

Editorial

Imphal, Saturday, July 30, 2016

Disconnected dissent

For all practical purposes, the protracted struggle for implementation of the Inner Line Permit System in the state has so far managed to dig up more differences and discords amongst the myriad communities habiting the state, and this difference should not necessarily be treated as a restraint or stumbling block in the continuing effort to put into effect a fail-safe constitutional mechanism which can ensure the continuity and progress of the indigenous people of the state. And as far as the intent or objective of the struggle is to be considered, it is a foregone conclusion that the inhabitants or, to be more precise, the indigenous people has realized the need for such acts for protecting the age-old customs, traditions, religions and their way of life in the backdrop of the increasingly swelling number of migrant workers coming into the state. So why the resolute objection from many a quarters, especially from the tribal communities when the need for a law to safeguard the old way of life and everything representing the customs, culture and traditions has been established beyond any shred of doubt, not merely by conjecture but by experience and the increasingly suffocating and unfortunately transforming social scenario? And why is the state government trying to divert the whole issue which is threatening to burn down the whole state by repeatedly drawing up Bills all by itself which is bound to be rejected yet again? Is the possibility of bringing about a consensus, or at least a set of proposals which would be endorsed by a majority of the communities regarding the present matter non-existent? Why is there still no apparent effort by the state government to address the glaring trust deficit of almost every single one of its purported remedies and solutions both by tribals as well as the valley people? What is the interest of the state government for keeping a tense social atmosphere and simmering discontent, fuelled by its reluctant reactions and dismissive attitude? And does anyone really care about what is actually happening on the streets? The agitations to implement the ILPS in Manipur, spearheaded by the JCILPS have taken an unfortunate undertone, with many volunteers and supporters of the agitation taking things in their own hands. The most inconvenienced and dismayed lot having to bear the brunt of such misplaced fervor being the journalists and media persons. Instances of over enthused supporters and volunteers preventing journalists from covering the events, and even being manhandled while on duty despite identifying themselves is nothing new. And for some inexplicable reason, such unfortunate incidents are still happening, which begs the very pertinent question: has the JCILPS lost its hold over the conduct and proceedings of the agitations? How are the journalists and media persons expected to cover and report the impact or effect of the agitations if the so-called volunteers and supporters still indulge in wanton acts of vandalism and adopt confrontational attitudes even after identifying themselves and producing relevant documents? It is high time the JCILPS sit up and keep a strict check on how the supporters and volunteers conduct themselves during the agitations. While such incidents might be dismissed as stray, few such unchecked occurrences might turn the tide against them.

Army foils infiltration bid, 2 terrorists, 2 soldiers martyred

PTI Srinagar, July 30: The Army on Saturday foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control in Naugam sector of Kashmir's Kupwara district, killing two terrorists in the operation that also left two soldiers dead. Troops noticed suspicious movement along the LoC in Naugam sector during the intervening night and challenged the intruders, who opened fire, an army official said. The soldier returned fire leading to the gunbattle in which two militants

were killed, the official said. He said two soldiers were also killed while another was injured in the operation which was going on till last reports came in. "Two AK rifles, one UBGL and other war-like stores were recovered from the scene of the gunbattle," the official said. This is second major infiltration bid foiled by the Army in Naugam sector this week. Four terrorists were killed and one was apprehended alive in a failed infiltration bid on July 26.

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The iron lady Irom Sharmila's meltdown drowns Muslims (Pangals)

Ignore and condemn

Technically and honestly, I would say that those who participated or supported Ms Sharmila's movement were all human rights activists themselves. Her statement, derognising the involvement of particular section of society, only challenges her notion of human rights activism. And, this is why her statement should be ignored and condemned collectively because fight for rights cannot be seen through communal angle. Every citizen needs human rights and they fight for it democratically. It is impossible to imagine that there is a protest and Manipuris stay away from it. Oh wait, in her view, are tribes and Pangals less Manipuri than Meiteis? Or, was she being advised by vested interests? In that case, has her courage fallen into wrong hands? One needs to question the timing and hidden agenda of the comment. Even before her comment, passion already runs high in the hills and valley, what with Modi govt's

Naga Peace Framework and ILPS demand hanging like the proverbial sword of Damocles. In the hills, things may scale up and create further divide in the Manipuri society. On the other hand, Pangals have been always at receiving end, whether it is intermittent mob violence, branding as 'vehicle thieves', 'drug peddlers', or 'bunch of anti-social elements'. Former DGP of Manipur, Y. Joykumar added insult to the injury during discussion hour telecast by ISTV (July 3, 2016) by saying that in the past, even during his tenure, police were apprehensive of entering in Lilong, a Pangal majority sub-division. This remark from a responsible person angered Lilongers. Many intellectuals questioned his efficiency as DGP if police failed to bring the 'so-called' imagined anti-social elements to book. Furthermore, in the same discussion, social scientist Dhanabir Laishram, regular face in discussion hour, pointed out a change in the cultural practices among Pangals,

perhaps, due to Islamic influence splitting up the blood relation Meiteis and Pangals share. His observation was seen as a general rejection by majority community of assertion of identity by minority community. In this context, Ms Sharmila's statement is no less than questioning the loyalty and commitment of Pangals in issues of state interest.

Still supporting

Ms Sharmila for long has been a poster girl of protest against AFSPA in all over India, not only in Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir. Because of mass support, her resolve to protect human rights was transformed into a movement that has persisted for so long. We shouldn't consider her as just another protesting woman. She is a cult figure now and her protest has become iconic. This write up is neither an exercise of questioning her struggle or courage, nor an attempt to flare up communal undercurrent, but an analysis of a public figure's public decision

keeping in view the prevailing tensions in Manipuri society. It is in this context that the criticism of her decision and statement denying the support of tribes and Pangals needs to be seen. We all know the complicity of the govt in extra-judicial killings and extension of AFSPA rule in the state (one such report "Confessions of a killer policeman" was recently filed in The Guardian by Raghu Karnad and Grace Jajo based on revelations of Thounaojam Herojit, who killed Chongkham Sanjit, a reformed ex-cadre of PLA). People in Manipur have lost faith in the elected govt in the matters of repeal of AFSPA. In this situation, it is only natural that there will be a chorus of disapproval in response to Ms Sharmila's decision. However, this doesn't mean that Manipuris will stop supporting her future protests against AFSPA. We are still supporting her. (Mohammad Imtiyaz Khan teaches at Gauhati University. The views expressed in this write up are personal.)

National & International News

Rain, floods throw normal life out of gear across various states

ANI New Delhi, July 30: Several parts of the country have been affected by floods and heavy rain. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh will visit Assam today to take stock of the still grim flood situation in the state. He will make an aerial survey of the flood-affected Nagaon, Morigaon and Kazirangadistricts. He will also visit Bhagatgaon camp of flood-affected residents in Morigaon. Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office/Jitendra Singh will also accompany the Home Minister. Nearly 19 lakh people in 22 districts are reeling under floods in the state. Five lakh displaced people have taken shelter at relief camps. Floods have also caused massive damage to infrastructure, including roads and bridges. Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has said that the railways will provide free wagons for transportation of essential commodities to the flood-affected districts of Assam. In Uttar Pradesh, all major rivers of Terai region continue to flow either above or near the danger mark due to continuous rain in upper Himalayan reaches and excess water release from barrages. A total of 52 Tehsils of 20 districts and over 800 villages with over two lakhs persons are flood affected.

spreading of water. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has said the embankments would be constructed on river Mahananda in five phases. He said the Principal Secretary of Agriculture Department has been made the Special Commissioner in Katihar to oversee the relief operation. Meanwhile, the state government has instructed to distribute two thousand quintals of food grains among flood victims every day. In Tamil Nadu, flood alert has been issued in low lying areas near south Pennai river in Krishnagiri district. Heavy rain has hit normal life in many parts of Salem district. Chennai MeT office said the south west monsoon has been vigorous over north Tamil

Nadu. Heavy rain in Karnataka has led to an increased inflow of water into rivers and lakes in Krishnagiri and Salem districts of Tamil Nadu. In Krishnagiri, South Pennai river is in spate. The Kelavarappally dam has almost reached its full capacity of 44 feet. For the safety of dam total inflow of 2320 cusecs water is being released from the dam. Flood alerts have been issued in low lying areas near South Pennai river. Water has seeped into more than 500 houses in the district. Heavy rain has led to flash floods in Sarabanga river in Salem district. Road bridge between Danishpettai and Kadayampatty near Omallur has been washed away by flash

floods. Incessant heavy rain has crippled normal life in several parts of Bengaluru. Water logging has been reported from many areas, with a number of houses flooded. Low-lying areas, particularly Kodichikkanahalli and Bilekahalli, were the worst affected by the flooding as water entered houses following the breach of a lake. Overflowing lakes and drains coupled with uprooted trees compounded woes for commuters. Emergency service personnel were pressed into service and the control room of city civic body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike was working round-the-clock to attend to the complaints.

At least 31 killed in Assam, Bangladesh by heavy rains

Reuters Guwahati/Dhaka: At least 17 people have been killed by heavy rains and flooding in Assam, while at least 14 people have died in Bangladesh, with millions of people also displaced, officials said on Saturday. Persistent heavy rains this week have caused widespread disruption across South Asia, with at least 68 people killed in Nepal by flash floods and landslides. Although rainfall had decreased as of Saturday, officials in Assam, a tea-growing and oil-rich state, added water levels across rivers were still

Authorities in Assam have opened more than 800 temporary shelters and food and medicines distribution centres across the state

overflowing. "Overflowing rivers are flooding new areas, making things worse," said Keshab Mahanta, Assam's water resource minister. Home minister Rajnath Singh was

due to visit Assam on Saturday and make an aerial survey and hold discussions with state officials about relief efforts. Authorities in Assam have opened more than 800 temporary shelters and food and medicines distribution centres across the state, a senior official at the state disaster management authority said. Flooding is an annual problem during the monsoon season in South Asia, but the impact has been worsened by crumbling civic infrastructure, clogged drains and uncontrolled urban expansion.

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Corrigendum

Imphal Times could not produce its hard copy yesterday, the 29th July 2016 due to technical problem in the printing machine. For that we in the team Imphal Times express our sincere regret. Even though we could not produce our hard copy we did update our news at our web site www.imphaltimes.com. Our news can also be access if you download our android App from our website.

Team
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GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR DIRECTORATE OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTERESTS FOR DESIGNERS

Imphal, 25th July, 2016

No. HL-282/C&I/2015: Expression of Interests (EoIs) are invited for engaging 04 Textile Designer-Cum-Marketing Executive in Block Level Cluster at Singhat, Hungba, Machi and Lungchong Maiphei Block Level Handloom Cluster under National Handloom Development Program (NHDP).

2.0: The designer will be selected through evaluation of his/her profile and experience in the relevant sector. The details of eligibility criteria, broad Terms of Reference (ToR), Guidelines for submission of EoIs and other terms and conditions are available on the website www.dcinmanipur.gov.in and www.mhhdcl.com.

3.0: The eligible organizations/agencies/individual interested in rendering their services as Designer may submit EOI in sealed envelope, superscribing the title "Eol for engaging designer at Block Level Cluster of Singhat or Nungba OR Lungchong Maiphei Block Level Handloom Cluster" within 16-8-2016 to the Director of Commerce & Industries, Manipur, Lamphepat, Imphal, Manipur. Separate Eol should be submitted for each Cluster.

Sd/-
(B. John Tlangtinkhuma)
Director of Commerce & Industries,
Manipur

IT/Bll/29-7-2016