

## Message of the Issue



Dear Readers,

Abraham Lincoln famously stated, *"Democracy is a government of the people, by the people and for the people"* and that defined democracy for

generations that followed. There is no democracy without people, people are central to democracy. Governments are hence formed out of people's participation. What type of people's participation in

election will eventually determine the goodness or otherwise of the government so formed. As much as a good product is dependent on the raw materials, so is a good government formation dependent on the participation of enlightened people.

By its sheer size and volume, India is one of the largest democracies on earth. The objective of our founding fathers of the constitution was to ensure that power lies with the people - the power to elect good and capable leaders and also to overthrow when they become corrupt and unpopular. This is the beauty of democracy. But a pertinent question still persists; does power really rests with the people? The answer is a big fat "NO"; because, people seldom exercise their franchise consciously. India is a country divided by caste, creed, religion and region, to say the least. This division compounded by factors such as Poverty and malnourishment etc. overwhelms people's emotions, virtually disabling them to think consciously during election. In the process, the noble purpose of democracy to elect good leaders is defeated. The result is for all to see, non-functioning parliament, no sensible debates taking place, acts and laws are being passed without proper discussions, etc.

One thing people tend to forget in democracy is that we elect people who will in turn govern us. Hence, we receive what we are giving. The essence of democracy should be to

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elect people who are equivalent if not better than us because the elected representatives will eventually rule us. The tragedy in India is that it is the other way round.

Yet, there is a ray of hope. The emergence of Aam Admi Party (AAP) in Delhi and some neighbouring states have ignited the minds of the People. That people can elect popular government and also overthrow government by being conscious enough. This has been realized to a great extent. AAP has posed a great challenge to big national parties' in as far as educating people to positively participate during election are concerned. The BJP has woken up first to call of this changing dimension in Indian politics albeit some alleged hidden agenda. The bottom-line still remains - people's participation is central to good government formation. It is only when conscious people participate in democracy that we get a conscious government.



Nagaland, the 16<sup>th</sup> State of India with a meagre population of about only two million people, constituting 0.16% to the total population of the country does not lag far behind other states in as far as conscious voting is concerned. Nagas have embroiled themselves in their own 'ism' syndrome. Are we participating in election with consciousness? Are we exercising our adult franchise judiciously and consciously? If no, it is high time that we make it into an affirmative. People are the cornerstones on which democracy stands. When the cornerstones are weak, democracy is weak and the by-product (government) is also weak, but when the cornerstones are strong, democracy is vibrant and the by-product is also strong and effective. The great philosopher Plato stated, "One of the penalties of refusing to participate in politics is that you end-up being governed by your inferior". Are we in that state? If yes, who is responsible? You and me. Therefore, it is time that people especially the educated lot wake up from the slumber and consciously participate, and bring the best people to power so that we are governed by honest, and deserving leaders. In democracy, a person's first and foremost duty is to exercise his adult franchise consciously. Our active participation by way of consciously voting will keep democracy alive and robust.

**Ms. Holi J Ayemi,**  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Political Science



# Campus News

- The University organized a **Valedictory Programme** for the final semester outgoing students on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2018.



Photos: Mr. Sibum Chetia & others / Image Processing: Mr. Rupanka Bhuyan

- A **Seminar on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2013 and Violence Against Women and Children** was jointly organized by **State Resource Centre for Women Nagaland** and **ICFAI University Nagaland** on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2018.

- The University participated in an **Educational Fair** organized by **Youth Net** during May 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Dimapur.

- On the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2018, **Ms. Sentisangla**, a PhD scholar of the University had her **PhD Viva Presentation** and subsequently awarded her PhD degree. She is the first PhD scholar from the University to be awarded the doctoral degree.



- PhD scholars of the university had an interactive session with **Prof. Archana Baruah** from **IIT Guwahati** on May

25<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

- As part of their curriculum, faculty and students of **Library & Information Science Department** visited libraries in Kolkata during 5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- The **Alumni Association** of the university had a meeting of its members on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2018.



- A **Valedictory Program cum Felicitation Programme** was held for the students of the *Diploma in Tourism, Hospitality and Airline Management* programme on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2018 with **Mr. Alobo Naga**, renowned international musician was the Guest of Honor.



Photos: Mr. Sibu M Chetia & others / Image Processing: Mr. Rupanka Bhuyan

- Mrs. Wapangsenla Imchen, Dean (Academics) and Mr. Sumanta Mahapatra, Assistant Professor (Economics) along with four students attended the observation of '**International Yoga Day**' at the **Raj Bhavan, Kohima** on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2018.

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## *The War that was Fought in the Backyard*

Going through one of Easterine Kire's novel *Mari*, a tale of romance in times of war; a war called the "Battle of Kohima". It was a decisive battle that ended the Japanese invasion of India during World War 2, which was fought from the 4<sup>th</sup> of April to 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 1944 in Kohima. It also came to be called as the "The Battle of the Tennis Court" because it took place on the front lawns of the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow with the British and Japanese soldiers digging trenches at both ends of the tennis court.

*Mari* is the story about a young Naga girl by the name of Mari caught in the midst of the battle. Her family is dispersed as they are forced to leave their village home. Through the weeks of the battle, the young girl and her sisters move from one hiding place to another to escape the Japanese soldiers.

Due to shortage of food, they survived on herbs and fruits from the forest.

Throughout the difficult time, Mari as the protagonist of the novel longs for her fiance, a British Sergeant by the name of Victor who is in the midst of the battle and is shot dead by a sniper who was hiding behind the cherry blossom tree just a day before the Siege of Kohima is lifted.

When Mari and her sisters returned to Kohima, they found that the

village was completely destroyed by the artillery

shelling; eventually the

villagers are given timber and tin sheets as building material and from

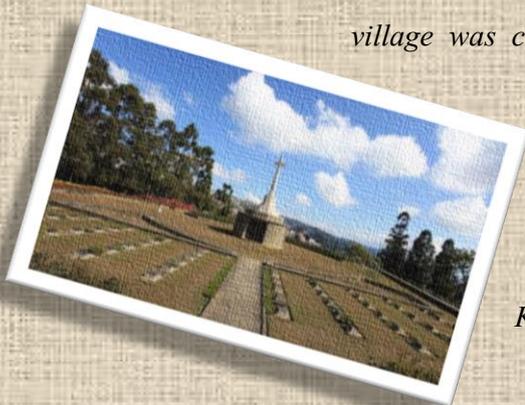
the remaining of the materials from their broken houses, they started rebuilding Kohima and life continues for Mari and the people of Kohima.

As Easterine Kire writes, the book "is not just Mari's story. It is the story of Kohima and its people".

Some soldiers were very young. Instead of books they were handed guns to defend their own homeland. The hardship that a mother must have undergone knowing that it might be the last time she might see her son, a father being strong, protecting his family; but we will never know the mental struggle that he has to undergo to do the best for his family; a wife holding her husband's hand not knowing if it will be the last time she will get to hold his hand, and a sister's prayer for her father's and brother's safety. This was the situation during the fierce battle of Kohima.

The Kohima War Cemetery was built in honour of the whose lives were lost during the battle. Towards the entrance, we will find an inscription which says "WHEN YOU GO HOME TELL THEM OF US AND SAY FOR YOUR TOMORROW WE GAVE OUR TODAY". And heading further towards the cemetery, we will find the "cherry blossom tree" where the Japanese sniper took position. The cherry blossom tree was destroyed.

soldiers



*Presently there is a new tree which is a shoot from the old stump. The cherry blossom tree is significant of how the Battle of Kohima brought destruction to the people and changed their lives, but now, the people are slowly forgetting their past and they are moving on with their lives looking forward to a better future, but the old stump symbolises the memory of the cruel battle that*

*We Nagas should be very proud of Nagas have always been honest and forget our roots. We should always and no matter what we achieve, we should be*

*exist to teach something to the present and the present will serve as a lesson for the future. The war might have caused destruction and chaos but looking at the brighter side, it has strengthened the people more mentally, physically, intellectually and culturally. We are now moving out from our comfort zone and embracing new ideas and exposing ourselves to the world but along with all the mixture, we should always carry out customs and traditions.*



*was fought in our backyard.*

*ourselves, of our bravery and gallantry. We disciplined in everything, and should never remember that we had a very humble beginning more humble in every walk of our life. The past*

**- Ms. Sentimenla Arong,  
MA (English) 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester**

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## *Spring has Sprung*

*The morning song sung by rustling leaves,  
Little sparrows prance in the attic.*



*The Sun kisses each cheek,  
as yellow flowers meet and greet.*

*The buzzing bees have not time to spare,  
Musky smell of petals fills the air*

*Branches are clothed by blossom sweet,  
Spring has sprung, its song has begun.*



*- Ms. Tokaholi Chishi  
MA English 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester*



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# Poetry! Poetry!

Poetry! Poetry!  
Either short or lengthy,  
Holds the answer to all my queries.



Poetry! Poetry!  
Giving me the wings swiftly  
Embraces all my thoughts gently  
In it, I find myself  
Through it, my passions ignite themselves.



—Ms. Z.Sasha Thejavino Shüya,  
BA 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

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# Photo-Synthesis



## “Evening Glory”

Photograph & Quote contributed by : Mr. Rupanka Bhuyan

About the photograph :

A beautiful sunset captured by the photographer during the summer of 2018 at Dimapur.

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