

Editorial

Imphal Friday, March 3, 2017

This is our only chance to bring real change; let's do it

All is set to elect new law makers that will decide the fate of Manipur. Voting will begin at 7 am at 1,487 polling stations of 38 assembly constituencies out of the 60 assembly constituencies for the first phase. Voting for the remaining assembly constituencies will be held on March 8.

As per statement by Vivek Kumar Dewangan, Chief Electoral Officer Manipur, each polling station will be webcasted. This means any mischief, booth rigging or threat will be easily noticed by every single individual. This is a sign of some precautionary measures to ensure free and fair election. But one thing remains skeptical is that, the election commission is sometime considered as toothless tiger as no effective measures either to punish those responsible or to take up any disqualification cases of the candidates had ever been witness taken up.

Even then, in view of the volatile situation in the state, the CEO Manipur has taken up every possible measures, to ensure free and fair election. The only thing left is the wisdom of the voters.

Every Manipuri voters are eager for change, change is what the people have been crying for long and it is this election that will make things change. And for bringing such a change the voters need to think twice before thumping the EVM machine.

Political parties matters, their manifestos matters, but above all integrity of the candidate who had the capacity to bring a real change is what every voters need to keep in mind.

Educated youths of the region are frustrated, because they can't afford to pay the money for government jobs. Farmers spend hard life as those in the government fails to take up better service for their welfare. The poor had never been happy as their rights have always been deprived. Government schools survive for name sake and children of government school teachers as well as those we had earlier elected chose the private school for their wards. While over 7 lakhs educated youths are unemployed many who are serving in various government department are enjoying salary in the name of providing service for the people.

Whose fault is that? Why such thing happened? Who will change such system?

Every five years we the people have been offered a chance to change the system. And this chance should not be let off for a mere Rs. 1000, Rs 2000 or even Rs 5000. And those who are now in government service recruited during the recent days ahead of the election notification too should think of how much they spent for their post.

Well, tomorrow, we all can make change is we cast our vote to the person whom we felt qualified without bothering what he or she had done for me.

Let bring a real change.

Soldier in website expose on Army 'Sahayaks' found hanging

Mumbai, March 3: A 33-year-old soldier who was part of a recent expose by a website on the system of the British-era "sahayak" or Buddy system in the army was found hanging in the barracks on Thursday. Roy Mathew, gunner in the Deolali Cantonment in Maharashtra, had been absent without leave since last Saturday. His body was found in a decomposed state in an unused barracks. The police say a post-mortem could establish whether it was a suicide or murder. The Army has ordered a court of inquiry.

Army sources have denied reports that he was questioned after the video, which showed soldiers attached to senior officers for "buddy duties" walking their dogs or taking their children to school. They say after the website's sting operation emerged, the soldier could not be identified because

his face was masked - but he did send a one-word SMS to an officer saying "sorry", apparently under pressure.

The sources say he then went AWOL and the police were informed.

The video has been removed from the website. The soldier reportedly contacted the site after the video of another jawan - Lance Naik Yagya Pratap Singh - describing menial jobs as a sahayak became viral in January and was widely reported. Lance Naik Singh, in the video posted on YouTube, alleged that he was forced to wash clothes, polish boots and walk dogs for his seniors. He flagged his complaint to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and others in a letter.

In recent months, there have been more than one video of soldiers complaining about poor conditions and exploitation.

People's Campaign for Resurgent Manipur calls on people to exercise franchise without fear and influence

By: **Kapil Arambam, Media-in-charge PCRM**

Like every system, the present electoral system in Manipur does have its weakness and strength. However, it is still a crucial aspect of our collective life. It is through this system of election that we elect a few ordinary women and men like us to take the responsibility of governing our collective life on our behalf. Therefore, it is worth remembering certain issues while exercising our voting right.

Private Vs Public Interests

The people whom we elect as members of the State Assembly shall represent us, including the interests with which we elect them. Thus, if the interest(s) that guide our decision to cast our votes for a particular candidate or party is private and personal, the elected individual will also likely to represent similar interests, namely, his private/personal interests.

On the other hand, if the interest(s) that guide our decision to cast our votes for a particular candidate or party is informed by issues of public importance, the elected individual will also likely to represent similar interests, namely, public interests rather than his/her private/personal interests.

When a society is dominated by private interests, our collective well-being is bound to be jeopardized, and chaos and



decadence shall mark the nature of our society and polity.

We ought to remember that corruption, which is the abuse or exploitation of public offices and wealth for private gain, is a product of a political culture dominated by private interests.

Issues of Public Importance as Criterion to Decide Your Vote

Thus, while choosing our representative in the coming election, we must keep in mind the issues of public importance as the criterion to decide who we should vote for.

In this regard, we appeal to the electorates in Manipur to choose a candidate based on (a) the views of

the candidate hold on the issues of public importance (b) what that candidate has done and intend to do on those matters of public importance.

Please also keep in mind similar concerns while evaluating the political parties. Their election manifestos may also be used to evaluate the political parties and candidates in this election.

Significance of NOTA

If you think that the candidates and/or political parties are insincere and unworthy of representing you, you must convey that rejection by casting your vote for NOTA. That rejection must be communicated rather than remaining silent by not

casting your valuable vote. You silence encourages self-seeking individuals to go public offices.

Please remember that under the existing law, NOTA does not technically disqualifies candidates (that is, even if NOTA gets the highest number of votes, the second candidate who comes second will be declared as elected from that constituency). However, it is crucial for us to remember that not communicating your voice of rejection of unworthy candidates and political parties is to encourage decadence in our society and polity. Besides, think of the moral pressure on the person who may go on to become MLA even as she or he has been defeated by NOTA. That moral victory is important in an increasingly unethical political culture.

Thus, if you think that the candidates (and their political parties) in the election are insincere and unworthy, choose NOTA to voice your views and fight decadence in our society.

Please Vote for a New Political Culture and a Life with Dignity

Please come out and exercise your democratic right to convey your views. Election is one crucial moment that you get once in five years. Convey your acceptance or rejection of people who would get access to the wealth and power of the state to govern our collective life.

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'Azadi for Kashmir' poster surfaces in JNU, removed

New Delhi, March 3: A poster calling for freedom for Kashmir had the Jawaharlal Nehru University administration in a tizzy on Thursday.

The solitary poster was noticed by some students on the wall of the School of Social Sciences' new block, after which they alerted the varsity administration.

"Freedom for Kashmir! Free Palestine! Right to self-determination long live," the poster, which appeared in the name of ultra-Left group DSU, stated. By evening, the administration had asked the university security to remove the poster.

DSU, or Democratic Students Union, is the same group whose former members Umar Khalid, Anirban Bhat

tacharya and others organised a protest rally on February 9, 2016, against the hanging of Parliament attack mastermind Afzal Guru and Kashmiri separatist Maqbool Bhat. Alleged anti-national slogans raised during the rally had led to police slapping sedition cases on these students.

A student affiliated to a Left group,

but not from DSU, said: "The poster has been there for three-four days. But this is nothing new as such posters from DSU keep emerging at the start of sessions."

Khalid and Bhattacharya, along with former JNUSU president Kanhaiya Kumar (from CPI-affiliated AIFS) are out on bail after arrest on charges of sedition for the February 9 event.

Three DYFI activists attacked in Kerala, 3 BJP workers named in police complaint: Report

Mumbai, March 3: Three Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) activists were injured in an attack at Elappulli in Palakkad district, Kerala on Thursday night. Rathish (30), Yousuf (31), Sudheesh (28) were identified as those who were attacked. Five unidentified men who came on motor bikes attacked the trio. DYFI is the youth wing of the CPM. According to ANI, the police complaint named three BJP workers for attacking the youth, but there was no official confirmation as yet.

The attack in Palakkad happened few hours before the bomb attack on RSS office in Kallachi in Kozhikode district on Thursday. Three RSS workers were injured in the bomb attack and were shifted to Kozhikode's Government Medical College. The identities of the perpetrators remain unknown. Earlier on Thursday, an RSS leader from Ujjain announced a "bounty" of Rs 1 crore on Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's head. Kundan Chandravat, 'Sah Prachar Pramukh' of RSS in Ujjain held Vijayan responsible for the deaths

of RSS workers in Kerala. "If anyone beheads the Kerala CM, who is the murderer of RSS activists, and brings his head I will bequeath my property worth more than Rs 1 crore to him," he said. Vijayan said the remarks didn't bother him: "I reject the threat with contempt." However, the RSS distanced itself from Chandravat's remarks, saying it "never believed in violence and believes in democratic protest" and "condemns the emotional comments made by Kundan". Also on Thursday, Delhi

University's North Campus saw posters of mutilated bodies and ransacked homes splashed all along Chhatra Marg on Thursday as the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) took out a protest march against "Communist forces" and for peace in the university. One of the hoardings has a photo of a mutilated body of an RSS worker from Kannur, Kerala, who was killed in 2008. The ABVP alleged that Communists are perpetrating violence in various parts of the country and used the photograph as evidence during the rally.

Indo-Pak talks on Indus Water Treaty likely this month

New Delhi, March 3: India and Pakistan are expected to hold parleys on various aspects of the Indus Water Treaty in Islamabad later this month, nearly six months after New Delhi decided to suspend talks on the pact in view of the terror strikes by Pakistan-based groups.

The meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission will be held before March 31 "as it is mandated" under the treaty, government sources said on Thursday.

"Under the treaty, it is required that India and Pakistan meet every financial year. If we don't, then it is going to be a violation of the pact. "But there are chances we will meet for a day or two in the third or fourth week of this month," they said.

The last meeting of the commission was held in May 2015. Declaring that "blood and water cannot flow together", Prime Minister Narendra Modi had held a meeting in September to review

the treaty in the backdrop of the terror strikes, including the Uri attack.

After the meeting, officials had announced that the government has decided to suspend further talks and increase the utilisation of rivers flowing through Jammu and Kashmir to fully exercise India's rights under the pact.

The commission, which has officials from both the countries as its members, was set up under the 57-year-old treaty to discuss and resolve issues relating to its implementation.

The sources said since the "major issues of dispute" (Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectricity projects in India) were already before the World Bank, these may not be discussed during the commission's meeting. Pakistan had approached the international bank last year, objecting to design of the two projects in Jammu and Kashmir, alleging these violated the treaty. "However, the agenda for the

meeting is yet to be finalised. Pakistan has issues with some other Indian projects too. Whatever be their concern, India is always ready to discuss the

issues," the sources added. India's Indus water commissioner and MEA officials will be part of the Indian delegation for the annual meeting.

Army truck rams taxi in Pulwama, soldiers pool in money to compensate driver

Pulwama, March 3: After a collision between an army truck and a local taxi in Kashmir's Pulwama district today, all personnel riding in the truck pooled in money to compensate the driver.

According to eyewitnesses, the speeding army truck rammed a parked Tavera with six passengers inside at the Muran Chowk in Pulwama town.

All the passengers escaped unhurt but the taxi suffered massive damage.

"The erring army driver locked the windows and refused to come out from the vehicle. However, the local driver didn't budge and continued to demand money, even as other army personnel tried to pacify him,"

a witness said.

As per reports, some azaadi slogans were also raised in the heat of the moment. The accident led to a traffic snarl in the area.

Witnesses say that some local boys even climbed on top of the army truck and started sloganeering.

Soon, Paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force and a team of Jammu Kashmir Police rushed to the spot. After an hour-long tussle between the locals and army personnel, those riding the truck pooled in Rs 10,000 and paid the driver for his damages. DySP Headquarter Pulwama said that the situation was handled carefully and matter was resolved amicably.

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