

Editorial

Imphal, Monday, August 1, 2016

Between hope and hysteria

With the general election just round the corner once again, the rat race to garner political mileage, socially relevant brownie points and support has begun in right earnest as had been the unending phenomena of our political system. Political parties and expectant candidates are ramping up the stage for the showdown which is approaching faster than we can utter 'once again?' The spurt in socially relevant activities after the long, leisurely lull is evident, so is the palpable enthusiasm and renewed vigour with which these 'social activists', 'social scientists' and well heeled career politicians—loosely translated to mean a person who has no real chance of life outside of politics and is stuck with the beast called Government, and worse, having limited chance at making a difference, if at all. A peculiar and increasingly worrying development is being seen this time around, one that was previously not as blatantly practiced— that of sitting MLAs furtively (or so they thought) seeking tickets or candidature from another party— to more precise, sitting Congress MLAs trying to contest the forthcoming general election with BJP tickets. With the only regional party (MPP) which acted as a political bulwark against national parties receding into political oblivion, the stage is already set for a two-way fight for supremacy in Manipur. Ironically, the Manipur People's Party (MPP) founded on December 26, 1968 by a group of dissidents from the Indian National Congress have had limited success despite the huge clout and support the people of the state bestowed, and at the February 2007 Manipur state elections, the party received 5 of the 60 seats. Currently it is a part of North-East Regional Political Front consisting of political parties of the northeast which has supported the National Democratic Alliance (India). The political infighting and scramble for position and power which is still continuing has made the party a non-entity, with members comprising mostly of those who are tried, tested and found lacking to be representatives of the people.

What is most disturbing is the fact that the BJP, emerging as the only possible alternative to the chaotic, corrupted and convoluted malpractices and woefully administered Congress government is more than likely to accommodate these freewheeling opportunists just to shore up the numbers. As things already turned out, the clamour for position and control of the party had already happened, and there is every possibility of such an unwanted event repeating again.

What the people of the state want and need is a radical change in the way things are governed and administered and not a mere change of symbol or slogan. A change of guard would definitely bring about an impetus for cooperation, support and coordination that can drive growth— social and financial and once again help in realigning the state towards inclusive growth and progress. But there is still a big slip between the cup and the lip, and the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Hope the long-disappointed people find the change which has been long in the making this time around. The game of 'old wine in new bottle' needs to go for good.

Army provides help to orphanage



PIB DEFENCE, Imphal, August 1: Jawalamukhi battalion under the aegis of Senapati Brigade of Red Shield Divisions distributed essential commodities to 'Royal Child Home Orphanage' located at Mission Veng, Leimakhong of Senapati district on 29 July 2016. Children at the orphanage were given stationery items including

tutorial charts. This initiative by the security forces towards the children showcases goodwill and concern of the security forces for the betterment of the orphanage. The staff and children conveyed their gratitude towards Security Forces for assistance provided to them and appreciated the efforts being taken by the security forces.

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The man who help Narendra Modi during University days

"It was one Saturday night, I spent a sleepless night, and I finally remembered him (Narendra). I made up my mind to ask him for help", Singhajit said.

Monday morning Singhajit went to university looking for Narendra. He used to wear khadi clothes most of the time and was always seen waiting near the university gate.

"I was shocked as I didn't see him at the place where we often met, but as I look around I found him standing at the second floor of the university building", Singhajit recounted.

As soon as he noticed him he went directly to him and said hello. Narendra replied with a smile. Greeted him. Before Singhajit could start, Narendra asked him to give his notes. Singhajit gave and reluctantly asked his favour as he was in need of money seriously. Narendra, that time didn't have any money so told him to come at his residence.

"I went to Narendra's place with a friend called Chabungbam Dhirendra, who later became a principal of Jiri College. We were received by his mother", Singhajit said.

They were served in the most courteous manner. As Narendra came out he asked Singhajit the required amount.

"I need Rs. 400", Singhajit said. Narendra gave him Rs. 800/- but Singhajit insisted saying that he only need Rs. 400. After a brief argument Singhajit was compelled to take Rs. 600 from him. After 10 days, Singhajit received a money order and went to Narendra's house to pay back the money. Narendra refused to take the money saying that it was only a help from a friend but Singhajit insisted him to take it on the ground that he won't be able to ask again if he didn't take it.

"He was a very kind hearted person and was very at quick in learning. During exam time he will come to appear with beard covering his face and when the result was declared he will always score more marks than me", Singhajit said.



Singhajit, completed his MA in 1983 from Gujarat University. His seat number was 494 and class roll number was 4 in the final year. That year itself he came back to Manipur and started working as a lecturer in Manipur University on contract basis. The same time after seeing an advertisement for the post of Principal at Canchipur College, Imphal, he applied and he got the post.

Canchipur college was a government college and he could not bear the increasing financial pressures on his personal front. Since then left the job. In 2013 he re-established a school called Thoubal Public School, at a hired room at Thoubal Okram.

Years had gone and he never cared about the political scenario of the country even though he was a political Science teacher. In 1986, when Singhajit went to Delhi for some work, he accidentally lost his important diary where contacts of all his friends were noted. That was one reason on why he could not contact any of his university friends.

He never knew that his friend was the Chief Minister of Gujarat as it was Narendra Modi and not Narendra. He never expected and so left it aside.

In July, 2014, when Singhajit was at his school, he came across a booklet called "News and events", and in that he found the name of his friend with some pictures. He went back home hurriedly and checked his certificates to look if the same person is similar with the

one who once help him during the University days.

Yes, he was the same person. Out of anxiety he called his wife to tell the story.

"Narendra Modi is every body's friend and it could be yours' too", Singhajit's wife Sorodhoni told him in a mocking way. Even his three sons didn't believe him.

In 2015, Singhajit thought of meeting Narendra and through a BJP worker identified as Bimola he narrated his story and asked her help to meet Narendra.

On January 13, 2015, Singhajit received a called from Bimola saying that the Prime Minister has given him appointment.

Out of Enthusiasm, Okram Singhajit fled to Delhi on February 28, 2015. He stayed at his nephew's place. His nephew Ningshoujam Kenedy was working at a call center and staying at a rented house that time.

Singhajit along with his nephew approached to the PMO seeking appointment through some Manipuri BJP workers. They could not get appointment due to the Prime Minister's hectic schedule.

They waited for around 2 months and as they didn't receive any communication from the PMO, his nephew Kenedy took leave and both went to the PMO office in the last week of April. There with the hel of some Manipuri working in the PMO, assisted them in filling the formalities of taking appointment to the Prime Minister. On May 2, 2015, Singhajit received a called from the PMO office

stating that his appointment might be on May 8 or 9.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi that time was having hectic schedule. He was visiting Kolkata on May 9 and later to Beijing on May 15 of the same month, the official from the PMO told him.

But all of a sudden, at around 3 pm of May 4, 2015, the official from the PMO called him up and said that he can meet the Prime Minister May 6. Later again, at around 8pm of the same day, the PMO official called him to enquire on who is accompanying him.

"I am coming with my nephew", Singhajit said and give the details of his nephew.

They were told to meet the Prime Minister at Parliament at around 1 pm of May 6, 2015.

Without much difficulty they met Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, who is carrying the burden of the country.

"It was only 10 minutes meeting, I took all my certificates, every documents to make him remembered that I am his old friend at Gujarat University", Singhajit said. But I never know that the man who now runs the country will not required such papers to recall or friendship.

"I thought it was 30 years, since we met the last time, but Narendra said we haven't meet for 32 years", Singhajit said.

They took picture together, talk about their days at the University and had tea together.

Narendra Modi accidentally noticed Singhajit's certificate tore at the border. He asked him to give and he himself tried to place it in good condition.

"It was just 10 minutes and the happiest moment of my life", Singhajit said.

Now my wife, children and some few relatives of mine who were skeptical of my friendship with Narendra Modi now have great respect for me.

"It was ironic to find allegation and counter allegation about the degree certificate of Narendra Modi, who got more marks in exam than me even though I was the one who supplied him the teacher's note", Singhajit said.

National & International News

Saeed warns of nationwide protest on Rajnath's arrival in Pakistan

PII Lahore, August 1: Accusing Home Minister Rajnath Singh of being "responsible for the killings of innocent Kashmiris", JuD chief Hafiz Saeed has warned of a countrywide protest in Pakistan by his outfit if the Home Minister arrives in Islamabad to attend the SAARC ministerial conference. "I want to ask the Pakistani government will it add insult to

injury to the wounds of Kashmiris by welcoming Rajnath who is responsible for the killings of innocent Kashmiris," he said in a statement here.

"It will be ironical as the one hand the whole Pakistani nation is protesting against the Indian atrocities in Kashmir and on the other hand the Pakistani rulers will be garlanding Singh," said the statement issued on Monday.

The mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai attack said "if Singh comes to Islamabad on August 3, the JuD would hold countrywide protest to tell the world that the Pakistani rulers might have compulsions to receive Kashmiris' killers but the people of Pakistan are siding with oppressed Kashmiris".

He added that protest demonstrations will be held and rallies taken out in Islamabad, Lahore,

Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, Multan, Faisalabad, Muzaffarabad and other cities of the country on August 3. Saeed, who is carrying a \$10 million US bounty on his head, warned the government that Mr. Singh's presence in Islamabad may create "unrest" among Kashmiris as well as Pakistanis in the face of scores of killings of Kashmiris "at the hands of Indian forces".

The people of Kashmir had refused to meet Mr. Singh during his Srinagar visit, he said adding the PML-N government "must also refuse to receive the BJP leader on the excuse that it may hurt and incite feelings of Kashmiris and Pakistanis."

Meanwhile, Hizbul Mujahideen supreme commander Syed Salahuddin asked Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to immediately recall its ambassador from New Delhi and "suspend trade and diplomatic ties" with India in the wake of ongoing unrest in the Valley that have left 49 people dead following Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani's killing.

The Pakistani government should not have invited Mr. Singh to the SAARC conference, he said.

"Ailing Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif should at least recall Pakistan's ambassador from New Delhi and suspend trade and diplomatic ties with India.

ISRO prepares to launch weather satellite INSAT-3DR on August 28

IANS Sriharikota, August 1: Preparations for the launch of weather satellite INSAT-3DR with the geosynchronous satellite launch vehicle (GSLV-MkII) next month are progressing at Sriharikota, officials said on Friday. "The weather satellite INSAT-3DR will be put into orbit by a GSLV rocket August end. Preparations for the launch are going on," P. Kunhi Krishnan, Director of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), told IANS. India's rocket port is located in SDSC in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. It is learnt that the launch

is tentatively slated for August 28. A senior official of the Indian Space Research Organisation told IANS that the satellite is yet to reach the rocket port.

Normally the satellites reach the rocket port around a couple of weeks before the launch date. "With improved shock absorbing aspects during the transit, nowadays Indian satellites are first sent to filling of fuel and then to the clean room. We have avoided one testing stage of the satellite and thereby cutting down the launch time," a senior ISRO official told IANS. "However foreign satellites that ISRO launches with its PSLV

rockets will be tested in full without skipping even the first clean room," he added.

In September 2016, ISRO will launch ScatSat — a weather monitoring and forecasting satellite — with polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV). The Indian satellite will be a co-passenger to an Algerian satellite.

Both the satellites will be put into different orbits. So the fourth stage/ engine of the rocket will be switched off after ejecting ScatSat first. Then after a gap of around 30 minutes, the engine will be switched on and put the Algerian satellite into its intended orbit.