

Editorial

Of rationality and keeping the promises

Good governance is what the people of the state have always been waiting for. With the coming of a new government under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and in witnessing the activities of his government in the first 3 or 4 months, people somehow sees hope about the restoration of the trust deficit between the people and government.

To mention some of the appreciating job successfully taken up by the N. Biren Singh led government - it is the bridging the year long gap of misunderstanding between Hills and Plain people. It was of course his sincerity and commitment for bringing a peaceful state that people have witness a bandh free, agitation free state in the month of June, July after almost a gap of 15 years. The opportunity provided to the common people to express their grievances directly to the Chief Minister by organizing peoples' day is worth appreciating. Promises made for promotion of traditional festival of almost every community of the state and also for development of the infrastructure already win the heart of almost all people of the state. Now the incumbent government led by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh is six months old. And for a government of five years span six months is indeed a long period. At the moment people are waiting for conversion of what he and his government had promised. Easter is said than done, the first time when people of the state applaud the good work of the N Biren Singh led government was when he assured to take up every means for eradication of the chronic corruption from the soil of the state. The establishment of the Anti corruption Cell and the follow up action as per complaint received by the cell was worth appreciating. Many government employees which are at the rank of grade IV, peon, or constable of police department have been landed in trouble.

The announcement to shake all re-engaged staffs in government offices by the spokesperson of the state government, when the government was merely two months old was also an appreciative decision of the N. Biren Singh government.

But what is surprised is the way the government is doing after 6 months. Imphal Times had published news story regarding irregularities in the implementation of water - pipeline implantation scheme under IFCD from Thoubat Dam. The employees of whole of the department know what the report was all about. Yet, no enquiry has been constituted to find out what went wrong.

As said easier said is than done, the credibility of the new government is seem to be compromised when it comes to the re-engagement of retired government servant. Of course the spokesperson of the state government had stated that except for some technical post there will be no re-engagement of retired government employees. It is all right when it thinks certain corporation like MTDC needs an experienced head. But when the so call retired experience engineer is tainted with allegations of corruption what is reason behind selecting that particular person for the top job of the corporation. Manipur is flooded with unemployed experienced engineer who already had years of experience in multinational companies outside the state as well as aboard. Besides, the MTDC already had qualified engineers who have the potential of heading the corporation. Why this specific person had to be chosen? A mere speculation suggest that there is something fishy going on and this kind of particular event may sabotage the whole image of the good governance planning. By the way getting an integrity certificate from the vigilance department at any moment of time is not an impossible task or someone who can influence even the state cabinet ministers. Are the peoples' hope going to be shattered once again? Wish everything goes in the right directions.

Registration Certificate lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my original Certificate of Registration for my two wheeler vehicle bearing no. MNOIL0393 issued by transport department, Govt. of Manipur on the way between Secretariat to Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai on 5/7/2017.

Finder are requested to kindly handover the same to the undersigned. Sd/-

Kh. Dineshori Devi
Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai
Imphal-West

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National & International News

Rohingya crisis: Myanmar says bodies of 28 Hindu villagers found in Rakhine State

Reuters

Yangoon, Sept. 25: Myanmar government forces found on Sunday the bodies of 28 Hindu villagers who authorities suspected were killed by Muslim insurgents last month, at the beginning of a spasm of violence that has sent 430,000 Muslim Rohingya fleeing to Bangladesh. The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) insurgent group denied killing the Hindus saying it did not attack civilians.

The latest violence in western Myanmar's Rakhine State began on Aug. 25 when ARSA militants attacked about 30 police posts and an army camp, killing about 12 people. The United Nations has described as ethnic cleansing a sweeping government offensive in the north of Rakhine State in response to those attacks. The government of Buddhist-majority Myanmar has said more than 400 people have been killed, most of them insurgents. It rejects accusations of ethnic cleansing, saying it is fighting terrorists. Members of the small Hindu minority appear to have been caught in the middle. Some have fled to Bangladesh, complaining of violence against them by soldiers or Buddhist vigilantes. Others have complained of being attacked by the insurgents on suspicion of being government spies. The government said a search was mounted near Ye Baw Kya village in the north of Rakhine State after a refugee in



Bangladesh contacted a Hindu community leader in Myanmar. The refugee said about 300 ARSA militants had marched about 100 people out of the village on Aug. 25 and killed them.

Twenty of the dead were female and eight were male children, the government said. "They forced eight female villagers to convert to the Islamic religion and took them to Bangladesh," the government said. A government spokesman, Zaw Htay, said the security forces were investigating. Access to the area by journalists as well as human rights workers and aid workers is largely restricted and Reuters could not independently verify the report.

An ARSA spokesman said he believed Buddhist nationalists trying to divide Hindus and Muslims were behind the "lies" that ARSA militants had killed the villagers. "ARSA has internationally pledged not to target

civilians and that remains unchanged no matter what," the spokesman, who is based in a neighbouring country and identified himself only as Abdullah, told Reuters through a messaging service.

MALAYSIAN OBJECTION

The violence in Rakhine State and the exodus of refugees is the biggest crisis the government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi has faced since it came to power last year as part of a transition away from nearly 50 years of harsh military rule. Bangladesh and aid organisations are struggling to help the Rohingya refugees there, while aid agencies fear a humanitarian crisis is unfolding in the north of Rakhine State, where rights groups say nearly half of all Muslim villages have been torched.

The United States and the United Nations have called for an end to

the violence, unfettered humanitarian access to the conflict zone and for the right of those who have fled to go home safely. Suu Kyi has faced a barrage of international criticism for not speaking out more forcefully against the violence or doing more to rein in security forces over which she has little power.

The chairman of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), of which Myanmar is a member, issued a statement urging all parties to avoid worsening the situation on the ground and calling for a "viable and long-term solutions to the root causes of the conflict". Muslim-majority Indonesia and Malaysia have expressed concern about the situation, with Malaysia in particular being critical of Myanmar.

In a rare show of disagreement in the 10-member grouping, Foreign Minister Anifah Aman later said Malaysia disassociated itself from the statement as it misrepresented the "reality of the situation" and did not identify the Rohingya as one of the affected communities. Myanmar objects to the term Rohingya, saying the Muslims of Rakhine State are not a distinct ethnic group but illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. This month, Malaysia summoned Myanmar's ambassador to express displeasure over the violence in Myanmar. It also "expressed grave concerns over such atrocities which have unleashed a full-scale humanitarian crisis".

Crackdown on BHU students: Two police officials removed

PTI

Varanasi, Sep 25: The Uttar Pradesh government today removed three additional city magistrates and two policemen in connection with the baton-charge on students in the Banaras Hindu University during a protest over an alleged eve-teasing incident.

Station Officer of Lanka Police Station Rajiv Singh has been removed and sent to police lines. Station officer of Jaitpura Police Station Sanjiv Mishra has been posted in his place, police officials said.

Also the Circle Officer of Bhelupur, Nivesh Katiyar has been removed and Circle Officer of Kotwali Ayodhya Prasad Singh posted in his place.

A release from Varanasi's District Information office said three additional city magistrates, Manoj Kumar Singh, Sushil Kumar Gaund and Jagdamma Prasad Singh have also been removed.

A number of students, including women, and two journalists were injured in a lathicharge by the police in the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) where a protest on Saturday night against an alleged eve-teasing incident turned violent.

The violence erupted after some students, protesting against the incident on Thursday, wanted to meet the varsity's vice chancellor at his residence.

Security guards of the university stopped the students and informed the police, according to university sources.

A BHU spokesperson had said that some students wanted to "forcibly" enter the VC's residence but they were stopped by the BHU security guards. Subsequently, there was stone pelting by "outsiders" who had joined the students, he said.

The police baton charged the students in a bid to disperse them. A number of students, including women, and two journalists were injured in the lathicharge.

The police sources said some of its personnel were injured in the clashes during which the students allegedly indulged in arson. Following the violence, the district

administration has declared holidays from today till October 2 in all colleges and universities in Varanasi. The BHU had earlier announced that the holidays would start from September 28.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has sought a report from the divisional commissioner about the incident as various political parties, including the Samajwadi Party (SP), criticised the government and condemned the police action. "I have sought a report from the divisional commissioner, Varanasi, about the entire incident," Adityanath said in Lucknow yesterday.

The baton charge on journalists led to protests in Lucknow with some scribes staging a sit-in near the chief minister's residence. They later submitted a memorandum to the district magistrate demanding action against the guilty.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav tweeted, "The government should resolve the issue by talks, not by lathicharge. It is condemnable. Action should be taken against the guilty." Congress leaders Raj Babbar and P

L Punia, along with scores of party activists, were detained yesterday when they tried to visit the BHU. They were later released.

Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi slammed the BJP over the police lathicharge allegedly on woman students.

Attaching a link to a video of the students who alleged that they were beaten up by male policemen at the campus, Gandhi had tweeted, "BJP version of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao in BHU."

The BHU had issued a statement saying that the 'dharma' by the students just a day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit was "politically motivated" to malign the image of the university.

The alleged eve-teasing incident had occurred on Thursday night after which the students started the protest.

The university also said that security guards were regularly patrolling the campus and assistance from the police had been sought to maintain peace in the campus.

Nearly 1,500 police personnel, including contingents of the Provincial Armed Constabulary

(PAC), have been deployed to maintain law and order in the campus.

BHU students said that they undertook the protest near the university's main gate against rising incidents of alleged eve-teasing on the campus.

A woman student of the Arts Faculty was allegedly harassed by three motorcycle-borne men inside the campus while she was returning to her hostel, triggering the dharna. According to the complainant, the men abused her and fled when she resisted their attempts.

The woman alleged that security guards, about 100 metres from where the incident happened, did nothing to stop them.

She said her warden, instead of taking up the issue with her superiors, asked her why was she was returning late to the hostel.

The warden's response angered the students who sat on a 'dharna' at the main gate midnight Thursday. BHU students have alleged they have to face eve-teasers on the campus regularly and the varsity administration was not taking any action to stop the miscreants.

Metro to firmly cover West Delhi soon

New Delhi, Sept. 25: For lakhs of west Delhi residents, Blue Line - connecting Dwarka Sector 21 with Noida City Centre Vaishali - is the only Metro link with the rest of the city.

To take any other Metro line, they have to travel till Rajiv Chowk. However, this is going to change in six months with the opening of the Janakpuri West-Kalkaji section of the Magenta Line.

This line, along with the Pink Line that goes to Rajouri Garden, will put west Delhi firmly on the Metro map for the first time. Not only will the Majenta Line cover densely populated areas of west Delhi like Palam, Dabri, Mahavir Enclave, Sagarpur, Dashrath Puri, etc, it will also bring that part of the city closer to the domestic airport, south Delhi, Gurgaon and Faridabad. "At present, west Delhi commuters have no option but to travel till Rajiv Chowk to change trains. When the Magenta Line opens by March 2018,

they can directly go to Hauz Khas in south Delhi or take a train to Gurgaon," said a senior Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) official. "The commuters will save at least 25 minutes of travel time when the line opens," he said.

"The entire Magenta Line will also act as a feeder for the presently operational Blue Line as both the originating stations of this corridor Janakpuri West and Botanical Garden - are important stations of the Blue Line as well," he said.

Apart from the Magenta Line, the upcoming Pink Line (Majlis Park-Shiv Vihar) will also open up more options for west Delhi residents. Commuters will be able to change trains at the Rajouri Garden Metro station to reach northwest Delhi, north Delhi and south Delhi areas such as Sarojini Nagar and INA - an interchange station for the Yellow Line (Samaypur Badli-HUDA City Centre).

"The Magenta Line will cover areas that are only connected by buses at present. We expect it to reduce congestion on the Palam flyover, which gets choked during peak hours. The corridor has the same alignment as the flyover," the official said.

The line will also go to the domestic Terminal 1 of the Delhi airport that, at present, can't be accessed by Metro directly and commuters have to take a shuttle service from the Airport Express Line.

The Metro official also said that constructing an underground Metro corridor under congested parts of west Delhi was a challenge for DMRC. "We had to be extra cautious as we were tunnelling below densely populated areas and most dwellings in these areas don't have very strong foundations," he said. "The tunnel is also close to the foundations of the Palam flyover and Metro's Line 3," he added.