

Editorial

Imphal, Friday, May 13, 2016

Reining in the emotions

The movement spearheaded by the JCILPS for implementation of the Inner Line Permit System in Manipur has steadily been intensifying against popular belief as unlike almost every previous agitation that have taken place, the present campaign have sustained and gathered strength with time. The timely and vital concern of the public which will allay the fears and lingering doubts pertaining to the continuity and preservation of the interests of indigenous people of the region needs to be approached with utmost care and caution as any mistake or omission will undoubtedly ignite another bout of chaos and upheaval in the immediate present, while rendering the act that have caused so much loss and disruptions ineffective in the long run, a waste of effort and sacrifices the public made to achieve the objective. A concerted attempt with the contribution and inputs from various quarters needs to be taken up to cover every aspect. The state government should make sure the representatives of every section of the society are involved in the process of drafting the proposal so that there is no repeat of the blunder that proved to be the genesis of the present social crisis.

With the increasing tension and emotion amongst the public, the frequency of altercations and scuffles between those engaging in essential services and ILP supporters is reportedly on the rise. The seriousness of the issue can be gauged by the recent press release issued by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Manipur chapter condemning the physical assault and mistreatment of medical staffs by JCILPS supporters. What needs to be understood is that those of us engaging in essential services are not against the movement, but are also contributing in our own way by risking everything from police backlash to misdirected emotions of the ILP supporters. The JCILPS, being the steering committee spearheading the movement, should take up measures to ensure that the cause is not diverted by some elements who let loose their emotions and imaginations to the point that the objective of the struggle is clouded. This is a very dangerous development, one that has the potential to derail or put back the progress that has been won after so much sacrifice and effort. The various forms of agitations being used to make an impact such as blocking of roads, setting fire etc should be used as a symbol of the anger and dissatisfaction on the government for its failure to address the rightful concerns of the public, and not to intimidate or display personal aspirations. It is also a very stupid move to consume or use alcohol or other intoxicants while participating in the movement because more often than not, those who are reported to be intimidating or disrupting the work of those engaging in essential services are the ones whose mental faculty has been clouded by such intoxicants. Their very presence also demeans the very cause. The ILP system has become an unavoidable necessity in Manipur and it is bound to happen. In the meantime, what we all need is constraint and control of our emotions. We need an objective approach, not an emotional or impulsive spurt.

Dismantled ninth times and safer in the tenth times

By: - Mamta Lukram

Tears rolled down the cheeks of the women in shabby figure with untidy attire, high enough was her pitch, shaken and broke, as if the heart was about to burst from the blows of deception by the so called 'power politics' and its 'development' induced displacement'. She seems to be a feeble self with monstrous intrinsic strength to defend one's self dignity.

"I am from a much marginalised background; this fact everyone knows. I used to collect wild vegetables from the nearby 'pat' (wetland) out of which I would make 'singju' (an indigenous Meitei culinary item equivalent of 'salad') and sold it as my meagre earning to support my family." (sigh...pause for a moment...restarting breaking the ice...) I brought up my grandchildren whose father was no more. Time had been unleashing boundless miseries in my never failing attempts to make them attain some level of formal education."

"Nine times, it was nine times that my house was dismantled and safer in the tenth times. We were being instructed that our settlement site were to be evicted for the construction of drain." (...trying hard to control emotion...stops for while...resumes the talk with a heavy heart...) "sara-thugaira, sara-thugaira, (meaning constructed-dismantled, constructed-dismantled), it was nine times that they (blaming the authorities) dismantled my house along with those of my neighbours. It was the tenth time of constructing my house as a challenge to the authority that we can settle. I have no problem as of now"



reality, over burdened by the struggles shouldered solely for existence. She had been sharing her bitter life experiences mocked by development induced displacement in the 'Public Consultation on Tipaimukh Dam and Indigenous Peoples Rights', jointly organised by Citizens' concern for Dam and development, North East dialogue Forum and Centre for Research & Advocacy Manipur, where I got the privilege to listen to her heart wrenching episodes of life.

Like someone who is made to observe the bubbles over the surface of a water body defying the knowledge of currents and the velocity of the water flowing underneath the bubble covered surface; I have been listening to her heartfelt stories without much knowledge about what had happened to her, yet very sure in my personal understanding that it was inhuman and unjust to dismantle a marginalised house without appropriate arrangement, snatch it coercively and make their plight miserable, vulnerable. An atmosphere of hatred must have hovered all around inciting strong senses of distrust, discontent and untold miseries.

Gripped by curiosity, I try reopening the forbidden pages of development injustice history. I realised that the woman was one of the 'Lamphepat Eviction 2011' victim. On June 6, 2011, fourteen (14)

houses of Yaipha Leikai village, Lamphepat Wetlands near Employment Exchange, Imphal West District, Manipur had been destroyed by Manipur Police from the Lamphepat Police Station under the orders of the Government of Manipur on the pretext of construction of drain along Lamphepat under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). The eviction was carried without any rehabilitation and resettlement arrangements for the affected community of the Lamphepat Yaipha Leikai. It is described that the properties of the affected families were confiscated during the eviction rendering the already impoverished families to more physical and mental anxieties. Lamphepat Eviction stories, have long years back, been wrapped up beyond cognizance from the state's timeline. However, the recurrent exposure to prolong trauma engulf with a sense of insult, galore with disrespect to the dignity of lives makes the victims still pass on with deep scar in their hearts. Psychological instability reeled through the everyday lives of these people.

Forced migration has been the fatal blow to the pursuit of happiness. Eviction drives like the Lamphepat eviction, Loktak lake eviction etc, internal displacements arising out of the mega structure like the numerous dams and other

infrastructure constructions have been the essences of human miseries in this state. At this stance, the feasibility in the implementation part becomes highly questionable. Development activities without proper mitigation measures resulting in mass pauperisation will prove illogical.

Impacts of Displacement in the lives of Women and children are the first of mankind to be worst hit during a natural or an artificial catastrophe. They are known to be naturally inherited with some sort of physical weakness or differences. Documentations have revealed that women are doubly discriminated during any aggression or oppression, firstly because of the discriminating system, and secondly, because of being women. For children their implicit meanings are interpreted as a 'taken for granted' part of the women. Maybe this due to the innate emotional bond that develop out of the caring, nurturing facts of the women or else, this bond binds the women within limit. Though the world has been advocating for gender mainstreaming and gender equality, gender based impositions remains a cultural construct. Compounding the challenges of the women is the children.

(Footnotes)

The intrinsic explanation is not to investigate about the development moves sloganeering anti-development stands. Development optimally should be welfare oriented taking into account the possible uncertainties; affected communities would be facing. It shouldn't be a deemed mechanism for aggressively oppressing an already marginalised group. It should pay a heed to the effective implementation of the alternative arrangements. (To be contd.....)

National & International News

Suspended JD(U) MLC files anticipatory bail

PTI
Gaya, May 13: Suspended JD(U) MLC Manorama Devi, whose son had allegedly shot dead a youth for overtaking his vehicle, today filed an anticipatory bail petition in the district court in connection with recovery of liquor bottles from her house during a search. On behalf of Manorama Devi, advocate Qaiser Sarfuddin filed the bail petition in the court of (in-charge) District Judge S N Singh who posted the matter for hearing on Monday. While talking to reporters here after filing the petition, Sarfuddin said

that Manorama Devi, who has been absconding ever since the liquor bottles were found from her Gaya residence, will not surrender before the court. Manorama Devi's counsel further claimed that she has been "implicated" in the case as the allegations levelled against her are false. The counsel said that she was not named accused in the FIR in connection with liquor bottle recovery case. A day after her suspension from JD(U), the Excise department on May 11 sealed residence of the

MLC in connection with recovery of liquor bottles as police stepped up search for the legislator who could not be traced. Officials of Excise department with the help of police sealed the residence of Manorama Devi in posh Anugrah Puri colony, Senior Superintendent of Police Garima Mallik had said. The Gaya police acquired a warrant of arrest against her on Wednesday in the liquor case. The house was sealed in the wake of a case registered against the MLC with Rampur Police Station in connection with recovery of 6

bottles of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) from her house during Monday's search for her son Rocky Yadav who allegedly shot dead a youth in Gaya on Saturday night. Wife of RJD strongman Bindi Yadav, Manorama Devi became MLC from JD(U) in 2015. Earlier, she was member of Legislative Council from RJD from 2003 to 2009. Earlier, a case was registered against her husband Bindi Yadav and son Rocky Yadav in connection with seizure of liquor bottles. But, her name was included in the FIR on May 10 in this connection.

Islamic State kills 17 Iraqi soldiers with suicide truck bombs

Baghdad, May 13: Islamic State insurgents killed at least 17 Iraqi soldiers with suicide truck bombs on Thursday in a major attack on government forces that recaptured the western city of Ramadi in December, military officials said. The jihadist group also killed two policemen and wounded eight others in two suicide bombings in Abu Ghraib outside Baghdad, a day after killing at least 80 people in bombings at an outdoor market and two checkpoints inside the capital. The attacks near Ramadi deal one of the heaviest blows to the army since it drove Islamic State out of the western city five months ago. An army colonel told Reuters that militants killed at least 17 soldiers with suicide truck bombs in Jarayshi, 10 km (6 miles) north of Ramadi. They also surrounded an army regiment, seized a bridge and cut a key supply route linking Ramadi to

the Thirhar district further north, army sources said. Air strikes by a U.S.-led coalition later allowed government forces to regain control of the supply route. But despite army reinforcements, the militants had dug into northern residential areas by nightfall and were lobbing mortars at government positions across the Euphrates river. An officer said the Islamic State attack appeared designed to delay an expected army offensive that would have completely severed militant supply routes to Falluja on the western approaches to Baghdad, which Iraqi forces have ringed for more than six months. As Islamic State has been pushed out of key towns and cities it seized in 2014, it has resorted increasingly to guerrilla-style attacks in civilian areas under nominal Iraqi government control.

Hezbollah military chief Mustafa Badreddine killed in an attack in Syria

Syria, May 13: Lebanese militant group Hezbollah announced on Friday that its top military commander had been killed in an attack in Syria in a major blow to the

coalition supporting the Damascus regime. The group said it was still investigating the cause of the blast near Damascus airport but it did not immediately point the finger at Israel as it did when the commander's predecessor was assassinated in the Syrian capital in 2008. The death of Mustafa Badreddine, who had led Hezbollah's massive intervention in Syria in support of President Bashar al-Assad's regime, came as a fragile truce in the country's five-year conflict teetered on the brink of collapse. A six-day-old ceasefire in battleground second city Aleppo expired early Thursday without renewal and rebel sniper fire on the government-held sector of the city killed two civilians, one of them a woman, a monitoring group said. Heavy air strikes pounded Al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate Al-Nusra Front in its Idlib province stronghold in the northwest, killing 16 of its fighters, including a senior commander. Badreddine had been a key player in Hezbollah's military wing virtually since its inception. He was on a US terror sanctions blacklist, is a key suspect in the 2005 assassination in Beirut of

former Lebanese prime minister Rafiq Hariri, and was one of Israel's most wanted men. The Shiite militant group, which now dominates Lebanon's government, did not specify which of Badreddine's many enemies it held responsible for his death. "According to preliminary reports, a large explosion targeted one of our positions near Damascus international airport killing brother commander Mustafa Badreddine and wounding other people," it said in a statement. "We are going to pursue an inquiry to determine the nature and causes of the explosion and ascertain whether it was the result of an air strike, a missile or artillery fire." Damascus airport lies to the east of the capital where various rebel groups have a strong presence in the countryside, although pro-government forces have secured the highway to it for the past two years or more. Badreddine's predecessor, Imad Mughniyeh, his cousin and brother-in-law, was killed in Damascus in 2008 in an attack that drew immediate threats by Hezbollah of heavy retaliation against Israel. It made no such threats after Badreddine's death.

Israel made no comment, as it did in 2008, too, but Israeli media underlined Hezbollah's failure to point the finger. In its 2012 terror blacklisting of Badreddine, Washington charged that he was the key pointman for Hezbollah's operations in Syria alongside its key foreign backer Iran in support of Assad's regime. "Badreddine is assessed to be responsible for Hezbollah's military operations in Syria since 2011, including the movement of Hezbollah fighters from Lebanon to Syria, in support of the Syrian regime," the US Treasury Department said. "Since 2012, Badreddine coordinated Hezbollah military activities in Syria," it said. **Key prop for Assad** Hezbollah's intervention was vital in shoring up Assad's regime at its lowest point in the war against rebels backed by Gulf Arab and Western countries. Its fighters secured most of the Lebanese border region, cutting vital rebel supply lines, and reasserted government control in most of the southern suburbs of Damascus, including the Sayyida Zeinab Shiite shrine district, revered by Hezbollah's followers and by its Iranian backers.

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