

Give peace a chance



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Rituparna Goswami Pande 1 November 2007 14440 views

The northeastern states have lately reaffirmed themselves as cauldrons of violence. Instances of violence have repeatedly marred the peace of these sibling states where rebel guns have resulted in a number of casualties.

Imphal is smoldering after an ambush at Sorbung village in Phungyar sub division of Ukhrul district in the daylight hours of this Wednesday morning. One Assam Rifles officer and two jawans were killed including a Major while seven others were left wounded. The ambush took place while the Assam Rifles troops were moving from Soide village to Kasom on a routine patrol duty. Mentionably, this was the second major militant ambush in Manipur after members of the People's Revolutionary party of Kangleipak gunned down five CRPF personnel along the Imphal-Jiribam highway recently.

Meanwhile, Meghalaya is caught in a quagmire of allegations regarding the gunning down of five suspected militants of the Hynniewtrepanational Liberation Council (HNLC) in an encounter at Cleve Colony on October 31. However, local NGOs have expressed their doubts on the authenticity of the episode. Whereas, in Itanagar, armed miscreants have destroyed the peace with their unscrupulous activities, where PWD engineer SP Srivastava kidnapped by these miscreants was however

released shortly after being in captivity for about 20 days.

Assam too has its own demons to fight against.

Peace initiatives though put forward have failed miserably sometimes for government apathy or rebel inflexibility. But mostly it's the people's complacency that is to blame for the present situation. Our parochial mindsets have further distanced us resulting in our demands of becoming autonomous bodies. The day is not far when every community or caste would vie for a state of their own and if denied new rebel outfits would be born to further move the wheel of violence.

Peace it seems has become a pipe dream for us. Our young generation have never really known peace in the true sense of the term. It seems we need to include peace studies as a subject in the school curriculum to mould the young minds and prepare them well in order to tackle with the violence of real life. Perhaps they may realize the folly of the older generation and give peace a chance.

Rituparna Goswami Pande

Journalist, writer

BY RITUPARNA GOSWAMI PANDE

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