

Editorial

Friday, March 1, 2019

The haunt continues

The murky scene in Imphal city is failed traffic management. The standard of Imphal which is preparing to host hundreds of foreign tourist if not Thousands will be shown by the way that traffic movement is being managed in a systematic ways.

Each time when the issue about traffic regulation came in the limelight, some traffic police will be seen on roadside of crowded Imphal city stopping vehicles to check their documents, license etc. But the fact is that while doing so public face more inconveniences with the road more crowded.

Everybody knows it is illegal to drive vehicle without license or proper registration certificate of the vehicle. But sometimes people use to forget things that were supposed to be with them. But it is not necessary that all the vehicle driver were halted and checked as long as they follows the traffic rules. Saying so checking can be done at somewhere where people will not be disturbed and not at the middle of the city like the one seen near GM Hall. Traffic police should be more focus on smooth flow of vehicles and should find who do not understand the meaning of stoppage line drawn a feet away from the zebra crossing. Thanks to the government, Imphal today sees electronic traffic signal at the traffic island at the western gate of Historic Kangla ford. Some of the difficulties faced by traffic policemen were somehow relieve. But are the people following the electronic traffic signal? Had the traffic police on duty fined any violators at that point?

The fact remains that the concerned authorities have failed or perhaps lacks proper understanding on how to manage the traffic regulations.

The short term policies and systems being implemented from time to time in an attempt to ease the congestions and traffic jams have not been able to alleviate the problem in any way, on the contrary these ad-hoc measures have managed to confuse the public and compound the problem the authorities have been trying to solve.

The meeting of the Traffic regulation and parking committee convened by Chief Minister is not of much help, and one can only wonder if words of the Chief Minister are being converted into realities by the authority of the concern department.

Queries put up to the concerned departments have only resulted in more bewildering responses- a classic example of the effectiveness of passing the buck around that has been at work in all government set ups.

While formulation of policies and systems to control and regulate traffic may be a beginning in the right direction, the fact remains that the increasing number of vehicles need additional space to accommodate them and juggling acts of the traffic system by the experts, however efficient and experienced they may be, will not bear fruit. Construction of additional parking spaces at strategic locations, bypasses and flyovers, and most importantly providing subways at important and crowded junctions will go a long way in reducing these problems. Construction of public utilities does not automatically guarantee improvement- their proper usage is as important- an obvious example being the use of footpaths by the vendors and shopkeepers to stock and ply their goods forcing the pedestrians to walk on the road. The need to streamline and re-orient the traffic police personnels is also being felt by the public. Turning a blind eye to the irregularities being committed by the drivers of various public and commercial transport vehicles in consideration for a "quick handshake" has been well documented- despite the dangers and inconveniences such greedy acts causes. The present government ministers and high ranking officials may not be feeling the burden such traffic jams causes as they seem to have a prerogative of the right of use of the road over the common public but unless some concrete steps are taken up very soon, the only option that would be available to them would be to use their feet with their retinue of escorts and assistants wading through the impossible traffic- surely a distracting relief for the stranded common public on the road.

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India-Pak Standoff: All Signs Suggest That New Delhi Wants To De-Escalate

Courtesy: The Wire.in

With tensions boiling over the past two days, India is now clearly signalling that it won't take any further military steps for now.

India handing over a dossier on Jaish-e-Mohammad JeM to Pakistan on Wednesday night and the refusal to brand an attack on military targets as an 'act of war' are important markers that New Delhi wants to de-escalate the situation.

The dossier was handed over to the Pakistani deputy high commissioner along with the demarche on Pakistan incursions through airstrikes on Wednesday. As per the MEA's press note handed out on Wednesday, the dossier contained "specific details of JeM's complicity in Pulwama terror attack and the presence of JeM terror camps and its leadership in Pakistan".

A day later, Indian sources explained that the dossier was provided in response to Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's repeated claims since February 14 that Islamabad is ready to conduct an investigation, if given evidence. The Pakistani leader also emphasised in his last address to the nation that India did not provide any information so far, despite several offers.

Sources noted that India's demand was for immediate, credible and verifiable action against terrorists, their proxies and dismantling of cross-border terror infrastructure. On Pakistan's claim that Imran Khan wants to speak over the phone with Narendra Modi, sources said the onus is on Pakistan to create a conducive atmosphere. Given Pakistan's history, would India would accept any Pakistan action as credible? Sources said this discussion will only happen later.

International resonance

India's position seems to have some resonance internationally. German foreign minister Heiko Maas on Thursday called on both countries to exercise "utmost circumspection". However, he also told Pakistan that "once evidence is furnished, that those responsible for the terrible attack in Kashmir are held to account and do not walk free".

The press conference by the three armed forces at Raisina hill was also essentially another signboard that India will "not escalate".

The Indian government's first confirmation of the Pakistani airstrike - through a media statement by foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale on Wednesday afternoon - said Pakistan had targeted military installations.



by a MiG21 Bison. This Pakistani plane fell across the Line of Control in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. According to sources, there is visual evidence of the plane falling down from the sky, but not of the debris on the ground.

Meanwhile, one MiG21 of the Indian Air Force was hit. The pilot, Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, ejected safely, but his parachute drifted into POK. He was taken into custody by the Pakistani army.

The demarche, after the airstrikes, stated that Pakistan acted with aggression against India.

However, at the press conference, when asked if Pakistan's targeting of Indian military installations amounted to an act of war, the senior air force officer side-stepped the question.

"There is no doubt that Pakistan has attempted to target our military installation. We thwarted them... That is the task of the Indian Air Force, which we have done swiftly and efficiently," he said.

New Delhi's message to the international community was that Pakistan is responsible for the escalation, not India. At the joint press conference, Indian army's Major General Surinder Singh Bahal said there were numerous ceasefire violations at the border. However, there were no further details on the damage or casualties caused by India's airstrikes at Balakot in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Indian Air Force officer said the "desired damage" had been achieved.

That initially both the Pakistani army spokesperson and Imran Khan claimed that two Indian jets were downed is being cited by India as an example of Islamabad's 'disinformation game'.

Sources said this deliberate 'disinformation' has been brought to the attention of the international community, which should discredit Pakistani statements during the ongoing crisis.

During the press conference, the Indian Air Force displayed an advance medium-range air-to-air missile (AMRAAM) missile, which AVM Kapoor said is only carried by an F-16 jet. He added that parts of this missile "were recovered east of Rajouri".

The Pakistan army spokesperson had denied on Wednesday that any F-16 were involved in the airstrikes. New Delhi's insistence on demonstrating that an F-16 jet was

involved maybe directed at Washington, since F-16 sales to Pakistan are made on the condition that they should be used only in counter-terror operation and not against India.

"War hysteria"

Sources claimed that Pakistan has been trying to create "war hysteria", with statements that Indian missiles were ready to launch on Wednesday night and that the Indian navy was moving towards Karachi.

India's message to the international community that it was not the party trying to escalate the situation was conveyed in the context of a slew of concerned statements. Countries around the world asked the South Asian neighbours to exercise restraint.

Earlier today, US president Donald Trump said in Vietnam there will be "reasonably attractive news" soon on the India-Pakistan front, indicating that Washington was involved in managing the crisis. Indian sources, however, stated that they were not aware of what Trump was specifically referring to.

The move by three permanent members, the US, UK and France, to list JeM chief Masood Azhar as a UNSC-designated global terrorist, has pleased India. Sources were, however, unaware if China will remove its three-year-old technical hold on the listing.

Sources also added that India was not taking any steps to stop people-to-people contacts, like closing airspace, pausing the Samjhauta express or suspending talks on the Kartarpur pilgrim corridor initiative.

On Friday, Indian external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj is expected to come face-to-face with her Pakistani counterpart S.M. Qureshi in Abu Dhabi. India has been invited for the first time to address the OIC plenary session as a 'guest of honour'. Pakistan objected to India's presence following the February 26 airstrikes. Qureshi has, however, indicated that he will not be speaking with Swaraj.

The Indian external affairs minister is also scheduled to have a bilateral meeting with the UAE foreign minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Earlier today, UAE crown prince Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan spoke with the Indian and Pakistani prime ministers, urging them to prioritise dialogue and communication.



Sources asserted after India handed over the dossier, the ball was in Pakistan's court.

As India earlier refused to share any information regarding the Pulwama attack with Pakistan, the move to hand over the dossier is a clear indicator that it does not want to escalate.

Before, India stated that sharing any "actionable intelligence" with Pakistan is futile, given the history of Islamabad's lack of action after 26/11 and Pathankot attack. In a series of diplomatic briefing both in Delhi and in world capitals, foreign countries were also told the same line.

Sources said after Imran Khan's speech on Wednesday, it is now time for him to walk the talk.

However, after handing over the dossier means, India will have to wait before checking if Pakistan will take any action - even if it considers that to be a futile wait.

Today's press briefing again underlined that military installations had been targeted, essentially to put a question mark on Pakistani claims.

Air Vice Marshall R.G.K. Kapoor said that at around 10 am on February 27, military radars detected a "large package" of Pakistani aircraft was approaching Indian territory at Jhangar. "They breached the Indian airspace at Rajauri in Sunderbani area," he said. The Pakistani aircraft numbered over 20.

The senior Air Force officer said the Pakistani planes were intercepted by Indian fighter aircraft "which thwarted their plans". "Although PAF bombs have fallen in Indian Army Formation compounds, however, they were unable to cause any damage to our Military Installations".

He claimed that in the aerial combat, one F16 of the PAF was shot down

Lost

I have lost my R.C. book bearing registration number MNZ 811 (Yamaha Rx 100), Engine number ILI - 026507 and Chassis number ILI-026507 on the way between Heirangoithong to RIMS, Imphal on 25/01/2019. Finders are requested to handover the same on the undersigned.

Sd/-

Ningombam Bijoy Singh
Heirangoithong Maibam Leikai
Contact number 8974473121

Mark sheet, admit Card Lost

I have lost my Admit Card and Mark Sheet for my High School Leaving Certificate Examination (HSLC) issued by Board of Secondary Education, Manipur (BOSEM), bearing Roll No 35141 of 2011 on the way between 2nd MR gate to Checkon Finders are requested to hand over the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Ngaminthang Chongloi

Voter card lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my EPIC issued by Election office on the way between Kakching Khunou to Imphal in Jan 2, 2018. Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Khumukcham Rengku
Kakching Khunou
Sugunu AC district - Kakching