

Editorial

Imphal Friday, January 13, 2016

Assumption but it is possible

The 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election Scheduled to hold in two phase - i.e. on march 4 and march 8 is perhaps one of the most important election which has the tendency to change the political theatre of this state.

The verdict of the people in this election will be the reflection of the people of the state towards handing over the fate of the state to either BJP which is in power in the center or to the congress which is ruling the state for three consecutive terms or in a third front political parties which will be a new taste for the state.

This verdict which will decide on which political party will come to power in the state government, is also likely to be another factor that will decide the destiny of the 'frame work' agreement inked between the Government of India and the collective leadership of the NSCN-IM. This may be assumed as over estimation, but there are strong circumstances that make us believe that this election will have impact to the ongoing framework agreement. That is why the frontal body of NACN-IM is making all its effort to get maximum supports to its parent body.

It is a fact that, the BJP is trying all its effort to establish a strong BJP government in the state and every possible attempt is being made to make the party as peoples' choice. After the last parliamentary constituency election at which the BJP under the leadership of Narendra Modi has swept overwhelm victory, the party has been targeting to build a strong base as it appeared as an insult to the party by not succeeding in sending a single representative in not even a single sit in both the parliamentary constituencies and the Assembly constituencies. But with the party leading the government in the center, the Manipur BJP unit act like a strong opposition since then.

They have learnt somehow, the party's handicapped after a significant MLA out of two had quit the party and joined the INC. Well that was when the BJP led government at the center hadn't move ahead anything to the ongoing peace talk with the NSCN-IM.

It is not just saying, but a truth, that almost all mainstream political parties work to spread their arms far and wide. Regional problem are little consider as long as they have good numbers of their party men. The agenda of every political party is also to get maximum number of elected representatives. And if the said political party fails to come in power it is a logic that the same party may try other alternatives to occupy at some other constituency.

At present BJP's popularity graph in Valley area of the state has been somehow gone down, and following this there is a possibility that the party may change its strategy towards the Hills.

This is the juncture that is needed to be discussed in depth. It is a common understanding that the NSCN-IM has the potential to influence the voters of some of the assembly constituencies based at Hill districts of the state. It is also an open secret that once a powerful armed group stands at the back of a political party it makes the political party easier to penetrate to the voters' community here at some of the North East states of India particularly the state of Manipur.

What is concern here is that if the second alternative has been put as a priority for the BJP then there is every possibility the government at the center which is being lead by the BJP may do any move to please the NSCN-IM.

Last year, this paper had reported about the 3 state formula charted out by the NSCN-IM by curving out portion of Manipur's territory and Arunachal Pradesh Territory. May be if none of the BJP candidate contesting the election had succeeded to win a seat, the BJP will chose the option.

This is assumed so because BJP's agenda is to have more MLAs or MPs of their party across the nation, no matter if it had to retell the history of an erstwhile nation now an Indian state.

Aizawl records coldest day ever in recorded history

PTI
Aizawl, Jan 13 The mercury in Aizawl dipped to a record low of 3.2 degrees Celsius, making it the coldest day in the state ever since the MeT office was setup in the region.

The maximum temperature was recorded at 23.2 degrees Celsius, while the minimum stood at 3.2 degrees Celsius yesterday, Scientific Officer K Lalrammuana said, adding that 3.2 degrees Celsius was the lowest ever temperature recorded in Aizawl.

"Yesterday's reading broke the record of minimum temperature of 3.7 degree Celsius recorded on January 24, 2016 while the lowest maximum temperature ever recorded was on January 21, 2016 at 19.9 degree Celsius," Lalrammuana said. The Regional Meteorological Centre in Guwahati has predicted that the mercury is likely to go down further in the next 48 hours.

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National & International News

CBI files final report in coal scam case against Naveen Jindal

New Delhi, Jan 13 (PTI) The CBI today filed the final report in further probe directed by special court in the coal scam case against Congress leader and industrialist Naveen Jindal, ex-Minister of State for Coal Dasari Narayan Rao and others.

Special Judge Bharat Parashar, however, took strong objection to the IO not filing the report in a proper format and asked him to do so by

January 23.

The report filed before the court today contains CFSL reports, list of witnesses and their statements recorded by the CBI.

The court had earlier pulled up the CBI for delay in filing the report, saying it was affecting the progress of trial.

The court had allowed CBI's plea that it needed to probe the case further in light of certain disclosures

made by a chartered accountant Suresh Singhal, who had sought the court's nod to turn approver.

It had also allowed Singhal's plea for pardon and ordered deletion of his name from the list of the accused.

CBI had alleged that ex-Jharkhand Chief Minister Madhu Koda, also accused in the case, had favoured Jindal group firms — Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) and Gagan

Sponge Iron Private Ltd (GSIPL) — in allocation of Amarkonda Murgadanga coal block in Jharkhand.

Opposing CBI's contention, all the accused had said there was no evidence to show that they were in any conspiracy during the coal block allocation process. They had also denied the allegations levelled against them by CBI in its charge sheet.

After BSF and CRPF, army jawan makes video complaining about harassment by seniors

PTI
New Delhi, Jan. 13: A new video of an army jawan Thursday surfaced on social media in which he has alleged harassment by seniors for writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the problems faced by the soldiers, soon after similar videos of

complaint came to light from a BSF jawan and a CRPF constable.

In the video, Lance Naik Yagya Pratap Singh, posted in 42 Infantry Brigade in Dehradun, said that after he wrote to the prime minister, the defence minister, the president and the Supreme Court in June last year, his

brigade received a communication from PMO asking for a probe into his grievances.

But, Singh said, instead of investigating the issue, his seniors began harassing him and also initiated an enquiry, which could potentially result in his court-martial.

He stressed that no sensitive information was leaked or mentioned in his letter to the prime minister. "I had written an application to the PM in which I said that soldiers, who act as sahayaks, should not be made to polish shoes of officers," Singh said.

Contd. from page 1

A grave situation for the people of Manipur

In the name of maintaining "law and order", the Central government has deployed over 150 companies of para military forces all over Manipur. Imphal is under curfew. This is in addition to the already heavy deployment of the army and paramilitary forces all over the state justified under the name of "counter-insurgency operations". In these conditions, the Election Commission has announced that elections to the Manipur Assembly will be held in two phases on February 4 and February 8.

Reacting to this announcement, the United Naga Council has announced that it will continue the blockade of the Imphal valley. It has declared that elections cannot be held peacefully in the Naga-inhabited areas of Manipur until the prevailing problems are resolved. The situation in Manipur is a tinder box about to explode.

What is the trouble and who is the trouble maker in Manipur?

The propaganda machinery of the Central government keeps repeating that the problem in Manipur is the creation of various groups of insurgents and separatists with affiliation to different ethnic groups. According to this story line, the people of Manipur are bitterly divided on ethnic lines as Meiteis, Nagas, Kukis and so on and it is the army and paramilitary forces deployed in the state that has ensured that they do not slaughter each other.

This is nothing but a monstrous lie. The truth is the people of Manipur, irrespective of their ethnic or tribal affiliation, have lived together peacefully over the centuries. Together they constitute the nation of Manipur which has evolved over the centuries with its own history, culture and language.

The people of Manipur waged ceaseless struggles against the British colonialists along with the rest of the Indian people for independence. However, following the declaration of Indian independence in 1947, the new rulers of India carried out a treacherous attack on the people of Manipur. After arresting the Maharajah of Manipur, the Central government forced him to sign on papers declaring the merger of Manipur with the Indian union. Manipur was thus forcibly annexed into the Indian Union in October 1949, on the eve of the declaration of India as a Republic. The Manipuri people have never forgotten this. They have continued their struggle for sovereignty.

The Naga people never agreed to be part of the Indian State. Their struggle for self-determination has raged right from 1947 till now. The Indian state has pursued a typically colonial and imperialist policy towards the Manipuris,

Nagas as well as the peoples of other North Eastern states. On the one hand, it never tires of claiming that these people are part of the Indian Union. On the other hand, it has waged a no holds barred war against these people, through the army and paramilitary forces. Under the fascist Armed Forces Special Powers Act (1958), the Army has untrammelled powers to rape and murder the people, and no questions can be asked. Tens of thousands of innocent people have been murdered by the armed forces over the years. Life is a living hell for the people.

The Manipuris, Nagas, and other peoples of the region have refused to give up their struggle for human, democratic and national rights. They have waged a powerful struggle for the repeal of the fascist AFSPA which has enjoyed ever growing support amongst the people of other parts of the Indian Union. Under these conditions, the Indian state has combined state terror with other diabolical weapons. In order to smash the unity of the peoples of Manipur and the Nagas which is being forged in the common struggle in defense of rights against the Indian State, the intelligence agencies of the state have set up, financed and armed numerous militant groups in the region. Such armed groups carry out senseless acts of violence, with the aim of discrediting the just struggle of the people for their rights. They provide justification for continued Army rule and the AFSPA.

Alongside of Army rule and the operation of its undercover agencies, the central government carries on the charade of organizing periodic elections. Through this, some sections who hope to benefit from the present conditions have been co-opted into the political process. They become MLA's and ministers. They inflame sectarian passions amongst the people and work systematically to smash the unity of the people.

The Central Government also tries to split the different national movements in the North East by carrying on separate negotiations with this or that group. Through these negotiations, it carries out its policy of divide and rule.

The negotiations of the Central government with the NSCN-IM have this aim. The announcement of the State government of Manipur to create new districts from the existing hill districts all has this aim. The fear amongst the people of Manipur that the center would come to agreement with the NSCN-IM to divide up the state of Manipur, has been manipulated by various political groups in Manipur, including ruling and opposition parliamentary parties, to whip up hysteria amongst the people. Thus the Meitei-Naga divide has been deliberately sharpened.

The problem in Manipur and the whole of the North East is the forcible denial of the human, democratic and national rights of the people by the Indian state.

The blockade and counter blockade do not contribute to the solution of

the problem. It is the people of Manipur, both the valley people and the hill people, who are suffering as a result. The Central government is enjoying this situation of anarchy and strife.

The communists and progressive forces of Manipur face a big challenge. They have to explain to the people that no problem can be solved by reposing faith in the Indian state. No solution to the problems of state terrorism and the problem of national rights of the people of Manipur can be found within the present Indian Union. This can be seen in the fact that despite massive opposition to the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, this fascist act has not been repealed. Now the central government is using not only the bogey of fighting insurgency movements in Manipur as justification for army rule; it is saying that army and AFSPA are necessary to prevent ethnic clashes in the state.

The situation in Manipur once again raises the question of reconstitution of the Indian Union, as a voluntary union of consenting nations and peoples. The people of Manipur, Nagas, Meiteis and others, are all oppressed by the same state. In unity with working class and all other exploited of the rest of India, the people of the oppressed nations have to fight for replacing the present Indian Union with a new state which will guarantee human, democratic and national rights of all.

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