

# Editorial

Imphal Saturday, October 8, 2016

## Retreating credibility

The air is thick with anticipation of the arriving festivals in this State with a perennial presence of occasions for celebrations. That the people pour their hearts out in their celebrations might very well be a manifestation of their frustrations and hopelessness of the present situation. Wishes and messages of peace and harmony, not to forget development and progress will be doled out to the public with unerring accuracy and seemingly empathic statements, both by the ruling leaders elected by the people, as well as by those who have taken over the cause of fighting against the injustice and independence of the people upon themselves. The ideologies, have they been practiced as propagated, could have propelled this small state into a league of its own, one which the rest of the world would have looked up to for inspiration and guidance. The reality that lay around us couldn't be more different or ironic. In spite of so many patriots and pioneers of freedom and justice, why is the common man in Manipur still could not live a decent life? Why is efficiency and hard work not being regarded with the same venerability as the ability to cozy up to power and riches? Why is fear and violence being viewed as the preferred mode of getting things done-for those who can, or profess to have the power, to unleash them? What is the meaning of peace and independence when the common people, far removed from the company of the powerful government and the relentless insurgents, live in fear and uncertainty, deprived of their rightful stakes, their share of the benefits being utilized, albeit without their consent or knowledge, by the bureaucrats and heads of departments as well as those fighting for independence to further their professed cause of development, justice and independence? Why, despite the teeming guardians of truth and equality, the majority of the public is still reeling under injustice and oppression? Is extortion and use of force- lethal force at times a prerequisite for attainment of peace, freedom and independence? How do these opposing forces, purportedly working towards the same goal, envisage the participation of the public for which they are supposedly carrying out their pursuits when the trust and empathy have all but evaporated into thin air? The frightened feelings and uncertainty of the people should be allayed first. The present practice of holding a gun to the head of the public while enquiring their allegiance will not work in the long run. The spawning of a breed of self-styled insurgents and protectors of freedom and progress who are taking advantage of the naivety and unsure state of mind of the common public, while carrying on with extortion, demanding huge exacting amounts as donations, and conniving with the powerful whose faults are conveniently overlooked as long as their purpose are being served should be put to a complete halt. The Government should cleanse itself to regain that dwindling confidence of the people. A new beginning is still possible. It is not lofty ideals or poetic words that will win the hearts of the public. It is the cold hard facts of their deeds which will determine the outcome of their professed goals.

More State news

## Sainik school Imphal celebrates its 45<sup>th</sup> raising day

**PIBDEFENCE, Imphal, Oct.8:** Sainik School Imphal (SSI) celebrated its 45<sup>th</sup> Raising Day with great zeal and enthusiasm on October 7. The celebrations commenced with wreath laying and floral tributes at the Martyrs' Pillar in the school, by the officers, staff, alumni and senior cadets of the school. As a part of the celebrations, a variety entertainment programme was showcased by the school cadets at the Maneckshaw Auditorium. On culmination of the variety entertainment program, Mr. LAjit Singh, yesteryear Senior Master of the school, and alumni Shri M Rajkumar IAS, Shri Radha Vinod Sharma IAS and Mr. Ibugochoubi-President of SSI Alumni Association, addressed the gathering. They complimented the school for excelling in various fields of education. After sharing the memories and experiences of their Sainik School days, they urged the school cadets to strive for excellence, even in the smallest things one may indulge in. Taking note of the progress and achievements of SSI, the speakers profusely expressed their goodwill to their alma mater. To mark the occasion, a friendly volleyball match was played between the team of Alumni Association and Sainik School Staff. In his welcome address to the gathering, Sqn Ldr KV Sijomon, Offg Principal elucidated various achievements of the school in academics, sports and co-curricular activities. He acknowledged the efforts of past and present staff of the school. While appreciating the good will and contributions of the alumni, he urged all stake holders to continue to strive for the progress of the school.

## BRICS : Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions

By : Syed Mahmood Nawaz

The 8<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit is set to take place in the middle of this month in Goa under the Chairmanship of India. BRICS, grouping Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa is a unique international mechanism which has been playing an important role in rebalancing global influence thereby having positive effects on world economy and politics. BRICS nations collectively account for 43% of the world population, with around 25% of the world's total land area and close to 30 % of the GDP with around 17 % share in the world trade. These five major emerging economies are looking for their right place, in the global economic and political stage, which benefits their potential and capabilities. Their rising prominence will surely help in resolving global issues in a better way. In 2001, in a research paper on global economics titled 'Building Better Global Economic BRICs' which was published by Goldman Sachs, British economist Jim O'Neil coined and used the acronym 'BRICs' for the first time for four rapidly developing economies- Brazil, Russia, India and China. In 2006, Brazil, Russia, India and China began a regular informal diplomatic coordination initiative, with annual meetings of Foreign Ministers at the margins of the General Debate of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). This successful interaction led to the decision that the dialogue was to be carried out at the level of Heads of State and Government in annual Summits. The First BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg (Russia) in 2009. The depth and scope of the dialogue among the Members of BRIC group - which became BRICS in 2011 with the inclusion of South Africa - kept on expanding from year to year. More than an acronym that identified countries emerging in the international economic order, BRICS became a new and promising political-diplomatic entity, far

beyond the original concept which was envisioned for the financial markets. Over the years BRICS has evolved in a phased and progressive manner, thereby very meticulously strengthening its two main pillars: (1) coordination in multilateral forums, with a focus on economic and political governance and (2) cooperation between members. BRICS pushes for reforming the structures and forums of global governance, especially in the economic and financial fields - International Monetary Fund, World Bank, G-20 etc. There is special emphasis on the reforms of political institutions, such as the United Nations as well. Intra-BRICS cooperation has also been solidifying with a clear and broad agenda which has been developed over the years. And this includes areas such as finance, agriculture, economy and trade, combating transnational crime, science and technology, health, education, corporate and academic dialogue and security, among others. The group is geared up to tackle challenges in the social, economic and environmental fields, and create new opportunities for the members of the BRICS group in different areas especially with an eye on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. BRICS as well as other emerging market economies and developing countries do continue to face major financing constraints at times in addressing infrastructure gaps and sustainable development needs. To address these issues, BRICS has now under its belt, the New Development Bank (NDB) which will mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging and developing economies. And to complement the working of the NDB, the grouping also has the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), with an initial size of \$100 billion, to help countries

forestall short-term liquidity pressures. The idea to establish the Bank was proposed by India during the 4<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit held in New Delhi in 2012. During the 6<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit at Fortaleza (Brazil) all agreements were signed by BRICS members and in May 2015 Shri. K.V. Kamath from India was appointed as the President of the New Development Bank with its headquarters in Shanghai (China). The 7<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit at Ufa (Russia) in July 2015 marked the entry into force of the agreement on the NDB. Recently the Bank approved its first package of loans worth about \$811 million. The four projects in Brazil, China, South Africa and India are all in the renewable and green energy development sphere. And to quote the NDB spokesperson, "There are many more new projects in the pipeline including projects from Russia. They are at various stages of consideration or appraisal". "NDB signifies developing countries' coming of age; their aspirations to stand on their own feet", the spokesperson added. The Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi had recently said, "BRICS acts as a vital pillar of hope for this world full of political challenges, safety related challenges and economic challenges". In September 2016, the BRICS leaders met informally on the margins of the G20 Summit in Hangzhou, China and according to a media note issued on this occasion, the BRICS leaders underlined the importance of further strengthening strategic partnership guided by principles of openness, solidarity, equality, mutual understanding, inclusiveness, mutually beneficial cooperation. They also underlined the importance of establishment of a just and equitable international order based on International law. The BRICS leaders also strongly condemned the heinous acts of terrorism that continue to disrupt

global peace and security and undermine social and economic confidence. They emphasized the need for a united global effort to combat terrorism in accordance with norms and principles of international law, including the UN Charter. The leaders appreciated India's BRICS Chairpersonship and the good pace of implementation and expansion of BRICS cooperation agenda and voiced their full support for a successful hosting of the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit in Goa under India's Chairpersonship. They also appreciated the strengthening of people-to-people exchanges through organization of various BRICS events across the cities and provinces of India. In New Delhi, External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj while sharing India's plan of action during BRICS Chairpersonship said, "We will adopt a five-pronged approach. It will comprise of Institution Building, Implementation, Integration, Innovation, and Continuity with Consolidation". On the sidelines of the 8<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit, there will also be the BRICS-BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Outreach Summit which will see leaders from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand joining the BRICS leaders. Goa has been chosen as the venue for the 8<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit over many other places in India. Recently the Chinese foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi paid a pre-summit visit to Goa. After the visit, an impressed Mr. Yi said, "Goa has a time honored history, beautiful landscape, rich resources and hardworking people and is one of the most developed states in India. Goa is small, but beautiful. I believe Goa is an epitome of the future and bright prospect of India. I am sure the BRICS summit will put Goa at an even bigger stage". Now, the world awaits the 'Goa Declaration'. (Courtesy PIB Feature)

## National & International News

### 13-year-old Jain girl dies in Hyderabad after fasting for 68 days

**Source NDTV Hyderabad, Oct.8:** A 13-year-old girl in Hyderabad died last week after fasting for 68 days as per Jain rituals during the holy period of 'Chaumasa'. Aradhana, a class 8 student, was admitted to the hospital just two days after completing her fast where she died of cardiac arrest, the family said. At least 600 people attended Aradhana's funeral hailing her as a 'bal tapasvi'. The funeral procession was called a 'shobha yatra' - a mark of celebration. Aradhana's family runs a jewellery business and has a shop in the Pot Bazaar area of Secunderabad.

Questions are being raised why they allowed her to give up school and sit on a fast. "It has been a practice for people to undertake severe penance when they give up even food and water. They are glorified, lauded and honoured at community meetings by the religious elders. They are also showered with gifts. But in this case it was a minor and that is my objection," said Lata Jain, a member of the community. "This is suicide if not murder," she added. Sources close to the family said Aradhana had earlier undertaken a similar fast for 41 days and survived. "We did not hide anything. Everyone knew Aradhana was

fasting. They came and took selfies with her. Now some people are pointing fingers at us for allowing her to fast for 68 days," Aradhana's grandfather, Manekchand Samdhariya said. Aradhana was seen sitting dressed up like a bride, surrounded by several others, on a grand chariot. Newspaper advertisements issued after the girl completed the nearly 10-week-long fast show Telangana minister from Secunderabad area, Padma Rao Goud, was the chief guest at grand event for 'Paarana' - the completion of fast. Zahaerabad lawmaker BB Patil is also seen in the photos of the event. According to Jain religious leaders, Santhara is

usually meant for elderly people, who have lived their life and want renunciation. "There should never be any element of force or coercion in tapasya or fasting. This was a tragedy and we must learn our lessons from it," Maharasa Ravinder Muniji of Kachiguda Sthanak told newspersons. Child rights activist Shanta Sinha says a police case must be registered and the child rights commission must take action. "A minor is not deemed to have a voluntary will to take decisions that can endanger their life. Religious leaders also need to re-look at what should be allowed and what is not," she said.

### Kashmir unrest: Srinagar tense as 13-year-old dies after protests

**Courtesy HT Srinagar, Oct. 8:** The unrest in Kashmir has claimed its 89<sup>th</sup> victim with a young boy succumbing to head injuries late Friday night. He had been injured after security forces used tear gas shells and pellet guns to break up a protest in Srinagar's Saidpora area of the old city earlier in the day. While police claim Junaid Ahmad was 13 years old, his family insists he was only 11. Junaid was admitted to Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) in a serious condition. The situation in Srinagar continues to be tense on Saturday with most of the old city areas under curfew. Security forces fired tear gas shells on the funeral procession of the boy. The slogan-shouting mourners had come out with the procession violating curfew that authorities clamped again in the old city area

of Srinagar. On Friday, authorities had imposed curfew in many parts of Srinagar including Khanyar, Rainawari, Nowhatta, Safakadal, Maharaj Gunj, Maisuma and Batamalo. To thwart a protest march called by separatists towards United Nations office in the city. "The restrictions were also imposed in Sonwar to prevent people from marching towards UN office," said a police official. Vehicular and pedestrian movement towards the UN office in Sonwar was also restricted. Security forces swung into action after the headline Hurriyat Conference faction led by Syed Ali Geelani mailed a memorandum to the United Nations Military Observer's Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) wanting the intervention of the world body to solve the Kashmir issue. "Since we believe and understand

that Kashmir dispute remains at the centre of the regional conflict, we appeal you to challenge the behaviour of Indian State in Jammu Kashmir and urge it to stop this reign of terror. In the interests of regional peace and global justice we once again implore you to intervene and prevail upon the Indian state to shun violence and initiate processes for granting universally recognised Right to Self Determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," the memorandum read. Police and CRPF personnel set up roadblocks to prevent the movement of people after separatists urged people to move en-masse towards the UN office demanding right to self determination. Friday prayers were not held in the Jamia Masjid for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive Friday owing to the restrictions.

The valley witnessed sporadic protests and shutdown on the 91st day on Friday of unrest which was triggered by the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen militant Burhan Wani on July 8. Protests and clashes between youth and security forces were also reported in some areas in northern districts of Bandipora and Baramulla. The separatist leadership including Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Yasin Malik and Shabir Shah continue to be either under house arrest or in custody. The joint separatist leadership has extended the latest protest calendar to October 13. They have urged students to organise day-long 'Resistance Convention' on Saturday. Separatists have also urged people to occupy all the roads leading to police stations in their respective areas on October 10.

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