

Editorial

Imphal, Saturday, April 23, 2016

Mr. President, treat us with no difference from other Indians

Welcome Mr. President. We expect your sincere concern for the people of this state whom are being treated as second class citizen in free India after the draconian Armed Forces Special Powers Act- 1958 (AFSPA) has been imposed in the region since early 1980s. It is a matter of records, that evidences and heinous incidents which were reported to your Hon'ble office had already shown how inhumane is the act which had slaughtered, forcible made disappeared and turned many youths to physically remain handicapped for the rest of their life.

The story does not end with the kind of inhuman excess committed under the draconian legislation, but it is also worth remembering that because of the killing and atrocities many women are left to live life of a widow and many children are left as orphan.

The society has been greatly affected after AFSPA came into force in the state and your honourable office have every details of the crime being underway under the shadow of this dreaded inhuman and barbaric legislation which empower security force to act on mere suspicion. It will be perhaps waste of time to once more remind you how the act has been used by some vested interested individuals in the security force as a tool to eliminate any person on their will. There are many instances of the kind, but one thing worth drawing your attention is the killing of 11 person including women and a bravery award winner child at Malom Keithel in Bishnupur district back in 2000. It was after the incident that a Manipuri lady from Chanu Sharimila has been undergoing a fast unto death protest for repeal of the act. Mr. President, in this 21st century when India dreams to become one of the most powerful nation in the world, when India aims to take a leadership role in the world politics, it is time that your Excellency ponders upon on whether it is right to impose a draconian act to rule a group of people which anatomical look is completely different from the rest of the country. By imposing AFSPA India now have two classes of citizens - one citizen with complete freedom and the other citizen who were deprived of living a free life. Your Excellency, it is also worth mentioning that, the so called AFSPA that we in the Imphal Times is bringing to your notice is accepted by even our former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as an "inhumane Act". P. Chindambaram the then Home Minister during UPA government had also stated that AFSPA should be repealed. And besides all these the present Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi has in his heart throbbing speech delivered at Madison Square Garden in New York had promised that his government will scrap an outdated law. AFSPA is no doubt an outdated law Mr. President. It was used by the British Colonial regime to suppress the Indian Freedom struggle. The contents of the ordinance, now legislation is suppressive, inhuman and unbearable. If our great country India is targeting and aiming to become the one time Britain of 18th Century and consider Manipur as a colony that imposition of AFSPA is all right. Then the true picture will be known by not only the people of Manipur but also by all the people across the globe. If army is the cause for the government's reluctant to repeal the draconian outdated act, then why discrimination by only imposing it in certain part of the country. The world knows the kind of violent activism in the naxal hit areas of Northern and Southern India. Why AFSPA is not imposed in such state? It is on record that a Central government Minister had once stated that AFSPA cannot be imposed in Northern and Southern Naxal hit area as we cannot kill our own people. Your Excellency if the government knows that AFSPA is to kill people who impose here in Manipur and at few other state. Is the hidden agenda of the India government to kill all the people of certain state utilizing AFSPA as a tool? Last, but not the least, your visit will be treated or in other words "consider" as a blessing of Manipur if your Excellency thinks of something to treat all the people equally with the rest of the people in India by repealing the draconian Act AFSPA. As your main purpose of visit is to honour the brave soul of the state which had fought the British until their death, it is perhaps the need of the hour that you have some soft corner for the people of this erstwhile kingdom, merged and become part of India in 1949.

Crude bomb defused in Varanasi court

ANI
Varanasi, April 23: Panic was created inside a Varanasi court when a crude bomb was found on Saturday morning. The bomb squad, however, defused the bomb and there was no loss of life and property. It is reported that the bomb was found at gate number two of the court. The police and the bomb squad had reached the spot as soon as they got information. The court premise has been evacuated and is being searched by the police.

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National and International News

18 people confirmed dead in Tawang landslide

ANI
Tawang (AP) April 23: At least 18 people have been confirmed dead till now in various regions of Arunchal Pradesh's Tawang District, where a landslide triggered by incessant rains in Fama village of Arunchal Pradesh. Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju has taken the stock of the situation and met the families of the victims. He is expected to undertake an aerial survey of the region. The Tawang

district administration shall be submitting a report soon to state government and the Centre. The deceased are reported to be labourers from nearby states who were working at a construction site of a five star hotel. More rain-triggered landslides are also being reported from different part of Tawang, damaged electric poles and disrupted power supply. Chief Minister Kalikho Pul has asked Tawang Deputy Commissioner for a detailed report on the landslides.



Trump mocks Indian call center, but says India a great nation

PTI
Washington, April 23: Republican presidential front runner Donald Trump has used fake Indian accent to mock a call center representative in India. At the same time, he described India as a great place, asserting that he is not angry with Indian leaders. The billionaire from New York said that he called up his credit card company to find out whether their customer support is based in the US or overseas. "Guess what, you're talking to a person from India. How the hell does that work?" he told his supporters in Delaware. "So I called up, under the guise I'm checking on my card, I said, 'Where are you from?'" Trump said and then he copied the response from

the call center in a fake Indian accent. "We are from India," Trump impersonated the response. "Oh great, that's wonderful," he said as he pretended to hang up the phone. "India is great place. I am not upset with our leaders. I am upset with our leaders for being so stupid," he said. "I am not angry with China. I am not angry at Japan. I am not angry with Vietnam, India...all these countries." Trump mentioned the fake call to India during his remarks on what he described as "crooked banking." Delaware, is a hub for the America's banking and credit- card industry. Topping the list include Bank of America, Citibank Delaware, M&T Bank and PNC Financial Services

Group. "They are making a lot of money," he said. "You can't allow policies that allows China, Mexico, Japan, Vietnam, India. You can't allow policies that allows business to be ripped out of the United States like candy from a baby," Trump said in his address. "The manufacturing jobs are being stolen. Our jobs are being taken. We are losing at every front. There is nothing good. Our country does not win anymore. The jobs are being stripped. Factories are closing. We are not going to let this happen anymore," he said. Trump said he has as many as 378 companies registered in Delaware, where the Republican presidential primaries is scheduled on April 26 along with several other states.

He is leading in polls against his other primary rivals. In his speech, Trump praised Delaware's status as a tax shelter and slammed President Barack Obama for not using the term "radical Islamists" in the fight against terrorism. "I want to run against crooked Hillary," he said, reiterating that a Trump vs Clinton race would bring the greatest turn out in the history of the American elections. "We will stomp on Hillary Clinton no one's ever done." He was also critical of Indian-American South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, who did not endorse him during the primary. Delaware has 16 delegates. Trump has 845 delegates, followed by Ted Cruz (559) and John Kasich (148).

President's rule is back in Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand, April 23: The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the centre got a breather on Friday after the Supreme Court brought back President's rule in Uttarakhand by staying a state high court order delivered a day earlier. The high court had on Thursday set aside the presidential proclamation in the state and reinstated the Harish Rawat-led Congress government. It also ordered a floor test on 29 April enabling the government to demonstrate a majority. "It is directed that the judgement of the high court remains in abeyance till 27 April 2016...the Union of India shall not take any action to revoke presidential proclamation till the next date of hearing," the apex court's order said. Attorney general Mukul Rohatgi assured the court that no action will be taken to revoke President's rule in the state to allow formation of a new government.

The bench comprising justices Dipak Misra and Shiva Kirti Singh also directed the high court to make its order available to all parties by 26 April. The Supreme Court's order prolongs the political uncertainty in the state, which was thrown into a crisis after a rebellion by nine Congress MLAs emboldened the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to approach governor Krishan Kant Paul and stake its claim to forming a government. Earlier on Friday, the central government moved the apex court against Thursday's Uttarakhand high court order quashing President's rule. The nine disqualified MLAs have also moved the Supreme Court. Rohatgi and Harish Salve, among a battery of lawyers representing the centre, told the Supreme Court that the high court judgement reinstating the government could not be acted upon in the absence of a copy of the ruling.

Youth charged with abduction and rape of Dalit girl surrenders in Muktsar

PTI
Chandigarh, April 23: Nearly a month after a Dalit woman was dragged, abducted and allegedly raped in Muktsar district of Punjab, the accused youth surrendered before a court in the district. The accused was caught abducting the woman on a CCTV camera installed in a nearby shop in Malout in Muktsar. Muktsar's SSP Gurpreet Singh Gill said on Saturday that the accused youth surrendered before a court in Muktsar and has been remanded to police custody for three days. The woman, a Dalit, was dragged by the youth from a computer centre in Malout in Muktsar. The CCTV footage showed the accused forcibly dragging the woman, said to be in her early 20s, out of her office in broad daylight on March 25. The woman is seen struggling to break free from her

alleged abductor, identified as Gurinder, aged around 25. After abducting her, the accused took her to Tapa Khera village in Muktsar district and allegedly raped her. The SSP said that about five days after the incident, the woman had got an FIR registered in the case after which the police were on a lookout for the accused. A case had been registered against the accused under various provisions of the law including for abduction and rape against the accused, he said. Both the accused, who is into farming, and the victim hail from same village in Muktsar district. "He surrendered before a court at Muktsar yesterday and subsequently we took him on remand," Gill told reporters over phone on Saturday. Gill said the car in which the accused had abducted the victim was yet to be recovered.

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Bau Singh gi oina leiri: (Bau Singh's oina is still to come)

Everything in the venue was well decorated and properly well set and illuminated as the bout was held in the night time. There were massive outbursts of cheers and non-stop applause when Babu Singh emerged in the Boxing ring. People also looked with awe when Babu Singh's opponent, Ashok Ganguly appeared in the ring. He was slightly taller than Babu Singh. The match was refereed by Captain Harnet, NCC Commander, Manipur and Formerly ADC of Nizam of Hyderabad, Just at the start of the Bout, Ganguly landed him a couple of hard hitting punches. Spectators just simply could not remain seated. They rise up at seeing Babu remaining ineffectual. They shout to cheer and encourage Babu Singh to land Ganguly his fatal left hand blows. They keep seeing hoping that Babu Singh will knock out Ganguly once he unleashes his flurry of left hand shots. They waited till the last and round to see his left hand shot. But without seeing any, Ganguly convincingly defeated him. He was immediately taken at a stretcher to the then District Hospital situated on the north just at a stone's throw distance from Imphal polo Ground. It left the spectators disheartened with disbelief. Many attributed

Babu's Singh defeat to the numbness and evil spell casted on him using black magic by the Bengal Boxer. But to Babu Singh's modesty, he admits that they are no match to those who are properly trained availing all the required infrastructural facilities. Though Babu Singh was defeated in the first Bout, people waited as there were still two more other Bouters. In the second bout Thokchom Nabakumar from Keishampat Thokchom Leikai ascended the ring to fight with Ajit Banerjee of Bengal. He was knocked out in the first round. The third and final bout was the turn of Yumnam Tombi of Khagempalli, Imphal to fight with Jambu @ Mohammad Prabhakar. But he didn't turn up. So, Indramani persuaded Kunjaraj to take Tombi's place. It took Kunjaraj by surprise. But he accepted, thinking it to be the opportunity of showcasing the indomitable spirit and bravery of the Meiteis. In the second round, Kunjaraj could not do much as he was dominated by Mohd. Prabhakar. Kunjaraj could not connect Prabhakar with his punches. Fatigued and left with no option, as his last frantic effort, he

grabbed Prabhakar and floored him down by means of one of the throw technique from the Manipuri traditional wrestling. The referee awarded penalty for his foul play and Kunjaraj eventually surrendered sensing the futility of his effort. Though defeated, the crowd cheered him shouting: "aduni! Tougadabani! Nupa haibadui aduni! Loujakhisanu! Makhoina ngamba sakchakhisanu! Eikhoidi Pelley!", stating that they are satisfied with his performance. Though local Boxers suffered defeat in all the three bouts, the proverbial 'Bau Singh gi Oina Leiri' was born that day and it is still very much in use. Babu Singh as police personnel served at various places of Manipur till his retirement as Sub Inspector. After marriage, he was blessed with two daughter and two son. Babu Singh passed away on Friday, 10 September 1999, but the proverbial 'Bau Singh gi Oina' which he gifted is very much alive and still in usage. (Translated from Saratchand Thiyam, Warinouraba Babu Singh Oina, in ed., Saratchand Thiyam, *Manipur Amasang Aiei Wareng Khara*, tr. Manipur and Other Essays, Sahitya Thoupang Lup, Manipur, 2008.)