

Editorial

Imphal Monday, April 10, 2017

Unfair, why over 2 lakhs voters are deprived of their political rights

The so called the largest democracy in the world, Where people from across the globe had appreciated for its unbiased attitude towards its citizen when it comes electing of peoples' representatives seems not to is not letting known the world community that, over 2 lakhs voters of 8 Assembly constituencies in the state of Manipur have not been allowed to contest in the Parliamentary Constituency Election even though they can cast their votes. Reason- the Parliamentary Constituency that they were included is a reserved seat for Scheduled Tribe Community. India is told to be the largest democracy in the world. But it is shocking to learn that the state of Manipur, which was merged to the Indian Union in the year 1949, was never given the full democratic rights. The reason for saying so may be well understood if we go back to the history since its merger to the Indian Union. Everyone knows that it took around 23 years to recognize this erstwhile kingdom as a state of India. Manipur after merger to the Indian Union was a part -C state rule by a Commissioner and later upgraded to Union territory in 1956. It became a full-fledged state on January 21, 1972. India being a subcontinent, has a total number 545 members of Parliament in the Lok Sabha and a total of 245 Rajya Sabha MP including 12 nominated members by the President of India. Of this 545, Manipur have only two MPs- one from the Outer Parliamentary Constituency, while the other from the Inner Manipur Parliamentary constituency. In addition to this 1 MP is sent to the Rajya Sabha. Matter wanted to bring here is the issue of those genuine citizen who can vote but not contest election because the seat is reserved for ST. Is it fair. As per data available from ECI website, total number of assembly constituencies for the Outer Manipur Parliamentary constituency is 28 while the remaining 28 is for the Inner Manipur Parliamentary constituency. Total electorate for the Inner is 826,755 while the total electorate for the outer is 9,09,496. (as per 2014 record). In the Inner Parliamentary constituency any of the voter, who are not convicted criminal, can contest election. While in the Outer Parliamentary constituency 2,15,164 voters of 8 Assembly constituencies including 7 from Thoubal and (now) Kakching district. The seven assembly constituencies in Thoubal and Kakching districts are Wangjing Tenthia, Khangabok, Wabagai, Kakching, Hiyanglam and Sugunu, while the other is Jiribam Assembly constituency. Now, it is time that the government of India demarcate the Manipur Parliamentary constituencies into 3 parts keeping one as reserved seat for Scheduled tribe (ST) community. Or else it would be better that these 8 assembly constituencies are included under Inner Parliamentary constituency where any voter can contest the election if desire.

NEFIS condemns Modi government's failure

In the recently concluded deals with the Bangladesh Prime Minister. Sheikh Hasina, India has renounced its duty to raise the issue of violence and atrocities committed against ethnic minorities in Bangladesh, most notably against the Chakma and Santhal tribal communities. It should be known that in Bangladesh, there has been a huge surge in atrocities against minorities and tribal communities in recent times, an issue against which the Indian Government failed to speak during the present visit of Bangladesh PM. The government however, actively pursuing the agenda of Indian businessmen inked business deals with Bangladesh PM. The issue of grave atrocities which should have been pro-actively taken up by the present BJP Government was neglected in order to create a convenient atmosphere for inking of deals which would be of no profit to the common people of both countries. Rather than building up a bond of solidarity with the exploited and victimized people in our neighbour countries, the Govt sees it fit to just be a tool for furthering the exploitative interests of Indian business class. North-East Forum for International Solidarity (NEFIS) therefore strongly condemns the neglect of BJP Govt to raise the issue of violence committed against the ethnic minorities, especially against Chakma and Santhal communities in Bangladesh.

- Chinglen Khumukcham, Convener, NEFIS

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Public Behavior; Hard Nut for New Rulers

By: Jinine Lai, Asst. Prof. University of Suwon, S Korea

Our new Chief Minister I guess, knows well that public has been insufficiently corrupt to have floated such a deficient society we have been going through. Yet, from the end of our energetic CM and his team, things are hopeful. Now, the nature of the response from "We, the People" is one critical source to get the desired accomplishment from the new government. Have we acknowledged our own weaknesses that caused multiple social illsnesses so far? Have we ever thought over leaving our sick behavior behind? Or will the new government have an iron hand; not less than Chinese Maoor Korean Chun Doo? In fact, there are very visible flaw and fragility in general behavior especially of the contemporary Meetei society. The indicators are - barbaric mobocracy, faulty festival of election, socially accepted corruption, brute traffic habit, offensive garbage disposition, men's ogling eyes on women, senseless food wastage, etc. Couple of picking up here.

1. Encouraging the Social Smugglers: After any incident of bomb and gun attacks by the extortionists at the landmark building which turns out to be house of the well to do families or bourgeoisie, the local-women raise their voices displaying neighbors' concerns launching sit-in-protests around the buildings.

It gives an ill indication of social response towards corruption and exploitation for it encourages public looters and social smugglers. Rather at such moment we have to remind the receivers of bombs and bullets - what they are receiving now is what they have just earned. We, the locals are well aware of how the owners of the towering houses have accumulated so much wealth but what we ignore is the crimes the rich committed. This is us who showing a good amount of undue respect to such critical population of thieves, looters and law breakers. Here, some questions are compelled to be raised - how has the breed of kidnapers and extortionists been surfaced on the soil? Why have they adopted such condemned means of earning? The best answer is the corruption although it is not of the lone factor. The majority whom receives the harsh tension of bombs and bullets is the privileged who work in the government offices. They are supposed to take important responsibilities towards the public service. They are the bureaucrat, engineers, doctors and other well to do families. Also there are many whom ministers, MLAs and other high ranking officers have poured favors and opportunities upon unfairly. This economically favored population has received so much inappropriate monetary gains and

material benefits supposed to go to the needy population. Their children are "Not Becoming" the condemned kidnapers and extortionists. The one of the loud reasons is that the majority of them have looted and packed so much for their own children; just robbed the rights and opportunity meant for the kidnapers. Thus, the extortionists have just missed the opportunities to become what they wanted to be once they wished for. No doubt, once they too wanted to be doctors, engineers, scientists and professors. They hardly thought of becoming actors of such violent engagement. This course of risky journey they are taking was destined. The government personnel ranging from the higher authority to lower clerks together robbed the educational facilities; they pocketed the money meant for school. Have clogged every economic rights should have flown towards the people who becoming bomb hurlers, kidnapers today.

2. Engaging in Mobocracy: Burn the houses, destroy the properties of the families of the suspect by the locals and relatives of victims who found murdered or found dead under suspicious condition has been turning out as a form of public reaction. The mob takes the law in their hands without fair judgment and rationality of the incidents and consequences. Each time the mobs make the innocent

family members of the alleged culprit eventual victims. The hyper reactive locals do not know what they are doing is not to the suspect but to the innocent children, parents, siblings and nearest of the suspect. The houses and household property that mobs have destroyed do not belong to the suspects hardly. In the very shocking incidents, the mobs have lynched parents. They throw the young children into a sudden darkness of the traumatized life and disaster. The locals and neighbors also know that they are lynching the sole custody of the children. "For what reason was our mother murdered so brutally?" This is one question with no one to answer, constantly haunting the young minds of the three children of Nursana and Mujibullah who were killed on 1 April 2011 at Sora, Thoubal District. In the cases of the mob acts against the drug/substance users whom suspected of committing crimes - the most traumatized impact come to the family members of the suspects. The majority of such families have exhausted all possible attempts to cure the abuse and addiction of their dears. The culprits already ruined and looted the family so badly, and at the end of day the mobs burnt and destroyed the property of poor families that left by the drug users.

National & International News

Keisham Babita Devi awarded "Vasundhara NE Woman Entrepreneur of the Year"

Agency Guwahati, April 9 : Keisham Babita Devi of Nagamapal Paonam Leikai, Imphal West, has been awarded "Vasundhara NE Woman Entrepreneur of the Year" for Manipur for the year 2014-15 in a function held at the Pragjyoti IITA Centre for Performing Arts, Machkhowa here on April 8 with Ram Muivah, NEC Secretary. The event was organised by Sreemanta Sankar Mission of Guwahati and has become a benchmark of excellence for women entrepreneurs of the NE region, including Sikkim, and this year, Nagaland has been selected as the focus State of the event. Keisham Babita Devi is an entrepreneur in the true sense of the term. She saw problems faced by artisans of Manipur and turned the problem into a prospect. After observing the Manipuri artisans especially those working with kauna grass and other natural fibres whose activities were in bits and pieces and with no sustainable business, she thought of making their products export worthy and suitable for high-end clients. She took it as a challenge and started doing value addition in those products. Her area of interest kauna is a natural fiber and she started blending kauna grass with other



natural fiber like palm, jute, shital pati etc. Starting with kauna, now her products now uses 4 to 5 grasses indigenously found in the north east India. Constant design intervention and diversification has played a major role in her business growth. Her unit M/s Natural Textile and

Collection set up in 2005 lays stress on ensuring regular work for the artisans and increasing their productivity besides doing business by making products from raw materials that are abundantly found locally. The Vasundhara - NE Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award is annually conferred on eight nominated women entrepreneurs from each State of NE India on the basis of their achievements. The brightest among them is chosen for the coveted regional award which carries a cash award of Rs 25,000 along with a winner's trophy, an eris shawl and a plaque. This year the Vasundhara - NE Woman Entrepreneur of the Year awardees, as selected by the jury, are Radha Devi Gurung of Sikkim, Taba Yall Nabam of Arunachal Pradesh, Keisavenuo Margaret Zinyu of Nagaland, Keisham Babita Devi of Manipur, Zoramchhani Ralte of Mizoram, Sumitra Debbarma of Tripura, Janessaline Mary Pyngrope of Meghalaya and Najitara Bori of Assam. Sreemanta Sankar Mission of Guwahati, a voluntary organization set up in 1986 at Guwahati envisions a greater Northeastern society. "Vasundhara - NE Woman Entrepreneur of the year" award programme is an initiative in that direction.

PM Modi to hold delegation level talks with Australian PM Turnbull

Source AIR
New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold delegation level talks with the Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in New Delhi, today. During the talks both the Prime Ministers will discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relations. A number of MoUs and agreements are also to be firm up in the areas of Security, Environment, Sports, Science and Technology and Health. The visiting Prime Minister was accorded ceremonial reception at the forecourts of Rashtrapati Bhavan in the morning. He also visited Raighat, to pay floral tributes to Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi. Mr. Turnbull arrived in New Delhi last evening on a four-day visit to India. Co-operation in renewable energy, clean coal and bio-fuels is high on the agenda of the visit. A high-powered delegation from the education sector is also accompanying Mr. Turnbull. India-Australia relations cover a very wide canvas, stretching from defence and security cooperation to environment, water management, sports, energy and education. Both sides see vast potential in economic and commercial engagement.

British Tourists To US May Be Asked For Passwords

Source NDTV
London: British travellers to the US face the uncomfortable choice of handing over personal information, including social media passwords and mobile phone contacts, or running the risk of being denied entry to the country, under a new "extreme vetting" policy being considered by the Trump administration. Tourists from Britain and other US allies, including Germany and France, could be forced to reveal personal data, as well as disclose financial information and face detailed ideological questioning, according to Trump administration

officials quoted by the Wall Street Journal. While US citizens have established rights against unlawful searches at the border, the extent to which foreign travellers can resist requests to hand over personal information is unclear. The Guardian reported. "All international travellers arriving to the US are subject to US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspection," the Guardian quoted the US customs and border patrol as saying. "This inspection may include electronic devices such as computers, disks, drives, tapes,

mobile phones and other communication devices, cameras, music and other media players and any other electronic or digital devices." "Keeping America safe and enforcing our nation's laws in an increasingly digital world depends on our ability to lawfully examine all materials entering the US," it added. Meanwhile, Britain's Foreign Office declined to provide any advice to British travellers, referring the Guardian only to its general foreign travel advice page for the US, which contains no information on digital privacy at the border.

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-Editor