

Editorial

Thursday August 9, 2018

Repercussion of a prejudice attitude

A seed once sown in a fertile place with favorable conditions will surely sprout, and even if a boulder is set upon it to retard or stop its growth, will surely wriggle its way out from under to find the

light. This metaphor perhaps explains the unflinching resolve of the people of the state and the region of North East India in general to assert its rights and respect as equal citizens of the country. The endless discriminations and unprovoked assaults on the people from the region in various places in mainland India is a clear manifestation of the distorted politics being propagated and practiced based on caste and communities.

The feeling of alienation, of not belonging and of being treated as less than equal by those residing in mainland India has been a pervading experience for us all. The ugly truth is that the government at the centre, without any exception, does not consider it necessary to make an effort to dissuade or prevent such ignorant and rather malicious outlook and behavior towards the people from the

North East, either through the law or social awareness and information. North East is being viewed as a territory to be held secure purely for strategic reasons, while the inhabitants are mere incidental collateral.

The present unrest and relentless multiple demands including removal of Vice Chancellor of Manipur University, revelation of the controversial Frame Work Agreement, the Border issue, justice for the 900 plus Kuki brethren including women and children, demand for punishment of Armed group responsible for attacking the family of a TSA leader at Moreh, demand for justice of the 5258 dead soul who were killed alleged encounter and the demand for getting urgent assent to the ILPS like Bill tabled in the recently ended Manipur State Assembly session in the wake of the notification of the Assam NRC etc. are a sum effect of the protracted mistreatment and myopic view of those at the centre regarding the interests and aspirations of the people of the region.

Fulfilling of the demand for removal of the Vice Chancellor could take less than a minute if the centre desire so and have so much concern about the faith of the 1000s of Higher education students. Border Pillar issue could have been no problem had the Government of Indian authority listen to the complaints by the villagers who have been protecting the boundary of the country for years. The Armed cadres under SoO who are responsible for attacked to TSA leader at Moreh could have been booked easily as per the law of the land as it is an open secret that they were with some of the security forces. The demand opposing the extension of the article 371 (A) is no difference from the demand for removal of the Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir by the hard core of the ruling BJP government.

The demands being put up are for rendering of justice and good governance, preservation and continuity of our traditions, customs and communities. There is the very real and present danger of the state being overwhelmed and overpowered financially or territorially by forces which even the state government will find impossible to fend off, thereby relegating our cultural identity to mere history and our own people to an insignificant minority in its own land or perhaps Manipur may not exist when the so called demand of the NSCN-IM as spell out by RN Ravi has been fulfilled.

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Constitutional development of Manipur in a nutshell

By - Rajkumar Maipaksana

Definition of Constitution:

The Oxford Illustrated Dictionary gives the meaning of constitution, 'as made in which a state is organised or body of fundamental principles according to which a state is governed'. So the constitution of Manipur will mean the body of fundamental principles according to which the administration of Manipur is governed. From the reign of the first historical monarch of Kanglei Pungmayol or Kangleipung (now known as Manipur), Nongda Lairen Pakhangba the administration of this small monarchy had been carried out under a system of representative form of government under a constitutional monarch till 1891, when Manipur was kept under the British Paramountcy.

Phamthou or Phamdou:

During the reign of Nongda Lairen Pakhangba (34 AD to 159 AD) a 64 member Parliamentary body known as Phamthou or Phamdou Humpumari was set up. It functioned like a modern Parliament though the members were not directly elected by the people but were selected by the monarch. A council of Ministers known as Ningthou Pongba Tara, consisting of ten members guided and advised the monarch in all important matters of the Kingdom. This body though selected by the monarch from the Phamthou Humpumari exercised supervisory powers over the decision of the monarch, who never disregarded the opinion of the Ministers and abided by the opinion of the Phamdous. Though the members of the Phamthous were selected by the monarch they were very influential

leaders of different localities having exceptional qualities of head and heart.

The Ningthou Pongbas of Ministers hold charges of different departments of the kingdom.

Loyumba Shilyen :

The duties, powers and functions of the king, the Ladies, the ministers, the members of parliament and other officials under the royal authority were formulated and put down in writing during the reign of Meidingngu Loyumba who reigned in the 11th century A.D. The name of the book containing these rules is "Loyumba Shilyen". This treaty may be regarded as the Landmark of the beginning of a written constitution of Manipur. The Ningthou Pongbas were also popularly known as Ningthou Ngamba Angamba meaning Courtiers who were more powerful than the monarch. They had overriding powers over the king whenever he becomes an autocrat or a despot.

Administration under the British:

After the British annexation of Manipur in 1891 the administration of the kingdom was carried out by the political Agent, a European ICS officer appointed by the Viceroy of India. He was assisted by an Assistant officer. The Political Agent was also the Superintendent of the State.

Churachand as Chief of Manipur:

Churachand, son of Chaobi Yaima (properly known as

Bhubon Singh s/o Nara Singh), a descendent of Meidingngu Nara Singh was selected by the British government to be the Chief of

Manipur State in 1891 when he was only five years of age. The appointment order was contained in a document known as 'Sanad'.

Copy of the Sanad

"The Governor General in Council has been pleased to select you, Churachand, son of Chaobi Yalma, to be the Chief of the Manipur State; and you are hereby granted the title, the Raja of Manipur and a salute of eleven guns".

"The Chief ship of Manipur State and the title and salute will be hereditary in your family; and will descend to the direct line by primogeniture, provided that in each case the succession is approved by the Government of India".

"An annual tribute, the amount of which to be determined hereafter will be paid by you and your successors to the British Government (The tribute was later fixed at Rs. 50,000 annum)".

Further you are informed that the permanence of the grant conveyed by the Sanad will depend upon the ready fulfillment by you and your successors of all orders given by the British Government with regard to the administration of your territories, the control of the hill tribes depended upon Manipur; the composition of the armed forces of the state, and any other matters under which the British Government may be pleased to intervene.

"Be assured that so long as your house is loyal to the Crown and faithful to the conditions of this Sanad you and your successors will enjoy the favour and protection of the British Government".

Sd/-
Landsdown
Viceroy and Governor
General of India.
Simla,
The 18th September,
1891.

(To be contd....)

***** This write up is being produced from the book "Annexation of Manipur".

Understanding false smut of rice (*kambongsatpi*)-an emerging threat to rice grain production in Manipur

By- Dr Anita Puyam

Brown spot and blast disease of rice has been a major disease affecting rice grain yield in Manipur. However, for the past five to six years, false smut of rice, also known as *kambongsatpi* in local language, has been emerging as an important disease affecting rice-grain production. The disease has been increasing in an alarming proportion widely in the eastern and north-eastern part of India. It affects the rice panicles causing 44% grain loss (American Phytopathological Society, USA). In damp weather, the disease can be severe. In India, a yield loss of 7-75% was been observed. Unfortunately, the accurate data of yield loss in Manipur due to the disease has not been reported. Among the farmers, the disease has been considered as an omen of good harvest as it appears to be more prevalent in seasons favourable for good growth and high yield. But they must be aware of the threat due to vigorously increasing disease incidence. Understanding the extent of the disease and development of proper management strategies is the need of the time. The disease is caused by a fungus called "*Ustilagoideavirens*". The major symptom of the disease is the transformation of individual ovaries into large velvety green masses. An irregular round to oval fungal bodies occupied the grains. It causes chalkiness of grains leading to reduction in actual grain weight and also affects seed germination. Not all the spikelets in the ears are



affected. The glumes are covered superficially by the green spores. They are covered by a membrane which bursts open in later stage as a result further growth and colour of the ball becomes yellowish green. These spores at maturity become brownish green. The fungus is both seedborne and soilborne that means the spores can persist on seeds and soil for several years. They also overwinter on collateral host/alternate hosts on many grasses and wild rice. These spores served as primary inoculum. The infection time is an important factor in determining the loss. If it occurs in early stage of flower opening, the ovary is destroyed and the loss is high whereas if the infection is in the later stage, then the grains set and the mycelium invades the

endosperm and produces mass of spores. The disease is favored by rainfall accompanied by cloudy days during the period between flowering and maturity of the grain with RH> 90% and temperature 25-35°C. The climatic condition of Manipur is highly suitable for the development of the disease. Therefore, it has been becoming one of the most important diseases of major concern. Proper management strategies must be taken up against the disease. Some of the strategies are as follows: i) Sanitation of the field after harvest by removing all the infected seeds, panicles, plant debris, alternate and collateral hosts. The smutted panicles must be wrapped with bags before harvesting, so that the spores are not dispersed.

ii) Since the pathogen is seed borne, heat treatment of the seeds before sowing at 52°C for 10 min will inhibit the spore germination and prevent infection.
iii) Knowledge regarding up-to-date list of available resistant varieties against the disease must be obtained from local agricultural office.
iv) The disease is susceptible to the plant at hard dough to mature stage of the crops especially during flowering stage. Time of planting must be adjusted, so that the pathogen inoculum doesn't come in contact with the flowering time during mid-october to mid-november.
v) Since high rate of nitrogen increases the diseases incidence, judicious use of nitrogen in the form of urea is recommended.
vi) Spraying of chlorothalnil (Kavach 2g/l water), copper oxychloride @ 2.5 g/litre or Propiconazole 25EC (Tilt) @ 1.0 ml/litre at boot leaf and milky stages will prevent the fungal infection. At present, there is a need to understand the importance of this disease and develop all the necessary precautionary measures to prevent yield loss. Till date, less number of resistant varieties against the disease has been released. There is a need to develop more resistant varieties against the disease. Researchers must focus on released of new resistant local varieties that will serve as a boon for the farmers. If the disease is not checked right now, it may take the shape of an epidemic in few years.

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