

# Editorial

Imphal Monday, February 27, 2017

## If not thinking of Pema Khandu episode, please publicize the Frame work agreement Mr. Prime Minister

Manipur goes to the polls on March 4 and 8, 2017 for its 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly Elections. The electoral fight here has always been between the Congress and the BJP, but this time around the bipolar contest has been muddled with rebels from both parties expected to act as spoilers. By virtue of how the two national parties have conducted their campaigns, the election is billed as a contest between Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh of the Congress and the BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Chief Minister was almost in trouble with BJP digging its entire misdeed starting from corruption, various scams including that of K-Pro Loktak scam, and rampant appointment of government jobs to the near and dear ones.

BJP on the other hand is facing serious hurdle over its attempt to solve the aged old problem of NSCN-IM. While defending the Okram and team's allegation on the supposedly conspiracy on the controversial framework agreement here in the valley region, the saffron team is facing another crisis in hill district particularly to those which are dominated by cadres of NSCN-IM.

A promise for protection of territorial integrity of Manipur is a thrashing blow to the NSCN-IM which has signed agreement with the government of India and silencing on the matter is more like surrendering to the congress led Okram Ibobi and team.

Congress team under the leadership of Okram Ibobi is playing tough with the Naga issue and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's team inexplicit clarification on the 'frame work' agreement with the NSCN-IM has left the BJP leaving on stoning frame. Every political parties including the BJP know that a verbal clarification will not help in convincing the people of the state. This issue of NSCN-IM has been sensitized to almost every Manipuri people since 1997. The death of 21 people in the mass uprising for extending cease fire extension to the state of Manipur is no joke. And this is known to the government of India.

Well, by not presenting the so called frame work agreement between the NSCN-IM and the Govt. Mr. Prime Minister and his team is indirectly giving a chance to Mr. Okram Ibobi and his team to subside the various misdeed his government had committed to the people of the state for 15 years.

The fake encounter case, drug smuggling case, misutilization of various fund in almost all government department including the Horticulture department, Home Department, PWD etc. and most importantly the infamous Loktak scam at which crores of rupees has been misutilized are being cover up.

The so call 'frame work agreement' signed between the NSCN-IM and the Government of India should be publicized if Mr. Prime Minister and his team is not having any plan of playing Pema Khandu episode of Arunachal Pradesh.

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#### TENDER NOTICE

Imphal, the 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017

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Sd/-  
(Prof. Ch. Arun Kumar Singh)  
Director

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## Protecting Language Diversity in India

By: Pandurang Hegde

India is one of unique countries in the world that has the legacy of diversity of languages. The Constitution of India has recognised 22 official languages. Multilingualism is the way of life in India as people in different parts of the country speak more than one language from their birth and learns additional languages during their life time.

Though officially there are 122 languages, Peoples Linguistic Survey of India has identified 780 languages, of which 50 are extinct in past five decades.

The twenty two languages that are recognised by the Constitution are: Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kashmiri, Kannada, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu are included in the Eighth Schedule of the constitution.

Among these three languages, Sanskrit, Tamil and Kannada have been recognised as classical language with special status and recognition by Government of India. The classical languages have written and oral history of more than 1000 years. In comparison to these, English is very young as it has the history of only 300 years.

In addition to these scheduled and classical languages, The Constitution of India has included the clause to protect minority languages as a fundamental right. It states "Any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part of thereof having a distinct language, script or culture

of its own shall have the right to conserve the same."

The language policy of India provides guarantee to protect the linguistic minorities. Under the Constitution provision is made for appointment of Special Officer for linguistic minority with the sole responsibilities of safeguarding the interest of language spoken by the minority groups.

During the colonial rule the first linguistic survey was conducted during 1894 to 1928 by George A. Grierson that identified 179 languages and 544 dialects. Due to lack of trained personnel as linguists this survey had many deficiencies.

In the post independence era Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), based in Mysore was assigned to carry out an in-depth survey of languages. However this is still remains incomplete.

In 1991 the Census of India listed 1576 mother tongues 'with separate grammatical structures and 1796 speech varieties that is classified as other mother tongues'.

Another unique feature of India is the concept of protecting the interest of children to get basic education in their mother tongue. The Constitution provides "it shall be the endeavour of every State and of every local authority within the state to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups".

Thus, even before the United Nations declared the International

Mother Language Day (February 21) the founders of the Indian Constitution gave top priority to teaching in mother tongues', enabling the child to develop its full potential.

This concept is in total agreement with the 2017 theme of United Nations World Mother Language Day "to develop the potential of multilingual education to be acknowledged in education, administrative systems, cultural expression and cyber space".

In 1956 reorganisation of states in India was carried out with linguistic boundaries that had its own script. Sardar Vallabhai Patel, the then home minister played key role in formation and amalgamation of states based on linguistic attributes.

The language policy of India has been pluralistic, giving priority to the use of mother tongue in administration, education and other fields of mass communication. The Language Bureau of Ministry of Human Resource Development is set up to implement and monitor the language policy.

Supporting the cause of promoting and conserving the language diversity in cyberspace, Union Minister of Electronic and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad cautioned the Internet providers "the language of internet cannot be English and English alone. It must have linkages with the local and local means local languages. I appeal to make local languages available for more internet users".

He said that the ministry has

initiated Technology Development for Indian Languages with the objective of developing information processing tools and techniques to facilitate human machine interaction without language barrier, creating and accessing multilingual knowledge resources.

The Government of India under the vision of digital India has mandated the mobile phones sold from July 2017 should support all Indian languages. This will pave way for bridging the digital divide, empowering one billion people who do not speak English with connectivity in their own languages. This will also enhance the capacity of large number people to be part of e-governance and e-commerce.

Despite these efforts by the central government minority languages are under threat of extinction due to multiple causes. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the death of Boia, the last speaker of Bo language is one of those instances that have lead to extinction of Bo language with the history of 7000 years.

In recent years the language diversity is under threat as speakers of diverse languages are becoming rare and major languages are adopted after abandoning the mother tongues. The problem needs to be addressed at societal level, in which the communities have to take part in conservation of language diversity that is part of cultural wealth. Courtesy PIB Feature

(Author is an independent journalist and columnist based in Karnataka. Views expressed in the article are personal.)

### National & International News

## Bomb attack, police shootout in Indonesian city

**Bandung, Feb 27:** A small bomb exploded in a park in the Indonesian city of Bandung today, with the attacker fleeing into government offices and engaging in a shootout with police.

No one was reported wounded in the assault in the major city on Java island which police said was linked to a "terrorist network". The attacker was captured after a standoff lasting about an hour.

After the blast, which reports said

came from a bomb constructed out of a pressure cooker, the attacker fled into a building belonging to local authorities.

Television footage showed armed police exchanging fire with the man inside, and part of the building was set on fire.

Local police chief Anton Charliyan said no one had been hurt and everyone had been evacuated from the building.

"We tried to negotiate but instead

the perpetrator tried to burn (the place)," he told local TV station MetroTV.

"He's from a terrorist network," he added, without elaborating. Charliyan said the attacker, whom he did not identify, was injured during the standoff.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority country, has long struggled with Islamic militancy and was hit by series of attacks in the past 15 years, including the 2002 Bali

bombings that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists.

A sustained crackdown weakened the most dangerous networks but the emergence of the Islamic State (IS) group has proved a potent new rallying cry for the country's radicals and hundreds flocked to the Middle East to fight with the jihadists.

A series of attacks and failed plots have been linked to IS supporters in Indonesia in recent years.

## Ramjas College clash: Rajnath Singh cautions police as Tiranga March by ABVP begins

**New Delhi, Feb. 27:** As Delhi University re-opens on Monday, protests over the Ramjas College incident that shook Delhi University last week on 22 February, refused to die down.

Calling it a march for the country, the Delhi University Students Union will

hold a 'Tiranga March' early on Monday, *Hindustan Times* reported. JNU students union (JNUSU) have called for a public meeting at the Administrative Block at 4 pm. On Tuesday, students and teachers from Delhi University (DU) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) have planned a march from Khalsa College to Arts Faculty.

Delhi University's Ramjas College had on Wednesday witnessed large-scale violence between members of All India Students Association (AISA) and the RSS' student wing Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) outside Ramjas College.

The genesis of the clash was an invite to JNU students Umar Khalid and Shehla Rashid to address a seminar on 'Culture of Protests' which was withdrawn by the college authorities following opposition by the ABVP. Khalid was jailed last year on sedition charges for allegedly shouting anti-national slogans.

Fearing DU like violence on its campus, Ambedkar University in the national capital postponed an event marking the 26th anniversary of the alleged Kanan Poshpora mass rape in Kashmir. According to *Hindustan Times*, DUSU's Tiranga March led by ABVP will start at 12:30 pm from Ramjas College parking lot to the Faculty of Arts. In the evening, Nandini

Sundar, a teacher at DU's sociology department, Rajeev Kanwar of Dyal Singh College and some DU students will address a public meeting at JNU against the violence at Ramjas College. "This is our call to re-assert right to freedom of speech and expression and raising voice against violence and our solidarity with DU students," said Mohit K Pandey, JNUSU president.

Tuesday will see another protest by groups of Left-wing students and teachers, who will march from Khalsa College to Arts Faculty against the stalling of the street play competition at SGTB Khalsa College. According to *Hindustan Times*, the competition was put on hold allegedly after the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) objected to the content of some plays. Calling it a #FightbackDU march and #DUagainstGoondagardi, groups such as Pinjra Tod who have been fighting against discriminatory hostel rules, will also be a part of the march. The group has created a Facebook event for this march and invited students to join in large numbers. JNU students and teachers will also be a part of the march on Tuesday.

According to *The Hindu*, Kawalpreet Kaur of the All India Students' Union said: "Will the ABVP, the BJP and the RSS set the limits to free speech or decide what should be said and what not? Even

when the organisers canceled the invitation to Umar Khalid hours before the event, why did the ABVP vandalize it? It clearly shows that the ABVP just has to create an atmosphere and crush the voices of common students which raise the issues of tribals and people of India".

#### Rajnath Singh's comments

Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said he was in touch with Delhi Police over the situation arising out of the Ramjas College clash. The minister told journalists that he had asked Delhi Police to act with caution.

"I have told Delhi Police to practice restraint so that nothing goes wrong. I am constantly in touch with the police commissioner," he said.

The Delhi Police was widely blamed for not restraining the ABVP activists and also for assaulting students and journalists. Three policemen were suspended last week on charges of assault.

#### Kiren Rijiju's comments on Delhi University student's campaign

Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju on Monday wondered who was "polluting" the mind of a Delhi University student campaigning on social media against the ABVP. Gurmehar Kaur, a Delhi University student and daughter of an army Captain who died in the Kargil war, launched a social media campaign against the ABVP in wake of the violence in Ramjas College.