

# Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, September 1, 2016

## Annoying Season

Incidentally or otherwise, if anyone would care to ponder over, there is this thing with trouble which come calling in the middle of the year like an unwanted guest who stays back for dinner. There has been this inexplicable and uncanny coincidence of all sorts of things that could go wrong actually going wrong most frequently in the middle of the year for a while now. It does not mean to indicate a happy, calm state for the rest of the time- just an increasingly visible and consistent pattern that was not given much thought about before now. Could it be the change in the weather that drives most people to commit crimes and offences, the Government to be crowded out with scandals and revelations of misappropriation of funds, inaction and false promises. The public, not to be outdone, has been bringing up issues- some genuine and some blown out of proportion, jumping in amidst the fray that makes the whole scene rather ironically comic.

One thing is for sure- good or bad- the season for excitement and enthusiastic agitations is just round the corner once again. We can pretty much expect, without fail, an increase in the blockades and bandhs- to the point when three or four blockades are being imposed on the same road on the same day concurrently. We can then be seeing almost everyone out of their homes and into the streets to have a first-hand taste of the bandh. The rains will be bringing another set of issues from floods to accusations of apathy by the Government and delayed help- or no help as the case might be, to allegations of distributing live tadpoles, toads and other living organisms through the water supply system. A positive way to look at it would be to take heart in the fact that the water so supplied, though apparently undrinkable, proves for itself that it has not been poisoned. Could it be the logical explanation as to the question of why so many in the State have been taking to drinking from the local breweries? Social activism will be taken to with renewed vengeance by seasoned as well as wannabe social minded individuals and organisations. Power cuts will be on the rise once again- raising the temperature and lowering the tolerance level of the common people, while the fortunate ones will be hogging the meagre supply of power so generously provided after allocation to the less fortunate neighbouring region has been made.

All in all, the season promises to be anything but idle. After all something is better than nothing and normal is as boring as always. For those of us in the news media and journalists, a hectic yet rewarding period. What we really have been wanting to say all along is "Keep up the good work people!"

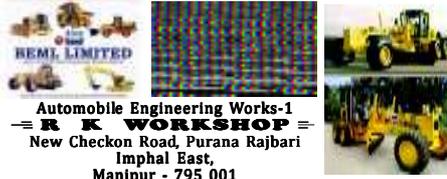
## National News

### 'Stand by what I said, will face trial': Rahul to SC

**Agency**  
New Delhi, Sept. 1: Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday told the Supreme Court that he is ready to face trial on charges of defaming Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. "I stand by what I said and will repeat. I am ready to face trial," Rahul Gandhi informed the apex court through his lawyer and former union minister Kapil Sibal. The Congress vice president withdrew petition from Supreme Court seeking withdrawal of case. However, the apex court refused to grant Rahul exemption from personal appearance before lower court handling the case. Last week, the apex court had accepted Rahul's defence that he never blamed the RSS as an institution for the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, but only those associated with, it in the defamation case filed against him by the outfit.

A bench comprising Justices Dipak Misra and R F Nariman, which was hearing the petition filed by Gandhi challenging the summons issued to him as an accused in a defamation case, said it will dispose of the petition if the complainant agreed. The bench, which heard the matter for about half-an-hour, said "what we understand is that the accused never blamed RSS as an institution that killed Mahatma Gandhi but the person associated with it." In 2014, while addressing a rally in Bhiwandi, Maharashtra, Rahul Gandhi had alleged that members of the RSS had assassinated Mahatma Gandhi on January 30, 1948. Gandhi was reported as saying, "RSS people killed Gandhi ji. They opposed Sardar Patel and Gandhi ji." In May 2015, Rahul Gandhi had moved the Supreme Court, seeking a dismissal of the criminal case.

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## MAKE IN MANIPUR INITIATES UNDER ASPIRE SCHEME

### DIPR

Under ASPIRE ( A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industry and Entrepreneurship), Government of India has sanctioned 22 Livelihood Business Incubators (LBIs), out of this, 9 LBIs have been sanctioned in the tiny State of Manipur at a total cost of Rs. 792.48 lakh. These 9 LBIs, one in each of nine Districts of Manipur are going to play a crucial role in our Make in Manipur initiative. In addition one rapid Incubation Centre is being set up by National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC) in Imphal. By availing the facilities provided by these Incubators, people can get themselves trained in their chosen trades and become successful entrepreneurs. The State Government is also setting up one Common Facility Centre (CFC) at a cost of Rs 15 crore each in every district for providing manpower training to the farmers and other related infrastructures so that they can avail these opportunities for manufacturing their own products. Diagnostic Study Reports have already been accepted by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India and necessary DIPRs

are being submitted. These CFCs will be area specific, that is, will basically be based on the availability of raw materials in the respective district.

The proposed CFCs are in Senapati district - Floriculture (Dry Flowers, Cut Flowers, Aromatic & medicinal Plants, etc.), In Chandel - Bamboo Processing (bamboo shoot manufacturing and other bamboo-based handicraft items), In Churachandpur - Spices processing, In Tamenglong - Fruit Processing, In Ukhrul - Food Processing (lemon, orange, passion fruit, spices, chili, etc), Imphal East - Pineapple Processing, Imphal West - Plastic Processing, Bishnupur - Fish Processing and in Thoubal district - Kauna Processing.

Entrepreneurship in Aromatic & Medicinal plants has a tremendous potential in Manipur. The State being the gateway to South East Asian, has its advantage on its own if the medicinal plants found in Manipur is grown on a large scale, processed, packed and sold either in India or abroad. This can minimise the problem of unemployment to a certain extent. M/S. Manipur Food Industries Corporation Ltd (MFICL), an undertaking of Department of Commerce & Industries, Manipur

has worked out a model where farmers grow medicinal and aromatic plants on their land with financial assistance from banks and planting material is supplied by MFICL with a buy back policy. For processing and value addition, Livelihood Business

Incubators have been established in every District Industries Centre. To facilitate supply of planting materials, Gene Bank has been developed at Chothe Village in Bishnupur District. MFICL is targeting a total area of 5000 acre in the first phase all over the State for plantation of medicinal and aromatic plants, more particularly stevia, lemon grass, ginger and turmeric and aims to generate employment of atleast 2000 persons on a sustainable basis.

The National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) scheme was newly introduced in 2015-16 by merging all other general handloom schemes. Under this scheme, Clusters will be set up at Block level, having concentration of handlooms at the cost of Rs.2.00 crore each. In a Block, more than one cluster may also be taken up depending upon need-base with respect to the number of handlooms.

The scheme has many sub-components, like, baseline survey/ diagnostic study, consortium building, raw material, design development, product diversification, infrastructure (CFC), publicity & marketing, basic input, skill upgradation, construction of workshops, solar lighting system, engagement of Cluster Development, Textile Designer-Cum-Marketing Executive and project management. The objectives of the scheme are to follow need based approach for integrated and holistic development of handlooms and welfare of handloom weavers. Support weavers, both within and outside the cooperative fold including self help groups, NGOs etc. towards raw material, design inputs, technology up-gradation, marketing support through exhibitions, Create permanent infrastructure in the form of Urban Haats, marketing complexes, setting up of Weavers Service Centre (WSCs) and Development of web portal for e-marketing of handloom products etc.

Govt. of India has approved and sanctioned 10 Nos. of Block Level Handloom Clusters in each district of Manipur in 2015-16 at a total project cost of Rs.16 crore to cover a target of 18500 weavers of Manipur.

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## Manipur Maoist justifies movement to protect indigenous people

The statement also said that many Indian labourers and businessmen were given settlement in Burma during the period of the Imperialist British over Burma. The present Yangong which was known as Rangoon once upon a time was inhabited by lakhs of Indian born people. In due course of time and changes in governance, after the Military Coup in 1962, more than 3,00,000 Burmese Indian fled away as refugees. Those Indian origin Burmese refugees were given shelter in Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal by the Indian Government. Again those Burmese Tamil refugees were made to return for their settlement in Burma but unfortunately they were not allowed to enter Burma and so they settled at Moreh. Thus, more than a few three thousands are leaving in Manipur at Moreh. The Government of India made the settlement of the refugees in Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Bengal by giving adequate facility of living a life like Housing Loan and land with the eligibility of living there. The Government of Tamil Nadu spent Rs. 3.7 crore in its effort to let them settle till 1975. In this way, the Government of India sanctioned Rs. 15,65,000 to the Government of Manipur for the settlement of 6000 Tamils who had reached Moreh. It was reported by Mr. Anbarason Thiranjani, a journalist of BBC Asia as "The Burmese Indians who never went home" in 4th September 2015. So, such historical facts should not be overlooked and planned to deny or divert or distract in any way. It is also another true account that can't be avoided that one Journalist called Subir Bhaumik expressed clearly after a thorough observation that those Nepali, Bengali, Punjabi, Bihari and Telugu were also fleeing away from Burma, who have been taking settlement in Moreh now. The only one among these Burmese political refugees who had taken shelter in Manipur because of the Burmese Democracy Movement was recognized as Political Refugee in its status in 1989 by UNHCR. According to UNHCR and the reports of the Ministry of Home Affairs of India, six thousands two hundreds and twenty-four (6224) Burmese were taking shelter in Manipur because of unstable conditions of Burma during 1988 to 2001 and out them 1245 eligible Burmese were given the status of Political Refugee by UNHCR. Chin refugees were not given the status of Political Refugee since they were significantly Economic Refugees. It's not fair to

try to divert and the fact that such a large numbers of Economic Refugees are taking shelter in the soil of Manipur as if in a settlement. The most prevailing exposition is that the innumerable Burmese Chins were trespassing not only in Manipur but also in Mizoram. The Human Right Watch expressed that approximately one lakh Chin population was taking shelter in Mizoram too. Out of these only one thousand Chins were recognized by UNHCR-New Delhi as refugees. They are known as Economic migrants by Mizoram government. In 1994 a Burmese elected member called Lian Uk pleaded the various relevant NGOs including UNHCR to look into the matter of the efforts of Mizoram government on scrubbing the Chin refugees and discontinue to do so, by submitting written application. Then such challenges and contradictions were broadened, consequently the people of Mizoram launched Quit Mizoram campaign against the Chin refugees. The joint committee of village council, Aizawl South-iii assembly constituency published an open letter to the Chin migrants in Mizoram to quit Mizoram on 14th Nov.2010. Thus the Chin migrants who couldn't enter Burma as well as didn't want to settle in Burma took shelter by the boarder of Mizoram at Churachandpur district in Manipur. Thus it's a fact that those Chin migrants have been taking shelter entering Churachandpur and some of them returned to Burma leaving Mizoram because of weariness and sufferings caused by the impact of frequent tumultuous challenges in Mizoram. Still, merciful and sympathetic Manipuris have never tried to launch any campaign against such equal race economic migrants to quit Manipur even though their so called brothers in Mizoram like many organisations including YMA, MNF etc. have not been stopping Quit Mizoram campaign till today by sending written notices frequently many a times to scrub the Chin migrants. So it's not logically reasonable to try to divert and deny such Historical facts in this crucial stage of giving hard efforts to protect and safeguard the indigenous peoples of Manipur, interfering such a big effort in need. Chin migrants have been sustained and brought up by the people of Mizoram very lovingly, sympathetically at first. In 1988 when they fled away from Burma they were provided utmost sustainable helps and supports with kindness in their land by the Mizos. Forgetting that

they were refugees and sheltered in other's land of peaceful co-existence, the peace of the land was broken by the migrants disturbing the stability of Mizoram, for instance though the selling of wine was banned and not permitted in Mizoram the Chin migrants who were taking shelter in the areas like Phunchawng village and Rangvamaul village started preparation and selling of wine without a stoppage; such ungrateful and headstrong acts caused YMA to issue them Quit Notice. A Chin migrant in Lunglei, Mizoram kept his views to Human Right Watch "We need protection. We can be deported back at any time by Mizoram government or YMA (Young Mizo Association). Most of us will be killed or permanently jailed if we are deported to Burma. We are refugees, but we are not recognized as such." This fact was reported by HRW. Based on the reports of UNHCR and Ministry of Home reports of India, it is clearly mentioned that many Economic Refugee mainly Chin refugee are settled in Manipur. India is also well aware that due to unsettled situation of the Bangladesh Government during the then war period of Burmese Democracy Movement, the war refugees migrated towards Manipur at that time and took shelter. A report on Relief and Rehabilitation of Displaced Person in West Bengal was also published by the West Bengal Government in December 11, 1957. As per the report, it was stated that more than two thousand Bangladeshis had entered Manipur during that period. The people of Manipur has been continuously providing love and support and taking part in the movement of these people who are unfortunately deprived of settling back in their home countries. It would be improper wisdom and unfairness to forget that the people of Manipur had laid support to the war refugees of the Burmese Democratic Movement by conducting a rally in Moreh at that time. The people of Manipur very well pay sympathy, respect and support to the Political Refugee at utmost level and welcome them whole heartedly at all times. Due to the turbulence of the Political Refugee, and with struggles and agitations to meet the political objectives, it can be well trusted that the organizations shall never work against the desires and objectives of the people of Manipur. The people of Manipur also need to provide all possible support to the Political Refugees. All love and humanitarian support have also

been consistently laid upon the Economic Migrants till date and there is no issue in living with them in peace and harmony on humanitarian ground until and unless they do not hamper any peaceful settled position of a vibrant Manipur supported by all the people of Manipur. However, if they tend to shatter the dreams and wishes of the people of Manipur, they shall be considered and treated as an enemy of the people of Manipur. It is time for the people of Manipur to think if the hindrances lying in front of the movements to safeguard the indigenous people of Manipur are being backed by the Economic Migrants or not. The people of Manipur now need a broader heart and a farsighted approach. The movements also need to expand within and beyond the boundaries of Manipur. First, it is necessary to create voices and movements in support of the war refugees of the Democratic Movement of Burma that is upon the deprived Burmese Kukis and Chins migrants so that they can settle back in their home country Burma. The voices of the Burmese Kuki and Chin to settle back in their home country is very much true in nature for it favor the Human Rights. In this regard, it may be mentioned that it is the duty of the people of Manipur to undergo various movements and make the voices heard to the concerned persons in support of the displaced people of Burma who fled their home country post 1967 period due to the unbearable atrocities of the Burmese Military Junta and took shelter in Manipur. These movements shall, in fact, benefit the indigenous peoples of Manipur as well as the unfortunate and deprived Burmese Kukis and Chin migrants. This will, in return, make it possible to protect and re-establish well settled Manipur for the indigenous communities of Manipur. On the other side, the unsettled Burmese Kukis and Chin migrants shall also be able to settle back in their home country Burma. Since Democracy has been restored in Burma, the people of Manipur should remind the People's Leader of Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi to work out strategies for resettlement of their unfortunate Burmese Kukis and Chin migrants back in their country. In this regard, it would also be wise for the people of Manipur to raise voices in all international forums and platforms and make it be heard to the concerned individuals.