

A nation is a society united by delusions about its necessity and by common hatred of its neighbors
William Ralph Inge

Debunking Pak claim on Gilgit-Baltistan

Pakistan recently declared that the Gilgit-Baltistan area of the Pakistan occupied part of Jammu and Kashmir is its fifth province, knowing full well that Pakistan has no locus standi in that land which is an inalienable part of the Indian State of J & K and Pakistan is in illegal possession of it. India immediately protested to Pakistan and made it clear that no unilateral action by Pakistan can make a patently illegal occupation legal and legitimate. Now the British Parliament has passed a motion condemning Pakistan on this count and declaring Gilgit-Baltistan as legal and constitutional part of Jammu and Kashmir. The British Parliament has also stated that Gilgit-Baltistan is a 'legal and constitutional part of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, India, which is illegally occupied by Pakistan since 1947'. It went on to say that the people of Gilgit-Baltistan have been denied their fundamental rights including the right of freedom of expression.

This is a diplomatic victory for India. Pakistan obviously took this fraudulent step to ensure that the \$56 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which passes through Gilgit-Baltistan is made immune against any future claim by India as a disputed territory. The British Parliament has seen through the game and rejected Pakistan's move outright. India will now look forward to other countries taking a similar unequivocal stand on Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan has refused to vacate its illegal occupation of a part of Jammu and Kashmir, flouting UN resolution No. 47, adopted on April 21, 1948, asking Pakistan to 'withdraw all tribesmen and nationals who entered the region for the purpose of fighting...'

India should draw the lesson that the only way to Pakistan's latest attempt at ex post facto legalization of its illegal occupation of a part of India. If Pakistan and China still go ahead with the CPEC they will at least know that what they are doing has no sanction in international law and no unilateral declaration in regard to the territory in question gives Pakistan or China any right over this territory. Some day Pakistan will have to vacate its military occupation of a part of Jammu and Kashmir and this part will return to India. This may not happen in immediate future but that does not alter the fact of occupation. The Japanese occupation of Sakhalin Island ended during WW II and it returned to Russia (then Soviet Union), ending a centuries-old dispute. The future of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir will be no different.

Top performers in UG level courses awarded

PORT BLAIR, MARCH 30/- ISAT FORUM (Indian Students And Teachers Forum) in collaboration with SHIKSHA A Step towards Education (NGO) organized a felicitation function for the toppers of higher education UG level courses in Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Model Senior Secondary School auditorium, Port Blair on Thursday. Dr Ratan Mazumder, Associate Professor of JNRM, was the chief guest of the function, while Dr R P Palaniswamy, Associate Professor, JNRM and Smt R Dimple, President, Shiksha (NGO) graced the function as the guest of honour and special guest respectively.

Dr Ratan Mazumder announced the toppers of higher education UG level 2015-2016 (conventional courses) in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. On behalf of Kumari Nishu Kumari Singh (Science stream

JNRM) and Kumar Bimal (Commerce stream JNRM), their parents received the awards from Dr Mazumder. Parents of Riva Malhotra (Science stream JNRM) obtained the award from the guest of honour UG level courses in Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Model Senior Secondary School auditorium, Port Blair on Thursday. Dr Ratan Mazumder, Associate Professor of JNRM, was the chief guest of the function, while Dr R P Palaniswamy, Associate Professor, JNRM and Smt R Dimple, President, Shiksha (NGO) graced the function as the guest of honour and special guest respectively.

Training on office procedures for police personnel

PORT BLAIR, MARCH 30/- The Police Training School, Prothapur organized a two-day short course on 'Office Procedures' for in-service police personnel with a view to enhance their professional capabilities and proper dealing of official matters, under the supervision of Smt. Geeta Rani Verma, Principal, P.T.S. Well experienced faculty members of A&N Police have delivered impressive and informative lectures on the topics of procedure of dak receipt, record maintenance, and distribution, noting and drafting, types of official letter and its correspondence, Leave Travel Concession, budget allocation and its utilization, maintenance service book including filling of family detail/declaration, FTA and family link, all kinds of Leave, all types of allowances and procedure of GFP withdrawal, procedures and codal formalities to be followed for purchasing of goods/services, Medical Benefits (Medical refer and claims), Filing of income tax return, CCS conduct rules and punishments, Annual Performance Appraisal Report, Annual Property Return, MACE, DPC & Recruitment Rules, regimental funds and its scope of utilization etc. during the course. Altogether, 20 police personnel of various units/polic stations have been benefited by the course. The course was acknowledged and valued by the participants.

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Challenges to protect forests in India

REFLEX ACTION

Pandurang Hegde

India is one of the mega diversity countries in the world with different types of forests. Officially 20 per cent of geographical area in the country is under forest cover. The National Forest Policy (1986) aims to increase the forest cover to one third.

According to India State Forest Report released in 2015, the forest cover has increased by 5081 square kilometres between 2013-2015. Increasing the carbon sinks by 103 million tonnes. Though Mizoram has the highest 93 per cent forest cover, many north eastern states have experienced decline in green cover. The country faces numerous challenges in implementing its policies to protect and grow forests. Protection of forests is done through implementation of Forest Conservation Act (1980) and through establishment of protected areas. The Government of India has established 597 Protected Areas of which 95 are National Parks and 500 Wild Life Sanctuaries. These comprise about 5 per cent of the geographical areas of the country. Different type of forests and scrub jungles are host to the diverse life including the tigers, leopards and lions. Due to the rising population there is enormous pressure on forest land for extraction of forest based industries and encroachment for extension of agriculture. The rising conflicts between conserving forests for generating ecosystem services and diversion for developmental project poses one of the biggest challenges in managing the forest resources.

It is estimated that the demand for timber is growing at a faster speed from 58 million cubic meters in 2005 to 150 million cubic meters in 2020. The annual growth of the forest stock can only supply 70 million cubic meters of timber, forcing us to import hard wood timber from other countries. In India 67 per cent of the rural household depend on firewood for cooking. About one million deaths are reported annually caused by the fumes of firewood for cooking. In order to address this problem, Pradhan Mantri LPG Scheme 'Ujjwala Yojana' is implemented by Ministry of

Petroleum and Gas that provides free LPG connections to BPL families in remote rural areas. This has provided access to clean and efficient energy to a large number of families in the countryside. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has given the call to celebrate world forestry day for 2017 with the theme of 'forests and energy'. The emphasis is to develop wood as a major source of renewable energy, to mitigate climate change and fostering sustainable development. By developing community wood lots and delivering clean and energy efficient woodstoves, millions of people in developing economies will have access to cheap and reliable supply of renewable energy.

The Climate Change Action Plan and the Green India mission attempts to address the issue of development of wood energy by establishing large scale tree plantations with the help of community participation. According to Anil Madhav Dave, MOS (I/C), M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change "there are two major afforestation schemes, National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and National Mission for Green India (GIM). Both these schemes are implemented in participatory mode under joint forest management programme". NAP aims at eco regeneration of degraded forests and GIM aims at increasing the forest cover along with improving the quality of the forests, including the farm and agro forestry. Under GIM, six million hectares of plantations will be established every year on degraded forest land. One of the main pillars of afforestation is to re-grow the forests in lieu of diversion of the forest land for developmental purposes. Both the houses of Parliament passed the Compensatory Afforestation

Bill in 2016. With a provision of Rs 42000 crores, and annual outlay of Rs 6000 crores will be made available to states to facilitate conservation, improvement and expansion of forest resources in the country. This Act provides institutional framework at both central and state levels to implement the compensatory afforestation programme. Additionally this will generate 15 crore man days of direct employment in the remote forest areas of the country helping tribal population.

While implementing these green schemes, India faces enormous challenges. The climate change directly impacts the survival of planted saplings. The extension of dry areas and desertification is another big challenge that needs to be tackled with proper interventions. There is need for participatory models of afforestation in which the local knowledge helps to regenerate and manage the forest resources. Realising the strength of the tribal knowledge systems, the Prime Minister said "if there is someone who saved the forests, it is our tribal communities, and for them saving forests is part of the tribal culture". He called upon the people to take the pledge to collectively work to conserve forests and increase the tree cover. More forests mean more water that benefits farmers and future generations. In ancient Indian tradition the Rishis, or those who are the learned and sages get energy from the forests. According to Rabindranath Tagore, life in forest is the highest form of cultural evolution. The sages derived intellectual and spiritual energy from the forests, living near trees and water streams.

Though the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation has laid out 'wood energy from the forests' as the main theme of International Forest Day, Indian tradition assigns much higher status and value to the living energy of the forests to attain spiritual and cultural regeneration of life. This seems to be more holistic in understanding the links between forests and energy (PIB)



Adverse reports in the media notwithstanding (EOI edition March 20), the government authorities in the Middle Andaman region have still failed to dispose of the garbage discarded along the Andaman Trunk Road near the Water Tank at Ranget in Middle Andaman. Reports say that the trash dumped near the Petrol Pump at Ranget has remained unattended for the past six months. Despite earlier visits by VIPs along the ATR stretch, no action has been taken to thwart hindrance to the implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission. (Pix: V Senthil Kumar)

IEI revises membership fee

PORT BLAIR, MARCH 30/- The Institution of Engineers (India) (IEI), Kolkata has informed that effective from April, various grades of membership fees have been revised and the same may be followed while applying for membership. It is further informed that the revised membership fees are also mentioned in the respective application forms to be made available at the IEI website, www.ieindia.org, from 1 April. Details are available on the website link <https://www.ieindia.org/membership.aspx?accid=men>.

Training on A & N Clinical Establishment Act

PORT BLAIR, MARCH 30/- An orientation cum training on 'Andaman & Nicobar Clinical Establishment (Registration & Regulation) Act 2013 will be held in the conference hall of Megapode Resort, Port Blair at 8.00 pm tomorrow (March 31, 2017). The programme is being organized by the District Registering Authority (DRA), South Andaman. The Medical Superintendents, Chief Medical Officers, Medical Officers in-charge of all Government and private clinics/hospitals of South Andaman District have been requested to attend the orientation cum training programme.

NGGOA delegation meets chief secy

PORT BLAIR, MARCH 30/- A delegation from the Non-Gazetted Govt. Officers' Association, Andaman and Nicobar Islands led by Mr T.S. Sreekumar, General Secretary met the Chief Secretary, A & N Administration on Wednesday and discussed with him various issues relating to the government employees working under the Administration. The issues raised by the Association are undue delay in promotion of AC Cadre employees, teachers and of other departments, amendment Recruitment Rules of all categories of employees and its publication in the website, timely processing of

SA villagers sensitized on measures to prevent man-animal conflict

PORT BLAIR, MARCH 30/- Awareness camp on man-animal conflict was organized by the South Andaman Forest Division in three villages namely Shoal Bay, Mile Tila and Collinpur recently involving the PRI members, school students and villagers. The awareness camps, the reasons for man-animal conflict were explained to the participants and advised them to take necessary precaution while entering in the creeks, fresh water streams and beaches. In Mile Collinpur beach, a quiz competition and drawing competition was organized for the school students and the students eagerly participated in the competitions. As part of the awareness camp, a beach cleaning programme at Badabali involving the Forest Executives and ministerial staffs of DFO (SA)'s office was organized on March 25 where huge quantities of plastics bottles and paper wastes were collected and transported to the designated dumping site. The Gram Pradhan, Beodnabad and other PRI members also participated in the cleanliness drive. The Pradhan requested the

Two held with contraband from ship passengers

PORT BLAIR, MARCH 30/- Observing zero tolerance against illegal activity, the police team headed by SI Abdul Rahman, SHO PS Chatham under the supervision of Mr Nishant Gupta, SDPO (SA), apprehended one passenger named Naresh Ghosal (37 yrs) resident of Rabinder Nagar Little Andaman from whose possession 158 grams of illicit ganja was recovered on March 29 at Haddo Wharf during disembarkation from MV Harshavardhan ship arrived from Kolkata. Upon this, a case under Crime No. 26/17 dated March 29 under Section 20(b) (ii) (A) of NDPS Act 1986 has been registered at PS Chatham. Further investigation of the case is in progress. On the same day, the team while conducting surprise checking at Haddo Wharf intercepted another person Manteswar Barman (28 yrs) of West Bengal with possession of 3.4 kgs of tobacco products. The general public has been requested to pass on any credible information on narcotics substances or any illegal activity on the telephone numbers: 233077, 232404, 232232 & 100. The informant will be suitably rewarded and his/her identity will be kept secret.

Power interruption

PORT BLAIR, MARCH 30/- Power supply will remain suspended in some of the areas on April 1 from 7.30 am to 1 pm for shifting of distribution transformer and LT line near ALWH Colony at Junglight. The areas to be affected by power interruption are part of Junglight, Vijay Baugh, Diary Farm complete.

Vball tournament at ANCOL

PORT BLAIR, MARCH 30/- The Andaman College here conducted an inter departmental volleyball tournament on Thursday. Mr E. Andrew, Centre in charge, SAI, SAG Centre, Port Blair, was the chief guest and Dr. R. Dev Das, Principal, ANCOL, was present as the guest of honour on the occasion. The girls of B.Com (General) defeated BA (Sociology) and the boys of B.Com (CS) defeated BA (English) in the final match. In his address, Mr. Andrew stressed that opportunity should be given to all the students to participate in sports in order to make them self-reliant and independent. Dr. R. Dev Das reiterated that co-curricular activity is as important part for all-round development of personality.

QUICK CROSSWORD



- Across**
1. Doppelganger (9)
6. Incline (5)
7. Racket (5)
9. Article (4)
10. Slaggered (5)
12. Accident (6)
14. Male voice (4)
17. Tribunal (5)
18. Computer data (5)
19. Baseless (9)
- Down**
2. Stratospheric gas (5)
3. Centreboard (4)
4. Kindle (anag) (6)
5. Whale food (5)
6. Of earthquakes (7)
8. Last in line (7)
11. Military display (6)
13. Rejoice with contempt (5)
15. Become invalid (5)
16. Indication (4)

Previous solution
Across: 1. Fraction, 7. Rhyme, 8. Aside, 9. Jerkin, 10. Emit, 12. Dive, 14. Enlist, 17. Catch, 18. Point, 19. Plectrum.
Down: 1. Foyer, 2. Azeal, 3. Thaw, 4. Opium, 5. Prejudice, 6. Desilite, 11. Sniper, 13. Vital, 15. Idiom, 16. Chic.

SUDOKU VITAL: 1808

6		4		5	1	7		2
		4			9			1
	8		2					7
2		3	1		5	9		4
	5				6		3	
			5			3		
3					7			9
7		2	3	6				

Yesterday's Solution 1807

9	7	3	2	8	1	6	5	4
6	1	5	3	7	4	9	2	8
2	8	4	5	9	6	7	3	1
3	6	7	8	4	9	2	1	5
1	9	2	6	3	5	4	8	7
4	5	8	7	1	2	3	6	9
5	4	6	9	2	8	1	7	3
7	2	1	4	5	3	8	9	6
8	3	9	1	6	7	5	4	2

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