

Editorial

The ticking time bomb Will the New BJP led state Govt. able to defuse it?

Indian Interlocutor RN Ravi's visit to Nagaland was significant. Even though there are criticisms from certain sections of the people from Nagaland over the concealing of what was really talk with each stakeholders regarding the years long unsettled dispute between the Government of India and the NSCN-IM, the visit cannot be taken lightly as it is a move to sort out a final settlement. Leaving aside some of the relevant question asked by another section of people from Nagaland over the consideration of NSCN-IM as the main factor to solve the age old issue, the move of the Indian interlocutor is co-incidental with the political crisis in the state. It is a fact that TR Zeliang group is camping at Kaziranga to topple the Shurhozelie Lieziantsy led government by defecting from the party. Political uncertainty will definitely be a factor to hinder any sort of move for solution to problems of the very society. And no wonder why the Indian Government sent Interlocutor RN Ravi at this crucial hour.

The recent development in the state of Nagaland is indirectly related to what is expected to be happened in the state of Manipur as the NSCN-IM's agenda is no more a hidden one. Central government authority's promises is skeptical as we see Manipur burnt in the year 2001 over a single mistake committed by them. Bringing a lasting solution with the NSCN-IM cannot skip the Manipur's question. For sure the NSCN-IM is not going to fulfil on what it had dreamt with the state of Nagaland but promises made to the so call Naga (cadres and sympathisers of NSCN-IM) from Manipur will be the last option for the NSCN-IM leaders. Narendra Modi government is kin to end the issues of the NSCN-IM without bothering other groups operating in the region. While attempting a lasting solution, we cannot simply believe to the Modi government to his promise of safeguarding the territorial integrity of Manipur. Because everything is possible in politics. Thank God the proposed tripartite talk with the front body of NSCN-IM, Manipur Government and the Government of India scheduled to hold some days back has been postponed. Or else the outcome of the talk may be another headache. Nonetheless the talk is surely going to hold in the coming days. The issue of the NSCN-IM and its front body is a ticking time bomb at which the government of Manipur need to tackle it carefully.

Another issue which have the potential of breaking the harmony of the state is the ILPS or in other word the demands for introduction of legislation for protection of the indigenous people of the state. Conflicting ideology between two communities of the state which has been staying from time immemorial had made the issue more critical leaving the government helpless. But the issue is only at the state of dormant. It will erupt one day.

Another bigger issue that the state government should ponder upon is the draconian act AFSPA which had maimed, slaughtered, murdered as many as 1500 people in alleged encounter. The matter is pending at the Supreme Court and the kinds of atrocities committed under the act will surely come up again.

Sincere appeal to the government is that "please find a solution before the fire broke out".

Bank pass book lost

I, the undersigned have lost my State Bank of India (SBI) pass book, account no. 32458341501 issued by the SBI, Porompat Branch, Imphal East on the way between Top Khongnangkong to Porompat JNIMS on 1/7/2017. Finders are requested to kindly hand over the items to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Thokchom Dinajit Singh

Name changed

I, the undersigned, **Randeep Chingtham**, of Thangmeiband Hijam Leikai Imphal West, do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **Chingtham Ranjit Singh**, as I have assumed my new name **Randeep Chingtham**. And my date of Birth is 28/05/2007.

Sd/-
Randeep Chingtham
S/O Chingtham Deependra Singh
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“A letter-rejoinder to Bala and some “Manipuri feminists”: on the recent opening of an unlikely Pandora’s box”

By: **Rajkumar Panthoiren**

To begin with, let me “confess” I am not a big fan of your creative work unlike many of my brethren, some of whom are quite fanatic fans of yours (thankfully, I’m entitled to my opinion); as far as actresses are concerned, I have my Ellen Page, Michelle Pfeiffer, Nicole Kidman, Vivian Leigh, Anne Hathaway, Judy Davis, Jodie Foster, Kate Beckinsale, our very own Tonthoi and so on, who have my deep, abiding admiration and esteem for the substance they bring to the screen and also off-screen in their personal lives. Well, to get to that level, they certainly must have needed intelligence, grace and a conviction. Why am I telling you this, my personal taste? Because I would like to make it crystal clear in no uncertain terms that there are also (happily deviant) people like me in this land who have different tastes and thus, are not really taken in by the supposed celebrityhood of “stars” like you (and the sort of murdered, wannabe English accent and grammar propagated by your ilk). But since you have attained a considerable amount of acceptance and even fan base among certain people, what you speak out publicly carries a weight for your fans who have assigned you as some sort of a cultural and social representative. Considering this context, let me bring into attention the current burning issue of extreme backlash against you regarding your opinion that it is okay for a Manipuri lady to be married to a non-Manipuri. Many of the comments on social media were derogatory and distasteful, along the lines of “Are you a mayang?”, “You are a traitor” and so on. It is not acceptable and I apologise on behalf of those commentators. But then, on the flipside, there might be some credible reasons for some of the outrage because even level-headed, non-opinionated people have turned vocal against parts of your opinion. And that is, I believe, because of the blatantly ignorant way in which you asked rhetorically, “Akhoi muthkhdwrena mangbei kiriro? Nasagi naral do nasana uthokchabaneba adudi, natro?” (roughly translated as: “Are we [our race] afraid of going extinct? That means you [the people] are exposing your own faults, isn't it?”) This is exactly where you went full wrong and the insensitive manner of articulation, all at all it was one, didn't help you highlight your other fine points such as the need to stay united and help one another out. Your one faulty, naive counter-question completely discredited your other logical points and thus, shows you need to work on your ideation and speaking skills. And many people (surprise! the sane and tame ones too) found your tone of speaking quite abrasive and tinged with arrogant cocksureness, which

to a large extent I attest to (you weren't interacting with a bunch of kids, remember?) Let me break down to you why that particular counter-question of yours was insensitive. Firstly, the danger of being overrun by the non-Manipuris in terms of land occupancy and population and the consequent hegemonic control over our economy, politics and even culture is imminent unless some constitutional safeguards are put in place and that is not a myth (Many would join me in replying: mane, mangkhidoineina kirine; yes, we are afraid/anxious of going extinct). This has been widely considered by local analysts as a colonial plot planted by the vested interests to subdue our people. That aside, did you even ask yourself why the dreaded and draconian AFSPA, 1958 is still imposed on us by the beloved non-Manipuri political and strategic movers and shakers at the centre? Did you even know that an estimated 20 military soldier per civilian is posted in our state? Did you even ask yourself 'Why this blatantly discriminative and excessive militarisation is imposed on us despite repeated appeals?' Do you think it is our 'eral/fault' that the hands of Indian colonialism thickly disguised as democracy are strangling a minority such as us in sinister, subtle ways? Was it Manorama's 'maral' to be gang raped and then shot multiple times in places you wouldn't even want to imagine by the non-Manipuri soldiers? Was it Sharmila's 'maral' to give away her precious youth to fight against the black law? What about those young people like Robinhood who died during protests for safeguarding our identity? Lastly, as a matter of principle, marrying a non-Manipuri, considering our fractured social reality catalysed by the designs of the bigger non-Manipuri players, is a no-no for many of our people. It doesn't mean Manipuris haven't married outsiders in the past or will not marry in the future too. And those who did marry outsiders haven't been excommunicated or lynched. But again, for many people with genuine nationalistic leanings (which actually is not a bad thing, the last time I checked), such marriages are ideologically treacherous. They have their reasons and justifiably so. As much as you are free to exercise your individuality in terms of choice of a life-partner (frankly, I don't care who, local or otherwise, you marry or not), you need to be aware of the unique social milieu of our people while publicly speaking on matters touching upon identity politics. And the tone in which you delivered that notorious counter-question – please do get it checked soon by a voice trainer or better

still, someone well-versed in social etiquette. Sometimes, you need to separate reality from cinematic snobbery. By the way, on a related note, any male actor, if he had raised the same insensitive counter-question as you did, wouldn't have been spared the backlash either. Could you imagine Kaiku or Bonny saying the same line, in the notorious Bala tone, “Akhoi muthkhdwrena mangbei kiriro? Nasagi naral do nasana uthokchabaneba adudi, natro?” and be showered with thunderous claps? Maybe in a distant dreamland. How about some pinch of reality? (MIS)INTERPRETATIONS BY KANGLE:MANIPURI FEMINISTS: Here comes the interesting part. Some self-appointed outside-state educated (no prizes for guessing which University) Manipuri feminists have a unifying feature—conveniently divorced from social reality and its dynamics, and reacting at every turn of the corner by spewing the overused word “patriarchy” as if they have acquired an involuntary reflex for that. And the western-imported words like “mansplaining”, which they brandish conveniently every time a man voices his opinion (dear hypersensitive, entitled feminists, an opinion/an analysis from some level-headed guy and a derogatory remark from a social media cretin are like feminism and biased feminism, Iboton Apaibi and Batman, Jack and Ross, yongchak and singiu, etc meaning they are poles apart with a huge chasm defined). What does that word even mean? So, your logic is like: in patriarchy, a woman's well thought opinion is discarded mercilessly, without considering its merit. So, using our tags as feminists why not discard a man's well thought opinion in today's time because that would be a sweet revenge, ain't it? Plus, we get to use such derogatory and radical feminist propagandist terms like “mansplaining” which have only helped widen the gender divide rather than stitch it. By this logic, aren't you replicating the vices of patriarchy yourself? Oh, try some originality, will you? Maybe too much of exposure to your copycat, redundant mainstream Bollywood movies have ruined your critical thinking faculty or you didn't possess one in the first place? So sad (not really; being stupid and superficial is a choice). And funnily and strangely enough, in the wake of this imbroglio, we got to see some mentally handicapped males, who have got the definition of feminism all mixed up just like the current crop mentioned above posting on social media like “All Meitei men are so shit. But women are angels.” (the male-hating and denigrating version, blaming patriarchy's existence in today's time and age solely on men, while turning

their backs on the role of passive acceptance by women.) The hordes of bewitched female feminists agreeing and nodding in the comments section is unsurprising. When did painting one whole group with a single, judgemental brush become the basis of the fight for gender equality? God knows, or should I say, entitled feminists know! Ah, the exquisitely imposed asphyxiation of that sweet thing called rationality! These men, without doubt, are an annoyingly big part of the problem of perpetuating gender division. I adore them so much that I have given them a name: 'fem-male desperados' (a cocktail word, feminist-male; yeah, turns out non-feminists can also invent quite quirky and useless terms, ladies). They are always passively and sometimes actively engaged in appeasing the biased feminists' camp. **Final note:** When the outrage has multiple dimensions, you only choose to see what you want to see and that is patriarchal oppression of a woman's opinion. Fair enough, that was done by some people, including women too, mind you. But tell me, geniuses, how did you even manage to turn the matter into a by men-only oppression narrative? Are you that deaf and naive not to see the biased jibes of many women too when the actress in question affirmed her stance on the legitimacy of a Manipuri marrying a non-Manipuri? Or, you just looked the other way so could start your male-bashing diatribe? Come on, people are not so dumb not to realise that. By the way, I saw how your group supported personal attack against a man, a relatively new political activist who just happened to give his opinion (who supposedly you had supported till he started showing his true colors: an unapologetic concern for his land even at the risk of being politically incorrect.) That is what is called an *ad hominem* response that goes to show how shallow your comebacks are, if at all they can be considered as comebacks. Is your version of feminism 'Let's-jump-on-any-chance-to-blame-and-mock-mem-because-we-like-to-ign-ore-patriarchal-women' and 'While-we-are-at-it-let's-also-create-a-gender-war-because-that-is-feminism-to-us'? How about doing away with your long-held, personal grudges and biases, and choosing objective analysis for the benefit of one and all? And lastly, individual freedom (the 'my body, my choice' so-called progressive type) of any person (of both genders) is not more essential than that of the people's collective freedom when the latter is in dangerous waters. We owe to where we belong, and not the other way round (sorry, not even in feminist utopia.) Oops, reality not your cup of tea?

National and International News

India planning missile to target all of China from South bases: US Report

Washington, July 13: India continues to modernise its atomic arsenal with an eye on China and the country's nuclear strategy which traditionally focused on Pakistan now appears to place increased emphasis on the Communist giant, two top American nuclear experts have said. An article published in the July-August issue of the digital journal - After Midnight - has also claimed that India is now developing a missile which can target all of China from its bases in South India. India is estimated to have produced enough plutonium for 150-200 nuclear warheads but has likely produced only 120-130, wrote Hans M Kristensen and Robert S Norris in the article - "Indian nuclear forces 2017". India's nuclear strategy, which has traditionally focused on Pakistan, now appears to place increased emphasis

on China, the two experts claimed. "While India has traditionally been focused on deterring Pakistan, its nuclear modernisation indicates that it is putting increased emphasis on its future strategic relationship with China," they wrote. "That adjustment will result in significantly new capabilities being deployed over the next decade that may influence how India views nuclear weapons' role against Pakistan," they said. Noting that India continues to modernise its nuclear arsenal with development of several new nuclear weapon systems, the two experts estimate that New Delhi currently operates seven nuclear-capable systems: two aircraft, four land-based ballistic missiles, and one sea-based ballistic missile. "At least four more systems are in

development. The development program is in a dynamic phase, with long-range land- and sea-based missiles emerging for possible deployment within the next decade," it said. India is estimated to have produced approximately 600 kilograms of weapon-grade plutonium, sufficient for 150-200 nuclear warheads; however, not all the material has been converted into nuclear warheads, it said. Based on available information about its nuclear-capable delivery force structure and strategy, we estimate that India has produced 120-130 nuclear warheads, the article said adding that the country will need more warheads to arm the new missiles it is currently developing. Kristensen and Norris said that the

two-stage, solid-fuel, rail-mobile Agni-2, an improvement on the Agni-1, which can deliver a nuclear or conventional warhead more than 2,000 kilometres is probably targeted on western, central, and southern China. Although the Agni-4 will be capable of striking targets in nearly all of China from northeastern India (including Beijing and Shanghai), India is also developing the longer-range Agni-5, a three-stage, solid-fuel, rail-mobile, near-intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of delivering a warhead more than 5,000 kilometres (3,100-plus miles), it said. "The extra range will allow the Indian military to establish Agni-5 bases in central and southern India, further away from China," the research article said.