

SC directs to cease cabinet portfolio from Forest Minister Th. Shyamkumar and to bar him from entering the Manipur Legislative Assembly complex

IT News Imphal, March 18

In an interesting political development, ahead of the Raja Sabha election scheduled to be held on March 26, the Supreme Court of India in an interim order has directed the government of Manipur to cease the Ministerial Berth of MLA Th. Shyamkumar and directed the Manipur State Assembly to bar him from entering the state Assembly complex, which means that Th. Shyamkumar will not exercise his vote in the upcoming Raja Sabha Election.

The Supreme Court, however, left the matter to decide on the fate of the MLA whether to disqualify or not, to the Speaker's tribunal of the Manipur Legislative Assembly. The Speaker's Tribunal had earlier reserved the judgment for the disqualification case till March 28 because of the Raja Sabha Election and his hectic schedule for preparing state assembly related activities. The interim judgment was announced today by a three-member bench comprising of Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman, Justice Aniruddha

Bose and Justice V. Ramasubramanian in connection with a fresh admission in connection with the SLP filed by Congress MLA Keisham Meghachandra Singh and MLA MD. Fajur Rahim for disqualification of MLA Shyamkumar who is the Forest and Environment Minister under the 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution. On January 21, a three-member bench of the Supreme Court had directed the Speaker's Tribunal to decide the disqualification case of Forest Minister Th.

Shyamkumar within 4 weeks period. On January 25 the Court ruling was handed over to the Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly. Later the Manipur Legislative Assembly filed a petition for an extension of the case hearing at the Supreme Court but was declined by the Supreme Court. The Speaker's Tribunal headed by Speaker Y Khemchand conducted the final hearing of the case on February 4 but the tribunal reserved its judgment and fix the date for the announcement of the judgment by March 28 at 11 am.

Only 2 will fight for the lone Raja Sabha Seat of Manipur; NPF candidate withdraw nomination

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Of the three candidate who had filed nomination for contesting the lone Raja Sabha seat, only two will be fighting for the seat as the NPF Candidate, Honreikhui Kashung today withdrew his candidature today. It is straight fight between the BJP candidate and Manipur's

titular king Leisemba Sanajaoba and the Congress candidate T Mangi Babu. NPF have four seat in the sixty member house of the Manipur Legislative Assembly and is in the coalition government led by the BJP. Even as Congress party has 28 numbers elected the actual figure reduced to 20 with 8 of its elected members defected and

support the BJP led government in the state. BJP's elected MLAs was only 21 at first but with the defected MLAs the number now reach 28 leaving aside the speaker of the house. Independent Candidate Asab Ali plus the 4 NPP MLAs and the four NPF now reach the no of BJP supporters to 36 which makes sure that BJP will win the Raja Sabha seat.

Married man blackmail ex-girlfriend; complaint lodged; accused produced before the court

IT News Imphal, March 18

A 40 years old married man, who is working as a doctor by profession identified as Pukhrambam Kiran Singh of Wangkhei Yonglan Leirak in Imphal East district allegedly blackmail his ex-girlfriend showing her nude picture and finally distributing it to her locality after she refused to comply to satisfy him. The ex-girlfriend too had married another person but following the distribution of her nude photograph, she was forced to return at her parental home. The victim girl finally lodged a complaint to the Nambol Police Station and later after being picked up by the police team, he was produced before the Court and remanded for 10 days police custody. On her complaint note, the victim said that the photo that the doctor (her ex-boyfriend) took her photo after raping her and promising her for marriage at a roadside restaurant somewhere in Ghari area in

September 2010. "One day in September 2010 the Accused Person asked me to go for an outing with him and I was taken to a roadside restaurant located at Ghari. When I went inside the restaurant, I sensed the awkward environment of the restaurant and therefore insisted on the Accused person that we should leave the place as I find the place unacceptable and makes me feel uncomfortable. Despite such pleading by me, the Accused Person insisted that we should sit in the said restaurant for some time. Thereafter, once we were inside the cabin, the Accused Person started fondling my private parts. I tried to resist the beastly advancement of the Accused Person but since I was cornered against the wall, I could not defend myself and could not even shout, as I was afraid of exposing my chastity. Thereafter, taking advantage of my helpless situation, the Accused Person forcibly raped me inside the

cabin of the restaurant. While committing his beastly act inside the restaurant he took photographs of my body by using his mobile phones and that too without my consent". She stated in her complaint note. The lady met the accused doctor during her internship at Jawaharlal Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital (JNIMS), Porompat for six months when she was a student of General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) of Kanglepak Medical Nursing Institute, Imphal in the year 2010. Breaking the promise for marrying her the Accused Person eloped with a girl and married on February 25, 2011. Even after marriage, the accused doctor tried to maintain a relationship with the victim lady but she denied as he had married another girl. As the doctor continued to call her to and after she refused to accept his call her picture taken by him was disseminated at her locality.

GSO condemn Chahsat incident

IT News Imphal, March 18

The Gange Students' Organisation, General Headquarters (GSO-GHQ) expressed shocked and grieved against the arson of Chahsat village, Kamjong district that brought more than hundred houses to cinders on

March 16. "It is very ill-fated that such barbaric act still exists in our society. The unresponsiveness of 42nd AR posted there in proximity to Chahsat village is condemnable by all right thinking citizens and, the state force stationed there deserve no less castigation in

tolerating the Sampui villagers to carry out their fiendish act of pyromania", a statement of the organization said. It added that this inhuman act of rampant conflagration is no less an act of war against helpless innocent villagers who are in minority. The blitz that was carried out will only cramp peaceful co-existence, but

rather social unrest and disharmony among all. The GSO-GHQ urged the authority concern to look into the matter and take necessary actions in bringing justice to the downtrodden. We pour out our deepest sympathy to the aggrieved and homeless villagers.

Church's body show serious concern on Chahsad incident; appeal for peace and harmony

IT News Imphal, March 18

Council of Kuki Worship Services (CKWS), expressed serious concern over the incidence of violence in burning of about 200 houses belonging to poor villagers of Chahsad Village in Kamjong District of Manipur on March 16. The CKWS which is a non-

denominational Church organization formed by Kuki Worship Services located in 20 cities of India and 4 cities abroad appealed to all concern for peace and harmony. "CKWS earnestly, appeals to all concerned Christian brothers and sisters to abhor violence of any form, as followers of Christ, and find solution to problems and

issues through peaceful dialogue and negotiation based on Biblical principles of mutual love, trust and respect rather than resorting to violence, which is detrimental to the well being of all", a statement of the Church body said. The CKWS also urged the Govt. authorities to take adequate action to ensure the rule of law, deliver justice,

ensure safety and security of the villagers and fulfill its obligation as a responsible Government, to rebuild the life of affected villagers. It also appealed to all minority Christian communities in Manipur and North East India to remember bigger challenges the Church is facing today and promote a culture of peaceful coexistence and mutual support as Christians.

YFPHR urges Government and MHRC to conduct an urgent fact finding mission at Kamjong District

IT News Imphal, March 18

In connection with the recent violence which occurred at Kamjong District of Manipur in which nearly 150 houses were burnt leading to the displacement of many families Youth's Forum for Protection

of Human Rights (YFPHR) has appealed the Govt. of Manipur and the MHRC to conduct a fact finding mission to assess the "Human Rights Impact Assessment" as to find out the root cause of the violence and to find out how the violence triggered and who are involved behind the scene.

The Forum appaled the Government of Manipur to provide proper relief materials, foods, water, medicines, cloths, etc for those who are internally displaced keeping particular focus on women and children. "We have a deep fear that such an act of arson of 150

houses is impossible without proper planning and we do fear that such an act was carried out under proper guidance and instruction by some vested people or institutions to fulfill their interest", a statement by YFPHR signed by its president Phajaton said.

Nomination of titular King Sanajaoba is a clear example of democratic values - AZACO

IT News Imphal, March 18

All Zeliangrong Arts and Culture Organisation (AZACO) Manipur in a statement has expressed full support to the nomination of titular King Leishemba Sanajaoba as the candidate for the lone Raja Sabha Seat of Manipur terming it as a clear

example of Democratic outlook and perspective. A press released sign by Poudongai kamon president AZACO said that the nomination of Leishemba Sanajaoba will strengthen the ties between the inhabitants of hills and plain, Co-existed since the time immemorial maintaining harmony and spirit of common brotherhood.

"It is an earnest appeal to all that in every step that Iningthou Leishamba Sanajaoba takes up for the welfare of people in future, all must reciprocate with clear and affection. Iningthou Leishamba Sanajaoba is a man of childlike personality who ruled shoulder with all the people alike", the statement said.

Coronavirus cases in country climb to 147

Agency New Delhi, Mar 18

The number of novel coronavirus cases in the country rose to 147 on Wednesday, with 10 fresh cases reported from various parts of the country, according to the Health Ministry. The cases include 25 foreign nationals and the three persons who died in Delhi, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Over 5,700 people, who had

come in contact with these positive cases, are under rigorous surveillance, the Ministry said. Delhi has so far reported ten positive cases which includes one foreigner while Uttar Pradesh has recorded 16 cases, including one foreigner. Maharashtra has 41 cases, including 3 foreigners, while Kerala has recorded 27 cases which includes two foreign nationals. Karnataka has 11

coronavirus patients. The number of cases in Ladakh rose to 8 and Jammu and Kashmir three. Telangana has reported five cases which includes two foreigners. Rajasthan has also reported four cases including that of two foreigners. Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Punjab have reported one case each. In Haryana, there are 16 cases, which include fourteen foreigners.

Manipuri students studying at various Universities at Phillipines has appealed the Chief Minister of Manipur to arrange their return from the country as they are facing hard time with the Philippine government total shut down of all university as precautionary measures to tackle the Coronavirus case. The students through facebook sought help from the Chief Minister.

Co-ordinating Body, Khurai asks Leishemba Sanajaoba to abdicate before going to RS

IT News Imphal, March 18

Co-ordinating Body, Khurai, a body of local clubs, Meira Paibi and working Class of Khurai in Imphal East district today condemn the decision of the titular king Leishemba Sanajaoba to contest the lone Raja Sabha Election given the fact that his

position will be lowered once he become a member of the Raja Sabha. In a press meet held today at the office of the Co-ordinating Committee at Khurai Lamling Keithel, Spokesperson of the body Moirangthem Loya Meitei said that by tradition our king cannot sit at the back of any person and that once he

become the member of the RS then he will be treated as a mere common man humiliating the aged old tradition of the King's institution. "If the King think that he cannot change his decision then he should step down from his position and put someone in his place before going to the Raja Sabha

Editorial

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Silencing the voice of dissent: a disregard to the Freedom of Expression

It is okay for the Government of Manipur to restrict public meetings or mass gatherings to avoid the spread of the coronavirus. Even classes of schools and colleges have been suspended till March 31. But the prohibition of gathering to discuss the issue about the nomination of Leishemba Sanajaoba as the BJP candidate to the Rajya Sabha and allowing other gathering is a complete dishonour to the constitution of India which guaranteed all citizens - the right to Freedom of Expression.

Criticism of any policy or decision of a political party or the government is the right of every citizen as long as it is for the cause of the protection of the community's identity. Simply dictating the people from speaking against the nomination of titular King Sanjaoba using all force without following the rules of law and without respecting the voice of dissent is a sign of defying the provisions provided in the constitution of India.

It is not that Imphal Times supports those voicing against the BJP decision to file Leishemba Sanajaoba as the candidate for the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Manipur. What is more concern, is the suppression of freedom of expression guaranteed by the constitution of India. When people are forced to keep silent on any decision of a political party using force then the doomsday for democracy is not far.

Some CSOs leaders had stated that Leishemba Sanajaoba cannot be treated as a common person, they have their point. Sanajaoba is the head of an institution that has been protecting the historical pride of the state. Everyone knows how the institution has been groom by the leaders of the civil society organization in the last 20 years. And thus discussion and criticism of the recent political development in connection with the Rajya Saha Election is the right of the people.

Moreover, there is also a heated argument regarding the nomination of former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi as the Rajya Sabha member. A former Supreme Court judge Justice Kurian Joseph had stated that acceptance of Rajya Sabha nomination by former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has certainly shaken the confidence of the common man in the independence of the judiciary, which is also one of the basic structures of the Constitution of India. This former judge talking to a newspaper had stated that he was surprised as to how Justice Ranjan Gogoi who once exhibited such courage of conviction to uphold the independence of the judiciary, has compromised the noble principles on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary. The very act of accepting the RS seat may be a first step to put the judiciary under any ruling government.

Criticism is the right of all citizen and if Manipur Government respects the constitution of India they should not have any ban or restriction to CSOs while expressing their view in connection with the nomination of the titular king as a candidate for the Rajya Sabha Election by the BJP.

Scribe Digiyoti Lahkar seriously ailing, JFA wishes early recovery

IT News
Guwahati March 18

Journalists' Forum Assam (JFA) has expressed concern that Digiyoti Lahkar, a young and energetic journalist who has garnered considerable experience over the years by serving in several newspapers and TV channels, is presently waging a dire battle with life in a city hospital. Suffering from chronic liver ailments, he has been diagnosed with Hepatic parenchymal disease, informed Dr Hitesh Barua, managing director of Nemcare hospital where he has been undergoing treatment for past few days.

Since Lahkar's treatment would be an expensive affair, the JFA has urged the State government to support the ailing journalist in meeting his urgent medical costs, while also calling upon the journalist fraternity to extend contributions. "We hope Digiyoti will overcome his medical challenges and join journalistic duty very soon. Lending him support at this hour would also help to keep the focus on healthcare needs of journalists in the line of duty and preventive measures for their own benefit," said a statement issued by JFA president Rupam Barua and secretary Nava .

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Circular Economy(CE)for sustainability

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

Over the last 150 years, our industrial economy has been dominated by a one-way model of production and consumption in which goods are manufactured from raw materials, sold, used and then incinerated or discarded as waste. In the face of a rising global population and the associated growing resource consumption and negative environmental impacts, it becomes increasingly apparent that business as usual is not an option for a sustainable future. While the concept of a circular economy has been discussed since the 1970s, switching from the current linear model of economy to a circular one has recently attracted increased attention from major global companies and policymakers. As a result of growing interest in the business opportunities created by a Circular Economy (CE), its practical applications to modern economic system and industrial processes have recently gained momentum among companies and governments. In that regard, understanding the concept of CE is a key prerequisite for a successful implementation within a business. As the concept of CE has been evolving since 1970s building on different schools of thought, its description and principles have been stressed from the different points of view in the academic and grey literature. Therefore, it is crucial to get a common understanding of what a circular economy entails.

Then, what is a Circular Economy? A circular Economy (often referred to simply as circularity) is an economic system aimed at eliminating waste and continual use of resources. Circular system employ reuse, sharing, repair, refurbishment, remanufacturing and recycling to create a close loop system, minimizing the use of resource inputs and creation of waste, pollution and carbon emission.

The circular economy aims to keep products, equipment's and infrastructures in use for longer, thus improving the productivity of these resources. All waste should become "food" for another process: either a by-product or recovered resource for another industrial process or as regenerative resources for nature e.g compost. The regenerative approach is in contrast to the traditional linear economy which has a take-make-dispose model of production. Proponents of the circular economy suggest that a sustainable world does not mean a drop in the quality of life for consumers and can be achieved without loss of revenue or extra costs for manufacturers. The argument is that circular business model can be as profitable as linear models, allowing us to keep enjoying similar products and services.

Manufacture, use and disposal? No, reduce, reuse and recycle. The current paradigm of linear economic model could be coming to an end and its place will be taken by the circular economy. The current model of production and management of resources, goods and services that seeks to promote short term consumption is leading the planet to an unsustainable situation. The nowadays economic system is the opposite of the life cycle of nature and collides with the sustainable development, focussed on the long term. In nature there is no waste or landfill: all elements play a role continuously and are reused in different stages. Taking as an example the cyclical nature pattern, circular economy is presented as a system of resources utilization where reduction, reuse and recycling of elements prevails: minimize production to a bare minimum and when it's necessary to use the product, go for the reuse of the elements that cannot return to the environment. That is, the circular economy promotes the use of as

many as biodegradable materials as possible in the manufacture of products- biological nutrients— so that they can get back to nature without causing environmental damage at the end of their useful life. When it is not possible to use eco-friendly materials- technical nutrients: electronics, hardware, batteries etc, the aim is to facilitate a simple uncoupling to give them a new life by reintroducing them into the production cycle and compose a new piece. When this is not possible, it will be recycled in a respectful way with the environment. Unlike other economic model where the social or environmental, circular economy is substantial improvement common to both business and consumers. Companies that have implemented this system are proving that reusing resources is much more cost effective than creating them from scratch. As a result production prices are reduced so that the sale price is also lowered, thereby benefiting the consumer not only economically but also in social and environmental aspect. Intuitively, the circular economy would appear to be more sustainable than the current linear economic system. Reducing the resources used and the waste and the leakage created, conserves resources and helps to reduce environmental pollution. The circular economy can cover a broad scope like industrial applications with both product-oriented and services, practice and policies to better understand the limitations that the CE currently faces , strategic management for details of the CE and different outcomes such as potential re-use application and waste management.

The CE includes products, infrastructures, equipment and services and applies to every industry sector. It includes technical, resources (metals,

minerals, fossil resources) and biological resources (food, fibres, timber etc.). A circular economy within the textiles industry refers to the practice of cloths and fibres continually being recycled to re-enter the economy as much as possible rather than ending up as waste. The construction sector is one of the World's largest waste generators. The CE appears as a helpful solution to diminish the environmental impact of the construction industry. The CE is beginning to catch on inside the automotive industry. It is stated that CE could redefine competitiveness in the automotive sector in terms of price, quality and convenience and could double revenue by 2030 and lower the cost base by up to 14%. So far it has typically translated itself into using parts made from recycled materials, remanufacturing of car parts and looking at the design of new cars. Not only these CE started looking towards in all possible sectors. Rethinking growth for longer prosperity shows that a CE path to development could bring India's annual benefits of Rs .40 lakhs core in 2050 compared with the current development path- a benefit equivalent to 30% of India's current GDP. Now the whole world has set their eyes toward CE for sustainable development and better environment for the emerging world. But can Manipur join this rest in the near future to come? It's doubtful because the idea of Circular Economy is still yet to reach among our common mass, policymakers, public/ political leaders as they all are concentrating their mind to rich quick through get free idea and contract works where easy money can be made through akash bill forgetting about the unbearable scenes of corruption, favouritism, nepotism, poverty, social unrest, law&order crisis, deadlocks in education & problems pouring on our environment. Now, it is the time to give mass awareness about Circular Economy to our common masses for a better future.

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Nagas entering the final phase of power struggle

By: Pakinrichapbo Advocate

Since the beginning of the Naga Movement, power struggle among the nationalist groups dominated and contributed to wretched living conditions for the people along the way. The power struggle continues to this very day and it seems the Nationalist groups have now entered the last phase of power struggle. One perturbing factor is that as usual, the civilian populations would play along by choosing sides among the numerous armed nationalist groups.

Throughout the various stages of this power struggle among the nationalist groups, some state politicians from the past and present had played a vital role and some continues to play along. The outcome of this power struggle will show what role they have played: Whether in building or in destroying the fabric of the Naga society.

This article attempts to present a brief summary of this power struggle, its main issues involved touching on the outcome of the past power struggles and the possible outcome. We can broadly categorize three phase of the power struggle.

First phase of the power struggle (1946-1963)

In the early period of the Naga National Council (NNC), the power struggle centered on the contention between the extremist groups and the moderates groups within the NNC on the issue of autonomy or on its nature of relation with Indian Union and

creation of fully independent Naga Nation. The outcome of the first phase of power struggle created irreconcilable differences between the extremists and the moderates, forcing the moderates to work for the creation of the Nagaland Statehood, and the rejection of the Nagaland statehood by the nationalist in the extremist camp (For further reading, page 150, "Nagas Imbroglgio" by Charles Chace).

Second phase of the power struggle (1975-1997)

The second phase of the power struggle centered on the issue of the 1975 Shillong Accord, where the said accord bitterly divided the nationalists' camp into supporters of the Accord and the nationalist groups who condemn it. The consequence unleashed post-signing of the accord led to the formation of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) in 1980 that later split into two rival factions namely the NSCN-IM and NSCN-K in 1988. According to the source of one renowned Indian Journalist, one of the main reason behind the split was the differences among the top leaders of NSCN on the issue of starting peace talk with the Government of India whereas International Swedish Journalist Birtil Lintner in his book "Land of Jade: A journey from India through Northern Burma to China" and in his article titled Nagaland: The Forgotten Frontier, published in The Irrawaddy Magazine, November 2014 edition says evil of tribal rivalry and the Nagas from Myanmar simply tired of being treated as serfs by their Indian

cousins, drove them out of the area. Post-NSCN split, violent factional clashes became a daily routine for nearly three decades where NSCN-IM emerged to be the largest and most powerful groups among the different armed factions. Quoting from the essay titled, *Nagaland: descent into chaos*, (The Hindu, dated 23.01.2014) authored by Shri. R. N. Ravi, Retired Special Director, Intelligence Bureau, former Interlocutor and Incumbent Governor of Nagaland, "over 1,800 Nagas have been killed in some 3000 fratricidal clashes since the beginning of the ceasefire (1997-2013). Contrast it with the violence during the 17 years preceding the ceasefire (1980-96) that took a toll of some 940 Naga lives in 1,125 clashes mostly with the security forces"

Final phase of the power struggle 1997-2020

Apart from the violent factional clashes, some of the remarkable developments that took place between 1997-2020 were the formation of new factions (in addition to existing ones), the signing of 3rd August 2015 Framework Agreement between NSCN IM and GOI; the sudden unification of six Naga armed factions christening under the umbrella term 'Naga National Political Groups' (NNPG) in 2016, at present total number rose to seven factions after the latest entry of NSCN K (Khango Group); the signing of 'Agreed Position' between GOI and NNPGs on 17th November 2017; the emergence of Nagaland Tribal Council (NTC) as a leading public organization also

the brain behind the formation of NNPGs; the tactical siding of Naga Hoho, Naga Student Federation (NSF), and the Naga Mother Association (NMA), which was indeed a master stroke by the former interlocutor during his routine consultation with tribal bodies and civil societies there by reducing the influence of the said organizations in Nagaland.

On the other hand, the loss of status of the age-old organizations seem to be a boon for the NTC, as all Nagaland based tribal bodies appears to back the NTC on paper (as a test of their loyalty is yet to be proven). Furthermore, the unsettled age-old differences between Zeliangrong organizations and Naga Nationalists group starting with NNC continues, as evident by the skirmish between the NSCN-IM and Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF). Such domestic developments have pushed the Naga nationalist groups in to the final phase of power struggle under the banner of the NSCN-IM bloc and NNPGs bloc. We can only wait and watch when the final showdown will take place before or after the GOI and NNPGs decides to go ahead with implementation of the final agreement as the Nagas are still alien to the concept of peaceful disagreements. In such suspense, one needs to reflect on the phrase "It is now sign or lose it all. Peace or war" which is the ending lines in Sudeep Chakravarti's essay "When push for Naga peace deal turn to shove" (LiveMint dated 12.03.2020).