

Editorial

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Opportunity towards progress

If the politics of ethnicity that has for long been practiced in the state as were everywhere else where pluralistic societies exist begs the impression of one characterized by deep rooted suspicions, protracted conflicts and extremisms, it is the inherent undercurrent of instability and unpredictability marked by acute passions and excessive emotions amongst the public. The feeling, although understandable runs the endemic risk of uprooting social systems and creating political and social pandemonium from which none emerge the winner, if let off unchecked. The public of Manipur does not need to look far to experience the feeling. It is these feelings, when compelled to act upon, would spell disaster for everyone without any exception.

There is however a glimmer of positivity with the obverse of such passions and feelings. It is these very heightened emotions that is essential for creating solidarity amongst the different ethnic groups as well as compel higher participation in politics—a paradox that has played out to be true. And like a double edged sword, it ultimately rests on those at the helm of affairs of the state as well as to either resolve such conflict situation and steer the emotions towards solidarity and stability or to further push the state into chaos and spiraling violence. The role of Civil Society Organisations in forming and fueling ethnic passions cannot be ignored, especially in a state like Manipur where the state government is perceived to be despotic, nepotistic and self-seeking by many cutting across ethnic and communal lines while these CSOs function as pressure groups thereby maintaining checks and balances.

Therefore, the present political impasse which has gained an ugly communal undertone needs to be relooked from a different perspective by the public without reservations and preconceived notions to try and understand the genesis of such a situation which will hopefully help in bring about an enduring solution. While it would be impossible to shed personal feelings or distance our ethnic passions, it would augur well to keep them in check and seek out the rational and plausible explanation free from prejudice if we all are as eager to participate and chip in towards bringing a solution as everybody make out to be. Admitting the failure of the state to accommodate the pluralistic and ethnic diversity within the framework of the state and society can be a starting point, however, the instrumental roles performed by the ethnic elites in ethnic mobilization and portraying issues should also be questioned and analyzed from an impersonal point of view to try and understand the political, economical and social implications of such assertions. In other words, the present social development should be taken as an opportunity to get at the root of the problem and subsequently to draw up a pragmatic and enduring solution which will enhance solidarity, peaceful and participatory coexistence which will draw strength and inspiration from the cultural diversity rather than making futile attempts at ethnic exclusivity which reflects a regressive mindset out of synch with the developing world.

Pakistan calls Major Leetul Gogoi's reward for tying Kashmiri man to jeep 'act of cowardice, inhumanity'

India Today
New Delhi, May 26: Pakistan today condemned Indian Army chief Bipin Rawat for felicitating Major Leetul Gogoi, who had tied a Kashmiri man to his jeep and paraded him as a human shield in several villages, with a Commendation Card.
 "Awarding Major Leetul Gogoi, who brazenly used a Kashmiri youth as a human shield, is condemnable. It is a crime and an insult to humanity," Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Nafees Zakaria said. "The Commendation Card for Major Gogoi of 53 Rashtriya Rifles was given for his "sustained efforts" in counter-insurgency operations," the Indian Army had said.
 Gogoi, who has also been reportedly given a clean chit by the Army's Court of Inquiry (COI), was felicitated by the Indian Army for

"saving several lives" by his act of using a Kashmiri youth as a shield.
Not The First Time: Pakistan Zakaria further said that it was not the first time that the Indian forces had displayed such an act of "cowardice and inhumanity".
 Accusing the Indian forces of being involved in acts of "grave violence against civilians", Zakaria also urged the international community, particularly the United Nations, to take cognisance of the act.
 A video, shot on April 9 during the Srinagar by-poll held amid violence, showed a man, later identified as Farooq Ahmad Dar, tied to an Indian Army jeep's bonnet in Budgam, Jammu and Kashmir, to ward off stone pelters.
 The Jammu and Kashmir police, however, filed a case against Gogoi, which is still on.

THE BUDDHA SAID, 'WAR CANNOT BRING PEACE'. (Part-I)

By Sanjoo Thangjam
 War is a violent conflict between states. Though the word is used to describe other types of conflict – civil war, class war, etc. – war is an aspect of politics. Much of man's oral and written records, perhaps as much as it is devoted to any other human beings, deal with war. Groups of men used their hunting weapons against other men long before the dawn of history. For centuries man regarded war as an inevitable part of his fate, like his struggles with the weather, disease or the mysterious ocean.

One of the greatest novelists, Leo Tolstoy (1828-1900) wrote War and Peace in 1885 to exemplify the individual's fate by submissively performing the cruel, gloomy, irksome and inhuman role assigned to him by destiny. There has not been and never will be the real happiness in the world, without peace.
 Buddhism above all, teaches the law of cause and effect. Peace is no exception. Peace comes primarily by the absence of war; it is a result, an end, not an instrument. It does not come by mere wistfulness or prayer. It has to be obtained by effort, by weaving the principles of righteousness into the whole fabric of human relationships.
 The opposite of peace is conflict or war, which according to the Buddha,

is the cause of all our happiness. War is the result of tension, which is of various kinds. There are international tensions, some of which come down to us as historic legacies. We have also economic tension between the haves and have-nots. These manifold and tensions create fear, suspicion, hatred and vindictiveness.
 A man's individual life, circumstances and world are a reflection of his own thoughts and beliefs. All men are mirrors reflecting according to their own surface. All men, looking into the mirror, which gives back their own reflection.
 It was R.L. Stevenson who once said: "There is so much good in the worst of us, And so much bad in the best of us,
 That it ill-behoves anyone of us,"
 Even a rose has flaws. But why examine the flaws when you can appreciate its duty?
 Bolton once remarked:
 I looked at my Brother with the Microscope of Criticism,
 And I said: "How coarse my Brother is!"
 I looked at him through the Telescope of Scorn,
 And I said: "How small my brother is!"
 Then I looked in the Mirror of Truth,
 And I said: "How like me my Brother is."

Each individual lives in an individual world of his own creation. Man is false and deceitful, not merely in relation to others, but to himself as well. The remarkable thing about man is that he often deceives himself. "As we think, so we act."
 "Since it is in the minds of men that wars are created, it is in the minds of men that the fortresses of peace must be erected."
 This preamble to the UNESCO Charter reminds us that war begins in the mind of men. The Buddha made the same remark, many centuries earlier which is enshrined, in the first verse of the Dhammapadam. In fact, he went much further than that; declared that all things good and bad have their origin in the mind.
 The age old myth that many people believed for thousands of years that God or the devil can destroy this world is refuted by the realisation that man is the only person who puts the world in flames and can eliminate the whole mankind from the earth. However, still there are people on this earth who can save enough to understand the danger that mankind is facing today.
 Those so-called leaders in the battlefield do not realise that great conquerors of the world vanished in the course of time. There is none to shed a tear at their death.
 But the great people who have conquered hearts through kindness

and compassion continue to live in the minds of people and honoured as great conquerors. Some cruel leaders, who tried to achieve the aim of their lives by destroying millions of innocent people and creating disasters, never succeeded in the end.
 Dr. Johan Galtung, the world-renowned authority on peace studies, has said, "Just because there is no war does not mean there is peace. Equating peace with the lack of war is like pronouncing a person healthy because there are no visible superficial signs of illness." Some people argue that conflict and war cannot be avoided because they are expressions of human nature. It is realistic enough to realise that it would be foolhardy to sit down and to do nothing when aggressions are brutally destroying innocent lives on the basis of unrealistic and unfounded claims, but we must always bear in mind that war is at best a last resort to maintain peace. It cannot be denied that many wars being fought today are on the work of charismatic but unscrupulous leaders out to serve their own ends. They manipulate their followers to fight on their behalf, to go against the legitimate interests of the majority.
 The writer is a lay Buddhist. He can be reached at thangjamsanjoo42@gmail.com

National and International News

'Students need not worry over delay in result'

TNN Chandigarh, May 26: If experts are to be believed there is nothing for parents and students to worry about regarding delay of CBSE Class XII results as the mark sheets are not required any time soon, in case of those appearing in competitive exams. Those looking forward to admission in universities that do not hold an entrance exam, like Punjab University, will require class XII results, but that too next month. In most cases prospectus are released only after results are declared. According to experts, the result in any case should not be

delayed by more than 10-15 days. Dr Arvind Goyal, a city-based academician, said, "Undergraduate courses where admission is based on Class XII result will get delayed. Even Delhi University applications for admissions to courses based on Class XII results have opened from May 22."
 B K Vermani, dean (admissions), DAV College-10, said the delay in Class XII results would not affect the admission schedule as the results were usually declared around this time of the year. "We will release our prospectus only

after the results are declared," he added. "There is stress and anxiety among parents and children. Many state board results are out and Delhi University has started giving the application forms for admission. If CBSE result is delayed, seats in popular courses may fill up and students will have to suffer," said Ritu Bali, principal of Ajit Karam Singh International Public School in Sector 41.
 This year Class XII holds no weightage in join entrance exams, which is a major relief for the students.
 Rushil Gupta, a JEE (mains) topper

from Chandigarh, said, "There are speculations as to what will be the result. But as it has no weightage in any entrance exam like IIT and NITs, it will not have a major impact however, for counselling there is a requisite of a minimum percentage in Class XII that is the main worry. But this happens after result of JEE is declared and there is time for it. CBSE shouldn't declare the result soon."
 Officials from CBSE office in Panchkula said they had not received any information about declaration of the result from the board's Delhi office.

Trump scolds fellow NATO leaders: Spend more for military

AP Brussels, May 26: Surrounded by stone-faced allies, President Donald Trump rebuked fellow NATO members on Thursday for failing to meet the military alliance's financial benchmarks, asserting that leaves it weaker and shortchanges "the people and taxpayers of the United States."
 Trump, who has often complained back home about other nations' NATO support, lectured the other leaders in person this time, declaring, "Many of these nations owe massive amounts of money from past years." The president's assertion immediately put NATO under new strain and did nothing to quiet questions about his complicated relationship with an alliance he has previously panned as "obsolete." Notably, he also did not offer an explicit public endorsement of NATO's "all for one, one for all" collective defense principle, though White House officials said his mere presence at the meeting signaled his commitment.
 Fellow NATO leaders occasionally exchanged awkward looks with each other during the president's lecture, which occurred at an event commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. When Trump tried to lighten the mood with a joke about NATO's gleaming new home base — "I never asked once what the new NATO Headquarters cost" — there was no laughter from his counterparts.
 NATO officials had expected Trump to raise the payments issue during Thursday's meeting, even preparing Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg for the prospect that the president could try to pull off a stunt like handing out invoices. But one

European official said NATO members were still taken aback by the aggressive tone of his speech.
 As a presidential candidate, Trump railed against NATO's financial burden-sharing, suggesting the US might only come to the defense of countries that meet the alliance's guidelines — for committing 2 percent of their gross domestic product to military spending. A White House official said the president wanted to deliver the same direct message in front of NATO allies.
 Trump's public scolding was all the more remarkable given the fact that he has actually backed away from some of his most provocative comments on foreign policy issues since taking office. He's retracted his vow to label China a currency manipulator and has lavished praise on Chinese President Xi Jinping. During a visit to Saudi Arabia this week, he called Islam one of the world's great religions after declaring during the campaign that "Islam hates us."
 But few issues appear to have as much staying power with Trump as the uneven financial contributions of NATO members. Last year, only five of the 28 countries met the 2 percent goal: the US, Greece, Britain, Estonia and Poland.
 During a private dinner Thursday night, the 28 members, plus soon-to-join Montenegro, renewed an old pledge to move toward the 2 percent by 2024 — a move the White House touted as a sign of Trump's influence. Some of the allies — particularly Eastern European nations deeply worried about Russian aggression — were hopeful that Trump would state a firm commitment to NATO's Article 5 mutual defense agreement, which

underpins the entire alliance. Instead, he highlighted NATO's decision to invoke the article for the only time after 9/11 and said the US would "never forsake the friends that stood by our side."
 The White House insisted Trump had not intended to leave wiggle room on his commitment to coming to the defense of NATO members.
 And Stoltenberg said later that Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and other US officials have stated clearly their assurances. He said, "It's not possible to be committed to NATO without being committed to Article 5."

Trump scored a hoped-for success as NATO joined the 68-nation international coalition fighting the Islamic State group. An anti-terror coordinator may also be named. But most changes will be cosmetic, as NATO as an alliance has no intention of going to war against IS.
 Finishing off a long day, Trump arrived late Thursday night in Sicily for meetings Friday with leaders from the Group of 7 wealthy nations. The summit marks Trump's final stop on a maiden international trip that began in Saudi Arabia and Israel, where the president was warmly embraced by the countries' leaders.


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