

Editorial

Imphal, Monday, April 18, 2016

ST for social equality?

What about our 2000 years of history?

A stringent mechanism to protect the Indigenous Manipuri people including the Meitei/Meetei community is the need of the hour. But while doing so it is not right to sabotage the history of this erstwhile nation in South East Asia for a mere gain in employment quotas or whatsoever it may be. The logic is understand by each of us in the erstwhile nation and diverting the peoples' mindset in the name of social equality, development or for bringing peace and harmony to recklessly pushing up a demand is a serious matter. It is more like twisting of tongue to fool the people by inciting the attitude of jealousy towards getting some benefit. Well it is once more about the demand for schedule tribe. No doubt if we meetei or Meitei become scheduled tribe we might get lot of privileged in getting jobs in central service through reservation quotas. And in the same way the underdeveloped communities which has been living together from time immemorial will no doubt lose all the opportunity of competing with the general people in this region. The committee on their justification had once said that there will be reservations for the various scheduled tribes of the state in case of benefit provided by the state government. A social thinker once asked me the logic behind it and said they had already contradicted their so call propaganda of uniting the hill and plain people the region if in case all the people become scheduled tribes. Now the Scheduled Tribe demand committee has again geared up their demand to include Meetei/Meitei in Scheduled Tribe category. Before once more putting up the argument on the veracity of why Meitei/meetei community should not be included to scheduled, it is better that the so call committee make the public clear about the motive of why they eagerly wanted to include the community which have a unique history of 2000 years.

Well as according to a statement appeared at a local paper it is stated that the vision of the committee is to bring social equality, development, peace and harmony "by undoing the classification between Hills and plain people". How could this be so sure when already the tribal people had strongly objected the demand since the beginning?

On one hand social equality is a political economy system and this cannot be brought with a mere compensation from the government. It is a fact that Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Lakshadweep and Andaman Nicobar Island are Scheduled Tribe state, can somebody from among the committee clarify that there is a social equality in these states. The logic behind the suffixing of the very term to bring social equality is nothing but to fool the people which will never be succeeded.

To shorten up this argument it is clear that Manipur has a history of 2000 years and this history is a treasure for the people of this erstwhile kingdom and converting the Meitei to scheduled tribe will surely sabotage the history of this erstwhile nation.

2 injured as Lucknow metro pillar collapses

Lucknow, April 18: Hardly two weeks after a person had a narrow escape after the metro concrete fell on his car during construction in Lucknow, two people have been severely injured on Sunday morning due to falling of the concrete again near Alambagh bus station. Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (LMRC) is laying tracks on About 8.5km stretch from Tranaport Nagar to Charbagh.

This is the second incident in two weeks time despite strict guidelines from chief advisor LMRC E. Sreedharan about enhancing security arrangements. One patient undergoing treatment at Awadh Hospital was referred as a precautionary measure to the KGMC Trauma centre. CMS, KGMU, Dr Tiwari and ACM are coordinating things, the district magistrate said.

Press notification

There will be no power in the area fed by the Singjamei & Canchipur Feeder on 19th April 2016 from 10.00am to 4.00pm because of the installation of two new 25KVA DTRs in Singjamei Mayeng Leikai & Kakwa Pechu Lampak for the Street Lighting purpose.

Sd/-
Deputy Manager,
Singjamei Sub Division,
IED-III, MSPDCL.

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National News

Opposition Congress strike paralyses normal life in Tripura

ANI Agartala, April.18: A strike organized by the opposition Congress Party paralysed normal life in Left-ruled Tripura on Monday.

The strike call was given over a demand for a CBI probe into the murder of CPI-M Minister Bimal Sinha.

Sinha, who was the state's health minister, was killed by the banned National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) militants while negotiating with them for the release of his brother.

Since last month, the Congress has been raising questions about how a report on the assassination of Sinha was leaked into the public domain. The retired Calcutta High Court Justice M.A. Yusuf Commission was appointed by the Left Front government in 1998 and it submitted its report on January 31, 2000. The state government had kept the findings of the report under lock and key till this year.

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar has now said that the alleged

leakage of the Yusuf Commission report to a local newspaper should be probed.

Sinha was murdered on March 31, 1998 in the Kamalpur subdivision of the state's Dhalai district.

On Monday, most schools, markets, shops and business establishments in Agartala remained closed.

Attendance in government and semi-government offices and banks was thin, while roads were deserted. Vehicles, except those of security forces, remained off the roads. Tinku Datta, a passenger at the airport said, "So many people are travelling from Agartala to Imphal, Aizawl, Guwahati, Calcutta, they are suffering. They (police) will give us bus on any other vehicle."

There were report of few stray incidents of picketers breaking windshield of vehicles from various parts but large number of police personnel's were engaged in the roads and busy areas. Superintendent of Police Abhijit Saptarshi said there were no untoward incidents as strict preventive measures were in place.

Contd. from page 1

Fate of Manipuri Pony....



Many knows that Lamphelpat has enough food for ponies and no need to provide their food and it has also been home to ponies since ancient times where they get the freedom to run and play. Sadly, most of the ponies are now gone, driven almost to extinction by untrammeled development in Imphal that has destroyed meadows and reclaimed lakes. Gigantic trucks have been dumping loads of mud into Lamphelpat. The Imphal campus of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) has also sprawl across this area where the other remained parts of Lamphelpat have been marked out for a range of unused government projects which only claim the land.

This force the ponies onto the streets, where they are often run over, or worse, choke to death on plastic waste swallowed while foraging in garbage dumps. If we don't save Lamphelpat, when there is a little chance, the remaining ponies will vanish as the Manipuri pony doesn't have a powerful benefactor and the breed's extinction seems imminent.

Many pony lovers, owners have taken up rally on the streets, even sought for help from the concern department but none been heard so far.

Many animals and ponies have been loitering around the IMC areas which are against the rule but the IMC failed to see their duty to avoid animals loitering and roaming around the city causing traffic problems, road accident.

"Few years back, according to a CAG report on Manipur Government 2 years back Manipur Horse Riding and Polo Association (MHRPA), a body entrusted with conservation of Manipuri Pony, procured 39 ponies without rate justification on account of which avoidable excess expenditure of Rs 16.74 lakh was incurred from public fund and State veterinary department were spending lakhs of rupees on

mundane office expenses rather than development of the Manipuri ponies but in the name of development.

Department of Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Services, Manipur "had unreasonably made fund provisions of Rs 16 lakh in the budgets 2010-14 under the detailed head - salaries, office expenses, domestic travel expenses and other charges" for two fodder farms that became non-operational since 2005 which later found out that said budget provisions of Rs 16 lakh, Rs 15.11 lakh was diverted by the department to meet expenditure for office expenses, diesel oil, repairing of vehicles and stationery items etc of the directorate.

As per CAG on the procurement of ponies the MHRPA had procured 39 nos of ponies at an average cost of Rs 72,923 out of the central fund where rate justification assessment of the cost of pony was, however, not on record and not verified by the department. Records have showed that MHRPA have sold (in August 2013) 12 ponies to the National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE), Bikaner (Rajasthan), at the rate of Rs 30,000 per pony as against the then prevailing market rate of Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000 for each pony. Later, CAG observed that the cost of pony included in the project estimate prepared by MHRPA was higher by an amount of Rs 42,923 than that of the selling price of a pony to NRCE and the maximum prevailing market rate of pony."

With these record, who to blame; who will take the responsibility; who will save our Ponies? How long will we be watching ponies dying, suffering, and foraging at the city trash?

Will the government comes up with a new policies to save the endangered Manipuri Ponies? This are the question left in the mind of the Manipuri people, pony lovers and owners.

"Our tribute to Oja Sanakhya Ebotombi"

Sanakhya Ebotombi Haorokham - top Icon of Manipuri arts, culture and literature left for his heavenly abode in the spring morning of 13th April 2016. **Sanakhya Ebotombi Haorokham** (5th September 1946-13th April 2016) was a playwright, theatre/film director and writer born in Imphal, Manipur. He was a top Icon of Manipuri Kala (Arts), Sanskriti (Culture) and Sahitya (literature) as claimed by many renowned artist, intellectuals and fellow scholars. He was trained in theesteemed and prestigious institute of National School of Drama, Delhi in his early age.

He was the Founder and Director of "Avant Garde" theatre center in Imphal where he had trained many drama and theatre artist in Imphal and from other parts of India. He was one of the theatre personality producing many actors and actresses in the field of theatre, art and film industry. He was a firm believer in working of his cultural roots and tried to imbibe the Manipuri traditions and culture in many of his works.

SanakhyaEbotombi wrote many articles, books on NataSankritan, short stories, plays etc. and many other publications in relation to drama and theatre. He was an exponent on NataSankritan (Sankritana) which encompasses an array of arts performed to mark religious occasions and various stages in the life of Manipuri Vaishnavites. It is practiced at the Centre of temples, where performers narrate the lives and deeds of Krishna through songs and dances). He also claimed "Lai Haroba as the oldest theatre tradition of Manipur in one of his publications (Lai Haroba - the oldest Theatre Tradition of Manipur, EZCC, 1988)

SanakhyaEbotombi mainly focused on raising and promoting many young local talents for theatre and films and has numerous followers. He was one of the eight prominent members who represented the Indian contingent in Indian Festival held in Moscow, Russia during the late 80's.

To the surprise of many, he declined to accept the State Kala Academy and other awards conferred on him. However, he did receive 2 awards viz. NatyaRatna awarded by Manipuri SahityaParisad in May 2007 and NetaIratob memorial award in September 2012 as he was persistently persuaded by many of his young students and scholars.

He also has mentored and directed many Bollywood actors and actress in many of his works in Manipuri style. Some of them are DeepaSahi, AshutoshRana, Jaya Seal, Hrishikesh Joshi, RajpalYadav etc.

- Some of his works are listed below:**
- Contributions:
 - Acted and Directed plays for Aryan Theatre, 1964 - 1973
 - Founded Avant Garde Theatre Imphal, 1972
 - Studied Tribal Ritual Theatre of Manipur, 1976 - 1979
 - Founded National Theatre Studies Imphal, 1980
 - Studied Vaisnavite Theatre of Manipur, 1980 - 1985
 - Conducted theatre workshops, 1976 - 1996
 - Experimented on Theatre of Essence, 1985 -
 - Studied on Tala System of Nata Sankritan 1993 -

- Plays Directed (Selected Few):**
- The Cage (Manipuri), Mario Fratti, Aryan Theatre, 1971
 - Waiting for Godot (Manipuri), Samuel Becket, Avant Garde, 1977
 - Andha Yug (Manipuri), Dharmabir Bharati, Sate Kala Akademi, 1987
 - Shantata Court Chalu Ahe (Manipuri), Vijay Tendulkar, Avant Garde, 1979
 - Caucasian Chalk Circle (Manipuri), Bertolt Brechhit, Avant Garde, 1980
 - Baki Ithas (Hindi), Badal Sircar, National School of Drama, 1981
 - Adhe Adhure (Manipuri), Mohan Rakesh, Avant Garde, 1981
 - The Seagull (Manipuri), Anton Chekov, Khoriphaba Artistes Assn. 1982
 - Leharoo ke Raj Hansa (Manipuri), Mohan Rakesh, Chorus Repertory Theatre, 1983
 - Abhigyan Sakuntalam, Kalidas (Hindi), National School of Drama, 1986
 - Khamba Yelhou, Mani Mairambam, E. Department, 1986
 - Abhigyan Sakuntalam (Hindi), Kalidas, Ranga Mandal, Bharat Bhawan, 1987
 - Kangleipakta Sunugi Paphal (Translation Manipuri), Bertolt Brechhit
 - Swapana Vasabadatam (Hindi), National School of Drama, 1993
 - Kakhraba Kokyam, G.C. Tongbra, Avant Garde, 1994
 - Aashad Ka Ek Din (Manipuri), Mohan Rakesh, IPA, (Realistic), 1995
 - Aashad Ka Ek Din (Hindi), Mohan Rakesh, NSD, (Non Realistic/Experiment), 1996

- Theatre Workshops Conducted:**
- For Aryan Theatre Imphal, sponsored by MSKA, 1976
 - For Rupmahal Artist Association, sponsored by MSKA, 1977
 - For Manipur Dramatic Union, sponsored by MSKA, 1977
 - For Social Dramatic Union, sponsored by MSKA, 1978
 - For Apunba Saktam Artist Association, sponsored by MSKA, 1978
 - For Prince Theatre, sponsored by MSKA, 1978
 - For Saangeet Natak Mandir, Nambol, sponsored by MSKA, 1979
 - For Kumbi Dramatic Union, sponsored by MSKA, 1979
 - For Kha Manipur Dramatic Union, Kakching, sponsored by MSKA, 1979
 - For Lairenkabi Dramatic Union, sponsored by MSKA, 1980
 - For National School of Drama, 1981
 - For National School of Drama, 1986
 - Tangkhul Language Theatre Workshop with Tangkhul Actors, Jan - Feb, 1987
 - For Ranga Mandal, Bharat Bhawan, 1987
 - Paite Language Theatre Workshop with Paite Actors, Jan - Feb, 1989
 - Mao Language Theatre Workshop with Mao Actors, April - May, 1990
 - For National School of Drama, 1993
 - For National School of Drama, 1996

- Seminar Papers Presented:**
- Perspective on Experimental Theatre in Manipur, Theatre Centre Manipur, Oct, 1977
 - Ritual Traditions and Theatre, Rural Theatre Organisation, 1979
 - Theatre of the Tribal Folks of Manipur, Sate Kala Akademi, Manipur, Jan, 1980
 - Tribal Theatre in Manipur, Institute of People's Action, Manipur, Sept, 1984
 - Folk Theatre Trend in Manipur, Panthoibi Natya Mandir, Sept, 1984
 - PurvaRanga in Manipur NataSankritan (Drumns), KalidasAkademi, Ujjain, Aug, 1984
 - Lai Haroba, the oldest theatre tradition of Manipur, E.Z.C.C. Calcutta, Aug, 1986

- Publications:**
- Memigi Doctor, Collections of Short Stories, H.Brother's Publications, 1964
 - Sandhya, Manipuri Novel, H.Brother's Publications, 1969
 - Slogan, Manipuri Play, H.Brother's Publications, 1971
 - Tannalai, Anthology of poetry, H.Brother's Publications, 1972
 - Manipur Theatre Amusing Drama, National Theatre Studies, 1987
 - Footprints of Manipuri Theatre and Drama, IPTA, 1987
 - Holi Sankranta, Lakshmi NarayanNupi Holi Dal, April, 1986
 - Theatre and Fine Arts upon Describing Arts, Arts Society, 1987
 - Short play of Mario Fratti, Manipur Literacy Society, 1988
 - World Introduction of Manipuri Dance, Progressive Artistes Lab, 1983
 - Jagoishohi Loishang, Manipuri Sahitya Parisad, 1982
 - Fine Arts and Theatre, Arts Society, Manipur, 1982
 - Lai Haroba, the oldest Theatre Tradition of Manipur, EZCC, 1988
 - The Aesthetic of Khoi at Phaneq Mapal, Panthung, 1999
 - Adhivas and Drumel in Manipuri Nata Sankritan, 2002
 - A Retrospective on the Tala Theory of Nata Sankritan, 2002
 - Nata Sankritan Taala, Gulupi Nata Sankritan Academy, 2002
 - Bhagi Pareng Achouba, Sanchali, 2007
 - Nata Sankritan, Gulupi Nata Sankritan Academy, 2009

- Films Directed:**
- Eche Sakhi (Feature Manipuri), 1986
 - Totangkam (Documentary in English), 1990
 - Yaoshang (Documentary in English), 1991
 - Manipuri Gorkhas (Documentary in English), 1991
 - Loktak Lake (Documentary in English), 2005

- Awards Conferred:**
- Natya Ratna, Manipuri Sahitya Parisad, May, 2007
 - Neta Iratob Memorial Awards, September, 2012