

Editorial

Imphal Sunday, November 13, 2016

Battleground Manipur: Elections, integrity and rhetoric

Neighbours Manipur and Nagaland have not been on good terms from the times when Congress ruled both the states and at the Centre. Now that Congress is alone, which is to say BJP is in office at the Centre and NPF in Nagaland, with the latter two parties having made an alliance, the Iboi-government of Manipur seems to have little say whenever Nagaland does something in the interest of Manipur, be it 'forced' resignation of MLAs after instigations by leaders from across the state's border.

At the same time, a landlocked state like Manipur has been put at the mercy of Nagaland as the "only transportable road" to the outside world passes through the neighbouring state. Like an enemy state, at the behest of Naga leaders in Nagaland, hill residents of the state have been declaring the war-like strategy of economic blockade many a times and hold the Manipur people to ransom. Gradually, the state's integrity seems to be eroding with nothing concrete done to stop it.

While Manipur had a clear cut boundary since time immemorial, Nagaland was carved out from Assam. Now, this age-old boundary of Manipur seems to be under attack time and again even during the 21st century, and people from Nagaland are spreading misleading information as if this 2000-year-old history of Manipur never existed. It seems like, if India has a thorn in the form of neighbouring Pakistan; Manipur, a mini-India, has a Pakistan-like neighbour in Nagaland.

As the state elections get closer, the battle has now been partly focused on getting maximum of the 20 reserved seats of the hill districts to the Assembly so that those MLAs can speak up for "Southern Nagaland". This term has been introduced to Manipur when some signboards were put up in Senapati district nearly two decades ago to describe the Naga-inhabited areas of Manipur as part of the present day Nagaland.

This time around, Nagaland CM T R Zeliang led the missive with an address to a huge gathering at the first ever conference of 'Naga Village Authority of South Nagalim' at the local ground of Tagaramphung in Senapati district on Wednesday.

Indeed, Zeliang has done what NSCN-IM leader Th Muivah could not. While Muivah was not allowed entry into the state, Zeliang was accorded the status of a state guest. The intention of Zeliang and other Naga leaders could be interpreted as against the interest of Manipur, the long-term strategy of the Nagas and that of Zeliang is indeed laudable. In his own state, Zeliang has his own tribal problems. The Central Nagaland Tribes Council (CNTC) in an earlier statement had said it never objected the Rongmeis being accorded the Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland state to those qualifying the norms of the Nagaland government notification dated the 28th of April 1977, No.AR-8/876. "However, the CNTC also makes the stand of the three tribes of CNTC clear to whomever concerned, that the recognition of Rongmeis with a tribal status of Nagaland state will be opposed and objected together with all the other Naga tribes of Nagaland till it is revoked. On the ongoing tussle involving the Rongmei recognition as an Indigenous Tribe of Nagaland, the CNTC takes this step in opposing the recognition of the mentioned tribe in the larger interest of the people of Nagaland and for the sake of our future generations."

Despite problems like these, Zeliang has been able to display a view of 'United Nagas' at least in Manipur.

Manipur needs to learn a lot from a chief minister like Zeliang who could wield influence in neighbouring states. It is unthinkable of the Manipur chief minister going to Manipuri localities in neighbouring states and hold public meetings in the interest of Manipur, notwithstanding the fact that many problems exist in the state. Local and regional parties of Manipur are also unable to spread their wings beyond the boundary of the state, unlike the NPF, which is in office in Nagaland and targeting to get a double-digit figure in the upcoming Manipur Legislative Assembly elections.

In view of the above, it is high time that people of Manipur leave aside their differences for the better good of the state, at least for once and continue till stability comes to the state.

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National & International News

FM reviews availability and distribution of all denomination of bank notes in the country

Source PIB

New Delhi, Nov 14: The Union Finance Ministry today reviewed the position regarding availability and distribution of all denomination of bank notes. Some of the highlights of the review and the decisions taken are as follows:-

1. In the first four days (from November 10th to 13th, upto 5 pm) about Rs 3.0 lacs crores of old Rs.500/- and Rs.1000/- bank notes have been deposited in the banking system and about Rs.50,000 crores has been dispensed to customers by either withdrawal from their accounts or withdrawal from ATM's or by exchange at the counter. Within these four days, the banking system has handled about 18 crore transactions.
2. Coordination is being continuously done by Ministry of Finance with RBI, Banks and Post Offices to make all denomination notes available at all locations.
3. Instructions have been given to the Banks and Post Offices to ensure proper distribution of all denomination notes. Banks have also been especially advised to ensure the availability and distribution of small denomination notes.
4. Chief Secretaries of the States

have been requested to identify the rural pockets, if any, where availability of cash has been a problem and provide all support to the Banks and Post Offices in order to ensure the last mile distribution of small denomination of notes is done through mobile banking vans and Banking Correspondents (BCs). 5. It has been reported that certain business houses viz. Hospitals, Caterers, Tent houses etc. are not accepting Cheques/Demand Drafts and online payment transfer from customers. It is advised that in such cases customer can make a complaint to the concerned District Magistrates/District Administration for action against such establishments.

6. Government of Assam has arranged a Mobile Banking Vans with support of Banks and State Government Staff at certain Hospitals for carrying out emergency banking transactions. All Banks have now been advised to arrange mobile banking vans to the extent possible at major hospitals to carry out emergency banking transaction for patients.

7. Banks have been advised to make arrangements for separate queues for Senior citizens and Divyang persons. Separate queues will also

be arranged for exchange of cash to cash and transactions against Bank accounts.

8. Government of Arunachal Pradesh has made special arrangements like cash deposits / withdrawal and opening of new bank accounts in the remotely located areas with the help of Banks and State Government staff. State Governments have been requested to facilitate opening of new Bank accounts as a part of financial inclusion programme.

9. The issuance of the new series of Rs.500/- notes has already commenced.

10. Banks have been advised to increase the Business Correspondents limit of dispensing cash to Rs.2500/- for withdrawal from bank accounts.

11. Banks have been advised to increase the exchange limit over the counter from the existing Rs.4000/- to Rs.4500/-.

12. Banks have been advised to increase the Cash Withdrawal limit at ATMs from the existing Rs.2000/- to Rs.2500/- per day in the recalibrated ATMs, other ATMs will continue to dispense Rs.50/- and Rs.100/- notes until they are recalibrated.

13. The weekly limit of Rs.20,000/- for withdrawal from Bank accounts has been increased to Rs.24,000/-. The limit of Rs.10,000/- per day has been removed.

14. Banks have been advised to increase the issuance and use of mobile wallets and debit/credit cards as also to provide them to those customers and establishments not having access to these non-cash means of payment

15. The last date for submission of the annual life certificate for the Government Pensioners which is to be submitted in November every year has been extended up to January 15, 2017.

President of India inaugurates 36th edition of the India International Trade Fair

Source PIB

New Delhi, Nov 14: The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 36th edition of the India International Trade Fair 2016 today (November 14, 2016) in New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the India International Trade Fair is a mega projection of the new India that is fast taking shape. It showcases the vision of a glorious tomorrow, a spirit of excellence and achievement and unparalleled investment opportunity through the prism of the 'Make in India' and 'Digital India' initiatives taken by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. The fair symbolises India's commitment towards bringing the benefits of economic reform to its people from all walks of society, especially the under-privileged.

The President complimented ITPO for the theme of 'Digital India', this year. He said that digital technologies, e-commerce, e-enabled and mobile services are major components of e-governance and would, over time, contribute significantly to GDP growth. At the same time, we also need to make use of our abundant renewable sources to create a society that is self-sustaining and mindful of its responsibilities towards the present and future generations.

The President extended his good wishes to all participants from India and overseas especially, the 'Partner Country' - the 'Republic of South Korea' - and the Focus Country, 'Belarus'. He expressed hope that the 'Partner States' for the IITF this year - Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand and the 'Focus State' Haryana would make full use of the opportunities that this fair presents. The President said that he was confident that the 36th edition of this fair would promote business convergence and cohesiveness amongst the investors, manufacturers and retailers. It would also hopefully create a better understanding and awareness of 'Digital India', 'Make in India' and the 'Swachh Bharat' campaigns.

Violence in northern Syria kills 23

Syria, Nov 14: At least 11 children were among 23 people killed in northern Syria as pro-government forces kept up their campaign against opposition areas in the country's north, while rebels shelled a government-held district in Aleppo city.

The Kurdish security force said that at least eight more people were killed in a suspected airstrike on a crossing point connecting Kurdish-held areas with rebel areas in northern Aleppo province.

The violence yesterday comes a day after government troops repelled a rebel offensive on western parts of Aleppo city launched in late October.

Government aircraft had previously distributed fliers on the eastern districts also urging residents to leave and make use of the Russian-declared passageways to evacuate the besieged district.

While airstrikes on eastern Aleppo city have subsided, aerial bombings of rebel-held western parts of Aleppo province continued.

RBI says currency printing presses are running at full capacity to sustain demand

IT News

Imphal, Nov 13: RBI has said that currency printing presses are running at full capacity to sustain demand for new notes, it asked people to switch to other modes of payment such as debit and credit cards to reduce strain on bank branches. The central bank said in a statement that adequate stock of all currency notes has been kept ready at more than 4,000 locations across the country, and bank branches are linked to them for sourcing their requirements. It said, to sustain the demand, Printing Presses are printing the currency

notes at full capacity so that adequate quantum of notes is available.

The statement further said that the scrapping of 500 and 1,000 rupee notes cast a huge responsibility on the banking system to swiftly withdraw the currency in a smooth and non-disruptive way and to provide new notes of other denominations.

RBI said it also involved recalibrating ATMs for issuance of other legal tender notes and reloading them in a matter of two days and providing the exchange facility, just after a day from the announcement.

Trump says he will deport two to three million illegal immigrants

Source AIR

Washington, Nov 14: US President-elect Donald Trump says he will deport two to three million undocumented immigrants who have criminal records when he assumes power and intends to build a wall along US Mexican border to thwart stream of illegal migration into country.

In an excerpt of the interview released before his airs last night, Trump said he intends to build the wall, a favorite campaign

promise for his most devoted supporters, but that part of the barrier might be some fencing.

Overall, about 11 million undocumented immigrants live in the United States, but Trump said that after the border is secure and the initial group of law-breaking immigrants is deported, his government would decide what to do with the remaining millions of undocumented migrants living in the United States.

Meanwhile, Trump's administration is beginning to

take shape. He announced yesterday that Republican National Committee chairman Reince Priebus will be his new chief of staff, the highest ranking White House employee who is basically the top assistant to the President. He also named right-wing media executive Steve Bannon as his chief strategist and counselor. Mr Trump is due to take over at the White House on 20th of January next year, when Barack Obama steps down after two terms in office.

UPSC won't issue paper admit cards for civil services main exam

PII

New Delhi, Nov 13: No paper admit cards will be issued for this year's civil services main examination, scheduled to begin early next month, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has said.

The UPSC will be conducting the test at 23 centres from December 3 to 9. The Commission has uploaded the e-admit cards on its website — www.upsc.gov.in.

"The candidates are advised to download their e-admit cards and take a print-out thereof. The candidates will have to produce the print-out of their e-admit cards at

the allotted venue for appearing in the examination.

"In case the photograph is not visible or available on the e-admit cards, candidates are advised to carry identical photograph for each session along with proof of identity such as Aadhaar card, voter identity card, driving licence, passport etc. to the venue of the examination. No paper admit card will be issued for this examination by the Commission," the UPSC said in a public notice.

The civil services examination is conducted annually in three stages — preliminary, main and interview

— to select officers of the prestigious Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS), among others.

Candidates have been asked to bring e-admit card print-out in each session to secure admission to examination hall. e-admit card may be preserved till the declaration of written test result, the Commission said.

In case of any discrepancy, the candidate may contact UPSC facilitation counter in person or call on — 011-23381125, 23098543 and 23385271.