

Editorial

Thursday, September 19, 2019

On the demand for ST status ...

The demand for the ST status for the Meitei/Meetei is not a child's play as incorporated with the existence of the erstwhile civilization. It is not only about the Meitei/Meetei, but also a demand that will have a connection to the history of tomorrow. While discussing the matter, we have seen people who disagreed being threatened to inflict fear, portrayed as illiterate, and projected as hateful towards Meitei/Meetei. The reasons for ST demand seem to change with time. In the beginning, it has mentioned that on the grounds of constitution, Meitei/Meetei lacks development, lives in isolation, and if granted ST status, people could receive employment benefits due to reservation, even to the point of claiming to be able to produce more IAS officers and overpower India. However, looking at the current scenario, Indian government's employment rate is seeing a decline every year in spite of the reservation facility. The most important element of India's neo-liberal economy at present is Public Private Partnership (PPP), wherein the government's employment rate is falling. Therefore, the 7.5% ST reservation is not going to bring about a huge change in the employment of Meitei/Meetei. After considering this, the reasons for ST demand have been changed.

Status of religion before Hinduism

Claims were made of Meitei/Meetei lifestyle having both tribal and primitive elements. There was also a time when they said that they were not demanding for ST status, they just wanted to lie about it. The Meitei/Meetei religion prior to the Hindu conversion, was falsely portrayed as just a religion with no temple and with maichou only at the level of maiba-maibi but not at the king's level, stating multiple times that the religion belonged to tribal and primitive regions. The philosophy and related festivals of this religion had a respectable status, but the constant fabrication of lies just to avail ST status might create a false impression of the religion.

At the same time, they are saying that availing ST status will not bring any change to our religion. Whether it changes or not is a different matter. No thought has not gone in to understand that labelling a phase of our religion as tribal religion is us bringing ourselves down in front of the world. If there is no element of backwardness or underdevelopment in being ST, then why are they provided with reservation as a part of Redistribution Junction? It is just an act of willful ignorance in spite of knowing the reasons behind providing other protective measures. If the attitude remains as 'let people think whatever they want', then a question arises if all the efforts to strive forward were in vain.

Various rituals of celebrating and offering prayers to Sidaba mapu, Lainingthou Lairembi, Apokpa etc. were unavoidable elements and did not exist as just mere word-of-mouth. A number of Puya on religious matter clearly stated that our religion was not a tribal religion. We need to study the stories and philosophy of seven Maichou's in order to understand the same. It was also not so that Meitei/Meetei religion suddenly became regional or tribal after Hindu conversion.

Hill-Valley Relationship

The hill-valley division to run a state has been going on since the time of British colonialism. Various 20th century leaders have stood against this division, mentioning it time and again in the resolutions of Nikhil Hindu Manipur Mahasava. Government's attempt to separate the hills from the valley does not help in building a united Manipur. Instead of enabling people to think collectively, it has led to people think either for hills only or for valley only. The division has been going on since the time of merger into Indian Union, when various administrative and judicial bodies meant only for hills were formed. Thus, the hill-valley division continues till date. The current situation is not about Meitei/Meetei not being ST and chingmee becoming ST. Therefore, the claim that the ST demand will bring the Meitei/Meetei and chingmee closer, is a distortion of history. It is nothing but encouraging the colonizers by putting the blames on the self for the differences between the hills and valley.

Meitei/Meetei becoming ST could bring back and intensify the hill-valley division and be the reason behind the idea of Meitei for Meitei and Chingmee for Chingmee. Till now, we are not able to decolonize ourselves.

Vehicle Registration lost

I, the undersigned, have lost the Registration Certificate of my Supur Splender (two wheeler) bearing Registration No. MN01C 0326, on the way between Chingmeirong to Paona Bazar on September 15, 2019.

Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Mahesh Akoijam
Sagolband Tera Sapam Leirak, Imphal

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Rajnath "Thrilled" after Tejas Sortie, "Controlled It" briefly

NDTV
Bangaluru, Sept. 19

Wearing a G-suit, Rajnath Singh buckled himself into the light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas in Bengaluru this morning, becoming the first Defence Minister to fly in the made-in-India fighter jet. The aircraft took off from the HAL airport in Bengaluru. Mr Singh, 68, walked up to the aircraft along with the pilot, Air Vice Marshal N Tiwari, climbed up the steps and strapped himself in the backseat, behind the pilot. Wearing a white helmet and an oxygen mask, the Defence Minister was seen waving before the twin-seater version of Tejas took off for a 30-minute sortie. He was briefed by the pilot and other top Indian Air Force (IAF) officials. "I was thrilled. It was a very smooth and comfortable flight. I was enjoying the flight. I am proud of the scientists of the country as well as the organisations who have worked on developing the Tejas aircraft. Today, there is a demand for Tejas in several other countries. We have reached a position in which we can not only export fighter aircraft but also other defence equipment to other countries," Mr Singh said after

the sortie. Last week, the naval variant of the Tejas became the first aircraft in India to successfully perform an "arrested landing" in Goa, in what is being billed as a major step in the programme to make the jet ready for service with the Navy. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has already inducted a batch of Tejas aircraft. The naval version of the LCA is in development stage. Mr Singh will also attend an exhibition of products of the DRDO in Bengaluru. Initially, the IAF had placed an order with the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for 40 Tejas aircraft. Last year, the IAF issued the request for proposal to HAL for the procurement of another batch of 83 Tejas at a cost of over Rs. 50,000 crore.

In January this year, Nirmala Sitharaman, who was the Defence Minister in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's previous government, became the second Indian woman leader to go on a sortie on a Sukhoi-30 fighter jet.

AR organises career guidance & global awareness drive programme

IT News
Imphal, Sept 19

Keithelmanbi Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised a Career Guidance Programme at Kasturba Gandhi School, Andro, Thoubal district on 17th September 2019. The event was organised by Andro Company Operating Base (COB) of the Battalion to generate awareness about various career options available to the students of the School.

As part of the programme, an informative lecture followed by an interactive session was conducted by a team of the Battalion. The young students were informed regarding the various job opportunities existing in different fields like Medical, Law, Engineering, Banking Sector, Civil Services, Indian Armed Forces and CAPFs. They were also enlightened about the types of entries to enroll and obtain commission in the Indian Armed Forces. The team of the Battalion shared their experiences and made the event more interactive by clarifying all the queries raised by the students regarding procedure to join the Indian Army and Assam Rifles as a career option. Information on the upcoming recruitment rally scheduled to be held at Luwangpokpa Cricket Stadium in Imphal from 10th to 18th October 2019, along with career counseling was also provided to the attendees

during the programme. The programme concluded with tea and refreshments for all the attendees. The event provided a platform for the students and the Indian Armed Forces to create a bond of mutual understanding. The students and Staffs of the School appreciated the earnest endeavour of the Battalion and requested the Assam Rifles to continue such meaningful association with the youth and conduct such events in future as well. Mantripukhri Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised a "Global Awareness Drive" in the area of Sawbung, I/East district on 18th September 2019. With an endeavour to generate awareness on 'Clean and Green Environment' and to conserve natural resources for the future generations, Sawbung Company Operating Base (COB) organised a global awareness drive under the "Go Green Initiative". The drive commenced with an informative lecture during which the attendees were educated on the importance of trees and measures to reduce harmful effects of pollution by planting more and more trees. As part of the drive, over 50 saplings different varieties were planted in the Sawbung village. The event witnessed an enthusiastic response from the locals of the area and concluded with tea and refreshments for all.

Name changed

I, the undersigned, do hereby declare that, my name Moirangthem Satyabrata has been recorded as Konsam Satyabrata in the certificate of my class X (HSLC) and other document instead of my true name Moirangthem Satyabrata. And my father's name has also been recorded as K. Henba instead of Moirangthem Joy Singh.

That my name should be recorded as Moirangthem Satyabrata and my father's name as Moirangthem Joy Singh.

Sd/-
Moirangthem Satyabrata

Lost

I have lost my Indian Passport bearing Passport No. B2721429 issued by Government of India on the way between my residence to Babupara on 20/08/2019. Finders are requested to handover it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Mainsam Lalamani Singh
Sagolband Salam Leikai
Contact No. 9366445414

Sports

Football Delhi's Golden League coming back with the database to provide identity to all Delhi football players



By a Correspondent
New Delhi, Sept. 19

Delhi's homegrown unprecedented league, the Golden League is coming back for its second season on September 29. With a unique data system - FD Connect, this time the league is aspiring to be more connected and accessible than its former edition. In a bid to take the League a notch higher, Power Finance Corporation has come on board as a co-sponsor to the League.

FD connect will unite the entire football community together under one roof. With this, Football Delhi is providing an opportunity for every young player across the city to be a recognized football player in the city. FD connect will also provide its registered members with a membership card. This database will give access to the details of any football event in Delhi easier than ever before.

Meanwhile, the Golden League will be back with its second season which will continue for three months. The unique league aimed at promoting football in Delhi at the grassroots level, saw 176 teams playing a total of 751 matches in its previous edition. Power Finance Corporation, Chairman and Managing Director Rajeev Sharma said, "PFC is happy to support the Grassroots Football Development

initiative of Football Delhi. We can anticipate that through Golden League participation in football will grow many folds and this platform will help the key stakeholders in identifying many talented players. I would like to wish Golden League very best." This time, it is expected to be bigger and better as 250 teams have already registered for the league. A total of 1200 matches across 15 venues are to be played in this edition. The league will have matches on 12 consecutive Sundays with 100 - 150 matches on each day. Football Delhi President, Shaji Prabhakaran said, "We are very delighted to get the support of Power Finance Corporation for the development of grassroots football through Golden League. This partnership will help in multiple ways to energize football at the grassroots level in Delhi and above all, football will touch every strata of society."

With this unparalleled league, Football Delhi is trying to reach out to young football players from all walks of life and provide them with a platform to hone their skills. This distinctive league will have teams in 3 different categories - U-7, U-9 and U-11 and will have both boys and girls in the participating teams. In order to encourage more young girls to play football, the league will provide more points to the team with more number of girls.

Men's World Championships AIBA: Two Indian boxers reach semi-final stage for the first time

By a correspondent
New Delhi, Sept. 19

Asian Games gold medalist Amit Panghal (52kg) and Commonwealth Games silver medalist Manish Kaushik (63kg) confirmed medals for India by entering the semi-finals at the AIBA Men's World Championships in Ekaterinburg, Russia on Wednesday. Panghal and Kaushik join Vijender Singh, Vikas Krishan, Shiva Thapa and Gaurav Bidhuri as the only other Indian boxers to have medalled at this prestigious event.

This is the first time more than one Indian boxer will be on the podium at a single edition of the World Championships. In the last edition in 2017, only Gaurav Bidhuri was able to bring home a bantamweight bronze medal.

It, however, could not be a flawless day for India as Sanjeet (91kg) went down fighting in the quarter-finals. Up against a familiar opponent, Carlo Paalam of Philippines, whom Panghal beat at the Asian Games last year, the Asian champion did not put a foot wrong. Amit evaded Paalam very well in the opening round and landed a few strong punches of his own. Both boxers then brought forth their

aggression as they kept their eyes fixed on the medal. In the final round, Amit went all out showing his pace and attack. Determination was writ large on his face as he sailed to a 4-1 win to confirm India's first medal this year.

Kazakhstan's Saken Bibossinov now stands between him and a chance at gold. In 63kg, Manish started off in a cautious manner against Brazil's Wanderson de Oliveira and was defensive in the first round. It was a much better approach from the Indian in the second round as he showed his fighting spirit and attack. A calm and steady Manish put his all out there in the ring in the final round and was rewarded with his maiden medal from the World Championships.

For a chance to win the gold, Kaushik needs to overcome the reigning world champion Andy Cruz of Cuba.

Sanjeet, however, could not join his compatriots as he fell 1-4 to Ecuador's Julio Castillo Torres 1-4 in 91kg. The 2019 Pan American Games silver medalist and two-time Olympian showed his class and experience to knock Sanjeet out, who resorted to a defensive approach and never looked comfortable.