

# Editorial

Imphal, Monday, May 2, 2016

## Regressive civilization

"The better part of valor is restraint" - goes the saying - one that has been proven true time and again. Yet the recent incident where a large mob of premeditated minds descended on a small group of settlements causing destruction and mayhem can only be described as an act of instigated manifestation of misplaced bravery. The question protecting a self proclaimed god man or his follower is not the issue here but it is rather the act of mob who took the law in their hand. In this age when everyone is in the race for development, the regressive act puts a blot on the attempts of the societies to come up and be counted at par with other more advanced cultures and societies. Without going into the cause which led to such a drastic show of destructive force, of which there may be many, the fact remains that kangaroo courts are a too common occurrence in our parts of the region. The inefficient and protracted proceedings of the courts of law not doing much by way of helping the general public to repose their trust and respect in the legal system of the land.

Having said that, to alienate the system, rather than to give a hand at restoring the basic structures of the institution to strengthen it and help regain it's waning credibility would be to destroy the very fabric with which our society is being woven out of. We, as citizens of a society should be pragmatic enough to understand and accept our part of the blame, and try to rectify them instead of shifting the blame on the next convenient entity. How many of us have sought out our responsibilities towards our society - even if it with half the passion and intensity with which we clamor for our rights and entitlements? We should repose and believe in the social set-up, however flawed it may seem - the only alternative would be for each one in the society to take the law - or their own interpretations of it, in their own hands. That would be the perfect recipe for a journey back in time when the survival of the fittest still holds true.

Let us believe in ourselves as civilized humans and the system we have collectively created, as differentiated and far evolved from the rest of the animals existing on this planet. There will always be conflict of interests and clash of opinions - a positive sign of mental growth and development. It's how we settle these differences that will ultimately justify our tall claims of being developed and civilized. No one can and no one should play the creator, the sustainer and the destroyer. We don't need a society of Edi Amins. Heck - we don't need even a single Edi Amin.

## Toddler rescued 4 days after Kenya building collapse

**Nairobi, May 3:** Kenyan rescuers pulled an 18-month-old toddler alive from the rubble of a six-storey building on Tuesday, four days after the block collapsed killing 23 people, police said. "Good news!" Kenya Red Cross said. "A child aged about one and half years rescued alive at 0400 hours (0100 GMT) and referred to Kenyatta National Hospital." The Red Cross said the little girl was found "in a bucket wrapped in a blanket" and was dehydrated but without visible physical injuries. She had been there for 80 hours since the building, which was home to 150 families crammed into single rooms, collapsed on Friday night. Nairobi police chief Japheth Kome called it a "miracle" and said the emergency services were continuing their rescue efforts. Police said the death toll from the

tragedy rose to 23 on Tuesday after two more bodies were found. Located in the poor, tightly-packed Huruma neighbourhood, the building had been slated for demolition after being declared structurally unsound. But an evacuation order for the structure, which was built near a river just two years ago, was ignored. Five people are to appear in court on Tuesday to face manslaughter charges over the incident. Several buildings have collapsed in recent years in Nairobi and other Kenyan cities, where a property boom has seen buildings shoot up at speed, often with scant regard for building regulations. The deaths in Huruma bring to at least 30 the number of people who have died in Nairobi since the weekend in accidents linked to floods caused by torrential rains.

## Gold biscuits worth Rs. 60 lakh seized from Mumbai airport

**Mumbai, May 3:** Gold biscuits worth Rs. 60 lakhs were seized from a passenger at the Mumbai's Chatrapati Shivaji International (CSI) airport on Tuesday. 19 biscuits weighing 2204 gms were

found inside a washing machine motor belonging to a passenger landing from Riyadh. The said individual has been detained for questioning. Further details are awaited.

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## National and International News

# State has authority to regulate admissions, fee of private-run professional colleges: SC

**New Delhi, May 3:** Holding that the right to establish and administer educational institutions comes with "clutches and shackles", the Supreme Court on Monday ruled that the State's authority to regulate admissions and fixing of fee by private unaided professional education institutions is a "reasonable restriction" in the larger public interest.

A Constitution Bench led by Justice Anil R. Dave held that the right to establish and administer of private unaided professional institutions is not absolute, but subject to the regulatory powers of the State meant to check profiteering and commercialisation of education. "With liberalisation, the government has encouraged

establishments of privately managed institutions. It is done with the hope that the private sector will play vital role in the field of education with philanthropic approach/ideals in mind as this activity is not to be taken for the purpose of profiteering, but more as a societal welfare." Justice A.K. Sikri, who authored the judgment for the Bench, observed.

The court held that commercialisation of education will not be tolerated and the government has a vital role to see that private institutions, especially professional ones, are meant to spread education and not to make money.

The court said how there are regulatory bodies in all vital industries like insurance, electricity and power,

telecommunications. "Thus, it is felt that in any welfare economy, even for private industries, there is a need for regulatory body and such a regulatory framework for education sector becomes all the more necessary," Justice Sikri wrote.

The court was hearing a batch of petitions filed by private self-financing medical and dental colleges against a Madhya Pradesh law - Niji Vyavasayik Shikshan Sanstha (Pravesh Ka Viniyaman Avam Shulk Ka Nirbharan) Adhinyam, 2007 - which sought to regulate admission and fixation of fee for post graduate courses in private professional educational institutions in the State.

This law also provided reservation of seats to persons

belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in professional educational institutions.

The colleges had argued that the law infringed their fundamental right under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution to lay down the eligibility criteria for admission and admit the students as well as fix their own fee. They quoted the 11-judge decision of the Supreme Court in T.M.A. Pai Foundation case to argue that right to administer educational institution is recognised as an 'occupation' under the Constitution.

They complained of how the law foisted "excessive" reservations on them, leaving hardly any seats for unreserved categories. (courtesy- The Hindu)

## Highlight achievements of govt., Modi tells party MPs

**New Delhi, May 3:** BJP Parliamentary Party's meeting discusses the party's strategy for the debate on the VVIP chopper deal.

With his government set to complete two years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday listed the Mudra scheme, increased LPG coverage and electrification of villages as its major achievements and asked BJP MPs to take these "successes" to the people.

At the Parliamentary Party's meeting, which was attended by the top brass of the government and the party, including its chief Amit Shah, the Prime Minister maintained that the commitment that the government had made to the people has been fulfilled. The issue of VVIP chopper scam, over which the BJP has targeted Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, was also taken up at its Parliamentary

Party meet and the Rajya Sabha will debate it on Wednesday and the Lok Sabha on May 6, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Rajiv Pratap Rudy said after the meet.

The meeting also saw Mr. Modi and veteran leader L K Advani paying rich tributes to Balraj Madhok, one of the founders of Bhartiya Jana Sangh, who died here on Monday.

Briefing the media after the meeting, Mr. Rudy said, "The Prime Minister noted that the government as well as the Lok Sabha members will complete two years of their term. Mudra scheme, ongoing electrification of 18,000 villages, bringing over 3 crore families under the LPG network and distribution of cheap LED lights were cited as major successes. He asked the members

to take them to people".

The Modi government was sworn in on May 26, 2014.

Condoling the death of Madhok, Mr. Modi said he had spoken to him recently and his commitment to ideology and philosophy had remained as strong as ever.

Mr. Advani also recalled his association with him and said he had a contribution in the rise of the party.

## Shimla witnesses hottest day of season

**ANI Shimla (HP), May 3:** The hot weather conditions in northern India intensified on Monday with Shimla recording its highest temperatures of the season. Temperature in Himachal Pradesh has gone up by 5 to 6 degree up from the normal. The temperature during two days in the hill resort

Shimla and other parts of the town has gone up with 6 degree above from the normal. Shimla recorded highest of the present season at 29.8 degree Celsius on Sunday and Una recorded at 43 degree Celsius. Other areas have also recorded over 35 degree during the past 24 hours. Nahan recorded 37.1,

Sundernagar 39.4, Solan recorded 34.2 degree Celsius.

The local weather department has forecasted western disturbance and is expecting rains in the region.

The local residents believe that the increasing heat can bring troubles to the people in the town in days to come.

Contd. from yesterday's issue

# Is 32,000 years of Meitei civilization a sign of tribalism?

By: *Ningmbam Bupenda Meitei*

It is the western invention of a term 'tribe' that has become a politically and socially motivated tool to constitutionally label some children of the same ancestor as 'tribe' while the other child as 'non-tribe'. If this understanding is accepted, then there shall be no confusion over who can claim the rightful heir to the first original inhabitant of Manipur, the Manipur Pleistocene modern human. Otherwise, there could be a discourse to discuss the possibility and eligibility of who will be called as the second, the third or the fourth original inhabitant of Manipur; whether the time gap between the first original inhabitant and the second original inhabitant of Manipur can be in terms of thousands or hundreds of years. Can there be two different original inhabitants of the same place? Should not the first original inhabitant be only considered as the "only original inhabitant" of the geographical space? Will the status of 'the first original inhabitant' be threatened if there is an attempt to bring in a newly created status called 'the another original inhabitant'? There is a school of thought which believes that all modern humans were, once upon a time, tribes, and therefore, all modern men and women originated from the tribal societies. But, such acceptance will be hard for the Queen of England or the Pope of the Vatican City or the Archbishop of Canterbury to digest, in today's context. Hence, all are not tribes because all can be tribes, and its reason, perhaps, could be all were not tribes. Yet, this notion of 'tribe' and its constitutionality, in today's world of constitutional rights, have become a point of fissure, more than fusing the tribal and the non - tribal, between the tribes and the non - tribe. Can such fissure result to a volcanic eruption oozing out the past distinctions between the tribes and the non - tribe? Or, can such fissure be concealed forever if such past distinctions are reconciled and

harmonized with the acceptability of the notion that all are the children of the same common ancestor? The entire children of the same common ancestor must be given almost similar access to what any child of the entire children gets or is entitled to. If that is so, then the entire children must be either called tribal or non - tribal, because the distinction of the same children into two categories as tribal vs non - tribal means that the children are not of the same common ancestor. Then, the notion of the children belonging to different ancestors could create a complex question of - who are the original descendants of the original first inhabitant of Manipur - the Manipur Pleistocene modern human? In today's Manipur, after 1949 when Manipur and India were governed by one Constitution called 'Indian Constitution', the notion of dividing the tribe vs the non - tribal is becoming more vivid and explicit. The question is - why? The reason is not only in the Constitution of India that has listed the other tribes of Manipur in Scheduled Tribe category while Meiteis were and are not yet listed as Scheduled Tribe, but more fundamentally important than it is the question of who the descendants of the first original inhabitant of Manipur are. If the Queen of England does not claim herself to be a tribal, then why should any king of Manipur in Meitei civilization ever claim that he was a tribal? If the Pope of Rome or the Archbishop of Canterbury does not admit that he is a tribe, then why should any ancient Meitei intellectual or a Meitei high priest or ancient Meitei scholar accept that he too was a tribe? But, the larger question is - if Meiteis claim that they were not tribal, it also means that they were not the same as the other tribes were, and therefore, it is an acceptance of a clear distinction between the two different humans - the Meiteis and the other tribes, who can not be the children of the

same common ancestor. If the Meiteis and the other tribes can not be the descendants of the same common ancestor, then who will claim the heritage, rights, ownership, position of heirship of the original first inhabitant of Manipur, the Manipur Pleistocene modern human? Can such claim be rightfully taken only by the Meiteis or the other tribes or rather, which tribe among the other tribes? But, the Meitei civilization is a testimony of the larger role of Meiteis in the making and safeguarding of the ancient civilization which was sown by the first original inhabitant of Manipur - the Manipur Pleistocene modern human in Manipur. Again, the question does not end here, as the next inquiry is - whether the common ancestor, the first original inhabitant Pleistocene modern human of Manipur, of the Meiteis was a tribal or not. If that Pleistocene modern human of Manipur, also the first original inhabitant of Manipur, is recorded or discovered to be a tribal, then Meiteis too can not claim that they are not tribal, by looking at their ancestry which was tribal. But, if that Pleistocene modern human was not a tribal, then it shall be an imposition of false history to accept that Meiteis were also tribal in the past. Was the first original inhabitant Pleistocene modern human in Manipur, also considered to be the ancestor of the Meiteis, tribal or not? - is for the modern natural sciences to dissect and research. To accept that Meiteis should be given Scheduled Tribe status because they were tribal in the past, it could mean that the Meiteis and the other tribes had the first original inhabitant Pleistocene modern human as their only common ancestor, and hence all, including the Meiteis and the other tribes, who are the descendants of the same common ancestor, must be given equal share to every opportunity in Manipur, which

was firstly founded by none other than the first inhabitant - the Pleistocene modern human - 30,000 years ago. Therefore, all the tribes - including the Meiteis and the other tribes have every right to have an access to any right, which is constitutionally valid in today's context, in Manipur.

To reject the Meiteis from getting listed as Scheduled Tribe status because they were not tribal in the past, it could mean that the Meiteis and the other tribes did not have the first original inhabitant Pleistocene modern human as their only common ancestor, instead they had different ancestors, and hence, the Meiteis and the other tribes are still different. But, the question - who are the original inhabitants of Manipur? - can only be answered by none other than the original descendants of the original first inhabitant of Manipur, the Pleistocene modern human, who sowed the ancient civilization since 30,000 BCE. This also could further question whether the other tribes, of Manipur today, who enjoy the status of Scheduled Tribe today under the Indian Constitution have the same right of heirship to Manipur as claimed by the descendants of the first original inhabitant of Manipur - the Manipur Pleistocene modern human. How can the descendants of another ancestor, who is not the first original inhabitant of Manipur, claim as the original inhabitants of Manipur since time immemorial? The time, here, indeed, is not immemorial, as it began in 30,000 BCE by the ancestor whose lineage and civilization are preserved by the Meitei civilization till today. Therefore, the Meiteis and the other tribes can not have the same right to have an access to every right, which is constitutionally valid in today's context, in Manipur.

(To be contd...)

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