

Editorial

Imphal, Saturday, June 11, 2016

Sorry, Senapatian (Let's start correcting self)

It is now clear, the external forces which has been trying to distort the unity among the various community of the state has successfully implanted the feeling of enmity by now. A Samaritan gesture for those travellers stranded during the 24 hour total shut called by JAC formed against the 3 ILPS related Bills, has been misinterpreted and section of people including we in the Imphal Times had believed on what has been told by some people who identified themselves to be from among those passengers of vehicles stranded at Senapati district. We expressed our sincere regrets to our news report which misled the people of the state about what had happened on that day. However, we do make ourselves clear that since the dateline of our newspaper is at 3 pm we do have certain limitation in getting accurate report. Having said so, it's not an excuse to the wrong we have committed but a sincere apology.

It is now time that people of the state which has been staying together from time immemorial ponder upon why the apple of discord on any issues - be it the Naga issue, ILPS issue, ST issue, the AFSPA issue or environmental issues, people inhabiting in the region had stopped voicing together. When the Manipur Govt. had perfect reason to keep intact the territorial boundary of the state, which was once an Asiatic kingdom, the leadership of the NSCN-IM too have their legitimate argument to fight for the right of the Naga people. When the government of Manipur felt it important for introduction of a legislation to check the influx of illegal migrants it is natural that some brothers who had conditionally taken refuge from the neighbouring countries but become very much a part of us worried about their fate. As this was clear as the Hills brethren are only against the clause (b) of article 2 of the Protection of Manipur People Bill, 2015 which describe the meaning of "Manipur people" as those persons of Manipur, whose name are in the National Register of Citizens, 1951, census Report 1951 and Village Directory of 1951. It is also right for some meitei people to felt secure if protected by a system called ST but it is no wrong that history and pride of the Meitei people will be in jeopardy by doing so.

With the fact that there are differences among the various communities on certain sentimental issues, various other issues which have been suppressing all the community of the region cannot be fight together. For example, each of us in the region knows the reality of the brutality committed by the draconian laws AFSPA, 1958. The incident of Operation 'Blue Bird' in Oinam, the involuntarily made disappearance of many youths, shooting of youths in fake encounter so and so is still a talk. But only one lady, whom we gave the title - "Iron Lady" called from Chanu Sharmila is fighting alone for repeal of the draconian act. Somewhere, something has seriously gone wrong. Even as each of us wrote many times - "together we stand, divided we fall", we in this part of the region never stand united. Why? We the Imphal Times today say sorry for a wrong we reported in our newspaper yesterday, why can't anybody come forward and say sorry to the wrongs that had been committed so that we stand together to challenge any force which come to disintegrate us. To the mainlanders - Nagas, Kukis, Meitei are all same, why should we be divided?

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TENDER NOTICE

Imphal, 10th June, 2016

No. 10/2010-MARSAC(DMSM)/pt-I: In supersession to earlier Tender Notice of even No. dated 1st Feb., 2016, sealed rate tenders are invited from the intending firms/agency for supply of Dell inspiron laptop 5000 series (5th generation) - 2(two) nos. Details can be had from the website : www.manipur.gov.in . Last date of submission of rate quotation shall be 2.00 p.m. of 25th June, 2016 and shall be opened at 3.00 p.m. of the same day at the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-
Dr. N. Randhir Singh
Director, MARSAC

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Contd. from previous issue

Framework for a Shared Future.....

In a way it is good that the differences have come out into the open. And therefore we know that peaceful resolutions have to be found to these issues confronting Manipur. I believe civil society in Manipur, especially the Meiteis should also recognize the inherent conflict that exist and do more in finding solutions by way of dialogue and collaboration. Differences will not go away but if we can find more meeting points, a way forward can happen.

Here as an observer, I want to plant some ideas that can be debated in the near future.

It will be helpful if the idea of a federal model can be revisited and studied in-depth so that the multinational and ethnic character of Manipur can be enhanced and protected.

Federalism is not something new to us. India is also a Federal Union of States. Centre-State relations function on the principle of division of powers. What we have to do is take a re-look at federalism at the State level giving more autonomy to regions.

A few years ago (November 5, 2007 to be precise) former Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh while speaking at the inauguration of the International Conference on Federalism in New Delhi had this to say.

"We need, at times, creative thinking and redesign of institutions to allow the federal concept to adjust to emerging realities".

And therefore, a redesign of the present federal system is required at the State level in order to govern some of the difficult regions in India, especially in the North East such as Assam and Manipur with its multi-ethnic geography and demography. I have already spoken (in the earlier context of Naga integration) about the provisions of Article 244A that can be applied for giving more autonomy to regions.

The challenge for Manipur as I see it is this. It needs to examine the status quo and adjust to evolving realities. Your history is proof that Manipur can evolve as a dynamic entity because you have always shown that all communities can live in peaceful co-existence. You have done it before and you can do it again. But yes, the new found aspiration of different sections of people will have to be heard and accommodated.

Without having to blindly adopt western systems, in a State like Manipur which has its own unique problems as well as the genius of minds, I believe that federalism as a concept has to show ingenuity and innovation in managing these complex problems and contradictions you are faced with. And through this, hopefully you will be able to evolve a unified framework and continue to promote the ideals of a peaceful and inclusive society.

If we can write a new political narrative, the ideals of peace, democracy and integration, so crucial to Manipur at this juncture, can be put in place.

These are of course only the broad contours of what will require more discussion and wide ranging consultations at all levels. The idea though is to foster and allow diversity to coexist in a unified framework—one that perhaps does not exist at present or at least is insufficient.

A Greater Northeast—The idea of 'region-states'

Any discussion on the North East will be incomplete if we don't mention about the Look East Policy of the Government of India, which has now changed to the Act East Policy under the present Narendra Modi led BJP government. Despite the criticisms that may be there I believe that by and large, this policy has the potential to bring both economic benefits and greater

integration to the region.

A book titled: "Beyond Borders—Look East Policy and North East India" edited by Dilip Gogoi begins with this profound statement: "Southeast Asia begins where North East India ends". According to the author, "this distinctiveness places the North East in a unique geographical and political space". Also consider the fact that the North East region shares 98 percent international borders with Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Bhutan and Nepal but it shares just 2 percent of its borders with mainland India.

The question is whether we in the region have tapped into this socio-economic potential to unite and grow?

You will agree with me that the theme of today's lecture FRAMEWORK FOR A SHARED FUTURE—is very much relevant in the context of India's Act East Policy.

If I may add here, the success of the Act East Policy will depend to a large extent on how New Delhi, the respective State governments and people in the region are able to foster the elements of peace, democracy and integration in their policy framework and public discourse.

I believe that grand development projects such as building roads and railway lines; power transmission; oil exploration; mobile/telecom connectivity or securing the borders; these will be the 'hardware' elements if we go by the language and logic of computer science.

And therefore in order to successfully run this hardware we will require the software components to be in place i.e. peace, resolutions, a democratic order and integration of the people. A holistic approach is therefore required.

Despite our diversity or differences as people, whether Meitei, Naga, Kuki, Mizo, Karbi, Ahom, we should tap into what I believe is an underlying sense of unity. It may not be a political unity but certainly one that is based on shared values, common history and geography, cultural affinities, history of peaceful coexistence as neighbours and the hope of a common future.

I believe a kind of subconscious unity among the North East people already exist. We need to build on this underlying sense of unity. I believe that our common identity as people of the North East region is a comparative advantage that needs to be tapped. All we need is greater dialogue and interaction at the level of civil society.

Then of course, economic development of the North East region should be the other unifying force.

The more I think of it the more I am drawn into this idea of a Greater North East region.

The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, during the inauguration of the Hornbill Festival at Kohima on December 2014 described the entire Northeast region as a "Natural Economic Zone" - NEZ - and mentioning that this potential had so far remained untapped. He went on to say that the Government of India's priority is to nourish the NEZ for the benefit of the NE (North East).

So you see even at the highest political level there is recognition of evolving some kind of integration that goes beyond borders. The question is whether the Meiteis, Nagas, Kukis or for that matter the other neighbours are ready for such initiatives?

In the book 'Beyond Borders...' that I have referred to earlier, one of the strategies suggested is that of having a shared economic integration with an imagined future 'region-states'.

The concept of 'region-states' is worth studying in the context of North East India. This concept is

coined by Kenichi Ohmae. According to him, region-states are natural economic zones and they may fall within a country or they may straddle the borders of two or more countries.

Perhaps Prime Minister Modi was referring to this idea of 'region-states' when he described the entire North East region as a 'Natural Economic Zone'. Cross-border and inter-regional cooperation, which is also central to the idea of 'Naga integration' as earlier mentioned, will hopefully assist in a significant way in the process of moving towards greater unity and connectivity, not just of the Naga areas but the North-Eastern States of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh and its people.

At least in Europe, a conscious effort has been made to frame policies on cross-border cooperation with the larger goal of working towards "European territorial co-operation". The idea or premise behind such an approach, whether we call it region-states, cross-border cooperation or integration beyond borders, is to dilute the border effect and promote

both social and economic cohesion; to contribute towards peace, security and respect for the rights of minorities.

Policy makers in India should also study such arrangements and incorporate similar ideas into its system wherever it is required and feasible to do so. Some of the problems in India that are related to economic backwardness, ethnic unrest, geographical isolation, administrative disconnect and political alienation could do with out-of-the-box imaginative solutions like the ones mentioned above.

I think the sky is the limit when it comes to developing the North East region as an entity. If we can resolve and set aside our differences and work on commonalities, there is hope for the future. Looking at the larger picture of the region as a whole therefore, finding answers to the question of peace, democracy and integration is going to determine to a large extent our place in the world.

We need to work on a 'framework for a shared future' of the region.

(To be contd)

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

CORRIGENDUM

Imphal the 10th June, 2016-06-11

No. 1/13(6)/2014-LA (E) RCTT: Please read as "14-6-2016 to 15-06-2016" in place of "13-06-2016 to 14-06-2016" appeared at last portion of the first para and "201 to 417" as "201 to 423" appeared at column 2 of Sl. No. 2 of this Secretariat Notification of even number dated 09-06-2016 for the post of LDA.

Sd/-
G. Tapankumar Sharma
Deputy Secretary (Admn)
Manipur Legislative Assembly

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

NOTIFICATION

Imphal, the 9th June, 2016

No. 1/13(6)/2014-LA(E)/Rctt.: It is hereby informed to all the candidates who have failed to appear the viva-voce for direct recruitment to the post of Compositor, Security man and Security woman in the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat due to the present law and order situation in the state that the viva-voce for the above posts will be held on the date time given below :

Sl.No.	Name of posts	Date	Time
1.	Compositor	16-06-2016	11:00am
2.	Security man/woman	16-06-2016	11:30am

All the candidates are, therefore, informed to appear for the said viva-voce on the date and time as shown above and collect admcard on or before the scheduled date without fail.

Sd/-
(G. Tapankumar Sharma)
Deputy Secretary (Admn).
Manipur Legislative Assembly

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

NOTIFICATION

Imphal, the 9th June, 2016

No. 1/13(6)/2014-LA(E)/Rctt.: It is hereby informed to all the candidates already appeared for speed test (Computer typing) for direct recruitment to the post of LDA in the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat held from 17-05-2016 to 24-05-2016 that the viva-voce for the said post will be held from 14-06-2016 to 15-06-2016.

Sl.No.	Roll No.	Date	Time
1.	1 to 200	14-06-2016	11:00am
2.	201 to 423	15-06-2016	11:00am

All the candidates are, therefore, informed to appear for the said viva-voce on the date and time as shown above without fail.

Sd/-
(G. Tapankumar Sharma)
Deputy Secretary (Admn).
Manipur Legislative Assembly