

# Editorial

Monday, February 17, 2020

## Bridging the alienation – Modi's romance with NE states

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led NDA government at present is facing multiple criticisms from many intellectuals and political parties having different ideology particularly in the mainland Hindi belt area. Perhaps he is the only Prime Minister of the country who received so much criticism from people of the mainland states.

After India became a republic in 1950, criticism and anger to almost all the Prime Ministers until the Narendra Modi led government replaced the regime in 2014 were from states like Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, and Meghalaya. No Prime Minister who had ruled the nation had ever taken the issues in these states before 2014. Perhaps it will be no wrong to say that Narendra Modi is the one and only Prime Minister of the country who felt that a strong India need to make the people of the North-Eastern states of India as citizens of an integral part of India. There may be differences of opinions among the people in the way that BJP led government under Narendra Modi work out to make sure that people of Manipur, Nagaland, and Assam abrogated the idea of alienation. But the kind initiative towards North-Eastern states indicated Modi led NDA government's romance with this part of the country which was later joined in the Indian Union. And for that Modi government understand that a permanent solution with armed rebel groups waging war against the government of India demanding restoration of its sovereignty is a major task needed.

It may be perhaps for this reason that the Modi government had started discussing bringing peace through dialogue with the armed rebel group of the region. Picking up Chief Minister of Mizoram Zoram Thanga, a one time leader of the armed rebel group the MNF, which have years of experience is perhaps the right choice. And many including journalists, scholars, political analysts, etc, appreciated terming Zoram Thanga as the only person who is qualified for such a negotiation.

The period from 1950 to 1970 was different. There were full of frustration among various learned youths of the region. The period from the 1970s to 1980 was also different. North-Eastern states particularly the state of Manipur face the worst time. Civilians faced the most inconvenient time as the then government of India utilized their military might in the name of suppressing the armed rebel groups. Controversial AFSPA, that empowered the Indian military to shoot on mere suspicion which is still on at various part of NE states still angered and aggravated the feeling of alienation among the people. When the Modi government talk about one nation, one constitution and one law, the people in this part is still not enjoying the kind of freedom provided under the Constitution of India at other part of the states as AFSPA still enforce in this part and such actions were not enforced at any other state which is even more affected than the state of Manipur due to Maoist and Naxal movement.

It is appreciating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi shown his government desire of bringing an end to the rebel movement, but how could it be when nothing that could be trusted by the rebel group has been taken up. Zoram Thanga may have had full of experiences but a peace initiative for Manipur, in particular, needs another mechanism.

Series of meetings, seminars, workshops need to be conducted to find a way for the roads ahead by inviting all sections of people. It will be the peoples appealed that the rebel groups will only respond positively. The context of Manipur is different, it cannot be treated similarly to NSCN-IM, MNF or the Bodo rebel which recently signed an agreement with the government to join the mainstream.

This could have been done easily if the current situations of anguish among the scholars have been sorted out by streamlining the Manipur University. Narendra Modi's love and admiration to Manipur and NE states will be acknowledged by all if he interferes the serious wrongs that have been going on at Manipur University.

Everyone knows education is the backbone of the society and the society moves towards the direction with the kind of wisdom that gets through education. Manipur University is an asset of the country that may help solving complex social issues as the institution is the temple of education for a better society.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's romance with the state of Manipur will not be completed had he not taken up any measures to heal the wound that the University is suffering now. It would be not a good memory of the next generation to remember Prime Minister Narendra Modi by the future generation to be a Prime Minister who had left the ails in Manipur University by placing the university under an administrator for over two year. Perhaps the longest ever interim VC appointed across the country..

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## Youth Congress staged protest on LPG price hike in Thoubal district

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 17

Members of the Youth Congress of Heirok AYC and Thoubal DYC yesterday staged a March protest Rally starting from Heirok Part II Mayai Leikai to Heirok Bazar on LPG price hike.

The protest was led by IYC National Secretary Ms Sarifa Rahman, Sh Amir Hussain, President, Manipur Pradesh Youth Congress, Ng Dilip Kumar Meitei, VP MPYC, Sh N Mahananda Singh, General Secretary MPYC, Shri The Ranjan Singh, President Heirok BCC and N Dilip Singh, President, Heirok AYC.

The protesters demanded that the government should rollback the LPG cylinder price hike.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had on Thursday taken a dig at the BJP over the price hike by tweeting a

UPA-era picture of the saffron party's leaders, including Irani, protesting an increase in prices of cooking gas at the time.

The protesters also displayed gas stove and cylinder at Heirok Bazar.

The Youth Congress members demanded the hike be rolled back and accused the union government of "electrocuting" household budgets held held many placards and raised many slogans against BJP Govt on price hike in LPG.

IYC national Secretary Sarifa Rahman said that increasing Rs 149 is "unethical".

"The current government has increased the price of LPG. This will directly affect the lower section of the society. This has to be taken back," Sarifa Rahman said.

State-owned oil marketing companies increased the prices of non-subsidised LPG cylinders to

the tune of Rs 149 per cylinder from 12th of February. On one hand there is unprecedented crisis of unemployment and inflation in the Country and on the other hand, Modi Government by increasing the prices of LPG cylinders have pinched the pocket of the people of the Country. The price hike was effected immediately after the declaration of Delhi assembly election results. From the timing of the price hike it is evident that the price hike is unleashed as revenge against BJP's crushing defeat in the assembly elections. Amir Hussain, President Manipur PYC added that BJP is trying to take revenge for the defeat in the Delhi assembly polls. Just because people did not vote in BJP's favour, they are punishing them by increasing the LPG price. This decision is cruel and harsh against poor and also shows anti

poor mindset of Prime Minister Modi. The prices of LPG in 2013 have gone up to levels of almost the double of it. Pradhanmantri Ujjal Yojna is also an illusion, to spread in public for votes. No poor would be able to afford to refill cylinder at this cost.

And also held a District level launching of National Register of Unemployed (NRU) organized by Heirok AYC in association with Thoubal District Youth Congress at Heirok Part II Mayai Leikai to highlight the issue of rising unemployment in India and also to give a voice to the plight of Young Indians.

The District level of NRU was launched by IYC National Secretary Ms Sarifa Rahman, Sh Amir Hussain, President, Manipur Pradesh Youth Congress, Ng Dilip Kumar Meitei, VP MPYC, Sh N Mahananda Singh, General Secretary MPYC, Shri The Ranjan Singh, President Heirok BCC and N Dilip Singh, President, Heirok AYC.

## Assam Rifles celebrates Luira Phanit and organises community service



IT News  
Imphal, Feb 17

Mantripukhari Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis HQ IGAR (South) celebrated Luira Phanit festival and organised Community Service at Riha village, Yangangpokpi in Ukhrul District yesterday.

The festival commenced with offering of prayers followed by a cultural programme in which various traditional songs and dance were performed by the locals. During the event, interaction with locals was also carried out with an aim to familiarise and orient troops with the locals customs and traditions. Locals also willingly shared their various issues of concern with the troops of the battalion.

In addition, a sports equipments distribution ceremony was also organised in which the battalion distributed sports equipments

related to Handball, Volleyball, etc to the youth of the village in order to promote sports and fitness under Fit India Movement.

On the other hand, Thoubal Battalion of 9 Sect Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) in conjunction with Social Educational and Cultural Development Organisation (SECCDO), Thoubal Khetri Leikai and Kshetri Leikai Women Development Association organised a Health Awareness Campaign at Thoubal Khetri Leikai yesterday.

The event commenced with an informative lecture on importance of blood donation, health hygiene and sanitation by the Regimental Medical Officer (RMO) which was followed by medical checkup of local by the battalion medical team. The medical team provided consultation on various diseases, health related issues and distributed free medicines to the needy patients.

A blood donation camp was also organised by District Hospital, Thoubal and Krishna Diagnostic, Thoubal. The camp received overwhelming response of locals and over 50 locals donated blood during the camp. The blood donors were also given Donor Cards after donation of blood. The battalion also participated in the Blood Donation Camp.

The Health Awareness Campaign received an overwhelming response from the local populace and over 175 locals patients benefitted from the camp. All the attendees conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to Social Educational and Cultural Development Organisation (SECCDO), Thoubal Khetri Leikai, Kshetri Leikai Women Development Association and Assam Rifles for facilitating the outreach of the medical facilities and requested for more such camps in the future as well.

## Govt sets up teams to examine villages bordering Nepal for novel coronavirus infection

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 17

Union Health Ministry has constituted central teams of experts for examination of villages bordering Nepal for novel coronavirus infection.

According to the Ministry, villages bordering Nepal in the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim and West Bengal will be inspected by central teams for community-level Information Education Communication activities for novel coronavirus.

Five separate teams of doctors from the National Centre for Disease Control, Safdarjung Hospital, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital among others have been set up.

## Celebrities glitter Annuals celebration of Children Welfare prog.

IT News  
Mumbai, Feb 16

Karisma Kapoor, Sunil Shetty, Sonali Bendre, Aditya Pancholi, Chunky Pandey and others added glitter to the annual day celebration of Children Welfare Centre High School and Clara's College of Commerce.

The 39 th annual day of the Children Welfare Centre High School and Clara's College of Commerce was celebrated with pomp and gaiety. The program began with lighting of traditional lamp at the hands of chief guests and Principal of the College Ajay Kaul. The students presented a colourful dance compelling spectators to tap their feet and gyrate. Many film and TV actors and actresses were present. The meritorious students were awarded, felicitated and were given best wishes by the principal and various film artists expressed their views on the occasion.

Film actor **Aditya Pancholi** said that the students though their play communicated that the temples/mosques may be different in form, but the good work ultimately reaches to only one almighty. After I watched the play, I thought that as if I am watching a reality show. I congratulate this institute on completion of 39 years and thank Ajay Kaul for guiding students towards progressive path.

Film and TV actress **Divya Shetty** said that today we have to become strong not only physically but also mentally. We don't teach children, in fact we get to learn a lot from the children. The parents should develop ethical standards among their children.

Hollywood, Bollywood actor and wrestler **Dalip Singh Rana (Khali)** said that discipline is essential in life, without which we cannot be successful. As such I appeal to students that you may get more or less marks in examination,

but you should live a disciplined life. "You are fortunate that you are learning in this institute".

**Chunky Pandey** said that no doubt that the education is important, but with that sports activities are also essential. You are lucky to get all the facilities under one roof. After I reached here, I felt that as if I am attending a film fare award function. I thank Principal Ajay Kaul who has vowed to educate children of the entire country.

**Sonali Bendre** said "You can achieve dizzy heights through knowledge, which no one can snatch from you. Money comes and goes. But the knowledge is such a capital which is useful and will always remain with you. After watching students' performance, memories of my college days were revived. I thank the choreographer and extend good wishes to this institute.

Actor **Sunil Shetty** "I compliment this institute which has moved with

incredible success in the last 40 odd years. The education is inseparable part of life. As such parents should educate their children. Usually the children pick up what they see. If the parents behave well with neighbours, it will also inspire children to behave well".

Actress **Karisma Kapoor** "To become successful in life you should concentrate on the field in which you have utmost interest. Do not choose a career under the family pressure or just to fulfil traditional aspirations. I did not become actress due to my family background, but because I was interested in film career.

Film actor and comedian **Krishna Abhishek** said "A study is essential to enter any field. Its not that education is not required to become an actor. There are many modes in life, where the education is essential. As such not only for vocation, but even for general knowledge, you should educate yourselves.