

# Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, June 23, 2016

## Need for an alternative

Manipur, as in most other parts of the world, has been witnessing an increasing number of disturbances and social unrest over the years with the recent months experiencing an escalation in frequency and intensity never witnessed before. This may be attributed to the increasing awareness of the general public of the system of governance, assertion of their rights and an increasing participation in the public administrative process. Various agitations and protests have been staged by social and public organisations demanding myriad issues. The one common, and perhaps the most effective method of protest that the agitating groups have been increasingly resorting to for realization of their grievances and demands is the blockade- blocking and obstruction of public roads. This method has been so effective to the point of being the "weapon of choice" in any agitation or protest and has come to be expected of any event involving any form of agitation. What led to the adoption of such a form of protest- is there no other option for showing or airing grievances and demands? Who are the real victims of such a blockade? The fact that the Government has not taken up any serious work to render such practices ineffective shows that it is of little consequence to the people who matters- to whom the agitations and demands are meant to be targeted at. Denial of use of public facilities by a few groups or individuals and disrupting normal activities in their quest to get their demands is not a prudent act of a civilized mindset- but then a civilized mindset will not be resorting to such acts to begin with. True- spontaneous public anger and uprisings have taken place, and while they are not to be justified, their outbursts are understandable. The continuing use of public roads or rather the prevention of using these roads- namely the state and inter-state roads by various ethnic groups to push for their demands putting a majority of the remaining public to much inconvenience is a case in point. A valid point - a genuine cause can and should be settled through the court of law and rational dialogue or debate or discussion. Unjustifiable and irrational demands, however sentimental the reasons are, should not be pursued through such disruptive means - not to mention the unfortunate few who were forced to use the roads during such bouts of agitations due to unavoidable circumstances, and here have been more than enough shocking incidents to drive home the point. All said and done- the public as well as the Government has to find better and more civilized methods of airing grievances and to resolve the same with utmost immediacy without which such forms of protests will lead to more counter protests and ultimately turn this small and unstable state into a cauldron of violence, mayhem and anarchy- a perfect setting for a few unscrupulous elements who stands to reap the benefits of these uncertainties, disruptions and social disturbances which raises the uncomfortable question: are we actually experiencing an engineered chaos?

## Myanmar warns business owners against child labour

**ANIN Naypyidaw, June 23:** The Factory and General Labour Laws Inspection Department of the Government of Myanmar has issued a warning to business owners, reminding them to avoid hiring children under the age of 14 in a bid to curb forced child labour. The department declared a fine ranging from K 5 million to K 10 million or up to six months in prison, or both for the perpetrators. The warning was issued on June 20 at a workshop in Yangon organised by the Factory and General Labour Laws Inspection Department under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Populations. The workshop was attended by hoteliers, restaurateurs, owners of small- and medium-sized factories, shopkeepers and other businesspeople, reports Myanmar Times.

Department officials stated it was also illegal for children aged 14 to 16 years to work more than four hours a day, according to the 2016 Shops and Work Departments Law. U Aung Naing, deputy director of department added that children who work in dangerous environments such as kitchens must be properly trained and all employees in the 14-to-16 age range must have a recommendation certificate from a physician in order to work. Naing stated that according to international conventions, people under 18 years old are regarded as children, but for a developing nation like Myanmar people who are 14 years or older have the right to work as the situation of the country is different. He added if children are not hired they will lose job opportunities, and their families will have trouble earning a living.

# MANIPUR IS HEADING FOR ETHNIC CONFLICT

By- Siamchingthang Tungpo

As the peace-talk between Government of India (GoI) and NSCN-IM seems to be nearing its final solution, Manipur is burning up gradually. The Manipur Nagas are adamant to their demand of 'Alternative Arrangement'. Zo armed groups of the UPF demanded AHS. On the other hand, the Kukis came up with a fervent demand of "Kuki State" within Manipur, without breaking the present day boundaries of the State. This demand was spearheaded by the Kuki State Demand Committee (KSDC). Since the Central assured the Kuki groups to start political dialogue, KSDC has withdrawn the 'Public Blockade in Kuki Areas' recently. The Central assured the Kuki groups to start political dialogue, KSDC has withdrawn the 'Public Blockade in Kuki Areas' recently. The Nagas opposed the 'Kuki State Map' which was demanded by the Kukis in Manipur. According to media reports, the Nagas objected the Kuki's Map claiming it has fabricated the Naga inhabited areas into Kuki areas., Manipur State Cabinet held its meeting at the Chief Minister's Bungalow, in which the SoW with KNO, and Manipur Government and Central Government has been extended for one year. The cabinet meeting also decided the Disturbed Area status imposed in the State, excluding the seven assembly constituency of Imphal Municipal areas has also been extended for another one year. The cabinet meeting also decided the Disturbed Area status imposed in the State, excluding the seven assembly constituency of Imphal

Municipal areas has also been extended for another one year. The first SoO was signed between Army and constituents of UPF and KNO on August 1, 2005. Later it was agreed between Govt of India, Govt of Manipur and KNO and UPF to formalize this agreement and cease hostilities with effect from August 22, 2008. Since the Kuki militants came under this tripartite agreement, there was no hostility between the Indian Security Forces and Zoarmed groups. Cadres were kept in government's designated camps in Manipur. However, the political situation is worsening each passing day and moving towards a fierce battling in daily newspapers in the form of press statements by both the ethnic groups. KNO has criticized the NSCN (IM), saying, NSCN (IM) butchered 900 innocent Kukis and forcibly uprooted over 350 Kuki villages during the 1990s. Now the strong contention between the KNO and NSCN-IM is 'Kuki State Map'. The Nagas strongly opposed the Kuki Map terming it "a bogus map". While the KNO stood staunchly in supporting the map as 'genuine which covers the present Kuki inhabited areas'. In a press reports the NSCN (IM) stated: "The impropriety of playing with history will never stand the test of time". There is no ending in the Naga-Kuki political discontentment. The Central Government, the mother of all states, is treating Manipur in a step-motherly treatment. The Central seems to be playing its card in the midst of Kuki and Naga claims. There is little attention from the

Central. The most significant bone of contention between the two groups is land dispute. The Kuki National Front (KNF), later joined by the Kuki National Organization (KNO), demands Kukuliland to be carved out of the five hill districts of Manipur — Churachandpur, Chandel, Senapati, Tamenglong and Ukhrul. The demand for Kukuliland is a direct challenge to a demand for greater or southern Nagaland by the National Socialist Council of Nagaland — Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM). The goal of the Naga militant outfit is to amalgamate the four hill districts of Manipur — Chandel, Senapati, Tamenglong and Ukhrul — and to form greater Nagaland by merging with neighboring Nagaland state. The intention to drive out Kukis from the four hill districts led to "ethnic cleansing" by the NSCN-IM. Though the initial violence was triggered by militant outfits in Chandel district, it spread over to other parts of the state, and to Nagaland state and Myanmar as well. To restore peace and normalcy, KIM puts forward two important demands to the Nagas and the Indian government. First, it demands the Nagas, especially the NSCN-IM, to formally apologize for their heinous crimes of the 1990s and perform Kuki customary rites such as paying Luongman (corpse price) and Tol-theh (cleaning the house for shedding human blood). Second, KIM demands the Indian government to rehabilitate the loss of lives and properties and provide adequate compensation to thousands of displaced victims.

Naga leaders, particularly the NSCN-IM, have not responded to the demands of KIM. It is unclear if the Naga leaders, particularly the United Naga Council (UNC), apex civil body of the Nagas in Manipur, and NSCN-IM, have the intention to make similar demands from the Kukis to perform Naga customary rites for their own deaths. While the Meiteis oppose creation of either Kuki homeland or greater Nagaland, the Thadou-Kukis and Nagas are evidently unable to establish any kind of coordination or cooperation. This is partly due to the simmering tension remaining in the aftermath of the 1992-1997 clashes. The wounds of past miseries are apparently yet to be healed. The tension has become deeply communal now and has reached a point of mutual distrust that makes it difficult for civil society organizations to initiate any congenial dialogue between the two groups. It is pertinent to ask whether the government sees the conflict as an internal matter for the concerned ethnic groups to resolve among themselves or considers this a too-insignificant issue to intervene. While the tension lingers, the Indian government engages in a political dialogue with the NSCN-IM, ignoring calls by the Kuki armed groups for political dialogue despite maintaining Suspension of Operation since 2005. It remains unclear whether this is an institutional problem on the part of the Kuki armed organizations, or another manifestation of one-sided treatment toward the NSCN-IM.

## National & International News

### PM David Cameron casts his vote in British EU referendum

**Courtesy: Firstpost Imphal, June 23:** Traders and brokers across London are bracing themselves for an all-night vigil as the counting of votes, in the historic referendum on whether or not Britain should remain a member of the European Union (EU), begins on Thursday night. Senior staff and traders at banks including Citigroup, JPMorgan, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley have been asked to stay overnight in the office while others are working in shifts between the British market close on Thursday and its reopening on Friday morning, the Financial Times reported. Britons on Thursday morning went to the polls to cast their ballots in

the referendum. An estimated 46,499,537 people are entitled to take part in the vote — a record number for a British poll. The polls opened at 7 a.m. and will end at 10 p.m. JPMorgan has booked hotel rooms for its clients in Canary Wharf while Citigroup has organised taxis to make sure key sales and trading employees arrive at the offices before 4 a.m. on Friday morning. Online brokers and trading platforms that service retail clients are expecting a flurry of trading activity and firms such as IG Group and CMC Markets are laying on extra staff on Thursday night in anticipation. "We have got an extra 30-40 people staggered across the night in

London," said Grant Foley, Chief Financial Officer at CMC Markets. "We have paid for people to have hotel rooms near the offices and we will be ordering in food to keep them sustained." Several hedge fund managers said they planned to leave the office as usual on Thursday evening but expected an early start on Friday. "We anticipate it being a volatile day on Friday," said David Harding, founder of quantitative asset manager Winton Capital Management and joint treasurer of the 'Britain Stronger in Europe' campaign. "One way or another, the markets will move quite a lot, which will translate into quite a nervy day."

### AAP demands arrest of LG Najeeb Jung in NDMC lawyer murder case

**Courtesy - ABP New Delhi, June 23:** Launching a scathing attack on Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Najeeb Jung, the Aam Aadmi Party on Thursday demanded that he must be arrested in connection with the NDMC lawyer murder case. While addressing the media, AAP spokesperson Raghav Chadha said that the role of Najeeb Jung in NDMC lawyer murder must also be probed. "There should be an investigation into why LG Najeeb Jung was so interested in NDMC lawyer murder case," Chadha said. Chadha demanded that Najeeb Jung, along with BJP MP from East Delhi Maheesh Girri and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Vice Chairman Karan Singh Tanwar, must be arrested in connection with the murder case. "LG must resign to allow fair probe in the case and he must be arrested. BJP MP Maheesh Girri and Karan Singh Tanwar must be arrested as well," the party spokesperson said.

### 'Can Yoga Relieve Pain Of Inflation?' - Shiv Sena

**Mumbai, June 23:** In yet another barb at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shiv Sena today said bringing yoga to the centre stage of the world was a praiseworthy effort, but asked if practising it will relieve people of the "pain of inflation". "Prime Minister Narendra Modi deserves praise for making 130 countries perform yoga. The world bends if somebody makes it do so. Through yoga, Modi made 130 nations lay on the ground," Shiv Sena said in an editorial in its mouthpiece 'Saamana'. "What is now needed is to make Pakistan lie down forever. This can only happen with the help of weapons. Pakistan deserves a permanent 'Shavaasan' (a yoga position that involves lying down like a corpse)," the Sena said. It said that while chief ministers of non-BJP states may oppose PM Modi, yoga is a science that should not be opposed. "A lot can be achieved through yoga. But, in daily life, can yoga help in relieving the pains of high inflation and corruption? It would be good if a clarification is given on this as well," it said.

The United Nations had last year declared June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. Lakhs of people across India and abroad stretched themselves in various postures to mark the second International Yoga Day on June 21 as PM Modi himself led a massive session in Chandigarh attended by around 30,000 people. Shiv Sena, which is part of the BJP-led governments in Maharashtra and at the Centre, has been critical of BJP and the Modi government following strain in their ties since their alliance in Maharashtra collapsed ahead of the October 2014 Assembly polls due to problems over seat-sharing. Though they did come together after the election, Shiv Sena has been reduced to a junior partner and has lost no opportunity to hit out at BJP leaders. Recently, Sena had been critical of PM Modi's remarks abroad about India being plagued by corruption, saying they "magnified the nation's image", and questioned if scams in BJP-ruled Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat can be attributed to others.

Goldman Sachs' private bank has told clients that the desk will be staffed all of Thursday night if they wish to trade. Both Goldman and JPMorgan are among banks warning clients that parts of the market may become illiquid and it could be difficult to execute some trades on Friday. While the overall picture could be clear by 3.30 a.m., the official result is not expected until around breakfast time on Friday.

### US House Democrats Broadcast 'Sit-In' On Social Media

**Washington, June 23:** Democrats demanding action on gun control turned to Twitter's Periscope and Facebook's live video platform to broadcast their "sit-in" on the floor of the US House of Representatives on Wednesday after the chamber's cameras shut down. Representative Scott Peters of California told Reuters he downloaded the online video platform Periscope from the House floor after it became clear that chamber cameras were not operating. "Thanks to them, the American people got to look in on and listen

to what is taking place this floor," US Representative James Clyburn of South Carolina said in praise of the platform. The protest was the latest move by Democrats to persuade the Republican majority in Congress to take up votes on gun control measures in response to last week's mass shooting in Orlando, Florida, the deadliest in modern US history. "The speaker (Paul Ryan) controls the cameras," Peters said. "We noticed that over lunch, he turned them off - allowed them to be tamed off."

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