

Editorial

Imphal Monday, March 6, 2017

Eye witness

Much has been done by the ECI to make the election free and fair from anything. SEEV campaign, workshops and many other including painting competition, poster campaign etc. etc, many have been done to make aware the voters that election is one of the most important event of democracy and electing of new law makers will make the future of the state. There were wide publicity by spending huge amount of money to make the voters understand that they should not be allowed to buy their valuable vote for a mere few money. But, the question is does those campaigns, publicity and all the effort really works or not. Well first phase election was held on March 4 for the state of Manipur in 38 Assembly constituencies and 2nd phase election is just two days to go in 22 assembly constituencies. If one is sincere enough to tell what had witness during the first phase election, the kind of publicity, advertisement, and other form of campaign conducted by the ECI to prevent voters from selling themselves. He or she would definitely say that 'the campaign never work' and are useless. It is an open secret that, in almost all the assembly constituencies that election for the first phase was held, there were no dearth for use of money power. Almost all candidates, with exception to some distributed money to the voters ranging from Rs. 300 to Rs. 5000/- . This is known by every voters but the problem in exposing such thing is that no voters are ready to come out to tell that money were offered to them by the candidates. Back some few months or says weeks, certain important issues like the territorial integrity, corruption, framework agreement, economic blockade etc. seems to the issues of this election. But as few days were left, all issues seem to be meaningless and almost all workers and candidates busied themselves in buying voters. This was what was witnessed in the first phase Manipur poll. Saying so it does not mean that that money would really work or not but the reality is that effort for buying of votes was common in almost all assembly constituencies. Something is seriously wrong in the electoral system of our country. The laws the guidelines don't actually work in the field. The Indian lawmakers need to work out something that will really make election by the people besides empowering the more to the Election Commission of India.

The Future of Manipur (Part 1)

By: Miraj Shah Kori

In the light of the rising global inequality within the rich and poor, try to find a future of today's Manipur which is underfunded, exploited, oppressed and alienated from the resource and rights as well while the world experiences the unjust distribution of wealth in which 1% of the population has more wealth than the 99% of the remaining population. India's richest 1 per cent now holds a huge 58 per cent of the country's total wealth higher than the global figure of about 50 per cent. The study, released by rights group Oxfam ahead of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting here attended by rich and powerful from across the world, showed that just 57 billionaires in India now have same wealth (USD 216 billion) as that of the bottom 70 percent population of the country. Comparing this wealth against the estimated budget of Manipur for 2016-17, a proposal for the total expenditure of Rs. 10518.05 crores out of the consolidated fund of the state out of which Rs. 5948.26 cores is under non plan and Rs 4569.78 under plan which include Rs 2768.83 cores under central sponsored schemes and central plan schemes plan fund, can conclude to the negligible percentage which have been planned for the well being and development of around 3 million population. Globally, just 8 billionaires have the same amount of wealth as the poorest 50 per cent of the world

population. The total Indian wealth in the country stood at USD 3.1 trillion. The total global wealth in the year was USD 255.7 trillion, of which about USD 6.5 trillion was held by billionaires, led by Bill Gates (USD 75 billion), Amancio Ortega (USD 67 billion) and Warren Buffett (USD 60.8 billion). Nobody from this region can participate in this have's competition except those political leaders whose name has awarded in the incredible WIKILEAKS for their wonderful achievements. In the report titled 'An economy for the 99 per cent', Oxfam said it is time to build a human economy that benefits everyone, not just the privileged few. It said that since 2015, the richest 1 per cent has owned more wealth than the rest of the planet. "Over the next 20 years, 500 people will hand over USD 2.1 trillion to their heirs—a sum larger than the GDP of India, a country of 1.3 billion people," Oxfam said. The huge gap of economic inequalities and unjust form of wealth distribution posed a great threat to the underprivileged and oppressed people of Manipur where 36.8% of the population are under below poverty line. Half of the population of the state are striving to survive with the daily income below 50 Rupees which couldn't meet the prize of a Burger at MacDonald. Seven lakhs youth of the population are hungry for the opportunity of employment which they have been deprived of. A few hundreds of opportunist

are enjoying role of exploiting the masses accumulating the state wealth through contract and work project while the population leading to starvation and under development. Actors of the neo-colonialism like the world Bank and IMF spread the venomous propaganda that globalization will reduce inequalities to serve the oppressive western corporate. The foreign corporation are given their entrance to exploit the resources of the region against the will of the people to serve the larger interest of the oppressive state. What could be the future our oil Wells which has signed to foreign corporate is still being threatened to interest of the masses. The land and forest are extensively and aggressively occupied through militarization and thus people are driven of their land. The alienation of people from their resources will contribute to the extreme form of inequality. They are deprived of their right to self determination which is embodied in UN Human right charter Government of India, through its Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, granted license to Jubilant Oil and Gas Private Limited, a company based in Netherlands, for exploration and drilling works in two oil blocks in Manipur. The richest areas are located in the Jiribam (Imphal East), Tamenglong, and Churachandpur districts of Manipur. The contracts were awarded under the eighth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) of the Government

of India. The Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for the Manipur oil Block I, codenamed AA-ONN-2009/1, and the Petroleum Exploration License (PEL), was granted by the Manipur Government on 23rd September, 2010. The total oil potential in Manipur is nearly 5 Trillion Cubic Feet altogether in the Abin, Kharkhublien, Taithu, Sialman, Laimata, Oinamlong anticlines in the two oil blocks of Manipur. After the getting the contract Jubilant Energy plans to drill from 30 oil wells in Manipur. There is a growing apprehension that ultimately these factors of exploitation of resources and the alienation of the people from the land may contribute to the extinction of the indigenous Manipuri from this region. Besides this also violates the communities' rights over their ancestral land and forest and also Forest (Conservation) Act and Forest Rights Act. Besides these issues of oil exploration, there are the battling issues of displacement or eviction of the residents of different communities through the construction of big dams with no proper rehabilitation and compensation. Mention may be made of the Tipaimukh and Mapithel dam projects. Despite of the huge potential on the part of the human resources and natural resources, the future of the region is destined by beggar attitude that we are survive by feeding.

National & International News

Science education, research must for promoting innovation: President

Source: AIR New Delhi, March 6: President Pranab Mukherjee has called for the establishment of a healthy ecosystem to harness the innovative potential of people in the country. He was responding to a summary of discussions at a Global Round table on Inclusive Innovations yesterday, held in Rashtrapati Bhavan as part of the week-long Festival of Innovation. Underlining the importance of science education and research in innovation, Mr Mukherjee said early investment in these areas has paid rich dividend to the country.

He said crucial role of science and technology in leveraging inclusive innovations is evident from pivotal contributions made by the Indian Space Research Organization. The President said he is optimistic about the prospects of inclusive innovation in the country. However, he said, without a strong foundation of education, ability of communities to benefit from other infrastructural resources for development remains limited. Earlier in the day, the Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Awards 2017 were conferred as part of the 'Festival of Innovations'.

Attacks on Indian-origin people: Diplomats open channels, community rallies support online

By: Shubhajit Roy (IE) New Delhi, March 6: Alarmed by incidents targeting Indian-origin people in the US, Ambassador Navtej Sarna is quietly working the diplomatic channels by reaching out to governors, Congressmen and US administration officials, while the influential Indian community has been encouraged to mobilise public opinion and increase awareness. The Sikh Coalition, the largest Sikh civil rights organisation in the US which has 15 years of legal and policy expertise on issues related to hate crimes, has put up a series of questions on its website, encouraging the community to report such incidents. The questions include asking respondents about the nature of the hate crime that had happened to them — "Verbal harassment/physical assault/ property vandalized /school bullying/ harassment, or employment discrimination, or racial profiling, or public accommodation (e.g., discrimination by a public facility, like a restaurant or store), or airport/airplane encounter/ any other". It asks them where it happened, and why — "Turban or Patka (Sikh covering)/ Beard/ Choomi (Punjabi scarf)/ Traditional clothing (e.g. salwar suit, sari, kurta pajama)/ Language/ Skin Color/ Accent/ Other".

On March 3, a US citizen of Sikh faith was shot at by a gunman in Kent, Washington, who allegedly told him to "go back to your own country". Another Indian community group is organising a vigil on March 10 in Boston area in the memory of Srinivas Kuchibhotla, the Indian engineer, killed in a hate crime in Kansas on February 22. The vigil would ask people to guard against racism and violence. The Indian Embassy in Washington DC is closely monitoring such efforts even as Indian diplomats work with the US political elite to "respond effectively" to such incidents. "We do not want to blame the administration for such incidents... While we condemn such acts, we want to highlight the American community standing up against such violence. We want to give out the message that for every hate attacker, there is an Ian Grillo (the American who confronted the hate attacker in Kansas and got injured). That was the reason the Indian consul general in Houston was sent specifically to Kansas hospital to convey India's gratitude towards the American national's courage," a top Indian diplomat in Washington DC told The Indian Express. Sources pointed out that Ambassador Sarna had hosted 27 US governors and 27 US Congressmen visiting India, last month. "The exercise was aimed at diplomatically reaching out to them and conveying our concerns," the Indian diplomat said. Sarna tweeted on Sunday that India's "deep concerns" on "recent tragic incidents" involving Hardish Patel and Deep Rai had been conveyed to the US government. He underlined the need to prevent such incidents and protect Indian community. Diplomats told The Indian Express that such incidents had happened after 9/11, when Indians, and Sikhs

in particular, had been targeted, after being mistakenly linked to Obama bin Laden due to their turban. The Sikh Coalition also made a note of this, while telling The Indian Express, "The Sikh American community is working with local law enforcement to make sure that this case (of Rai) is investigated as an anti-Sikh hate crime." Asked if there had been a spike in hate crimes against Sikhs over the past few months, after the US elections, the spokesperson said, "We can't publicise updated numbers at this time, but we can share that our research suggests that Sikh Americans are hundreds of times more likely to be the victim of a hate crime." Sikh Coalition Interim Program Manager Rajdeep Singh said in a statement: "While we appreciate the efforts of state and local officials to respond to attacks like this, we need our national leaders to make hate crime prevention a top priority. Tone matters in our political discourse, because this is a matter of life or death for millions of Americans who are worried about losing loved ones to hate." The vigil for Kuchibhotla on March 10 would denounce "hate crimes fueled by racism and xenophobia that continues to grip our beloved country". "In this vigil,

we also seek to denounce hate, violence, and hate-fuelled violence towards people based on the color of their skin, minority status or their cultural, social or political differences. Traditionally, a vigil is when one remembers the deceased. A vigil is also when you stay alert to guard something, someone, or an idea," Sonali Lappin, President at Indian American Forum for Political Education in Massachusetts, said in an email, circulated to the Indian community. The Indians have been asked to bring battery-operated candles in containers and contribute donations for Kuchibhotla family. The event is being publicised through social media. As per a report in PTI, the American Sikh Council has asked guardwards to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to law enforcement authorities. Asking President Donald Trump to take action, the council said, "More and more terrorist acts are being carried out due to the environment of heightened hate rhetoric over the past year... Some people seem to have been emboldened by the pomposity of the current leadership combined with the issue of immigration. This corrosive mix needs to be nipped in the bud before it turns into an inferno across our nation."

Correction

I, the undersigned, declare that my date of birth 03/06/1993 has been wrongly written as 03/06/1992 in my father's service documents record. And that my date of birth should be 03/06/1993 and is also recorded in my Matric certificate.

Sd/-
Moninder Kumar
S/o Om Prakash
VPO Karoli Tehsil, District Pathankot

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FBI joins probe into Sikh man's shooting

Washington, March 6: The FBI has joined the investigation into the shooting of a Sikh man by a partially-masked gunman even as the US has assured India of "speedy justice" in the alleged hate-related crimes. Deep Rai, a US national of Indian origin, was shot outside his home on Friday in Kent, Washington, by a man who shouted "go back to your own country". The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is

investigating the incident as a potentially hate-motivated crime. "The Seattle FBI is assisting the Kent Police Department through a joint investigation of the shooting incident." "The FBI remains committed to investigating crimes that are potentially hate-motivated and we continue to work with all our community partners in the Seattle area," said FBI Seattle Spokesperson Ayn Dietrich. The FBI is also investigating

another shooting in Kansas+ last week as a hate crime, in which 32-year-old Indian engineer Srinivas Kuchibhotla+ was killed when 51-year-old US Navy veteran Adam Purinton opened fire at him and his friend Alok Madasani, yelling "get out of my country". In another incident, 43-year-old Harnish Patel+ , the owner of a convenience store in Lancaster County, South Carolina, was found dead of gunshot wounds in the front yard of his home on Thursday.