

# Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland & Meghalaya among 3 NE states with most primary dropouts

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Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya top the tally of states which recorded high dropout rates at primary level of school education during 2016-17. These worrying figures came to light in a reply given by Union human resource development (HRD) minister Prakash Javadekar in Lok Sabha during the ongoing winter session of Parliament on Monday. Against the national dropout average of 6.35% in primary level, the percentage of dropout rate in Arunachal Pradesh was the highest in the country at 23.25%, followed by Nagaland (20.95%) and Meghalaya (17.69%). Though the comparatively improved dropout rates in Tripura (4.39%) and Assam (5.60%) may be encouraging for the two northeastern states, in Manipur and Mizoram the dropout percentage stood at 16.79 and 15.36 respectively. In upper primary level, where the average dropout rate nationally was 5.67% in 2016-17, Jharkhand recorded the highest dropout in the year at 19.61 percent, followed by two

northeastern states, Nagaland and Meghalaya, which recorded dropout percentages of 18.28 and 17.59 respectively. The dropout percentage of other northeastern states in 2016-17 are Arunachal Pradesh (12.81%), Manipur (12.76%), Mizoram (9.88%), Tripura (5.34%) and Assam (2.51%). The scenario in the northeast is comparatively better in the secondary level. None of the states from the region earned the dubious distinction of being at the top of the chart of dropout rates, but over 20% dropout rate was registered in all seven northeastern states at the secondary level. The dropout percentage at secondary level of schooling in the northeast are Nagaland (31.28%), Mizoram (30.67%), Arunachal Pradesh (29.93%), Tripura (29.76%), Meghalaya (28.07%), Assam (27.6%) and Manipur (21.05%). Andhra Pradesh recorded the highest dropout rate at the secondary level, with 50%. The national average of dropout percentage at secondary level in the year was 22.13. In the higher secondary level too, the ranks of the northeastern states were better, with one of them featuring among the top three states with the highest dropout

rates of 2016-17. Among all states and union territories, Karnataka registered the highest dropout percentage at 99.93%. Among the northeastern states, Arunachal Pradesh (22.46%) recorded the highest dropouts in the region, followed by Nagaland (13.96%) and Meghalaya (13.82%). Against the national average dropout rate of 13.09% in the higher secondary level, the dropout percentage of other northeastern states during 2016-17 were Manipur (11.81%), Assam (11.72%), Tripura (11.21%) and Mizoram (6.42%).

A statement tabled in the house by the HRD minister said that as per independent surveys commissioned by the ministry to estimate children out of school in the country earlier, the major reasons were poverty or economic reasons, lack of interest in studies, disabilities or poor health. It was also revealed by the surveys that some children were not in school because they were needed to help in domestic work. There were also cases where it was found that education was not considered necessary by the parent or the head of the household.

## Lok Sabha to take up a discussion on Rafale

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The Lok Sabha is scheduled to take up a discussion on Rafale aircraft deal in the post-lunch session today. K C Venugopal of Congress and Sankar Prasad Datta of CPI(M) have given notices for discussion on Rafale deal. The main opposition Congress had repeatedly disrupted the proceedings in the House on the issue

demanding JPC probe into it. However, on Monday, the party changed its stand saying that it is ready for discussion. On the other hand, the government has been maintaining that it is ready for discussion on the issue rejecting the opposition demand for JPC probe. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said all doubts on the defence deal will be clarified during the discussion.

## Protective Thinking:

By - Mr. Pakinrichapbo (Advocate)  
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### What I learned from arbitrary detention of Journalist Mr. Kishorchandra Wangkhem.

The arbitrary detention of journalist Kishorchandra Wangkhem, post his social media rant on facebook by the Manipur Government has so many angles entwined where citizens from mainland India need to ponder and study what really provoked him to protest in a manner he did. What Mr. Kishorchandra did may be wrong morally in terms of using abusive words, showing sign language but his detention after being released on bail by District Magistrate Imphal West under National Security Act 1980, had received a nationwide condemnation from Indian Journalist Union, Press Council of India, Human Rights Law Network New Delhi, National Television News Channel like Mirror Now, Social Activist etc for official abuse of power by the Manipur Government. Quoting from HRLN New Delhi press release titled HRLN condemns published in Sangai Express dated 26.12.18. Dr. Colin Gonsalves Founder of HRLN and Supreme Court Senior Advocate stated that "E" word used in swearing is a part of the freedom of speech and expression. He further explained that it is lawfully used and is justifiably used as well and that the attempt of the State Government to arrest such a person is totally wrong. Dr. Colin further reasoned that not only should Kishorchandra be able to get bail but the prosecution should be quashed as well. The use of swear words is totally permissible under the Constitution of India. To really understand what freedom of speech and expression in a democratic country is, Indian state officials, heads of state must watch and learn from American TV shows such as The Daily Show with Trevor Noah, Jimmy Kimmel Live, SNL, late Night with Seth Myers etc. where cast members of the shows routinely mock, insult its President Donald J Trump for his government policies, twitter rant, happenings in his personal lives, his appearance, behaviour and so on. And also implement programs to improve India current ranking of 138 positions in World Press Freedom Index run by Reporters without Borders- lower than Z i m b a b w e , Afghanistan and Myanmar, can you imagine the unchecked hypocrisy of world

largest democracy. **Historical Angle** Kishorechandra in his video countering Manipur Government decision to organize birth anniversary celebration of Rani Lakshmbai of Jhanshi bluntly pointed that Indian Freedom Fighter Rani of Jhanshi has nothing to do with Manipur History or its upliftment accused the Manipur CM of sidelining freedom fighters from Manipur who fought against the British colonial power. No Indians can devalue the contributions of Rani Lakshmbai towards Indian Freedom struggle but citizens from mainland ought to know that social political settings are different in the northeast region especially states like Manipur and Nagaland with long history of political unrest where major ethnic groups still harbours theories of ethnic nationalism in addition to lack of emphasis of Northeast region history including the people with diverse culture, languages and traditions, also its importance cut out from mainstream Indian education system worsened by racial discriminations faced by north-eastern tribal's in mainland India, the reason why rest of India knew little of Northeast region and its people except for certain journalist from mainland who reports on Northeast regions. Had Central Government taken a different approach in dealing with the people of northeast especially Manipur, I believe all the citizens of Manipur would have willing celebrated birth anniversary of any freedom fighters from other part of India but how did the representatives of Government of India such as the para military forces deal with the people? It unleashed terror not sparing civilians from militants, its state government since its merger with union of India running the day to day affairs like a police state, under such ground reality, New Delhi cannot expect the theory of unity in diversity to work in Manipur. Had the birth anniversary of Rani Lakshmbai organized in other North-Eastern States like Nagaland or Mizoram, reaction of the people from these two states would send out clear message on whether they are in same boat with Kishorchandra in matter of preserving its region distinct history. Taking the instances of Mizo students' bodies groups which strongly opposed the Central Government plan to honour Khuangchera as an Indian Freedom Fighter, a tribal Mizo freedom fighter who was killed in 1890 resisting the British Expansion into Lushai country citing that though he fought against the British he was not defending India as the idea of Unified India

didn't exist then. In my view, such historical facts should not be manipulated to integrate the tribal's from Northeast region with the mainstream which patriotic Indians love to do creating more resentment than integration. Few years ago in a State Level Advocates Conference held in Dimapur Nagaland which I attended, a Supreme Court Advocate in his lecture cunningly mention that people in whole northeast region was practicing Hinduism before the arrival of Christian Missionaries in tribal areas. A learned individual lied in public forum without any iota of shame showing his Hindu chauvinism. The fact is that Hindu Brahmin never ventured into inaccessible hills inhabited by different tribal groups who were following their forefather's faith totally different from the Sanatana Dharma and Vaidika Dharma the basis of Hindu religion. Also read introduction part by Shri. Ranjit Mooshahari and former Governor of Meghalaya on Understanding North East India, Cultural Diversities, Insurgency and Identities edited by Madhu Rajput. Therefore my analysis of Mr. Kishorchandra citing historical angle to protest is that such protest will occur again if citizens feel their state distinct history is taken for granted and not given equal respect. **Hindutva Angle** In today's India, who had not voice out against the ideologies and policies of right wing Hindu extremists? Take the example of journalist Late Gauri Lankesh, who was gunned down for voicing out against Hindu fundamentalist groups, writer activist Arundhati Roy who is among the first critics of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP and the RSS. If a citizen loses their right to criticise head of a country without any fear of arrest, can we still consider it a rule of democratically elected government or a tyrant monarch who does not tolerate any form of dissent. **Puppet Angle** Maybe calling the Chief Minister a puppet of Prime Minister has really hurt the ego of the Chief Minister and so he wanted to show who the head in the state is. Whatever be the circumstances, every adult with minimal understanding of functioning of national political party, centre-state relations knows that head of any state do act on the direction of head of political party in certain issues. **Sedition and Secessionist Angle** The detention of Kishorchandra has once again open up anti-

national debate in the country this time in Manipur after the JNU campus fiasco in 2016 where its student leaders namely Kanaihya Kumar, Umar Khalid, Ram Naga, Anant Prakash Narayan and Anirban Bhattacharya were arrested on seditious charges on account of being anti-national raising antinational slogans. Their arrest was followed by widespread protests. What relate Kishorchandra with JNU student's leaders was that they all spoke out against Modi BJP Government and automatically became anti-national in the eye of the government. But the Manipur Government went too extreme by invoking provisions of Sec. 13 of NSA Act even after the Magistrate released the journalist on bail stating that his statements did not seem to disturb the peace thereby his action not worthy of jail time under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code. I felt fortunate to had access to edited version of the video under the caption, Why NSA? Where it justified the legal action of the Manipur Government as the journalist words 'present freedom strugglers of Manipur' is full of secessionist idea and against the unity, integrity and nationalism of India. My argument is that for how long the GOI and respective state government would continue to harass civilians by quickly tagging anti nationalists status on anyone who voice opinion against the government yet do little or nothing on existing militant organizations which function as parallel governments and why ethnic nationalism exist in the first place in northeast regions? Government policies to harass arrest civilians when it could not settle with the main actors shows that even after 70 years of India independence, GOI have not learn their lesson well. Colonial approach in place of soft power approach towards complex northeast region with presence of multiple ethnic nationalist militant organizations would not improve the situations. **Conclusion** Lastly, irrespective of the outcome of Higher Court ruling, twelve month detention without proper trial has made Kishorchandra a true fearless crusader of the idea of free speech of our time who has now support from nook and corner of India. And the people need to stand with him now to defend democracy in Manipur.

## SPORTS

# Punjab boxers dominate Day 2 of 3<sup>rd</sup> Elite Women's Boxing Championship

Karnataka's Bhagya put up a scintillating fight; Babita Bisht of Utrakhand stole the show with a thunderous victory

From a Correspondent Vijayanagara, Jan 2,

The New Year started on a great note for the young boxers from Chandigarh, Delhi and Punjab as they swept away majority of the wins on the second day of the JSW Sports presents 3<sup>rd</sup> Elite Women's National Boxing Championships at the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) yesterday. The day began with a dominating performance by Delhi's Riya Tokas in the 54kg category as she landed a flurry of punches in the first round against her opponent, V.Vinodhini from Tamil Nadu. Riya continued her attacking approach in the next two rounds and registered a unanimous 5-0 victory. She next faces World Championship quarter-finalist, Manisha Moun in the next round. The Sohini from Chandigarh was in sublime form getting the better of Sai Sree Reddy from Telangana in the 69 kg category. She went on the offensive right from the start and landed some mighty blows, only for the referee to stop the bout in the first round. The closest bout of the day was fought between Babita Bisht of



Uttarakhand and Suman Khoda of Rajasthan in the 69kg category. Both the boxers kept the audience engaged as they traded some strong blows right from the start. It was an even contest till the dying seconds and only in the last one minute of the third round the bout turned in the favour of Babita. The Uttarakhand pugilist avoided a lot of punches with her sound defence and launched a string of clear punches to eventually win the match with a 3-2 verdict. In the 60 kg category, Karnataka girl Bhagya gave a reason to the local crowd to cheer as she displayed some fine technical skills and won the bout convincingly by

4-1 against Som Maya Subba of Sikkim. In the Bantamweight category, Riya Chouhan of Punjab started her game against Poulomi Sarkar from Bengal. Though she started the contest with caution in the first round, went all guns blazing in the second round only to be stopped by the referee. Himachal's Pradesh's Sandhya won her bout against Sonal Rasal in the 64 kg category. Sandhya used her technical superiority and played a waiting game before going on offensive in the last and final round and finishing off the bout in her favour. Sandhya will be up against World Championship Bronze Medalist Simranjit Kaur

tomorrow. In the Welter Weight category, Gagandeep Kaur of Punjab rounded off a great day for her State by winning against Simran Mendon of Maharashtra, 5-0. She played all the three rounds at a consistent pace and with her immaculate defensive abilities, never letting her opponent get a sniff of her. Day two witnessed 18 RSC results with 32 bouts being played out. The third day of the championships will witness the international stars in action with the likes of Nikhat Zarin, Pinyangra, Simranjit Kaur, Sonia Lather and Shashi Chopra battling it out for the top honours.