

Editorial

Tuesday January 8, 2019

Citizenship (Amendment) Bill : a scourge for NE people

Assam and Manipur in Particular and the country in general is hit by the bandh called by the North East Students' Organisation. Almost all life was put to halt.

The ruling BJP led NDA is unnecessarily flaring up unnecessarily crisis to convert their Hindutva agenda into reality. Knopwing that Manipur and Assam and the neighbouring states like Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram are going to be seriously hit if the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill comes into force.

With the act of the NDA led government, the pride of India, for being the world's largest democracy is slowly derogating its character with the modus operandi of fascists Hindu who are trying to convert the entire country into Hindu Raj.

The new regime governing the nation is giving no respect to "Secularism" which is in the preamble of the Indian constitution. Among other issue - the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2016, which the ruling BJP is trying to passed.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 is the direct violation of this Article 14 of our constitution. The Bill also stated illegal migrants from Afganistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

When it comes to the state of Manipur it is already a known fact that Protected Area Permit System which had been imposed in the state has been lifted but continues for foreign tourist from Afganistan and China.

When the country restrict tourist from Afganistan in visiting the state of Manipur, what actually is the agenda of accepting the illegal migrants base on religion from Afganistan be granted citizenship if they stay for 6 years.

This concept of staying in the country for seven years is also illogical when there are Foriegners Prohibition Act.

Preamble of the Indian constitution says "WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, HAVING solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens: JUSTICE, social, economic and political; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation.

It is this preamble that the nation's constitution was framed 395 articles in 22 parts and 8 schedules at the time of commencement. At present the nation's constitution consist 448 articles in 25 parts, 12 schedules, 5 appendices and 98 amendments. All amendments are done under the preamble.

The equality mention here envisages that no section of the society enjoys special privileges and individuals are provided with adequate opportunities without any discrimination. All are equal in front of law.

The word secularism which was added later says that India is a country where any citizen can chose any religion.

The world's largest democracy remains dogged by the twin legacies of feudalism and colonialism.

It's no wrong to say that citizens are treated like subjects. Elected representatives (except some few), who are meant to serve the people often act like feudal lords than representatives of the people.

Under this legacy, Global capitalists are invited to exploit the lands and indigenous labour of some of the most oppressed downtrodden people.

Since India was built as a nation, after driving out the British Colonial rulers nothing is change to the life of the common people.

Common people in India still suffer from exclusion, discrimination and abuse under its caste, class, ethnic and gender system.

What is more horrifying is the open secret agenda of the fascists Hindu Regime which is making all sort of strategy to convert the entire country into one religion one nation.

It is indeed a direct blow to the Constitution of India.

As these group is utilizing all form of powers including the executive as well the judiciary, no Indian at present have the gut to challenge such unconstitutional activities.

Rape of women including minor girl are politicized by dancing in the communal orchestra.

Minority are forced to distort the history for the cause of fascist's goal.

One clear example is the controversial speech of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh - at which he connected the erstwhile nation state Manipur with that of the Aryan Mythology.

The writing of letter to UP Chief Minister by Manipur Chief Minister also took everyone by surprise.

The agenda of the Hindu Fascists is being reflected to the recent changes seen after the BJP which is the brainchild of RSS came to power.

There are good Hindu, but this is the first time that the country is witnessing a group of Hindu followers who are fascists and feudalistic in character.

Back here in the state of Manipur, voice of the Indigenous Manipuri who have been struggling hard for revival of the Indigenous Meitei religion has been almost suppressed.

The titular King who had once converted to Sanamah religion now becomes a real bhak of Shri Shri Govinda.

Many youth's leaders who had been advocating the merger of Manipur to the Indian Union on October 15, 1959 as illegal now are seen wearing saffron cap, khaki half pant and say nothing when the Mythology of the erstwhile nation have been insulted.

Optics, Not Welfare: The Politics of Appeasement Behind the 10% Reservation

By-Ajoy Ashirwad Mahaprashasta
Courtesy - The Wire

The Union cabinet approved 10% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions for "economically-backward upper castes" today. This will be over and above the existing 50% limit for reservations. All those in the general category who do not earn more than Rs 8 lakh annually are likely to benefit if the decision is implemented. The government is expected to move a constitutional amendment bill to facilitate the process.

The decision follows statements by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh - the ideological parent of the Bharatiya Janata Party - attributing the BJP's recent electoral losses to growing upper caste resentment against the Narendra Modi government.

In 2018, the BJP was defeated in polls to five state assemblies, three of which - Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh - it had held for three consecutive terms. The RSS leapt to declare that the ruling party was losing support from upper-caste groups, an account of its restoration of stringent provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The Supreme Court had diluted certain provisions in the Act, but the Modi government restored them by passing a bill in the parliament.

A move to tame RSS resentment?
While the Modi government's move

will appease upper-caste voters at large, it also appears to be an appeasement measure within the Sangh parivar.

Although the RSS has been reaching out to SC/ST/OBC groups to consolidate its idea of Hindus, the top echelons of the parivar are still dominated by an upper caste lobby. It is an age-old demand with the Sangh parivar that the current system of reservations should accommodate the poor who qualify as 'General Category'. In 2015, Mohan Bhagwat, the RSS sarsanghchalak, demanded that reservations should not be given on the basis of caste but on economic criteria.

The BJP is suffering from problems that usually accompanies a party's expansion. The party has grown dramatically in the last few years by reaching out to marginalised groups, which had never been one of its core constituents.

In combining its ideology and electoral strategy, however, the BJP has strained to integrate the interests of Dalits and adivasis along with its core support base of upper caste groups.

After the electoral losses, the RSS sent a clear message to the BJP. "This [upper caste disenchantment] has been conveyed to the BJP leadership, although no review of the same has been suggested as a remedy," the Hindu quoted a source as saying. The same report also said that some BJP spokespersons, close to the RSS,

flagged the matter at a large meeting called by BJP president Amit Shah a few weeks before the assembly polls. According to the Hindu's sources, the RSS believed upper caste anger was expressed in the unprecedented number of NOTA (None of the Above) votes in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

While the BJP's signal endearing itself to the upper caste groups is clear, the Modi government will not be able to implement the intended 10% reservation. The government is reportedly thinking about accomplishing it through a constitutional amendment. The numbers stacked are against it in the upper house, however, and the opposition is unlikely to support the radical move.

Optics, not welfare

In that sense, the cabinet's decision will only serve the purpose of polarising the electorate on the sensitive topic of reservations. This, in turn, may help the government divert attention from issues on which it has found itself pushed to the wall. The opposition has been unrelenting in its attack on the prime minister for failing to curb unemployment, rural distress and price hikes of essential commodities and questioned his role in negotiating the controversial Rafale aircraft deal with France.

In reality, the government is battling accusations of failing even to implement the current system of reservations and generating enough

employment. Only recently, Union minister Uppendra Kushwaha resigned from the National Democratic Alliance citing the inaction of the Modi government on categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBC). "The policy of bifurcation of OBC category has not been submitted by the committee headed by Justice G. Rohini," he wrote. "It clearly indicates that the government is not serious, hence there is a fear and confusion amongst the OBC category."

Kushwaha was referring to the Justice Rohini Commission, constituted in 2017 to suggest sub-categories within the OBC for reservation benefits. It was given its fourth extension late last year.

Similarly, Kushwaha wrote that confusion about the new roster system in university teachers' recruitment has entirely stalled new appointments, freezing jobs in Indian higher education.

Legal sustainability

"The move cannot be upheld constitutionally. The government will face multiple roadblocks," said V. Krishna Ananth, a lawyer and Professor of History at SRM University, Amravati. "Firstly, article 340 of the constitution says that reservation could be given to socially and educationally backward class of citizens. Which means reservation can be given to a class of citizens, not a group within a class," he said.

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Cause and Impact of Anglo Manipur War 1891

By Khurajam Athouba
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Justice Committee for Anglo-Manipur War 1891
Martyrs and Victims of Kangleipak (Manipur)

Impact of Anglo-Manipuri War 1891 Since the past one and a half years just after the inception of a committee to review the history and aspects of Anglo-Manipuri War 1891, The Justice Committee for Anglo-Manipuri War 1891 Martyrs and Victims of Kangleipak Manipur has come up with several views and opinions which was not looked upon with due significance and assessed by many as the possible impact of the War. Post Anglo-Manipur War 1891, as the kingdom of Manipur faced defeat with the death of so many brave and courageous patriots during the war and soon after the war, the British Government of India ordered to arrest all the royal princes who were allegedly involved directly or indirectly in waging war against the British government and all other who were directly involved in the murder of British Officers.

The first execution post War took place at the western gate of the Kangleia on 25 May, 1891 where Pukhrambam Kajao (Phingang) was hanged to death all the western gate of Kangleia and left hanging for many days to set a lesson to the public about the consequences of revolting against the British.

On June 8, 1891, Niranjan Subedar was executed by the British for taking part in waging war against the British despite his earlier service in the British Army.

On 13 August, 1891 Senapati Koirengsana i.e. Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal General was executed by hanging in front of around 5000 people gathered who were expecting the release of the two heroes of Manipur at Pheidabung (Present BT park). This instance of executing our own patriots in front of women and children has given a shocking psychological trauma and set back to the morale of the entire people of the kingdom who loved celebrating braveries and courage.

On 13 October, 1891 another brave and loyal heroes of the soil, Chirai Thangal (Naga) was again executed by hanging in jail for killing the British Telegraph Superintendent Mr. Melvin at Mayngkhang on 25th March, 1891 during the retaliatory attack against the British by the Manipuris.

On 23rd November of 1891, twenty two (22) brave patriots of Manipur including the King Kula Chandradhaja Singh, Angousana, Senapati Aya Pural Major, Chongtha Mia Maj, etc were deported in exile for taking part in the war against the British. Out of the 22 exiled, only seven (7) from among them were allowed to return and settle in Manipur for lifetime. (as per the list of Political Prisoners deported from Manipur to kala pani at Andaman & Nicobar Island by Justice Committee 1891 from United Chongthas archive).

Witnessing such a tragic end of the proud kingdom and its heroes post Anglo-Manipuri War, the people of the state couldn't overcome to regain its past glory and courage immediately. Even though Manipur continues as an independent state after the War new sources of information and recorded media and archival documents now revealed the truth of the then Manipuri Kingdom and the injustice done by the British to its friendly nation called Manipur.

The Daily Argus News on its May 16, 1891 issue writes, "The Manipur Blu Book established most decisively the fact that the Government is responsible for the Manipur Disaster."

(neScholar.vol.2.Issue 3)
The New York Times in its June 23, 1891 issue published the news again under the heading "...Sur J.E. Gorst resign", (neScholar.vol.2.Issue 3)

In short the impact of Anglo-Manipuri war across the globe was a hit and the little State whose name has been on all English lips for the last fortnight, presents a somewhat thorny question to the

British Indian Government. (neScholar.vol.2.Issue 3)

The trials of the Manipuri Soldiers who were later captured or surrendered were tried without following proper trial procedure. Telegram among British Officials clearly indicate that capital punishment should be given. It clearly shows that what they did was a mock-trial. The trial was purely a formality and awarding capital sentences has already been prejudged by violating their own established principle of criminal trial. The request to engage a defense lawyer from Kolkata for Tikendrajit and Thangal was rejected and therefore the least done from the British Authority was to engage a Bengali trader namely Janakinath Basak to assist the court on their behalf just because he can translate the Manipuri language into to English for them. From these realities of the nature of trial it is quite clear that trial conducted against the princes and patriots of Manipur was highly prejudiced and biased as they already had predetermined to award death penalty before it had actually happened.

Fifty four (54) years after the dramatic and disastrous experiences of a foreign, the arrival and establishment of the deadliest ground with modern weapons, arms and ammunitions has exposed the people of Manipur to the another aftershock of Anglo - Manipur War where huge number of precious lives of the land were lost during the Second World War. The cumulative effect of this two dreadful events in the course of Manipur history has made the people and its system to hold back themselves from another military aggression or an invasion and because of that , when Manipur was forcibly annexed by the new Independent India in 1949, the people of the state and the masses couldn't rise up against it. Few

braved to revolt against it under the leadership of Lamyaamba Hijam Irabot with a communist ideology but the general masses were traumatized enough by the recent past historical experiences and therefore couldn't come out to oppose or confront courageously against the forced conspiracy during 1949 affairs to protect or defend its freedom/independence.

Some contentious impacts are also as follows:

Anglo-Manipuri War has made the Political Identity of Manipur in confusion forever since.

This War is the War between two sovereign nations and it should not be considered as the War of few Legendary Manipuri Soldiers, it's a people's War against colonialism. All Martyrs of the War should also be honored equally.

Positive impact is also significant among the Manipuris, when the generations remember and celebrate its past heroism and the act of valor shown by the legendary rulers and soldiers of the soil. Very few tiny states like Manipur is fortunate enough to have the opportunity to feel proud of their forefather and their spirit of being a free nation and to defend it with pride and honor until their last breath. Annual commemorations and celebrations of the heroes set an example to younger generations and also contribute significantly in inciting the spirit of patriotism and nationalism which will have its relevance forever.

Inception of Civil Societies Organization exclusively for Anglo-Manipuri War 1891 like Justice Committee for Anglo-Manipuri War 1891 Martyrs and Victims of Kangleipak Manipur with the objective to seek justice for the War, to recognize and develop memorial sites for various Battle fields of Anglo-Manipuri War, remember all the heroes and organize commemoration day with pride and honor is the real time impact of the war of the people of Manipur.

Anglo-Manipuri War 1891, is a Victory in defeat for we Manipuris but a big loss for the mighty British in Victory.

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