

Former EC expert says Centre move on delimitation in NE states illegal

Courtesy - Indian Express
Imphal, July 17:

A former legal advisor to the Election Commission (EC) has red-flagged the Centre's order setting up a Delimitation Commission for Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Assam and Nagaland, calling it "unconstitutional" and "illegal".

S K Mendiratta, who served with the EC for over 50 years, wrote a letter to the three election commissioners last month, pointing out that the Law Ministry's notification of March 6 violates the Representation of the People Act 1950.

Section 8A of the RP Act 1950, introduced by Parliament in 2008, states that delimitation in the four northeastern states, when held, would fall within the EC's remit. Hence, any delimitation exercise in Arunachal, Manipur, Assam and Nagaland by the new Delimitation Commission would be "declared void by the courts" and, subsequently, result in "wastage of huge precious public funds", Mendiratta wrote in his letter.

The four states had been left out of the last delimitation exercise, completed in 2008. According to sources, the EC forwarded Mendiratta's letter to the Law Ministry about two weeks ago.

Delimitation is the act of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies to represent changes in population and is done on the basis of the preceding Census.

The Law Ministry notified the Delimitation Commission for the four northeast states and Jammu and Kashmir on March 6. Former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai is its chairperson, and Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra is the EC's representative on the panel. Desai told The Indian Express she is aware of the letter written by Mendiratta, but did not wish to say anything further. Mendiratta refused to comment on the matter. Chandra told this newspaper, "Yes, a letter was received, and it is being considered at the appropriate level."

Mendiratta, who left the EC in 2018, is considered an expert on delimitation and had been an adviser with the 2002 Delimitation Commission, set up under Justice Kuldip Singh.

Mendiratta had also assisted the EC in delimiting Uttarakhand into 70 constituencies under the UP Reorganisation Act, 2000. The last delimitation exercise, that started in 2002 and ended in 2008, had kept out Arunachal, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland as the use of the 2001 Census for it had been challenged by several organisations before

the Gauhati High Court, on the ground that it was riddled with defects.

The Delimitation Act of 2002 was amended on January 14, 2008, to empower the President to postpone the exercise in these states.

Subsequently, Parliament had decided that instead of creating another Delimitation Commission for the limited purpose of redrawing seat boundaries in the four northeastern states, the exercise there would be carried out by the EC. Section 8A of the RP Act 1950 was introduced for this purpose. Parliament was guided by the

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fact that there is precedence of the EC being vested with the authority to redraw boundaries of constituencies

— including when Delhi was delimited into 70 seats in 1991-92, and Uttarakhand into 70 seats in 2000.

Many beneficiaries deprived of assured food grain, no accountability of the government – KSA

IT News
Imphal, July 17:

Kangleipak Students Federation (KSA) today accused the State Govt. of being insincere and hint that the loud claims of the Govt. regarding food security to all during Covid-19 pandemic as mere publicity gimmick. The

Valley based student body in a press release today highlighted that despite the Central Govt. assurance of food and financial security to the people via its multiples central sponsored schemes, the beneficiaries in the state are still deprived of their share. It termed the current public distribution system as

flawed where only a handful of people with connections are doing politics of the food grains and using it as a business opportunity. KSA further urged the concern authority to review the public distribution system in the state and rectify the faults so that deserving beneficiaries get their rightful share.

Positive attitude needed for combating COVID-19:

- Minister L. Jayantakumar

IT News
Imphal, July 17:

Health & Family Welfare Minister L. Jayantakumar Singh has expressed that people need to have a positive attitude for combating COVID-19 pandemic in the state.

Minister Jayantakumar was speaking in a simple function organised at Kwakeithel Girls' High School in connection with the closing of Community Quarantine Centre opened at the school under the supervision of Shri

L. Jayantakumar Singh who is also MLA of Keisamthong Assembly Constituency.

He asserted that for Keisamthong AC, a total number of 170 inmates were accommodated for quarantine at Imphal College and Kwakeithel Girls' High School. After the completion of their quarantine period, all inmates at these two centres have been discharged after tested negative. Seven inmates also had tested positive at these two centres, he added.

Minister Jayantakumar

further said that with the increasing medical facilities including covid testing kits the state has been close towards the control of this pandemic in the state. He also expressed his gratitude to those frontline workers including doctors, nurses, volunteers and security personnel for extending their yeoman service. Minister also appealed the public not to be panic since maximum efforts have been being taken by the state government to fight and control this pandemic of COVID-19.

Imphal Times earns accolades for busting malpractices in central sponsored scheme

IT News
Imphal, July 17:

The Imphal Times' has received appreciation for its unrelenting effort to uncover various scams and malpractices in the state keeping in spirit of its long held ideals of true journalism. This newspaper in our 11th June edition had run a news piece titled, "In Bishnupur District, Ghost beneficiaries found in PM-KISHAN scheme", where IT exposed the presence of multiple fictitious names listed as beneficiaries in PM-KISHAN scheme in some villages of Bishnupur District. Kwasiphai Youths Volunteer Organisation (KYVO), Kwasiphai in a letter addressed

to the President, All Manipur Working Journalist Union (AMWJU) today, has lauded the efforts of the newspaper for highlighting the malpractices and bringing it up in the public domain. The Central sponsored scheme provides Rs.6000/- annually to beneficiary farmers for augmentation of their finances, farm tools and non-dependence on unorganized local money lenders. Chief Minister N. Biren had formally launched the scheme in the state from Mayang Imphal in February this year.

It may be mentioned that following this newspaper report, District Commissioner-Bishnupur, Nita Arambam had filed a case at the Cyber Crime

wing of the state police on 27th June to investigate into the alleged scam. After further inquiry, 3 persons were arrested by the police in connection with the case on Wednesday and produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate the same day. The individuals have now been sent to police remand till 20th July for their alleged involvement in the scam. The accused are alleged to have approved 933 individuals for the scheme without any prior information of the District Administration by creating ghost account beneficiaries. There is suspicion of more officials of the Bishnupur District administration involved in the scam, a source said.

Newly elected RS MP Leishemba Sanajaoba feted

IT News
Imphal, July 17:

Newly elected Rajya Sabha Member and Titular King of Manipur, Leishemba Sanajaoba was feted in a felicitation function organized by Manipur Khadi and Village Industries Board (MKVIB) with Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh as the chief guest at Chief Minister's Secretariat today.

Public Health Engineering Minister L. Dikho, Forest and Environment Minister Awangbow Newmai, Lok Sabha MP R.K. Ranjan, Khurai AC MLA Shri L. Sushindro, MKVIB Vice-Chairman Y. Nilamani and MKVIB Chief Executive Officer Karuna were also seated on the dais as presidium members.

Speaking on the occasion, Leishemba Sanajaoba vowed to relentlessly work for the people of the State. He also expressed his profound gratitude to all the MLAs under the leadership of the Chief Minister who voted in his favour in the Rajya Sabha

election. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister expressed confidence that Leishemba Sanajaoba can effectively highlight the issues besieging the State to the Centre because his words would never be taken lightly being the titular king of Manipur. His one opinion would be similar to hundred pleas of other leaders, the Chief Minister observed.

Further, expressing concern that the State has few committed leaders, N. Biren Singh urged the public to elect only the true leaders, who are committed to work for the people, in future. Only then, the State would become one of the best States in the world, he asserted.

The Chief Minister informed that the present Government is working on realization of agriculture revolution in the State. He said, Rs. 66 crore would be spent in the construction of bore-wells for extraction of groundwater for irrigation. Another Rs. 260 would be utilized in the

construction of 500 check dams in foothills at different places.

Manipur Khadi and Village Industries Board presented different Khadi products to the dignitaries at the function. Sanasam Premananda donated Rs. 1 lakh to CM's Covid-19 Relief Fund.

Lifting and distribution of PDS items continues

DIPR
Imphal, July 16:

With the aim to ensure PDS items reach its beneficiaries during the ongoing lockdown, the Government continues to provide rice to certain Assembly Constituencies (ACs) of the State.

Ukhul AC of Ukhul District had completed lifting of its allocated quota of rice for July under National Food Security Act (NFSA) with 889.75 quintal being lifted today from FCI godown, Ukhul. The AC had also lifted 704.90 quintal of NFSA rice on 15th of this month from the same godown.

Meanwhile, there was report on distribution of rice in Imphal West District. 27.5 quintal of rice was distributed to migrant workers covering 550 persons on 15th July. Beneficiaries of Mayang Imphal AC were distributed with 1,888.35 quintal of rice under PMGKAY on 14th July while another 47 quintal of rice was also distributed to 940 migrant workers on the same day.

It may be mentioned that the State Government had been distributing PDS items to every households of the State under NFSA, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana and Open Market Sale Scheme.

HSE 2020 results out; TG students bag pole positions in both Arts and Commerce

IT News
Imphal, July 17:

Education Minister Dr. Thokchom Radheshyam today declared the Higher Secondary Examination, 2020 results conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur (COHSEM) at the office of the COHSEM, Babupara.

While announcing the result, Dr Radheshyam said that in a major boost for the government schools in the State, two students of Tamphasana Girls' Higher Secondary School or popularly known as TG Higher Secondary bagged first positions in both the Arts and Commerce streams.

Khomdram Menaka Devi, daughter of Khomdram Shantibala Devi and Khomdram Shyamkishor Singh of Kwakeithel Moirang Pural Leikai scored 464 out of 500 marks to bag the first position in the Arts stream, while, Justina Yendrebam daughter of Y (o) Somola Devi and Y. Amarjit Singh of Kangla Siphai scored 448 out of 500 marks to bag the pole position in Commerce stream. Four students from government schools are among the first top ten position holders in Arts stream.

MECI Explorer Academy, Changangei, Uchekon student Archana Hijam daughter of Thounaojam

Subashini Devi and Hijam Ranjithkumar Singh of Andro Mamang Leikai scored 485 out of 500 marks to top the Science stream.

Overall pass percentage for all the streams this year stood at 86.00 percent which is the highest in the last three years. Out of 29,144 students enrolled for the examination, 29,072 students appeared in the exam. Altogether 25,002 students passed the exam.

Dr Radheshyam congratulated the position holders, at the same time encouraged all students saying that not only position holders are successful but those who have the will, determination and hardwork will surely be successful in

life. He continued that those who couldn't get through this year can do better next time.

On the improvement in results this year as compared to previous years' results, the Minister said that the credit has to go to the students as they have given all the efforts and dedications. There have been some changes in the system, the students were motivated and realized the importance of proper education and did well in the exams, he added.

The improvement in the Class XII result is an indication of the hard work put in by all the concerns including students,

teachers, parents, staff of the education department. He further lauded the teachers for their dedication during evaluation of papers despite the present COVID 19 pandemic.

Candidates who are eligible for Improvement Examination shall have to appear in the Higher Secondary Improvement Examination, 2020 to be held in the month of August, 2020.

The announcement of results was also attended by Commissioner, Education (S) T. Ranjit Singh, Director, Education (S) Th. Kirankumar, COHSEM Chairman Lamabam Mahendra Singh, among others.

★ Editorial

The face of justice

The state Government has unfailingly led the way in condoning acts of crime in the society as any righteous and sympathetic institution ought to do. The public even witnessed tears of indignation and frustration shed publicly accompanied by assurances of bringing the perpetrator(s) to book and to deliver stern and swift justice.

To be fair, the Government did send some criminals and rapists behind bars. Yet no one can deny the fact that such instances where criminals are convicted is too little, and too late. Crimes which could only have been conjured up by fiction writers have been committed in the state. Crimes that shook the collective conscience of the society have remained a mystery, and there are criminals who went scot free thanks to the incompetency of those handling the cases. On second thought, are they just being incompetent or a case of competent enough to deliberately botch up the issues to such extent that conclusions can never be reached?

The possibilities are so very real and suspiciously familiar with the public. Ministers and heads of state harboring criminals and trouble makers to do their dirty works is not a novelty. There had even been more than one occasion where such outlaws and wanted criminals were arrested along with unauthorized arms from the official residences of powerful Government officials and representatives. It does not, however mean to imply in any way that the Government is incapable of acting swiftly and decisively when it feels the urgency or the necessity to do so.

The implicit question now is: what is keeping the judicial and the executive machineries of the state from performing to the best of their abilities, with all the powers and authorities bestowed upon them? Has they been compromised or are taken up by the lure of personal wealth and benefits offered in lieu of their leniency or complicity? The society was shocked beyond belief with the audacity of crimes such as that of Rabina and Sanjit who were gunned down in broad daylight in the heart of the city, with undeniable evidences contradicting the blatant lies of the state security force broadcasted through national media and creating chaos and unrest in the state.

That very particular crime has lost its importance with the passage of time, and is bound to slip into oblivion. Can the government really afford to publicly discard such sentimental issues just because it has the wherewithal to fuddle things up? Is saving the skin of a few loyal and compliant employees mean more than denying timely justice to its citizens? What chances have the public to fancy when even such evidently cut and dried cases have been made to drag on without a befitting conclusion in sight? What are the chances of the victims from the state affected by racial crimes committed against them outside the state for availing justice and assistance from the state Government? Is the Government justified in portraying itself the victim of social outburst and defamatory allegations when its own machineries fumbles and twisted the system beyond redemption?

Action speaks louder than words, and justice delayed is justice denied. If the government values the trust and cooperation of the public, it has to vindicate itself through actions. Brute force, coercion and deception are poor substitutes for transparency, empathy and integrity.

More News

JFA demands justice for journalist Rajib Sarma

ITNews
Guwahati, July 17:

Journalists' Forum Assam (JFA), while expressing shock at the arrest of a senior scribe by the Dhubri police, urges the State government in Dispur to release Rajib Sarma unconditionally. The forum reveals that Rajib invited enemies from a section of anti-social elements with his media coverage in the satellite news channel DY365.

"It was so annoying that Rajib's ailing father (Sudhin Sarma, 64) collapsed on 16 July morning as he seemingly could not bear the arrest of his son from their residence during the previous midnight hours. Rajib received a three-day interim bail to perform his father's last rite at Gauripur cremation ground in presence of a few relatives and well-wishers," said a statement issued by JFA president Rupam Barua and secretary Nava Thakuria.

The forum also urges the management of satellite channel DY365 to extend necessary supports to Rajib as he has to go for a legal battle following an FIR lodged against him by a forest officer in the police station. The officer alleged that the television scribe demanded money from him, which Rajib strongly denied saying that it was his extensive reporting on the cattle smuggling (to Bangladesh) and corruption that invited the enmity.

Rajib, also the secretary of Dhubri Press Club, was supported by the local scribes for all the hours. As the energetic scribe took many risky assignments for the news channel, he should be thoroughly supported by its management in the time of crisis, asserted the JFA statement adding that often media houses try to wash their hands whenever the scribes face a medical emergency or other profession related troubles.

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Re-allotted PMGKAY scheme receives good response in NE States

By: KAMEI GONGREIPOU
Do. General Manager (Region), FCI, Manipur Imphal

The inherent challenges in running of the largest food grain supply chain management operation in the world increases exponentially specially in NE States due to geographical extremities, remote location and developing infrastructure. However, FCI in all seven states of NE has risen to the occasion and has ensured optimum movement and distribution of stocks in the interest of fulfilling the food grains requirement of the 7 (seven) States.

The entire workforce of FCI in NE States, under the overall guidance of D. V. Prasad, I.A.S., Chairman & Managing Director, has delivered unprecedented results across the various spectrum of operations. During the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, during April-June 2020, FCI has been able to induct a whopping 12.47 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) of food grains across its various locations in North-East, handling a record number of 442 rakes during the aforesaid period. As on 16.07.2020, 2.13 LMT has already been inducted in NE Zone for the month of July 2020.

It may be appreciated that various Districts in the State of Assam has been under various degrees of lockdown regimes due

to burgeoning Covid cases.

However, with an induction and stock building being monitored closely by the Executive Director (NE) and senior officers of FCI NE Zone, godowns of FCI in the State of Assam has been adequately filled. As on 15.07.2020, a record 3.80 Lakh Metric Tonne (LMT) food grains are stocked in FCI depots across the State of Assam with a phenomenal capacity utilization of around 95%. This has greatly bolstered FCI's capability to meet any emergent PDS requirement in the State.

In the month of March 2020, the "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY)" was launched by Government of India, through which additional free-of-cost food grains (Rice/Wheat) at the scale of 5 Kg per person per month were provided to about 81 Crore beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), so that poor and vulnerable families/beneficiaries are able to access food-grains easily without facing any financial distress. Under this programme initially, free food-grains for three months i.e. April, May and June were provided. 100% lifting of food grains was registered by NE States under the scheme and 5.23

LMT was thus lifted.

Subsequently, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister had approved further extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) as a part of Economic Response to COVID-19 for additional allocation of food-grains from the Central Pool for another 5 (five) months from July to November, 2020. The allocations under PMGKAY for the NE States for the period July to November 2020 are given in the box:

FCI REGION	STATE	MONTHLY ALLOCATION IN MT	TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR 5 MONTHS IN MT (JULY-NOV 2020)
ASSAM	ASSAM	1,25,764.62	6,28,823.1
AP	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	4,105.005	20,528.025
	MEGHALAYA	10,727.585	53,637.925
NEF	MIZORAM	3,341.075	16,705.375
	TRIPURA	12,509.165	62,545.825
NAGALAND	NAGALAND	7,023.435	35,117.175
MANIPUR	MANIPUR	12,334.86	61,674.3
TOTAL		1,75,806.345	8,79,031.725

As on 15.07.2020, around 5.75 Lakh Metric Tonne food grains are available in the various depots of FCI in NE Zone with a phenomenal capacity utilization of around 93%. As such, there is sufficient food grains to meet the month-wise requirements of the NE States

under PMGKAY scheme along with the regular NFSA and Other Welfare Schemes like MDM etc. Further, a robust system of dynamic planning of rake is in place so that stocks can be inducted as per requirement.

FCI has ensured continuous uninterrupted supply of food grains across the country during these tough times by undertaking operations with the full support of Indian Railways, agencies like Central Warehousing Corporation

(CWC), State Warehousing Corporations (SWC) and FCI employees, labour and other stakeholders. The same preparedness and zeal would be continued in letter and spirit till the Nation emerges victorious in its battle against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Diplomacy in Power and Leadership



By: Bramhacharimayum Sadananda Sharma

Power meant nothing when our own people's fate lies undecided, where poverty, corruption and crime rate has engulfed each passing day. Fear of going out at dark places is becoming a reality in this modern society, broad daylight crimes, violence, and rapidly surging pork-barrel policies which often lead to skewed development and regional imbalance. Sometimes a question often comes that, "did the darkness has slowly clouding over our hope and vision". Nowadays the perception of power turns into a negative implication and is often linked with abuse, those who are hungry or need for power are often labeled as authoritarian, dictators, two-faced, and narcissists. Yet also without power, human behavior cannot be influenced onwards the desired outcome. Although power has strong negative characteristics, its importance cannot be denied or overlooked. What matters now most

is the use of power that is bestowed upon us in the right direction for the right cause but power in the hand of incompetent person will not only degrade a society but also gives messages to the future generation that it is easy to grip power and play.

Speaking briefly to the leaders who refuse to walk with purpose, they become a puppet to the environment. Purpose is what gives us a sense of direction. Here is a saying that "A leader without purpose is like a ship without radar". The former UN Secretary General made a profound statement that "if leaders fail, the people will lead". He flashed out his statement by adding that "People want responsible leadership. And responsibility is our response to our given ability to do what is right."

Research has shown that power can be exercised in either a self serving or responsible way. Also when going in-depth being a self serving does not make one a bad leader, nor does acting responsibly makes someone a good leader. People will critic you by your principles, morals and the results you produce that will require you to influence those you lead. It can also be mentioned that most of the prominent leaders, do share similar ideas and views but their approaches to power can be different, as do their values and character.

When discussing power and politics, there is a Children's game called the "King of the Hill" and the game itself is far back from 1850 in England. It is a very simple game yet this game sums up a lot that we can learn about power, politics, and leadership. The fundamental concept of the game is that there will be one person on the top of the hill or mound and this person is considered as the King of the hill and the remaining players are at the bottom of the hill. The main objective of the game is that the other players need to go up the hill simultaneously and need to push the king off the hill. And the one who is successful in doing so becomes the new king of the hill.

When analyzing the game strategy one may question who has the most power, the king, or the people at the bottom? It may seem that the people from bottom could easily take down the person at the top but the king may easily defend, yet the king's vulnerability can be exploited when the crowd advances together also the king has to spend most of this time defending the top but these are just defensive tactics.

Assuming the king decides to share the power and position on the top of the hill with someone else. The king may pick a trusted confidant one who might help him in defending at the top of the hill and not betray that trust by pushing the king aside, this decision might

be a good move. But this requires a great deal of persuading the co defender that there is something to be gained by doing so; these tactics are clearly shows ones diplomacy to maintain the king's authority.

The King in this game indicates that there is a certain hierarchy of power to perceive at the top level. However, the power that the king enjoys at the top of the hill only exists as it is granted by the people. In reality, power is relational and does not belong to any one person. Furthermore, power is not embodied solely in an institution. Power is present at every level of society, and the exercise of power is, strategic and productive "not simply oppressive."

In this present society, we are getting confused and slowly started to forget our roles and accountability as a citizen, each one of us contributes to any function of power and people who are in the leadership positions.

However, for all who are in leadership positions and holding formidable positions in our society, it is particularly vital to find out how power will be managed. If it is not managed efficiently, it will create power struggles and conflicts. If managed well, power can be used to influence others at different levels of the organization to achieve unimaginable goals, optimistic outcomes, and greater output to lead any societies in a better future.

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