and by attempting to starve out the general public. Do these maniacs of the highways still not able to understand the fact that when essential supplies are being cut off, it is the common people who are the worst hit - people who have nothing to do with policy making or administration, and that the ministers and elected representatives are immune to such lowly tactics.

The onus to make fail-safe arrangements for making the national highways free from disruptions and destructions now lies squarely with the state government. What is perplexing is that it took this much time and deliberations to arrive at the only logical way of resolving the issue which should have been implemented years ago. But better late than never - as the saying goes. That however should not be an excuse to delay the inevitable. The repercussions of the folly could very well far outweigh every effort and resources for implementing the necessary move.

Militant killed in Anantnag wanted in many cases: police

PTI Srinagar, Dec 2: Police today claimed that the militant killed in an encounter in south Kashmir's Anantnag district yesterday was a history sheeter and had decamped with a rifle from a police station after which he fired towards an army patrol where he was killed in the exchange of firing.

"At about 1720 hrs an accused person namely Sajad Malik alias Beta Malik decamped with an AK rifle along with one magazine from police station Dooru.

"After firing some shots near the market and taking advantage of the darkness, he managed to escape towards Zamalgam village," a police spokesman said here.

Near Cherikari village of Anantnag, Malik fired towards an army patrol.

"The fire was retaliated and in the exchange of fire, Malik got killed," the spokesman said.

He said the deceased was a released militant and a "history sheeter", who "was already arrested in militancy cases in various police stations".

Yesterday, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president G A Mir demanded a judicial probe into the killing, saying the deceased was an ex-sarpanch belonging to his party.

"Malik was accused by the state of participating in a protest rally (during the unrest), which may be true and for which there is the law of the land to deal with it," Mir said yesterday.

He termed the killing as "politically motivated custodial murder".

47th IFFI creates history with the new beginnings

By : Pradeep Sardana

The nation bids adieu to its biggest film festival - Indian International Film Festival, with numerous pleasant and golden memories, on 28th November 2016. The festival which has been there for 9 days, was started on 20th November, and showcased 275 films of 88 countries. This 47th IFFI will be remembered for its many good films on the one hand, whereas for its remarkable incorporations of various new additions, on the other. Few of these initiatives, would prove to become the Milestone for Film makers, and create history. One of the most appreciated initiatives, being the Centenary Award for Best Debut Feature of a Director, selected out of some of the outstanding directorial debuts of 2016 from across the world of cinema. This new competition category has the Silver Peacock and Rs 10 lakhs cash prize, as award.

Next new thing being, presenting 'ICFT- UNESCO Gandhi Medal' to the film that has reflected the Gandhi's principles of Peace and Non Violence. The ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal was given to Turkish film maker Mustafa Kara's 'Cold of Kalandar'. The movie is about a man who earns his living by breeding a few animals, while passionately looking for a mineral reserve on the mountains.

Also, this time a new section called BRICS Films section was introduced in the Festival, which has screened the Films from BRICS countries. This would surely play a vital role in strengthening the mutual relationships among these countries. Another important initiative had been the screening of three films for specially-abled

children with unique audio described technology under 'Sugamaya Bharat Abhiyan'. Another highly recognized initiative was the showcasing of 20 award winning short films from NFDC's 'Swachh Bharat Film Festival'.

The last and most talked about initiative had been the introduction of Film Promotion Fund, with the purpose to stimulate Indian cinema across the globe. Directorate of Film Festivals would implement this plan, of providing financial aid to the films which would be selected in any competition section of an International Film Festival or being India's official nomination under Foreign Film Category. The best and interesting part being, that even after these new additions, the duration of festival has been decided as 9 days from this year, instead of 11 days as previous years.

Best Film award with the Golden Peacock Trophy and Rs. 40 lakhs cash prize was bagged by the Movie 'Daughter', received by its Director Reza Mirkarimi. Iran's film 'Daughter' brings out intergenerational conflict between a strict father and a young daughter. The Best Director award was given to Baris Kaya for Turkey's film 'Rauf', who collected the Silver Peacock Trophy and Rs. 15 lakhs cash prize. While Farhad Aslani won the Best Actor award for again the film 'Daughter', Elna Vaska won the Best Actress Award for the film 'Mellow Mud'. Both received the Silver Peacock Trophy and Rs 10 lakhs cash prize each.

'Rauf' is the story of a search under the shade of a war and in tough natural conditions, and Latvia's 'Mellow Mud' depicts the story of a young girl who must come to

decisions that even a grown woman would find difficult to make.

Special Jury award was given to Lee Joon-ik for the Direction of the Korean movie 'The Throne', which is the story about the most tragic and iconic eight days in the history of Joseon Dynasty disclosing what forced a father to kill his own son. Lee got the Silver Peacock Award and a cash prize of Rs. 15 lakhs.

The Centenary Award for Best debut film of a Director was given to Argentina's 'Rara', which reveals the relationship conflicts among the two sisters, their mother, and the mother's female partner. The director Maria Jose collected the Silver Peacock Trophy with Rs 10 Lakh cash prize.

In addition to these, Im Kwon Taek, the Well Known Korean Film maker was honoured with Rs 10 lakh and a Shawl as The Lifetime Achievement Award, and SP Balasubrahmanyam, the renowned singer, was honoured with Silver Peacock Trophy and Rs 10 Lakh, as the Centenary Award for Indian Film personality of the year, in 47th IFFI.

The closing ceremony of IFFI 2016, was graced by the splendid speech of Col Rajyavardhan Rathore, Minister of State, I&B. He eloquently spoke about the Single window system to promote India as a filming destination, films on Mobile screen as the part of Digital India, and revolutionary movement of Multiplexes in India. He also talked about the power and role of Cinema in the country, as the medium for betterment of society. He has proudly mentioned about Amitabh Bachchan, Priyanka Chopra, Anil Kapoor, Irfan Khan, Gulzar and AR Rehman, who have made Indian cinema popular, across

the globe.

Six Essentials of a successful International Film Festival

After closely covering various International Film Festivals, from last 30 years, my experience has led me to write the 'Essentials of a successful International Film Festival', which could be mentioned in six points. High the focus would be on these points; higher would be the success rate of that Film Festival. First, the globally acknowledged film makers should be keen to send their films for the festival. Second, the festival should have world premier of maximum films. Third, the popular personalities from the cinema worldwide should come to participate or attend the festival. Fourth, no one should doubt or question upon the merit of the films that are to be awarded in the festival, and such decisions should be widely accepted. Fifth, the festival should showcase some Classic and Memorable films, which have become scarce in their availability, and are rare to watch otherwise. Sixth and last, is the overall administration of the festival. This includes a High Tech venue, and the facilities for the guests, representatives and media, which make them at ease to do their respective work. While the schedules for screening of films should be systematic, the festival also should have good arrangements of accommodation and food for all.

This is the matter of proud for India, that our International Festival has been meeting these high criterions, to a great extent, thus getting popularity, respect and appreciation worldwide. (Courtesy PIB Feature)

National & International News

Cyclone Nada passes off Karaikal coast peacefully

ANI Chennai, Dec.2: Cyclone Nada passed off peacefully through Karaikal coast in Pondy region at 5.00am on Friday with its wind velocity weakening.

Cuddalore Collector Rajesh Kumar said, "We have identified and strengthened 41 cyclone relief shelters with adequate food material and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams have already arrived."

Disaster Monitoring Secretary Gagan Singh told ANI that fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea.

Police have even conducted a recce of the sensitive regions.

Puducherry Lieutenant-Governor Kiran Bedi tweeted, "NADA, Cyclone passed off peacefully (land fall) through Karaikal (Pondy region)

coast at 5.00am. Wind velocity down."

The Meteorological Department on Thursday said Cyclone Nada would weaken in the next 12 hours and specific warning has been launched to fishermen not to venture into the sea.

The Met office said it may be downgraded, called a "deep depression", which is a notch below cyclone. It is currently about 350 km away from Tamil Nadu's capital Chennai, which has been cloudy since morning with mild showers in some areas.

"Cyclone Nada will weaken as deep depression and cross the coast. In the next 12 hours, the cyclone will weaken into a deep depression," said meteorological department.

"Under the influence of this system, rainfall is expected to occur at many

places in the next two days, and fishermen are warned not to venture into sea."

A cyclone alert has been sounded in Tamil Nadu in view of deep depression forming over the Bay of Bengal.

Chennai, the coastal regions of the state and Puducherry are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall over the next two days.

Area Cyclone Warning Centre director S. Balachandran said the cyclone was expected to move in west-northwest direction and would cross between Vedaranyam and Puducherry in the early hours of December 2.

"The well-marked low pressure area, which was lying over the southeast bay yesterday intensified further and intensifies the cyclone storm. And today morning (Wednesday),

at 8:30, lying at about 735 kilometer southeast of Puducherry or Southwest of Bay of Bengal," said Balachandran in Chennai.

The weatherman said though the cyclone will be of less intensity, but heavy rainfall is expected tomorrow.

The administration has taken proactive measures to face the challenge of the impending cyclone. NDRF teams are kept ready for eventuality and 179 relief centres are operational in Puducherry alone.

Chief Minister Narayanasamy has requested people not to panic. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea. Puducherry Government has declared holiday for schools on Friday also.

Met department has forecast of heavy rain at isolated places over Tamil Nadu and Kerala today.

Demonetisation: No place for corruption in 21st century India, says PM Modi

PTI New Delhi, Dec. 2: Contending that large volumes of liquid cash are a big source of corruption and black money, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday appealed to the people to "lead the change" towards cashless transactions to lay the strong foundations of an India where there is no place for such malaise.

"In 21st century India, there is no place for corruption. Corruption slows down growth and takes a toll on the dreams of the poor, neo-middle class and middle class," he wrote in an article posted on LinkedIn.com.

"Large volumes of liquid cash are a big source of corruption and black money," he said while referring to his "historic" decision on November 8 to scrap Rs 500 and Rs 1000 notes with an aim of ending corruption and black money. Asserting that in 21st century India, there is no place for corruption, Modi said, "Corruption slows down growth and takes a toll on the dreams of the poor, neo-

middle class and middle class."

In this context, he referred to his pitch for cashless transactions. "I urge all of you, particularly my young friends to lead the change and inspire others to turn towards cashless transactions. This will set the strong foundations of an India where there is no place for corruption and black money," the Prime Minister said.

"Today we live in an era of mobile banking and mobile wallets. Ordering food, buying and selling furniture, ordering a taxi... all of this and lot more is possible through your mobiles. Technology has brought speed and convenience in our lives," he added.

Along with the article, he posted pictorial references to cashless options like credit cards. "I am sure most of you are using cards and e-wallets regularly but I thought I must share with you ways through which increased cashless transactions are possible," he said. Modi said the November 8 decision offered "a unique opportunity" for small

traders, who have a central role in the economic transformation of India.

"Today, our trading community has a historic chance to upgrade themselves and embrace more technology, which will bring greater prosperity," he said. He said when he made the announcement, he was aware that the people of India "will face inconvenience but I had requested the people of India to bear this short term pain for long term gain. I am happy to see that the people of India are bearing temporary difficulties for the long term gain of the nation."

The Prime Minister said over the last few days, he had opportunities to travel to rural as well as urban areas in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa and Punjab. "Wherever I went, I asked the people - should corruption and black money be eliminated? Should the poor, neo-middle and middle class get their due? The answer I got everywhere was a resounding yes!"


BSF jawan injured in ceasefire violation by Pak troops

PTI Jammu, Dec 2: Pakistani troops today violated the ceasefire by firing on forward posts along the LoC in Rajouri district, leaving a BSF jawan injured. "At 10 AM, a BSF constable deployed at a forward location at LoC in Bhimber Gali sector of Rajouri district sustained an injury due to single round fire (sniper fire) from Pakistan Forward Defence location", a senior BSF officer said today. The condition of the jawan is stable. The fresh ceasefire violation by Pakistani troops has taken place after a lull of over one week along the LoC. Eleven persons including six Army personnel, four BSF jawans and a civilian porter working with Army were injured in Pakistan shelling and firing in Nowshera, Manjakote, Balakote, Mendhar and Gurez sectors on November 23.

A total of 26 people, including 14 security personnel and 12 civilians, have been killed and more than 83 suffered injured in Pakistani shelling and firing along IB and LoC in Jammu after surgical strikes.

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