

NDPP-BJP pre-poll alliance justifies Governor's invitation to form government in Nagaland – NDPP

IT News
Imphal, May 20,

The recent political drama at Karnataka state assembly regarding the governor's invitation to BJP legislature wing leader and the Supreme Court intervention to prove its strength on the floor of the house which ultimately left BS Yeddyurappa to step down before the floor test yesterday has prompted another political controversy over the invitation of political party for formation of government by the governor in Nagaland and Manipur.

In Nagaland regarding the claim of TR Ziliang, the NPF chief over the legitimacy of his party for getting invitation for being the single largest political party, NDPP, which is heading the alliance government in Nagaland had clarified that there is nothing unconstitutional to the invitation on NDPP-BJP Alliance PDA by the governor. Terming T.R. Zeliang's claims on the issue of single largest party, the NDPP said that the NDPP-BJP Alliance was a pre-poll alliance that had a seat sharing arrangement as one single entity where the two parties did not contest against each other in any constituency. The NDPP-BJP alliance entered into a seat sharing arrangement of 40:20, which was the first of its kind in Nagaland.

A statement said that the NDPP-BJP pre-poll Alliance won a combined number of 30 seats (NDPP- 18

& BJP- 12) and securing a total of 4,08,056 votes (40.51%) out of 10,07,163 - the grand total of votes polled in the State, and clearly emerged as the single largest party. On the contrary, in the 26 seats that the NPF won, it garnered a total of 3,89,687 votes, which is 38.69 % of grand total of votes polled (10,07,163). Later, after the elections, it is public knowledge that the JD(U) and the NPP which are natural allies with the BJP in the NDA Government at the Centre, along with the lone IND legislator also extended their support to the NDPP-BJP combine thereby taking the total combine of pre and post poll alliance partners to 34 in the House of 60.

Quoting the Justice Sarkaria Commission Report on Centre-State Relations with emphasis on Chapter 4 – Role of Governor, the statement said that in section 11 of Chapter 4 which deals with the Choice of the Chief Minister, it is clearly mentioned in Point No. 4 as "If there is no such party, the Governor should select a Chief Minister from among the following parties or group of parties by sounding them, in turn, in the order of preference that 1) An alliance of parties that was formed prior to the Elections; 2) The largest single party staking a claim to form the government with the support of others, including "independents."; 3) A post-electoral coalition of parties, with all the partners in the coalition joining the Government; 4) A post-

electoral alliance of parties, with some of the parties in the alliance forming a Government and the remaining parties, including "independents" supporting the Government from outside.

The Governor, while going through the process of selection described above, should select a leader who, in his (Governor's) judgement, is most likely to command a majority in the Assembly. The Governor's subjective judgement will play an important role.

A Chief Minister, unless he is the leader of a party which has absolute majority in the Assembly, should seek a vote of confidence in the Assembly within 30 days of taking over. This practice should be strictly adhered to with the sanctity of a rule of law.

These conventions are self-explanatory and due process has been followed in installation of the PDA Government. Therefore, it is absolutely clear that the NDPP-BJP pre-poll Alliance was the single largest entity and selected in order of preference (as per 4.11.04 sub point 1). The numbers has proved majority with victory in 34 seats and it is further proved in the vote share. Finally it was proven in the temple of democracy, on the floor of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly on March 13, 2018 where Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio proved his majority by securing 33 votes against the 26 votes of the NPF. What more is there

to prove", the NDPP statement argued.

Breaking its silence over the opposition NPF's incessant barrage of venom, the NDPP asked the opposition NPF to play politics based on ideologies, principles and strengths; not on religious references.

On the NPF attacking the PDA partner BJP, he said that it was quite surprising as till recently, the BJP was very much a partner of the NPF-led DAN coalition since 2003. But today, just because the NPF could not form an alliance with the BJP, they are going ahead and attacking the BJP, Jamir asserted.

He recalled that the NPF president Dr. Shürhozelie Liezietsuh had, on 28 June 2017, at a party meeting in Arunachal Pradesh, proudly spoke of the NPF and BJP association as dating back to 1977 when the latter was called Jan Sangh. However, he pointed out that when the NPF crisis occurred the following month, where legislators decided to change leadership and bring back Zeliang as chief minister, the NPF led by Liezietsuh had decided to sever its ties with the BJP on July 19, 2017 and had gone to the extent of even organising a 'beef feast'.

"Today they (NPF) are calling the BJP a Hindu party, they are calling NDPP an anti-Christian party. Now if they consider the BJP a Hindu party, then what were they doing with the BJP over the last 15 years? Or as they recall, since 1977?" the NDPP statement questioned.

PM Modi to leave on day-long visit to Russia tomorrow morning

New Delhi, May 20

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will leave on a day-long visit to Russia tomorrow morning. Mr Modi will hold an informal summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi tomorrow. The interaction will be part of the regular consultation

between the leadership of two countries. Mr Modi's one-on-one talks with Mr Putin will be free from protocol, strict agenda and tangible outcome but intended to deepen relationship between the two countries. Regional factors in bilateral relations would be the central point of the informal meeting, which is

now a new trend in diplomacy. Several current issues like the fate of Iran nuclear deal, India's role in Chabahar Port and the International North-South Transportation Corridor connecting Mumbai with St Petersburg via Iran would figure in the meeting of the two world leaders.

App to fix parking pangs in northeast

Agency
Guwahati, May 20

Two young engineers of Assam are set to address the parking woes of car owners in and around Guwahati and other cities of the northeastern region with their mobile application. The app, 'ParkingRhino', plans to manage both on-street and off-street parking in the state capital and other towns of Assam such as Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Tezpur, by providing real-time information to drivers, its co-founder Tridib Konwar said. "We have started our market research and lead generation for other northeastern states and plan to digitize more than 400 parking locations in the region through this platform," Konwar,

who is also the CEO of the start-up, explained. Bugged by inefficient system of parking vehicles in their work city Bengaluru, Konwar and his fellow Assam Engineering College alumni, Mriganka Deka, launched the app in 2016, but the focus shifted towards the North East after it secured seed funds from the 'Ideation' programme last year. Assam-based Numaligarh Refinery Limited had launched 'Ideation' last year to promote start-ups in the northeast and selected ParkingRhino along with two other firms for funding their projects. "The Ideation programme has encouraged us to launch our operation in Guwahati," Konwar said. "We introduced smart technology for GMC (Guwahati

Municipal Corporation) parking locations on Guwahati-Shillong Road and the Assam State Zoo. If everything works well, we will cover more than 50 parking locations in the region in the next three months," he said. The major problem in the parking management system in the North East is keeping a track of manual tickets, he said.

"We want to digitize all locations using ParkingRhino management mobile application to ensure a transparent transaction for both citizens and the governments," Konwar said. ParkingRhino is currently serving 15 cities in India along with two cities in Philippines, he said, adding that they have plans to launch the app in a few South-East Asian countries in the next six months.

Sajik Battalion organises musical concert

Imphal, May 20

4 Assam Rifles of 28 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised a Musical Concert Evening at Kana Valley under Chakpikarong Sub Division on 18 May 2018. The event was organised at Village Haika and is the first of its kind in the area which dawned the beginning the new era of peace in the Sajik Valley. Multiple singers of all age groups enthusiastically participated in the event and showcased their talent and passion for music. The Jazz Band of Sajik Battalion and the locals performed in various genres



including English Rock and famous Kuki hits which instantly struck a cord within the music enthusiasts and the

entire gathering of more than 250 people.

The conduct of the event included solo and group performances. Out of a total of 21 young talented boys and girls who performed, Mr Kakai and Ms Chongneo were adjudged the best talent amongst boys and girls. The musical group of St Mary School was adjudged the best group closely followed by the group from Haika Village. The event was well appreciated by the locals who are now closely knit with the Sajik Battalion and share common moments of fun and frolic. The Battalion has promised for more such events in future as well.

National Seminar On "Women Empowerment and Human Rights With Special Reference To North East" Concludes

IT News
Imphal, May 20,

Valedictory function of two-day seminar on "Women Empowerment and Human Rights with special reference to North East" held yesterday at the Court Hall, Manipur University. The seminar was organized by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) India and Manipur University. Justice, N. Kotiwar Singh, Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey, Vice-Chancellor, Manipur University, Dr. S.K. Shukla, Asst. Director, NHRC and Prof. N. Lokendra Singh, Director, Centre for Human Rights & Duties Edn, Manipur University attended the function as Chief Guest, President and coordinators respectively. The function started with felicitation of dignitaries. Dr.



S.K Shukla delivered the Welcome speech. Prof. N. Lokendra Singh presented the 'Seminar Report'. He said there were four academic sessions and twenty six papers presented during the two-day seminar. Brief reviews of the twenty six papers were also presented at the function.

Justice, N. Kotiwar Singh, delivering his Chief Guest's speech said Manipur University is the place of shaping ideas and can direct the society. The autonomy of the university is not limited to its functioning but also to the free flow of knowledge and ideas to the society. Justice further elaborated on the

preamble, constitution of India, rights, duties and directive principles of state policies and also urged to all citizens to be fully acquainted with it.

Addressing the presidential speech, Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey stated that the debate of gender discrimination has been going on for a long time. So many awareness programmes and seminar have been conducted in this subject but the issues of violence against women still persist in our society and the main reason is the attitude we possess, he added. He called for the need to spread the awareness all over the country.

The function concluded with Vote of thanks proffered by Dr. Sureshkumar Singh, Centre for Human Rights & Duties Edn, Manipur University.

Assam Rifles apprehended illegal immigrants

Imphal, May 20

12 Assam Rifles of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) apprehended two illegal immigrants alongwith 7.5 lacs Kyat (Rs 38000/- approximately) and a local handler at PVCP, Khudengthabi on 18 May 2018.

On 18 May 2018, at around 1330 hours, during checking at

PVCP, Khudengthabi, a lady named Mrs Alima Begum, age 25 years, wife of Late Md Rashid, resident of Arakan state of Myanmar was apprehended with 7.5 lacs Kyat (Rs. 38000/- Approximately) alongwith her daughter Miss Nurjahan, age 08 years and a local handler named Mr Zakir Hussain, resident of village Haorebi Awang Leikei, PS Litong, district Thoubal. On through

checking, the apprehendees were found without any valid or legal documents. Mrs Alima Begum revealed that she was planning to go to Sona Mura in Tripura from Moreh along with her daughter. She also revealed that they were illegally staying in Moreh for past 10 days. All three individuals have been handed over to Moreh Police Station for further investigation and a FIR has been lodged with them.

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..... Academics, Intellectuals, Political Class and Activists

separate the two, or however unfamiliar one is with the language, the fact is that relationship does exist between your language and that of the tribe. To assume that universities and research institutions (can) exist outside the state or society is a myth. The tribe does not exist in the confines of its territorial and institutional spaces in isolation. In short, like almost all tribes, practically speaking, the academics do not exist in isolation from their surrounding world; and the interdependence

between the two is not therefore a fiction. Thus, there are enough reasons for us to find and reaffirm the linkages, and also cultivate a healthy intercourse between the two for mutual benefit. I am confident that the academics and the activists will be able to communicate and understand each other. Mr. Chairperson, I am not suggesting that all the academics should become activists or vice versa. Doing good work that is useful, both professionally (from the disciplinary point

of view) and socially (in terms of social relevance), is obviously not the case of an academic trying to become an activist. Similarly, to be aware of the issues or to have ideological clarity that defines and guides one's actions for the betterment of society does not mean that the activist has become an academic. Neither am I suggesting that the worlds of the academic and the activists are impenetrable spaces; an academic can be an activist as well, and an activist can also become a scholar. But what is

important for us is to realize that the sincerity, commitment, and dedication to their respective jobs, and recognition of each other's role and place in society will go a long way in ensuring the health of our society. Failing to do justice to their respective jobs, and deriding each other or not listening to each other or cynicism about the academics or the activists, would only represent symptoms of a pathological society.

Ladies and gentlemen, such pathology will only

aggravate the silence I have earlier talked about, and guarantee a life for us wherein "forms without substance" becomes it defining characteristic, and labeling becomes a convenient way to hide the shallowness of that life. Such a life can never be called a wholesome life"; rather, it signals the danger of the bankruptcy and decadence that will destroy our society. In Manipur, one often comes across people seeking to de-legitimise others by saying that she/he is from this or that group.

And unfortunately, it seems that this act of mere labeling is all that one needs to effect the desired results. Because, such "branding", as it is called in Manipur, scuttles, if not replaces, real engagement with issues through dialogue or debates or sharing. This culture, far from generating "substance" for the "forms" that are jealously sought to be protected, can only feed the process of bankruptcy and decadence in our society. Therefore, the members of our academia, intellectuals and activists

need to respond urgently to this dangerous trend before it is too late.

Such a response demands, amongst others, that we delineate the identities of the academics and activists. Such delineation should not be a difficult task for us. At least, this should not be as contentious or problematic as what I am going to address now: the question of identity with reference to Manipur as a geo-political entity, to which I would like to invite your attention now.