

Editorial

Saturday, March 31, 2018

The blunder in Indian Political system: Is democracy still accountable?

India - a nation that was given birth by the British colonial ruler, is in deep trouble, as the ruling government seems to be in the process of making the country a centralized nation using spellbound diplomacy to sideline the concept of federalism enshrine in the constitution of India, by using every possible means. The definition of secularism as understood universally, which is again in the preamble of the Indian constitution, is slowly interpreting in a way that people in power at present think it right from their perspective by inventing specific types of ideologies.

There are critiques on how India becomes a nation. A sub-continent which is at present the seventh-largest country in the world, with a total area of 3,287,263 square kilometres is now a home of countless multi ethnic communities. Over thousands indigenous language speaks in this region, but luckily English and Hindi is accepted as a langue-franca of all communities. The country is free for any people to choose any religion that they felt is better for them as the constitution of the country granted.

Now the country is emerging as supper power and has the capacity to play crucial role in building peace across the globe. Even though all citizens of the country which are expert in their own field whether it may on politics, diplomacy, science, etc. have their own contribution in the making of India a strong nation. The concept of unity in diversity is a force that tied us all to make the country move forward. But then we have every reason to give credit to the present prime Minister for his commitment to make the country marching ahead.

When everything is going to the right direction, there is one big blunder in the politics of making the country a stronger or say the strongest nation.

When the making of democracy relies on the respect for all human being irrespective of their caste and creed or whether on which religion he or she belongs to, playing with a kind of politics riding the religion card is something that will bring omen to the country. Mixing religion and politics together is a danger game that causes major problem to the politics of the people.

As history stands true, we as Indian cannot deny that India is a young country with rich cultural heritage. Hinduism, Christians, Muslim Religion, or other indigenous religion practitioners have their own pride of being what they are. If any move to distort the beauty of the each of this religions is every tried by using means which people will not agreed from their conscience, then the government (which ever be it - Congress, BJP, or any other political party) is making its own crematorium.

The recent statement of Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had spark series of protest and criticism as it stands as a fact that Manipur became a part of the Indian Union only in 1949 and Hinduism started followed by the people in 17th century only. How could the Hindu mythology have connection with an erstwhile nation which was not even known when the two great epics - Mahabaratta and Ramayana was written. Every Meitei Hindu believes Bhagwat Geeta as a holy book, but what is the need for building a mythological connection with the region when the real script says nothing about it.

CM Speech at Madhavpur fair not only insults the people of this region but also it confuses the sanctity of the Hindu religion which is base Bhagawat Geeta.

Let things be as it is and let our leader have a second thought to make sure that the holy book of hindu is kept as it is by not utilizing it for political purposes.

Playing with religion for political gain is a real insult to the religion itself and the future generation will blame our leader more modifying the true scripture of Hindu's Holy books if it is manipulated for political purposes.

Ration Card (NFSA) lost

I have lost my Ration Card (National Food Security Act) bearing number 389754 issued by Department of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of Manipur somewhere between Khewa Bazar to Lamlong Bazar along Tinsid Road on March 17, 2018. Finders are requested to handover it to the undersigned.

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Ningthoujam Mema Devi
Moirangkampu Khewa Bazar
Imphal-East
Mobile No. 9615865655

Document lost

I have lost my Migration Certificate, Provision Certificate and Original Mark Sheet of Class XII bearing Roll No 12165 of 2017 issued by COHSEM Regn. No 9227/16 on the way between Kakwa and Babupara on 20/3/2018. Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Nameirakpam Amarjit
S/o N. Rebatibabu Singh
Kakwa Makha, Nameirakpam Keikai

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The Art of the Dunce: Nongthombam Biren hasn't a clue

By : Laifunqbam Dehabrata Roy

That the latest uproar and ridicule that the present chief minister of Manipur is being subjected to is of his own making, is perhaps the biggest modern myth in this State of legendary and mythical figures. Ever since he took his seat just a year ago, every move that he has made exposed a singular lack of a direction or vision that would reveal a person who is knowledgeable and has a grasp of state matters. He moved in fitful jerks, forward and backwards, swiftly changing his position on many matters of import to the State.

He fiddled along with an 'anti-corruption cell' that is perhaps the most secretive, unaccountable and opaque anti-graft exercise seen anywhere. The cell disappeared totally and was claimed to have been moved into one of the most corrupt departments, the Vigilance Department, where it completely vaporised.

His 'go to hills' campaign is often touted as his biggest achievement, by himself and his fans and followers. It caught the imagination of both the gullible and conspiring opportunists. The motorcade he led to the northern

hillstation Ukhrul district headquarters soon after he took office was an unbelievable circus, like the Rio carnival, in sheer vulgarity and ostentation. Yet, as the months passed, all that the people had were virtual monetary packages and promissory announcements. The much touted 'rapprochement' between the people of the 'hills' and 'valleys' are yet to be proven in the unresolved districts creation fracas with the Manipur United Naga Council or the fallout from the three 'JLP' bills that failed to get Presidential nod, and ended up in a totally avoidable loss of many lives.

Next, he cooked up a clueless exercise called 'miyamge numit', in which he sat for one day every month holding an ad hoc darbar at his official residence cum office for individual supplications and complaints from sundry malcontents, manipulators, and maleficent persons. The vast majority of these, again, secretive complaints and follow up, if any at all, were to do with routine functions of government that failed to be performed. This initiative reveals a man who loves to play to the gallery for popularity but without any idea about how to run an efficient modern government.

Without a clue about how to

encourage and facilitate a street market, he then announced an "Imphal Night Plaza" stretching along a normally deserted section of the National Highway, in front of the old British Residency, now the Indian governor's residence cum office in Imphal. This was done despite sound advice that a place for a night market already exists in the traditional market streets of Imphal. The night plaza died quickly, which he was quick to blame on the weather.

He also took a bold but hapless initiative to hold cabinet meetings in the district headquarters of the so-called hill districts of Manipur. After a couple or so meetings in Chandel, Ukhrul and somewhere else, that too was quietly pulled out. No one, least of all himself, knew what was actually concretely achieved or accomplished by those meetings.

Soon after the rains ended last year, he made an announcement on Facebook that he is going to start roads repairing, maintenance and construction work. He did start, but not in a way that is sustainable or effective. Take for instance the Imphal to Jiribam national highway. Black topping was started by a private contractor firm from outside Manipur, and it progressed rapidly. Traffic resumed at higher

speeds and volume as a consequence. The old rickety bridges began to collapse at Irang, Makru, etc. He didn't think bridges mattered. Back to square one. Roads, to Biren, are meant only for motorised vehicles. No enhanced modern provisions for slow moving transport or pedestrians! No cycle lanes, no broadening and improving of sidewalks.

He then went on an "inauguration spree", seeking out anything and everything he and his ministers could inaugurate for his government's first birthday bash. He even tried to inaugurate projects far from completed, such as the Thoubal Multipurpose Project and Irl Irrigation project at Dolaithabi, and the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Moreh. He had to retract those decisions very soon after they were taken.

Biren has inaugurated his second year on a disastrous note. After announcing his latest blundering caper "go to village", he trotted off to Madhavpur Village in far off Gujarat State situated at the opposite end of India, and started a fire! Well, one could say that he's so desperate to show that he's doing something that he's even ready to start a fire. Biren is arguably the first chief minister of Manipur to have mastered the art of the dunce.

Response to Nongthombam Biren's shameful speech

The story started with, "in the time of Lord Krishna, there was no separate Arunachal Pradesh or Assam or Manipur. The entire Northeast was one entity. Now, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland are on the border of China. But Lord Krishna made them part of India during his time."

On 28th of this month during the Madhavpur Fair held at Porbandar, Gujarat, the Chief Minister of Manipur, Nongthombam Biren unabashedly accepted the distorted lies about Manipur, its people and its history which has been long propagated by the Indian colonial discourse of dissolving Manipur in the Caste-Hindu fold forcefully. In an act of repeating the signing off of Manipur in 1949, Nongthombam Biren gave the above statements on the said day conflating facts with fiction, myths with history and thereby paving the way for Manipur's fall and the loss of its identity. In 1949, Manipur lost its freedom and today we are on the brink of losing our identity. Nongthombam Biren sold our history to his seasonal mainland political party BJP and its allies for his political mileage, and there can be no less shameful and disdainful act than this.

It has been debunked time and again by eminent scholars that the Meiteis of Manipur has anything to do with the Aryan Civilization as had been professed by some self-styled Sanskrit scholars during the last decades of 20th century.

Despite the series of struggle against oppressive forces in Manipur in various platforms by the students, NGO's and the Civil societies, Nongthombam Biren unmindfully ignored the

sensibilities of the people of Manipur by claiming as such.

On 29th March 2018, during the Impact TV's discussion programme of Manung Hutna, Bharatya Janata Party's (BJP) spokesperson Chongtham Bijoy insisted that Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren might have said those things out of 'courtesy' and laughed the matter off. He responded that Biren was not stating facts but merely repeating the myths. Here, we would like to ask why should a Chief Minister repeat such lies which dissolve the history of the people of Manipur in a web of lies? Why should such lies be perpetrated that sinks our history while levitating the already dominant Hindu mythology? BJP's spokesperson Chongtham Bijoy further said that what Nongthombam Biren said was in 'good humour' and that he was not presenting facts. He also mocked the people of Manipur for criticizing the Chief Minister's speech terming it as merely 'fagi' (Joke) and that those who are in shock are those who don't understand the 'fagi', that what the Chief Minister expressed was said in a 'lighter vein'. We would like to ask if our Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren is some sort of clown which was elected by the people for the amusement of the BJP masters in Delhi?

In another recent development, Good Friday, the Christian holiday commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, is being cancelled on the pretext of facilitating 'the encashment of salaries for employees and for the financial year's rush' while a hurried corrigendum is being made on the CM's Facebook account that it

This write up is sent via email from the youths and Manipuri students of:

1. Manipur University, Canchipur
2. Ambedkar University, Delhi
3. Dhanamanjuri College of Arts, Imphal
4. Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai
5. Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi
6. Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi
7. Lovely Professional University, Punjab
8. Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
9. University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad
10. University of Delhi, Delhi
11. Santosh University, Ghaziabad
12. Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
13. Punjab University, Chandigarh
14. The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad
15. West China University of Medical Sciences, Chengdu
16. Pondicherry University, Pondicherry
17. The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
18. IISc, Bangalore
19. Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun

excludes all other officials except the ones in 'treasury linked banks'. Out of all the public holidays, targeting a particular section of the community who follows the Christian faith by cancelling such a holiday is another ploy to show their power and submerge all the identities to the imagined 'Hindu Nation' of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

All these must be seen as a deliberate attempt from the part of the BJP government to do away the history and culture of the people of Manipur in the name of whatsoever the Chief Minister and the government deem appropriate. The Chief Minister must also remember that the people of Manipur are not some foolish stock of population that can be played and fooled with anytime by using the history, interest and aspiration of the people

as a springboard to his political career. Here, it is with deep angst that we express our thoughts and feelings as to what the CM has come up with in his cheap political stunt.

We, the students from Manipur studying in various colleges and universities, in and outside Manipur, take the CM's statement as an insult to the people of Manipur. The time and effort that we, the student community, take up in fulfilling our responsibility towards learning and serving our motherland and humanity at large is rendered useless if a responsible citizen like the Nongthombam Biren could recklessly endorse such Hindu myths and lies at the cost of our own histories and identities to 'humour' the BJP and the people of India.

It is a serious demand to one of the most responsible senior citizens of Manipur from the youths of the next generation that you do leave us in a position where we have to explain ourselves to the coming generations why you compromised our identity and our history in a moment of obliviousness in the fashion of 1949.

The CM, for what his statement made in the aforementioned Fair, must apologize to the people of Manipur or else he should take the sole responsibility of jeopardizing Manipur and the future of all the indigenous communities of Manipur.

We stand united and we stand for Manipur!

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