

Trying to be a first-rate reporter on the average American newspaper is like trying to play Bach's 'St. Matthew's Passion' on a tubule.
Baghician's Observation

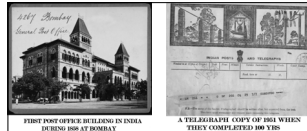
Tension in Sino-Indian boundary

New Delhi seems to be eager to play down the threat coming from the Chinese build up at Doklam. The official line is that there is nothing to worry, everything is all right. But ground reports are different. The PLA seems about to begin building the disputed road which led to a 73-day eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation with the Indian army, forcing the PLA to abandon the project. Now they seem set on building the road and is ready for an armed conflict should India resist. New Delhi has not made public its assessment of the developing situation. Meanwhile, there are media reports that the army has, due to "financial constraints" shelved all new raisings for the Mountain Strike Corps specifically meant for defending the India-China border in the high Himalayas.

If India has any doubt about Chinese intentions, the priority should be to strengthen our defences to the maximum extent in the Himalayan border so that there is no repetition of 1962. The people do not know whether the several one-to-one meetings that the Prime Minister had with the Chinese President in the recent past either helped him to read the Chinese mind or to get any indication that Beijing does not want an armed conflict with India. China will respect India if it knows it for certain that India is not going to allow itself to be bullied into submission. The terrain there puts India in a better strategic position. China's intention is clear: to start building the road from Doklam southwards across the Torsa Nala to the Zompeh Ridge. This will bring the Chinese within striking distance of the Chicken's Neck or Sikiguri Corridor—the narrow strip of land that connects North-East India to the main land.

The situation in that area is, indeed, tense. Local people on the Indian side are spending their days in uncertainty. They fear that the Indian army may ask them to vacate their villages and move out anytime. The prevailing uncertainty has brought Sino-Indian border trade at Nathula pass in Sikkim practically to a standstill. The least New Delhi can do now is to take the people into confidence and say what the situation is and what we are going to do should a contingency arise.

It was the story when the British raj rule transferred from the East India Company to the crown. The India post was founded on 1st April 1854. By 1861 there were 889 Post offices which was handling nearly 43 million letters over 465 million of newspaper annually. The first superintendent of the post office was appointed in 1870 at Allahabad. The volume of mail moved by the postal system increased significantly it was doubled between 1854 and 1866 and doubled again in 1871 as a result the lower rates were fixed for "steamer" mail to Europe at 6 Anna this special privileges were enjoyed by the officials of east India company. But in 1886 India was the first to adopt the expedient of over printing on postage stamps or revenue stamps. New designs for four Anna, eight Anna stamps were issued in 1896.



On 1 April 1882 the post office stated there first agency function later on it was became one of the most important activity that is the post office savings bank system was opened and today in India. Post office savings bank has the largest number of savings bank account which is merely 35,00,00,000 then the insurance scheme system was started by the Indian post on 1st February 1884 as a welfare measure to their employees. Then the world's first official airmail flight place in India on 18th February 1911. Which carried about 33 pounds of mail from Allahabad to Naini which included the letters to the King George V of United Kingdom and India was the first commonwealth country to issue airmail stamps. At that time the telegraphy and telephony made their appearance as separate with post office departments.

India attained independence on 15th August 1947. After that Indian post and telegraph department embarked on a board-based policy for the issuance of stamps. The first new stamp after independence was on 21st November 1947. It depicts the Indian flag with the three and one-half Anna and the post independent India has issued various number issues of stamp for a memorial to mahatma Gandhi was issued on



The delegates of the International Buddhist Conclave-2018 visiting the Ajanta Caves, in Maharashtra—PIB

MY POST IS LOST

REFLEX ACTION

U.BHARATHI

15th August 1948. Next was on the eve of first the republic day and subsequent issues was on the culture of India in 1968 than in 1965 for currency decimals and in 1955 for technological development. India has printed stamps and postal stationery for other countries, mostly Burma (Myanmar), Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Portugal, and Ethiopia.

Then on the occasion on 25th Independence Day i.e. on 15th August 1972 the Indian post had taken a very huge step in the history and introduced the system of pin code started. The first eighths for geographical and ninth one for the Army postal service.

- The first digit indicates the region
- The first two digit indicate the sub-division or postal circle
- Third digit for indicate a sorting district
- The last three digits indicates the delivery post office



The department of Post started multipurpose counter service with computers in 1991 and increases staff productivity. 25,000 departmental posts offices out of 25,464 were computerized between 2011-2012. Then the Indian postal open world's highest post office in hakim, hialal Pradesh. This is operated by Indian post at the height of 15,500 ft. From the sea level. Then in the year 2008 the government of India launched a project namely the "project arun" to upgrade the post offices in urban and as well as rural areas, and improving services and appearance into a vibrant and responsive organization and to make a visible and positive difference and providing secure IT services and improving mail delivery this project improved services

in more than 23,500 post offices for this the department of Posts received the Prime Minister's Award for excellence in public administration during 2008-09 for "Project Arun - transforming India Post" on 21st April 2010.

The postal department started various services one of the most interesting services by any department in India that is philately service I was started on 6th March 1897 to service postage stamp collections. Due to this in India now there are totally 68 philately bureau and 111 philately counters including all head post offices in the India as on 31 March 2011. By 2009-2010 1,83,202 philately deposit account holders according to this service all the general post offices are authorized to sell United Nations stamps and a yearly philately magazine was launched in 2008.

Then in the year 2011 the national philatelic museum for around the world and venue for exhibit their collection. Then in the year 2013 the post department started a service of Indian postal order can be used for online payment of fees for access to information under the RTI act of 2005 the service was expanded to include all Indians citizens on 14th February 2014 postal life insurance which was introduced in the year 1884 which was country's oldest insurer and by 2015 there were 6.4 million policies which were active it covers all central and state government employees and staffs of nationalized banks some of the insurance schemes are santosh, suraksha, sumangal, and rural life insurance for rural area peoples. Post office savings bank which was introduced in 1882 which is now having many schemes like savings account, National Saving Certificate, Monthly Income Plans, Time Deposits, Kisan vikas patra senior citizen account etc.

Now by 2005 our post offices started earning very less revenue and by 2009 the post office started incurring losses more than 5900 crores which was 50% of the total expenditure incurred (13,075 crores) and from then the department of post started incurring losses about 50% of their total expenditure but by 2013 the department of post started various service like introduction of ATM's, electronic postal order and selective measures have taken in parcel services by which the loss deducted by 18% now the losses incurred by post offices are 38% but it is not a matter of improvement because if it continued then soon the postal department will also have to shut down like the telegram department of our country the improvement of technology is now causing very big problems to the world's largest postal department for his survival in the future.....

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Confusion over minimum wage implementation in Delhi

"The Hurrier I go, the behinder I get." Repeating these words of Lewis Carroll from Alice in Wonderland, the Delhi High Court in its judgment on 4 August 2018 set aside the 14 September 2016 Delhi government notification on minimum wages, which increased the minimum wages in Delhi to Rs. 13,350 to the unskilled, Rs. 14,690 to the semi-skilled and Rs. 16,182 to the skilled. Early media reports, however, were a bit vague and suggested that the court had set aside the notification because "it was a 'hurried' decision taken without hearing the employers or employees who would be affected".

Delhi Labour Minister. Gopal Rai said in a statement, "The Delhi government disagrees with the Delhi HC verdict and views with extreme disappointment the erroneous conclusion arrived at by the court, after having heard the matter for almost a year-and-a-half, and after having kept the verdict reserved for many months." While crosschecking immediately with the Delhi trade union sources, they confirmed that both the labour representatives and

employers' representatives were heard during several rounds of meetings. So a stream of doubts and dark worries came to mind. Delhi HC Governor Anil Bajjal had first refused to approve an earlier minimum wage notification because his approval had not been taken to constitute the Minimum Wage Advisory Committee. So the AAP government had to take his permission again and start the same process all over again. And now, are they becoming victims of some judicial obstructionism?

A series of tweets by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal only gave a darker picture of the gravity of the situation: "A large number of daily wage earners in Delhi had started getting increased wages of Rs. 13,500 per month instead of Rs. 9,500 for more than a year. With the HC judgment, suddenly, their wages will be reduced. They will be put under huge financial stress. A huge setback for them."

The CM further claimed that some employers are, in the wake of the HC verdict, planning to recover the increased wage, which they

had paid for the last one year. "If that starts happening, it will bring untold misery to the poor". The concerns are fine but whose mistake was it? Going through the judgment carefully immediately made it clear that Gopal Rai was wide off the mark in blaming the court. It became clear that it was not the High Court but his own ministry which was responsible for the quashing and the resulting plight of the workers. The High Court had set aside the notification on two grounds: firstly, the Minimum Wage Advisory Committee was not constituted as per the law because employer representatives from the scheduled employments for which minimum wages were being fixed were not represented in the Committee as prescribed by Section 5(1)(a) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Secondly, though the Act had prescribed that one-third members of the committee should be independent

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B. Sivaraman

members, no independent member was appointed, and in their place government officials were appointed and they were an interested party and also not independent members. Since the government too is an employer in some of the scheduled areas of employment. It is really shocking indeed: is the Delhi Labour Ministry under Rai so incompetent that it could not even constitute a minimum wage advisory committee as per law? Or, did the top bureaucrats in the Labour Department deliberately misled the political leadership in the ministry and constituted such an unlawful committee only to make AAP leaders look like misfits later? Even conspiracy theories might arise due to the subsequent silence of Kejriwal. Since he claims to be a moralist, he could do to pre-empt such theories is to openly admit his government's

mistake and apologise to the workers of Delhi for his government's bungling.

In fact, the Delhi HC should have passed strictures against his government for inaction, despite Delhi Factory Owners' Association pointing out this illegality in the very constitution of the committee in one of its earliest sittings. But somehow the court stopped just short of that. And the left trade unions CITU and AICTU, which had one member each in the committee, should have seen through this folly and warned the government at the outset. Unfortunately, that too did not happen. Far from being biased against labour, the HC has convincingly dismissed employers' claims that minimum wages in surrounding states are much lower than in Delhi and employers have no paying capacity.

Deprived of thousands of crores of higher wages for a few years, millions of underpaid workers of Delhi seem to be repeating the words of Alice—"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"...Any answer Mr. Kejriwal? (IPA)

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| 9 Consume | 4 Vigilant |
| 10 Smooth and even (mus) | 5 Altruistic |
| 11 Vibration | 6 Make lace |
| 14 Irritable | 7 Tell |
| 17 Corrupt mercenary | 12 Fish eggs |
| 20 Wait on | 13 Newt |
| 24 Literary idicute | 14 Kindly cask |
| 26 Frozen treat | 17 Call on |
| 27 Strong wind | 18 Music sounds |
| 28 Bed canopy | 19 Big |
| 29 Cricket score | 21 Lacerate |
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| | 23 Soft feathers |
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