

Editorial

Imphal, Saturday, December 5, 2015

The neglected voice of reason

"Listen to your elder's advice, not because they are always right but because they have more experiences of being wrong" - Anonymous.

In this era of media overkill, one aspect that still remains acutely under-represented is the increasing shift in the role being played by the senior citizens of the state in matters pertaining to the society. However, in a slow yet steady positive turnaround, the state has been experiencing a perceptible change in the manner in which the senior citizens of the state, sidelined and neglected for long, have started to actively participate and deliberate on the myriad issues - almost every single one of them being undesirable and posing as stumbling blocks to the progress and development of the society. These senior citizens, with their vast experiences and insight, have started to assert their rightful place in the society. It would only be to our own disadvantage and loss if the society, especially the government fails to tap the vast and invaluable experiences, insights and opinions that could surely steer the state away from the path to deterioration and an almost certain fractious future, given the way issues, whether it be social, ethnic, political or financial, are playing out. One could certainly gauge the depth of decadence and depravation by the chilling report of cannibalism by a few of those who were supposed to have dedicated their lives for the cause of the people. Perhaps the connection or relevance might seem a little far-fetched. But the reality is, when we, as a society of bloodhounds and opportunists, started straying from the thin line of civility and rationality which is increasingly viewed as undesirable constraints to the rapidly intensifying race for fame, favors and fanciful life; the views, opinions and suggestions of the experienced and empathic minds acts as the voice of reason which hold us back and prevent us from being carried away by new-fangled ideas which, if not restrained, could prove to be the downfall of the society. The people of the state has for long been bearing the brunt of the blunders of an impulsive government given to the whims and fancies of a powerful few who continues to hold sway over the entire state. The people have also been witnessing the indulgent nature of the leaders who would not hesitate to turn a deaf ear or look the other way to various atrocities being carried out blatantly if any confrontation or uncomfortable situation can be averted. The result, as everybody has been experiencing, is a society increasingly lacking in civility and compassion where might is the new right and the ends justifying the means.

If the aspirations of the public for a normal, progressive and harmonious society is to have any chance or opportunity for development, the senior citizens needs to be handed the reign as their ideas and insights as well as the ways to fulfill the aspirations should be taken into account and given due consideration as wisdom and hindsight are the two most valuable legacy we should cherish and improve on.

NSCN-IM imbroglio revealed by three scholars

- Aheibam Koireng, Sukhdeba Sharma Hanjabam and Homen Thangjam

Produced here is the notes from the editors of the book called "Claims & Refutations: Compilation on Naga Political Movement, Published for: Centre for Manipur Studies (CMS), Manipur University (MU) & Conflict and Human Rights Studies Network, Imphal

Contd. from yesterday

The interesting part in the resolutions of Manipur Legislative Assembly that the Manipuri Nagas which submit memorandums to Gol in support of NSCN (IM) at different points of time is now part of taking resolutions to safeguard the territorial integrity of Manipur. Many of the present former MLAs, MPs and sitting Naga MLAs are off and on to the issue to survive their political career. The latest being the resolution passed by All Political Parties held on 17th August, 2015. Participating in the Indian electoral process is a symbol of acceptance of the Indian system. It is on this ground that NNC boycotted it in the Naga Hills. However, in Manipur, Nagas were elected to the Parliament. NSCN (IM), in its early days denounced the Indian election. However, in contradiction to their earlier stand, the Manipuri Nagas who earlier opposed the Indian elections started to participate in the Indian elections (from the respective Parliamentary and assembly Election of 2004 and 2007) with the support of NSCN (IM) through UNC by forcing a Naga People Mandate appealing to elect only those candidates with no party affiliations and who endorses the NPC Declaration. NSCN (IM) inevitably meted out atrocities as the foundation of their movement. The voluminous unreported cases of involuntary disappearance and the ethnic cleansing of 1990s is enough to illustrate the atrocities committed by NSCN (IM). The Tangkhul society has been under siege since the split of NSCN into the

Khaplang and Isak-Muivah factions in 1988. To achieve its Manipur project, the highest number of crimes is committed against its own people, killing the maximum number of Tangkhuls during "peace time. The killing of Yangmaso Shaiza, the first Tangkhul Chief Minister of Manipur by Naga rebels in 1984 stands out because he stood for the territorial integrity of Manipur. Similar stories of atrocities are also reported in Nagaland. However, justice is a far cry for the victims. If the present peace process with NSCN (IM) does not consider the issue of justice and reconciliation similar to that of Truth and Reconciliation Commission with locally adapted version, then this may not be a process to bring peace. Territorial aspirations and claims find manifestations in the form of maps. Many have posed the question: Can cartographical drawings precede sovereignty? This happened during the bloody ethnic cleansing undertaken by NSCN (IM) in Manipur in 1992 and subsequent years and also during the massive unrest in Manipur when the "cease-fire agreement" was extended without territorial limits. One finds the rigorous attempts to put forward demands through maps in the 1990s. For instance, maps of Nagalim was drawn by NSCN (IM) became to be available. So, in spite of the internalisation of the movement, they rely solely on their invented map as they could not locate or find any evidence anywhere in the world including Naga Hills or areas that they claim as Nagalim. This is vividly reflected in the "Bedrock of Naga Society".

Just as Isak Chisi Swu felt the urgency of developing a Naga identity to gain legitimacy of the Naga cause, the inevitability of possessing a map became significant so as to garner support through this vision as well as to gain legitimacy in the international community. However, the attempt so far has been futile not only from the perspective of competing visions in the forms of maps (sic. Kukiland and Zelangam). But, also, because such maps were in collision course with the age-old boundary of Manipur which had gained international recognition. Naga issue and the Manipur issue are highly emotionally charged sentiments. If the solution comes in a package of secrecy as it is happening at the moment, the solution is bound to create more problem than peace. The issue has the potential to disturb the ethnic relations in Manipur and Nagaland. The apprehension in Manipur is valid as the same government (BJP) was responsible for the mayhem on June 18, 2001 and its subsequent fall-outs. The 'historic' framework agreement of between the Gol and NSCN (IM) is presented in such a manner that it has the answer to the aspirations or 'sentiments' of the NSCN (IM) as well as the people of Manipur. However, a cursory peek into the earlier claims and trajectories as well as the currently secretive yet unfolding dynamics of the framework agreement indicates that instead of bringing about lasting peace, it is likely to burn down 'sentiments' of both the Manipuri Nagas and Manipur into ashes. The question then arises is, has Gol been able to dissuade NSCN (IM) to give up

its claim for "Nagalim" or Greater Nagaland thereby make the party abandon its demand for inclusion of the 4(four) hill districts of Manipur into the pan-Naga politico-administrative structure. Further, in reaching such an historic agreement, has the Gol been able to unfringe the edgy Manipur's historic demand for territorial integrity, and thus, respect its history. In such a perplexing state of confusion and secrecy, it remains to be seen what the framework agreement of August 3rd, 2015 in fact holds for the fate of Manipur Nagas, the states of Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Considering the situation, it is difficult to understand the reality as the text of the agreement has been concealed so far. Moreover, from whom the text is concealed is also a big question.

This present volume is being brought out to bring into notice the relevant and related landmark incidents, archival and cartographic materials, treaties and accords. The book has fifty eight compilations including eight Maps and is clubbed under nine sections such as I: On Identity; II: Territorial Aspirations; III: Review of the Aspirations; IV: Demands; V: Review of the Demands; VI: Intervention by Elected Representative; VII: Politics of Election; VIII: Atrocities; and IX: Maps. Hope, this brief highlight of the contents in the book will invite the curiosity of the potential readers who want to better comprehend and understand the Naga movements, the narratives and claims of the Nagas vis-a-vis Manipur's territory in its totality. (Concluded)

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Man arrested with charas near Indo-Nepal border

PII
Balrampur, Dec. 5: A man has been arrested with charas, worth over Rs. 1 crore in the international market, by SSB jawans near Khagna chowki in this Indo-Nepal border district of Uttar Pradesh. A patrol party of SSB nabbed the 52-year-old man with 8.5 kg of the drug while he was smuggling it into India from Nepal yesterday. SSB 9th battalion commandant, H K Gupta said today. The seized charas is worth Rs. 1 crore in the international market, the SSB official added.

National & International News

AAP MLAs highest paid legislators after Assam

TNN
New Delhi, Dec. 5: With a 400% hike in salary, AAP MLAs have become among the highest paid legislators, second only to Assam. Assam MLAs receive Rs 60,000 as basic salary while AAP legislators will now receive Rs 50,000 putting them at par with Members of Parliament. TOI and PRS Legislative analyzed basic monthly salary of 18 states but not allowances and perks which differ in each state. While some states have special allowances like stationery and travel, others have perks for travel,

power and water subsidy. The analysis reveals that legislators in prosperous states like Tamil Nadu and Kerala draw lower salaries than their counterparts in "backward" states like Jharkhand and Bihar. MLAs in TN get a basic salary of Rs 8000 while those in Kerala-most likely the lowest paid—receive Rs 1000. In comparison, those in Jharkhand and Bihar receive Rs 30,000, at par with legislators in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. Punjab MLAs draw a monthly pay packet of Rs 25,000 while Andhra Pradesh legislators get Rs 12,000.

Interestingly, though Indian MPs are among the highest paid (Rs 50,000 per month) elected representatives in India, they are among the lowest paid internationally. Analysis of MP salaries by fatly in based on the Inter-Parliamentary Survey (IPU) report (in gross amount before tax) per parliamentarian per year in the year 2012 shows that the average annual parliamentary salary is \$62,075 (in purchasing power parity PPP dollars). "While there is a lot of criticism surrounding the salary of Indian MPs, their basic salary is on the

lower side when compared to most other developed countries. The nearest to the salary received by an Indian MP is by a South African MP who receives more than twice the amount received by his Indian counterpart. The highest salary is received by an Australian MP, about 6.5 times the amount received by an Indian MP. Even a Brazilian MP receives more than 6 times the basic salary of an Indian MP. An Indian MP earns roughly one-sixth of what his American counterpart gets as a basic salary," Rakesh Dubudru from fatly in said.

Commercial flight's likely to start after Dec 6 at Chennai airport: Mahesh Sharma

ANI
New Delhi, Dec 05: Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism and Civil Aviation Mahesh Sharma on Saturday said that the commercial flight services at Chennai airport cannot start as of now. He added that once power supply is restored and water evacuation takes place, commercial flight services are likely to restart after December 6. The operations at the airport have been suspended after water entered the runway following incessant rains for over a week now.

Chennai grapples with flood aftermath; long queues at ATMs, petrol pumps

PTI
Chennai, Dec. 5: The flood-ravaged city was on Saturday struggling to return to normalcy with partial restoration of telecommunication and train services, besides many roads also becoming fairly motorable even as waterlogging woes continued in several areas. Torrential rains have left at least 245 people dead since October 1, according to the Tamil Nadu government. The situation took a turn for the worse on Tuesday with large areas of the city flooded. The deluge destroyed crucial road and rail links, shutdown the airport, snapped power and telecom lines and left lakhs of people stranded. Waterlogging continued in many parts such as Kotturpuram,

suburban Mudichur and Pallikaranai even as hapless residents who had taken refuge on higher floors of buildings were seen pleading for essentials like milk and water which remain in short supply. There were serpentine queues outside the few ATMs and petrol stations that were operating. Tamil Nadu government has said that the fuel situation will ease in the next couple of days. Banks in the state will remain open tomorrow, though it is a Sunday. In its bid to link the southern parts of Chennai with the main city, Southern Railway announced operating services on the busy Egmore-Tamabaram stretch bringing much needed relief to the residents. Although services are generally

operated between Chennai beach and Tamabaram, trains are now being operated only between Egmore and Tamabaram and that too only on the main line, southern railway officials said. In many areas, including Tamabaram, telephone landline services were being restored even as mobile services also picked up pace. Rains lashed a few parts of the city overnight but let up in the morning though the sky remained overcast. Supply of milk continued to remain erratic although state-run Avin had taken steps to ensure adequate supply of the essential commodity. Vegetables continued to remain costly.

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