

National and International News

India- Bhutan discuss ways to strengthen cross-border ties

**Guwahati, April 3:** With an aim to exchange ideas on trade, commerce, hydro-power and tourism, a delegation from Bhutan's Royal Institute for Governance and Strategic Studies (RIGSS) recently attended an interactive meet in Guwahati.

The 35-member visiting delegation of senior policy makers from Bhutan, led by Chewang Rinzin, Dy Chamberlain to the King of Bhutan and Tashi Wangyal, Member of Parliament from Bhutan, interacted with a select crowd at the Asian Confluence Centre comprising senior policy makers, artists, activists, media and heads of various institutions.

"Given the close ties of friendship between the Bhutan and India, we thought it is important to get to know the northeast India state better to look forward for better collaboration, interaction. So, that's the basic objective of this tour," said Rinzin.

A presentation was also made on the upcoming connectivity projects under the auspices of Bhutan, Bangladesh, India and

Nepal to forge institutional linkages to forge a "Third Space" that can lead to increased people-to-people contacts.

A pan Northeast India delegation will visit Bhutan next month to discuss tourism development with stakeholders and policy makers in Bhutan.

"Entrepreneur should go to Bhutan and explore it. Bhutan is now more develop in per capita terms in India much more than Assam. There is lot of opportunity, they have a good system. It's a democratic monarchy and corruption free. There is lots of opportunity entrepreneurship even they should come here and explore it," said Manoj Das, Director, IIE, Indian Institute of Entrepreneur.

India shares a 699-km-long border with Bhutan especially through the northeast region, and both governments have been working consistently to develop better infrastructure and connectivity so as to facilitate trade and development.

The two sides are keen to further strengthen trade relations and explore the maximum potential to expand bilateral trade.

Brussels Airport reopens with three flights, tighter security

**Brussels, April 3:** Brussels Airport reopens today with three "symbolic" flights and strict additional security checks for passengers, marking a new era for air travel in Belgium after attacks by Islamic State suicide bombers. The key travel hub has been closed since two men blew themselves up in the departure hall on March 22 in coordinated blasts that also struck a metro station in the Belgian capital, killing a total of 32 people.

The attacks at the heart of Europe shocked the country and many hope the airport's reopening, albeit in a limited capacity and using a tent-like temporary check-in facility, will help turn the page on this month's traumatic events.

Brussels Airport's chief executive Arnaud Feist yesterday said the partial resumption of services would start with three "symbolic passenger flights" to Faro, Athens and Tunis.

"These flights are the first hopeful sign from an airport that is standing up straight after a cowardly attack," Feist said.

Tough new checks will be in place after police threatened to go on strike if security was 'improved, and travellers have been asked to come in three hours before departure time.

One of the biggest changes will be that only passengers with tickets and ID documents will be allowed into the makeshift departure hall, and their bags will be checked before entering. Once

inside, passengers will also undergo the usual security checks. The airport will initially only be accessible by car.

Vehicles will be screened and subject to spot checks, while extra police and soldiers will be on patrol throughout the airport zone.

The first flight will leave for Faro at 11:40 GMT, and the number taking off will increase in the coming days. Still, the airport will not be able to work at 20 percent capacity using the temporary facilities, handling 800 to 1,000 passengers an hour.

One killed, three missing in landslide in China

**Beijing, April 3:** At least one person was killed and three were missing when a landslide hit southwest China's Sichuan province, authorities said today. The landslide which struck on Friday blocked a section of Baimu River in Ya'an City. Rising water washed out a small hydropower station in Tianquan County causing one dead and three missing, while incurring power outages and disruption of wireless signals, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Local authorities had yesterday made an emergency work to open a channel for discharging the flooding water.

On Sunday, the risk of the barrier lake has been basically removed.

WHENEVER YOU SEE CONSTRUCTION AND MINING EQUIPMENTS, JUST THINK OF US

A SOLUTION FOR EVERY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT



**Automobile Engineering Works-1**  
**NEW CHECKER** - Ran Parana Rajbari  
**Manipur - 795 001**

Authorised dealer **BEML Limited**  
 (A Government of India Mini Ratan Company under Ministry of Defence)

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: [imphaltimes@gmail.com](mailto:imphaltimes@gmail.com). For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (O)

Contd. from yesterday issue

Thailand Education System vs Manipur Education System

Entry to University: There is no board exam to complete high school. Every school will conduct their own examinations. However there is a test called O-NET (Ordinary National Educational Test) to see the quality of students. There is no pass or fail score for this test. Students who are studying final year in primary school, class 6, 6, and high school students of class 9, class 12 students must take this test. Admission to universities or colleges is managed through central admission procedure. So, students who are learning 12 standard must take GAT (General Aptitude Test) for the purpose of university admission. However there is also university's own test that can admit students apart from allotted students by centralized admission procedure.

Scholarship and Student Loan: Scholarships are given to academically excellent students, socio economically backward families, as well as to those students who perform good work for the society. For higher studies not only government institutions, there are many organizations, business offices who offer scholarship with an agreement that the student will work for the organization or the office after finishing the course. Any organization -government or private, they want to attract highly potential good candidate to work for

them. Students loan is easy to find. In India student loan is just for a few lucky students, few students out of thousands. Getting student loan is not easy task in Manipur. Students and Politics: In a period of more than a decade, we have never seen students campaigning for student election which is commonly known as NCTE. There is election of course for students' leadership selection but they don't waste time in politics during study. We have gone through too much far in Manipur by taking all sorts of issues in students' hands such as social issues and politics. But in Thailand, politics and students don't mix. Thai students never waste their study time for politics but it is totally contrast compared with the system in Manipur.

Teachers and Their Responsibility: Thai teachers are more sincere and they know their responsibility. They will come to school without any absence. The principal and head of department will strictly check their attendance. Colleagues will raise voice if any teacher is missing from his/her duty. In Manipur, all teachers are their own boss. The head of the school cannot control over a teacher if he does not perform well. Because of this people's work ethic, taking responsibility in their hands and level of sincerity, they are more advance and we are still in third world.

Part Time Job and Practice Skills: Students are allowed to work part time at 24/7 opening shops, and malls etc. to practice skills by selling, exposing to business and marketing. They are paid for their time and service. In Manipur, when a nurse wants to practice in a clinic or hospital, the clinic/hospital demands money from the practicing nurse. We have never heard this in other countries that people work for a clinic or hospital and the clinic/hospital gets money from the persons who work for them. It is just total opposite. But in Thailand, students can practice their skill but they are respected and they get something for their time and energy.

Scope of Education as Foreign Students in Thailand Bangkok is vibrant cosmopolitan city. It is famous for shopping, sight seeing, and it is a major tourist attraction in the world. It serves a transit hub to neighboring countries such as Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, and then to Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia by bus and train. Once you landed in Bangkok you can easily access to the neighboring countries quite easily by land. Being a cosmopolitan city, it is busy centre of business in southeast Asia. Education here also quite reflects to the nature of business, people, and global influence. Our youths

move out from northeast to main city of India for education. In a new horizon of outlook, you can explore Bangkok in your map of educational destination.

Here are the potential advantages you will get by going school or university in Thailand.  
 1. No Student Will Fail In Manipur's education system students will be failed. Teachers are happy to fail students which is a form of punishment for not working hard or for weakness in study. In Thai education system, students will hardly fail if it is not exceptional cases. Exams will be conducted by schools themselves up to 12 class. Unlike our Manipur's system, if any student fails due to absence from examination or due to poor mark, you still have chances to consult with your teacher who teaches the subject till you pass the exam. In our system of Manipur if you are absent on the day of examination due to accident or illness, or fail due to poor score, we are sorry. No excuses and goodbye, see you again next year. Because of this every year students and parents of class 10 and 12 suffer from psychological illness. You don't worry from this fear in Thai education system. The system in Thailand is to nurture your child, not to destroy your child's carrier by punishing in the examination. (To be contd.....)

Ethics of Ethnic Crisis in North East India : An Unchanging Phenomenon in Contemporary Manipur. Its Solutions.

On top of that, it may also be mentioned that Tourism Department in the State should provide with adequate fund of its own for development of tourism. As the western countries have received a lot of incomes from tourism. The Tourism Department in the State can boost the same source of income, since Manipur has a good number of beautiful scenic spots and places which can be identified and developed as tourist spot, so that many tourists from outside and inside can be attracted to it. This policy of developing tourism in the State may be accorded priority as it will certainly help in the State economy in the term perspective term.<sup>27</sup>

**IV. Infrastructure:** Infrastructure is one of the most vital links in the growth chain of economic development, roads, communication, power, marketing, banking, research and development, for sustainable society where every individuals have to grow up in a society with socio-economically and politically and there is possibility of collective glory.<sup>28</sup> With the rise of democracy the necessity of enlarging the scope for individual development is being increasingly appreciated.<sup>29</sup> Unfortunately, infrastructure has remained a highly deficit sector which has considerably a vital linkage to growth and development of the poor, other needy peoples especially women due to lack of education on reproductive health, health and medical care, using and drinking water, management of electricity, food safety, sanitation, balanced diet, mass awareness and environmental and bio-diversity and its consequences keeps them trapped to illiteracy and poverty.<sup>30</sup> For that matter, economy is very important which can be earned due to control over economic access and power, it is examined through the distribution of economic power.

**V. Proactive Role:** The proactive role of elected representatives, public servants and the civil society is the foundation of every healthy society. Most of them lack dutifulness, dedicacy and devoutness. When these three branches of the society fail to move in its right direction, there starts the problem, it is bound to run into confusion, lawlessness and turmoil as we are presently experiencing

instead of solving the problems it is completely opposite, as most of them are called "rentiers". They are incompetent in terms of education, skills and exposure.<sup>31</sup>

**VI. Land Holding System:** As we have known the system of land holding practiced among hill settlers/communities of commonly known as Naga and Kuki, are non-feudal and feudal. The Naga villages have community clan and individual land whereas the individual tillers of the land have right of possession of the land inhabited.<sup>32</sup>. Where as the Kukis, "Haosa" the master-tenant is autocratic and arbitrary. Secondly, the Tribal Forest Act, 2006, though projected to reconcile the objectives of economic growth and environmental conservation is, "aimed at abolishing the non liberal globalization or LPG to these tribes, especially women"<sup>33</sup> and children and the poorest of the poor. Thus, its significance is to increase more the deprivation, marginalization and social exclusion growing inequalities by developing also perhaps a gap between the hill settlers and others is increasing day by day.<sup>34</sup>

It is established fact that since the past the numerous tribal groups living in Manipur had been under the administration of their respective customary laws however, these often stand in the way of land reform. Of course, certain characteristics need to be restructured so as to the Kuki Chiefs be truly initiated. He should initiate towards brining education, healthcare, medicine, sanitation, electricity, food security, transport and communication and water (using as well as drinking water) in his village as an imperative for becoming a welfare village.<sup>35</sup>. To take initiative for harmonizing the customary laws will be crucial in establishing a modern scientific and land tenure system, thereby making way for conservation and sustainable forest and environment. Moreover, the absence of land registration or patta system in hill areas of Manipur has also adversely impacted people psyche without having any legal title or right to the land they are tilling or where they have been living for centuries or developing land. For instance, in Kuki society, the Village Haosa

(Chief) has often dislodged the defacto land owners from their settlements. As a result, the individual does not have a right or title to land, thereby the financial institutions, Banks are not willing to provide credit to them because they cannot provide security. And, for that matter, let's have our heads put together in considering the forthcoming of AHI and the already much spoken about Look/Act East Policy - horrible picture of the State of Manipur in general and Moreh town in particular.<sup>36</sup>. No community, society, state and nation can achieve peace, stability and economic growth if at least half of the population is not empowered economically *ab initio*.

Thus, the institutions of Haosa (Chiefship) should be retained instead of abolishing for it is pertinent to remember and know that since the inception of the Manipur Village Authority Act, 1956, tribals have been opposing to protect their cultural and ancestral rights particularly the customary laws even till today can be noticed by their actions organized by the All tribal Chiefs Forum, Manipur (ATCF) and Committee for Protection of Tribal Areas, Manipur (COPTAM) are umbrella organizations.<sup>37</sup> (I) Tribal meet decides to oppose VA election. (II) Tribal meet decides to oppose VA Poll. The customary practice of land holding system in the hills particularly that of Kuki, is also one of the important factors for its acute backwardness and also the cause of large scale migration of hill people to the urban areas.<sup>38</sup>. As already cited above, the land system does not allow ownership of land by the common villagers, the entire land belongs to the village chief or community as a whole. If a proper assessment of land ownership in the hill areas of Manipur is carried out, around 70 percent of the hill dwellers would actually turn out to be landless villagers. Further, it will be relevant that the land ownership or patta system in hill areas of Manipur is around 41.1 percent of the total population and sparsely occupying around 90 percent of the total level surface surrounding the entire valley of the State are disgruntled lots. They may be possessive of their vast hilly terrains which are actually

neither sustainable for basic livelihood nor setting up industry. The traditional methods of cultivation are also not very yielding owing to deforestation, environment degradation, unfavorable geographical locations, etc. Instead of developing the hill areas, the politicians, government servants and slightly well-off hill people are human on moving to the urban areas thus leaving the poorer people in the hills behind.<sup>39</sup>

**VII. Education:** Education is the key to all-round developments has remained neglected for all the times. The economic growth if at least universal primary education to the children upto the age of 14 in the State is still a dream. Huge investments on education sector in order to facilitate for masses to get access to education with low cost and affordable is still an articulation of theory and paper work in the State. We all know that literacy has been identified as an important factor in individual emancipation. Indira Gandhi has emphatically maintained, "Education is a liberating force, and in our age, it is also a democratizing force, cutting across the barriers of castes and class , smoothing inequalities imposed by birth and other circumstances". Furthermore, as far as the education in Manipur is concerned, we need a structural change from the present Indian western education system because it is despite not world class<sup>40</sup> as it is not character and man making education. This is the reason why it is failed in India. Educated ones have failed to create the systems to go with every aspects of life of everyone in this world. Swami Vivekananda's philosophy of education<sup>41</sup> also counters and challenges in the system by pointing out (i) lack of development of powers of concentration of mind and (ii) lack of holistic and long term vision, i.e. lack of spirituality, because of two reasons<sup>42</sup> (a) unabling mind for perfection, quality and excellence and (b) petty and narrow minded and the thoughts only of immediate gains instead of long term good. (To be contd.....)