

# Editorial

Imphal, Saturday, February 20, 2016

## Equality- a concept of convenience?

Humans, like any other living beings, are creatures of habit. Add to it the evolved mentality and acquired concepts like aesthetics, power and pride- the resulting mix is one which threatens to change the very nature of the spontaneity of evolution and natural progression. The human brain- the one incredible matter enabling our race to control and manipulate everything else around us; living and non-living alike, except for one important and very interesting drawback- the inability to control oneself- is the differentiating factor rather than the senses and urges that makes us who we are. This lacuna in our physiological make up which is apparently inherent is becoming more prominent with the passage of time. The uncontrollable greed for power and land that led to wars being fought throughout the world, the unnecessary struggle for increasing power and control- all points to an irrational urge manifesting into deeds that go against the very grain of human behavior- or is it so? Nothing can be further from the truth. These bloody battles and physical challenges for power, supremacy and wealth of the early days have disappeared- only to re-emerge in a more virulent and sinister yet subtler form at present. Equality- the very premise on which our present society was founded remains to this day an illusion, a convenient pacifying tool for those at the helm of affairs to keep the common public at bay so that they- some if not all- can continue with the activities induced by the very weaknesses afflicting every human. Is there any other rationale, however remote it may sound, to explain the widening chasm between the common public and those who are in power and influence- though everyone is equal- or so we are told to believe. A number of politicians serving themselves while doling out rhetoric speeches proclaiming their efforts for the public, armed forces personnel abusing their power and using brute force to get their demands from the frightened and defenceless public, drug peddlers and their sources being shrouded in mystery behind a façade of power and money impenetrable by the public or the discretion of those who walks the hallowed corridors of power to speak out and express only those that they wish to be made heard- more often their own achievements and trivial triumphs blown out of proportions. Is there a thing such as being more equal than equal? Why are so many seemingly mundane and simple problems being made so complex and tangled up as to make them impossible to solve? Isn't there any other way for the disturbed and concerned voices of the common man to be made heard other than be forced to resort to mindless destruction and mayhem- a natural, though unwanted, reaction of the frustrated and agitated souls who are made to feel less equal and cheated. This feeling of discontent is made all the more intense as the public believes that solutions to a lot of wrongs in the society is so clear and right within their reach while those who are entrusted to act accordingly chose to look the other way. The need of the hour is a bunch of people with rational minds and the resolve as well as the self-control to stick to the set plan with the habit to finish what has been started with the dignity to shoulder responsibilities for the same, and above all, a bunch that really regards the remaining majority of the population as equals. Will the search prove to be an exercise in futility- yet again?

## Three-day long Vibrant North East will come to an end in Guwahati today

**Guwahati, Feb. 20:** In Assam, the three-day long Vibrant North East will come to an end in Guwahati today. Various programmes including seminar, workshop, business meet and exhibitions are being organized. Meanwhile, talking to AIR on the sideline of the event, Major General G S Chandela, senior official of North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) will provide expertise on accessing crop damages. He said that three insurance companies have approached to them as of now to assess crop damages under the Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojna.

### Wanted Sub-Editor

Imphal Times is looking for an experience sub editor with excellent writing skill in English who can read Bengali written script. Working hour is 12 noon till 3 pm. Honorarium is Rs. 3000 p/m. Preference will be given to candidate who had already work in English daily as desk editor. Age no bar, and Imphal Times have no problem with those candidates working in other newspaper at night shift.

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## Of national and Anti-national

By- Kh.Ibomcha

In India, the idea of national or anti-national is determined by what you eat: if you eat dal-makhoni, you are national, and if you don't, then an anti-national. To them, RSS families, ModiBhaktas, Ramdeva and people like AnupamKher are categorized as nationalist, while Dalits, muslims, socialist, seculars, radical students, logical professors, beef-eaters and people like 'Amir Khan' are anti-national.

If you want to live alive in India you don't have to eat beef, this is the only matra to survive from being oppressed by Indian patriotism. Eating dal-makhoni is only the symbol of being true Indian and they would be tagged with the label "national" or patriot. I eat beef, so it is crystal clear that for them, I am anti-national. And there are Indian law makers who would justify even lynching of people eating beef or raising protest against Vedic ideals.

In a word, the constitution of India is the lengthiest written constitution of any sovereign country in the world, yet its rulers trace the

definition of 'national' or 'anti-national' to Veda and Puranas.

In India, to live as an ideal citizen is possible only when you drink cow-urine instead eating cow meat even though eating meat is your soul food.

Here it seems to be worth recalling how people from NE were prohibited eating their soul food like ngari, hawaichra, akhoniwhileliving in Delhi.

So, it evidently bears testimony to the fact that the idea of India never goes beyond their termite eaten Vedic books where no one would find values connected to the lives of other people constituting modern India, particularly those living in the periphery.

Here it worth recalling the memorandum submitted by Naga club to the Simon commission to exclude the Nagas from the scope of any constitutional reform and keep them under direct British admiration as they did not like to be part of Hindu Bharat as Hindus looked down on them as they atebeef. Neither had they wanted to be a part of Pakistan because

Muslims hated them as they (Nagas) loved eating pork.

Now why Naga elders said that then has become all the more clear giving reasons why they needed to live as a nation or a group latched on their own cultural moorings.

As of now, before us, we have two options: be a patriot by stopping to eat beef; or die as an anti-national by eating what you begin to eat since 'chawumba' or the moment you knew how to eat. There is nothing in between. In a news report by AbhisekBhala, a correspondent at TV Today Network, under the heading 'Anti-national JNU students demanded beef and worshipped demons: Delhi police' he wrote that demanding beef in hostel mess and worshipping Mahisasur were among the anti-national activities of the students listed by Delhi police in report on controversial event organized in JNU to commemorate the death anniversary of parliament attack convict Afzal Guru.

We all know that we, the people of NE or WESEA (an acronym used

by nationalist), is a group of people who prefer eating beef to Dal-Makhoni, differing from mainlanders. So, from that point of view we are all anti-national. If Worshipping Mahisasur in place of Durga is anti-national activity, they will soon tag us all Kangleichas with the label 'terrorist or anti-national' as we the Kangleicha are worshippingPanthoibi, our own goddess, in place of Durga as a part of a big movement called meitei revivalist movement.

Re-looking at our ontological problems taking ourselves as group of people not belonging to Hindi speaking mainland's hindutavaic characterization of Indian nation, it seems to be right to say that, 'Naharal-gi-thou' we have been experiencing since 1949 in the political landscape of NE or WESEA demanding sovereignty from India's a correct historical vocation of the people of the region, historically and culturally distinct from Mainlanders whose ethical values are tightly moored to Vedic ideals.

### National & International News

## Pakistani investigation team likely to visit India next month

**IANS Islamabad, Feb. 20:** A team of Pakistani investigators is likely to visit India next month for collecting evidence relating to alleged involvement of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists in the Pathankot airbase attack, the media reported on Saturday.

"The investigation team's visit is expected," a senior diplomat told Dawn on Friday, adding that dates for the visit were yet to be finalised. The registration of an FIR by the Counter-Terrorism Department of Punjab police on Friday has, however, paved the way for the visit of the six-member investigation team constituted by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif weeks after the attack on the Pathankot Air Force Station, part of the Western Air Command of the Indian Air Force on January 2 that

resulted in the death of 14 people - six attackers, seven security personnel and one civilian. The investigation team will visit the site of the attack and collect evidence related to Indian claim that the terrorist strike was planned in Pakistan and executed by a group of four who had crossed the border into Pathankot. The investigators will also meet officials of India's National

Investigating Agency investigating the attack. India, a diplomatic source said, was ready to receive the Pakistani team and facilitate it in investigations. The decision regarding cooperation with Pakistan was taken at a meeting in Delhi presided over by Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval in which issues relating to the visit of the Pakistani team were discussed.

## Kanhaiya Kumar doesn't want just bail, will challenge arrest

**TNN New Delhi, Feb. 20:** JNU Students' Union president Kanhaiya Kumar will spend at least three more nights in Tihar Jail as his petition for release is expected to be heard by Delhi High Court only next week. Day-long attempts by his legal team, which began with the Supreme Court refusing to take up the plea, couldn't ensure a hearing in the high court on Friday.

TOI has learned there was a crucial

delay in posting the matter for hearing due to a difference of opinion between the HC registry and Kumar's legal team over the provision under which the petition should be filed.

Kumar's lawyers do not want to just apply for bail but file a writ petition under Article 226 of the Constitution seeking to question the FIR against the student leader under sedition law as violative of his fundamental rights, along lines similar to what

they moved before the SC. The HC registry, however, suggested the matter could be expedited if filed under statutory provisions of CrPC, since it had by then received the case file from the apex court. A case under Section 439 of the CrPC would limit the high court to granting bail and imposing conditions on Kumar's freedom. In contrast, Article 226 gives high courts sweeping powers to issue

orders, quash criminal proceedings and pass directions to enforce fundamental rights. As Kanhaiya's lawyers Sushil Bajaj and Vrinda Grover were keen to file a writ broadening the scope to challenge his arrest as illegal, the registry permitted them to file additional documents supporting his plea for release. Earlier, the SC made scathing remarks on security at the Patiala House courts.

## PM Modi, Nepal PM Oli discuss India-Nepal ties

**PTI New Delhi, Feb 20:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today held comprehensive talks with his Nepalese counterpart K P Oli, who is on a six-day visit here, during which a range of issues of mutual interest, including trade and political situation in Nepal, figured.

In his first overseas trip after assuming charge of the top office in October last year, Oli, accompanied by a 77-member delegation, arrived here yesterday

afternoon with a major focus on mending ties hit by issues relating to the Himalayan nation's new Constitution.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Vikas Swarup tweeted, "Stepping forward into the future," PM @narendramodi welcomes PM KP Sharma Oli at Hyderabad House", along with a picture of the two leaders.

Modi and Oli reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relationship during the talks. Earlier, Oli was accorded a

ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan where Modi was also present.

Before the PM-level talks, Swaraj called on Oli, during which he conveyed to her that Nepal is and will remain a "reliable" friend of India.

Official sources said Oli told Swaraj that he wants to "move forward in the relationship which is not man-made but entirely natural and civilizational."

Swaraj said the visit will deepen the trust between the two countries.

## China blames US for militarising sea

**IANS Beijing, Feb. 20:** China says it does not intend to militarise the Nansha Islands in the South China Sea, dismissing US accusations of raising tension in the region, the media reported on Saturday.

Hong Lei, a spokesman for China's foreign affairs ministry, said on Friday that demilitarisation in the region is not a matter for just a single country, the Global Times reported.

"There should not be double standards or multi-standards for demilitarisation in the South China Sea, and the process requires joint efforts from countries in the region and beyond," he said.

US State Department spokesman John Kirby on Thursday said that commercial satellite imagery suggested "very recent" placement of missiles on Yongxing Island that went against China's pledge not to militarize the South China Sea, Reuters reported.

In response to the accusation, Hong said the US is strengthening military deployment in the South China Sea and frequently sends military vessels or planes to conduct close-in reconnaissance against China.

## Jat protest: Railway station set on fire, Army conducts flag march in Haryana

**Agency Chandigarh, Feb. 20:** Fresh incidents of violence were reported in Haryana on Saturday as the Jat stir for job quotas intensified with protestors torching a railway office in Jind and blocking traffic at major highways.

To bring the situation under control, the Army on Saturday conducted a flag march in two curfew-bound districts and used helicopters to reach parts of the blocked Rohtak district.

The Army could not enter Rohtak through road as protesters had put up blockades on Delhi, Hisar, Rohtak, and Fazilka highways, forcing the authorities to air drop them, official said.

As the protest intensified, some unidentified persons set on fire the Budha Khera railway station in Jind district on Saturday morning. The furniture, record room and other

articles were set on fire at the railway station, which falls in the Jind-Panipat rail section, police said.

Haryana DGP YP Singhal said that police have managed to unblock jams at many places.

"Flag march is underway in affected areas. I am sure the situation will normalise soon," Haryana DGP YP Singhal said.

Chief minister Manohar Khattar issued a fresh appeal to the people to maintain peace. "I appeal to all my fellow Haryanvis to maintain law & order in the State, and ensure that harmony is maintained in society," Khattar tweeted.

Normal life was crippled in Rohtak, the epicentre of the ongoing agitation, and in Bhiwani and some other areas, with rail and road traffic hit, and shops, commercial establishments and

schools remaining closed.

Rampaging mobs had held some policemen captive besides setting ablaze the house of state's finance minister Abhimanyu and several government and private properties in Rohtak, Jhajjar, Hansi and several other parts of the state.

Protesters had also targeted police and private vehicles, buildings housing offices, including two Toll Plazas at Hansi in Hisar district and near Rohtak, both located on the Delhi-Hisar-Fazilka National Highway.

Sporadic incidents of violence and arson were reported at several places overnight despite authorities imposing curfew and issuing shoot at sight orders at Rohtak and Bhiwani besides prohibitory orders in Hisar, Jhajjar, Jind, Kaithal and Panipat.