

Editorial

For better tomorrows

The essence of patriotism that runs through our veins seems to be getting away with the invasion of the dirty mind call 'jealousy'. Thirst for money and power has made people in our state live like a mere pawn. There seems to be no fair games in the making of peace either as love and humanity have been shattered in the 'peace-making game'.

Well this is Manipur - an Asiatic Kingdom, now a state of the Union of India and a home of over 32 different ethnic communities. Myth and legends talk about the blood relationships among these different communities. History says forefather lived, worked and fought together to protect the kingdom. However, reality today is different as the power hungry people play games of revenge to the history, without knowing that somebody superior to them are using them as pawn. The sacrificed of our ancestors for what we are now is being made a mockery by us. We now create situation that our next generation may curse us for what we have done for them.

It's wrong to redraw history, we can't change history but we can learn from history for a better tomorrow. It's not fair to paint pink on the seven colours, for the beauty of rainbow will no longer be seen. Yes, all the 32 and more communities who had been living together from time immemorial have every rights to live as themselves by flourishing their culture, tradition, religion and identity. Its easy learning the minds of the jealous people playing with fire using all weapons to discard the history of this small erstwhile kingdom, but its hard taking up against such, as the virtue of patriotism that runs to the veins has been slowly poisoned. Without knowing our mistakes we keep on following the wrong path.

For nearly two decades, it is going on without any solution. The collective leadership should understand now that the game being played to them has been ruining the bright side of their brothers at home. When you keep talking for peace, when you are busy fitting bombs to show your existence, when you are busy creating your own history, you are wiping out the generation that will remember you. It's again history on how the power hunters are playing by inciting jealousy to the virtue of your patriotism. Let us be sincere to our next generation. Let us sacrifice for our better tomorrows.

More news

HM calls on GJM and other stakeholders to call off the hunger strike, bandh

PIB
New Delhi, Aug 14: A delegation of Gorkhaland Movement leaders called on the Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh here today. The delegation submitted a memorandum of their demands to the Union Home Minister. Rajnath Singh made an appeal to the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) and other stakeholders to call off the hunger strike, and also to withdraw the bandh call, allowing normalcy to return to the area. He also appealed to the West Bengal Chief Minister Ms. Mamata Banerjee to initiate a dialogue with the GJM and other stakeholders of Darjeeling, who are on a strike for last 60 days. Following is the text of appeal of the Union Home Minister:

"The Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) has called for an indefinite strike in Darjeeling hills with effect from 12-06-2017 demanding a separate state of Gorkhaland. I am concerned about the developments in Darjeeling and the loss of valuable lives and sufferings of people over the past 60 days which pains me immensely. Violence can never be a solution to

any problem. In a democracy, solutions are always found through restraint, mutual dialogue and within the legal ambit.

We all are aware of the strategic importance of the locality and the challenges that we face in the region, and I am kept informed of the developments on a regular basis by my colleague, Shri S S Ahluwalia, MP, Darjeeling. Keeping in mind the national interest, as well as in the interest of our Gorkha brothers and sisters, who are brave and large hearted people and have contributed immensely to nation building, I appeal to GJM and all other stakeholders to call off the hunger strike, and also to withdraw the bandh call, allowing normalcy to return to the area. It is a move that will help to create an atmosphere for finding a solution to the current crisis. I also appeal to West Bengal Chief Minister Ms. Mamata Banerjee to initiate a dialogue with the GJM and other stakeholders of Darjeeling, who are on a strike for last 60 days. In the meantime, the state government should restore all civil supplies and also restore internet services, Cable TV & local channels.

India, emerging as super economic power

By: Rajeev Ranjan Roy

India's economic advancement in the past 70 years is one of the most fascinating success stories. Faced with multiple woes, ranging from near absence of infrastructure to almost everything needed for economic enhancement, India's odyssey towards economic independence was dotted with challenges. It was the determination of our founding fathers who did not give up and build the country brick by brick. The concept of Five-Year-Plan was a great beginning in the right direction, with an emphasis on eradication of poverty and woes of farmers.

There were multiple problems which had crept into the system over the years in the system and the ease of doing business was never encouraging. Foreign reserves were never assuring, while the flow of foreign direct investments (FDI) was minimal. As a result, the demand for the opening up economy began gaining momentum when Rajiv Gandhi was the country's Prime Minister. Due to political turmoil there was not much happening till PV Narasimha Rao became the country's Prime Minister and he opened the gate for foreign investors by liberalising norms, thus beginning the era of economic liberalisation. The pace of foreign as well as domestic investment remained sluggish during 1996 to 1999 due to political instability and Kargil War.

However, Indian economy bounced back post-Kargil War, thanks to the visionary leadership of the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. In fact, the 'feel good factor' of liberalisation became explicit and the

flow of investment and disinvestment of PSUs to fund major infrastructure projects including roads and power plants picked up momentum. Since then Indian economy has not looked back. In fact, even during the global economic crisis in 2008, Indian economy showed resurgence and maintained an upward growth rate, emerging as a bright spot for the world investors.

Now under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has become the fastest growing economy in the world, leaving behind China. A series of reforms initiated by Prime Minister Modi has significantly increased the ease of doing business in the country. That is why India is today one of the most sought after investment destination of world's leading firms. It is, perhaps, for the first time in the history of independent India that the world's top CEOs are committing huge investments in India on their own, a rare phenomenon indeed!

Prime Minister Modi's demonetisation decision has created a solid ground for the formalization of Indian economy. Indian economy has suffered a lot due to its over dependence on informal or unorganised sector, which could be a major source of employment but in the process end up causing huge losses to the economy by way of tax evasion and violation of labour laws, which have negative bearing on the final output of workforce. Similarly, the landmark Goods and Services Tax (GST) is all set to give a new boost to the country's economy. It will have long term positive impact on

investment and growth. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), "this tax reform and the elimination of targeted subsidies are needed to widen the revenue base and expand the fiscal envelope to support investment in infrastructure, education, and healthcare."

Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies (Benefits and Services) Act 2016, rationalisation of subsidies, enactment of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 and operationalisation of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) for new corporate insolvency framework are some other measures which will add lot of resilience to the country's economy. The World Bank has predicted India's growth at 7.7 per cent during 2017-18, which reinforces the fact that fundamentals of Indian economy remain quite strong and are capable of absorbing the aftershocks of policy 'disruptions'. India has all the potential to grow at a much higher pace if the Centre takes care of industrial and manufacturing sectors. IMF too has underlined the need for removing long-standing structural bottlenecks so that market efficiency improves. Indian economy had grown at 7.6 per cent in 2015-16. According to the World Bank, India's gross domestic product (GDP) could grow at 7.7 per cent in 2017, supported by "expectations of a rebound in agriculture, civil service pay reforms supporting consumption, increasingly positive contributions from exports and a recovery of private investment in the medium term." India's recent growth rate of more than 7 per cent annually has

been the strongest among G-20 countries.

The latest OECD Economic Survey of India 2017 finds that the acceleration of structural reforms and the move toward a rule-based macroeconomic policy framework are sustaining the country's longstanding rapid economic expansion. Liberalising norms for a wide range of FDI will lead to a kind of surge in job and employment creation. Barring the small negative list, Prime Minister Modi has ensured that all sectors get FDI through the automatic approval route. According to an estimate, net FDI inflows during April-December 2016-17 increased to US \$ 31.18 billion from US \$ 27.22 billion during the last corresponding period. India's foreign exchange reserves stood at US \$ 367.93 billion on March 24, 2017 with the current account deficit (CAD) at sustainable level of 1.3 percent and 1.1 percent in 2014-15 and 2015-16.

If we go by other economic indicators, there are many more things to cheer about. India's Gross Fiscal Deficit (GFD) was restricted at 3.5 percent in 2016-17. The GFD for the year 2017-18 has been pegged at 3.2 percent with a commitment to achieve three per cent next year. With the Central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi committed to enhance fiscal resilience through sustained focus on quality expenditure and higher tax realizations, India looks all set to script many more successes in the economic area, moving towards achieving the goal of economic supremacy.

National & International News

Pakistan hoists 'largest' national flag to mark 70th I-Day

By M Zulgermain (PTI)

Lahore, Aug 14: Pakistan today hoisted a 400-feet high national flag, the largest in its history, at the Attari-Wagah border with India to mark the country's 70th Independence Day. Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa hoisted the flag at the border after midnight last night, kicking off the celebrations for the Independence Day across the country. The flag is said to be the highest in

South Asia and the 8th highest in the world. Made in Pakistan, it is 400-feet high and 120 feet by 80 feet in size. Gen Bajwa said: "Some 77 years ago, Pakistan resolution was passed in the same city (Lahore). Pakistan came into being on the night of 27th Ramadan - it was a blessed night."

"Today, the country is progressing on the path of the law and the constitution. All institutions are working properly.

We will make Pakistan the country of Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Iqbal." Gen Bajwa enunciated the many challenges Pakistan faced but also tried to drum up the nationalistic sentiment.

"We have rendered many sacrifices - we will never forget our martyrs. We will execute each and every terrorist in Pakistan. I want to tell our enemies, whether they are in the

east or in the west, that your bullets will end but not the chests of our jawans [soldiers]."

"I assure you that we will never let you down. Any power that will aim to weaken Pakistan, the Army and all other institutions will foil their attempts."

Other speakers at the event also paid tributes to those killed during the migration to Pakistan.

3 judge Constitution Bench of SC to look into validity of Article 35A

AIR
New Delhi, Aug 14: The Supreme Court today indicated that a five-judge constitution bench may look into the various aspects of the Article 35A, related to special rights and privileges of the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir. A bench of Justices Dipak Misra and A M Khanwilkar tagged the issue along with a similar pending matter for hearing by a three-

judge bench later this month. The apex court was hearing a plea challenging Article 35A of the Constitution and Section 6 of the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution which deal with the permanent residents of the state. The plea has challenged certain provisions of the Article which deny property right to a woman who marries a person from outside the state.

PM speaks to Assam CM regarding flood situation

PIB
New Delhi, Aug 14: Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has spoken to the Chief Minister of Assam Sarbananda Sonowal yesterday and today regarding the flood situation in the state. The Prime Minister tweeted that the Central Government has been closely and constantly monitoring the situation and that all possible support is being provided to

Assam for overcoming the flood situation prevailing in parts of the state. "Ever since Assam has witnessed flooding, the Central Government has been closely and constantly monitoring the situation. All possible support is being provided to Assam for overcoming the flood situation prevailing in parts of the state." The Prime Minister said.

SC refuses to take cognisance of Gorakhpur hospital tragedy

PTI
New Delhi, Aug 14: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to take cognisance of the recent deaths of children at a government hospital at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh. The bench comprising Chief Justice J S Khehar and Justice D Y Chandrachud asked the lawyer, who mentioned the issue before it, to approach the Allahabad High Court with his grievances. The lawyer has also sought an SIT probe into the deaths of children at the Baba Raghav Das Medical College (BRD) hospital in Gorakhpur. The court observed that the authorities were handling the situation and the grievances, if any, have to be raised before the high

court concerned. Over 60 children have reportedly died at BRD Medical College Hospital since August 7, many for want of oxygen whose supply was disrupted after bills were not paid to the vendor. At least 30 children were reported dead in the last two days alone. Many of the victims were infants who perished in the neo-natal intensive care unit. Police had said no case has been registered so far in the absence of a formal complaint. The state government had on August 12 ordered an official inquiry by the chief secretary and suspended the principal of the Medical College Hospital Rajiv Mishra.

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