

# Editorial

Imphal Wednesday, February 8, 2017

## A matter needs to be pondered upon

The talk had failed and people will continue to suffer. The recent sequence of events witness either in term of political circus and the struggle for protection of Manipuri identity is indeed a worrisome for all people.

The idea of nation having one identity, one religion, one culture, one language promulgated by some self style son of mother India has created fear psychosis to various ethnic communities in the country. At a time when chauvinistic idealism of creating a nation of only one community is seen marching ahead, it is natural that each and every ethnic communities of the nation have reason to be feared. Because it is family first then come the society then it is the nation.

India was and is a nation of diverse people. The beauty of India is the existences of different ethnic people with diverse cultural people. It is important that if India has to prove the world as the most successful democratic country, the leaders and the so called self style son of the soil should tried to become real son of the soil by accepting that the concept of one religion, one culture and one language should not be followed in the Nation called India.

During Kargil war, two soldier from this region, that too from a border village between Myanmar and India in the state of Manipur were martyred while fighting the Pakistani troops. Family of the two did not know the common language that their sons spoke with their fellow soldiers and moreover, the villagers of the two soldiers are fighting tough safeguarding their villages from intruders of the neighbouring villages. Yet they pray for the success of India.

The Indian administrators of the time was not the one which brought victory to the Kargil war, but it was the prayers of those thousand parents, whose sons were fighting for the country, but who never see Delhi, or who never understood the common language (Hindi) that make India success. Indeed, many critics are of the views that India is still in the process of nation building. But the reality is that India is already a nation. A nation of imagine community living under the same roof.

The peaceful co existence and communal harmony was put in dead danger with the rise of communal centric feudalism classes. They spew venom of hate feeling among the various communities for their mere selfish gain. Last few decades showed rise of many such feudalists and the rise of this class raises the feeling of enmity among the various community.

Coming back to the state of Manipur, the problem facing right now has similar roots. The force annexation is often pin point as the root of all sort of trouble here, but the reality is that the root of the entire problem facing in the state of Manipur is the chauvinistic attitude of the ruling government in the mainland India.

Instead of looking on the problem, the then ruler of the mainland India had sideline the real issue submitted by the then expert officials deputised by their government, they never tried anything to put a halt to the rise of the armed opposition group. But rather the then government incited hate feeling among various communities thinking that the same technique adopted the British ruler can suppress any movement in the region.

Instead of taking into consideration and finding a means to end all sort of violent activism a Scheme called Surrendered Rehabilitation Schemes had been introduced and the result - people now suffered double the problem that they had faced before the coming of the scheme.

Well Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, the last President of USSR had understood the important of safeguarding each community and USSR was separated into various independent nations. Problem will be there as long as human kind exists. Because they think and act and those act are sometime negative from one's view point even if he or she thought it right from his viewpoints.

The fear factor right now is felt to everyone. Man dies and sacrifices for their children and nation. If the fear factor grows no one can guarantee any upward incident at which the fear factor was challenge and wipe out completely to restore the once upon a time nation state called Manipur.

## ANGAMI ZAPU PHIZO'S SURREL 2017 AD

Dr G Tonsana Sharma, Senior Citizen, Former CE PWD

The surreal is the world of the year 2016 in Webster's English dictionary and meaning is very strange, like a dream. Born in 1913 AD, Phizo dreamed of an independent sovereign State carved out of India. Educated by the Baptists, though under matriculation he was sharp and a poet, determined to compose "Naga National Anthem". While working on the docks in Rangoon he joined the invading Japanese troops on their march to India, apparently in return for Naga Independence should they win the war against the British. Returning after the war he joined the NNC in Kohima and later in 1947 joined NNC delegate to meet Mahatma Gandhi in Delhi to express their Independence but in vain as Gandhi did not favour them. In 1950 he was elected as president of NNC and committed the Nagas to full independence, in 1951 he and his men toured the Naga hills obtaining thump prints and signatures to a document affirming their support for independent Naga state which he later claimed to be a comprehensive

plebiscite that revelled 99.99 pc Nagas supported the Naga independence. The same year to express their desire of independence, three of NNC members along with him met the then Interim PM Nehru at Teipur, Assam who had come for election campaign in which Nehru replied as absurd. Again in February 1952 along with two of NNC members he met Nehru in Delhi and this time Nehru suggested for greater autonomy but Phizo denied and continued the struggle for independence which he expressed in a press conference. He further pledged to a war that would not admit of truces, retreats or compromises and to indulged in type of guerrillas' warfare to defeat the Indian army and declared formation of Federal Government of Nagaland in September 1954. By the middle of 1956 war was in its full scale in Naga hills however the press both Indian/International were not covering the conflict as observed by one Naga doctor who wrote a later to the last British Deputy commissioner of the Naga hills, Charles Pawsey in June 1956

and mentioned that the war will affect the Naga/Indian relation for the next 50-100 years (2006-2056). Yet the Nagas were inspired by the objective of a Naga nation and many youths abandon their villages to join the guerillas with full spirit of nationalism and patriotism. Mean time Phizo crossed to Burma and then to East Pakistan, from where he continued to direct the Naga resistant movement. Finally considering the need of western world backing in his case, he reached Switzerland after travelling long under a forged El Salvadorian passport, where he made contact with Reverend Michael Scott, a radical Anglican priest who had previously worked with the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. Nelson Mandela is worth remembering. With Scott's help Phizo reached London where he took refuge in UK. There he was able to internationalize their issue of Naga movement for a free nation out of India with the help of two personalities viz. Richard Michael Scott and David Astor, the liberal owner of the Observer newspaper who played a stellar role in the fight

against Nazis. Phizo's charges were given wide play by the paper, and by several other journals in UK, etc. With this successfully internationalized Naga question, PM Nehru thought it prudent to make a state of Nagaland by carving out of Assam less his popularity was in stake globally specially in UK, USA and even China which may ultimately affect external affairs. Nagaland thus gained statehood on 1st December 1963 and under Persuasion of Governor LP Singh some of the prominent Naga leaders were able to come to table for a Naga peace accord namely Shillong Accord 1971. But due to the accord NSCN(IM) came up and finally the present framework agreement is reached almost ending the long traversed revolutionary journey of naga nation, the contents of which could be a onetime Monarchy independent state of Chogyal's SIKKIM with own flag, currency and ruler under the Indian Protectorate without disturbing the territories of the neighboring states of ASSAM, MANIPUR and ARUNACHAL PRADESH. Let us all wait with folded hands for good-sake.

## National & International News

### Oppn. slams govt. for continuing restrictions on withdrawals

**New Delhi, Feb. 8:** Opposition parties including Congress and TMC today joined ranks to slam the government for continuing restrictions on cash withdrawal from banks even after 90 days of demonetisation, saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that hardships will last only 50 days.

TMC, a bitter critic of the decision to junk old 500 and 1000 rupee notes, gave a notice under rule 267 for suspension of business of Rajya Sabha to discuss continuing restrictions, that found support from Congress and other opposition parties.

Sukhendu Sekhar Roy (TMC) said

today marked completion of 90 days since demonetisation was announced on November 8 last year.

Modi, he said, had asked for 50 days to restore normalcy and had offered to undergo any punishment publicly if any shortcoming or hardships are found after December 30.

"We don't want Prime Minister to stand at any 'chowk' (a crossing) but cash withdrawal restrictions continue even after 90 days," he said demanding that the government lift all restrictions so that people can use their money at their will.

Currently, cash withdrawal is limited to Rs 24,000 a week from saving bank accounts.

Disallowing the notice, Deputy Chairman P J Kurien said the issue has already been discussed for 12 hours.

Roy contested Kurien's statement saying the discussion happened on the Motion of Thanks to President's Address and demonetisation was not the subject matter.

The Deputy Chairman conceded that technically the motion did not mention this particular subject but the issue was touched upon by both sides during the discussion. "Therefore I am not allowing (the notice). I have rejected the notice," he said.

At this point, Congress and other opposition members joined in to

demand that they too should be allowed to speak on the issue. But Kurien disallowed it, leading to protests by the members.

"Because the motion is rejected, I cannot allow anybody to speak," he said as he turned down Roy's plea.

Kurien said the Chair can call other members to speak on a 267 motion if it has any doubt about admitting it. "I have no doubt (on this motion) and so I am not allowing anybody to speak including the minister," he said.

Members continued to protest for a brief while but resumed their places as the House took up listed business.

### Fresh snowfall in parts of Kashmir; mercury at freezing point

**PTI Srinagar, Feb 8:** Overcast conditions have led to an increase in the night temperature in Kashmir as the mercury across the Valley, except in high altitude areas, remained above the freezing point, even as some places in the higher reaches received fresh snowfall, a MeT official said today.

There was a huge respite from the cold conditions in Kashmir Valley and Ladakh region as the night temperatures have increased owing to the overcast sky, especially after the 40-day Chillai-Kalan, considered the harshest period of winter, ended on January 31, an official of the Meteorological department here said. The mercury, which has been hovering around the freezing point for the past few days in the plains of the Valley, settled above the zero degrees Celsius last night, he said. However the high altitude areas in

Kashmir and Ladakh region continued to experience sub-zero night temperature.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, registered the minimum temperature of 0.4 degree Celsius, while Qazigund, the gateway town to the Valley - recorded a low of 1.2 degrees Celsius, the official said.

He said the mercury in Kokernag town in south Kashmir settled at a low of 0.3 degree Celsius, same as that of the previous night.

The famous tourist resort of Gulmarg and Pahalgam and the north Kashmir town of Kupwara were the places which witnessed sub-zero night temperature.

Gulmarg, the famous ski-resort in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 7.0 degrees Celsius, up by nearly three degrees from the previous nights minus 9.6 degrees Celsius, the official said.

He said Pahalgam resort in south

Kashmir registered the minimum of minus 0.2 degree Celsius, a degree up from minus 1.2 degrees Celsius yesterday.

The official said Pahalgam recorded fresh snowfall of one cm during the last 24 hours, while there were also reports of snow in some other places in the higher reaches of Kashmir.

He said the mercury in Kupwara town settled at a low of minus 1.4 degrees Celsius, against minus 2.5 degrees Celsius on the previous night.

The official said Leh town in Ladakh

region registered a low of minus 9.7 degrees Celsius, an increase of nearly six degrees from minus 15.3 degrees Celsius yesterday.

Leh was the coldest recorded place in the state, he said, adding that data for the nearby Kargil town was not available.

He said that there is a possibility of scattered to fairly widespread rains or snowfall in the state over the next 24 hours, but the weather is likely to stay dry over a few days from February 10. PTI SSB MUJ CPS

### Massive 6.6 magnitude-quake jolts Pakistan

**ANI Karachi, Feb. 8:** A strong 6.6 magnitude-earthquake hit the Baluchistan's districts of Pasni, Turbat, Gwadar and adjoining areas on early Wednesday morning, informed US Geological Survey.

According to *Geo News*, the epicenter of tremor was around 90 km south of Turbat, Pakistan. "The epicenter of the tremor was around 90 km south of the town of Turbat, just off the coast at a depth of 10 km below the seabed," said the USGS, which initially estimated the magnitude to be 6.6.

There were no immediate reports of damage or fatalities from the quake, which was centred between the

Chinese-operated port of Gwadar and the city of Pasni, in Baluchistan province.

The quake was so strong that it was felt in neighbouring Iran as well. "The shallow quake struck at 3:03 am, with an epicentre just 23 kilometres southwest of Pakistan's coastal city of Pasni," the USGS added.

There are no immediate reports of casualties or damages. The local administration has issued a high alert for districts at Makran belt. With an estimated population of 400,000 people, Pasni is located on the Makran coast on the Arabian Sea about 450 km from Karachi.

### UP elections 2017: CEC Nasim Zaidi on Lucknow visit to review poll preparedness

**Lucknow, Feb. 8:** In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi along with his team of Commissioners have reached in Lucknow on two day visit today to review the preparedness of the forth

coming assembly election. According to election office during the two-day stay, the commission will have review meeting with the officials related to the third and fourth phase of election in state.

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