

# Editorial

Monday, December 4, 2017

## Reminding the issue of permit system to protect Manipuris

A seed once sown in a fertile place with favorable conditions will surely sprout, and even if a boulder is set upon it to retard or stop its growth, will surely wriggle its way out from under to find the light. This metaphor perhaps explains the unflinching resolve of the people of the state and the region of North East India in general to assert its rights and respect as equal citizens of the country.

The endless discriminations and unprovoked assaults on the people from the region in various places in mainland India is a clear manifestation of the distorted politics being propagated and practiced based on caste and communities. A concrete example is the attitude of some Chennai boys towards some NE girls watching a football match, who were later arrested by police.

The feeling of alienation, of not belonging and of being treated as less than equal by those residing in mainland India has been a pervading experience for us all.

With the kind of happening it is sometimes not wrong to say that North East is being viewed as a territory to be held secure purely for strategic reasons, while the inhabitants are mere incidental collaterals.

The long standing demand that can ensure the protection and preservation of the interests of indigenous inhabitants of the state is a sum effect of the protracted mistreatment and myopic view of those at the centre regarding the interests and aspirations of the people of the region.

Permit system which restrict entry of outsider has already been implemented at many of the North Eastern states including Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, and yet there has been an uninterrupted flow of visitors to these states, perhaps more so than Manipur in comparison which undeniably proved that the permit system for entry to states does not hamper the prospects of tourism in the state, nor will it pose any inconvenience or discomfort to any visitor.

The demand is only for the survival, preservation and continuity of our traditions, customs and communities. There were misunderstandings over this issue with some communities but as assumed it has been sorted by now.

It is known by everyone that the present danger of the state being overwhelmed and overpowered financially or territorially by forces which even the state government will find impossible to fend off, thereby relegating our cultural identity to mere history and our own people to a insignificant minority in its own land.

Moreover, the coming of act east policy is another factor that the state urgently requires some legislation to protect the indigenous people of the state

December 20, the winter session of the Manipur Legislative Assembly is going to start. It is time that the government prepared some kind of legislation for the protection of the people of the state after taking opinions of all stakeholders of the state.

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## National and International News

### UN calls again for Yemen ceasefire

**AFP**  
**United Nations, Dec 4:** UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for a ceasefire in Yemen in light of an ongoing humanitarian crisis, his spokesman said. Guterres "calls on all parties to the conflict to cease all air and ground assaults" and is "deeply

concerned about the sharp escalation of armed clashes" over the past several days, his spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. "Ambulances and medical teams cannot access the injured and people cannot go outside to buy food and other necessities. Aid workers are unable to travel and implement critical life-saving programmes at a time when

millions of Yemenis rely on assistance to survive," he continued, reiterating calls for the Saudi-led alliance to end their blockade of the country. Three years after Huthi rebels captured the Yemeni capital Sanaa with the help of forces loyal to ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh their alliance appears to be collapsing.

The two sides have fought deadly street battles this past week in Sanaa, in clashes the security sources say killed around 60 people. The war in Yemen has claimed more than 8,750 lives since an intervention by Riyadh and its allies in March 2015 in support of a rebel government in the south of the country.

### Rahul files nomination for Congress president

**PTI**  
**New Delhi, Dec 4:** Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi today filed his nomination papers for the post of party president, paving the way for a generational shift in the leadership of the party headed by his mother Sonia Gandhi. Rahul Gandhi was accompanied by a host of senior party leaders, including former prime minister Manmohan Singh, as he filed his papers to become the party president. Congress president Sonia Gandhi, one of the leaders who have proposed Rahul's name, was not present. The 47-year-old Gandhi scion is likely to emerge as the lone

candidate in the fray, clearing the decks for his elevation to the party's top post, succeeding his mother, who has held the post for 19 years in a row. "Rahul ji has been the darling of the Congress..." Manmohan Singh told reporters at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters. "Congress president Smt Sonia Gandhi has served the Congress party and, through the Congress party, the country for the last 19 years. This is yet another step forward in that direction. Rahul Gandhi will carry on the great traditions of the Congress party," he said. Rahul Gandhi arrived at the Congress headquarters around 10.30 am and filed his papers around 11 am. There were five sets of nomination forms

filed on his behalf by top Congress leaders, including CWC members, party general secretaries, in-charge in various states and chief ministers of party-ruled states. Among those who proposed Rahul Gandhi's name in the first set of nomination papers were Sonia Gandhi, Motilal Vora, Ahmed Patel, Mohsina Kidwai, Kamal Nath, Ashok Gehlot, Mukul Wasnik, Sheila Dikshit, Tarun Gogoi and Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanaswamy. Party leaders Manmohan Singh, Oscar Fernandes, P Chidambaram, Sushil Kumar Shinde, Anand Sharma, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his Meghalaya

counterpart Mukul Sangma proposed his name in the second set of nomination papers. Today is the last date for filing nominations. No one else had filed papers till Sunday, said Mullapally Ramachandran, the chairman of the party's Central Election Authority. Rahul Gandhi sought the blessings of former president Pranab Mukherjee and Manmohan Singh before filing his nomination. Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala tweeted. The last date for withdrawal of the candidature is December 11. The poll, if necessary, will be held on December 16 and the counting will take place on December 19.

### Police blame exam fear while friends insist unemployment led to Osmania University student suicide

**Hyderabad, Dec. 4:** Osmania University, a key battleground during the separate Statehood movement, witnessed first suicide after the formation of Telangana, on Sunday. A 21-year-old first year M.SC (Physics) student allegedly took his own life by hanging himself from the ceiling of his hostel bathroom in the university campus. The deceased was identified as E Murali, inmate of Maneru hostel room no 159. He was native of Doulapur village in Siddipet district. While police claimed that the youngster had resorted to suicide as he was unable to cope with academic stress, OU students alleged that Murali had committed suicide because he was unemployed. As the incident occurred exactly

a day ahead of the Telangana Joint Action Committee's (TJAC) Koluvala kai Kotlata meeting to be held here on Monday to highlight unemployment issue, tension prevailed at the campus on Sunday night. Protests by students rocked the campus forcing the police to deploy a large contingent of security forces at the university. TJAC chairman M Kodandaram who rushed to the campus expressed doubts on the police version that Murali had committed suicide as he was unable to handle academic stress. "Murali's friends and hostel mates are claiming that the suicide note presented by the police was not genuine. As the young man was a talented student, the police version that academic stress forced him to commit suicide is not plausible," he argued. According to Kodandaram, Murali,

who holds BSc BEd wanted to get a teacher job in the government. As the government was repeatedly postponing the teachers' recruitment drive, his friends had felt that Murali committed suicide as he was not getting a government job. "Murali's friends say that the hand writing in the suicide note was not that of the deceased student. Moreover, being a brilliant student, Murali can write good English. But, in the letter, the sentences were written very poorly. All these issues are giving scope to suspect police role. A comprehensive probe must be ordered," demanded Kodandaram. Students hurled stones at police when they tried to enter the hostel to shift Murali's body at around 12.30 am. The students also reportedly shut the doors of the hostel denying entry to forces and

raised slogans. According to police, Murali, who left the campus three days ago, was found hanging from the ceiling at his hostel bathroom. Hostel inmates then informed to the police. "Minutes after we received information, the OU police visited the Maneru hostel and recovered the body. We found a suicide note in which the student stated that he was unable to concentrate on studies. Fearing over the ensuing exams, the student took extreme step," said police. The students and student union members squatted in front of Maneru hostel and alleged that Murali took such extreme step due to lack of government job opportunities. The students staged protest demanding '50 lakh compensation to family members of Murali.

### Cyclone Ockhi expected to make landfall in next 24 hours; Gujarat, Maharashtra on high alert

**New Delhi, Dec. 4:** After crossing Lakshadweep on Sunday, cyclone Ockhi has set its course north and is expected to make landfall in Maharashtra and south Gujarat in the next 24 hours. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an alert Monday, warning fishermen against venturing into the sea as coastal areas are likely to experience strong winds. A cyclonic bulletin issued by IMD stated: "The very severe cyclonic storm Ockhi that lay centered over Eastcentral and adjoining Southwest Arabian Sea, about 420 km West North West of Amini Divi, 880 km South-Southwest of Mumbai and 1090 km South-Southwest of Surat is very likely to move North-Northwestward during few hours and then recurve North Eastwards during the subsequent 48 hours and weaken gradually." Pankaj Kumar, principal secretary (revenue department), said cyclone Ockhi is likely to cross south Gujarat near Surat by December 5. The Gujarat government issued instructions to district magistrates, asking them to take

adequate precautionary measures. NDRF teams have been put on alert and deployed at critical locations. Cyclone Ockhi, however, is likely to weaken after it makes landfall. Maharashtra is also expected to see heavy cloud cover and rainfall in the next two to three days, IMD said. On Sunday, the Maharashtra Chief Minister's Office tweeted that 28 more boats carrying 321 fishermen had docked along the shores of Ratnagiri. "23 from Tamil Nadu, 3 from Kerala & 2 from Karnataka. They are now docked at Mirya Bunder, Ratnagiri. All are safe now and officials are looking after them with utmost care," the CMO tweet said. The day also saw 200 fishermen from two villages in Kerala head into the sea to rescue 96 fishermen who went missing. The toll rose to 25 after they returned with bodies of their fellow fisherfolk. Angry residents of Vizhinjam prevented Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his cabinet colleagues from visiting families of the missing fishermen. Vijayan also cancelled his visit to Poonthura, a village from which 30 fishermen are still missing. Meanwhile, as many as 60 people were rescued by the Navy, Air Force and the Coast Guard. Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reached

Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday evening but moved to Kanyakumari to visit cyclone-affected areas there. "An update on the search and rescue efforts being done by the Indian Navy, Coast Guard and Air Force to save the lives of fishermen affected by #CycloneOckhi: 357 fishermen have been saved as of 10 am today," she tweeted. The blame game between Kerala government and the Centre took an unexpected turn on Sunday when Union Minister of State for Tourism Alphons Kannanthanam backed the Kerala government stand that states got the "warning about Ockhi only at 12 noon on November 30". "Hence, fishermen could not be given an early warning. Besides, the direction of the wind kept changing. Hence, a clear warning about the cyclone could not be given on time." Hours later he said the central agencies had given necessary alerts on November 28

and 29, reported PTI. Harsh Vardhan, the minister of Science & Technology, Environment and Forests, said in a statement that IMD "started warnings for heavy rainfall and strong winds for Kerala and South Tamil Nadu from 28th November itself. On 29th afternoon, they issued the first bulletin of the cyclone warning and conveyed to all district officials, state disaster management authority and the Chief Secretary. In the first bulletin, the information was clearly provided on the possibility of further intensification of the system into a cyclonic storm and associated adverse weather. In the bulletin, there was clear message for fishermen not to venture into the sea during next 48 hours." NCP's Lakshadweep MP Mohammad Faizal said the Islands have suffered a loss of over Rs 500 crore.

#### Name Correction

I, the undersigned do hereby declare that my father's name Neli has been recorded as M. Neli on my HSLC passed certificate. It is therefore informed to all concern that my father's name recorded on my HSLC certificate should be Neli and not M. Neli.

Sd/-  
 N. Kayisii