

Editorial

Rape of small newspaper

It is not only because of the passion for journalism, but also the differences on the idea of what actually should be a journalist between proprietors running big newspapers and journalist working under them that serves as the reason for some journalists to start evening dailies which have only one leaf and requiring minimal investment.

Those running printing houses with 15x10 inches size printing machine will take no time in reprinting or reproducing the kind of this small newspaper once they got a copy of it. Printing technology these days has developed and evolved tremendously. Everyone knows. Those running small newspapers (particularly the evening dailies produced here in Imphal) do have aspirations of producing multipage colour newspapers, but due to certain limitations and constraints, evening newspapers still continue the traditional style of one leaf print - (2 page paper). The critical point that needs to be highlighted here is not about why the evening newspapers are very very small. As we at the Imphal Times felt that almost all educated people particularly professors in the Colleges and Manipur University will certainly understand the reason.

In an issue about misappropriation of fund by certain authorities of the Imphal Municipal Corporation where opposing corporators alleged irregularities and misappropriation of funds over the auctioning of 8 vehicles, Almost all evening newspapers based in Imphal were raped by news reviewer / critics .

Every learned people particularly those in the DIPR knows how an official advertisement will be done in newspaper as per rules of the Manipur Advertisement Policy.

When the Opposing Corporators of the IMC alleged that no proper guidelines were followed to the auctioning of 8 vehicles they have definitely point out the way that the Chairman of the IMC and his subordinates had manipulated the procedural documents. They also showed two manipulated evening newspapers in which the advertisement was published.

As per record, any govt. advertisement should be done through DIPR. The opposition Corporators showed that there was no official intimation sent to the DIPR regarding publication of the advertisement. The Opposition Corporators also showed a forged document which tried to show that DIPR had received a notification regarding the same issue. There was no such record for received of the document at DIPR files. There is also another proof to show that the two newspapers produced by the ruling corporators for auctioning of the 8 vehicles could also have been a fake and forged one.

The matter was reported by Imphal Times as we believed that state government will initiate the needful until Prof. MC Arun brought up the issue during news analysis at All India Radio Imphal yesterday morning. As per our local adjustment we the journalists maintained respect for all newspapers and as a matter of fact we don't mention the names of any newspaper until and unless they are proven guilty of doing something wrong. Just by stating that two newspapers with two publications on a same day without properly describing on how and why it happened had indeed raped all the evening newspapers of Manipur. Had he elaborated on how those things goes after analysing the news report published at each newspaper, than, Imphal Times would not have picked up this issue.

By the way Imphal Times was not the newspaper that the opposition produced in front of reporters that day, but the professor whom we hold in high regard had raped all evening newspapers. We don't need any clarification from the learned Professor, but hope that he understands what the small newspapers are doing for the erstwhile kingdom which may be much more than the big newspapers or electronic media.

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Will PM Modi betray Assam in 'No ST, no rest' or let Assam burn?

By : **Ningombam Bupenda Meitei**

In the recent Assam strike over ST (Scheduled Tribe) status, called by the state's six communities [Koch Rajbongshi, Moran, Matak, Tai Ahom, Chutia and Adivasi (Tea Tribes)] of Assam, demanding Scheduled Tribe status for them, there was a slogan of "No ST, no rest". Supporting the protest, the president of the Tinsukia unit of All Tai Ahom Students Union, told The Telegraph, "This is just the start. The BJP governments in the state and the Centre have betrayed us and we will not stop short of anything but ST status even if

Assam has to burn. The governments shall be responsible for the consequences of their betrayal." It was reported in The Telegraph, dated 4th of July, 2017. (Source: https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170704/jsp/northeast/story_160006.jsp)

To grant ST status to the 6 communities in Assam, the Modi government has set up a Committee, to be headed by Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Home Ministry, which is to consult the Assam government and suggest the modalities for the required reservations and shifting the existing reservation for these communities from OBC to ST. It is to be noted that the 6 different communities are in OBC category of Assam, at present. The Committee is also to look into the modality to protect the interests of existing tribals and frame a mechanism to ensure fairness of reservations within these six communities and related security considerations, a Home Ministry official said. It was reported in The Hindu, dated 1st of March, 2016. (Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/panel-set-up-for-st-status-to-6-obc-communities-in-assam/article8297458.ece>)

The said Committee was formed in February, 2016 and it was expected to submit its report by May 31st, 2016. It was published in PIB, GoI, MHA, dated 29th February, 2016. (Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsitem/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137037>) In 2004, the then Assam Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution to accept and press to the then Government of India for the inclusion of the said 6 communities in ST List of India. In 2014's Lok Sabha election, the then BJP Prime Minister candidate Shri Narendra Modi, during a rally in Bongaigaon, in Assam, acknowledged and promised for the inclusion of the 6 communities in the ST List of India. It was reported in India Today, dated May 27, 2016. (Source: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/narendra-modi-assam-elections-tribals-scheduled-tribes/1/678674.html>)

The Committee, or the ST panel on Assam - which was later headed by Rina Mitra after the retirement of Mahesh Kumar Singla - missed the deadline to submit its

The issue, today, is: why should not the question – whether PM Modi will betray Assam on his promise made in 2014 over the matter of granting ST status to the 6 OBC communities in Assam – be raised?

If Narendra Modi government fails to grant ST status to 6 different communities (Moran, Muttok, Tai Ahom, Koch-Rajbongshi, Sooten and Tea Tribes) of Assam in 2017, then the people of Assam will never forgive the Prime Minister, the incumbent Chief Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal of the state and the party to which both belong to, because of the following reasons:

(1) Prime Minister of India is from BJP;

(2) Chief Minister of Assam is from BJP;

(3) The largest party in terms of number of MPs in both Lok Sabha (where the Constitutional Amendment for inclusion in/exclusion from ST List of India is to get passed) and Rajya Sabha is BJP;

(4) The then BJP PM candidate Shri

Narendra Modi and his party's manifesto in 2014 Lok Sabha election have promised for granting ST (Scheduled Tribe) status to the 6 different communities in Assam;

(5) Both the Government of India and the Government of Assam have expressed their commitment to granting the ST status to the 6 different communities in Assam in April, 2017.

Time has come for both the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of Assam to convert their promises on the said matter into action, so that the same issue is again not repeated in 2019 Lok Sabha election by none other than the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister of the state concerned and the party to which both belong to.

Unlike Assam; in Manipur, neither the Manipur Legislative Assembly (though, constitutionally the recommendation - on the advice or know of the state's Cabinet - of the state's Governor on the said matter to the Centre would suffice) has unanimously passed the ST status for Meitei/Meetei nor have the political parties (like the Congress or the BJP) in Manipur mentioned their support for ST status to Meitei/Meetei in their election manifestos published in 2017's state assembly election. Their manifestos are available in Manipur's CEO website (http://www.ceomanipur.nic.in/Manifesto_2017.html).

The larger question for both Manipur and Assam is: when will the state governments of Manipur and Assam, and the Union Government of India led by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi have constitutional safeguards for Meitei/Meetei community and the 6 different communities of Assam? The reply to this question will justify the commitment of the party that is, currently, ruling in Manipur, Assam and India, and the party is the same – the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party). The future of the history of Manipur, Assam and India will decide the destiny of the BJP, and that destiny will be the result of the litmus test – whether BJP governments in New Delhi, Imphal and Dispur can constitutionally safeguard, by granting ST status, the Meitei/Meetei community of Manipur and 6 communities [Koch Rajbongshi, Moran, Matak, Tai Ahom, Chutia and Adivasi (Tea Tribes)] of Assam in 2017?

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Need to bust the racket running inside MPSC

Haryana, Aug. 7: A BJP leader in Haryana is accused of holding up an ambulance after it hit his car, causing a delay that may have led to the patient's death. Darshan Nagpal, a BJP councilor in Fatehabad, has denied the allegations of the patient's relatives, who have filed a complaint.

This is the second crime to emerge in the past two days linked to the state's ruling BJP. In another case, the state BJP chief's son has been accused of stalking a woman, who described in a Facebook post how she was chased on the streets of Chandigarh on Friday night.

On Saturday evening, the ambulance allegedly hit Mr Nagpal's car at a traffic intersection in Fatehabad, around 220 km from Chandigarh. Patient Naveen Soni's relatives, Sitaram Soni and Arun Soni, have said in their complaint that the BJP leader chased the ambulance down, blocked its way and refused to let it pass for about half an hour. When the ambulance finally made it to the hospital, they said, 42-year-old Naveen Soni was dead.

"Pradhan tailed our car and stopped our ambulance, demanding compensation for damages," said Sitaram Soni, the patient's older brother. "The doctor told us if only you had come 15 minutes earlier, we could have saved him," Mr Soni said. Mr Nagpal claimed that after his car was hit by the ambulance, he let it drive to the hospital with the patient before speaking to the driver. "There is no question of stopping the ambulance, ask anyone present there. I believe in service how can I stop an ambulance," Mr Pradhan said, claiming that he had been told by his driver that the "ambulance was unoccupied and the driver was drunk".

The main examination commenced on 4th Sept' 2016 and concluded on 23rd Sept' 2016. The 1000+ plus, say 1000 candidates appeared in 8 papers i.e. (i) English, (ii) Essay, (iii) GS-I, (iv) GS-II, (v) 1st optional paper-I, (vi) 1st optional paper-II, (vii) 2nd optional paper-I and (viii) 2nd optional paper-II, in the main examination, which altogether comes to a total of 8000 plus answer-scripts. The main examination result was declared only 10 days later, i.e. on 4th Oct' 2016 under miraculous circumstances on the pretext of evaluating all the 8000 plus answer-scripts in just 7 available working days. It usually took 2 to 3 months to evaluate the examination papers in the past inclusive of the time to be consumed for moderation and checking by moderators or head examiners. Here arises a major reason for suspicion that evaluation of all the 8000 plus answer-scripts were not completely done, thereby leaving the answer-scripts of almost one-half of the total number of candidates remaining unevaluated. This suspicion also arose from the fact that the roll numbers of all the successful candidates are found only at the beginning to middle portion of the order of roll numbers, thereby drawing the roll numbers of almost all the candidates falling from the middle to the concluding portion of the order of roll numbers as blank and unsuccessful. This suspicion is again confirmed with the failure to comply RTI queries for 7 months

on the part of the MPSC. The same was furnished after 7 months, that also only after the State Commission has ordered to do so. The photocopies of the few 20 plus answer-scripts obtained through RTI exposed mass manipulation, under-marking and tempering of marks vividly, in addition to suspected forgery of examiner's signature. Many answer-scripts are also found without the signature of the examiner and supervisor.

Therefore, there is a profound suspicion that result-sheets of the left-out candidates were evaluated very hastily by some hand-picked staff of the examination section only with the view to comply RTI queries, that also well after the final result was declared. While doing so, they should have been making a rough calculation for putting the marks secured by the left-out candidates just below the marks obtained by the last short-listed candidate for viva-voce standing in 167th position. This is known as "pigeon-hole theory" in law and is liable to be very much erratic. This is the reason why all the discrepancies i.e. over-writing, tempering, under-marking, mis-tabulation, false signature, unsigned answer-scripts etc. etc. arise on the photo-copies of the answer-scripts obtained through RTI.

It is therefore, suggested that all the civic societies and students' bodies should urge the State Govt., for probing the MPSC over the conduct

of evaluation of all the answer-scripts in the lines stated below:-

1. Obtain the signature of all the examiners of the respective subjects for making comparison with the signatures displayed in the answer-scripts which are suspected to be forged.

2. Make a detailed review whether the answer-scripts of the successful candidates bear the signature of the genuine examiners and see whether the marks obtained are over-marked or over-tabulated.

3. It would also require to re-evaluate the answer-scripts of all the 1000 plus candidates by engaging experienced examiners and moderators quite afresh through a competent court of law and review the whole examination result as there is a profound suspicion that the left-out candidates getting 180 plus marks in English and Essay papers are awarded only 30% marks in optional and GS papers, while most of the selected candidates including position holders who secured just pass-marks, i.e. barely 120 marks in English and Essay papers are awarded above 80% marks in the optional and GS papers.

4. Either an FIR be lodged by the Govt., or a sou-moto case be taken up by the police as the case should be a State versus case.

5. The culprits as hinted above should be booked by busting the racket according to law with a view to ensure a bright future to all civil service aspirants of the state.