

# Editorial

Imphal, Wednesday, March 30, 2016

## Politics of power- Will it bring good

AICC has responded too fast. Gaikhangam is now replaced by another Congress leader TN Haokip as the president of the Manipur State Congress Committee. The incumbent Congress government led by Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh is once more in the news but not for the good works it had done for the people but because some of the MLAs are angry as they felt that they are being deprived of their rights.

During the sitting of the state assembly session it was often noticed that some of the non-congress MLAs had expressed strong resentment over the attitude of some of the ministers. The leader of the house tried to calm the anger of the members requesting the concern ministers to spare some moments for the MLAs. The similar discontentment is also a major issue with the ruling Congress MLAs. Many of the congress MLAs had expressed displeasure over the attitude of some of the ministers. It may be true, or may not be true but ministers are not meant for the congress MLAs or the opposition MLAs only or for their constituency which they represent. They are for the government and responsible for taking up welfare programme of the government.

The ongoing impasse inbetween the congress legislators showed something unseen that has been running in the election business. It showed how important is procuring a ministerial berth once he or she has been elected. Earlier, the people of the state had witness many MLAs merging to the ruling party after being elected from different political parties. The merging of the MLAs was nothing but a sign of desperation as they felt that nothing could be done by remaining as an opposition MLAs.

This issue is mentioned here as it is also not a sign of healthy democratic government. The elected representatives of the state seem to have forgotten that the success of healthy democracy lies in the presence of a strong opposition. It is the opposition that will control the obsessive culture of the ministers as it is seen in our today's government.

Now the big question right in front of us is that - will the Congress party which has been in power for three consecutive terms will be able to come back to power in the next general assembly election. The change in party leadership as a result of the revolt by dissident MLAs had already shown the indifference among the congress legislators. Gaikhangam who has been playing a balance politics is now left with the ministerial berth only. But it is not only a matter of time that the dissident MLAs will directly pour their anger to the one who is leading the government. Because everyone knows that the real issue with the congress MLAs is the dissatisfaction over the attitude of their leadership. Let us hope a good stitched among the congress legislators to bring good for the state of Manipur.

## US Air Force F-16 fighter jet crashes in Afghanistan, pilot safe

**Kabul, Mar. 30:** United States Air Force F-16 fighter jet crashed on takeoff near Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan this morning. The Pentagon said the pilot ejected safely and is being medically evaluated, reports TOLO News. Bagram Air Field is located northeast of Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, and is the U.S. military's main base of operations in Afghanistan. Coalition forces are securing the crash site, said Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook. Cook added that the cause of the accident is under investigation. There are 9,800 American troops still in Afghanistan as part of a training and advisory mission.

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## National and International News

### NDA govt will stop infiltration from B'desh into Assam: Rajnath

**PTI Duliyaan, Assam, March 30:** Accusing the Congress government in Assam of having failed to stop infiltration from Bangladesh, home minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said that the NDA government at the Centre will completely seal the India-Bangladesh border to stop

intrusion. "Intruders have been continuously entering India since the day Bangladesh was created. Bangladeshi intruders are coming to India through the India-Bangladesh border. What is the reason, why didn't you (Congress) stop them? Why didn't you completely seal the India-Bangladesh border?" he

asked at an election rally in Duliyaan. Highlighting the steps taken by his government in this regard, Singh said that a few months ago he had visited the India-Bangladesh border and held "talks with the Bangladesh government". "We just need some time and we will seal the India-Bangladesh border completely so that no Bangladesh intruder can

come in," he said. Later today, Singh will address three more election rallies for BJP candidates in Assam where Assembly polls will be held in two phases on 4-11 April. The home minister will also attend two election rallies in West Bengal on Thursday before returning to the national capital.

### Suu Kyi aide sworn in as Myanmar president in historic power shift

**Naypyidaw, March 30:** A close aide to Aung San Suu Kyi was sworn in as Myanmar's president today, a role that will see him act as a proxy for the pro-democracy figurehead and carry the hopes of a nation emerging from military rule. Htin Kyaw takes power from former general Thein Sein who has held far-reaching reforms since 2011. Suu Kyi, 70, is barred from becoming president by the junta-scripted constitution but has declared that she will steer the government anyway. The handover at the junta-built parliament in the capital Naypyidaw marks the final act of a prolonged transition since Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party swept the November elections. The NLD won 80% of

parliamentary seats, handing them a massive public mandate to rule after generations of army domination. Wearing a collarless shirt in the NLD's peach-coloured parliamentary colours, the bespectacled Htin Kyaw pledged to be "faithful to the people of the republic of the union of Myanmar". "I will uphold and abide by the constitution and its laws. I will carry out my responsibilities uprightly and to the best of my ability," added the 69-year-old, who is an old school friend of the Nobel Laureate. The cabinet was later sworn in by the speaker in a colourful line-up that included ministers from ethnic regions and a blue-clad Suu Kyi — who holds a clutch of cabinet

positions including that of foreign minister. Yet three men in military uniform were also present at the swearing in — a sign of the enduring stake the army holds inside the new government. The military holds a quarter of all parliamentary seats, another gift of a constitution it scripted. The Southeast Asian nation of 51 million people is in the throes of a dramatic transformation as it emerges from domination by paranoid and repressive generals who cut the country off from the outside world. As a result expectations for an NLD-dominated government run high, but Myanmar's new rulers face a steep task. Civil wars continue to rage in ethnic

minority borderlands, poverty is widespread and the military continues to hold huge political and economic powers. "The country is ready and hungry for change," political analyst Khin Zaw Win said, adding the NLD will be under pressure to quickly build on the reforms of the outgoing quasi-civilian government. Myanmar has witnessed a staggering political change shepherded by outgoing President Thein Sein, a former senior junta general. Investors and tourists have begun to pile in as many of the junta's worst repressions have eased promising a better future to a public who now have access to mobile phones, cheaper cars and other coveted consumer goods.

### Modi insulting Assam, BJP-led alliance communal, divisive: Sonia

**PTI Sivasagar/Anguri, March 30:** Slamming the BJP-led alliance in Assam as coming together of "two dangerous forces of communalism and divisiveness", Sonia Gandhi today accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "insulting" people of the state and going back on promises of development. The Congress President also took potshots at the Prime Minister for his remarks linking his humble origin as a tea seller with Assam tea and said "those working in the tea gardens as well as tribals are asking when will the good days (acheche din) come." 'Acheche din' was Modi's poll slogan in 2014 Lok

Sabha polls. Repeatedly claiming "insult" of Assamese and North-East people by BJP, Gandhi said the composite culture of the state was in "danger" and if BJP-AGP-BPF alliance government came to power in the state, the "era of peace and development", which she claimed was brought during the 15-year-rule of Tarun Gogoi in the state, would be under "threat". Talking at length about the contribution of Congress in bringing peace and prosperity in Assam, Gandhi said "this time the composite culture of Assam is in danger because two dangers have come together here. One is

communal and the other is divisive." Positioning Congress as the counter-force to these powers, Gandhi asked, "Why so they oppose the Congress party and its workers? Because they know it well that Congress represents all sections of the Assamese society. They know that in 15 years of Gogoi's rule, Assam has emerged as a peaceful and progressive state." "When they had ruled the state, it was known for anarchy and extremism. If such people came to power, the era of peace and development which continued for last 15 years will come under threat."

BJP's ally was in power in Assam twice in the past. She alleged "discrimination" against Assam by Modi government, and said, "Afterall, why brothers and sisters of North East and Assam are being insulted so much? Why Tarun Gogoi is being insulted this much? Why people of Assam are being insulted so much? Gandhi's emphasis on the alleged "insult" of Assam, Assamese and the state Chief Minister is somewhat akin to the strategy adopted by Nitish Kumar in Bihar, who had made an issue out of certain remarks by Modi projecting them as insult of Bihar.

### IED blast in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur leaves 2 CRPF personnel injured

**PTI Raipur, March 30:** Two CRPF personnel, including an officer, were injured in an IED bomb blast triggered by Maoists in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Bijapur district. The incident took place when the paramilitary personnel were patrolling the Basaguda-Sarkegda route under Basaguda police station limits, ASP Indira Kalyan Elesela said. While cordoning-off the forested

patch near Rajpeta, the security men inadvertently stepped over the Improvised Explosive Device (IED), triggering the blast in which two of them got injured, he said. "Assistant commandant Neeraj Kumar and constable Manish, belonging to CRPF's 168th battalion, sustained injuries in the explosion," he said. Reinforcement was rushed to the spot and efforts were on to airlift the injured personnel to Raipur for treatment, he added.



### Pakistani probe team to hold meetings with NIA in Delhi today

**New Delhi, March 30:** Over the next three days, the five-member joint investigation team (JIT) will divide its time between Delhi and Punjab to gather evidence related to the Pathankot airbase attack. Two Pakistan intelligence officers, including one from ISI, and three investigators have been given a seven-day visa. The team is scheduled to meet National Investigative Agency (NIA) officials looking into the attack at their headquarters in

central Delhi at 11am on Monday. The JIT will be given a 90-minute presentation by Indian officials. However, there is no estimate on when the day's meetings will end. Early on Tuesday morning, teams from both agencies will take a special BSF flight to Amritsar from where they will board a chopper for Pathankot. There, NIA has lined up 17 witnesses, not including security personnel or IAF officers, who will depose before the Pakistani officials. JIT may also

visit Bamiyal, the border village from where the militants are suspected to have entered. The officials are expected to return to Delhi by nightfall. On day three - Wednesday, both sides will hold more discussions at NIA headquarters. The JIT officials are likely to speak to Punjab SP Salwinder Singh, his cook and a friend who were abducted by militants, if they haven't been able to on Monday. The examination though will not be carried out

directly by the team; instead questions will be handed to the NIA who will in turn get responses from the three. The NIA had asked the JIT to seek evidence through a judicial route in order to make it admissible in a Pakistani court. However, in absence of a letter rogatory, a request from a court to a foreign court for judicial assistance, India hopes that Pakistan will conduct a serious inquiry as a show of good will.

### Jharkhand University professor suspended for inviting JNU teacher to event

**New Delhi, March 30:** Dr Shreya Bhattacharji, an associate professor of the Central University of Jharkhand (CUJ) has been suspended by the Vice-Chancellor for inviting a Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) professor MN Panini, to an event organised to mark Sardar Patel's birth anniversary earlier this month. According to newspaper reports, her suspension order reads that professor Panini is the mentor of a group which was

part of the anti-national sloganeering at JNU campus earlier this year. It was further mentioned that Bhattacharji invited the JNU professor without verifying his credentials. It is being suspected that Governor Draupadi Murmu also opted out of the event probably because of the presence of such a controversial guest. Bhattacharji has been accused for tarnishing the university's image by taking such a step.

The suspension order also read that the invitation extended to Prof Panini without examining his credentials led to widespread criticism from different quarters of the society, as a result of which, not only the image of the university was tarnished, but the reputation of the vice-chancellor was also put on stake. Bhattacharji, could not be contacted for comments. She was the organising committee head for the event that was held

from March 17 to 19. She also held the posts of Dean of School of Language, Dean of School of Education and Dean of Students' Welfare, but has now been removed from all her responsibilities. The order also stated that she would remain attached to the university headquarters at Brame in Ranchi and would not leave without permission. Panini said he was "appalled and deeply upset" by the action taken against Bhattacharji.