

# Editorial

Imphal Monday, October 31, 2016

## 'Silence' doesn't make senses

Man, being a social animal has to exist with and amongst other humans and in order to adjust and make co-existence possible certain laws and regulations are drawn up to safeguard the welfare of every member of the group or community, curtailing certain personal freedoms and liberties that might infringe on other person's welfare. This is the basic idea of a social set-up. Leaders and arbitrators are then chosen to oversee the smooth working of the social system with adequate executive powers as deemed necessary to enforce the same- the Government as we know, create and accept in the contemporary world. A society, being made up of individual members, is bound to come up with conflicting interests and emotions. This is where the quality and the efficiency of the people entrusted to sort out these social issues are being tested. The problems being faced by our society as a collective whole in recent times is uncountable and varied- indeed an intimidating and daunting task for those entrusted to solve them. Public -memory is short lived- or so it is believed. But sweeping away these problems under the carpet and shrouding them with silence, putting the theory about public memory to the test is not the right step towards easing the problems. Nor is the polished method of prolonging the issues and tiring out the protesting parties to buy time and making these matters fade out of the mind of the public the prudent way of resolving things. The recent assurances doled out to the different parties regarding their claims for parts of the state by the State Government smacks of the oft repeated and always successful modus operandi. Instead of finding a lasting solution and bringing peace in the State, the Government shouldn't be promising something impossible to deliver. It's better to call a spade a spade and wind up the matter before things become irreparably damaged. It needs to speed up the workings of it's various departments and deliver the goods in time to avoid and prevent more problems. Genuine issues should be resolved before things get out of hand and "emotions" takes precedence for those whose voices has been gagged for so long and their grievances fallen on deaf ears .Justice delayed is justice denied.

## Sardar Patel : Organiser par excellence

By : Priyadarshi Dutta

Exactly one hundred years ago in June, 1916 a stylish Gujarati barrister mocked at a new visitor in Kathiawari dress to Gujarat Club, Ahmedabad. The barrister kept playing cards with his friends, even as the visitor delivered a lecture to a tiny audience in the lawn. He knew that visitor was none else than Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who had set up his Satyagraha Ashram in Ahmedabad recently after returning from South Africa. But the barrister, a successful criminal lawyer, had no interest in Gandhi's pursuits. But as Gandhi persisted with his visits for talks, the barrister decided to attend once out of sheer curiosity. The talk sounded like a religious discourse rather than political speech. Yet something changed permanently inside the 41-year old unemotional barrister. Gandhi's words kept haunting him for days till he became "reluctant recruit" to Satyagraha's cause. But being a pragmatic individual to the core, he did not openly join it until 1917. That year Gandhi was recognized as India's political messiah after Champaran Satyagraha. He then became a loyal disciple of Gandhi, and subsequently became his most capable lieutenant. Whatever Gandhi conceptualized, he organized; whatever were Gandhi's plans, he implemented. He burnt down his European suits and adopted *dhoti-kurta* made of Khadi. He was Sardar Ballabhbhai Jhaveribhai Patel (1875-1950), the iron man of India. Patel was born on October 31, 1875 at Nandadi (dist Khera, Gujarat), around 200 kms from Surat. He hailed from the community of Leva Patels, believed to have descended from warrior caste, though traditionally engaged in cultivation. They have a history of bravery and hard labour. Patel hailed from an agriculturist

family, and virtually grew up in the fields. He always introduced himself as a farmer/agriculturist, even at the height of legal or political career. He had three brothers and one sister. Out of them Vithalbhaji Jhaveribhai Patel (1873-1933), Bar-at-Law, became the first Indian President (Speaker) of the Central Legislative Assembly. Patel showed his promise as a popular leader as an elected representative of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (1917-1928). He was able to not only outsmart the British officialdom, but took several constructive initiatives for the townspeople. While being President of the Corporation (1924-1928) he once presented a unique example of 'Swachh Bharat'. Patel, along with volunteers, cleaned the streets of Ahmedabad with brooms and dustcart, beginning with *Harijan Basti* (Dalit quarters). As the Plague broke out in Ahmedabad in 1917, he worked almost round the clock with his volunteers to help the victims and their families. He worked at great personal risk of infection as Lokmanya Tilak had done during Pune Plague, 1896. The strain broke Patel's robust health, but sealed his reputation as a mass leader. Around the same time Khera Satyagraha (1918), a forerunner to epic Bardoli No-Tax Campaign (1928), reinforced Patel's leadership qualities. Though the tax settlements demanded by the peasants at Kheda (Gujarat) were not fully met, it had two important results. First it led to recognition of peasants as stakeholders in determining land taxes, and it brought Gandhi and Patel together. A decade later Gujarat was ravaged by floods after the torrential rains of July 23, 1927. Patel mounted a Herculean mission to rescue and rehabilitate the flood victims, which brought him to nationwide focus. The Bombay government (Gujarat was then part of Bombay Presidency) recommended him for an

award, which Patel politely declined. This humility was the hallmark of Patel even after his great victory at Bardoli (1928). He was reluctant to stand up at Calcutta Congress in December, 1928. After repeated persuasion he stood up in the audience amongst delegates from Gujarat, and had to be physically forced to come to the dais. Bardoli (Dist. Surat) was Patel's Kurukshetra. He gave extraordinary leadership to successful tax resistance campaign that rolled on for three months. Only Tilak's Famine Relief Campaign in Maharashtra (1896) could be compared to it in organizational brilliance. Patel organized the Satyagraha on military pattern though completely non-violent. He himself was the Supreme Commander (Senapati) and under him were Sector Commanders (Vibhag Patils), and under them volunteers (Sainik). The battle field covered 92 villages and 87,000 peasants. He ran a thorough information network involving horse mounted messengers, bhajan singers, paper printers etc. His success at Bardoli, attracted the attention of the whole British Empire. But the best recognition came from a farmer of Nanfaldol, in Bardoli Taluka. Kuberji Durlabh Patel said in an open meeting, "Patel you are our Sardar". Thereupon the title 'Sardar' attached to him permanently. Patel's disciplinarian approach was legendary. Self-discipline was Gandhi's mantra. But Patel brought the organizational discipline and cohesion necessary for mass movements. Patel arrived on the political scene exactly when Indian politics hit mass-movement stage. John Gunther, the American journalist, who surveyed Asian politics in 1930s found Patel 'party boss par excellence'. He found Patel a man of action, of practicality, the man who got things done.



Patel's organizational capacities were at test as independence approached. There was a threat of India's balkanization had the princely states, numbering around 565, not joined Indian Union. Some like Travancore wanted to remain free, whereas others like Bhopal and Hyderabad conspired to join Pakistan, though not contiguous to it. Partly by diplomacy and partly by coercion, Patel won over the princely states to join the Indian union. Force had to be applied in the case of Hyderabad, where Razakars had unleashed terror on subject population. As independent India's first Home Minister, he dealt with onerous responsibilities of resettling Hindu and Sikh refugees from Pakistan and organizing the civil services etc. Philip Mason, ICS, said Patel was a natural administrator who did not need to take any prior experience. Kaka Kalekar, Gandhi's close associate, said Patel belonged to the illustrious class of Shivaji and Tilak though he was an unquestioning follower of Gandhi. Patel completed 75 years in 1950, in a broken health due to excessive strain. He passed away in Mumbai on December 15, 1950. On the death bed he betrayed no anxiety about his family, but about the condition of the country. It is a pity that the legacy of Patel suffered from neglect. The present government has done well to rectify the wrongs of history, and highlight Patel as India's master nation builder.

## 17 killed in series of blasts in Iraq

Baghdad, Oct. 31: In Iraq, at least 17 people were killed and more than 60 others injured when a series of five bombs struck Shiite neighborhoods in Baghdad. A parked car bomb hit a fruit and vegetable market in the district of Hurriya, killing at least 10 people and injuring more than 30 others. In another attack, three persons were killed and 10 others injured at market in the Shaab neighborhood in northern

Baghdad. Two other explosions at traders' markets in the Topchi and Zataria areas killed four and injured 16 people. No one has immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but Islamic State, IS terrorists have frequently targeted Shiites in the past. The bombings come as Iraqi forces, backed by Shiite militias and Kurdish Peshmerga, advance on the IS stronghold of Mosul.

### MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT NOTIFICATION

Dated, the 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2016

No. 1/13/(11)2016-LA(E) Pt.: Result of the Interview/viva-voce for the post of Under Secretary in the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat held on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 has been declared. Result can be found at the notice board of the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Sd/-  
(G. Tapankumar Sharma)  
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## National & International News

### 8 SIMI terrorists who escaped Bhopal Central Jail killed in encounter

New Delhi, Oct. 31: Eight terrorists from the banned Students Islamic Movement of India, (SIMI) who escaped from Bhopal Central Jail early this morning after murdering a guard, have been killed. According to reports, all terrorists were killed in an encounter mid-morning in Ithkhedhi village on the outskirts of Bhopal. Bhopal IG Yogesh Chaudhary has yet to confirm the reports. "I am not in a position to comment anything as of now," he said. Earlier, the terrorists scaled the wall of the so-called 'high-security' prison in the state capital using prison bed sheets. "Eight SIMI activists had escaped

around 2-3am by killing a jail security guard," DIG Bhopal Raman Singh told media. They slit the guard's throat with a steel plate and glass after overpowering him, he said. Most of the escapees has been charged with terror and other heinous crimes and many of them were linked to home-grown terror outfits like the Indian Mujahideen. Home minister Bhupendra Singh called the jail break "unfortunate" and suspended five prison officers with immediate effect for negligence in duty. During a recent coordination meeting chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had asked jail authorities to be more vigilant, said the home minister.

The SIMI members who escaped were Mohammad Aqeel Khilji alias Abdullah s/o Mohammad Yusuf, Mehboob Guddo alias Malik s/o Ismail of Khandwa (MP), Mohammad Khalid Ahmad s/o Mohammad Saleem of Siolapur Maharashtra, Mehoob Sheikh alias Akram alias Wasim alias Nawed alias Nitin alias Faizan alias Chintoo alias Yusuf s/o Zamki Ahmad resident of Juhapura (Ahmedabad) Gujarat, Amzad s/o Ramzan Khan, Zakir Hussein Sheikh alias Vicky don alias Vinay Kumar s/o Badalul Hussein and Abdul Majid s/o Mohammad Yusuf of Ujjain (MP). This was the second major jail break by operatives from the banned SIMI

in three years. In 2013, seven members of the group broke out of a jail in Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh. Zakir Hussein Sheikh, Mehboob Guddo and Amzad were involved in the Khandwa jail break incident too, which also took place in November. That time, the seven hardcore terror suspects- led by SIMI's MP chief Abu Faisal - used iron bars to break through the Khandwa jail's bathroom wall. Just like this time, they used jail bed-sheets to scale the 20-foot high boundary wall. "Abu Faisal could not escape this time as he was in the separate barrack. Or it seems he was not interested," said a police officer wishing anonymity.

### Normal life affected in Kashmir for 115th consecutive day

PTI Srinagar, Oct 31: Normal life remained affected in Kashmir for the 115th consecutive day today due to the separatist-sponsored strike over the recent civilian killings and in support of their demand for right to 'self determination'. Although some shops were open in few areas in the civil lines and in the outskirts of summer capital here, most of them were shut in the rest of the city as well in other parts of Kashmir. There was some movement of private cars and auto-rickshaws in the city and other district headquarters of the Valley, but it was comparatively less as the separatists have not announced any relaxation in the strike later in the day today. Many street vendors, though, had set up their stalls along the TRC Chowk-Batamaloo axis through the Lal Chowk city centre. Even as there were no curbs on the movement of people anywhere in Kashmir, the officials said restrictions on the assembly of people under Section 144 CPC were in place throughout the Valley. Security forces have been deployed

in strength at vulnerable spots and along the main roads as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order as well as to instill a sense of security among the people to carry out their day to day activities without fear. The unrest, which began in the aftermath of killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani in an encounter with security

forces on July 8 and is about to complete four months, has badly affected, business, tourism and education in Kashmir. While shops, petrol pumps and business establishments remain shut during the day and open only in the evening during the relaxation period announced by the separatists on few days of the week, educational institutions have been

completely closed since the unrest began. The separatists, who are spearheading the ongoing agitation in support of their demand for right to self determination, have been issuing weekly protest calendars since Wani's killing. They announce a 14-hour relaxation from 5 pm on some days of the week for people to buy essentials.

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