

Editorial

Imphal Friday, September 23, 2016

Free & Fair Election: Are you sure Dr. Nasim Zaidi?

Even though the scheduled for the upcoming 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election has not yet been announced, it is speculated somewhere around January last or beginning of February in 2017. This is assumed as the tenure of the 10th Manipur Legislative Assembly is completing in and around the said time. The recent visit of the ECI team headed by the CEC Dr. Nasim Zaidi is significant as the scepticism of possible malpractice during the election is a serious concern not only for the non-congress political parties contesting the election but also for the politically sensitive people of the state. It is an open secret that the ruling Congress party in the state government is tactfully utilising its power by inviting youths for the large scale recruitment at various government department for its election purpose. The matter was put to the notice of the CEC during his visit by various non-congress political parties and it is fortunate for the people that the Commission had taken note of it seriously. The assurance of the CEC to conduct the entire poll in a free, fair, peaceful and participatory manner is worth appreciating. But, will it be possible? Manipur is all set to witness the 11th State Legislative Assembly Election since it regained statehood on January 21, 1972. At almost all elections conducted, particularly in the state of Manipur, not even a single political critic had ever mentioned that - the election was total free and fair. It was only the Election Office authority that said that except some few ignorable incidents at some polling booths, the election held was more or less peaceful and a successful one. But the reality is known to everyone, inside the polling station, booth capturing for a particular candidate, threats to workers of specific candidates, boycotting of candidates in specific localities, kidnapping etc. are the reality during election. The introduction of EVM to control booth rigging, the completion of the Photo Electoral roll preparation and the near completion of EPIC and the assurance to install maximum number of CCTV camera at polling Booths to webcast the election process is a commendable effort of the Election Commission of India as it is an effort to reduce malpractice in the election. But one thing still remain sceptical to the politically sensitive electorate of the state is that, will the CEC of ECI be able to put halt to all the recruitment process that is already half way today. And if not how could the people believe that there will be a free and fair election at which they don't exactly have any power on either to declare the code-of-conduct on their will. At the time when the CEC announce about the enforcement code-of-conduct, already the recruitment process will be over. If so, then Congress party is surely moving a step ahead of all other political party while contesting the election.

HC stays reservation to economically weaker in admission to Haryana's medical colleges

Chandigarh, Sept 23: Punjab and Haryana High Court has stayed the 10 percent reservation given to economically weaker sections in admission to Haryana's medical colleges. The High Court bench, yesterday, granted stay, while hearing a writ petition in which it was pleaded that the reservation could be given to socially and economically backward sections only and reservation on only economic basis is illegal. The counsel of the petitioner giving reference of Indra Sahni Case of

Supreme Court today pleaded for granting stay on it. The reservation to people of economically weaker sections having annual income less than 2 lakh 40 thousand, was given by the previous government in 2013 by issuing a notification. It is not clear whether the order would affect the admissions done during the session in other courses, schools and colleges and jobs as the petitioner has challenged the notification by which the quota was given.

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Modi's Biggest Diplomatic Win over Pakistan Modi Will Make 'Pakistan Bleed' Without Noise!

By : Mahesh Vikram Hegde

Since yesterday there has been lot of emotions running with regard to UriAttack. We saw many people demanding immediate retaliation, to declare war on Pakistan, to curb media, separatists playing in the hands of Pakistan. But not many know the action against Pakistan is being planned since months, it's not a mere fully fledged war game but a powerful ploy that will finish Pakistan forever. There is saying "If your plan is for one year plant rice. If your plan is for ten years plant trees. If your plan is for one hundred years educate children " But don't expect any plans on Pakistan to be announced on news channels or social media like the previous government. Yes, Indians are used to debating every small or big issue on news to the level of saturation. But this strategic issues are not the ones to be discussed on media.

You can see the result only. The First WIN is getting Russia cancel the Joint Military Operation with Pakistan in PoK from September 24th to October 7th. And on Indian request Russia will not supply MIG-35 to Pakistan. Some may feel it's not big a deal. But unless you know how this will affect Pakistan you cannot analyse the impact. Russia is the second most powerful country in terms of military. There support to our enemy would have posed serious threat in dealing with Pakistan which now has been averted. How India Will Play The Game... Presently the countries which are supporting India are US, UK, Russia, France, Japan, Vietnam, Israel, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia. YES Saudi is supporting India (Now we understand what Modi was doing in Saudi). These countries are completely against Pakistan and

China. So India has gained the support of most powerful countries of the world and have promised to isolate Pakistan internationally. There has been a pact made by India, Iran and Afghanistan on the Chahabar port which is situated in the Persian Gulf, this was specifically done to bypass all trade and transport which goes through Pakistan. Although the project was started in 2003 during Vajpayee government, to tackle the Pakistan-China joint venture Gwadar port situated just 72km from Chahabar port the UPA showed no interest to take this forward. This pact is costed Pakistan huge economic loss. Afghanistan has promised India to provide BASE to military operation if India strikes WAR against Pakistan. So we can engulf Pakistan from all sides. If at all China supports Pakistan against India, it will be the biggest mistake as Japan, Vietnam and

Saudi will stand by India. And definitely US will protest against China as they are looking to curb China's growth in East-Asia. Indian media may not have shown this, but Pakistani strategists and policy makers have said **Modi will Destroy Pakistan without War!** And yes it is true, **Modi is not for war, but he will make Pakistan Bleed without making Noise!** There may be retaliations and surgical strikes but not WAR. Once Pakistan is economically and financially weak, WAR will be far more risk to handle, which is when India plans to take back what belongs to us! War is no game, any country's economy will be hit during war, and some people will blame Modi if prices go up after War! **Remember Modi is not looking for temporary gain and transient solution, but for a PERMANENT SOLUTION.**
(Courtesy: Postcard.in)

National & International News

India to ink deal with France

New Delhi, Sept 23: India is likely to ink a deal for direct acquisition of 36 Rafale fighter jets from France on Friday. The negotiations to buy the Rafale fighter jets came through on Wednesday. French Defence Minister Yves Le Drian is arriving today to finalise the deal which will cost India Euros 7.8 billion. The development comes after the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) discussed the deal and gave the green signal to go ahead with its signing to give a crucial boost to the Indian Air Force. Both India and France had hoped to wrap up the strategic order during French President Francois Hollande's visit for the Republic Day celebrations in January this year, but the bargaining over the price stalled the process.

Two more medical colleges served notice

Courtesy: TOI Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 23: The admission supervisory committee for professional colleges- Justice James Panel - has issued notices to two more self-financing medical college managements directing the institutions to take immediate steps to ensure transparency in admission of candidates to MBBS seats in management quota. The committee asked Azeezia Medical College to give time till 5pm on Wednesday for candidates to submit applications rectifying mistakes pointed by the institution for rejecting the forms. The committee also asked P K Das Institute of Medical Sciences to

give time for candidates to rectify mistakes in their applications. "The complainants shall appear with required documents and fees before the college principal on Wednesday, between 10:00am and 01:00pm," the committee said while considering the complaints it received against the college. The panel, which held the hearing of five private medical colleges on Tuesday, had asked majority of the college managements to give one more chance to the complainants to submit required documents. Most of the complainants alleged that their applications were rejected on flimsy grounds and in some cases the rank lists published were incomplete.

Strong 6.4 quake hits eastern Japan

Tokyo, Sept 23: A strong earthquake struck off the coast of eastern Japan on Friday, though there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The shallow 6.4 magnitude quake hit at 9:14 AM, about 150 kilometre east-southeast of Katsura city, the US Geological Survey said. There was no threat of a tsunami, added the Japan Meteorological Agency, which measured it at a slightly higher 6.5 magnitude. A massive undersea quake however that hit in March 2011 sent a tsunami barreling into Japan's northeast coast, leaving more than 18,000 people dead or missing, and sending three reactors into meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear plant.

Contd. from previous issue

Human rights issues in Manipur and participation of Tangkhul women

Many public leaders, political leaders, journalists and student leaders, voiced their concern and sent representations to the government, but no official commission of enquiry was set forth. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Superintendent of Police were also wrongly confined, humiliated and prevented from discharging their duty by the Assam Rifles. The Chief Minister was also rendered helpless in protecting the villagers from the atrocities of the Assam Rifles as he was not allowed to enter the sealed village. (Koheni, op.cit.). The Civil Liberties and Human Rights Organisation (CLAHRO) was the first to file a petition in the Guwahati High Court for the release of the people who have been illegally confined in the village. Against this backdrop, the TSL also launched a protest rally along with other organisations in the Ukhrul District on 4 September 1987. The protest rally was organised in Ukhrul town and was attended by thousands of men and women. A public meeting was also held and the TSL leader Ms. Ayung K. urged everyone to unite and fight against such kinds of injustice meted out to the innocent civilians of the neighbouring district, i.e. the Senapati District. Soon the TSL became one of the members of the Co-ordinating Committee formed in connection with the Oinam case. (History Committee TSL, op.cit., 35). As a member of the Co-ordinating Committee, the organisation gave all the necessary help and support to the Manipur Baptist Convention Women's Union (MBCWU) who filed a case against the Assam Rifles. The TSL also gave support to the NPMHR who also filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Guwahati High Court on behalf of the people of Oinam Village and its surrounding villages in October 1987. After five years, in 1992 the Guwahati High Court completed the hearing of

the NPMHR's petition but has kept the judgement reserved so far. (*Souvenir Nagalim - 50 Years of Resistance*, op.cit., 60). **9 May 1994 firing incident in Ukhrul Town:** On 9 May 1994, at around 5.00 PM suspected NSCN men gunned down two Assam Rifles officers namely Major Sunil Bakshi and Captain Labh Singh belonging to 20 Battalion of Assam Rifles. (History Committee Tangkhul Sahano Long, op.cit., 49). One Lance Naik was also injured. The incident took place some few yards away from the outpost of Ukhrul town. Following the attack the Assam Rifles fired indiscriminately and shelled about 20.2 inches mortars of high trajectory into the civil residential areas for more than one and half hour. (Memorandum submitted to His Excellency, Lt. Gen. V.K Nayar (Rtd), the then Governor of Manipur, through DC of Ukhrul on 2 June 1994 at the protest rally organized by All Naga Student Association Manipur (ANSAM) at Ukhrul, p.2). It killed three persons of the population of the town. Those killed in the incident were Mrs. S. Matholia (46) of Grihang Village, Mr Panghom Shimrah (83) of Ukhrul and Mr K. Sochin (12) of Maren village (Ibid., 4). Apart from killing the civilians, the 20th Assam Rifles firing left many residential houses, government offices, educational institutions riddled with bullets and shrapnel of mortars. Even the household properties were smashed and destroyed. From the night of 9 May 1994 till the morning of 10 May 1994 the Assam Rifles went berserk. In connection of this, the TSL organised a protest rally against the high handedness of the Assam Rifles and demanded the removal of AFSPA, 1958. The TSL, together with other student organisations, also brought the tragic

episode to the knowledge of various different organisations of the state. It highlighted the atrocities committed by the Assam Rifles to the civilians in Ukhrul town. Consequently, on 2 June 1994 a mammoth rally was organised in Ukhrul town which was attended by over 20,000 people. (History Committee TSL, op.cit.). Those organisations that joined hands with the TSL in the protest included People's Democratic Movement (PDM), Naga People's Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR), All Manipur United Clubs Organisation (AMUCO), All Manipur Student Union (AMSU), All Naga Students Association Manipur (ANSAM), Tangkhul Mayar Naga Long (TMNL), Tangkhul Naga Long (TNL), TKS etc. A memorandum was submitted by all the organisations to the then Governor of Manipur Lt. Gen. (Retd.) V.K. Nayar demanding the - *National Human Rights Commissions to visit Ukhrul; immediate removal of Security Forces posts located in the middle of the town; ex-gratia amounting to a sum of rupees one lakh each to be paid to the bereaved families; maximum compensation to be paid to the injured persons/ families; recovery of the looted amount of money, articles and properties to the owners; adequate compensation to be paid for the damaged properties; and befitting action against the officers and jawans responsible for the atrocities committed.* (Memorandum submitted to Lt. Gen. V.K Nayar, op.cit., 5). Finally, with more pressure coming from different organisations, the state government filed a case in the Guwahati High Court against the 20th Assam Rifles. (History Committee Tangkhul Shano Long, op.cit., 49). **15 August 1994 bomb blast incident in Ukhrul Town:** This was one of the incidents where one witnessed massive turn-out of

Tangkhul women to protect their men folk from atrocities by the armed personnel of the state. This time it was not so much the TSL but the common Tangkhul women who initially came out to protect their men folk. It so happened that the Independence Day celebration on 15 August 1994 was boycotted by the people of Ukhrul District as a protest against the issue of a Government order to deposit all licensed arms to the district police. On that day at around 8.30 a.m. a bomb planted by some unknown undergrounds blasted in the main market of Phungretiang in Ukhrul town injuring two civilians. Immediately after that, the 20th Assam Rifles men who were patrolling the area started firing bullets indiscriminately to the civilians around. People who were coming out from the Sunday Church Service were also arrested and beaten up. The District Forest Officer Shri L. Puni Mao (IFS) together with many civilians were arrested and the Assam Rifles tried to take them away in their camp. (History Committee TSL, op.cit., 47). At this point of time all the women folk who witnessed the scene came out boldly from their houses in the midst of the firing by the Assam Rifles. Those women who were coming from the Viewland Bazaar were fired upon by the Assam Rifles, yet they did not retreat in spite of the firings. As a result, thirteen women were injured. A First Information Report (FIR) to the Ukhrul police about the atrocities by the Assam Rifles was submitted by the TSL. (Zingkhai, op.cit., 36). A huge public meeting was also organised in the Tangkhul Naga Long ground and the President of the TSL strongly condemned the Assam Rifles for such an act. (*To be contd.....*)