

Editorial

Imphal Tuesday, February 28, 2017

A need to ponder upon

When a guardian wait and watch to heal the wound without giving proper medication in time, the act was often described as 'negligence', 'irresponsible' and so on. It's perception that, even after knowing the wounds will be healed in the passing of time, there is no dearth for criticism. This is human society of 21 century. Competition everywhere, the onetime valued first division student is now of no used unless the marks he get crossed 90% and above. And this is a signed real world. And there is every reason for criticizing the guardian who waits to heal the wound of his ward instead of taking to physician for speedy cure.

The so call festival of democracy is a troublesome for students of the state. Politicians political party seems almost forgotten that the pillar of our future need to be cultured well by not engaging them in the dirty game they played. One wonder why students should be utilized as a tool for election campaign. The game of throne is also seriously affecting the life of the students. The wait and watch game by the government have left with no choice to many students that they now comes to the streets demanding justice for the people of the state. In any way the students have been affected and the future of the state is at stake.

Manipur, the erstwhile kingdom, which became a part of India in October 15, 1949, is now seriously suffering from a chronic illness. The wound is getting serious day after another and everyone knows that "it is bleeding". That is why the guardian of this erstwhile kingdom, now a state of India, needs to find an immediate cure.

The wait and watch policy which has been seen following for a quite long time is going to worsen the wound and definitely there is will criticism from almost all corners for being irresponsible guardian.

History still tells how the then erstwhile kingdom after becoming a part of India was treated after its merger to the Indian Union. It was given the status of Part C state. Status of a state was only given after peoples' movement. Then there was an issue about the influx of foreigners' which is being continued till today. Amidst the various issue the most controversial accepted by critic as draconian act AFSPA is still enforced. And people across the globe whoever have some understanding about the history of Manipur knows how the people of this region had struggled to get their language included among the scheduled language of the country.

At all these issues none are timely cured, some - like granting of state status and inclusion of the Manipuri language among the scheduled language have been granted after a series of protest and some which discriminate the entire people of the state from the rest of the country still have not been taken as a matter of serious issue. This is about AFSPA.

Amidst this the burning issue of Inner Line permits system which has its roots as early as late 1960s is still keeping Manipur in the frying pan.

"The more you fight your enemy the more he learnt your weakness", the saying seems true and it's being utilized as we see today's Manipur. The issue which all the people of the state had unanimously fight together have now received opposition from groups of people. With the failure of the authority to render justice to the people students now goes to the streets, submits memorandum to the governor.

This is being stated because these few months every years is putting the state into state of war like situation harassing the students which are the pillar of the future.

Almost everything has been ruined and if the education atmosphere is disturb the future of Manipur is surely to be landed in serious trouble.

Are these wait and watch attitude a strategy to end the future of this state? A matter that each of us need to ponder upon.

How long will Newspapers survive, and what will happen if they vanish?

Recently, a journalism student from Liverpool, England, interviewed me for a class project on the state of newspapers and the news business. I thought I'd post the interview here.

Question: People have mentioned for a number of years that the newspaper will eventually die out but why do you think this hasn't been the case yet?

Answer: Ever since the dawn of the Internet a group whom I call the digital zealots have been predicting the demise of newspapers. These claims were really based more on wishful thinking than anything else; digital zealots typically want to see an end to print, and a world where everything is digital and all content is free. Indeed, the slogan "information wants to be free" is typically associated with these people.

But newspapers haven't died out yet because they are still relatively profitable, though less so than they once were. Even in the digital age, most newspapers still get 70 or 80 percent of their revenue - sometimes even more - from print advertising.

Digital advertising, on the other hand, pays relatively little. In fact, there is a saying in the news business that goes like this: publishers are trading analog dollars for digital dimes and mobile pennies. It's a way of comparing the relative value of print advertising versus online and mobile ads.

The problem with the "information wants to be free" mindset is that information isn't free. News doesn't just pop out of the air; it must be gathered by journalists. Whether it's the civil war in Syria or terrorist

attack in Paris or a city council meeting in Detroit, if we want news coverage of these things then we have to pay journalists to cover them. Journalists are like everyone else; they need money to be able to feed, clothe and shelter themselves and their families. "Information wants to be free" isn't just a harmless slogan. I think it's an idea that has done enormous damage to the news business.

Question: Do you believe the newspaper industry will eventually disappear completely?

Answer: I don't know. But until there is a reliable business model for making online news profitable, newspapers are going to be around for a while. As long as news organizations are making money from print, they will keep printing.

Question: Do you believe there is a solution to this?

Answer: I don't know if there is a solution long-term. I don't know if newspapers will be around in 20 or 30 years. I think the real solution will be to find a way to make digital news profitable. Journalism can't disappear; people will always need news and information. It's just a matter of finding a way to make journalism profitable.

What makes newspapers valuable and unique is the fact that they typically have much larger staffs than comparable news operations at online-only news sites, or TV or radio stations. By having more reporters, newspapers can provide coverage that's both broad and deep, which

you're not likely to get on your local 30 minute TV newscast.

Question: What do you think is contributing to the demise of the newspaper and drop in circulation?

Answer: First, people said radio would kill newspapers. Then it was TV. Now it's the Internet. Yet newspapers are still around. Certainly, these new forms of media have cut into the business of newspapers. Circulation and ad revenue has been dropping for decades. As I said earlier, I don't know if papers will still be around, say, 25 years from now. Nobody does. But again, as long as they make money, they will continue. I should add, however, that part of the problem is that young people typically aren't very interested in the news. At the start of every semester I survey my journalism students to see how many read the news daily. Out of a class of 15, usually only a few hands go up. And my students aren't unusual in this regard. I'm not sure what the solution is.

Question: Although they may not be as profitable as they used to, newspapers have been around for such a long time. What effect do you think it would have on the media and news consumption as a whole?

Answer: You mean if newspapers disappeared entirely? Again, it's clear that an increasing number of people are getting their digitally. I think that will continue. Whether that will mean we are less well-

informed than we used to be is unclear.

Question: Do you have any predictions for future news consumption?

Answer: Clearly there's been a huge migration from print to online and now to mobile devices. I don't doubt that that will continue. But again, at some point someone needs to figure out a way to make online-only news sites profitable enough so that they can sustain news operations substantial enough to do good journalism. Right now, nobody has quite figured it out. Many newspapers are increasing their subscription rates so that a greater percentage of revenue comes from circulation. Many others have erected paywalls on their websites so that readers will have to pay for content. I think these are both excellent ideas. If we want to live in a world where we have good, responsible news coverage, then we need to be willing to pay for it. And I think people are slowly realizing this.

For instance, a while back The New York Times paywall surpassed digital advertising in the amount of revenue it was bringing in. Readers have realized that if they want to keep The New York Times around, then they need to be willing to pay for it, even online. But I don't know if these measures alone will be enough to make online-only news profitable enough in the long run. (Collection from around the web)

National & International News

Strike disrupts banking services in Tripura

ANI
New Delhi, Feb 28: Banking services were disrupted badly as most of the major banks remained closed on Tuesday in the Left-ruled Tripura due to a nation-wide employees' strike.

4,000 bank employees belonging to about 500 branch offices of nationalized, regional, rural and cooperative bank in Tripura participated in the 37th strike, and were seen agitating in front of their branches.

Shutters of most of the banks remained down in the state though ATM of few banks was

found working. The striking employees were protesting the "anti-people banking reforms" beside demanding for booking loan defaulters amongst big industrialists and corporate sector and to protect the Indian banks from foreign controls.

"We are mainly protesting against the Labour Reforms Amendment Bill and banking reforms that the central government has brought," said Tripura state Secretary of National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE), Swapan Kr Modak.

"All of us are agitating to save the

interest of the common people and the banking sector but the government has amended the Labour Laws to stop our agitation. Our main demand is that the banks should remain nationalized and government's property and not move towards privatization," added Swapan Kr Modak.

"Throughout India banks have disbursed loans to various industrialists amounting to Rs. 32 lakh crore and which has gone up by another Rs. 11.5 lakh crore. The amount has doubled this year and we want to get back this loan

amount and the government should make public the names of all those who are not repaying back their loan and take legal action against them," he said.

The protesters also demanded compensation to employees for extra work done on account of demonetisation of high value currencies since November 8, 2016.

The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), the umbrella organization of nine employees' unions and four officers' associations of state-owned banks had called the strike after its talks with the Indian Banks Association in New Delhi failed.

Name changed

I, the undersigned, **Jennifer Marshall**, of Singamei Thongam Leikai, Imphal West, do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **Jennifer Sorensangbam**, as I have assumed my new name **Jennifer Marshall**.

Sd/-
Jennifer Marshall
Singamei Thongam Leikai, Imphal West,
P.S - Singamei
Dist:- Imphal West. Pin 795001

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11 killed, 30 injured as bus falls into canal in Andhra Pradesh

Vijayawada, Feb. 28: At least 11 people died and 30 others were injured after a private bus coming from Vizag to Hyderabad fell into a river channel under the bridge near Moolapadu village under Penuganchiprolu mandal in Krishna district.

The incident happened at 5.30 AM in the morning, after bus driver, A Narayana Reddy, fell asleep behind the wheel and crashed the vehicle into a road divider following which

the bus fell into a culvert under the bridge. Locals rushed to the spot and rescued the injured and alerted the Nandigama police.

Amongst the 40 passengers, seven of them died at the spot, while three others succumbed to injuries while being rushed to Nandigama Government Hospital. Currently, another 10 of them are critically injured. Initially, the injured passengers were rushed to the Government Hospital in Nandigama

for first aid from where nine of them were shifted to Vijayawada Government General Hospital for better treatment. Around 16 of them were sent to Andhra Hospital in Gollapudi village.

According to Deputy Transport Commissioner E Meera Prasad, the bus was at a speed of around 110 kmph at NH 16 and crashed against a 3-ft high wall before tumbling down 22-ft below the bridge. Transport minister Sidda Raghava

Rao has ordered a probe into the accident.

Some of the deceased identified were SK Bhasha (24) from Krishna district, Prabhakar Reddy from Vizag, Krishna Reddy of Nalgonda, Tulasi of Srikakulam, K Madhusudan Reddy of Hyderabad, Baldev from Odisha.

Police have registered a case against Diwakar Travels and sent the dead bodies for post mortem. The investigation is presently underway.

Kerala priest who spoke against child abuse arrested for raping minor girl

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb. 28: A priest who spoke against child abuse was arrested in Kerala for alleged rape of a minor which led to her pregnancy, police said on Tuesday.

The 17-year-old gave birth to a baby at a private hospital last month and the accused had shifted both the mother and the newborn to an orphanage in north Kerala's Wayanad to hush up the incident. Father Robin Vaddakumchiriyil (48), the vicar of St Sebastian church in Kottiyoor, was arrested after the girl narrated the incident to officials of childline, a telephone helpline for children in distress. Childline officials then tipped off police. The church official had allegedly

abused the girl at the computer class provided by the church, police said.

A spokesperson of the Thalaserry diocese said the priest has been taken out of all religious duties. Police said a DNA test will be held on the priest to ascertain to strengthen the case against him. Police have also booked the private hospital, where she delivered a baby, for not informing police.

"The priest also made an attempt to implicate the girl's father in the case. Since the family is from an economically weaker section he tried to implicate him and told many about this," said deputy superintendent of police Prajeesh,

who uses only his first name. The priest was planning to travel to Canada to evade arrest, he said. A police official said the priest was the chief guest at a function organised recently against crime against children. He was also known to have spoken on the

issue earlier.

Police quoted the minor as saying that she has been in trauma for the last two years and the priest threatened her not to reveal the incident to anyone. Fearing social stigma, her parents also kept silent.

Name changed

I, the undersigned, **Aneng Jamangnao**, of Chatric Khullen Village, Ukhrul District, Manipur do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **Ningkhohat Taithul**, as I have assumed my new name **Aneng Jamangnao**.

Sd/-
Aneng Jamangnao
Chatric Khullen Village, Ukhrul District, Manipur