

Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, December 10, 2015

Saviours or stumbling blocks?

However much as we would like to consider ourselves as ones who are abreast of the times, with an acute sense of awareness of our rights and responsibilities, yet the undeniable fact remains that the mentality of most of those who have appointed themselves as saviours of the society from enemies both real and imaginary, has been one of "we are always right", and "our cause is the most important one". What the common people has not been able to comprehend yet is the "why" of it. Why are these self appointed guardians of the society turning their guns and bombs on the very society who are their source of sustenance? Why are they still adamant on "serving" the common man, despite the overwhelming reluctance of the public to accept their "service"? Why do a crime becomes less evil after an amicable settlement with the perpetrators? Why do they insist on "donations" with fixed amounts? Why are they not "interfering" with the known and notorious smugglers and black marketers in spite of the glaring evidences, and more relevantly, with the recent uproar of the public against the dismissive state government adamant on ignoring the wishes of the people? Why are they harassing the weak and vulnerable public when their targets should be the corrupt and the unscrupulous elements taking undue advantage of the weak and helpless? Why are they so keen on changing the world when there are so many small hurdles we need to remove before everything else to make our society visibly better? Why are they conveniently looking the other way while various atrocities are being committed against the society everyday without respite? It would not be an exaggeration to state that the society would be a much better place for their absence. The ulterior motives of these guardians of the society have been laid bare, yet the fear of physical harm and unwanted repercussions, which is so real and possible, has the public to keep mum. It does take two hands to clap- the cheatings, forgeries, misappropriations and underhand dealings being carried out in Government Departments and offices are the excuse and the reason for their existence. Yet in their purported quest to cleanse the society of things evil and bad, it is the common man, clueless and defenceless, who are bearing the brunt of the anger and threats, getting caught in the crossfire, without the connection or the influence to secure a better bargain of their lives. Insecurity and the fear psychosis have been so deeply ingrained in the minds of the people, with a deep suspicion for everything and everyone even remotely out of the ordinary. The outcome of such a society can never be a positive one- as has been witnessed and felt by everybody. The Indian army has been using the excuse of the unrest and social disruptions to carry out their myriad nefarious activities, while various leaders in power are amassing wealth meant for the affected people. The deadly vortex of extortions, killings and threats has been growing stronger. The only real and plausible solution? - take away the sinner, and the saint disappears! How easier can things get?

Wanted Sub-Editor

Imphal Times is looking for an experience sub editor with excellent writing skill in English who can read Bengali written script. Working hour is 12 noon till 3 pm. Honorarium is Rs. 3000 p/m. Preference will be given to candidate who had already work in English daily as desk editor. Age no bar, and Imphal Times have no problem with those candidates working in other newspaper at night shift.

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Regions

Governor prepones Arunachal Assembly session

ANI
Itanagar, Dec 10 : Arunachal Pradesh Governor J.P. Rajkhowa has summoned the sixth session of the state legislative assembly for three days from December 16 in place of January 14 to 18 as scheduled earlier. The governor's office said that the change in dates was being done in exercise of powers conferred on him under clause (1) of Article 174 of the Constitution. The statement from the governor's office further stated that the notice of resolution for removal of the Speaker has been complied with a notice period of 14 days on December 4, as required under the first proviso to article 179(c) of the Constitution. The Raj Bhavan statement said that the governor is personally satisfied that the time gap between the date of compliance of the notice with the notice period prescribed in the first proviso to article 179(c) of the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure of the House concerning speedy disposal of such resolutions. The governor said that in considering resolutions for the removal of the speaker, he may not be bound by the advice of the council of ministers, since the subject matter of the notice for removal of the speaker is not a matter falling under the executive jurisdiction of the chief minister nor such a subject matter finds a mention in the rules of executive business of the GoAP framed under Article 166 of the Constitution.

More state news

Shija Observes World Patient Safety Day

ITNews
Imphal, Dec 10: World Patient Safety Day was observed on 9th of December 2015 at Shija Hospitals & Research Institute (SHRI) Pvt Ltd, Langol. Dr. Devendra Kh. Consultant General and Laparoscopic Surgeon, SHRI, presented on Surgical Safety measures for patients. He emphasized on the magnitude of impact that adverse events can cause. Strict compliance to pre-defined protocols and following surgical safety checklist advised by WHO is key to avoiding surgical errors. "Safety of patients is everyone's business", he said, including all levels of healthcare providers, patients and their families. Dr. Kennedy T. Consultant Anesthesiologist and Critical Care Specialist, SHRI, presented on Medical Errors with the gathering. Preventable medical errors, its incidences and how to avoid them were highlighted. He stressed on the importance of the management of all healthcare institutes to encourage reporting of events even if it is a near miss event which has not caused any harm to the patient in order to avoid such errors in the future. Avoiding abbreviations and writing legibly by health care professionals will also contribute towards preventing errors, said he. He drew attention of the gathering towards a culture of safety to be practiced and embraced by all. Dr. Jugindra S. Director Medical Services, SHRI, spoke on the current practices and initiatives of Shija Hospitals to ensure Patient



Safety. He shared that patient safety does not end with creating policies and protocols but is a continuous process of complying with protocols day in and day out during daily medical practice. Shija Hospitals is working towards accreditation by National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH), he informed. It may be mentioned that Shija Blood Bank & Transfusion Services is accredited by NABH and the hospital based laboratory is accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL). The observation of the Patient Safety day was attended by Consultant Doctors, Resident Medical Officers, Medical PG Students, Nurses, Nursing students and administrative staff of the hospital. In his closing remarks, Dr. Palin Kh, Chairman cum Managing Director, SHRI said that Patient Safety is of paramount importance in developing trust of the patients and eventually developing medical tourism in the state to attract patients from neighboring states and countries.

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Why Manipur stands with its cause?

The Gol-NSCN(IM) Peace Talk which has been ongoing since 1997 affected all the neighbouring Northeastern states is one such part of it. The talks which started with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) had further been continued afterwards with the United Peoples Alliance (UPA). As of now, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the biggest party in the NDA, had on August 3 of this year signed the 'Framework of Agreement' with the targeted objective of bringing to solution within three month's time. It can be observable from the trends so witnessed that, the Gol, though seems to be withdrawing from agreeing or assuring to fulfill the demands of the NSCN (IM). The NSCN (IM) also, on its part seems to climb down from many of its core demands. Earlier, talks used to be in third country at the highest level with the Prime Minister. But subsequently talks started to be held in Delhi, that also through interlocutors, that also changed for so many times. Sovereignty was no longer in the demand. 'Greater Nagaland' was scaled down to 'South Nagaland', then 'Supra State'. And now, the demand is 'Alternative Arrangement'. What indicate it are, what models of Sixth Schedule it could be? Among the thirty subjects in it included, autonomy by having direct relation with Delhi, and Naga Social integration based on ethnic line. All these cannot be agreed upon and consented by the valley based civil society because of the perpetual threat in the territorial integrity of Manipur due to the demands of the NSCN (IM). Even the two rounds of talks with the interlocutor, RN Ravi, have already been held making concerted efforts to bring to the knowledge of the Gol through Ravi the past political status of Manipur, her history and her internationally recognized age-old boundary towards arriving at a final settlement of the issue. The Gol, from its part have assured of not disturbing the boundary of Manipur. But what is apprehensive to the people is, even if boundary is not disturbed, it remains more or less the same with the bifurcation of the state of Manipur, if there is exclusive autonomous Naga administered area functioned in the line of state within a state. In such a prevailing crucial moment, the civil society in Manipur brings to notice and wants the Gol to come to realization that - considering the historical and distinctive political status of Manipur, the collective interest of the people of Manipur is inviolable. Why because, if the 'unique history' of the Nagas is recognized, then on what ground if the historical and political distinctive status of Manipur should be ignored and overlooked? The reasons are given below:

1. More than two thousand years old people's history of Manipur and the political status enjoyed by the state in different epochs of history should be recognized
2. The inseparable and intricately linked organic geographical and socio-economic hill-valley ties should not be bifurcated
3. The cultural-linguistic ties of the collective co-existing brethren communities of Manipur should be recognized
4. Manipur was a South West Asian independent kingdom which has been in existence for more than 2000 years. Even if, Manipur was brought under British colonialism, Manipur was never a part of India.
5. The independence of Manipur was recognized by many of the international treaties. Mention could be made of the -Anglo Manipuri Treaty (1762), and

Treaty of Yandaboo (1826)

6. The political and the administrative reforms enacted and implemented after passing the act in the British parliament were enforced and implemented only in British India. Such political and the administrative reforms which were operational in India never came into force in Manipur.
7. Manipur regained her independence on August 14, 1947 by virtue of the Section 7 (b) of the Indian Independence Act.
8. Manipur already had her own constitution under the Manipur State Constitution Act, 1947. Under it, much before the first general election to be held in India in 1952, elections on the basis of universal adult franchise was held in the year 1948 for the first time in the history of South Asia. A 53 member assembly of 53 members having multi-ethnic and plural character was elected. Its first session was held on 18 October 1948. Maharaja Bodhchandra also participated in it and addressed the house as the nominal head.
9. By virtue of the existence of duly and democratically elected assembly, the independent sovereign power was vested to the people.
10. There were no representations from Manipur in any capacity in the Constituent Assembly of India, and Cabinet Mission Plan (1946).
11. The King of power has no right and authority, neither has he any legality and constitutional mandate to enter into an agreement without the willingness and approval of the houses on subjects which might hurt the future political status. The Manipur State Constitution Act of 1947 doesn't entitle the King of any such rights.
12. The existence of Manipur State Constitution Act, 1947 and the Manipur State Elections held under

it in 1948 are sufficient grounds for extending/granting Article 370 of the Indian Constitution in recognition of her political status

13. None of the duly and democratically elected members of the Manipur Legislative Assembly, 1948 have endorsed the Instrument of Accession Act.
14. For all the reasons stated above, the GoI has the historical and constitutional responsibility to not disturb and protect the territorial boundary of Manipur, and at the same time should acknowledge and give recognition to her 'distinctive history' and 'distinctive political status'.

Considering all the veracity and truth stated above, Article no. 370 of the Indian Constitution should be extended in Manipur. The reasons for extending Article 370 are appropriate.

- Ø It nullifies Article 3 of the Indian Constitution. This will checkmate ethnicisation of ethnic polity.
- Ø This will help in maintaining the age-old ties of hill-valley relationship
- Ø This will empower the people in the hills in their endeavour for economic betterment.
- Ø It will also be instrumental to make the hill people to become politically self reliant by enabling them to take political decisions without the intervention of the external hands.

To conclude, the aspirations of the hills people cannot be realized without the consensus approval and consent of the valley people. Likewise, the aspirations of the valley people cannot be realized without the consensus approval and consent of the hill people. The GoI should realize this. More strikingly put, why is the avenue for inter-community dialogue still not initiated if the GoI really looks forward a genuine solution which will not be at the cost of each other.