

# Editorial

Thursday, August 1, 2019

## Democracy infected:

When people turns violent against High Court order

The uproar by section of people against the Manipur High Court order regarding the ban on mining of sand stones from River bed is a serious one. Even though there are some legitimacy to the anger of labourers who live on the sands and stones from the River bed; the way they responded to the High Court order is a sign of Judiciary becoming weaker than the Legislative and the Executive. Moreover, the failure of the state machineries, either due to incompetency or due to pressure, in honouring the verdict of the Manipur High court indicates downgrading of the Judiciary. To come straight to the point the weakening of Judiciary is nothing but another symptom of infection to the democracy of the Country. If people stop respecting/ honoring the judiciary and if people started going to the street by using violent means protesting High Court order and if the state remain quiet looking for some sort of political measures to appease the sections of people, then the democracy will be in jeopardy. People will stop saying that - I will challenge you to the law.

In democracy people have the right to protest and raise the voice of dissent to any government policy which the people felt it unfair. Democratic protest is the right of all citizens of the country. Dealing with such protest lies to the hand of the state government. And if in case the government failed to act in favour of the protesting people, than the last option that people of the country often chose is the Law Court. There may be criticisms about justice being delayed by the law court but people still have trust to the Law Court. Judiciary is perhaps the most important pillar for the success of democracy. If Judiciary is suppressed than the so call democracy will take no time to convert into autocratic rule.

The purpose of this write up is an attempt to keep alive judiciary and make its existence more meaningful to the people and also to the government.

Yesterday, the Chief Minister of Manipur after convening an important meeting with all important Ministers and staffs at his secretariat had resolved to allot license to some sand quarry runners. If one ponder on the protest, the frontrunner were the local labourers who didn't get their minimum wages while working at the sand quarry owned by rich people who can afford excavators, trucks etc. The daily wage earner labourers at the sand quarry have already been exploited since the entry of the rich people. Earlier some 5 to 10 years back the sand miner labourers managed to get sufficient amount without creating much disturbance to the nature and the river. Small quantities of sands accumulated from the river were seen collected by truck owners. But since the coming of rich and powerful people the labourers seems to have been bought and the recent spurt of protest showed that they are now in the grip of the people earning lot of money and they might have left with no choice to act to the advice of the excavator owners.

One mistake, the state government seems to have committed is that, no proper survey of the live of sand minor labourers were conducted. Whether the government skipped that part as no organizations put up the matter or is it their mere negligence will be only known by those who are paid to serve the people at the cost of the state government exchequer.

When everyone across the globe is showing so much concerns about the environmental degradation, one need to ponder on why some people are so much against it. Well they need work to live, but there are many other works which the government could arrange to make their live worth living. The government should also conduct awareness programme on why the High Court had to give such an important ruling.

The High Court ruling was to protect the environment, and it is for the future generation. If the labourers and those instigating them love their children, they should call off all agitation against the High Court order regarding the mining of sand from river bed. However, they can start a fresh agitation demanding arrangement of an alternative work for their living.

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## President Kovind gives assent to Triple Talaq Bill

Agency  
New Delhi August 1,

President Ram Nath Kovind has given his nod to the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 that abolishes the practice of instant Triple Talaq. The law comes into force retrospectively from 19th September 2018. A Gazette Notification to this effect was issued yesterday. The Parliament had passed the bill on Tuesday.

The Bill seeks to declare the practice of instant Triple Talaq as void and illegal and makes it a

cognizable offence. It also provides allowance to women victims and their dependent children. The offence is made compoundable with the permission of the Magistrate at the instance of the married Muslim woman upon whom talaq is pronounced.

President Ram Nath Kovind has also given his assent to the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019. Parliament had passed the bill on Tuesday. A Gazette Notification to this effect was issued yesterday. The Bill seeks to amend the Companies Act, 2013. It aims to tighten Corporate Social

Responsibility-CSR compliance, transfer certain responsibilities to National Company Law Tribunal and recategorise certain offences as civil offences.

President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill 2019. The law comes into force retrospectively from 21st February, 2019. Parliament had passed the bill on Monday. A Gazette Notification to this effect was issued yesterday.

The bill seeks to provide for a comprehensive mechanism to ban the unregulated deposit schemes

other than deposits taken in the ordinary course of businesses and to protect the interest of depositors. It will work as a crackdown on Ponzi schemes and will help protect the interests of poor people and their hard-earned money. Depositors have been given a top priority in the bill.

It provides for attachment of properties or assets and subsequent realisation of assets for repayment to depositors. The bill also proposes adequate provisions for repayment of deposits in cases where such schemes nonetheless manage to raise deposits illegally.

## Rajya Sabha passes Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill to improve road safety

Agency  
New Delhi August 1,

The Rajya Sabha passed the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 with some amendments. The bill was passed yesterday with 108 members voting in favour of the bill and 13 against. It will be again sent to the Lok Sabha for approval as it was passed with Amendments. The bill seeks to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to provide for road safety. Provisions related to increasing penalties of traffic violations, addressing issues on third-party insurance, regulation of cab aggregators and road

safety are proposed in the amendment. The Bill proposes a scheme to allow cashless treatment of victims in a road accident during the golden hour. The golden hour is defined as the time period of up to one hour following a traumatic injury, during which the likelihood of preventing death through prompt medical care is the highest.

The Bill proposes to increase the minimum compensation for hit and run cases. In case of the death, the compensation has been raised from 25 thousand to two lakh rupees, and in case

of grievous injury, it will be from 12 thousand 500 to 50 thousand rupees. Replying to a debate on the bill, Mr Gadkari made it clear that the legislation will not way encroach the rights of the States regarding their own Act. He said the government will open motor driving training schools to impart skill trainings to drivers. He also said that the government will give one crore rupees grant to those who want to open such training schools.

Earlier, moving the bill in the Rajya Sabha, Road Transport and Highways Minister

Nitin Gadkari said that the legislation will improve road safety and usher in the use of more technology to regulate traffic.

He said, it is a matter of concern that around 1.50 lakh people die and 5 lakh people injured annually in road accidents. He appreciated the measures taken by Tamil Nadu Government in reducing the number of accidents by 29 per cent in the last two years and the Centre will adopt the Tamil Nadu model in reducing the accidents across the country.

Members from various political parties including Congress, AIADMK, CPI(M) and Shiv Sena participated in the discussion.

## Popular Front suggests changes in NEP 2019

ITNews  
Imphal, Aug 1,

Popular Front of India General Secretary M.Mohamed Ali Jinnah has submitted observations and suggestion to the Draft National Educational Policy 2019.

He pointed out that the Draft National Education Policy 2019 which was shared with the people of the country by Union Ministry of Human Resource Development is an effort by way of assessing and revising the existing system of education in the country to meet the challenges of the time. When going through the draft in the backdrop of this objective, some of the changes that the government seeks do not carry feasibility and validity. Though access, equity, accountability, affordability and quality are the claimed foundational principles of the

draft, questions and apprehensions exist about many of the suggestions, recommendations, and omissions in the draft. The draft should be revised and be made inclusive by recognizing the contributions of visionaries and thinkers of not just ancient India but also that of Medieval and modern periods. Mohammed Ali Jinnah asked government to take into account the following suggestions submitted by the organisation while preparing the final draft.

Promotion of Indian languages is definitely a worthwhile step, but it should not be done in a compulsory manner. Students should be given the freedom to choose languages they want to study beside their home language and the language of the medium.

3-language formula should not be made mandatory and the choice should be left to the students.

The policy should include ongoing affirmative actions stipulated by the Constitution for integrating underprivileged sections to national mainstream seriously and ensure their right reservation is protected in education sector.

The infrastructure from primary education to the higher education must be established in ratio of the population. And priority is to be given to backward areas of the country.

As enshrined in our constitution and further made statutory through Right to Education Act, providing education to all citizens between the ages 6-14 is a state responsibility. Hence, provisions leading to more privatisation of education are to be avoided and govt sector must be strengthened.

In pursuance of its emphasis on bringing the educationally weak sections of the society in to the

national education mainstream, the existing criteria for admission in to undergraduate and post graduate classes in colleges and universities, which is purely academic merit, should be amended. Instead, academic merit should constitute only 60% of the candidates' eligibility criteria. In the remaining 40%, the candidates' backwardness should be measured on the basis of backwardness of the district, backwardness of the community and low income of the family.

The government recognized Madrasas are intra community educational ventures and have long been doing yeoman service to supplement the national educational efforts. The Madrasas should be adequately represented/covered in the constitution of Proposed Rashtriya Shiksha Ayog, its sister bodies and in the national education framework.

## Water resources department to identify potential quarry sites Use of machineries strictly prohibited at mining and quarrying site

Imphal, Aug. 1,

Additional Chief Secretary, Forest and Environment, Government of Manipur, Dr. Suhel Akhtar said that the Government will take up immediate measures to mitigate the distress of the daily wage labourers engaged in sand mining and stone quarrying. The Manipur High Court has completely banned unauthorized sand mining, stone quarrying, river pollution among others in the State.

Dr. Suhel Akhtar yesterday briefed the media at the Conference Hall, Old Secretariat on the decision taken during the emergency meeting chaired by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur Shri N. Biren Singh on "Regulation of Illegal mining activities in the State". The meeting held today was attended by Hon'ble Ministers for Revenue, Forest & Environment, Water Resources, concerned MLAs, DGP, Administrative Secretaries, ADGP & IGP, Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police and other concerned officials.

Dr Suhel Akhtar further said that Water Resources Department will identify potential quarry sites in respect of waterways where quarrying work can be carried out, after which the Public Works Department will prepare the mining plans. Temporary permit of two months period for quarrying in



potential sites will be given on the submission of mining plans and use of machineries will be strictly prohibited in such sites, he added. Under no circumstances, areas in the river channel which has been degraded will be permitted for quarry.

Dr. Suhel Akhtar also mentioned that Deputy Commissioners were instructed to immediately activate the District Environment Impact Assessment Authority at the meeting chaired by the Chief Minister today. The District Environment Impact Assessment Authority will be assisted by the District Expert Appraisal Committee headed by the Water Resources Department.

It may be mentioned that Individuals, firms, society, among others can

apply for mining lease along with the mining plan (prepared by qualified/registered mine planner) for private patta land for an area less than 5 hectares to the Directorate of Trade, Commerce and Industries. The proposal will be forwarded to the District Authority for Environmental Clearance. Such proposals which are found feasible shall be forwarded to Director (Environment), Government of Manipur for Environmental Clearance by the State Level Expert Committee. And based on the Clearance the Directorate of Trade, Commerce & Industries will issue permits.

Principal Secretary (Textiles, Commerce and industries), Shri P. Vaiphei who was also present at the press conference said that a Joint

Committee will be constituted to take up awareness programme on the process and procedure of obtaining mining permit. The Joint Committee will consist of Department of Textiles, Commerce and Industries, Forest & Environment Department and Water Resources Department.

An awareness programme will be held on 3rd August, 2019 at the Food Processing Training Centre, Porompat at 11 a.m. Interested parties can attend the same for necessary clarification of issue related to mining in the State.

Inspector General of Police, Shri Clay Khongnai, Secretary, Water Resources Department, Jacintha Lazarus, Director, Commerce & Industry, C. Arthur Worchuiyo and other officials were also present at the press conference.