



Today's Thought

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen. Winston Churchill.

More than hinting CAB will be tabled Expecting stormy days !

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi more than hinting that the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill will be passed in the Rajya Sabha and with reports coming in that the said Bill may be tabled in the Upper House on February 12, the coming few days can be stormy, very stormy. At the same time the Prime Minister too assured that the said Bill will not harm the interests of the North East region, while addressing Assam during his tour to the three North East States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura on February 9. Unlikely that the assurance of the Prime Minister is going to cut ice with the people and already women vendors of Khwairamband Keithel have announced that the market in and around Khwairamband will remain shut till February 12. Giving more teeth to their anti-CAB stand, the womenfolk have already started camping at Khwairamband Keithel to put into force the directive that all shops should remain closed till February 12. On the other hand, a people's convention held at GM Hall on February 9 called for a total shutdown for 36 hours starting from 5 am of February 11 till 5 pm of February 12. That the shut down will go hand in hand with mass public protests has only made things more unpredictable and the State police and law enforcement agencies will certainly be put hard to ensure that the situation does not go out of hand. It is in line with this that the SP of Imphal West police has issued a circular urging all the heads of departments to keep the office chowkidars on alert against any subversive activities that may lead to Government offices being torched during the course of protests.

If the said Bill is not tabled in the Rajya Sabha, then everything may come back to normal, but if it is tabled and passed then anything can happen. What happens in the next two days then will be crucial, very crucial. No doubt CSOs have been mobilising the people in every leikai and leirak but one may expect more sustained mobilisation drive during the next two days. Uncertainty looms large but what can be said with a degree of certainty is the point that the whole North East, particularly Manipur can expect stormy, very stormy days if and when the Bill is passed. This is something which the BJP led Government must have anticipated and if the Bill is indeed passed, then what will happen to the BJP led Government at Imphal is the question that follows naturally. This question is important in the face of the fact that it was no one less than the president of the NPP, Conrad Sangma who on February 9 announced that it will walk out of the NDA if the Bill is passed. The NPF too has made its stand against the Bill clear. If these two political parties indeed pull out of the coalition Government, then what happens to the BJP led Government which will be reduced to a minority here ? This is an interesting question in the sense that the Centre will not leave anything to chance to let the Congress stake claim. In such a scenario then can Central intervention be the answer via President's Rule ? Not a comfortable question for remember the peace talk with the NSCN (IM) is reportedly at its final stage and a final deal may be inked anytime soon.

Science News

Beaked whales' incredible diving abilities confirmed



Feb 10: A new Duke University-led study provides the first detailed record of the diving behavior of Cuvier's beaked whales in U.S. Atlantic waters. Cuvier's beaked whales are the world's deepest-diving mammal, but studies of their behavior are constrained by the animals' offshore location and limited time spent at the surface. The new data, recorded from 5,926 dives of tagged whales off Cape Hatteras, N.C., showcases the remarkable diving abilities of these animals and provides new clues to how they make a living at the extremes of depth and cold. "Their deep dives average about 1,400 meters, lasting about an hour, while they are feeding near the sea floor. They typically only spend about two minutes at the surface between dives," said Jeanne Shearer, a doctoral student in ecology at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment. "It's amazing that they can dive to such depths, withstand the pressure, and be down there that long, with such brief recovery times." Past studies have documented the diving behavior of Cuvier's beaked whales in Pacific waters, Italy, and the Bahamas, but this is the first one focused in the U.S. Atlantic. Scientists estimate about 6,500 Cuvier's beaked whales live in the northwest Atlantic. Populations in different areas exhibit some differences in diving behavior, highlighting the need for data from around the world. Aside from the extremely deep dives that these whales are able to make, the data showed that they dive nearly continually, with deep dives followed by 3-4 shallow dives that extend to around 300 meters. How they continuously dive to these depths without long recovery periods is still a mystery to scientists. AGENCIES

Different opinions on the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016

-Agenda for Development- Oinam Nabakishore Singh

After his announcement to return to the prestigious Padmashri to the Union Government in protest against the proposed enactment of the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016, Shri Aribam Shyam Sharma, renowned filmmaker and musician, said, "The issue of Citizenship Amendment Bill is very important. There is threat to the small indigenous people of Manipur. We should not leave such important matter to the government and MLAs alone. It is time for everyone to come forward and fight together against the Bill."



The Peoples' Convention on Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, organised by Peoples' Alliance Manipur (PAM), a conglomerate of various civil society organizations in the state on 9th February, 2019 has declared a total shut down on February 11 starting from 5 am until 5 pm of February 12 to oppose the contentious Citizenship Amendment Bill. Shri Khaidem Mani Singh, Sr. Advocate and acting Chairman of Manipur Human Rights Commission, while participating at the "Discussion Hour of ISTV", Imphal on 6th February, 2019, asserted that the State Assembly of Manipur cannot discuss anything on the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016 passed by the Lok Sabha as that discussion in the Assembly would be illegal. To back up his statement, Shri Mani quoted Article 258(2) of the Constitution of India: "A law made by Parliament which applies in any State may, notwithstanding that it relates to a matter with respect to which the Legislature of the State has no power to make laws, confer powers and impose duties, or authorize the conferring of powers and the imposition of duties, upon the State or officers and authorities thereof." The provisions in this article of the constitution has nothing to do with discussion of any issue including legislation by the Parliament on any subject or item included in the Union List by a State Assembly so long as no legislative action is taken on that subject or item. Further, the State Assembly is competent to adopt any resolution on any subject or issue and convey that resolution to the appropriate authority to express its views. Shri Khaidem Mani Singh, who is a learned advocate, must check facts before concluding that it

was illegal to discuss the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016 in Manipur Assembly. All political parties except the ruling BJP have been demanding convening of a special session of State Assembly to discuss the controversial bill. The leaders of the political parties are knowledgeable, and they know legality or otherwise of their demands. Article 246 of the Constitution of India divides the legislative powers of the Parliament and State Assemblies by keeping items or subjects in three Lists- List I (Union List), List II (State List) and List III (Union List). In case of List I and List II, the legislative power is exclusive for the Parliament and State Assemblies respectively. The present Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016 is concerned with citizenship of India and the subject-matter appears at entry number 17 of the List I-Union List and the Parliament has exclusive power to enact law on citizenship. Further Article 11 of the Constitution also confers power on Parliament to legislate on acquisition and termination of Indian citizenship. In such arrangement of division of power to enact laws, the states of the Union have little say in legislation of 97 items included in Union List except through Members of Parliament (MP) representing the state.

Manipur has only two MPs in Lok Sabha and one MP in the Rajya Sabha. It can't influence the Parliament significantly in legislations, which will have their ramifications for the state and its people. Bigger states with more population having more MPs have larger say in the Parliament. Smaller states are at a disadvantage in many ways as the MPs representing them will get lesser chance to participate at discussion in the Parliament.

In the United States of America (USA), every state has two Senators in the Senate irrespective of population while the number of Representatives in the House of Representative depends on the population of each State. USA has more federal character than India. Now, most of the indigenous people in the states of the North-East India are protesting against the enactment of the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016. Civil society organisations in Nagaland, supported by Naga People's Front, has called bandh throughout Nagaland on 11th February, 2019 in protest against the Citizenship Amendment Bill. When Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister arrived at Guwahati and Agartala, he was greeted by black flags and black balloons. Various indigenous groups are expressing apprehension of marginalization, loss of culture, identity, language, economic opportunity and political space to the migrants coming from Bangladesh. The anguish and fear of the people in this region stems from the helplessness when the Parliament could pass the Bill through the voting in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The voice of protest and dissent of the people of the North East do not get mainstream media attention and national leaders. In order to convince the national leaders of

various political parties, students and political leaders of Manipur rushed to Delhi on the need to prevent passing of the Citizenship Amendment Bill by the Rajya Sabha. In the event of final enactment of the Bill by the Parliament, people of the North-East are likely to be alienated. There are even voices from some quarters demanding pre-merger status of Manipur, which can have serious ramifications.

What are the possible ways to bring the state governments on board when Parliament comprising of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. One possible way is to expand the scope of Inter-State Council so as to have a compulsory mechanism to elicit the views of the states on legislations, which are likely to have serious implications. In the present instance, there is little reaction from states which are away from Bangladesh border as the maximum impact of illegal migration is felt in the North-East states.

The state government of Manipur led by Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister has been demanding from the Union Government for insertion of a special clause in the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016 in order to exempt the state from the purview of the Bill. This demand and assertion are found in the local media as per the statements made by the Chief Minister and spokespersons of the Government from time to time. However, it cannot be confirmed if the State Government of Manipur has written to the Union Government with such demands.

In a function of the Fishery Department on 8th February, 2019, the Chief Minister of Manipur said that his government was against the Citizenship Amendment Bill and he was with the people of Manipur. The question to be asked from the Chief Minister is whether the state Government of Manipur has written to the Union Government opposing the CAB. Political rhetoric, in fact, far from reality.

On 9th February, 2019, reaffirming the BJP-led NDA government's intention to pass the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the government would ensure that the Bill does not cause any harm to Assam and other parts of the Northeast, while addressing a public rally at Changsang near Guwahati.

In spite of the protests of people of the North East, the Union Government is firm in its commitment to the passage of controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. In case the Bill is not tabled before the Rajya Sabha on 12th February, 2019 as Supplementary Bill, the Union Government may resort to the route of ordinance in order to fulfill its commitment to the illegal migrants belonging to the six religions of Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhism, Parsi and Christianity. Ultimately, it is the politics that is overriding any decision making in the country.

Views expressed are personal

Crime against women and trolls

From "What the hell is she doing?" to "I am so proud of her," from "Will she even make it?" to "How was your journey?" form "I wish she don't get trapped" to "I am so proud of her." Having born in a society where the troll plates the breakfast, hatred garlands the movers and memes is what the changers get as for recognition, Miss Gerinda Loitongbam who drove solo from Imphal to Delhi for spreading awareness on crime against women didn't walk through for the awareness but to the haters.

Few days before the flagging off day, i.e. the 28th Jan 2019, many media drove all the crowd in catching the attention of the entire state over the once in the first blue moon solo drive episode. The first hours of the opening breaks with positivity and then shaken the rest where negativity viral fevers the backstage of hatred. "Is she doing this for her popularity?" "From when did she become the social activist?" "Why she needs to go in a car?" these questions and haters storm the Mark Zuckerberg's invention. Attention seeks popularity, voluntary feeling is the mother of social activism, car is a means of transport. For gaining the attention of what she needs to throw, she needs attention and to get that, she needs popularity, completely fair and needs no further jaw-dropping explanation. You don't need a certificate to prove that you are a social activist, it's a little more like birth right, and only the responsible one claims to be the dignified activist, and her voluntary attitude speak volumes that she earns over her rights.

-YOUNG THOUGHTS- Birkarnelzelit Thiyam

And for spreading awareness, you need not necessarily walk, and to be cocooned with wisdom, 'car covers more radius,' this is a simple maths.

Many do voice out saying, "Why she needs to go to Delhi, she can do it in Manipur?" first of all, crime against women is not just for this world fenced with nine hills, this is an international issue. Not just Delhi, she should have gone till Vegas, she lacked our support and love in that.

After all this, now that she reached safely and returned safely, she now has become the icon of all girls. What made



me laugh the most was those haters and commenters who talked about publicity vibes by uploading stuffs and begs to share their post; seriously, who is the one trying to be famous? This is really the clean ex-

ample of Manipur that we are garlanded with this crab-culture, won't do any good and can't see anyone do good too. Only the rescued victims of this trolls shine ever endlessly. I know the human psychology for we go ease with the expected people but throw stones to the unexpected ones who will potentially do wonders. Sometimes it's the very people who no one imagines anything of who do the things no one can imagine. Do you even know how many talented people are here in Manipur? Do you know the potential of our state? All knows but no one lets the other fly. We have always been proud of our culture, but let me tell you this today, culture is the attitude not just the folk song and the dress. If we are cultured with so much hatred about each other, we are just a hollow brain. This very attitude that we Manipuris have, "won't let anyone do good," this is the virus killing many budding talents and won't let any new come up. I have also been the victim of trolls, and those whose opinions not equal to mine never trolled but those who wish they do what I do trolls. Trolling is fun to read but breaking for the characters there. Lastly, if you start getting trolls, trust me you are on the right path.

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Exclusion of private schools teachers from HSLC examination

As they said, they are the custodian of quality education in Manipur. From this unethical statement of the Association, people from many angles started asking many questions to the Association. Some of the questions from the public are: -

- (i) What's wrong that BOSEM takes its own decision for smooth conduct of the Examination?
(ii) Why Private School teachers are so keen to take part in the examination and examination works?
(iii) Will the performance of their students be down if their teachers are not in the Examination halls? If so, how & why?
(iv) Do they believe that the performance of their good students will be outshine if their teachers involved in examination works? If so how & why?
(v) How will the ranking in the Examination result be affected if Examination Centre are not given at Private Schools?
(vi) What will be the problems of their students in examination halls when their teachers are absent?
(vii) Can't they write well if they are taught well in their respective schools by their respective teachers?

Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

(viii) Why private School students go for private tuition? (ix) If they are taught well in the school, what is the need of private tuition? General public further expressed - it's well known fact that Competitions of various kind which may be Mathematics, Science, Social Science, English etc conducted from time to time by certain Organization dedicated to bring up quality education in Manipur. These competitions are conducted without the teachers of the students (irrespective of Private or Govt.) taking part but talented and good students still outshine in it. Isn't true that good and talented students will write well anywhere even their teachers are not present in the examination hall? If it's not so, something is wrong with the students in his/her performance. Isn't the sign of having poor self-confidence of the students induced by mugging system of teaching learning in these Schools? It's also a well-known fact that School toppers of many private Schools are kept in premier residential Coaching centres in Imphal after

spending huge money (in spite of being taught in their respective schools by their respective teachers) in the aim of being among the toppers in HSLC result.

This in fact will be a fake end effort of the founders of Private Schools if their teachers are not involved in the Examination as well as in examination works (Voice of People). If any of their school student is among the top 25 then they will claim their School is excellent and admission in the next session will be a bumper admission. Public also viewed that though some private schools provide good and quality education but majority of the private schools are commercializing the education and our children are their commercial commodities. If Schools provides good and quality education to our children, there is nothing to do in the results with exclusion or inclusions of private schools teachers in HSLC examination. So, let's stop giving such a cheap statement which will bring down the quality, integrity, moral and image of many highly quality teachers of private schools (Voice of People).

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Impact of AI and robotics on society

Sooner we'll be enslaved by super-intelligent Robots. With the availability of huge capacities of Cloud, the enormous sum of collected data and algorithms based on neural networks, AI no longer call a Sci-Fi subject. AI with Machine Learning could prove to be a game changer for unique operational efficiencies and could disrupt every business sector from Banking to Transportation and Health. Robotics and automated weapons will soon replace human in Armed Forces.

The other day my ITO friend persuaded me to write up on Artificial Intelligence (AI). What caught my attention is the future of AI that impacts our day to day life. We saw computer in 90s, grew up with MS Office Tools and learned binary numbers, flowchart only at PG Management level. I've always been fascinated by computers. We were called computer savvy if we know playing Solitaire/Minesweeper, using floppy, drawing Paint and a bit Word/PowerPoint. Microsoft Encarta was web search services like Google. Today's students are net savvy, tech savvy and get involved in the thinking process of a flowchart in very early stage. A flowchart is a type of diagram that represents an algorithm. The flowchart shows the steps as boxes of various kinds in order by connecting it with arrows. The diagrammatic representation illustrates a solution model to a given problem. Algorithm is a set of rules to be followed in problem-solving operations by a computer. Researchers find Artificial Intelligence so fascinating and made busy innovating across many domains. Google, Microsoft tackles the most challenging problems in computer science. The tech giant has already partnered up with various Universities at Stanford, California, San Francisco, and Chicago to invent a new computer system that predict the time-of-death of hospital patients. It applied algorithm for billion pieces of anonymous patient data for findings. Now Google claim, it can predict when you will die. In early 2K, I heard medical database for Russian people from brother in law Dr Alakesh, who was studying medicine there. A Russian kid could explain very well while visiting doctor about his past prescription. That country has database for its citizen since birth. We're pulled up once by a Paediatrician at Jamnagar for not carrying the last prescription for daughter. India start Aadhaar based digital platform to empower residents with a unique identity to authenticate. It might help to connect our OVDs with Medical records. Today digital dependency

Kamal Baruah

has addicted most of our life style. No Smartphone for a day is a challenge for the modern world. We encounter AI every day like Amazon recommending a book or Netflix suggesting a film that I enjoy most. AI lies behind those algorithms from my purchases. Google Maps pin up my location wherever I go and also offers satellite imagery, street maps, 360° panoramic views of streets real-time traffic conditions, route planning by foot, car, bicycle and air. Personalised Virtual assistant apps Google Now, Alexa and Cortana could predict our needs. After 8 IOS apps, Apple's 'Hey Siri' have greatly facilitates the Automatic Speech Recognition task across any conditions. AirPods2 is another revolutionary idea that transfer biometric data such as heart rate, body movement and calories burnt. It designs technology to one's advantage. Using AI, self driving car will be a reality soon. It is arguably the poster boy for Google. AI lies behind Airline Autopilot. In Marine Navigation, Autopilot could reduce fuel costs and increase transit times. Now people have the choice of going to an AI doctor over a human. To promote smarter learning, Intel is roll-

ing out Tech Learning Lab, where a student could have a guide for personalised based study. I undergone stream test after selection to IAF. But they're no AI on those days. Recently our daughter went for Psychometric Test (interest based) of her aptitude for choosing career planning. AI could help doctors and nurses by a Robot assisting retinal surgery.

Being hacked is a pretty real threat in this day and age. Customers of banking sector are to be protected from cyber espionage. To protect business, it needs to be one step ahead of hackers at all times. Facial recognition for reading emotions might help shoppers during negotiations or we go for creative control against assassination attempt in Hollywood Face/Off. We also saw impact on political system from events like Cambridge Analytica. AI Algorithm Facebook data led to biased decisions based on gender and race through US election. AI-powered autonomous security systems become more susceptible to hacking when humans are out of the loop. The advent of Super-Intelligent Machines will surely have a massive impact on society. The big worry in today's world is the weaponization of AI. Hollywood is famous for Sci-Fi-movies of all time. We saw close encounters of the third kind in Spielberg's film AI Artificial Intelligence (Kubrick's Story 2001). Also Star Trek - 'The Next Generation' (1994) has always been something to learn on AI at our early days. It was another interesting movie 'The Matrix', where machine becomes self-aware and wants to end the world. Technology revolution has many challenges. Unlike past, which people worked for the humanity, now they thrust machine to learn for the universe.

Sooner we'll be enslaved by super-intelligent Robots. With the availability of huge capacities of Cloud, the enormous sum of collected data and algorithms based on neural networks, AI no longer call a Sci-Fi subject. AI with Machine Learning could prove to be a game changer for unique operational efficiencies and could disrupt every business sector from Banking to Transportation and Health. Robotics and automated weapons will soon replace human in Armed Forces. Airport Robots are already a reality. Delhi airport gets India's first AI humanoid Robot 'Rada' to assist flyers. AI for drone is becoming increasingly important for capable of killing intruders along border. It is going to transform the globe and impact on the job market. We were concerned of Soviet-era Bunker to survive from AI apocalypse, the final destruction of the world. Does the vista unfold in a progression of AI Technology and Machine Learning seemingly disruptive as the AI-threats itself? Mr Prabir is right on thinking AI-hype; AI can serve as a valuable tool for Tax Auditors too. We are at the cusp of an AI revolution that is all set to change our lives through reinforcement learning techniques. Machine Learning is the beginning of the future of AI. A Robot now gets its Machine Intelligence. A Robot can be taught deep learning like Automated Transportation to Cyborg (brain communicate with a robotic limb) Technology, hazardous jobs and climate change. Machine Consciousness is the final stage of AI. Many are deeply sceptical about AI but I am awfully keyed up for the ever-burgeoning future of biologically inspired Artificial Intelligence. The world is focussing on the impact of path-breaking Machine Learning and Super Intelligent Robotics on society. The writer is from Guwahati and can be reached at kamal.baruah@yahoo.com or 8638739634