

Editorial

Imphal Monday, January 23, 2017

The perfect gamblers

If one failed to dance to the tune of the drum beat, he/she could neither be called a good dancer. The Manipuri saying still stands true and many across the world consider it one among the best proverb as success is brought to the act on perfect timing. Napoleon could have conquered United Kingdom had the United Kingdom waited for an appropriate time to strike back. Hitler could have been the empire of the world had not the Russian waiter for winter to hit back at them or hadn't the American strike deadly atom bomb at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japanese imperialism would have spread all over Asia and history would have been different. The leader who know where and when to act is called a successful leader. On the other hand a person who failed to utilize time properly and doesn't do homework well on where and when to act is a fool blessed by destiny if in case he remains success.

This is what the people of the state are going to witness in March first week this year.

Cry for justice of the fake encounter killings, peoples' movement for repeal of draconian act AFSPA, fight against corruption - now is history, with the man in the center stage sidelining it with major issues keeping on the dice. Now game of throne is between the congress which is in power in the state and the BJP which is in power at the center.

The prolonged social tensions and manifestations of discontents have taken various shades and hues with the course of time. What is becoming more apparent with each passing day is not the clarity for the expressed demands, but for the implications of such agitations or in other word the game being played with the kind of agitation.

The increasing rigidity of the stances of the opposing parties has increased the necessity for an effective and speedy intervention. The state government however, having found itself caught in the middle as always, has started the process of implementing its tried and tested formula of dumping the whole issue with the centre, or at least making it seem like so. Meanwhile, the adamancy of the extremists in sticking to their ends of the issue has elevated the present imbroglio up another notch in complexity.

The deck is now clear and the battle is already set with the main issues keeping on the dice.

When both gambler gains in either one way or the other, people are now are facing extreme hardship. Its time we the people study who is playing dirty game and teach them a lesson.

Two naxals killed in gun-battle

PTI Raipur, Jan 23: Two naxals were gunned down in an exchange of fire with security forces in a dense forest of Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh, police said today.

The skirmish took place late last evening in the jungles near Padmetta village under Bedre police station limits when a joint team of security personnel were out on a counter-insurgency operation in the region, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) SRP Kalluri told PTI.

The composite party comprising DRG (District Reserve Group), STF (Special Task Force), CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) and district force led by Bijapur Additional SP Mohit Garg

was carrying out the operation in the jungles of Bedre, around 450 kms away from here, he said.

While they were advancing through the forests of Padmetta, they came under heavy fire from a group of Maoists leading to a gun-battle between both the sides, the IG said. However, naxals soon escaped from the spot as they found security forces zeroing on them, he added. "During searches, two bodies of male Maoists clad in 'uniform' besides one 303 service rifle, one 315 rifle and one bhammar (muzzle loading gun) was recovered from the spot," the IG said.

Further details are awaited as parties are yet to return to their camps, he added.

Nareish Agarwal refutes reports of joining BJP

Lucknow, Jan. 23: Senior Samajwadi Party leader Nareish Agarwal today refuted speculations about him joining BJP, alleging that the saffron party was spreading "rumours" for the fear of losing voters among the traders.

"The reports doing rounds of my joining BJP are nothing but rumours and only show the fear of BJP which

is spreading them...This is an attempt to malign my image and I will go to court against it," Agarwal, who is also a Rajya Sabha MP, told newsmen here.

"BJP knows that when they will come out to campaign they will not get the votes of traders and so are resorting to such rumours," he alleged.

National & International News

Myanmar asks for 'time and space' to solve Rohingya crisis

Singapore, Jan 23: Myanmar's deputy defence chief today urged the world to give his government "time and space" to solve a crisis involving the Rohingya Muslim minority amid concerns jihadists could exploit the situation.

Rear Admiral Myint Nwe told a security forum in Singapore his government is "fully aware of the growing concern about the widespread reports on (the) situation in Rakhine state" where the Rohingya live, and was committed to address the issue and punish wrongdoers.

Since October Myanmar's army has carried out "clearance operations" in the north of the

western state to root out insurgents accused of deadly raids on police border posts.

At least 66,000 Rohingyas have fled to neighbouring Bangladesh, alleging rape, murder and torture at the hands of security forces.

Myanmar has long faced international criticism over its treatment of the Rohingyas. Most people in the majority Buddhist community consider them illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

"The government does not condone rights abuses against innocent civilians. Legal action will be taken in response to any substantiated claim," Myint Nwe said.

The admiral was responding to a

keynote address by Malaysian Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein at the Fullerton Forum organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Hishammuddin warned that the situation in Rakhine — if not addressed properly — could be exploited by the Islamic State group as it seeks a base in Southeast Asia. "This horrific possibility has the potential to cause death and destruction well beyond the borders of ASEAN," he added, referring to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Answering a delegate's question, Hishammuddin said the Rohingya issue "is going to test ASEAN

solidarity... It needs to be resolved, we cannot sweep it under the carpet, it affects a lot of Muslims and it's very emotional".

Myint Nwe said both Yangon and the international community should focus on finding a "lasting solution" to the problem.

"Allowing time and space is essential for the government's efforts to bear fruit in finding a sustainable solution of this complex issue."

Hishammuddin said ASEAN — the regional bloc to which both Malaysia and Myanmar belong — should play a key role in working out a solution with Myanmar's leaders.

Jallikattu protesters removed from across TN

PTI

Chennai, Jan 23: In a crackdown, police today started evicting scores of pro-jallikattu demonstrators from protest venues across the state, especially from the Marina Beach, epicentre of the stir for the past one week, amid reports of stone-pelting and lathicharge at a few places.

At the Marina, the police action began early in the morning with roads to the beach being cordoned off and police personnel being deployed in large numbers.

Some protesters lined up at the seashore forming a human chain and a group entered the water refusing to heed police requests to disperse.

Some others staged a sit-in on the sands while others regrouped in nearby areas, shouting slogans and allegedly throwing stones on policemen.

Police burst teargas shells and reportedly lathicharged to chase away a section of protesters who had regrouped at Triplicane near Marina beach and allegedly started throwing stones at police

personnel.

The protesters had been demonstrating for the past one week demanding lifting of the ban on jallikattu.

Despite promulgation of an ordinance on Saturday for conducting the bull-taming sport, they had vowed to carry on with their protest till a permanent solution was found to ensure that the sport is held annually without any hindrance.

TV visuals showed men and women in khaki physically removing protesters from the beach.

At Coimbatore, police forcibly evicted the protesters from VOC Park Grounds here where they were agitating for the last six days.

As the appeal made by senior officials to clear the grounds failed, police in large numbers started to bodily lift the protesters and shift them out of the venue.

Women police personnel were seen taking women agitators, some elderly and some with babies in their arms, out of the grounds, despite them appealing with folded

hands not to disturb the peaceful agitation.

Even as some protesters were seen leaving the venue voluntarily, police removed nearly 300 protesters from there, police said.

Protesting against the police action, some youths formed a human chain on the main Avanashi chain and police made a 'mild' cane charge to disperse them, police said.

A section of protesters were raising slogans in support of their demand for a permanent act for conducting jallikattu and against PETA and police, near the Central Jail, some 200 metres from the venue, prompting the police to take into custody nearly 300 people, they said. Police said they had cleared the ground, venue for the Republic Day function, and it is under control of the district administration and police.

Protests are reportedly continuing in Madurai with demonstrators allegedly throwing stones at police in Alanganallur even as officials are trying to persuade the agitators to disperse.

3 Malian soldiers killed in landmine blast

Bamako, Jan 23: Three Malian soldiers died and a fourth was seriously injured when their vehicle hit a landmine in the troubled north, the army said. The incident happened near Gossi, the army said yesterday, adding that the soldiers were escorting troops headed for Gao, the main city in the sprawling desert north. Mali's north fell under the control of Tuareg-led rebels and jihadist groups linked to Al-Qaeda in 2012. The Islamists sidelined the rebels to take sole control.

Although they were largely ousted by a French-led military operation in January 2013, implementation of the peace accord has been piecemeal with insurgents still active across large parts of the region. There have been regular attacks in the north. On January 18, a suicide attack targeting a camp housing former rebels and pro-government militia who were signatories to a 2015 peace accord with the government claimed 77 lives and injured 120 people.

Helicopter Overhead, Burnt Cars Near Chennai's Marina Beach

Chennai, Jan. 22: A row of charred police cars with flames still licking their chassis, a helicopter circling above on patrol, boats treading waves with black flags - by noon, it was obvious that the coda of the peaceful mass demonstration for Jallikattu, the bull-taming sport, was robbed off the spirit of the youthful fervor and integrity that won it so much admiration.

The violence that erupted at Chennai's Marina Beach today, the police stressed, was not the work of students, who were the engine of the powerful week-long movement. "Anti-national elements," the cops said, had crept into the area, determined to cause some wreckage as attempts are made to clear the area for Republic Day arrangements.

Several public personalities, however, blamed the police and the government for failing to engage with students, who, last Tuesday, assembled at the shoreline and then put out calls for support on social media. The response was immediate and evocative: lawyers, IT professionals, parents with young children in tow all gathered to proclaim that those who claim Jallikattu tortures bulls does not understand how it's conducted or its cultural significance, and that a ban on the sport levied in 2014 by the Supreme Court must be set aside.

This morning, the police asked the Marina Beach gathering to disband because the Tamil Nadu government used an executive order on the weekend to allow Jallikattu to resume. The students said they wanted proof that a new law would be brought in that would ensure Jallikattu could withstand legal challenges by animal rights groups like PETA. Nearly 5,000 students were evicted, but anger began building over

reports that the police had used lathis or batons on some of them.

The police said it withstood stones and slippers being hurled at its personnel. To resist being moved out, some students walked into the water; others formed a human chain.

"Young blood is boiling. The youngsters (on Marina Beach) are educated crowd, not an uneducated crowd. We need to speak to them and have a dialogue," said actor-politician Khushboo of the Congress. Superstar Kamal Haasan, who has expressed ardent support for the movement, tweeted, "This is a mistake. Aggressive police action on students passive resistance will not bear good results."

Political leaders were not allowed to

participate in the Marina Beach campaign - students asked them to leave. Government sources who asked not to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter said it was hard to identify the leaders of such a broad-based movement. Balaji, a popular entertainer and Radio Jockey, told students that it is time to go home, tweeting that today's behaviour threatened to undo what had been accomplished. "The police have been very supportive, helpful. (It's) time we understand and behave accordingly. The ordinance and the promise for a permanent solution is itself a huge victory for us. So you need to withdraw," he said. Jallikattu is performed with the 4-day harvest festival of Pongal. Animal rights activists say that

bulls are abused, taunted with chillies in their eyes, and given fodder laced with alcohol ahead of their bouts in open fields with young men, who compete to remain mounted on a bull for at least three jumps.

But the lakhs of people who support Jallikattu say incidents of bulls being tortured are anomalies, and must be punished, but that a wholesale ban on the sport is unacceptable.

After the Supreme Court sided with animal activists in 2014, the centre, last year, allowed the sport to resume, a move that has been challenged in the top court which has agreed that it will not deliver its verdict for a week to ensure it does not provoke an outburst in response.

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Rajnath Singh's Son, to contest election

Ms Joshi, a former Congress chief from the state, joined the BJP only in October, 2016. Lucknow Cantt is the seat she won in 2012 and this year's contest could pitch her against Aparna Yadav, the second daughter-in-law of Mulayam Singh Yadav, if the Samajwadi Party fields her from the constituency.

Brijesh Pathak, another leader who recently joined the BJP after quitting Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party has been given a ticket from Lucknow Central. Despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi's firm no to family members of party men contesting elections, the BJP received requests to accommodate almost 50 sons, daughters and other relatives from BJP leaders for this year's UP elections, to be held in seven phases from February 11. The first list had

included Sandeep Singh, grandson of former chief minister Kalyan Singh - now the governor of Rajasthan.

Rajnath Singh's son Pankaj will contest as the BJP candidate from Noida. Pankaj Singh wanted to contest the 2014 Lok Sabha elections but was not fielded by the BJP then. But he has been active in politics and has also held party positions.

It is Mriganka Singh's candidacy from Kairana that is expected to cause the dismay in a party that celebrates "one party, one post." Mriganka Singh is a political novice and already a senior BJP leader Anil Chauhan has quit the party last week protesting against the plan to field her.

Ashtosh Tandon, the son of BJP veteran Lalji Tandon has been

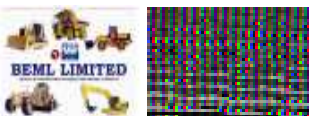
fielded again from Lucknow North, the seat he had won in 2012. Mr Tandon's candidacy had in the last election raised allegations of the BJP indulging in the dynastic politics it accuses rivals like the Congress and Samajwadi Party of.

Another son and "outsider" in today's list is Utkarsh Maurya, the son of Swami Prasad Maurya who crossed over from the BSP six months ago. About two dozen people who joined the party only recently had featured in the first list of 149, sparking protests. A meeting to decide on the second list had to be delayed.

The BJP had won only 47 seats in the last assembly election but sees its best chance in years to win UP again after sweeping 71 of states 80 seats in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. (Source- NDTV)

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