

Editorial

Imphal, Tuesday, April 5, 2016

The liquor business and uncheck flesh trade

Law of the land and the authority's inability to enforce it is directly proportionate to the breakdown of the system. Every Manipuri knows that Manipur is a dry state. Use of alcohol is ban under the Manipur Liquor Prohibition Act, 1991. Various other psychotropic substances are ban under the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. State government deliberate attempt to lift the Manipur Liquor Prohibition Act has received strong objection from various quarters especially the women meira paibis and those civil society organisation who are working days and night to prevent use of intoxicants.

Having said so it is a fact that there are not many people who did not drink liquor in a day, week or year. Many are still seen dependent to alcohol and government did not impose full restriction to the selling of the alcohol at various places illegally. The biggest such shop which sells alcohol of almost brand is the one that stood in the Middle of Thangal Keithel just a few metres from the city police station and another one near the officers' colony at Chekon. One wanders which government authority gave them permission to sell such items which are declared prohibited in the state. On the other hand mushrooming local brew and liquor vendors at various places including those at the back side of Polo Ground in the heart of the city as well as others setting up at various places has now been a place for hang out for both Manipuri in-between the age of 15 to 60 years. These small vendors are gold mine for the police personnel assigned on duty at the respective places. Illegal taxes are paid to these police personnel collecting daily tips from these vendor.

Point wanted to make here is about the prestige of the government. This govt. is not even competent enough to enforce the law that they had enforced.

On the other hand, it is a known fact that prostitution is a crime in the state of Manipur. It is a crime at almost all places of the country. But some state felt it as a need and open up red light area to serve their purposes. Manipur govt. as well as the people doesn't accept the kind of illegal, immoral activities. It is for the reason that many civil society organisations often stand up and conducted drive against illegal activities. In reality such are to be conducted by the police who are the protecting the law of the land. It is also a fact that even though prostitution is not accepted in our society the kind of business still continues in the state of Manipur particularly in Imphal city. Many hookers are seen wandering in Imphal city and these hookers are provided place for flesh trade at some of the third class hotel located in the middle of the city. To name some Hotel Embassy, Hotel City Inn etc. etc are the place where the flesh trade are often taking place. Police had records and evidence but none are banned till today. And why should they ban? These are the source of income for them.

On the other hand unofficial red light area is also seen at North AOC. Every evening a visitor at the site will witness not less than 5 to 6 girl loitering around heavy drunk searching their client. The place is also near to the memorial site of the martyrs of the great June Uprising.

May be our government may have more important things to do. But the kind of illegal business going on in the city need to be checked. For everyone knows that a single dried rice spoil the whole food.

Two police personnel, three insurgents killed in Afghanistan's Paktika clashes

ANI
Kabul, April 5: At least two policemen and three Taliban insurgents were killed in fierce clashes in Afghanistan's south-eastern Paktika province late on Monday. The clash took place in Mata Khan district, close to Sharan, when Taliban insurgents attacked a police outpost, reports Tolo News. In addition, three other police personnel and four Taliban insurgents were injured. However, more details about the clash were not provided by the officials.

Lost

I, the undersigned have lost my Driving Licence no. MN-012006026024 issued by Government of Manipur on the way between Kangpokpi to Imphal on 9/3/2016.

Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.

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National & International News

Rahul Gandhi condoles NIA officer's murder, calls for justice

ANI
New Delhi, April 5: Expressing his condolences to the family of NIA officer Tanzil Ahmad, Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi today said that he was shocked by the horrific act and added that those responsible for the former's murder must be brought to justice.

"Brutal murder of NIA officer Tanzil Ahmad investigating key terror cases including Pathankot is extremely shocking. My heartfelt condolences to his family. Those responsible for his murder must be brought to justice," Gandhi's office said in a series of tweets. Tanzil, a Deputy Superintendent of

Police, was returning home with his wife after attending a wedding function late on Saturday night when assailants on motor bikes shot the couple from close range near Sahaspur town. Tanzil was pronounced dead on arrival at a medical facility in Moradabad, while his wife Farzana

is battling for her life at the Fortis Hospital in Noida. A medical report from the hospital said that doctors are providing best medical treatment to Farzana. Tanzil, who was given a martyr status, was on deputation with the NIA and was part of the Pathankot terror attack probe.

CBI Court Awards Life Sentence To 47 Policemen In Pilibhit Fake Encounter Case

Lucknow, April 5: A special CBI court on Monday sentenced 47 policemen to life imprisonment for killing 10 Sikh pilgrims in a fake encounter in Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh 25 years ago. Special judge Lallu Singh had on April 1 held the policemen guilty of a "fake encounter". On July 12, 1991, the policemen stopped a luxury bus filled with Sikh pilgrims and forced 10 passengers to get off. A force sheet said they were divided into groups, taken to different areas in a jungle and killed in "cold blood". The policemen claimed the next day that 10 Khalistani terrorists had been killed. They claimed that some of the Sikhs in the bus had criminal cases and were armed. The case dates back to 1991 when the states Terai region witnessed a surge in militancy-related incidents.

The CBI investigated the case on the orders of the Supreme Court and said the motive behind the killings was to earn awards and recognition for killing "terrorists". According to CBI, the bus was on its way to Pilibhit on July 12, when a police team stopped it at Kachhapul ghat. Eleven Sikh men were allegedly dragged out of the vehicle. The other passengers, including women and children, were taken to a gurdwara in Pilibhit while the men were made to sit in another vehicle. Late in the evening, additional force joined the police team and they divided the Sikh men into three groups. On the intervening night of July 12 and 13, the policemen gunned down the Sikh men in three encounters in the thickets falling under three different police station areas - Bilsanda, Niuria and Pooranpur - in

Pilibhit. The police then claimed that these men had criminal cases against them and claimed to have recovered arms and ammunition from their possession.

The CBI probe found that the police got the autopsy done on 10 of the bodies and got them cremated the same day. Fifty-seven policemen were charged in the case, but 10 have died since.

Oil marketing companies gain up to 3% on Petrol, Diesel Price hike

Mumbai, April 5: Shares of oil marketing companies rose by up to 3 per cent today after petrol price was hiked by Rs. 2.19 a litre and diesel by 98 paise per litre. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation climbed 2.94 per cent to Rs. 814.40, Bharat Petroleum Corporation jumped 2.55 per cent to Rs. 909.40 and IOC rose 2.43 per cent to Rs. 411.75 on BSE. Petrol in Delhi will cost Rs. 61.87 per litre as against Rs. 59.68 currently, said Indian Oil Corporation, the nation's biggest fuel retailer. Similarly, a litre of diesel will cost Rs. 49.31 compared with Rs. 48.33 at present. State-owned fuel retailers IOC, Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPLC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) revise rates of the fuel on 1st and 16th of every month based on the average oil price and the foreign exchange rate in the preceding fortnight.

Suicide bomb blast claims six lives in Afghanistan's Parwan Province

ANI
Kabul, April 5: At least six people were killed after a suicide bomber detonated his explosive-laden vehicle in the center of Afghanistan's Sayered district in Parwan province on Tuesday morning. The district governor Sayed Sediqi has confirmed the attack and said the incident took place near a local high school at about 9.30am local time, reports Tolo News. Meanwhile, the hospital officials confirmed that at least six people were killed and more than 15 have been injured. The officials further said a policeman was among the dead while women and children had also died and been injured in the attack. More details are awaited.

Bihar bans liquor, becomes fourth dry state in India

ANI
New Delhi, April 5: Following the prohibition on country made liquor in the state, the Bihar government on Tuesday banned liquor completely, making it the fourth dry state in the country. Bihar is now the fourth dry state after Gujarat, Kerala and Nagaland. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has said that hotels and bars will not serve alcohol anymore and no

license will be given, while adding that Army canteens will continue to sell alcohol. During Assembly elections, Nitish had promised that he will start a people's movement against liquor in the state and ensure that the ban on liquor is effectively implemented. In the 2014-15 the excise collection from the liquor in the state was Rs. 3,700 crore while the target for the 2015-16 was set at Rs. 4,000 crore.

Contd. from yesterday issue

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

XI. Centre's outlook: In spite of 65 years of freedom and independence, right from the historic event i.e. Merger of Manipur with the dominion of India in 1949 21 September, and placing of Manipur an earlier Kingdom into a Part - C category in 22nd January, 1950, then as a Territorial Council in 1956 and the Union Territory in 1963. Yet, the Centre has not changed its attitude of step-motherly treatment. The Central Government has not done anything concrete and substantial in development by formulating policy and performance transparently in true spirit for Manipur. There is no fair and equitable distribution of national wealth and resources. Whatever fund is allocated for development of the State, no matter, the lesser amount, it should be utilized properly, and it should not reach to the pockets of the ministers, middlemen, agents and bureaucrats etc. The riches and power are being concentrated in a few hands instead of needy and poor. People are frustrated, confused and demoralized. The political leaders are indulging in scams and scandal involving crores of rupees. At my Officers and Security Personals, etc. who are meant for law and order are found highly engaged in drug trafficking. At present, it is an emerging trend. It should be ensured that a concrete steps are being taken up which will go in a long way in the advancement, upliftment of these groups in particular and development of the State in general.

XII. Displacement of people for construction of Dam: In 1950s, the Government of India initiated and under took the major and power projects of the Eastern India, viz. Hirakud in Orissa, Mayurakshi in Bengal and all Damodar Valley Hydro and thermal power projects which made the displacement of people in the upper regions, their unsettled future and the loss of forest and biodiversity of the submerged areas as we have noticed in our State i.e., Loktak Project and Mapithei Dam. In this context, it will be pertinent to mention what Kurup* maintains about the fallout from large dams. "Despite substantial evidences

assembled by the World Commission on Dams in the year 2000 about the problems that are created by dams exceeding a certain size, the thrust of our Government is to pursue construction of large dams as a preferred strategy for meeting the country's irrigation and power needs. As on January 31, 2006 the installed capacity of 254 hydro electric power stations constructed in the various parts of the country is 31754.45 MW. It is a common knowledge that this capacity can be achieved only at peak levels of water reservoirs. The reduction of power from 1994-2004 is around 31 Per Cent. The Govt of India plans to add 5040 MW in the year 2031-32. The fund requirement is estimated to the order of Rs. 30,000 crores every year as per present level for the generation component alone. Other fallouts are displacement of 0.67 million people each year and submergence of 1,00,000 hectares of land 40,000 hectares of forest land."

XIII. Human Resource: Manipur is also yet to overcome the problems of dichotomy in its economy which are generally faced by underdeveloped and developing countries. There is acute shortage of manpower that possessing critical skills and abilities which are highly needed for a faster growth of economy on the one hand and surplus of unskilled labour for which there is a less demand in the job market. The State is already facing a serious challenge of human resource management in the last many years and now. In keeping with the complexities, engrossing the State in the wake of challenges and constraints, it becomes imperative to evolve sound, efficient and effective management of human resources in the desired manner.

XIV. Electoral Politics (Political Immaturity): This sector is extremely localize although policies in generally promotes a science of governance of state and preservation of its property and protections of its citizens and so on. The politicians in Manipur are more or less same with their colleagues in the North-East region, they are in fact hardly aware* about the true role of a leader in a democratic set up of governance. People blindly contest election without having specific objective and obligation to the society. Government functions, conventionally without a layout development plan despite receiving hundreds of crores of rupees from the centre. In the hills, people voted on the basis of tribe, clan and dialect and in fact, on the direction of the various armed organisations* thus, there is not election at all rather selection or appointment is replacing the essence of the said high value institution. There is no commitment, responsibility and accountability of any individual, no matter, the place or position belongs to. As far as the contest in election in Manipur is concerned at the moment, is in fact a kind of monetary investment (buying of voters and selling of voting right) and exposition of power and might of the rich, militant leaders especially in the hills and contractors whereby leaving no space for the social workers and honest people. Election is more of an entrepreneurship* of few opportunists, sociality and power hungry persons.

XV. Absence of every Community/Ethnic Representatives under Bicameral System: Parliament of India or some of the states like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Jammu & Kashmir have adopted a bicameral system in the process of sending people representative in the houses of Parliament or State Assembly (Vidhan Sabha), this method of people representatives to the Parliament or State assembly may also be applicable to the State of Manipur or the whole North Eastern Region in consideration for the ethnic minority communities* who are the extremely numerically less who are already deprived, marginalized and socially excluded people by suitably amending the People Representation Act, 1950 so as to provide an opportunity to weaker section of the people for them to get adequate representation in the assembly in order to bring equal footing of development in socio-economic and political security to all communities irrespective of what caste or religion they belong to the process of development. Given the situation and in the context of Manipur or North East India, it may be pointed out to traces back the root causes of lack of development and lack of literacy and also others various issues like a insecurity in terms of socio-economic and political points of view in which the minority communities perhaps the marginal groups the numerically extremely less groups had confronted with them over the years may be attributed to the absence of their representatives in the Parliament or Assembly to highlight and present their issue before the Parliament of Assembly for remedial measure*.

To reiterate, it has been the ground reality that this numerically less or marginalized people have been suffering untold miseries such as deprivation of their rights in the hands of major communities by way of ignoring or neglecting their demand or their issues at least to the extent of listening to their voices*. Thus, their rights have been denied and deprived in different ways. As a matter of fact, authorities or civil societies are often talking about development after development to be brought to all citizens for their welfare in the State but it still remained as hollow space since no facilities of the Government or the implementation of development works have been done in their area due to lack of influence over the authorities of them*.

As rightly justifies above, it is most desirable for the minority communities to have their own representation in the Assembly so that they feel secured with the systems in the terms of governance, socio-economic and political security and implementation of developmental works, Manipur must have Bicameral system.

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(To be continued)