

# Editorial

Imphal Tuesday, October 4, 2016

## BJP or Congress: Not for the people

With 2017 Manipur legislative Assembly just few months to go, blame game between rival political parties, particularly the BJP and the Congress is reaching its peak. The strength of the third force is yet to show up but, establishment of new political party base on regionalism concept is something that the political analyst of the state needs to have a keen eye.

With leaders of both Congress and BJP playing its cards with different issues, some voters who are to elect them are observing them through eagle eye. The massive victory of the BJP in the last Parliamentary election about 2 and half years ago and recent toppling of Congress party at Assam by BJP government and the loss of faith to the congress high Command by the legislators of Arunchal Pradesh which compelled to chose a regional Party to form a non-congress government with BJP supporting from outside is a vivid example of the decline of congress party. On larger context Congress party is in deep trouble across the country. In South India the nomenclature Congress is very unpopular that even the symbol are less seen in the city of Chennai, Hyderabad, Vikshakapatnam, Kochi etc.

Congress party's stronghold Delhi is now rule by anti corruption force AAP and almost all Northern Indian state have supported either the BJP or the regional Party. For example, the heartland of India Uttar Pradesh has hardly any room for Gandhis led Congress Party as Mayulam Singh Yadav and Akhilesh is far more popular. Yet, over all across the nation it is the BJP that majority people have considered right in handing over the rule of the nation.

However, the BJP which is appreciated for its credential across the nation seems to act rather in a different way when it comes to the state of Manipur. For example, When Narendra Modi become the prime Minister of India he promised to complete the Imphal-Jiri portion of national Highway within 100 days and it is now 2 and half years that the condition of the road is in the most deteriorated condition. When asked about the unfulfilled commitment, one of his Ministers in charge of HRD, Prakash Javedkar, who is also in charge of Election for the party in this state, blamed the state government saying that the state authority did not cooperate with the center. One knows how far the Union Minister, in-charge of Manipur election is taking the matter seriously as it is on record that the state government's proposal to hand over the construction work of this portion of highway which is not more than 5/6 kilometer length.

Another thing which is serious is that, even though the BJP government talk taught about developing the rural areas including the interior hill district of the state, soon after the coming of BJP in power at the center, any form of grant or package for the ADC has been cancelled. Even the ADCs - the only local bodies of Hill areas in the state, no award has been made under the 14 Finance commission. On one hand, rampant corruptions being noted to the part of state authority are being ignored by the BJP.

Where has the promise to take action against those involved in the Loktak scam? Another shrewd game is the issue of the NSCN-IM. Time and again the leadership of the NSCN-IM has been stating that the Government of India has finally understood the problem of Nagas and by signing the "frame Work Agreement" the NSCN-IM and the government of India is arriving at a final solution. Why the government of India keeps on repeating that framework Agreement is nothing but a skeleton agreement? What is wrong in letting known the content of the frame work when the BJP led Government of India is sincere enough to the people of the state.

From everything that is seen in the undeclared war to topple the congress government, it is an open secret that other than from toppling the Congress government by getting large number of MLAs, BJP indeed has no interest to the issue of the state. While saying so, Okram Ilobi Singh which led the congress is in no way better. His dictatorial attitude, disrespect for human rights, the practice of VIP culture, the high level of corruption and not the least the mass recruitment of employees in government department when election is just few months from now showed that another government led by him might be a dooms day for the common people who do not have relatives in the government.

Sincerely , Election 2017 is appeared as not for the people but for the power hungry.

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## National & International News

# Pakistan again violates ceasefire, shells Rajouri

**PTI**  
**Jammu, Oct 4:** Intensifying attacks, Pakistani troops again violated ceasefire today by resorting to mortar shelling and firing on Army posts and civilian areas along the LoC in three areas of Noushera sector in Rajouri district. "Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing in three areas of Noushera Rajouri district from 05:15 hours today," Defence Spokesman Col Manish Mehta said. They fired mortar bombs, automatic weapons and small arms, he said, adding that Indian troops gave a

befitting reply. There has been five ceasefire violations in over 24 hours along the Line of Control (LoC). Yesterday, Pakistani troops violated ceasefire four times and restored to heavy firing and mortar shelling in Saujian, Shahpur-Kerni, Mandi and KG sectors in Poonch district, injuring 5 civilians, including five women. Several shops were burnt down after a shell triggered fire in oil containers at a security force camp. On October 2, Pakistan resorted to firing and shelling from 19:15

hours along LoC in forward areas in Pellanwala belt of Jammu district. On October 1, Pakistani troops had shelled Indian posts and civilian areas with mortar bombs, RPGS and HMGS amid small arms firing along LoC this sector. On September 30, Pakistani troops had opened fire from small arms along the LoC in Pellanwala, Chaprial and Samman areas of Akhnoor sector of Jammu district. On September 29, Pakistan troops had resorted to firing in Balnoie area of Mendhar sector,

The Pakistani troops had violated the ceasefire on September 28 by opening fire on Indian army posts along LoC in Sabzian area Poonch sector. On September 6, Pakistani troops had fired on Army posts along the LoC in Poonch sector. Pakistani troops had also violated the ceasefire on September 2 by firing on forward army posts along the LoC in Akhnoor sector of Jammu district. Last year, 16 civilians were killed and 71 others injured in 405 incidents of cross-border firing by Pakistan.

## Top Muslim Brotherhood leader killed in Egypt

**PTI**  
**Cairo, Oct 4:** A senior Muslim Brotherhood leader, who was also the founder of the outlawed Islamist movement's armed wing, and another member of the outfit have been killed in a shootout with Egyptian security forces, officials said today.

Mohammed Kamal, 61, and Yasser Shehata Ali Ragab were killed in a gun-battle late last night in Cairo, said the Interior Ministry. Kamal, a physician by profession, held various executive posts in the group and was a member of the General Guide office. He was sentenced to life in prison in two cases in absentia for forming militant groups and taking part in bombings in Assiut. He was also the founder of Muslim Brotherhood's armed wing, the ministry said in a statement.

It said the security forces targeted an apartment in el-Basatin district after receiving information that some people were planning terrorist attacks at the building. During the raid last night, the Brotherhood members opened fire on security forces and in the retaliatory fire the two men were killed, the statement said.

The Brotherhood is the Middle East's oldest Islamist movement and Egypt's main political opposition. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has launched a massive crackdown on Brotherhood militants after ousting Mohamed Mursi of the group as president in 2013.

## Jharkhand becomes first state to implement Direct Benefit Transfer in Kerosene

**Ranchi, Oct 4:** Jharkhand has become the first state in the country to implement Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in Kerosene. The scheme is being implemented in four identified districts of the State from October 1. These districts are Chatra, Hazaribagh, Khunti and Jamtara. In a statement, Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry said that under the DBT Scheme, PDS kerosene is being sold at non-subsidised price and the subsidy is being transferred to consumers directly into their bank accounts. This initiative is aimed at rationalising subsidy and plugging the leakages.

## India, Pak military communication vital to reduce tensions: US

**PTI**  
**Washington, Oct 4:** The US has called for "calm and restraint" from India and Pakistan amid increasingly strained relations between the two neighbours and urged both militaries to keep their lines of communication open to help defuse tensions in the region. "We urge calm and restraint on both sides. We understand, as we said last

week, that the militaries are in touch. We believe that that continued communication is vital to reduce these tensions," State Department spokesperson Elizabeth Trudeau told reporters yesterday.

Trudeau, however, refused to respond to questions on India's "surgical strikes" across the Line of Control in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir last week. "I'm not going to speak to any reports of these incidents."

Trudeau said the US is emphasising on regional stability and security in its dialogues with Indian and Pakistani leaders.

"I think what you would take a look at being discussed is regional stability and regional security. One of the things I think we all need to focus on is conflicts or issues or rising tension are not contained to any specific region," she said.

"We are in favour of any reduction of tensions that both sides agree to in this particular instance. We have strong ties with both Pakistan and India, and we'll engage on that basis," Trudeau added. She said the US position on Kashmir has not changed. "I would say that our position on Kashmir is not changed, and I would remind you that we are having conversations with both countries on the importance of reducing the tensions in the region," she said.

## KUFOS website hacked

**PTI**  
**Kochi, Oct 4:** A day after the National Green Tribunal's website came under cyber attack, a group today hacked the website of a prestigious university and posted "Pakistan Zindabad" slogan on it. Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean studies (KUFOS) authorities said they have filed a complaint with the cyber cell of the state police after the incident was noticed this morning. "Given the serious nature of the incident, we immediately alerted the security agencies. They had posted Pakistan Zindabad slogan on our website," KUFOS registrar VM Victor George said. He said the website is under construction and it will be restored very soon.

Contd. from previous issue

# Library movement and development in Manipur

## 5. Historical Perspective on Library Movement and Development

With the entry into the second half decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Manipur, a tiny border state of India has also stepped into the almost 90 (ninety) years of its library movement and development. Many ups and downs mobility in this very important aspect of human society have been witnessed during the period. During the last 90 years there have been many contributory efforts from different angles for the cause of the movement. In fact, as done in other parts of the world, the public library movement in this small state also started as a result of the people's movement, the efforts of the Government was made in the later stage. The public library movement was started in the state from the side of individuals, voluntary organizations, philanthropists, etc.

The initiative of the Government in this regards came a bit late. The following sections of the paper are a narration of the story, highlighting the experience of the last about 90 years in the state, in this regard. The very idea of the library movement in this part of the country was conceived in the year 1927 with the establishment of Manipur Club, mainly to provide public library services by **Dr. H. Atulchandra Singh**, a Philanthropist, a great social reformer, indeed a multifaceted person of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. While Manipuris, not only in the state, but also those in different parts of the world particularly in South East Asian Region are celebrating September as the **Jananeta Irawat Month** we

are also observing the 10<sup>th</sup> September every year, the birth day of Atulchandra as Manipur Library Day. The great philanthropist was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> September, 1897 at Kakwa Nameirakpam Leikai, an outskirts of about 5 Km from Imphal along the Indo-Myanmar Road (NH-39). As a social reformer characterized by multifaceted nature Atulchandra contributed a lot for the welfare of the people of the state. His pioneering efforts since mid 1920s are too many to mention. He launched free Homeopathic Treatment, established a number of Schools including Polytechnics, Vocational Training Centres, popularized Hindi and Sanskrit Education, Games and Sports, took initiatives in Theatre and Cooperative movement, etc. in the soil of the land. He was areal pioneer of the public library movement of the state.

The need and importance of library and its role to play in the society was conceived in the mind of Atulchandra since long time while he was studying at Driburgargh and Benarus. He was also very much inspired by the nature of Library Movement launched in Bengal in 1925 by the Bengal Library Association headed by Vishwakavi Rabindranath Tagore as the President of the said Association. He was even communicated with Rabindranath Tagore through letters on some aspects related to social work, art and culture, development of libraries and schools, etc. The dream of Atulchandra became true with the birth of Manipur Club on **April 7, 1927**. As its founder, he established

the club at Kakwa Nameirakpam Leikai, Imphal to provide library services in a formalized manner mostly to the students and youths of the locality and its adjoining areas. The said Club was equipped with books and other important documents developed through donation from the public. The books were mostly found written in Bengali, Sanskrit, Hindi, English and Manipuri. There was even provision for borrowing the books by the public for home use. Eventhough, the name was Manipur Club, it was almost characterized with certain features of being a public library. More interestingly, the said Club was renamed as **Manipur Club Library** on the **1<sup>st</sup> January, 1931** by adding the term "**Library**". Shri Kansom Gulab Singh from Thoubal Melaground, Thoubal was the Librarian-cum-keeper of the Library. After the death of Atulchandra's mother Chonu (Juvabati) in 1932, the name of the library has again been changed to **Juvabati Memorial Library on April 19, 1933**. With an august gathering the building of the library having three rooms was dedicated to the public to provide free public library service. The library hosted a number of programmes at that time. The first Manipuri Chief Minister of Manipur Shri M.K. Priyobrata Singh and first Librarian (the post has been designated as Chief Librarian later on) of the State Central Library, Imphal Shri Mayengbam Anandamohi Singh, a renowned educationist and writer of Manipur, Shri R.K. Shitaljit Singh, Army Officers from outside Manipur and many others enthusiastically

donated invaluable books to the Library. The library also developed literature on 2nd World War, Newspapers, Radio, etc and the same were made available to the public. Even tale-tale was introduced in the library. Shri Atulchandra himself read out newspapers and made the public listened to it. The Library, however, got many setbacks through different phases due to many factors. Today the overall management and functioning of the same is under the control of the Manipur Foundation, Imphal. The Organization uses to observe the 10<sup>th</sup> September, birth day of Atulchandra as **Manipur Library Day** since recent past.

## 6. Pioneering Efforts but a Missing Link

After the establishment of the Manipur Club by Atulchandra in 1927, some commendable pioneering efforts from individuals and general public towards public library movement of the state were also made during 1930-1950. These include the establishment of Imphal Reading Club (1930) at Moirangkhom, Imphal, Library established by Shri M.K. Priyobrata Singh (First Manipuri Chief Minister of Manipur) at Sagolband near Khaplangba Mandir since 1933, Chitrangada Library (1934) at Imphal, Imphal Public Library (1934) near Uripok Chakrikom, Imphal, Manipur Public Library (1950) at Bir Tikendrajit Road, Imphal. However, almost all these libraries became extinct due to many reasons. This is, in fact, a missing link in the history of the library movement of Manipur. **(To be contd.....)**