

Editorial

Imphal Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Understanding the concept of being 'Manipuri'

In what can only be described as an incidental albeit positive outcome, the recently intensifying social turmoil has brought out various issues and agenda plaguing the state for as long as one would care to remember. While the situation at present has been perceived as precarious and even threatening to the peaceful and continued coexistence of the myriad communities and ethnic groups in the state, the fact remains that such social churning is required at times to separate fact from fiction—to segregate and isolate genuine concerns that should be resolved for the society to progress as a collective and harmonious unit from those concocted by a few vested interests and projected as genuine and non-negotiable, often utilizing the caste and communal card to stir up misled emotions. Also one can only conjecture on the much touted claim of a 'unique history' that has been the pivot of every demand and contention. Is there degrees to uniqueness? Or, has the term been confused with 'mysterious' all these while? A confounding contention which fortunately will never arise in the state since our forefathers chronicled the history of the land and its people more than a thousand years before the birth of Jesus Christ in the Puya scripture.

Whatever the past—written or conceived, holding back progress and modernization, not only of oneself but for those in the vicinity lends precious little to pragmatism. In this day and age, would it be possible to shed our modern clothes and shelter and return to our hunting-gathering ways in the wild? Or more important—is anyone amongst us claiming to be the upholder of tradition and customs be really prepared to live out their claim? The only plausible explanation for the present contentions and convoluted issue is that customs, traditions, beliefs or culture is within us. It is our way of thinking and therefore our outlook of life. All these are attributes and tying them down to the land we exist on would very well spell doom in the practical world. If one who regards himself or herself so steeped in tradition that any other way of life is impossible have to be relocated somewhere else, will he or she cease to belong to their community or group? Or will she/he cease to exist because of the relocation? Or stranger still, should he/she demand the place to where he/she is relocated be merged with her/his native place just to make him/her be themselves? And where does such an attitude leave the room for 'peaceful coexistence' with the rest of the communities? Is such an outlook even permissible in today's world? Debate, dialogue, deliberate or differ as much as one like. The integrity of Manipur is sacrosanct for the Manipuris contributing and assimilating their different customs, outlooks, faiths, practices and cultures to create this beautiful kaleidoscope which is the envy of the world. Understanding, accepting and respecting this concept would prove more fruitful for everyone involved rather than to try and play spoilsport.

Modiji's new monetary architecture for seamless growth, scam less politics

By : Dr R. Balashankar

The overwhelming finance sector reforms have begun transforming the system as New Deal. Currency crunch is still a problem, digital reach and efficiency not sufficient, yet the popularity of the measure, people's patience to make it succeed and Prime Minister's passionate appeals have created the atmospheric for monetary reform. Textile Minister Smt. Smriti Irani has tweeted that there has been a 300 per cent spurt in digital payments. More and more people are getting attracted to the new normal. The government has announced lucky draws and rewards up to Rs one crore to incentivize digital adoption. This writer was fascinated to see even vegetable vendors in suburbs like Gurgram and grocers in remote areas like Mayang in Guwahati, Assam adopting to digital transactions. Senex has started upward trajectory. The political impact has imparted bonanza for the ruling party in by-polls to Lok Sabha, assembly and local bodies across the country after November 8. In the absence of any noticeable unrest or dissatisfaction, doomsday merchants have fallen silent. The critics of the monetary revolution have failed in forty days to formulate a logical economic narrative to demolish the philosophy behind scraping of high denomination currency notes. Positive results are already visible. Contrary to reports of cash crunch affecting the sowing season more land has come under cultivation this season than last year. There is visible growth in online and mobile

transactions; which means people are adapting to the new system with some nudging and some incentives. Prices of vegetables, food and consumer durables, even automobiles have started falling. Inflation is declining. Even tea garden workers are getting tempted to open bank accounts. Socially, there is a decline in money-related crime rate in the past six weeks. The incidents of stone pelting has come to a halt in Srinagar, which was being engineered using fake and black money routed through Pakistan. Reports say that Rs 12 lakh crore of the Rs 14.6 lakh crore in high denomination notes have already been deposited in banks. Opposition naively asks so what was the big deal? "There was no black money as was being made out. Even counterfeit currency was just 2 per cent." This is an argument of obfuscation. The very purpose of demonetization was to bring the hoarded estimated Rs 10 lakh crore back into the system. Second, to net the tax that was due to the exchequer. Both have been achieved. The extent of fake currency is debatable. What is more important is that it has been flushed out of the system and it has left underground operatives like Maoists, J&K Jihadis and hawala operators out of job. The first casualty being the Pakistani hawala operative Javed Khanani, committing suicide due to financial bankruptcy resulting from demonetization. Will demonetization work? Will it slow down growth? Will it lead to huge job losses? Will it lead to rural

poverty and farmer distress? Will it lead to price rise and inflation? Will it lead to windfall gains for RBI? Will it help government to deliver a balanced budget? Will the 2017 budget be a dream budget with less taxes and greater bonanza for the common man? These were the concerns and hopes expressed by both critics and supporters when the PM announced the demonetization on November 8. The concerns have been allayed by experience. The good is in the realm of possibility. In any case the naysayers have lost the ground. Demonetization has rebranded Shri Narendra Modi as the messiah of the poor. His connect with the *dalit*, *shoshit*, (exploited) *vanchit*, (deprived) *peedith* (oppressed) India is now complete. As has been stated by this author earlier, it could be described as Prime Minister Modi's proud socialist moment. The move has brought him closer to the common man as never before. Politics will never be the same again. Taxes will come down. Investment and growth will become reality with job creation. The move is expected to unlock as much as Rs ten lakh crore which was hoarded by tax evaders. The tax base is going to double, the case of too much cash chasing too few goods will disappear. Already Maoists, terrorists and criminals are on the run. Counterfeit currency will disappear. We are witnessing a bloodless coup on the monetary front. The recent raids that unearthed huge stashes of black money, gold and new currency have proved two things. That the government is committed to cleansing the system. Second,

many banks and managers have been found colluding with the corrupt to fail the initiative. This shows how deep set and well-entrenched the wrong doers are. The government also will have to take care that innocent people are not harassed. The return of inspector raj will prove counterproductive. Bigger challenge to make banking and digital transactions more efficient and better spread. This has revived hope in the poorest of the poor, getting better opportunities and financial inclusion. Access to new technology can work as a social empowering tool. It may not suddenly invert the socio-economic pyramid in the country, but it will for a long time alter the exercise of power and the political practice that we have so far been familiar with. Here Shri Modi played the big leveller and disruptionist of the status quo. Shri Modi's idea of financial inclusion is comprehensive and real. All doubts regarding the gains of demonetization have been positively answered in the last twenty days. Tax collections have made most of our civic bodies flush with money, the banks have already collected Rs 12 lakh crore. The banks will have to reduce lending rates and hence in February we are likely to have a balanced dream budget. These are all pointing to the opportunities others missed and Shri Modi cashed on. **Author is senior economic and political analyst and Chair, Kabir Development Communication Club, KBT University, Raipur. (Courtesy PIB Feature)**

National & International News

JDS leader held in connection with seizure of new notes worth Rs 5.70 crore

PTI Bengaluru, Dec. 13: CBI has arrested JDS leader and casino owner K C Veerendra in connection with seizure of Rs 5.7 crore in Rs 2000 denomination from his possession. Agency sources said CBI has registered a case against officials of four banks—State Bank of India, State Bank of Mysore, ICICI Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank. "We have

arrested K C Veerendra. He was arrested in Hubballi on December 10 and brought to Bengaluru the following day and produced before the CBI court. He is in our custody for six days," a top CBI official told PTI here today. On December 10, IT officials had raided 15 premises, including Veerendra's house in Challakere and a casino owned by him in Goa. The officials seized Rs 5.7

crore in Rs 2,000 currency notes, besides Rs 90 lakh in Rs 100 and Rs 20 denominations in Hubballi district and in Challakere. CBI sources said Veerendra allegedly connived with some bankers and middlemen to exchange demonetised currency with Rs 2,000 notes. Earlier, Veerendra's name had figured in a cricket betting case, the sources said. He was running a chit fund

business and later forayed into casino and other ventures. Veerendra, also a businessman from Challakere in Chitradurga district, is a former chairman of Primary Land Development Bank. The sources said during preliminary probe names of several persons have been taken by Veerendra and it is trying to gather material evidence linking the alleged hawala operator with them.

The sources said during the six days of questioning CBI will confront him with documents recovered from his premises and will try to get the source of these funds which may unravel alleged involvement of senior bank officials in the case.

MH370 search vessel leaves Australia for one last time

Perth, Dec. 13: A lone survey vessel left an Australian port for perhaps the final time to search for the Malaysian airliner which mysteriously crashed into the southern Indian Ocean two years ago, officials said on Tuesday. The Dutch survey ship Fugro Equator left Fremantle on Monday night to continue the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 alone, minister for infrastructure and transport Darren Chester's office said. Whether the voyage is the ship's final month-long deployment from Fremantle before the search was completed after more than two years would depend on the weather, Chester's office said. Chester thanked China for the services of a Chinese ship that in February joined the search of a 120,000-square-kilometer area where authorities calculate that the Boeing 777 crashed with 239 people aboard on March 8, 2014. The Chinese

ship started making its way back to Shanghai this month. Fugro Equator is using a highly maneuverable drone known as an autonomous underwater vehicle to get sonar images of difficult terrain that could not be reliably searched with towed sonar equipment. The deep sea search has failed to find any trace of the airliner that flew far off course during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. But debris confirmed or suspected to be from Flight 370 has washed ashore on the western Indian Ocean at Reunion Island, Mozambique, Tanzania, Madagascar and Mauritius. Australia is overseeing the search on Malaysia's behalf. The two governments agreed with China in July that if the aircraft was not located in the current search zone, the search would be suspended in the absence of credible new evidence leading to the identification of a specific location.

Demonetization: Delhi BJP to give a laddoo to those standing in long queues

New Delhi, Dec. 13: The Delhi BJP wants to thank those standing in long lines to get cash by giving one laddoo per family. In what seems to be an attempt to soothe frayed nerves of people who have to stand in long queues to get cash following the demonetization move, the Delhi BJP has decided to give one laddoo per family to "thank them for their patience".

As per a report in the *Indian Express* says that the party wants to express its gratitude to the people for patiently bearing the inconvenience caused by demonetization and for supporting the move. Newly appointed Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched this revolutionary step to tackle black money and people supported the move. Now, it is our turn to thank them and show our appreciation and respect for their patience." He said that BJP cadres would be urged to distribute laddoos from January 1 to January 10 in their areas. "If people can stand in queues and not complain, can't we give them a laddoo as a token of our appreciation," Tiwari said. He said the party will request the workers to buy at least one laddoo for their neighbour. However, sources within BJP's core unit also told the daily that the feedback for the demonetization

move is not as good as it is being made out to be. The core unit meets every Tuesday to discuss the exercise

and has found that the implementation for the move has 'hurt good intent'.

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
SECRETARIAT: GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
(WELFARE SECTION)
NOTIFICATION
Imphal, the 6th December, 2016

No.34/4/2016-GAD/W: It is hereby notified for information of the general public that 7(seven) numbers of condemned light vehicles, 1(one) Maruti Esteem, 4(four) Ambassador and 2(two) Gypsies of Manipur Secretariat, GAD will be sold by auction through sealed rate quotation tender. Rate quotation along with a Bank draft or Banker's cheque of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand) only from any Nationalised Bank in favour of Deputy Secretary (GAD), Govt. of Manipur as security deposit for each vehicle may be submitted to Deputy Secretary (GAD) from 11:00 am upto 1:30pm of 14.12.2016.

| Sl.No. | Type of vehicle & regn. No. | Year of acquisition |
|--------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Maruti Esteem Car No. MN01K9611 | 2007 |
| 2. | Ambassador Car No. MN1K1510 | 2002 |
| 3. | Ambassador Car No. MN1K1550 | 2002 |
| 4. | Ambassador Car No. MN1A9820 | 2001 |
| 5. | Ambassador Car No. MN1A9770 | 2001 |
| 6. | Maruti Gypsy No. MN01K4685 | 2004 |
| 7. | Maruti Gypsy No. MN1A6097 | 1996 |

All the vehicles will be disposed of to the highest bidder on payment in cash in full adjusting the amount of Security deposit. No Government employees can bid in the public auction.

In case of failure on the part of the successful bidder to make full payment in cash and remove the vehicles the entire amount of security deposit made will be forfeited without any notice.

Sd/-
(Chungjalen Thango)
Deputy Secretary (GAD),
Govt. of Manipur

81 trains delayed, 6 cancelled due to fog

New Delhi, Dec. 13: Thousands of passengers were stranded on Tuesday, as 81 trains were delayed and six cancelled due to dense fog in parts of north India. According to a Northern Railway official, the Islampur-New Delhi Magadh Express was running 48 hours behind its schedule, while the Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express was 22 hours late and the Bhubaneswar-New Delhi weekly express was delayed by 38 hours. The official said that 10 trains were rescheduled as the visibility dropped to 400 metres on Tuesday. Meanwhile, according to the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), which manages operations at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport here, no flight was cancelled on Tuesday, though a few international flights arriving in Delhi were delayed.

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