

Sunday Poetry

Let me float on the ocean of despondence

By: Parthajit Borah

Let me float on the ocean of despondence to scale down the depth of black grief,  
Let me fly over the hell to see the suffered souls of the times,  
Tiring hopes of wounded heart scream for their inhumane treatment.

Let me smell the fragrance of your salty bosom,  
Your slender sight glides a blue sea over my eyes to flow a unknown sea;  
It carries the flecks of red blood to paint my heart chambers.

Let me touch the warmth of tears to cry for a while,  
Let me sail across the other side of the sea; which is silent, foggy, vast and far.

The editorial that Imphal Times wrote on March 10, 2017 and the speculative analysis comes true. The editorial is reproduced here

More MLAs or not BJP will form government in Manipur

For sure no political party will get absolute majority in the 11<sup>th</sup> Manipur Legislative Assembly election. Yet either of the Congress or the BJP will be getting single majority, and depending upon the numbers these two party win in this election the Governor Manipur will invite them to form the government. This invitation is possible only if one of these parties cross 30 MLAs in number or else the governor of Manipur has to wait for claims from any of the party.

As per exit poll conducted by various agencies both BJP and congress numbers of MLAs BJP is expected to win is 25 to 31 (CVtor exit Poll), As per exit Poll result conducted by the India Today –Axis the number of Congress seat may be in between 30-36.

As per analysis of the mainland agency it is either the BJP or the congress that will form the government.

But as per the grass root survey conducted by the Imphal Times and team, it is definitely the congress that will be simple majority, but the number to claim stake for forming election may not reach. Maximum seat expected for congress is 26 to 28.

BJP on the other hand may be the second largest political party in the 11<sup>th</sup> Manipur Legislative Assembly, total seat expected is not more than 20. However, with other smaller parties which are expected to get seats in the state assembly may support them if not merge for coalition government, as supporting is also a kind of advantage. There is also a possibility that BJP may form a coalition government in the 11<sup>th</sup> Manipur Legislative Assembly. The only problem with this political party is the lack of a figure which will be

unanimously accepted as the legislature wing leader. And right now it's too early to declare the name as result is yet to be announced.

So congress party has double advantage and for sure it is likely that the Okram Ibobi Singh government will return for another term. But the question is how long ?

Even as Okram Ibobi is considered as omnipotent leader of Congress party, it is worth reminding that there are still crisis inside the congress party, as every elector believe that, each of them too should have the opportunity of becoming chief minister.

Post election scenario will be a different picture from that of the strategy of pre election campaign. If not those elected are not power hunger, that is a different story. But precisely every elected represented leaders are power hunger people. Anything can happen.

Former Chief Minister of Manipur Radhabinod Kojijam had once said that everything is possible in politics.

Manipur being more like a beggar state definitely need a close tie with the ruling party at the center and this is the main reason that Imphal Times Question for how long? If in case Okram Ibobi returns to power for the fourth term. Anti defection law is a powerful instrument, but it lacks certain provisions to rule out delaying tactics. So if the number of BJP candidate is even lower than expected and the number of congress goes up as stated by Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, the fate of congress party may be in danger.

This write up suggest that, even though congress party returns to power and Okram Ibobi becomes chief Minister for the fourth term, the government will only work for one or two months. There will be definitely a BJP led coalition government in the state, but still except for the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, nobody can predict who will be the Chief Minister is a BJP led government is formed.

Continued from yesterday's issue

Year End Review- 2017: Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

MoS Dr Jitendra Singh announced the launch of "Hill Area Development Programme" (HADP) for Northeast in Imphal (Manipur) on June 05, 2017. The announcement was made during a meet of Investors and Entrepreneurs, organised by NEDFi (North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd), with joint participation of the Ministry of DoNER and the Government of Manipur. The scheme will benefit the hilly areas of Manipur, Tripura and Assam.

On 16<sup>th</sup> November, a two-day "12th North-East Business Summit" was inaugurated by MoS Dr Jitendra Singh in New Delhi. The summit aimed to explore the scope for business opportunities in the North-Eastern region of India. Focus areas were Infrastructure and Connectivity with Public Private Partnership, Skill Development, Financial Inclusion, Services Sector Development- Particularly in Tourism, Hospitality & Food Processing.

Northeast is all set to get India's first-ever "Air Dispensary" based in a helicopter and the Union Ministry of Development of Northeast (DoNER) has already contributed Rs. 25 crore as part of the initial funding for this initiative. MoS Dr Jitendra Singh said that the DoNER Ministry had been exploring the idea of introducing a helicopter based Dispensary/OPD service in far flung and remote areas, where no doctor or medical facility was available. The proposal put forward by the Ministry of DoNER, he said, has been accepted and is in the final stages of process in the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation.

An announcement was made on August 16, 2017 that a North Eastern Cultural and Information Centre will be set up in Delhi. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) had

allotted a land measuring 5341.75 sqm. (1.32 acre) at Sector-13, Dwarka, New Delhi, at a cost of approx Rs. 6 crore, to North Eastern Council (NEC) for the purpose of construction of North Eastern Cultural and Information Centre. This Centre will act as a cultural and convention/information hub of the North Eastern Region in Delhi.

The foundation stone of Barak Hostel in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) campus in New Delhi was laid on July 24, 2017. Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasised on the occasion that JNU has more than 8,000 students, out of which there are more students from Northeast than any other State outside NE region. He said that last year, the Foundation Stone of a Hostel exclusively for Northeast girl students was also laid in Bangalore University.

Conference titled "North East India: Organic Production Hub; Opportunities Unexplored" was organized during the prestigious World Food India 2017, on 4<sup>th</sup> November in New Delhi. NE region has about 50 species of bamboo, about 14 varieties of banana and 17 varieties of citrus fruits. The NE region also has huge production of fruits such as pineapple and oranges. There are 3 Mega Food Parks in North East, in the states of Assam, Tripura and Mizoram. The state of Sikkim has been declared the first Organic State of India.

The first meeting of the Japan-India Coordination Forum (JICF) for DoNER was held in New Delhi on August 03, 2017. Secretary, DoNER, Shri Naveen Verma led the Indian side while the Japanese delegation was led by the Japanese Ambassador to India, Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu. Priority areas of cooperation identified by Indian side including Connectivity and

Road Network Development, especially inter-State roads & major district roads; Disaster Management; Food Processing; Organic Farming and Tourism.

An event "Pioneering Business Idea Challenge" was co-hosted by the Ministry of DoNER (MDoNER) and North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi) at Tezpur University, as part of the University's Sampark-2017, which is an industry-academia interaction aimed at providing a platform for the students/budding entrepreneurs of the North Eastern Region on July 19, 2017. During the event, Business Plan Contests were conducted. Out of 60 plans received, 15 plans were shortlisted and based on the presentations made, 3 business plans were awarded.

An e-Office of North Eastern Council (NEC) which has its headquarters at Shillong in Meghalaya, was launched through video conferencing in New Delhi on May 03, 2017. The formal launching was ceremonised by submission of a file from the NEC, Shillong to the DoNER Minister's Office, New Delhi, which was then duly approved for the holding of the next plenary meeting of the NEC.

The 11th North East Business Summit (NEBS) was organized in New Delhi on March 09-10, 2017. The two-day event served as an initiative to facilitate investment, highlight strengths of the NER and business opportunities which North-East has to offer. Union Minister for Railways in a video message delivered on the occasion, said an e-commerce portal will soon be launched to sell NER handicrafts and handloom worldwide on the IRCTC website. He said the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council has assured providing land for expansion of the rail link to Darjeeling, which will be further extended to Sikkim.

The two-day "North East Calling" festival was inaugurated in New Delhi on September 9, 2017. On the occasion, The 'North East Venture Fund' was also launched, which is a joint initiative of Ministry of DoNER and North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. The objective of the fund is to promote entrepreneurship and Start up in the North Eastern Region. It is the first dedicated Venture Fund for the region with a corpus of Rs 100 crores. The Minister also launched North East Tourism Development Council with objective to promote sustainable tourism in North East India.

The three-day (from March 06-08, 2017) "Destination North East-2017" festival was organized at Chandigarh. It was organized by Ministry of DoNER with a focus on the use of appropriate technology for the development of North East Region.

Detailed discussion with Members of Parliament from Northeast on the various facets of GST was carried out by the MoS Dr Jitendra Singh. At a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for Ministry of DoNER in New Delhi on June 08, 2017, the members expressed their views about the tax provisions relating to North Eastern handicrafts & handloom products, broom-sticks and bamboo products.

MoS Dr Jitendra Singh and Assam Chief Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the Digidhan Mela organized in Guwahati on 11<sup>th</sup> January. On the occasion, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched "Toka Paisa" e-wallet for initiative towards cashless economy. The Mela was organized by the Government of Assam in collaboration with IT Department and NITI Aayog.

(Concluded)

'Imphal Times' is a small 2 page evening newspaper publish in English language for the first time in Imphal. This newspaper is the first newspaper to facilitate Android App in Manipur. As on December 31, 2017 a total of 32,491 people are using Imphal Times Android App to get access with the latest happening in Manipur. As 'Team Imphal Times' is purely dedicated on quality journalism with limited resource for managing the digital medium. Even though 'we' in the Imphal Times will spare no pain in continuing our service. This we are requesting our well wishers to help us serve you more. A little contribution from you all will be an encouragement to all of us here in the team.



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