

Editorial

Imphal Saturday, December 24, 2016

Conveniently demented or plain ignorant?

Who is Kiren Rijiju, the Union Minister of State (Home) trying to fool - himself or the people of Manipur when he declared that the central government has no knowledge of NSCN-IM's presence in Manipur? Or is it that he is just plainly so ignorant of the facts and developments in the north eastern part of India even though he also belongs to the same region and his home state is more or less being affected by the same group whose issue he is so conveniently trying to dodge? Or is it possible that he is being instructed by his 'handlers' to maintain the same air of indifference when it comes to anything to do with the proscribed outfit or its activities in the state given the 'special' treatment and lavish assurances which only a select few at the centre knows the details of? Is he really too naïve to understand the simple fact that by mollycoddling the armed outfit, he or his party is in fact vitiating the already sensitive and tense social atmosphere in the state? Does he really believe that deploying armed security forces along the national highways and ensuring safe passage of vehicles is the panacea to the protracted problem? Why does it appear so impossibly difficult for the central government to realize that the real solution lies not in fighting fire with fire, but by dousing out the flame altogether.

It is not without any reason that the people not only in the state of Manipur but the entirety of the whole North east region are feeling slighted and neglected. The people in the NE region have been subjected to ad-hoc methods of redressing social, economic and political issues for far too long. Despite the oft repeated assurances and plethora of developmental projects being promised, what is sorely visible is a lack of earnestness in trying to find an enduring solution to the volatile and constantly simmering social issues which are still threatening to engulf the NE region into chaos and anarchy.

The state government, on the other hand is apparently playing it safe and diverting even the most trivial of matters long enough to gather momentum and develop into a burning issue. The wait and watch policy which has become the hallmark of the present government has managed to rake up all sorts of agitations and uncalled for unrests.

While it would be unfair to expect the state government to address each and every issue to the satisfaction of everyone, it is expected to tackle issues with foresight and transparency. An honest attempt would be preferred over empty promises anytime.

Former Pak president Zardari back from 18-month long self-imposed exile; vows freedom for Kashmir

Karachi, Dec. 24: Pakistan's former president Asif Ali Zardari and chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Asif Ali Zardari, returned to his country from Dubai in a private jet on Friday, ending his self-imposed exile after 18 months.

Addressing his supporters outside Karachi airport shortly after his arrival, Zardari said that he will continue his fight to make 'Kashmir a part of Pakistan'.

The former president said that Pakistani flag has become the 'symbol of freedom for Kashmiris'. 'Kashmir will become part of Pakistan,' he said, adding that 'Pakistan is a nation that has overcome all challenges and that it is not a country of terrorists'.

Assuring his supporters that PPP will be in power again, he said, "It does not matter who is in power today. It matters who will lead us tomorrow. I want to send a message to all political actors in this country."

He occasionally leave the country, but he will always be buried in its soil."

He also said that is a sense of despair in Pakistan.

"However, I want to tell you that I have brought hope and not despair with me. I assure you that my programme will give Pakistanis new hope. Pakistan is secure with the efforts of the masses and the armed forces and will never face failure," he said.

Slamming his opponents, the former president went on to add that his party will once again rule the country and establish itself in the Parliament. He also expressed pleasure over the thriving democracy and democratic culture in the country.

"We will keep moving forward with the spirit of democracy and as only democracy has the solution for Pakistan's problems," he said.

The PPP leader had left the country in June last year following a hard-hitting speech that criticised the establishment for over-stepping its domain, thereby offending it. Since then, he divided his time between Dubai and London.

11 Questions to the NSCN-IM & the Government of India (GOI)

By: (MC MEETEI)
Coordinator
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Manipur has been facing severe political unrest since its annexation to India in 1949 vis-à-vis the NSCN-IM's ceaseless subversive attempts to disintegrate Manipur since its birth on 30 April 1988 for the emancipation of a pan-Naga state. The peace talk between the NSCN-IM and the Government of India (GOI) has rendered even more fear for the disruption of the Manipur's territorial boundary. The Manipur International Youth Centre (MIYC) recognizes the NSCN-IM as an armed opposition group struggling for a sovereign Nagaland and not for taking up arms just to break up Manipur's physical and political boundary. The GOI's attitude towards Manipur while resolving the Indo-Naga Conflict is suspicious of the possible use of the Article 3(c) of the Constitution of India against Manipur if necessary just to wipe out Naga's political struggle forever. Historically speaking, both the NSCN-IM and GOI cannot touch even a square inch of Manipur. If the GOI violates the present territorial boundary of Manipur for the sake of resolving the Indo-Naga Conflict or to appease the NSCN-IM, it will be like opening the Pandora's Box that will eventually lead to a never before seen massive Manipur Peoples' Struggle to secede away from India. These political uncertainty has prompted the MIYC to table these 11 (Eleven) Questions before the NSCN-IM and GOI to let them know the historical and the political nature of the ancient Asiatic Power, Manipur. The MIYC prays a peaceful solution to the Indo-Naga Conflict with the Framework agreement not touching even a square inch of Manipur.

11 Questions to the NSCN-IM & the Government of India (GOI)

1. Manipur, with 2 millennia old documented history is an ancient Asiatic Power ruled successively by 76 kings since 33AD. The frontiers of Manipur extended upto the confluence of the Chindwin and the Irrawady River of the present Myanmar (Burma) and even upto the banks of the Brahmaputra River in Assam. The forest between Doyeng and Dhumsiri formed the boundary between Manipur and Assam. There was no Nagaland at that time. The sovereign power of Manipur entered into its first international treaty, the "Anglo-Manipuri Treaty, 1762", that affirmed the boundary of Manipur. Can the NSCN-IM produce any of its so-called Naga unique history to negate the erstwhile Manipur's territorial expansion and deny the existence of the Manipur's 2 millennia old documented history? Did India have any international treaty making power in 1762?
2. Nagaland is an Indian state recently carved out of Assam in 1963. Manipur became a democratic republic in 1948, much ahead of India. India annexed Manipur on 15 October 1949 as a whole and not part by part. Can both the NSCN-IM and the GOI say that the annexation of Manipur by India was not in clear violation of the Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter, of which India is a signatory member?
3. Can the GOI say that the territorial area of Manipur did not shrink/recede after India's annexation of Manipur by completely transferring Manipur's Kabaw Valley to Burma in 1953 by Nehru without consulting any leader of Manipur? Can the NSCN-IM produce any historical documents to prove that the Kabaw Valley was also Naga's ancestral domain?

4. The Henry Yule Map of 1500AD clearly shows Manipur's territorial expansion bordering Tripura, Assam, Cachar, Pong Nora and Ava and the non-existence of Nagaland. Do the NSCN-IM and GOI produce any such map to locate Naga inhabited area at that time or India's occupation of Manipur at that time?
5. If India supports NSCN-IM's hidden agenda of a pan-Naga state including some areas of Burma; forget about alleged areas of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur, can India declare war on Burma and capture the Burmese territory for the formation of the pan-Naga state to appease the NSCN-IM?
6. If the Nagas do have the so called their unique history, can both the NSCN-IM and the GOI produce any factum and fact history that reveals at least 10 successive Naga Kings or Emperors that ruled their so called Naga's ancestral land?
7. Bangkok Declaration, 2001 turned the Kekraput into a graveyard. Please tell if the Framework Agreement of the NSCN-IM and the GOI, 2015 has any subversive plan to create another graveyard in Manipur?
8. Can the GOI give any concrete reason why the Central/Union government cannot lift the 2-months' long economic blockade imposed by one of the NSCN-IM's frontal organization along the National Highways passing through Manipur? The GOI overlooks the criminality of the economic blockade imposed by the UNC but asks for the release of the arrested UNC members. Is there any India's game plan to create a communal clash in Manipur? Does the same Indian law have different implications on different individuals, CSOs or the like?
9. If India threatens the present

territorial boundary of Manipur existing within the West South East Asian Region, shall both the NSCN-IM and the GOI be able to prevent the regaining of the lost sovereignty of Manipur if any sovereign member of the United Nations petitions the International Court of Justice against the illegal Indian occupation of Manipur in 1949 or any Veto Power Country vetoes the UN Security Council for Manipur's Independence from India?

Does the Naga's unique history have such strong historical and political foundation?

10. Can India violate the territorial integrity of Manipur under the UTI Possidetis Juris Rule; forget about NSCN-IM' dream for the balkanization of Manipur? The NSCN-IM people can give the answer if they please.

11. Why did the GOI put on trial the culprits of the Parliament Attack and the Mumbai Terror Attack and not the culprits who committed massive genocide of innocent Kukis in the 1990s? Does the Indian criminal Law grant impunity to those who committed the said genocide? In the end, the MIYC firmly believes that the GOI cannot bring permanent peace and security in India's troubled North East Region by resolving only the Indo-Naga Conflict. The GOI has to look out for some other practical options. Here, we at the Manipur International Youth Centre (MIYC) appeal the GOI under the leadership of Mr. Narendra Modi to declare unilateral ceasefire for a period of six months or one year to all the armed opposition groups in north east India more particularly Manipur to initiate an amicable peace process to bring permanent peace and security in the region.

National & International News

Kejriwal gets bail in false affidavit case

PTI New Delhi, Dec 24: A Delhi court today granted bail to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a case of allegedly giving false information in an affidavit filed in the run up to 2013 Assembly polls. Metropolitan Magistrate Ashish Gupta granted the relief to Kejriwal, who appeared in court in pursuance to its direction, on a personal bond of Rs 10,000 and posted the matter for next hearing on April 7, 2017.

The court had on August 31 exempted the CM from appearance for one day while directing him to personally appear before it today, considering that bail proceedings were pending.

Kejriwal was allowed exemption by the court on the ground that he could not appear due to "exigencies of work and some important meetings and discharge of his duties".

The court had summoned Kejriwal in February this year on a criminal complaint filed by Neeraj Saxena and Anuj Agarwal on behalf of the NGO, noting that the politician had prima facie "willfully concealed" and "suppressed" his details in 2013 elections.

It had noted that there was "sufficient ground" to proceed against him on allegations that he had concealed his correct address

and suppressed the market value of his property in his affidavit to the Election Commission.

Earlier, the NGO had approached Delhi High Court with a plea seeking quashing of Kejriwal's nomination papers on the ground of "illegalities" in his affidavit.

High Court had refused to entertain the plea and directed the petitioners to approach a magisterial court for remedy.

The NGO in its petition before the high court had alleged that Kejriwal had violated provisions of the Representation of the People Act by submitting an affidavit which had incorrect details of his assets and income at the time of filing of

the nomination.

The offence under section 125-A of the Act entails a punishment of six months jail term and/or fine or both.

The complaint was filed under several sections of RP Act and IPC for the alleged offences committed by him before holding the office of the Chief Minister of Delhi.

The complaint alleged that Kejriwal falsely gave his Delhi address so as to qualify for contesting polls in the capital though he was living at Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh.

This prima facie amounted to willful concealment, suppression and furnishing of false information, it was claimed.

charge of "crores of rupees" allegedly being paid to Modi by business houses on different occasions when he was Gujarat Chief Minister and has sought the PM's reply to the charges.

Rahul trying to weaken fight against black money: BJP

PTI Mumbai, Dec 24: Slamming Rahul Gandhi for levelling allegations of corruption against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP today said the Congress Vice President is engaging in "baseless and uncalled for rhetoric" only to weaken the fight against black money.

"The nation today is going ahead in its fight against black money due to the initiatives taken by PM Modi. He has already made India Congress-mukt (free of Congress) and now wants to make the nation corruption free as well," BJP MP Shahnawaz Hussain said.

The senior leader was talking to reporters here after inaugurating a 'chowk' in the name of legendary singer Mohammed Rafi in suburban Bandra.

"He (Gandhi) is engaging in baseless, uncalled for rhetoric on allegations only to weaken the fight against black money and corruption. But he will not succeed in doing so," he said.

Responding to a query on Maharashtra government splurging around Rs 3,600 crore on a memorial for Chhatrapati Shivaji at a time when

the state is reeling under severe debt, Hussain said that for a towering figure like the Maratha warrior, who is revered across the nation, politics should not be played on the money being spent on the memorial.

"Our government has only fulfilled the long standing wish of the people. The whole nation is proud of Shivaji Maharaj and he is loved across the world. There are various benefits of constructing the memorial like increase of tourism, etc" Hussain said.

He further said that the construction of a memorial is an achievement for the whole nation.

Escalating his attack on Modi over note ban in the last couple of days, Rahul had said that demonetisation was not a surgical strike on corruption and black money as projected by the prime minister and his ministers but was an "economic robbery" and "firebombing on India's poor".

The Congress Vice President says the Prime Minister has put "99 per cent people" in the country to hardships and not targeted the "1 per cent super rich" who "held all

the black money".

According to him, five per cent of every online transactions in a cashless economy will go to "those 50 families".

He has also been reiterating his

charge of "crores of rupees" allegedly being paid to Modi by business houses on different occasions when he was Gujarat Chief Minister and has sought the PM's reply to the charges.

President gives nod to add Puducherry's Irular community in the Scheduled Tribes list

New Delhi, Dec. 24: The Narendra Modi government has corrected a historic anomaly by recognising three communities of Puducherry as Scheduled Tribes. The President has given his assent to declaration of Irular community (including Villi and Vettaikaran) in the Scheduled Tribes list.

With this decision, Puducherry has got its first Scheduled Tribes. The three communities had got the first approval from Registrar General of India and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes in May and then in November.


"The President has given his

assent on Thursday. With this, we have corrected an anomaly as the same community enjoyed ST status in TN," a senior official told ET.

Puducherry had sent a proposal for declaration of five communities as ST, including Irular (including Villi and Vettaikaran), Katunayakan, Malalukuravan, Yerukkula and Kuruman 14 years back.

However, there has been a lot of discussion between the Centre and other agencies. The other four communities are still awaiting the necessary approvals.

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