

Editorial

Imphal, Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Okram Ibobi should ask center to stop playing with the sentiments of the people

.... and now the final settlement between the government of India and the National Socialists' council of Nagaland (NSCN) led by Th. Muivah and Issac Chi Swe is finally at the door. India government earnest effort to solve the problem of 'the rebel group', which they consider to be the mother of all insurgency movement in the state has compelled the mainland administrators to finally fulfill some of the demands which will not hurt the interest of the Indian nation.

After engaging in several rounds of talk for over a decade the Indian Government had finally succeeded to divert the conflict between the country and the NSCN-IM to a conflict between the state governments of each North East Indian state with the rebel group. Now the ball has been successfully thrown to the court of Chief Ministers of Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

The declaration of the cease fire with the NSCN-IM on July 25, 1997 at the floor of Lok Sabha by the then Prime Minister of India, late Inder Kumar Gujral had already sparked tension among the various communities of the North East India, compelling some of the civil society organizations of the state to take up awareness campaign about the 'would be' affects of the cease fire agreement. Four years later, after the declaration of the ceasefire, the extension of the cease fire 'without territorial limits' on June 14, 2001, at Bangkok, which was later popularly known as 'Bangkok declaration', the simmering tension of the various communities of the state reached to catastrophe. Manipur was nearly turn to ash with almost 60 percent of the people of Imphal coming out to the street of Imphal and pouring their anger to the government set up of the state. Almost all offices of political parties, official quarters of MLAs, Ministers etc were set ablaze by the angry mob. Even the temple of democracy - the assembly secretariat was not spared. It was during this famous uprising in the history of Manipur that a complete change to the peoples' mandate during the general assembly election was brought.

Later, the political consciousness of the people had elected some of the persons whom the people believed that they would protect the people and the land of this erstwhile kingdom. Perhaps, it was this strong 'political will' to safeguard the territorial integrity of this state that Okram Ibobi Singh was re-elected as the chief minister of Manipur for the three consecutive terms.

Now, the final scene is yet to arrive. Manipur once more burnt or not now remain in the hand of the game planners sitting at Delhi. They had tested by sending CMs of Nagaland and Mizoram to see the respond of the NSCN-IM supporters. Now it is Okram Ibobi Singh's turn, some strong words need to be sent to the leaders who are playing with the sentiments of the people. If NSCN-IM can play blockade politics in National Highways, why not Manipur demands its original status of pre 1949.

BJP, AGP separate meetings in Guwahati today

ANI
Guwahati, Feb. 16: Ahead of Assembly elections in Assam, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Asom Gana Parishad will hold crucial meetings separately in Guwahati today, bearing importance in the wake of a probable alliance. According to reports, a few district committees of both the parties have already raised objection on the probable alliance. Meanwhile, Congress has already announced that they will fight alone in the 126 assembly seats and the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) announced to fight in 60 seats.

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National & International News

Former DU lecturer arrested in sedition case

PTI
New Delhi, Feb 16: Former Delhi University lecturer SAR Geelani was arrested on Tuesday on sedition and other charges in connection with an event here in which anti-India slogans were raised, police said. "Geelani was arrested around 3 AM at the Parliament Street police station under IPC sections 124A (sedition), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 149 (unlawful assembly)," DCP (New Delhi) Jatun Narwal said. Geelani was called to the police

station last night where he was detained and questioned for several hours, and later arrested. After his arrest, he was taken to RML Hospital for a medical examination, he said. His arrest comes amid the raging row over the arrest of JNU students' union president Kanhaiya Kumar over sedition charges in connection with an event on February 9 against the hanging of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru. At a Press Club event on February 10, in which Geelani was present on the dais along with three other

speakers, a group allegedly had shouted slogans hailing Afzal Guru. Taking suo motu cognisance of the matter, the police registered a case against Geelani and other unnamed persons on February 12. Police had claimed that Geelani was booked as he is presumed to be the "main organiser" of the event. "Request for booking a hall at the Press Club was done through Geelani's e-mail and the nature of the event was proposed to be a public meeting, which did not turn out to be so," a senior official had said.

Following the registration of the FIR, the police questioned for two consecutive days DU professor Ali Javed, a Press Club member, under whose membership number the hall for the event was booked. In 2001, Geelani was arrested by Delhi Police in connection with the Parliament attack case but acquitted for "need of evidence" by the Delhi High Court in October 2003, a decision upheld by the Supreme Court in August 2005, which at the same time had observed that the needle of suspicion pointed towards him.

Atleast 50 civilians killed in Syria by airstrikes on hospitals, schools

ANI
Washington D.C, Feb. 16: Nearly 50 civilians has been killed in missile strikes on hospitals and two schools in northern Syria on Monday, the United Nations said, deepening the country's humanitarian crisis despite plans for a temporary cease-fire later this week. The hospital airstrikes came a day after US President Barack Obama

urged Moscow to halt its bombing campaign, illustrating the lack of leverage western powers have over peace negotiations aimed at ending a war that has killed nearly a third of a million people, reports Washington Post. Bashar al-Assad, the Syrian President, made a televised address on Monday saying that any ceasefire did not mean each side had

to stop using weapons. Doctors without borders said that at least seven people were killed on early Monday when rockets hit a clinic that it supports in Idlib province. The group also said eight people were missing in what it called a 'deliberate attack' on its facilities. The attacks highlighted the fragility of a deal agreed last week

in Munich for a 'cessation of hostilities' and the impact on civilians of an unrelenting air war led by the Kremlin that has helped consolidate Assad's position and exacerbated the misery of the five-year conflict. In total, at least five medical facilities and two schools in Idlib and neighboring Aleppo province were attacked Monday.

Andhra CM hands over Rs. 25 lakh cheque to Siachen braveheart's kin

ANI
Hyderabad, Feb. 16: Andhra Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday handed over a compensation cheque of Rs. 25 lakhs to the family of Sepoy Mustaq Ahmed, who was one of the ten soldiers to have died in an avalanche that hit the Indian Army's Siachen base. The decision in this regard was taken yesterday at a Cabinet meeting, which was chaired by Naidu. The Cabinet also decided that a member of Ahmed's family will be given a government job. Earlier in the day, rich tributes were paid to Sepoy Mustaq Ahmed when his mortal remains arrived at the Begumpet airport in Hyderabad from New Delhi.

PM chairs all party meeting on smooth conduct of Parliament

AIR
New Delhi, Feb. 16: The government today said it is willing to walk extra mile and take up discussion on each and every issue in the coming Budget session of Parliament. Speaking to reporters in New Delhi after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with leaders of all major parties, Parliamentary affairs minister M Venkaiah Naidu said Prime minister sought cooperation from all parties for important legislation passed. Mr Naidu said all leaders were unanimous that House should be allowed to function. On the JNU incident, Mr Naidu said the enquiry is on and let the enquiry be over. He, however, stressed that anti India slogans are unacceptable. AIR correspondent reports, the meeting aimed at seeking cooperation for the smooth functioning of the Budget session in the backdrop of virtual washout of proceedings in the last two

sessions due to a host of issues. Among others Finance minister Arun Jaitley, Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, BJP leader Bhartruhari

Mahtab, Samajwadi leader Prof Ramgopal Yadav and RJD leader Prem Chand Gupta were present. The meeting was held at South Block in New Delhi.

Rajnath lauds Delhi Police for maintaining law and order

ANI
New Delhi, Feb. 16: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday lauded the Delhi Police for maintaining law and order in the national capital. "Delhi Police works its best to maintain law and order in the capital. The Delhi Police has to play a multi-faceted role as Delhi is the capital of the country," Singh said while speaking at the 69th Delhi Police Raising Day ceremony. He also said that the government has made a provision of reserving 33 percent seats for women in the central police forces.

"The Home Ministry has issued advisories to state governments to make such provision in their police forces," he added.

CBI sends 26 member

ANI
Bengaluru, Feb. 16: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has sent 26 of its officers for an advanced training on cyber crime and cyber forensics to Bengaluru. The 10-day specialised training began at National Law University here yesterday.

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If anti-national means this, God save our country

They say that five fingers are not equal. They advocate that women should emulate Sita and give *agnipariksha*. There is democracy in this country, and democracy gives equal rights to all - be it a student, a worker, the poor or the rich, Ambani or Adani. And when we talk about equal rights of women, they accuse us of destroying Indian culture. We want to destroy the culture of exploitation, the culture of caste, the culture of Manuwad and Brahminism. Till now, the definition of culture has not been resolved. They have a problem when people of this country talk about democracy, when they give blue salute along with red salute, when people talk about Ambedkar along with Marx, when people talk about Asfaqulla Khan (the freedom fighter). They can't tolerate. It is their conspiracy. They were British stooges. I dare them to file a defamation case against me. I say that the RSS's history is of siding with the British. These traitors today are distributing certificates of nationalism. Check my mobile phone, friends. Dirty abuses are being hurled at my mother and sister. Which Mother India are you talking about? If my mother is not part of your Mother India, your concept of Mother India is not acceptable to me. My mother is an Anganwadi *sewika*, my family runs with the Rs

3,000 she earns and they are abusing her. I'm ashamed that in this country, the mothers of the poor, Dalit farmers are not part of Mother India. I will hail the mothers of this country, I will hail the fathers of this country, I will hail the mothers and sisters of this country, I will hail the poor farmers, Dalits, tribals and labourers. I will tell them that if they have courage, then say 'Inqullab zindabad', say 'Bhagat Singh zindabad', say 'Sukhdev zindabad', say 'Asfaqulla Khan zindabad', say 'Babasahab Ambedkar zindabad'. Only then will I believe that you have faith in this country. They are enacting the drama of celebrating Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary. If they have courage, they should raise the issues Ambedkar raised. Caste system is one of the biggest problems in this country. Talk about caste system, bring reservation in every sector, bring reservation in the private sector. Raise these questions, then I will believe that you have faith in this country. This nation had never been yours and will never be yours. A nation is made by its people and if there is no place for hungry and poor people in your idea of the nation, then it is no nation. Yesterday, I said in one TV debate that we are in difficult times. The way fascism is coming in the country, even the media would not

be spared. The media would be provided with written scripts from the RSS office, just as written scripts came from the Congress office during the Emergency. Some media friends told me that JNU runs on taxpayers' money, on subsidy. Yes, it is right that JNU runs on subsidy. But I want to raise the question: what are universities for? Universities are there for critical analysis of the society's collective conscience. Critical analysis should be promoted. If universities fail in their duty, there would be no nation. If people are not part of a nation, it will turn into a grazing ground for the rich, for exploitation and looting. If we don't assimilate people's culture, beliefs and rights, a nation would not be formed. We stand firmly with the country, we stand for the dreams of Bhagat Singh and Babasahab Ambedkar. We stand for equal rights. We stand for the right to live. Rohith (Vemula) had to lose his life to stand for these rights. But we want to tell these Sanghis - "shame on your government". We challenge the central government - we will not allow in JNU whatever it did in the case of Rohith. Rohith will not lose his life here. We will not forget Rohith's sacrifice. We will stand for freedom of expression. Leave aside Pakistan and Bangladesh, we call for unity of the poor and the toiling masses of the world. We hail the humanity of this world, we hail the humanity of India.

We have identified those who are against humanity. This is the biggest issue before us today. We have identified that face of casteism, the face of Manuwad, the face of the nexus between Brahminism and capitalism. And we have to expose these faces. We have to usher in real freedom, and that freedom will come through the Constitution, through Parliament. And we will achieve it. I want to appeal to you friends that despite all the differences, we have to safeguard this freedom of expression, we have to safeguard our Constitution, we have to safeguard the unity and integrity of this country. For this, we have to remain united and fight the forces trying to divide our country, the forces that give shelter to terrorists. One last question before I end my speech. Who is Kasab? Who is Afzal Guru? Who are these people, who are in a state to wrap bombs around their body and kill? If these questions are not raised in universities, the existence of universities becomes pointless. If we don't define justice, if we don't define violence and how we see violence? Violence is not only about killing somebody with a gun. There is violence when the JNU administration denies the constitutional rights guaranteed to Dalits. This is institutional violence. (To be contd.....)