

Editorial

Imphal, Saturday, May 7, 2016

Mission to rescue peoples' movement

When people from across the state upraise against the central government pack to extend the cease fire between NSCN-IM and the Government of India without territorial limits during June 2001 no power could be used to tame or suppress the peoples' movement. Realising the momentum of the peoples' uprising the central government was left with no choice but to withdraw the three words - "without territorial limits" on July 27 of the same year resulting to strengthen the agenda of the NSCN-IM. In 2004 after a lady, alleged by the SF as a cadre of an underground group was mercilessly raped and murdered after picking her up from her own residence at Bamon Kampu in Imphal East, series of protest sparked in the state. The potential of the kind of protest which upraises in the backdrop of the extra judicial killing, with no differences of opinion or ideology among the people of the state spread far and wide drawing supports from even among the humanist group operating in the mainland India. Addition to that the unrelentless protest by Sharmila and the subsequent uprising of the people of the state against the so called draconian act has left with no choice to the Union government but to constitute a commission to review act called Jeevan Reddy Commission. After thorough study of the act the committee has recommended to scrap the act. But with all sort of techniques the government perhaps had thrown the committee's recommendation to the dustbin.

After the government authority experience the kind of uprising those in the paid service now had successfully work out to oust any such people movement. May be this is the reason that the issue of AFSPA or the issue pertaining to the safeguarding of the territorial boundary of the state could not march ahead like the one the people unitedly struggle together. It is again, the ILPS movement, the technique of the protest surprised the state government, and political gamble to delay the peoples' aspiration failed, prompting the elected representative to pass the Bills reluctantly. May be a direct planning, sooner the Bills were passed similar opposition from people from Hill area was successfully triggered. Nine persons died in the protest against the demand of the people in valley area on the following day that the Bills were passed at Manipur Legislative Assembly on August 31, 2015 and till today the government has not made any attempt to cremate the dead bodies using an amicable solution. Tension still runs high to some section of the hill people who had vehemently opposed the Bills - may be under the influence of some x-factor.

Since, 2000 there is no dearth of any problem which ignited to major one, keeping halt to the day today normal life on every June, July and August. And since that very period every time a genuine issue created chaos in Valley region the people in the Hills under the initiative if UNC or other sister groups took up another issue which contradict with the demands of the valley base organisation. If one ponder, it is a clear indication that the unity or bondage of brotherhoods existing among the various communities in the state is in the frayed pan.

So, it is clear that the ILPS demand which was also agreed and passed by state Assembly is in no way going to see light. As long as the Hill based tribal bodies opposed the President of India will certainly sent back those Bills to the state legislature to reconsider it.

From the certain facts it is well noted that there is a deliberate attempt to sabotage the genuine cause of the people taking advantage of the misunderstanding between the Hill base people and the valley based people.

Understanding this fact it is time that we the majority need to ponder upon the matter, which we felt is the need of the hour. Yes, it is about ILPS. It will be ridiculous to make two different legislations for Hill and Valley as both Hill and valley comes under one administrative unit. However, it is also true that the existing tribal status granted to the many of the Hill people has somewhat enable the government to have two separate laws when it comes for settlement. At Hills the ST status and the provision under the sixth Scheduled has not allowed any other citizens even those from the valley of Manipur to permanently settle. So it is about the Valley that is worried by the JCLPS.

If it is about the valley which comprises of Bishnupur District, Imphal East, Imphal West and Thoubal district, then we can change the strategy to introduce a system to check illegal influx of either foreigners or migrant workers from the mainland India in the valley area which is not protected by any legislation so far. While doing so the apprehension among the Hill brothers will be solved. This is opined as laws or legislation are made to develop our society and not to create inconveniences to some sections of people.

Schemes for the weaker section of the society implemented in Manipur

DIPR

The Department of Social Welfare under the State Government has taken up various welfare programmes in the social welfare sector especially for the weaker sections of the society, the Department of Social Welfare, provides welfare programme and services towards realizing goals and objectives through (I) Social Defense (Prohibition and social security for the Aged), (ii) Welfare programmes for persons with disabilities, (iii) Integrated Child Protection schemes, (iv) Women and Child Development including supplementary nutrition programmes and other development schemes.

The Department is implementing National Social Assistance Programme and Manipur Old Age Pension Scheme under which old persons are given monthly pension. Apart from the other programmes initiated by the Dept., the Women Welfare Programme implemented from the year 2011-12 provides (I)

Financial Assistance and Support services to victims of Rape. A scheme for Restorative Justice provides financial assistance and services such as shelter, counseling, medical aid, legal assistance, education and vocational training to the victims. The rate of assistance ranges from Rs.70,000/- to Rs. 1,20,000/- per victim. (ii) Financial assistance for the Needy Widow Women Scheme provides security by way of giving one time financial assistance @ Rs. 2000/- to widows in the age group of 18-40 years. (iii) The Welfare Training Institute, Takyel, provides capacity building for self employment for destitute women in trades like embroidery, tailoring and cutting. Sewing Machines are provided to trainees on subsidy. (iv) The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 has been implemented in 2007. So far, 597 cases have been taken up by Protection Officers designated under the DAV Act, 2005. The Department initiates to provide

education to differently abled persons by running 2(two) Special Schools for providing education upto 10th standard for the Blind and the Mute at Takyel. One Braille Press was commissioned and inaugurated in the year 2011. Four schemes - Unemployment Allowance to educated unemployed person with disabilities, financial assistance to the persons with disabilities, Grant-in-Aid to the Associations formed by the persons with disabilities or parents of persons with disabilities and Marriage Incentive Award have been implemented by the Department.

Under Central Sector, the department had launched the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) at Ukhrul TD Block on 2nd Oct, 1975. The Scheme has been expanded throughout the entire state covering 42 CD/TD Blocks. The 43 ICDS Projects sanctioned by Govt. of India are functioning in full swing through Anganwadi Workers and Helpers in

each Anganwadi Centre.

Under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme, two Shelter Home for girls in need of care and protection are established at Imphal West and Thoubal. Four NGO run Open Shelter provides Schooling and other alternative for Vulnerable Children in Urban Areas to protect from abuse and negligence. Under the provision of Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act 2000, there are five State Government run Specialized Adoption Agency in Imphal East, Bishnupur, Ukhrul and Chandel with a total capacity of 50 children who are orphan, surrendered and abandoned children and one NGO run SAA with an intake of 10 children in Imphal West District.

The state Bal Bhavan, affiliated organization of the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi, was established at Khuman Lampak with an aim to provide development and participation opportunities among children. 14 children from the State had received National Awards.

Natl and Intl News

JNU Hunger Strike Enters 10th Day, Kanhaiya Kumar Withdraws Fast

Source PTI

New Delhi, May 7: The indefinite hunger strike by JNU students entered the 10th day today even as students' union president Kanhaiya Kumar withdrew his fast due to medical reasons.

So far, six students have withdrawn their fast against the punishment by the university in connection with the February 9 event during which anti-national slogans were allegedly raised, while 14 others are continuing with the hunger strike. Kanhaiya, who is out on bail after his arrest in a sedition case, was on Friday discharged from AIIMS after treatment for mild dehydration and ketosis.

"Kanhaiya was back on campus last night and due to his health condition doctors advised him to discontinue with the fast. He has been advised bed rest for few days and also has to undergo some medical tests. While he has withdrawn the fast, he will continue with the agitation," a statement from the JNU Students Union said. The health reports of other fasting students mentioned high ketone levels, low BP and weight loss.

JNU Teachers Association has today called for a relay hunger strike in protest against the administration.

Alumni of the varsity will also join the protesting students and form a human chain today evening.

The JNU administration had on Friday appealed the students and teachers to not invite outsiders saying it might vitiate the academic atmosphere and peace on campus. The administration also asked the students to refrain from using "direct or indirect coercive measures and come forward for dialogue and discussion".

Termining the hunger strike to be an "unlawful activity" JNU Vice Chancellor Jagadeesh Kumar had earlier this week appealed to students to put forward their demands using "constitutional" means and asked them to come for a "dialogue" to resolve the matter.

Five members of ABVP, who had also gone on hunger strike last week, called off their stir on Wednesday claiming they have got an assurance from the JNU administration that their demands will be considered. Two other students—Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya—were arrested along with Kanhaiya in the sedition case.

While Kanhaiya has been slapped with a penalty of Rs. 10,000, Umar, Anirban and a Kashmiri student, Majeed Gattoo have been rusticated for varying durations. Saurabh, who is the lone ABVP member in JNU Students Union, has also been slapped with a fine of Rs. 10,000 for blocking traffic.

3 militant killed in Pulwama

Source PTI

Srinagar, May 7: Three Hizbul Mujahideen militants were killed early today in an encounter with security forces during a search operation in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. A joint team of police and army cordoned-off Panzgam village in Pulwama district after receiving specific intelligence about the presence of militants in the area, an army official said. As the forces were conducting a search operation, the hiding militants fired upon them, triggering an encounter, the official said.

He said in the ensuing gunfight, three militants — all locals who belonged to Hizbul Mujahideen militant group were killed. They were identified as Ashfaq Ahmad Dar, a resident of Dogipura, Ishfaq Ahmad Baba, a resident of Tahab and Haseeb Ahmad, a resident of Brao Bandyun, he said. Three weapons have also been recovered from the encounter site, he added.

Christian priest brutally murdered in Rourkela

ANI

Rourkela, May 7: The priest of the Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jharkhand's Khunti district was killed by some unknown assailants in Rourkela city of Odisha yesterday.

In a gruesome manner, father Abraham Soreng was killed with his throat slashed and his body was later on thrown near the Rourkela railway over-bridge. He had come to Rourkela yesterday night with another person. On search, his mobile was found from his pocket, from which his identity was ascertained.

He was supposed to meet the Bishop of Ranchi today. The Railway Police are currently investigating the matter to nab the culprits

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Manipur Fire & Emergency Services declared as 1st responder to any disaster

The Directorate of Civil Defence which was placed under the Department of Relief & Disaster Management trained around 2000 volunteers of NCCV, Home Guards, Local Club Members and Students of the Schools and Colleges, DLOs, Police Personnel including MCS/MPS officers during 2015-16 under Disaster Management Institute, Manipur which is the State Nodal Institute for the implementation of GOI-UNDP Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Urban Risk Reduction (URR) Programmes. Under the Centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Home on strengthening of Civil Defence set up and mainstreaming of Civil Defence on disaster risk reduction programmes, all nine districts have been identified as Most Vulnerable Districts (MVDs) and a sum of Rs. 92.32 lakh per MVD is authorized to every district for various components during the entire regime/duration of the scheme. The 1st installment of Grant in Aid released during the financial year, 2014-15 by the MHA for Government of Manipur is 179.68 lakh @ Rs. 19.96 lakh per district. The amount has been deposited with the DCs/EDs/DRDA for setting up of infrastructures in their respective district. For strengthening of the Civil Defence setup at the districts, the District Magistrate and Additional District Magistrate have been declared as Controller & Deputy Controller of the Civil Defence in their respective district.

It may be recalled that the Department of Relief & Disaster management, Government of Manipur was set up as a separate Department in 2006 as per the provision of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 in order to respond effectively to various disasters/calamities namely earthquake, landslides, floods, forest fires, pest attack etc. in the state.

Scene at Imphal on the 2nd day of 42 hours public curfew capture through the lens of Laishram Ranbir



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