

Editorial

Imphal Thursday, January 12, 2016

Political pandemonium: opportunity towards progress

If the politics of ethnicity that has for long been practiced in the state as were everywhere else where pluralistic societies exist begs the impression of one characterized by deep rooted suspicions, protracted conflicts and extremisms, it is the inherent undercurrent of instability and unpredictability marked by acute passions and excessive emotions amongst the public. The feeling, although understandable runs the endemic risk of uprooting social systems and creating political and social pandemonium from which none emerge the winner, if let off unchecked. The public of Manipur does not need to look far to experience the feeling. It is these feelings, when compelled to act upon, would spell disaster for everyone without any exception. There is however a glimmer of positivity with the obverse of such passions and feelings. It is these very heightened emotions that is essential for creating solidarity amongst the different ethnic groups as well as compel higher participation in politics- a paradox that has played out to be true. And like a double edged sword, it ultimately rests on those at the helm of affairs of the state as well as to either resolve such conflict situation and steer the emotions towards solidarity and stability or to further push the state into chaos and spiraling violence. The role of Civil Society Organisations in forming and fueling ethnic passions cannot be ignored, especially in a state like Manipur where the state government is perceived to be despotic, nepotistic and self-seeking by many cutting across ethnic and communal lines while these CSOs function as pressure groups thereby maintaining checks and balances. Therefore, the present political impasse which has gained an ugly communal undertone needs to be relooked from a different perspective by the public without reservations and preconceived notions to try and understand the genesis of such a situation which will hopefully help in bring about an enduring solution. While it would be impossible to shed personal feelings or distance our ethnic passions, it would augur well to keep them in check and seek out the rational and plausible explanation free from prejudice if we all are as eager to participate and chip in towards bringing a solution as everybody make out to be. Admitting the failure of the state to accommodate the pluralistic and ethnic diversity within the framework of the state and society can be a starting point, however, the instrumental roles performed by the ethnic elites in ethnic mobilization and portraying issues should also be questioned and analyzed from an impersonal point of view to try and understand the political, economical and social implications of such assertions. In other words, the present social development should be taken as an opportunity to get at the root of the problem and subsequently to draw up a pragmatic and enduring solution which will enhance solidarity, peaceful and participatory coexistence which will draw strength and inspiration from the cultural diversity rather than making futile attempts at ethnic exclusivity which reflects a regressive mindset out of synch with the developing world.

Bali tourists stranded as flights axed

Denpasar, Jan 12: Hundreds of tourists were stranded on the resort island of Bali today following a decision by authorities to axe Tigerair Australia flights after the airline allegedly broke Indonesian regulations. The budget carrier said six of its services between Australia and the Indonesian island were being axed a day after the disruption began with the cancellation of several flights. About 700 passengers were affected by the cancellations today, and a similar number were affected yesterday, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported. Tigerair said the chaos was caused by the Indonesian government's decision to "impose new administrative requirements for the operation of its flights between Bali and Australia". However the Indonesian transport ministry said it made the move after administrative violations by the airline.

It said Tigerair should not have been selling tickets within Indonesia for its chartered flights. Only Virgin Australia, Tigerair Australia's parent company, was authorised to sell the tickets, it said. "All foreign airlines must comply with our regulations," ministry spokesman Agoes Soebagio said in a statement, adding all Tigerair Australia flights would be cancelled until requirements had been fulfilled. Tigerair said Virgin Australia was sending two flights to Bali to bring affected customers back. Bali, a pocket of ancient Hindu culture in Muslim-majority Indonesia, attracts millions of foreign tourists every year to its palm-fringed beaches and is a particular favourite with visitors from neighbouring Australia. However travel disruptions are common. Bali airport was forced to close several times last year due to floating clouds of ash from nearby erupting volcanoes.

National & International News

SC refuses to pass order before Saturday on plea challenging Centre's notification allowing Jallikattu

PTI New Delhi, Jan.12: The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to pass order before Saturday on plea challenging Centre's notification allowing Jallikattu. With Tamil Nadu mounting pressure for promulgation of an ordinance to enable Jallikattu, the Centre on Wednesday said though "things are ready" on its side, it will wait for the order of Supreme Court which it hoped will do justice so that people can celebrate festival as per tradition. Environment Minister Anil Madhav Dave who met a delegation led by Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha and AIADMK MP M Thambidurai regarding this issue also blamed the previous Congress-led UPA government for including bulls in the list of animals prohibited from being exhibited or trained as performing animals.

Dave asserted that there was no ill-treatment with the bulls during the performance of the sport and expressed confidence that the Supreme Court will look into all these aspects while giving its decision so that the people can celebrate their festivals. "We being the government, we are just waiting for the Supreme Court's decision. What I feel is that we should request the Supreme Court to give its judgement, then the government can take any step. The government is ready even at midnight to do all these things. "But all depends, as we are in a structured organisation. Parliament is supreme. But the court is also there. Therefore, it will be better that the moment the decision on the pending case comes, things are ready from our side. I am waiting for the decision

desperately," Dave told reporters after meeting the delegation. There has been a growing chorus for holding bull taming sport Jallikattu, with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister O Panneerselvam writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the Centre to consider promulgating an ordinance to enable the conduct of the sport. While AIADMK General Secretary VK Sasikala wrote a letter to Modi on Wednesday, noting that the ban on the bull taming sport had caused "resentment" in the state, a 27-member delegation led Thambidurai submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister's Office in this regard. The delegation stressed that it is wrong to wait for Supreme Court's ruling on the issue when the Centre is empowered to make any changes in the list of banned animals.

"I am sorry to say that somehow this problem arose only after 2011. The then Congress government included bulls in the list of animals that cannot be used as performing animals. We would not have included them," Dave said. Later he tweeted, "The mother of problem is the Congress-led UPA government which included bulls in performing list in 2011." Coming out in support of bull taming sport Jallikattu, students on Wednesday staged demonstrations at many places across Tamil Nadu including in Madurai, where police used lathicharge to disperse protesters who tried to break barricades to enter the Collectorate. The Supreme Court in November last had dismissed the plea of the state government, seeking review of its 2014 judgement banning use of bulls for Jallikattu events in the state.

Contd. from yesterday issue

New born hearing screenings

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General identification measures: it can be identify by parent, caregivers who are familiar with baby in their daily living activities. It is often difficult to detect, especially in young children. Following are typical developmental milestones in children with normal hearing. Babies and young children with hearing loss will not achieve these milestones:

Infant's Age	Arousal from sleep for 90 dB SPL
3-4 months	Rudimentary head turn for normal conversation (50-60dB SPL)
4-7 months	Localization to side for soft sounds (40-50 dB SPL)
7-9 months	Localizes to side and in-directly below for a loud whisper (30-40 dB SPL)
9-13 months	Localizes to side and below a loud whisper (30-40 dB SPL)
16-16 months	Localizes to side, below and indirectly above to soft sounds
16-21 months	Localizes directly to the side, below and above to a whisper
21-24 months	Locates directly a sound at any angle to soft sounds.

Methods to identify Hearing loss:

Medical indications are Ear discharge, Ear pain, Irritation or itching in the ear.

Behavioural indications include

- Inconsistent responses to sound
- Does not speak or imitate sound
- Language and speech development is delayed
- Speech is unclear
- Does not follow directions
- Child does not respond when called
- Use of more actions and signs
- Inattentiveness
- Pulling or scratching at the ears
- Play the TV or radio too loudly
- Poor academic performance
- May relies more on speech reading (lip reading)

HRR (high risk register)

This group included infants whose mothers suffered from illness during pregnancy, those who had a family history of hearing loss, or those who were exposed to drugs known to affect hearing. In addition, infants with the following conditions were included for hearing screening:

- Low birth weight, prematurity, oxygen deprivation or breathing

difficulties at birth

- Hyperbilirubinemia
- Syndromes associated with hearing loss (Down's syndrome, Turner syndrome)
- Abnormal head or face structures
- Infections such as TORCH (Toxoplasmosis, other Rubella, cytomegalovirus, syphilis herpes)
- Low Apgar scores (which assess several health factors at one and again at five minutes after birth).

HEARING SCREENING PROTOCOL

- BOA (Behavioral Observation Audiometry) checks the infants response to sound stimuli.
- OAE (Otoacoustic emission) This is a relatively quick and non-invasive test. A miniature microphone is placed in the ear. It picks up signals that normally are emitted from the hair cells in the inner ear. This is an excellent screening test for all newborns. If a hearing problem is found, it should be confirmed with the Auditory Brainstem Response test. (ABR/BERA). OAE is of two type : Screening and diagnostic tests
- Screening tests - Pass/Refer
- Diagnostic tests - Detailed evaluation

• Impedance Audiometry : Test to rule out middle ear problems. It measures the air pressure in the middle ear and the ability of the eardrum to move.

• ABR (Auditory Brainstem Response or BERA (Brainstem Evoked Response Audiometry). In this test, response are obtained from electrical signals passing through nerves involved in hearing. This test is used to screen newborns or to test children unable to cooperate with other methods. Young children often need to be sedated during this test so that their movements don't interfere with the recording.

Babies who are at risk for hearing loss will undergo follow up OAE and ABR with interval of 3 months. At the age of 6 months, hearing impaired baby can receive intervention for better prognosis and to develop the child like normal peers in relevant to development of speech and language.

REFLEX TESTING

Primitive reflexes are reflex actions exhibited from the central nervous system that are shown by normal infants in response to certain stimuli but not by neurologically affected infants. Some of the reflex namely Moro, Rooting, Sucking, Tonic neck, Palmar, Plantar and Babinski reflex. These reflex are checked in association with hearing screening to rule out involvement of neurological disorder in infants.

TREATMENT OPTION

Conductive hearing loss often can be corrected. For example, middle-ear infections and the associated fluid build up can be treated and the child's hearing can be monitored. Surgery may be considered for some problems. Another treatment option for severe or profound sensorineural hearing loss is a cochlear implant. This device is surgically implanted in the skull. It helps to translate sound waves into signals that can reach the brain. Cochlear implants are approved in the United States for use in children older than 12 months of age. Children with significant hearing loss also can learn sign language and lip reading to communicate with others. Thus, the failure to identify and treat hearing loss by 6 months of age can have serious implications for a child's speech. Even slight hearing loss in one ear can impact a child's speech and language development. Treating a child before 6 months of age can make a huge difference in language and speech development by taking the advantage of critical period. Early identification and intervention can prevent severe psychosocial, educational and linguistic repercussions. Infants who not identified before 6 months of age have delays in speech and language development. Intervention at or before 6 months of age allows a child with impaired hearing to develop normal speech and language, alongside his or her hearing peers.

(Concluded)

ART COMPETITION

COME - BE PART OF THE HISTORY

JOIN THE LONGEST (1.5 KM) ART COMPETITION

Theme : FREE, FAIR & PEACEFUL ELECTION, AND ETHICAL VOTING
Venue : KANGLA PARK: FROM HOTEL CLASSICS TO NUPIL COMPLEX
Date & Time : 22nd JANUARY, 2017 08:00 am to 10:00 am
Report at : Kangla Western Gate, 07:00 am
Categories : HIGH SCHOOL, HIGHER SECONDARY, COLLEGE & OPEN
Entry Fee : FREE

Altogether 82 prizes worth Rs. 1,00,000/- UP for grabs
Free T Shirts and Refreshment for 1000 participants

MEDIUM OF COMPETITION

Drawing, Spray Painting & Acrylic Painting using either Marker Pen and Spray Paint cans or both and Acrylic (Participants must bring their own Marker Pen, Spray Cans, Acrylic)
Canvas: FLEX: 4ft x 3 ft (to be provided by Organiser)

Forms available at:
Impact TV, Handome Book House (Paona Bazar)
Sangal Express, Naharogi Thoudang, Kangla Pao, Poknapham (Airport Rd),
Ereibaik (Palace Gate), Imphal Times (Elangbam Leikai),
Manipur Mail, Uripok.
Form Fee: 10/- (Free if you download from our facebook page)
Last Date of Form Submission: 19:01:2017 (Only at IMPACT TV, Paona Bazar)
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