

# Editorial

Imphal Thursday, December 22, 2016

## Should we continue to have faith in political parties?

Response of the civil society organizations to the ongoing crisis in the state of Manipur throws some light to the future of the state. However, the silence of the political parties to the issues which is burning the state reveals that there is something fishy going on in their game to take political mileage. When civil society organizations have come together in a common platform irrespective of their ideological differences to mow down the extremity among the sections of people, the political parties are seen shouting in newspapers blaming their rival political parties in the name of showing some concerns to the ongoing crisis.

When people of the state are in frying pan, the political parties are busy playing horse trading game. When people felt that the political parties should go beyond party line they keep on continuing their blame game.

The root of the present crisis in the state is known to everyone. It is the economic blockade, then the intensifying of it after the state government created 7 new revenue districts as well as the arrest of two UNC leaders. On the other hand the open interference by cadres of NSCN-IM by killing three personnel of Manipur police and injuring 11 others at Imphal-Moreh road besides snatching of 9 weapons from the 7<sup>th</sup> MR post along Imphal-Jiribam road has added fuel to the flames.

If we recall back the speech made by BJP National Secy. and North East in Charge Prahar Patel, soon after the announcement of the creation of the 7 new revenue districts, at which the BJP leaders said that there would be communal flare up in the state, is a perfect example of political hands to the ongoing issue. May be indirect but the speech of the BJP leaders which is in power at the central government is a provocative statement which encourage the so called UNC in their activities. Moreover, the silence on the part of the BJP to the terror strike by NSCN-IM cadres also showed that everything happening is being considered a chance on their move without bothering how hard it will be for the common people.

Similar is with the Congress party which is in power in the state government. Even after knowing that violent activities are being carried out some sections of people along the Imphal Ukhrul road no effective measures are seen taken up to contained the situation. Lamlai Assembly constituency and Khurai Assembly constituency is the area where the worst scene happen. Both these constituencies have congress MLAs - one a Minister and another, a senior congress legislator. None of these MLAs had come out to contain the situation. Imposition of curfew only brings more trouble. This has been known from the past experience.

On the other hand, the Chief Minister of Manipur seems to be taking the prevailing issue as his only way to come back to power. That is why he is sticking to his stand of not listening to the UNC.

With the kind of development in the state it is now clear that the fate of Manipur is now left with the people of the state and it is no use waiting for the political party. And one thing that is needed to remember is that it is the upcoming election that is giving all the trouble in the state. So, if this election is something that will make cry our motherland one need to ponder on whether we should allow this election to happen or not.

### Certificate lost

I, the undersigned have lost my original certificate for my class X examination bearing Roll No. 14088 of 1996 issued by Baord of Secondary Education Manipur and XII passed examination bearing Roll No. 11128 of 1998 issued by Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur on the way between Paona Bazar to Thangal Bazar on Dec. 15, 2016.

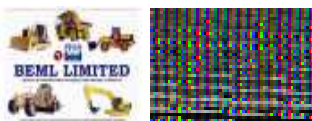
Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

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## National & International News

### I-T Dept cautions taxpayers against sharing user ID, password

**PTI New Delhi, Dec 22:** The Income Tax Department has warned taxpayers against sharing their user ID and password with any unauthorised person, saying they too will be liable to face consequences for misuse of their confidential information.

In an advisory to taxpayers, the department's TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) Centralised Processing Cell (CPC) told assesses that their "user ID and password are the most sensitive information, misuse of which can lead to tampering of confidential TDS-related information, your own sensitive data and deductee-related confidential information".

It further said that "if a password is hacked or stolen, it can result in information security breach, leading to undesirable consequences, including privacy violations".

It asked taxpayers to exercise caution in use of log-in credentials at TRACES, which should not be disclosed to any unintended or unauthorised individual. "If shared, the person using login credentials shall also be liable to consequences," it added.

TDS Reconciliation Analysis and Correction Enabling System (TRACES) helps easy filing of tax deducted at source (TDS) or tax collected at source (TCS) correction statements by deductors/collectors and related functionalities.

The taxman asked users to secure their password with at least eight characters in length and a combination of lower case, upper case, numeric and special characters.

"Do not write your password on

notepads or the whiteboard at your desk," it cautioned.

"Keeping sensitive information such as passwords in e-mails, folders and files in the computer can be risky. If the e-mail or computer account is hacked, then the perpetrator could misuse the passwords, steal money from your bank accounts, misuse your e-mail account or credit/debit card to

access sensitive information from your machine," it said.

It has also asked users not to use the same password for different accounts. "Using the same password for more than one account is similar to carrying one key that unlock your house, car, office and safety deposit box. One lost key could let a mischievous unauthorised user unlock all

doors," the department warned.

It went on to advise against sharing log-in credentials as also using the login credentials of any person other than the authorised one appointed by the deductor for carrying out any activity on TRACES.

"You are requested to similarly treat Digital Signature Certificate with utmost security, as the user ID and password on TRACES," it said.

### Afghan police search house of parliament member after attack

**Reuters Kabul, Dec. 22:** Afghan police and security officials combed through the wreckage of a member of parliament's house in Kabul on Thursday after an attack by Taliban gunmen in which at least seven people were killed.

Broken glass and spent bullet cartridges lay on the bloodstained ground of the heavily fortified house in the district of Khushal Khan belonging to Mir Wali, a member of parliament from the volatile southern province of Helmand.

Police special forces units sealed off the house following the attack on Wednesday night but gunfire and explosions could be heard for several hours. "It was a really terrifying situation here in the night," said neighbour Matihullah, who like many Afghans goes by one name. "There were explosions and we couldn't sleep whole the night."

The Taliban said 20 people, including senior security officials

from Helmand, had been killed in the attack but government officials put the death toll at seven. Two Taliban gunmen had also been killed, they said.

The attack underlined the fragile security situation in Kabul which has seen a series of kidnappings, suicide bombings and other insurgent

attacks on targets connected to the Western-backed government.

The Taliban said the attack targeted a meeting of security officials who had been invited to discuss Helmand, a major opium-producing region which has fallen increasingly under insurgent control over the past two years.

### MP to identify roads which can be turned into NHs

**PTI Bhopal, Dec 22:** To reduce financial burden on road maintenance, the Madhya Pradesh government is going to start the process of identifying roads which can be converted into national highways. The officials of public works department (PWD) and MP Road Development Corporation (MPRDC) were directed to identify the roads having the potential of being turned into national highways. "(MP) Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan told the officials yesterday during a

review meeting to list the roads which can be proposed as national highways," a public relation department official said today. The official informed that in addition to existing 4,771 kms long national highways of the state, another 3,035 kms long state roads have been declared as national highways. "Now state has a total of 7,806 kms long national highways. Also approval in principle has been given by the Centre to declare other 2,383 kms long roads of the state as national highways," he added.

### Contd. from yesterday issue

## Transformation of government into governance in manipur (Changing complexion of civil society: an assessment)

Here one may analyse the authoritarian environment of Manipur in which the State does not in favour of expansion of civil societies because such interaction between the two sides always brought against the wishes of the ruling elites. In a real sense it should be happening in the democratic system. Sometimes, the State deliberately tries to crush all of them. Recently maximum numbers of civil societies' leaders were arrested and put into the jail by charging as anti social groups. It is happening so often in Manipur. As consequence the member of civil society seem to be in violent activities. That is the indication of authoritarian regime.

As we have already mentioned that the civil society organizations are generally equated with NGOs. If NGOs are seen doing welfare and developmental work, we feel civil society is working well. This approach ignores the intermediate institutions and their role in the society. This tendency also limits our understanding of a broad process of interaction among different types of organizations. The concept of civil society, points out Alan Whites, has been 'grabbed' by NGOs as one relating closely to their own natural strengths. On the surface, civil society is intimately connected with the role of local community associated or groups, and with the indigenous NGOs sector.

In the globalization scenario, it needs to be kept in view that among the donor agencies, the interest in civil society has been associated with the evolution of the conditionality of aid in the 1980s. Donors have begun to re-appraise the role of civil society in providing a foundation for sustainable democracy. The combination of donors', NGOs and UN's interest provides the background to what has been termed as the civil society 'grab'.

The States are adopting new strategies, using NGOs for their own purposes. In short, State-centred and society-centred approaches are now providing problematic and inadequate. Importantly, it is believed that the civil society approach is itself problematic, if it does not take cognizance of global civil society. The States are adopting new strategies, using NGOs for their own purposes.

The idea of global civil society combines elements of both anti-state and anti-national positions. The growing size, sophistication, and influence of the Global Civil Society Organisations (GCSOs), have been facilitated and actively encouraged by one major factor—the Neo-liberal consensus that emerges from the power centres in the west. Among other things, the consensus dictates:

- i) The State, particularly in Third World countries, should withdraw from the social sector.
- ii) The market should be freed from all constraints.
- iii) Communities in civil society should organize their own social and economic reproduction and well-being.

The State has thus been liberated from its traditional responsibilities of providing the conditions of human flourishing. This stance is particularly complex in context of 'governance', as the State has to assume the role of facilitator and catalyst in bringing about just and egalitarian governance. The Neo-liberal State's roll-back ideology is misplaced in the context of developing countries like India. The same fate falls in the context of Manipur also as part of India.

The vision of civil society minus a well-defined role of the State is therefore replete with serious consequences, which not only weakens civil society, but also jeopardises the future of GCSOs. It has been pointed out that by

drastically reducing the importance of proximity, the new technologies change people's perceptions of community. The potential for building global civil society might come at the expense of weakened identity with one's State and with the civil society within one's country. In the absence of a global public space and an opportunity for dialogue, robust global community may remain a distant dream.

In the development administrative discourse such as public choice approach, and now the New Public Management (NPM) make an endeavour to provide alternatives to bureaucratic hegemony. But while the public choice perspective seeks to reduce individuals to utility maximisers and focuses on individual interest, it does not provide the mechanism for arriving at a collective general interest. The NPM, on the other hand, treats the citizens as mere clients and customers. The Pluralistic, Communitarian, New Public Service and Network Agency perspectives give due regard to community, non-bureaucratic institutions and values, but do not focus much on the development of the idea of autonomous, self-reflective, humane and conscientious civil society with an accent on genuine public interest.

That means there are not alternatives to the institution of the present representative democracy and the market. The future would be, the endless repetition of more of the same, with politics centred in bureaucratic problem-solving, limited social engineering and liberal compromise.

This, indeed, is a very pessimistic projection of the socio-economic and political reality. If one goes by it, the alternatives to absolute State or market control over production and provision of goods seem almost elusive. A ray of hope could be democratic decentralization,

participative decision-making, institution-building and community management of resources through different civil society organizations which can surely solve the problem to some extent. Voluntarism and associationalism have been a part of the culture in the developing countries, their potential needs to be harnessed, more so, in the globalization situation. The very fact that the number of community organizations, voluntary agencies, self-help groups, and non-public, non-market associations has grown tremendously in the last decade is a step in the right direction. It needs to be seen that their welfare and developmental goals are not sidelined or discarded. The best example could be mentioned about COFPAI (Committee for Peace and Integrity) and its campaign to bring peace in Manipur when there was ethnic clash in between Naga and Kuki in Manipur.

COFPAI was formed by arriving together 48 voluntary organizations of Manipur including UNC and KIM under the initiative of National Research Centre (NRC) Imphal. Other prominent member-organisations include such as All Manipur Ethnic Social and Cultural Organisation (AMESCO), All Manipur United Club Organisation (AMUCO), All Manipur Students Union (AMSU), All Manipur Women's Volunteer Association (AMAWOVA), Fraternal Green Cross (FGC) a leading NGO in Manipur, Friends in Need Society (FINS), People's Democratic Movement (CDM), and Chanura Lamjinglen Kangleipak (CLK), etc.

This is indeed a significant achievement as it took place amidst the speculation that the ethnic armies of both the groups involved warned their fellow tribes to abstain from participating in any of the meetings organized by the government or any organisation aimed at restoring normalcy and peace. (To be contd...)