

Editorial

Monday, December 24, 2018

The dreamt merchant

Unexpected and often unwanted things keep happening here in the state of Manipur more than at any other states of the country. The impact of Demonetization killed thousands in many parts of the country while the very exercise transformed many into untouchables and made many more millionaires overnight. The Government of India under the leadership of Narendra Daodardas Modi announced demonetization all of a sudden on 8 November 2016 of all Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 banknotes of the Mahatma Gandhi Series. It also announced the issuance of new Rs. 500 and Rs. 2000 banknotes in exchange for the demonetised banknotes. The government claimed that the action would curtail the shadow economy and reduce the use of illicit and counterfeit cash to fund illegal activity and terrorism. His expressed intention was to distribute the black money recovered to the poor people of the country. What is heartbreaking is that the Prime Minister's aspiration to make every citizen of the country rich is never likely to become a reality. But demonetization brought good fortune for some exceptional people in the state. There are talks doing the round in the town that due to the demonetization some small micro finance runners who took risks became millionaires overnight and it was due to the many privileged class people who have plenty of black money contributed to the success of the micro finance bankers.

Unlike in other state, the demonetization is perhaps a blessing for the state. It raised a group of capitalist class people who provided employment opportunity to hundreds of jobless people. Even as it is against the socialist ideology, it did serve some people who are searching for job. The agenda of Right Wing ideology is revealed even as it has always been working under the shadow of the Socialist ideology.

It is not a simple and baseless criticism when this newspaper states that a neo capitalist class has been born of demonetization but an open secret which happened in front of our eyes. The only thing is that Indian legal system is very complicated that sometimes a wrong becomes right due to loopholes to prove that it was wrong. Perhaps it may be not due to loopholes in the Indian law but lack of sincerity and commitment to prove that it was wrong among the legal practitioners or worse still, a deliberate obstruction/destruction of evidences to support proof of the crimes.

Well good things are always good. Everybody needs to encourage those who are successful in becoming employers. But what about the many hundreds of people who had uncountable amount of black money which makes things possible for some exceptional people?

So far, there hasn't been any investigation into how a person have so much money beyond his known sources of income before the demonetization and how such individuals deposited huge amounts to the micro finance business establishments instead of depositing it to the banks. Why has the government agency still not looking into this matter?

While success needs to be appreciated and encouraged, the government machineries who are authorized and entrusted to keep a check and balance on such things need to put their acts together and place their responsibilities before the perks privileges of their profession if any semblance of financial order is to be maintained in the society failing which the whole system runs the risk of falling prey and giving in to corruption, black marketeering, extortions and blackmails becoming a daily affair. Strict vigilance and swift corrective measures supported by stern legal actions will prove to be a big deterrent for anyone indulging in public money for their own greedy and selfish end.

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"24th December" NATIONAL CONSUMERS DAY

By:Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh.

Every 24th December is observed as "NATIONAL CONSUMERS DAY" with a specific theme in India. This year the National Consumers Day is celebrated with the theme "Timely Disposal of Consumers Complaint". On this day the consumer's protection Act 1986 was enacted on this day.

The consumer Protection Act was enacted in 1986 with the objective of providing better protection of consumer's interest. Effective safeguard are provided to the consumer, against various type of exploitations and unfair dealings, relying mainly on compensatory rather than a disciplinary or preventive approach under the Act. It applies to all goods and services unless

specifically exempted, which covers the private, public and cooperative sectors. It also provides speedy and inexpensive adjudication.

The rights under the consumer Protection Act 1986 flows from the rights enshrined in Articles 14 to 19 of the Constitution of India. The Right to Information Act (RTI), which has opened up governance process of our country to the common public also has far-reaching implications for consumer's protection.

The Act envisages the promotion and protection of following rights for the consumers:

i) Right to safety ii) Right to be informed iii) Right to Choose IV)

Right to hear v) Right of Redressedvi) Right of Education.

Observance of this day provides an opportunity for individuals to highlight the importance of the consumer movement and promote the basic rights and responsibilities of all consumers.

According to a survey conducted by the Consumer Protection and Action Committee (CPAC), out of each twenty five lakh Gujarati people, only one consumer goes to the court to fight for his/her right. Out of six and a half crore population of the state, only twenty five to thirty approach the consumer court. Initiatives taken by CPAC to encourage and educate consumers about their rights. In

Manipur also, due to lack of awareness about our rights in consumers sector we are being easily deceived & exploited by certain individual or group of people, this has been and still going on. "CONSUMERS' CLUB" Manipur has been taking up a very proactive role to provide all the rights of consumers. In spite of their tooth and nail efforts, their toil is still not fruitful as common people are not well aware of our rights in consumer sectors. So taking the advantages of this day let us all aware about our right especially in consumer sector so that we may avail our rights fully. (The writer can be reached at Jugeshwor7@gmail.com or at [Whatapps No:96128913391](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/00299128913391))

The 'Post-Truth' Of Globalisation:Finance Capitalism And The Naga Question1

Courtesy Horizon
Dr. Malem Ningthouja

The visible trend is being discussed as follows: (1) Topographically, Nagas inhabit geo-strategically important buffer along the international border regions of India and Myanmar. This region— which is rich in labour, carbon reserves, precious minerals and stones, forest products, market potential, potential of military bastions and international inland transit route for flow of capital and commodity— became the target of occupation by the States that acted as facilitator of economic plunder by finance capital.

(2) Economically, capitalism transplanted from above had outgrown Nagas' primitive communism and the relative freedom. It places the Nagas in a colonial relation of production, where the 'external' monopoly market forces retarded the development of the mode of production, which is the preconditions of building a economic self-reliant8 Naga economy.

Underdevelopment and economic dependent on commodity import, therefore, renders the Nagas weak and vulnerable.

(3) Naga political economy become infested with counterproductive (pre-capitalist form) of accumulation of wealth by the upper class9 who relied on State and finance capital for economic and political powers. Instead of direct investment in constant capital (commodity production) for extraction of surplus value; they serve as the agents who extract a portion out of the absolute super value of capitalist plunder in Naga soil. This trend of *rentier bourgeoisie* — whose wealth are derived from the overall capitalist plunder, corruption, illicit trade, and usury capitalism — perpetuates a colonial situation.

(4) Capitalist rent (grant or fund for keeping Naga subsistence economy beyond the horizon March 2018 March 2018 beyond the horizon functional), particularly in the Indian segment of Naga homeland, had trickledown effect in descending manner at various levels among the middle and lower classes. While Naga 'national' movement is yet to materialise 'sustainable development'10 agenda, people adopted individual course to fulfilling economic demands.

Competition for employment in 'private' and 'public' sectors and a culture of begging fund from State treasury and capitalist institutions became widespread. As land and productivity had not been improved, many became disoriented (alienated) from their land (or homeland) in search of other better means of earnings.

Emigration for education and white collar jobs in Indian metropolitan cities and elsewhere become rampant. They, thus, became fodder feeders of capitalist service sector and physically disoriented from Naga

'liberation' movement.

(5) There is a bulk of co-opted reactionary political barons, counterrevolutionary Naga 'intellectuals' and opportunist NGO activists, who became influential in serving as mouthpiece of bourgeoisie democracy and finance capitalism. On the other hand, Naga 'national' leadership had not comprehensively addressed the structural constraints that are responsible for the material conditions of underdevelopment and the corresponding growth of individual opportunism and sectarian forces that keep Nagas perpetually disunited.

When crucial ideological questions have not been raised and when subversive roles of internal agencies have not been exposed; there is no effective check and balance against the tendency of ideological corruption and adventurist political demagogue, which often culminated in promoting counterrevolution and sectarianism amongst Nagas. This makes agas highly vulnerable to divisive forces. As a result, the subjective conscience to build a pan Naga stable community could not be converted into an objective reality. This is the 'unique' characteristic feature of all underdeveloped colonial and semicolonial societies where capitalist plunder takes place with the support of an extensive network of local agents who operate in the guise of development and globalisation.

(6) The 'post-truth' of globalisation (bourgeoisie propaganda) has blinded many. Many confuses capitalist growth of few successful entrepreneurs and a microscopic 'parasites'11 with the revolutionary path to liberty, equality and fraternity.12 Many are being misinformed by the propaganda that made to believe that progress and peace could be achieved only by the means of subservient roles under the command of powerful States, which in reality functions as the instrument of oppression of big capital. The truth has to be unveiled.

Today, India's Act East Policy which is predominantly manifested in deceptive forms of 'aggressive' dams, trans Asian Highways, exploration of carbon reserves, extraction of mineral resources, construction of market complexes, recruitment in military and paramilitary forces, expansion of administrative buildings, military barracks and police posts, etc.— has found an inroad without any constructive debate on the fate of 'indigenous' communities and ecology.

This profit driven policy— enforced from above by the combined forces of the Indian State and other South East Asian States, whose primary objective is to facilitate finance capitalism of advanced countries, so as to rapidly recover from the recession that began with the

meltdown of US dollar in 2008 and also to counter balance Chinese capitalism— had shown enormous amount of forced displacement of indigenous peoples, land and resource alienation, destruction to cultural ecology and environment, long term negative repercussion on sustainable development, militarisation and violation of 'human rights', and increasing sectarianism amongst the parasitic classes whose diabolic individual opportunisms are camouflaged by emotive propaganda of tribal rights and community identity.

The temporary boon at various levels — which are the immediate results of capitalist cosmetic funding in the name of 'shared incentives' under the concurrent list, infrastructural constructions, and job opportunity; which had created a face value of attraction to many, but legitimises massive misappropriation of wealth out of which a microscopic section of exploiters will accrue unequal share of tricked down benefit in descending order — will strengthen the grips of market forces in the long run. Will there be economic justice in the process? The apprehension is that majority of indigenous peoples (including the Nagas) will be subordinated, impoverished and become self-suicidal in internal strives (internecine conflict) in the competition of extracting subsistence wealth from the capitalist booty.

Nagas are not the exception when it comes to domination by capitalist State and finance capitalism. Their immediate neighbourhood communities live in similar conditions of underdevelopment, subjections, internal contradictions, and vulnerability. Collectively, they are being forced located at the underdeveloped bottom of global economic and political hierarchy. Though, there has been destructive tendencies of politically motivated conflicts amongst them; they are geodemographically interconnected in such a manner that they can't remain isolated and insulated from one another. These communities will remain as proximate neighbours, no matter one likes it or not. The interconnection is so strong that that a particular historical event that would affect or effect a neighbour automatically would have similar repercussion on immediate neighbours. Will they learn to convert these commonalities into mutually agreeable terms amongst progressive forces, so as to carry out the significant historical task of building unity across boundaries to defending development, peace and unity vis-à-vis the plunder by external forces?

At this crucial juncture of onslaught by finance capitalism, Naga questions need to be seriously addressed by the progressive Nagas who wish to build a society that would be freed from all forms of

subjugation, oppression and exploitation. Will 'freedom loving' Nagas give free pass to the international finance institutions and the capitalist States that facilitate the process of capitalist plunder? Will they defend their land, market, natural resources, cultural, development, peace and people's democracy? Will they overcome the problems of; (a) emigration of Nagas and corresponding drain of wealth and brain, and (b) the immigration of 'alien' skilled labour and monopoly traders and intrusion by big capital? In this regard, the stage of Naga revolutionary movements needs to be objectively studied by taking into account the following crucial points; (a) structural constraints and dynamics within Naga society; (b) Naga's relationship with immediate neighbours, (c) Nagas relationship with powerful capitalist States, market forces and finance capitalism. Nagas need to concentrate on finding the most effective course to defending and promoting 'sustainable development'. This will require efforts to improve means of production and release of forces of production; so as to resist colonial relation of production and capitalist plunder of Naga labour and resources. This effort, however, cannot be an isolated process restricted to Nagas alone. None of the co-existing communities fulfils the objective criteria to survive in isolation and progress in a compartment of its own.

On the one hand walls of chauvinism, sectarianism and reactions, which have become endemic in all communities had to be broken down. On the other hand, 'sustainable development' agenda had to be carried out in cordial cooperation with the progressive forces amongst immediate communities. Progressive Nagas must fulfil this primary historical

task— an important historical leap that will not only expose the moribund system but also strengthen the ideals of people's democracy — to create a unique history of successful resistance to all forms of subjugation, exploitation and oppression.

A society that does not have sound economic system can neither defend political freedom nor promote cultural identity.

Predominantly composed of contractors, political leaders, higher grade bureaucrats and officials.

Economic development conducted without depletion of natural resources; that meets the needs of the present, setting the limit of needs, and without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Who live on the labour and resource of the exploited sections 12 Development as welfare; i.e., all round improvement in the means of production, forces of production, relation of production and distribution of products.