

Editorial

Imphal Friday, October 14, 2016

October 15: a journey with wrong starts

Allegations and propaganda warfare, which has been witnessing in these part of India by sections of armed opposition group waging war against the Government of India is not an issue for the upcoming 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election. Draconian and suppressive law that is being enforced in this region too is a wasted matter for those political parties fielding candidates in this election. Even individuals who had come up to challenge independently had now thought that AFSPA or the various other issues haunting the state is of no use in winning the confidence of the voter. Election this time is about money and power. The real issues of insurgencies, human rights violation have been completely forgotten not only by the aspirant candidates but also by the voters. But October 15 arrives, we in the Imphal Times do not want to skip the issue encircling over the event happen on that day of 1949, which perhaps is the root of the present menace.

October 15 is a significant date for the people of the state. Reason on this day of 1949, the erstwhile kingdom, Manipur was merged to the Indian Union. Many said the merger was legally done. To the words of Professor N Sanajaoba, Manipur was not married but forcibly made to marry under duress. So it is more like a rape of a kingdom.

As the important date is being sidelined by almost all mainland authority, we in the Imphal Times reminded that the merger of Manipur to the Indian Union in October 15, 1949 after the controversial signing of the merger agreement between Maharajah Bodhachandra and the representatives of the Indian Union on September 21 of the same year at Shillong is the root of all mayhem in the present state of Manipur.

For years people of the state have been witnessing several rebel groups observing October 15 as "Black Day" by freezing all wakes of live under the spell of general strike. The rebels do have their cause in calling the day general strike and most surprising thing the irresponsible attitude of both the state and central government to the calls made on this day. The silence of both the state and central government seems to be a clear indication on the righteousness to the call of the rebel or else why shouldn't there be any statement from the government authority regarding the reasons that the rebels had put forward justifying their cause.

A stitch in time saves River nine - the saying should be well think upon. For someone who wanted to go deep into the genesis of all this chaos arisen out of the conflict we certainly do have reason to blame the Central government authority for all the present state of our state.

In his book "Open Secret", Malay Krishna Dhar, the then joint director of the SIB, an intelligent agency had categorically stated the political and economic condition of the state. As according to him he had submitted reports on why the youths especially the Meitei had frustration to the merger of the erstwhile kingdom to the Indian Union terming it as ignorance from the part of the Union government authority. It was in the late 60s that intelligent agency had understood and further cautioned the Union leadership about the possible raise of a separatist movement as an outcome of negligence and proper understanding about the problem of the state.

Points here we wanted every guardian of the country's constituency is the need of special attention to the problem of the state. A mere policy for awarding rehabilitation package to some of the rebel groups and signing of peace deal or cease fire is not a lasting solution. Rather it would break out unexpecte problem to the state.

A wrong is a wrong, and a right is always right. What is wrong in correcting the wrongs? India now is emerging as a super power and it is not wrong to speculate in the possible interference of external force to distort the country's unity. The only means to strengthen the ties of the country's unity is through proper clarification on what had been committed before. It was a fact that people in the state believed that merger of Manipur with the Indian Union was illegal - a resolution adopted by a peoples' convention held at GM Hall Imphal in 1993.

Now the mindset of the youth had change a lot, no individuals are fool enough to be driven by some cheap provocative propaganda. So it is better the government accept what has happened before and should sort out the conflict with proper understanding. After all, rebels waging war are also human beings.

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An ode to India Post

Despite the instant messaging services like whatsapp, SMS and the social networking sites, there is nothing like receiving a personalized, handwritten letter. As India Posts enters its 162nd year, here are some interesting facts about the largest network in the world. World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October. The event was declared by the 1969 Universal Postal Congress in Tokyo as a means to mark the anniversary of the Universal Postal Union's (UPU) creation in 1874.

By : S. Balakrishnan

It sounds unbelievable but world's first airmail flight took off in India! It was on 18th February 1911 that a private plane took off from Allahabad to deliver mail at Naini, 18 km across the Ganges. A commemorative stamp was issued in 1961 on the occasion of Golden Jubilee of the First Aerial Post.

The credit for issuing Asia's first postal stamp also goes to India. Such a stamp was issued in Sindh (now in Pakistan) in 1852 and was in use till 1866. This rarest of rare stamp collectors' pride. Sir Bartolomeo Frere, the Commissioner of Sindh, introduced paper stamps for his province in 1852. These stamps, known as Scinde Dawk, were round in shape and were issued in three variations. They were withdrawn in October 1854 on the introduction of the regular India Postage Stamps, though their use continued for quite some time.

In 1854, it was decided to issue stamps for the British India, in the interest of the economy, it was also decided to have them printed in India itself. Accordingly, on 1st October 1854, half anna stamps showing a youthful profile of Queen Victoria were issued. Commemorative stamps were issued in 1954 to mark the centenary of this event.

The year 1854 was also a landmark for the country's postal service on various other counts as well. An all-comprehensive Indian Post Office Act was enacted in that year only. Again, it was in 1854 that rail mail service (RMS) began. The sea mail service from India to Britain and China also commenced in that year.

While 1854 stamps bore the inscription 'India Postage', in the same year, this was changed to 'East India Postage'. In 1882, this was again changed to 'India Postage' and continued till November 1962 when a new caption 'INDIA' was introduced. The first independence stamps, issued in 1947, were three in number. They depicted the Ashoka Pillar (National Emblem of India), the Indian National Flag and an Aircraft. With a total of 1,54,939 post offices (as on 31.03.2015), India Post ranks the world's largest postal network. The beginning for this was in 1727 when the first post office was opened in Calcutta (now Kolkata). Of these, 1,39,222 (89.96%) are in rural areas. At the time of independence, there were only 23,344 post offices, mostly in urban areas. On an average, a post office serves 21.22 sq. km. area and a population of 8,354. This varies

from 6,193 in rural to 26,198 in urban areas.

The number of post boxes installed is almost five times the number of post offices, i.e., more than five lakhs. As varied is our landscape, there are floating post offices on lakes and rivers also. The number of employees is also an amazing 4.60 lakh (both departmental and Gramin Dak Sevaks).

Now there are 22 postal circles in the country in the range of almost one for each state but also combining small states together or smaller states / UTs with neighbouring states. The 23rd circle, the Army Postal Service Circle, is an exclusive circle for the armed forces.

The annual mail traffic handled by India Post is around 20.48 crore registered mail and a voluminous 540.71 crore unregistered mail; of this, the humble 50 Paise post card alone counts 194.58 crore! Speed Post counts for a traffic of more than 3 crore every month! The total revenue earned in 2014-15 was Rs. 11,635.98 crore. On its part, India Post also strives to preserve its 38 heritage buildings spread across the country.

Like the kings & queens of yore, you can also have a stamp that features you on stamps under 'My Stamp' facility. The Gen Z might

call this as Selfie Stamps! According to a Postal Department website, 'My Stamp' is the brand name for personalized sheets of Postage Stamps of India Post. The personalization is achieved by printing a thumb nail photograph of the customer images and logos of institutions, or images of artwork, heritage buildings, famous tourist places, historical cities, wildlife, other animals and birds etc., alongside the selected Commemorative Postage Stamp.

To face the challenges of modern times and varied service requirements, the post offices are being computerized and equipped with Core Banking Solutions (CBS) to roll out payment banking services also. Post Offices are becoming nerve centres of innumerable activities by providing financial services, including Postal Life Insurance, disbursement of social security pension schemes, MGNREGA payments, Direct Benefit Transfers, and retail services.

One of the Missions of India Post is to sustain its position as the largest postal network in the world but at the same time touching the lives of every citizen in the nook & corner of our vast country and to enable as the last mile connectivity as a Government of India platform.

National & International News

Bangladesh welcomes Chinese President Xi Jinping

From PTI Dhaka, Oct 14: Bangladesh on Friday rolled out the red carpet for Chinese President Xi Jinping who arrived on a two-day state visit, the first by a Chinese head of state in 30 years, seen as crucial for bilateral economic ties.

A 21-gun salute heralded Xi's arrival as he stepped down from a special Air China flight to be received by Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid at the VVIP terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. Four Bangladesh air force jets escorted the aircraft carrying the Chinese leader as it entered the country's skyline while a contingent of army, navy and air force accorded him an honour guard as he landed.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told Chinese state-run Xinhua news agency on the eve of Xi's visit that the tour would usher in a new era of "intensive cooperation" between Dhaka and Beijing.

"We are very happy and feel honoured that President Xi is coming to Bangladesh. I believe that President Xi's visit will also be more important for South Asia (as well)," she said.

Xi will hold talks with Hasina and join a banquet at Bangabhaban presidential palace as part of his 23-hour visit, the first by any Chinese head of state to Bangladesh in three decades after President Li Xiannian's trip in March 1986. Hasina said Bangladesh strongly adhered to one-China policy and supported China on issues related

to its core national interests and efforts to safeguard its national sovereignty and territorial integrity. She said "China has become our largest trading partner and we consider China as a trusted partner in realising our dreams too. China is the leading generator of many of our mega projects in terms of finance, capitalisation and technology". Beijing earlier this week in a statement said the visit would be a "milestone" as "both sides would make deals and bilateral relations would be improved".

Bangladesh officials familiar with the tour said the two countries were expected to sign 25 agreements and

MoUs on investment and cooperation coinciding with the visit. They said the proposed deals would involve billions of dollars in Chinese funding for large infrastructure projects which Bangladesh considered critical to its development ambitions.

India extended a USD 2 billion line of credit to Bangladesh after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit last year, following up on a USD 1 billion loan in 2010 when his predecessor Manmohan Singh visited Dhaka.

Analysts said Dhaka sought to develop economic ties with China

keeping its warm strategic and political relations with next door India, as its traditionally ally and the dominant power in South Asia.

Ruling Awami League's general secretary and local government minister Syed Ashrafur Islam earlier described Bangladesh-China ties as "historic". He also sought restoration of an old road link, saying it would benefit the regional countries including India.

Foreign minister Mahmood Ali said Xi's visit would have no negative impact on Bangladesh's relations with other countries, particularly with India. "We don't think so," he said in response to a question.

NIA Takes Custody Of Five Accused In 2014 Burdwan Blast Case

Kolkata, Oct 14: National Investigating Agency (NIA) has taken over the custody of five alleged members of the banned Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) terror outfit in connection with 2014 Burdwan blast. A Kolkata court handed over their custody to the NIA till October 27 for further interrogation. The Special Task Force of Kolkata

police had arrested six people from Assam in the last week of September for allegedly conspiring to carry out blasts in the country and also striking a deal with Bodo militants. Sources in the anti-terror probe agency said, out of the five arrested, two had been charge-sheeted by the NIA including the main accused Moulana Yusuf,

while other three are yet to be charge-sheeted.

Moulana Yusuf is said to be the second-in-command of JMB's West Bengal unit and one of the main accused in the Burdwan blast. On October 2, 2014, a blast had occurred in a house at Khagragarh in which a two persons were killed. Both of them were suspected of having terror links.(AIR)

Police asked to strictly enforce ban on foreign firecrackers

New Delhi, Oct 14: Delhi government has written to Delhi Police and Customs Department to strictly enforce the ban on import and sale of firecrackers of foreign origin in the national capital. This has been aimed at reigning in the Chinese fireworks menace during Diwali festival.

Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) had written to the police chief and Customs Commissioner, along with the relevant directions, on September 30.

The police were asked to take action in case of violations. The development comes days after Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) said, possession and sale of fireworks of foreign origin, which is already a restricted item as far as import is concerned,

were illegal in India and punishable under the law. Manufacture, possession, usage and sale of any explosive containing sulphur or sulphurate in admixture with any chlorate is already banned in the country.(AIR)

Resolving Kashmir will end terrorism: Farooq Abdullah

Courtesy IANS

Srinagar, Oct 14 : India and Pakistan must talk and solve the Kashmir issue to end terrorism in the region, former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah said, speaking for the first time since the ongoing unrest erupted in the Kashmir Valley.

PM to inaugurate digital expo on Sardar Patel on Oct 31

New Delhi, Oct 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a digital exhibition on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on October 31 to mark the birth anniversary of the first Deputy Prime Minister of India.

The decision was taken during a 45-minute meeting which was attended by several Union ministers, including M Venkaiah Naidu, Sushma Swaraj, Nitin Gadkari, Suresh Prabhu, Ram Vilas Paswan, Anant Geete, Ravji Shankar Prasad, Narendra Singh Tomar and Dharmendra Pradhan.

An official said, it has been decided that Union ministers will visit various parts of the country on the day to participate in programmes marking the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel. Official said, several events are lined up for the occasion including unity pledge, unity runs, public rallies and various competitions.