

# Editorial

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

## The cry of the 2<sup>nd</sup> class citizen: Is somebody listening

Circumstances instances is a clear fact that the people of this region are being treated as second class citizen in free India as draconian Armed Forces Special Powers Act- 1958 (AFSPA) has been imposed in the region since early 1980s.

It is a matter of record how inhumane is the act which had slaughtered, forcible made disappeared and turned many youths to physically remain handicapped the rest of their lifetime. The story does not end with the kind of inhuman excess committed under the draconian legislation, but it is also worth remembering you that because of the killing and atrocities many women are left to live life of a widow and many children are left as orphan. The society has been greatly affected after AFSPA came into force in the state and every human being of this country including the PMO have every details of the crime being underway under the shadow of this dreaded inhuman and barbaric legislation which empower security force to act on mere suspicion. It will be perhaps waste of time to once more remind on how the act has been used by some vested interested individuals in the security force as a tool to eliminate any person on their will. There are many instances of the kind, but one thing worth drawing your attention is the killing of 11 person including women and a bravery award winner child at Matom Keithel in Bishnupur district back in 2000. It was after the incident that a Manipuri lady Irom Chanu Sharmila has been undergoing a fast unto death protest for repeal of the act. But the non existence of the so call democratic system in a democratic country finally had let her taken another option.

Today, the Supreme Court of India is showing serious concerns. Case of fake encounter killing , some under the shadow of the AFSPA are being investigated. And the verdict is likely to come out soon.

In this 21<sup>st</sup> century when India dream to become one of the most powerful nation in the world, when India aims to take a leadership role in the world politics, it is time that every leader ponder upon on whether it is right to impose a draconian act to rule a group of people which anatomical look is completely different from the rest of the country. By imposing AFSPA India now have two classes of citizens - one citizen with complete freedom and the other citizen who were deprive of living a free life.

It is also worth mentioning that, the so called ASPPA that we in the Imphal Times is bringing up to the public spare have been even term as "inhumane Act" by former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. P. Chindambaram the then Home Minister during UPA government had also stated that AFSPA should be repealed. And besides all these the present Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi had in his heart throbbing speech delivered at Madison Square Garden in New York had promised that his government will scrape all outdated law.

AFSPA is no doubt an outdated law. It was used by the British Colonial regime to suppress the Indian Freedom struggle. The contents of the ordinance, now legislation is suppressive, inhuman and unbearable. If our great country India is targeting and aiming to become the one time Britain of 18 century and consider Manipur as a colony that imposition of AFSPA is all right. Then the true picture will be known by not only the people of Manipur but also by all the people across the globe.

If army is the cause for the government's reluctant to repeal the outdated draconian law, then why discrimination, by only imposing it in certain part of the country. The world knows the kind of violent activism in the naxal hit areas of Northern and Southern India. Why AFSPA is not imposed in such state? It is on record that a Central government Minister had once stated that AFSPA cannot be imposed in Northern and Southern Naxal hit area as we cannot kill our own people.

If the government knows that AFSPA is to kill people why impose here in Manipur and at few other state. Is the hidden agenda of the India government to kill all the people of certain state utilizing AFSPA as a tool?

Last, but not the least, those in power, ruling the country showed some seriousness over this act then there is reason for the people to believe that Narendra Modi Govt. do care for all citizens of the country.

## R & V ART HOUSE'S FIRST ART FEST 2018

R & V Art House is a firm founded by Robin Wahengbam and Dr Vijita Ningombam to create a platform for Manipuri artists so as to showcase their works at National and International levels and to grow as artists.

The firm's main objective is to help in preserving the art works of many unearthed and known talented artists of the state of the past, present and to take up step towards solving unemployment problems of artists of Manipur, and in the process, helping them grow in the global platform. Thus the R & V House intended to act as a stepping stone for promoting Manipuri artist.

Along the above lines and congruently, the R & V Art House in collaboration with Manipuri Folk Music launched its art fête, the first of its kind under the banner "Manipur's first book of Art / Art Fest 2018 at Hotel Imphal on 9th September 2018 which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Speaker of Manipur Legislative Assembly Y Khemchand as Chief Guest.

The theme of the Fest was - **'ALL ART WORKS ARE RELATED TO MANIPUR (ENVIRONMENTALLY FOCUSED, COMMUNITY BASED OR DEALING WITH CRITICAL ISSUES RELATED TO THE PUBLIC)'**.

The fest exhibited works of 30 artists, the winner was awarded Rs 50,000 and the remaining 29 participants were awarded Rs 2,000 each respectively.

Speaking at the event, Y Khemchand lauded the R & V Art House for organizing the unique event, the first of its kind in Manipur.

"Although it is a small state with a small population, Manipur has many talented individuals. All we need is support. Therefore we should learn to appreciate each other's talent and give positive feedback and positive criticisms," he said.

Recognizing the efforts of art lovers, Y Khemchand said that he will extend his full support to develop and help the artist expose their works in International arena.

Co-founder Wahengbam Robin, a renowned artist of Manipur, expressed concern over the lack of books and documents on art history, origin and development of Manipuri art and said that he is in the process of filling the gap with experts and



historians.

Co-founder, Dr Vijita Ningombam in her speech said "Although it is a small state with a small population, Manipur has many talented individuals. All we need is support. Thus we should learn to appreciate each other's talent and give positive feedback and positive criticisms."

Fine Art (Graphic) Professor Nirmalendu Das of Shantiniketan Vishwabharti University attended the event as a jury member as well as the president of the event held in Imphal.

The firm's next exhibition will be held in Mumbai, India followed by Florida, USA. They will also be publishing a book, Manipur's First book of Art which will contain history of art in the state as well as a compilation of works of contemporary artists.

### ROBIN WAHENGHAM

Co-Founder Robin is a well-known artist who has specialized in graphic art. He completed BFA from VisvaBharati University, Santiniketan. He has participated in a number of art workshops and camps. His artworks including paintings in various mediums have been exhibited in various state and national level art exhibitions

organized by Academy of Fine arts, Kolkata and Manipur State Kala Academy, Imphal.

As a creative artist, he has also designed the stage and ambience for Manipur Tourism Sangai Festival. Ambience and art installation for inter-cultural dialogue between North East India and South East Asia for IGNC, New Delhi. Production design for Ford Foundation Production Film - 'Soldiers in Sarong'.

He has also designed the mascot for the Vth National Games held in Manipur in 1999. He has been honored twice for UGC Educational Films in Animation and Graphic Art in 1998 and 1999. In 2011, he was awarded the Manipur State Kala award. His art collection has been spread around globe like the CARR for Human rights, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, Massachusetts etc.

It is his passion in the field of art that inspired him to have found R & V Art House along with Dr Vijita Ningombam.

### DR VIJITANINGOMBAM

Dr Vijita has a very well-rounded background that encompasses the creativity of art, the logic of science and the compassion of social work. All of these qualities inspired her to

found R & V Art House along with Robin.

Dr. Vijita's interest in art began at a very young age. She has painted many canvases and competed at state and national level competitions. Her artwork was selected and published by The Hindu. At the age of nine, she acted in the Manipuri movie Khamba-Thoibi released in 1997, playing the role of Khammu who raised little Khamba as a child.

In 2003, she was a model for a documentary film called Phaneak for Doodardshan and in 2008, she was the VJ for a TV show for NETV called NE Hi-fi Manipuri Music Countdown. She got offers to go into mainstream Bollywood, but instead chose a fruitful career in medicine.

She graduated from Utkal University in Odisha in 2010 and later completed a fellowship in Cosmetic Medicine in Apollo Hospital in New Delhi. She is a social activist writer whose articles have been published in The Hindu, Indian Republic News Portal, Imphal free Press and E-pao.net. She also has a compilation of short stories and articles she writes in a personal blog.

**(The writer is a lay Buddhist and a vocalist of a Rock Band called 'No Name')**

## State of the science: use of biomarkers and imaging in diagnosis and management of Alzheimer disease.

### Courtesy: Freedlibrary

It has been over 100 years since Alois Alzheimer first published his case study of the patient Auguste, a 51-year-old woman whose symptoms of irrationality, memory loss, disorientation to time and place, paranoia, hallucinations, and difficulties with language and cognition gradually progressed until she became incontinent, bedbound, and nonverbal. After her death, 4 years after diagnosis, autopsy of Auguste's brain showed atrophy, tangled bundles of neurofibrils, and accumulations of an unknown substance in a military pattern. This combination of memory loss, loss of executive function, behavioral symptoms, and pattern of histopathological lesions has become known as Alzheimer disease (AD) (Strassnig & Ganguli, 2005). Although progress has been made in understanding AD, much remains unknown. The etiology of this disease is not fully understood, and there is no cure. Current treatment is palliative, aiming at reducing the severity of symptoms rather than stopping the disease process.

AD is the most common form of dementia, implicated in about 60% of dementia cases (Querforth & LaFerla, 2010). In the United States, 5.4 million people currently have AD, and someone develops AD every 69 seconds. The aging of the baby boomer generation is expected to add

10 million new cases of AD, and by 2050, the total U.S. prevalence is projected to reach up to 16 million people (Alzheimer's Association, Thies, & Bleiler, 2011). It is estimated that less than 50% of people with AD have been diagnosed, so incidence and prevalence of AD may actually be much higher (Leifer, 2009). From 2010 to 2050, the total cost of professional healthcare for patients over the age of 65 years with AD is expected to increase from \$172 billion to \$1.08 trillion (The Alzheimer's Association, 2010). This does not account for the costs of care provided by unpaid caregivers. In 2010, unpaid caregivers provided 17 billion hours of care valued at over \$202 billion (Alzheimer's Association et al., 2011). The coming escalation in incidence and prevalence promises to drastically increase the already-significant burden AD places on society and the healthcare system.

Since the 1980s, clinicians have used clinical criteria such as descriptions of the patient's history and symptoms and AD cognitive testing to make a diagnosis of probable dementia of the Alzheimer type in living patients. However, a definitive diagnosis of AD has not been possible until after the patient's death, when histopathology must confirm the diagnosis. Clinical

diagnosis in living patients is able to differentiate between patients with AD and patients without dementia about 80% of the time but has shown inconsistent ability to differentiate AD from other types of dementia, with accuracy estimated at 23%-88% (Ballard, 2011). Therefore, a significant percentage of patients treated for AD do not actually have the disease, and a significant portion of patients who actually have AD are misdiagnosed. This imprecision is thought to impact perceived effectiveness of current treatment and to negatively impact results of clinical trials of new treatments (Weiner et al., 2011). In addition, pathological lesions may accumulate in the brain for 10-20 years before cognitive decline ensues (Fagan & Holtzman, 2010). By the time signs and symptoms are sufficiently severe for clinical diagnosis, neurodegeneration is often quite advanced, limiting benefits of treatment. An explosion of recent research aims to develop techniques for diagnosing AD earlier in the disease process and with more certainty.

Begun in 2004, the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI) is an ongoing longitudinal international research collaboration funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), multiple pharmaceutical companies, and private donations via the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This

project has generated the development of new biomarkers and brain imaging techniques with the ability to reveal AD pathology in a living patient. Use of these techniques along with patient history and cognitive testing may improve certainty of the diagnosis of AD and enable diagnosis of AD earlier in the disease process. Earlier diagnosis and treatment of AD would confer many benefits. It would allow clinicians to start medications earlier in the disease process, when they may have more potential to slow progression of the disease. It would enable more effective management of cognitive and behavioral symptoms, prevent inappropriate prescription of medications affecting cognition, and alert clinicians to look out for potential risks to safety such as wandering, falls, dangerous driving, and inability to manage medications. It would reduce patient and caregiver anxiety and allow patients and families to better prepare for the future. Finally, it would enable patients to enroll in clinical trials of new treatments, providing access to care by AD experts at leading medical facilities, often free of charge (Alzheimer's Association et al., 2011). Therefore, earlier diagnosis and treatment of AD could reduce both costs of care and burden on patients, caregivers, and the society.

**(To be contd.....)**

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