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## **Editor's Spectra**

### **1. The Election Commission and the Bolstering of Electoral Democracy in India**

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Despite having humongous challenges and being a multi diverse country, Indian democracy holds its ground this far. Amidst all the debates as to whether India practises democracy in the true fashion, the stupendous role of the Election Commission of India clearly exhibits that India adopts at least a robust electoral democracy. Besides being one of the most populous and illiterate countries, free and fair elections are conducted in regular periods and certain measures are administered during elections to prevent voters from being purchased by the political parties through malicious means. Stringent election codes of conduct are imposed to political parties. The Election Commission of India ensures that all Indian citizens eligible for political rights exercise their franchise independently. In doing so, they are empowered to choose their representatives. Since the responsibilities of ensuring free and fair elections are shouldered by the Election Commission, there is no doubt that it holds one of the most worthy roles in shaping Indian democracy. This paper seeks to examine the changing role of the Election Commission of India in building electoral democracy in India. Most importantly, the present paper attempts to examine the noteworthy measures undertaken by the Election Commission of India to bolster the electoral democracy in India in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **2. Respiratory Illness Amongst Brick Kiln Works: A Study of Brick Kiln Sites in Maharashtra**

Shashikant J. Sakat, Ph. D Schola, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

The poor rural people migrate with their families in search of livelihood and they move from their native village depend on upon hazardous occupations like bricks making, quarry, constructions and sugarcane cutting etc. Such ways of life forced them to continue work with their families and with some financial needs. The brick kiln owners tie them with the offer of advance money and obviously they demand high production of bricks from workers. The emissions from the kiln are very hazardous for the health of human beings. It is also considered that people working at traditional brick kilns are more prone to have respiratory disorders as compared to advanced brick kilns. However, there is a dearth of information to support this claim. The current study is aimed to find out the prevalence of respiratory disorders among traditional as well as advanced brick kilns in India. The results of the study would enable policy makers and implementers to understand the burden of respiratory disorders among workers at traditional as well as advanced brick kilns.

### **3. A Case Study on Religious Festivals of Moirang Salai (Clan)**

Dr. N. Joykumar Singh, Head, Department of Manipuri, S. Kula Women's College, Nambol, Manipur

The state of Manipur can be defined as a land of festivities. All festivals in the state of Manipur are celebrated with abundant fervor and enthusiasm. The festivals of Manipur are a tribute to the rich culture and legacy of the state. If you spend a year in Manipur you will know that the land is not only known for its scenic beauty but also represents a number of festivals. In fact the festivals of Manipur epitomize their cultural, social and religious aspirations. The festivals of this state are profoundly rooted in the Hindu mythology and old cultural traditions. The festive celebrations not only make for unrestrained merriment but also reveal to the entire humanity the rudiments of a progressive social order within its conservative and time-honored framework. The multi-colored festivals of this state also remove the monotony of daily life by providing mental recreation, physical diversions and emotional outlet. When we remember the matter of Manipuri culture, it will be worthy to mention or remember Moirang which has its rich cultural heritage and an indomitable one in Manipuri culture. Actually, without the rich cultural heritage of Moirang, it is said that Manipuri culture can't be perfect or complete. Moirang was a princely state, having its own culture and tradition from time immemorial in the history of Manipur. Moirang Salai (Clan) is one of the seven salais which are the components of Manipuri people. This independent Moirang Salai merged into Meitei in the 15<sup>th</sup> century A.D. and then Manipur became a perfect and absolute country. Moirang which has a rich cultural heritage and folk culture has been giving a great deal of contribution to the Manipuri folk culture. They believe in Lord Thangjing to be the creator of the universe and so worship him. They also believe and consider themselves to be the offspring /descendents of Lord Thangjing. Because of this, throughout the year they perform different items in different forms of worshipping the god. In these different forms, worshipping the god, the community expresses their ideas, outlook, and meaning of existence, elements of rich culture and their life-style. Because of this, if we want to know the community well, we are required to know their different forms of worshipping the Lord Thangjing in different ways and occasions.

### **4. Education and Insecure Academic Atmosphere: The Experience of Conflict Manipur**

M. Surjit Singh\*Dr. Felix Wazdier,\*\* (\*Head, Deptt. of Education, SKWC, Manipur, \*\*Visiting Professor, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman)

This paper is attempted to examine the impact of inevitable pandemonium on contemporary educational train in Manipur in particular. It is generally presumed that, many parents have uncertainty for their wards to pursue education in the state. Often, disturbance on educational institutions, incessant conflict in between state and non-state actors, inter and intra ethnic conflicts and other social chaos cannot assure a peaceful academic atmosphere. Entire analysis is based on empirical method through available primary and secondary data.

### **5. Emergence of Political Parties in Manipur during the Pre-Independence Period**

Dr. Asem Punabati Devi, Post Doctoral Fellow, ICSSR, New Delhi, attached to the Department of Political Science, Manipur University

The emergence of political parties in Manipur took place against the backdrop of a socio-religious and political reform movement during the 1930's. Manipur had a long tradition of Monarchy since ancient times. As such, people's participation in the decision making process through democratic institutions and practices like political parties, elections, popular assemblies, etc. were not there. The people became aware of these institutions and practices mainly during the last two decades or so of the British rule in Manipur. The present paper is an attempt to trace the evolution of the political parties in Manipur during the pre-independence period. It deals with the emergence of the Nikhil Hindu Manipuri Mahasabha, Manipur Krishak Sanmelani, Nikhil Manipur Mahasabha, Manipur Praja Sanmelani, Manipur Praja Mandal, Krishak Sabha, Manipur Praja Sangha, Manipur State Congress, emergence of political parties in the hills like Kuki National Assembly, etc.

## **6. Health Care Issues and Domestic Violence: A Study on Women Living with HIV in Manipur**

Dr. W. Kunjarani Chanu\*, Dr. LM Meitei\*\* (Director, Women's Studies Centre, S. Kula Women's College, Nambol, Manipur and Project Director for Responsive Research Project, ICSSR, New Delhi; \*\*Research Associate)

The issue of HIV/AIDS surmounting in the state many NGOs and government agencies under the aegis of Manipur Aids Control Society with the support of NACO have been undertaking different strategies specially to prevent such dreaded disease in the state. Now, the issue of social exclusion facing by these vulnerable peoples particularly women and child have suffer a lot. On the other, the question of domestic violence against PLHA has also another issue despite numerous countless issues in Manipur. Most of the PLHA are from poor families except some persons so they cannot afford or draw attention for their health care while they have facing different issues like stigma and discrimination.

## **7. Impact of Corruption and Threat on Electoral Integrity: Shifting Paradigm of Electoral Trend in Conflict State**

Dr. L. Muhindro, Coordinator, Human Rights Studies Centre, S. Kula Women's College, Manipur, and Principal Investigator for Major Research Project, UGC, New Delhi

Free and fair elections may not be claimed in the real sense that one or either form that closely associated with corrupt practices demeans democracy. On the other hand corruption leaves no visible trace, no bloodstain, it is a crime shrouded in secrecy. This paper attempts to analyse corrupt practices and modus operandi of electioneering practices that largely affect on electoral integrity. The core concept of electoral integrity, which is understood here as shared *international principles*, values, and standards of democratic elections which apply universally to all countries and which should be reflected at all stages during the *electoral cycle*, including the pre-electoral period, the campaign, polling day and its aftermath. Indeed, analysis is based on quantitative and empirical methods through SPSS interpretation on the structural data collected from India's northeast. As both the counterparts giver and taker have involved and liable to punished, the possibility to prove genuinely is very doubtful. The state of democracy in India's northeast is clear example of flawed democracy where elections are totally in servitude. Electorates of this region cannot decide their franchise instead influenced by various factors.

## **8. Significance of Molasses in Customary and Ritual Ceremonies in Manipur (Special reference to Meitei Community)**

Dr. P. Dhaneshwari Devi, Post-Doct-Fellow, ICSSR New Delhi &, Asst. Professor in Social Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, Kha Manipur College, Kakching - 795103, Manipur

Molasses is very significant ingredients in ritual functions of different ethnic communities in Manipur. No one will deny that traditional culture of using food or making edible or usable products have its own significance whether it may be in terms of cultural or scientific value. Interestingly, molasses uses by peoples of Manipur in early days, in customary or ritual functions and in day to day life of every family. So far, none of us have serious for its significance in customary and ritual ceremonies. The present analysis is an attempt to study the relevance of molasses in our culture and its relevance in Manipur. Method of analysis is based on both qualitative and quantitative along with case studies from Thoubal District where molasses trading are done successfully. In the lifelong process of human beings, it is believed that life is full of risk in the sense that lots of inconvenient and unpredictable suffers (*Dasha*) are knocking at the door of every individuals.

## **9. Political Participation of Tangkhul Women in Manipur**

Dr. Khumukcham Tombisana Singh, Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, Assam University, Silchar Assam

This paper attempted to study political participation of Tangkhul women, it has been examined from two different angles- 1) their participation in the electoral politics of the state and 2) their involvement in the socio-economic and political issues affecting the interests of their people. Again, their participation in the electoral politics of the state has been examined at three different levels -1) at the level of local self governing body elections, 2) at the level of state assembly elections, and 3) at the level of Lok Sabha elections.