

Editorial

Imphal Monday, February 13, 2017

Using integrity issue as a tool in election campaign will be a disaster

All is not well with the kind of election propaganda being spread by various political parties in the state.

Territorial integrity issue is a very sentimental issue for the people of the state. People in the state dare every challenge which tried to distort the integrity of the state. The issue is far beyond electoral politics as we had witnessed in June, 2001. However, using it as a tool by political parties during election time will bring no good other than giving opportunities to those who have been working all their life for distorting the integrity of the state.

People of the state had fought, sacrificed and revolted many a time when any threat to the integrity of the erstwhile kingdom came and there is no doubt that the children of the future Manipur will have no fear to follow the path of their ancestors. This election, almost all political parties seemed to be playing their electoral game using the integrity issue. Ruling congress is trying to garner more support of the people using the mantra of territorial integrity issue by hitting hard to UNC which has been imposing economic blockade for over 100 days. No doubt UNC is considered as frontal body of NSCN-IM which has been demanding segregation of not only Manipur but some states of Manipur to create a new state for them.

A direct challenger of the ruling congress will be definitely the NPF, which has been advocating the cause of the NSCN-IM. There is no doubt that all political party will not spare any chances to get support of the voters. And like the congress party using the mantra on this issue at valley area, the NPF will try the similar way to win the election at some hill districts by standing strong opposition to the Congress party. This means the dream of the NSCN-IM for segregating the state to form a new state will become clearer. Congress of course is facing tough time in this election due to its anti-incumbency factor as it has been in power for 15 years plus the spread BJP wave after Prime Minister Narendra Modi become popular day after another after assuming the PMO around 2 and half years back. The way the Congress leaders here in valley region played the UNC issue to garner voters will definitely left its candidates in some Hill district constituencies as a complete helpless. This means that the using the UNC issue as a tool for electoral politics will definitely empower those trying to divide the state.

Name changed

I, the undersigned, **Man Danish**, of Paobitek Mayai Leikai, Wangoi, Imphal West, do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name Md. Abdul Noor, as I have assumed my new name **Man Danish**.

Sd/-
Man Danish
S/o, (L) M. A. Jabar
Paobitek Mayai Leikai, Wangoi,
P.O. - Wangoi
Dist:- Imphal West. Pin 795001

Name changed

I, the undersigned, **Thotsem Luiyaiwoshi Shimray**, of Greenland Ukhrul, Ukhrul district Manipur, do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name Eugene Thotsen as I have assumed my new name **Thotsem Luiyaiwoshi Shimray**.

Sd/-
Thotsem Luiyaiwoshi Shimray
Greenland Ukhrul, Ukhrul district Manipur

Registration certificate lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my registration certificate No. 1006701006 of 2013 issued by Manipur University for B. Arts (Nongekippam Gopal College) on the way between Kwakeithel to Naoremthong on Jan. 25, 2017.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Leishangthem Roshni Chanu
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Radio is You

When Neil Diamond crooned "reaching out, touching me, touching you" in that iconic song *Sweet Caroline*, he could as well be singing about radio. Radio, which reaches out across seemingly insurmountable geographical divides, touches countless lives and yet remains in the background. Like a good friend who never pries but steps in on a bad day with alacrity as the world has witnessed again and again when natural disasters strike. When all new fangled media fail in the face of Nature's fury, radio is that saviour that connects people, connects lives and connects hope.

It was to honour this radio that the United Nations proclaimed 13 February as World Radio Day in 2011, with the vision of celebrating how it helps shape our lives.

To quote from the UNESCO website, "By listening to its audiences and responding to their needs, radio provides the diversity of views and voices needed to address the challenges we all face."

This is most relevant for the developing societies which are clearly disadvantaged by their lack of access to the latest information technologies. The switch to the global information super highway would give an unfair advantage to rich nations over the poor, feels the Third World which continues to root for radio. Radio broadcasting crosses the barriers of isolation and illiteracy and it is the cheapest electronic medium to broadcast and receive.

Though World Radio Day is only a 6-year-old, radio itself is a Long Playing song with India getting into the groove in 1927 with the setting up of the first station of the Indian Broadcasting Company in Bombay. It is in fact, a ninety-year-old story! Radio perhaps faces the most impossible challenge in India with its population of 1.25 billion and humongous diversity in ethno-socio-linguistic characteristic,

literacy levels, economic disparities, gender inequality, disparity in distribution of resources, rural-urban gulf, digital divide and so on. The public service radio broadcaster All India Radio (AIR) has risen admirably to this challenge by its steadfast focus on the development of a learning society/a knowledge community, inculcating scientific temper, empowerment of women, amelioration of the underprivileged, spreading the message of planned parenthood, diffusion of agricultural innovation, rural regeneration, skill development to capture benefits of the demographic dividend, preserving and strengthening India's cultural, linguistic and ethnic diversity and fortifying India's democratic and secular traditions and values.

Fulsome praise for radio's development initiatives came from no less than eminent agricultural scientist and Father of the Green Revolution, M S Swaminathan: "Even those who were excluded from the technological transformation could be included because they heard about new technologies through radio. In fact, I remember in 1967 - 68, many farmers in UP and Bihar would call the new varieties of rice, wheat and other crops as radio varieties because they had heard about them on radio. This is why I would like to pay a tribute to All India Radio which is in some respects the unsung hero of the Green Revolution."

What does radio mean to the world's largest middle class society, a fast changing society at that? New radio seems to have created yet another division in and already fragmented milieu - the smart alec go getter minority versus the ordinary folk (spelt losers) majority.

In consonance with the concept of smart cities, what is urgently required are global middle class citizens to inhabit them, to avoid a sheer mismatch; creating an atmosphere of cerebral modernity paired with the

best of national values and culture, ensuring inclusivity for all (not just a select smarter few). And that is what underscores the role and significance of the national public broadcaster, All India Radio. Armed with its motto (*Bahujana hitaye bahujana sukhaye*), pedigree and network, AIR possibly is the only national media institution left which has the wherewithal to address myriad sections of society in an unbiased and sensitive manner.

Before the misdirected disillusioned youth of India reach a stage where they are not able to speak a single legible sentence, before they begin to rebel violently on account of sheer cerebral inactivity, it is only All India Radio that is endowed with the capability to provide linguistic engagement and enrichment to today's partly intellect deprived youth, a population that numbers dangerously high. A random audio survey done in any city/rural neighbourhood of the country will reveal the abyss of linguistic bankruptcy that our youth are gradually being dragged into. Public speaking is not part of the curriculum in our private schools, let alone the public ones. All India Radio, with its gigantic AM network has the power to pull them back to the mainstream of self development and hence nation building collectively.

Critics may argue that the wheels of this juggernaut inch a tad sluggishly; what they do not realise (or do not want to realise) is that nation building is not just radio ads and jock talk trying to sell one, two or three BHK houses - it is ensuring cultivation and preservation of the human element in HOMES, that too all homes.

Public Service Radio disseminates information in the most democratic manner. It speaks the language of the masses and it reaches the last man. Serving a variety of fare in variable formats - plays, news, talk shows, music, running commentaries, special programmes

for special audiences, leaving none out.

Radio rules the imagination. Radio is theatre for the blind. Radio is an intimate story telling medium. Is it any wonder then that the Prime Minister of the world's largest democracy should choose AIR over others for his intimate heart to heart talk with the citizens? As someone quipped, when it comes to radio, people are all ears! We can't do better than to quote the Prime Minister himself when he said: "If we touch those questions (questions that touch the heart) we will be able to reach out to the common man." No wonder, Mann ki Baat became an instant success as it decidedly is packaged with precision and put through on a dissemination network with vast domestic and global reach.

AIR is arguably one of the largest radio networks of the world, with 422 stations throughout the country, serving different segments of the population, including the underdog. You can't have a more potent instrument than AIR for exchange of ideas between the country's Prime Minister and his people. Indeed, Mann ki Baat epitomizes all that is best in public service broadcasting.

Radio is a Long Playing song that changes its beat with the times. It is adapting to 21st Century changes and offering new ways to interact and participate. Becoming more and more interactive. This explains why the theme for World Radio Day 2017 is "Radio is You!" - a call for greater participation of audiences and communities in the policy and planning of radio broadcasting.

To quote UNESCO again, "Where social media and audience fragmentation can put us in media bubbles of like-minded people, radio is uniquely positioned to bring communities together and foster positive dialogue for change." (Courtesy PIB Feature)

National & International News

Curfew imposed in Kulgam, Sopian in J&K

PTI Srinagar, Feb 13: Curfew was today imposed in south Kashmir's Kulgam district and Shopian town after two civilians were killed yesterday, one in an encounter between militants and security forces and another in the protests that followed. The Valley-wide strike called by the separatist leadership to protest the deaths evoked mixed response.

"Curfew has been imposed in entire Kulgam district and Shopian town to maintain law and order in the wake of the killings yesterday," a police official said.

However, the movement of people was allowed on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway passing through south Kashmir.

"There is no restriction on the movement of people anywhere else in the Valley but security forces have been deployed in sensitive areas to keep a tight vigil on anti-social elements," he said. While one civilian was killed in the gun battle between militants and security personnel, another was killed in clashes that erupted after the encounter ended in Frisal area of Kulgam.

Four local militants and two army men were killed in the encounter that lasted several hours yesterday. Meanwhile, the strike called by separatist groups to protest the civilian killings evoked mixed response today.

Though most of the shops, fuel stations and other business establishments were shut across Srinagar, public as well as private transport vehicles were plying in

many areas, officials said. Inter-district transport was also operational on many routes connecting various districts of the Valley to Srinagar. However, less public transport was visible in rural areas of the Valley, they said.

Schools were closed due to the ongoing winter vacations, banks and government offices functioned normally.

Chairmen of both factions of Hurriyat Conference - Syed Ali Geelani and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq - and JKLF chief Mohammad Yasin Malik had called for a complete shutdown today and 'Kulgam Chalo' on February 15 to protest the civilian killings.

California's crumbling Oroville dam spillway prompts urgent evacuations

California, Feb. 13: Residents below the tallest dam in the United States, near Oroville in Northern California, were urgently ordered to evacuate on Sunday after a spillway appeared for a time to be in danger of imminent collapse.

The abrupt evacuation orders came as authorities said that a crumbling auxiliary spillway on the Lake Oroville Dam could give way, unleashing floodwaters onto rural communities along the Feather River. "Immediate evacuation from the low levels of Oroville and areas downstream is ordered," the Butte County sheriff said in a statement posted on social media. "This is NOT A Drill." The California Department of Water Resources said on Twitter at about 4:30 p.m. PST (0030 GMT Monday) that the

spillway next to the dam was "predicted to fail within the next hour." Several hours later the situation appeared less dire as the spillway remained standing some five hours later and the Water Resources department said crews using helicopters would drop rocks to fill a gouge in the spillway. Authorities were also releasing water to lower the lake's level after weeks of heavy rains in the drought-plagued state.

Butte County Sheriff Corey Honea said at an evening press conference that he was told by experts earlier on Sunday that the hole that was being created in the spillway could compromise the structure. Rather than risk thousands of lives, the sheriff said, a decision was made to order the evacuations.

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RISS: Innovative Park with Recycled

There are thatched huts where two or six people could easily sit to rest or chat. There are also places where enough people can accommodate for a group meet. People could visit the spot to feel the silent beauty of the nature, the sunset view and a view of mystifying craft works of recycle items.

There are adventure site for children with swings, slides and rope plays. A bamboo ladder walk across a pond, where lotus bloom and leaves of lily float in green, as adventure fun for all is also there for many to try with splashing water from the top.

Above that, a food corner serves some readymade sip and the management even provides water, utensils, chair and tables with meal with some charges if one

want to have a family picnic, birthday celebrations and many by placing a order beforehand. Birds nest, a well, a nursery, adds to varied infrastructure. Most of all the recycle products designs are the real meaning of RISS.

A craft and painting room at the entrance of the cafe cum children park has some unique crafts on wood, it also has lots of work done on bottles etc. M Sanatombi, a college student who visits the place said "the crafts are fabulously made and couldn't even imagine that the materials and items we used to throw away could become such an amazing art."

Visiting the place, one can see efforts from the owner tending grasses or making a new work of art for the visitors.

Tractors, Plane Staircase which were once used at the airport and half cut of mini bus are kept as a decor items in which one can climb or enjoy with it, even sitting place are also set up inside the mini bus. A bird feed location is also there for birds to pick up their grains. The owner seems to be keen on setting up a truly ecological and friendly recycled park for people to feel the difference when one stroll around.

Over and above the idea of having cafe cum children park set up with materials after recycling is majestic and it could serves the people rightly towards a peaceful atmosphere and environment.

Beside the cafe cum children park, a car wash is also set up adjoining with it and visitors could ride back home with their vehicle neat and clean.