

Editorial

Imphal Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Sticking on UNC's issues will only benefit Congress

What was witness in the last fifteen years of Congress rule in the state is not an issue for the upcoming Manipur legislative Assembly election. Corruption, nepotism, human rights violations and of course the controversial Armed Forces Special Power Act, (AFSPA), 1958 seems like to be of no concern to the people. It is the economic blockade that is sweeping mind of the people who will hand over the power to govern the state for five years. UNC's prolonged economic blockade is the core issue of the upcoming assembly election.

People as well as political parties have now stopped discussing about the misgovernance, corruption or human rights violation, but everyone is driven to the issues encircling around UNC's economic blockade. Everyday discussion hours in local televisions are about the UNC's blockade. Congress party blames BJP and the BJP blames Congress for the UNC's unsettle problems.

Even the Manipur High Court had summoned top officials of the Law Enforcers over their inability to open the National Highway 2.

With media or public platform flooded by words of critique to the UNC's prolonged economic blockade, something that is coming up to the public spare is that the UNC's issue cannot be suppressed by force. This is known to both BJP and the Congress. But both the parties keep continuing to play their game siding the fact that the UNC's problem can be only solved through politically. It is an open secret that the agenda of the UNC is the Frame work agreement signed between the NSCN-IM and the India Government in August last year. Following the signing of the Framework agreement, the NSCN-IM collective leadership has been propagating the Naga dominated area of the state convincing the public about the creation of an administration where all Nagas as claimed by the NSCN-IM can be put under one administrative unit. District creation by the Manipur government is not the root of the UNC's economic blockade. But it is rather the disruption of the dream being built up by the NSCN-IM. Remember 9 days before the Government of Manipur had announced the 7 new revenue district, the UNC has already called total shut down along the National Highways for two days and later followed the economic blockade from midnight of October 31 last year. Talk about potential agitation demanding new district creations spread like wild fire, but there was no official indication of the Government preparing the announcement of the creation of the seven new district.

When NSCN-IM can still gain massive supports from certain sections of people, it is not right to underestimate the outfit. Even a layman knows that the issues of the UNC can only be settled through dialogue. Then why the center instead of initiating a dialogue throws the ball to the court of the state government. Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh who had rule the state for 15 years is more experience I handling issues of Manipur and the more the center blame he got more advantage. Before the economic blockade started, it was about the rampant corruption, mass appointment to the government department which has been major election agenda.

It is at this point that, we the voters of the state now need to understand why every political parties particularly the BJP and the Congress are sidelining all issues but playing game with the UNC blockade. A senior BJP leader while speaking to a public meeting had once said that announcement of the economic blockade will only brought catastrophe to the state. The statement was true but in electoral politics the UNC's agenda is not a factor that will get majority seat in the 60 assembly constituencies. National BJP leaders seems to have forgotten that appeasing the UNC will only mean only some seat in NSCN-IM control assembly constituencies which is not more than 5. When Congress Strongman Okram Ibobi Singh knows that to form government in the center there is nothing wrong in ignoring UNC issue. It cannot be denied that, Manipur's safety is priority for all and playing politics without understanding that no force across the globe can distort the boundary of Manipur. (Prof. N. Sanajaoba) A sincere appealed to other political party particularly the BJP other than the Congress party is than divert the issue, talk UNC through NSCN-IM and advice them to end the economic blockade and then start taking up issues of corruption, and the mass appointment of government employees in the government department. It is not that Imphal Times support BJP but Imphal Times suggest because handing of power to a single person for four terms will make no difference than a dictator. The beauty of democracy may lose its significance.

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National & International News

File details of vacancies in police services: SC to states

PTI
New Delhi, Jan. 24: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed Home Secretaries of all states to file affidavits giving details of vacancies in police services at all levels. A bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar observed that vacancy in police services was an "important issue" and asked all the states to file

the affidavits within four weeks. The bench, also comprising Justices N V Ramana and D Y Chandrachud, also said that if any of the states do not file the affidavit, it would "ensure the presence of Home Secretaries along with necessary records to assist the court in disposal of the matter". "In view of the importance of the

issue, we require Home Secretaries of all the state governments to file affidavits in this court depicting the necessary position. In order to ensure compliance of the order, we hereby direct respondent number one (Centre) to communicate the instant order to the Home Secretaries of all the state governments within one week," the bench said.

The apex court was hearing a petition which claimed that law and order situation in the country is deteriorating due to a large number of vacancies in police services at all levels across all states. The petitioner claimed before the bench that there were around 5.42 lakh vacancies in police services across the country.

People want Manohar Parrikar back in Goa, says state BJP chief

Panaji, Jan.24: A day after BJP president Amit Shah said the next Goa government would function under Manohar Parrikar's leadership, party's state chief Vinay Tendulkar today claimed that people want the Defence Minister to be brought back to Goa. He also said that the RSS is with BJP for the polls. Goa will go to polls on February 4 to elect the 40-member House. "Parrikar has good mass contact, that is why there is demand coming up from people that he should be brought back to Goa. But the decision on it would be taken by elected MLAs after the polls," Tendulkar told PTI in an interview today.

However, he refused to divulge on the party's strategy in this regard. "Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar has clarified that the MLAs will decide their leader. The decision will be taken after the election," he said. On Shah's statement yesterday about Parrikar, Tendulkar said, "Party president has said that even if he is not made CM, he will be controlling the affairs of Goa." "He (Shah) must have said it depending on the demands and expectations of the people. At present, Parrikar and Union ministers Shripad Naik and Nitin Gadkari are leading the party's campaign in Goa," he said. After Gadkari had recently fired up speculations about the Chief Ministerial candidate in poll-bound Goa, Shah yesterday said the next government in the state will "function under Parrikar's leadership, irrespective of his posting."

Asked about RSS's support,

Tendulkar said, "Sangh is always with swayamsevaks. They (swayamsevaks) never interfere in politics but their blessings are with us. RSS is with us for this election too," he said. Regarding the newly formed Goa Suraksha Manch led by rebel sangh leader Subhash Velingkar, he said, "He (Velingkar) had said that they will form the next government but now they are contesting only on four seats. I don't think they will be able to win on even one seat. There will not be damage to us. Cadres were with certain ideology. They are with us."

Tendulkar said BJP would be releasing its Goa manifesto on January 27, a day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting in the poll-bound state. "The experience of last five years is being used to draft the manifesto. Few things which are left incomplete would be repeated in this manifesto. We have fulfilled 90 per cent assurances given in the 2012 manifesto," he said. Mocking the Congress' manifesto which has assured to ban casinos, Tendulkar said they have promised sky to people as they (Congressmen) know they will not be coming to power. "Congress through its manifesto is giving false assurances. They were behind getting casinos to Goa. They were the father of illegal mining scam in the state," he alleged. "Those who don't want to come to power, they can keep on giving assurances. But in our case whatever is written in the manifesto, it would be completed," he stressed. The BJP leader said the party is getting good response during their

campaign. "Initially when we began the campaign we had targeted 26 seats. But while we are in the midst of the campaigning, we see that there is increasing support for the party candidates. Also, the opposition camp is not intact, which is helping us in the election," he said. The Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP), which had severed ties with BJP just before the formal notification of the election, will not have an impact on BJP, Tendulkar

said. "Our organisation is our strength. MGP chief (Dipak Dhavalikar) himself is contesting from Priol constituency. (Another leader) Sudin Dhavalikar might have impact but is only restricted to Madkai constituency. He alone cannot go around the state canvassing for his candidates," he said. "We have organisational strength. We have Mahila morcha, yuva morcha and other wings. MGP can't damage us," Tendulkar asserted.

2 militants killed in an encounter with security forces in Ganderbal

Agency
New Delhi, Jan. 24: Two militants were killed as an encounter broke out between them and the security forces in Khimber's Hadoora area of Ganderbal district in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday morning. The preliminary reports suggested there were two militants hiding in the area. However, news agency ANI reports that the operation is still under way. The area was cordoned off as the forces tried to flush out the hiding militants. Two AK 47 rifles have been recovered from the militants. Earlier on January 16, three terrorists were gunned down by security forces during an encounter operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam. Meanwhile, there were also reports of a foiled infiltration bid in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district of the state. According to news agency ANI, one infiltrator was neutralised by the security forces. There has reportedly been a rise in attacks on army establishments in Jammu and

Kashmir after the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen militant Burhan Wani and the subsequent protests. The situation along India-Pakistan international border and LoC also deteriorated during this period.

Cabinet approves IIM Bill 2017

Ahmedabad, Jan. 24: The Cabinet has approved the IIM Bill that grants a statutory powers to the prestigious Indian Institutes of Managements and enable them to give degrees. At present India has 19 IIMs. Among the major provisions of the draft Indian Institute of Management Bill, 2017, is one which grants powers to the IIM Board of Governors to get an inquiry conducted by a person not below the rank of a High Court judge against a Director in case it is felt that an institute has not performed as per the provisions of the proposed Act.

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Naga Peoples Front: Hit and Miss Report Card

NPF IN MANIPUR
On 01 April 2011, the formation of Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh units of NPF was officially declared and the Manipur Unit was formally opened by MP and then Nagaland Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio at Senapati on 28th May, 2011. Those who accompanied Neiphiu Rio in the said occasion include Dr. Shurhzoelie Leizietu, President of NPF (Chq); T.R. Zeliang, the incumbent Nagaland Chief Minister. Dr. Shurhzoelie, while speaking on the occasion exhorted the unification of Nagas as even after the prospects of bill becoming an act is ruled out exposes the intention of those sticking to protest. Outer Manipur Tribal Forum (OMTF) was a joint venture of the Joint Action Committee against Anti Tribal Bill (JACAATB) and UNC with H. Mangchinkhup of JACAATB and Gaidon Kamei of UNC as the respective Chief Convener and Convener formed to collectively stand against 'anti tribal bill'. Sensing something foul Kukis and Hmars have declared the severing of ties with JACAATB just ahead of observing the second anniversary of the Anti-ILP protest started in 31 August 2015. With it covered rift becomes overt. Many Kukis particularly Thadous had been very critical with the enthusiastic opportunism of the UNC which at one time had the impudence of serving 'Quit Notice' to the Kukis in Manipur Hills. In

fact, those communities who disapprove the movement being piloted by the UNC started dissociating from the JACAATB. The 13 January Longmai Noney attack of 2016 at Tamenglong District resulted to the killing of a civilian and injuring three others. The state police held the NSCN(IM) responsible for the attack. The UNC and later the NSCN(IM) refuted and counter alleged it to be the handiwork of State Police. The allegation seems remote as security arrangement in the area under attack had been in a collaborative effort with the central paramilitary forces. Amidst the refutations and counter allegations, the Vaiphei People's Council (VPC), Paite Tribe Council (PTC), and Mate Tribe Council (MTC) had on 16 January 2016 by withdrawing all their respective nominated members distanced from the JACAATB. Here, in my earlier writings titled, 'Rumours and Bloody September: Two Episodes', it was speculated that the number of NPF candidates fielded in Churachandpur District might increase at least to two. But following the development after the creation of 07 new districts and the 13 January Longmai Noney attack, it is now almost ruled out. As of now, NPF took the decision of fielding their candidate in 15 Assembly constituencies, probably all Scheduled Tribes reserved, for forthcoming MAE of 2017. In the last Manipur Autonomous District

NPF CANDIDATES FOR 10th MANIPUR ASSEMBLY ELECTION, 2012

Dist.	No. of Candidate	Assembly Constituency/ Name of Candidates fielded	Remarks
SPT	03	1. Karong /Dr. Alexander Pao	Elected
		2. Mao / L. Dikho Mao	Elected
		3. Tadubi / K. Raina	Second Third
TML	03	1. Tamei / Athuan Abnonmai	Third
		2. Tamenglong / Samual Jendai	Third
		3. Nungba / G. Gaingam	Third
UKL	03	1. Phungyar / Honreikhui Kashung	Second
		2. Ukhrul / Samuel Risom	Elected
		3. Chingai / Paul Muinao	Third
CDL	02	1. Chandel / S.T. Nunglung Victor	Elected
		2. Tenguoupal AC/ Kh. David Charanga	Second
CCP	01	1. Henglep AC/ Sehu Haokip	Third

Notes: Dist – District, SPT – Senapati, TML – Tamenglong, UKL – Ukhrul, CDL – Chandel, CCP – Churachandpur

Council Election of 2015, NPF achieved a modest success little above mediocre. So far, it remains their only silver lining in the otherwise uncertain outcome of the impending MAE. Despite, the considerable presence of Naga populace, the NPC will not be imprudent enough to field their candidates in the valley districts, as

they have in many trying times and circumstances, shown their resolve to remain fraternally co-existed in Manipur. If the past experience is of any indication, how far the NPF would not betray its motto, 'By Faith not By Arms' this time in its pursuit for coming election is a question worth pondering and could be anticipated through the opinion poll by this esteemed media.

Party	ADC ELECTION FINAL RESULTS 2015				
	UKL	Spt	TML	CCP	CDL T
INC	02	01	10	05	11
BJP	01	08	05	01	02
NPF	17	11	08	00	05
IND	04	04	01	18	06

Notes: UKL – Ukhrul, Spt – Senapati, TML – Tamenglong, CCP – Churachandpur, Cdl – Chandel, T – Total