

Editorial

Wednesday, January 3, 2018

Looking for a better inclusive alternative

The present era of Information Technology has ushered in such irrevocably radical changes that the world is viewed as a global village, and rightly so. Unrestrained and instant access to knowledge and information as well as coverage of communication facilities throughout almost every nook and corner of the world has indeed demolished the barriers to communication and information.

Yet in such an era, ancient habits and archaic practices tend to subdue the logical and contemporary mindset- which can only explain the developments in such a small and geographically challenging state as ours.

The NSCN-IM, in their quest to build a new nation of Nagas, using various means- both fair and foul, are sculpting a new region as per their wisdom, which they claim is essential to fulfill their end without proper understanding of the repercussions and the collateral damages. But the reality is known, with people slowly understanding the sole concept of the FA as it is a preamble to solve the age old issue under the constitution of India. Same is the case with the Kukis who are demanding a unified kukiland, and if tomorrow, the other groups like the Manipuri Muslims, Kabuis, etc. were also to start demanding a separate region out of this state, leave alone the Meiteis, what rational could support such a demand or demands? Shouldn't it be better to leave Manipur for the Manipuris- the Nagas, the Kukis, the Kabuis, the Muslims, the Meiteis and whichever group is residing in it. Regressive thinking, although might benefit a section or group of individuals, ultimately will only hamper even their own development - mentally, spiritually and financially. Thanks to the BJP led government for its assurance to protect the territorial boundary of each state in the NE region while bringing an end to the problem of NSCN-IM.

However, a staggering amount of efforts and expenses have been utilized in rising and sustaining such issues as is evident from the scale of operations of these demands. What if these precious resources- financial and manpower- had been used for finding pragmatic solutions and answers to alleviate the way of life for everyone in this state- be it the scarcity of water, the insufficient and erratic power supply on which almost every modern equipments and gadgets are based on, the dismally prepared roads hindering travel and transportation- to be at par with the rest of the world and to prepare the future generation to compete and strive with fairness and intensity rather than to bide one's time and survive on another's misfortune and circumstances, as did our forefathers during the stone age. Life is to be lived, not to merely survive, and to strive and grow and progress should be the endeavor of every human. Succumbing to rhetoric about one's filial pride and privileges will only leave one behind in the quagmire one so deviously schemed to trap others in.

Is everyone up for it?

Natl. & Intl News

2 children die in Vietnam explosion

AFP
Bac Ninh, Jan 3: A baby and a five-year-old girl were killed in an explosion east of Vietnam's capital Hanoi today that destroyed several houses and wounded at least six other people.

Authorities are investigating the cause of the blast in Bac Ninh province's Yen Phong district, which occurred at 4:30 am demolishing buildings and sending debris flying through the air. The explosion completely razed five homes and shattered the windows of surrounding buildings, according to an AFP reporter at the scene. A one-year-old boy and a girl were killed, according to a report from the provincial health department seen by AFP, while six others were taken

to hospital with injuries.

"The blast seemed to be in an area where there are many families involved in collecting scrap," a local official told AFP, requesting anonymity. Salvage of metal from the tonnes of Vietnam War-era bombs that still blanket the country often ends in tragedy.

In August six people were killed, including three children, when a war-era bomb exploded in Khanh Hoa province. Reports at the time suggested it detonated as scrap workers cut it open. Since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, more than 42,000 people have been killed and over 62,100 injured by unexploded ordnance dropped by US aircraft, according government figures.

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More State News and NE - News

AFSPA extended for six month in Nagaland

Agency

Kohima, Jan 3: The Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) has been extended for another six months in Nagaland.

"The Union home ministry, in a notification on December 30, extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act 1958, in the entire area of Nagaland for another six months," a Nagaland home department official said.

The notification issued by the home ministry's joint secretary Satyendra Garg said the Centre was of the opinion that the area comprising the state of Nagaland was in such a "disturbed and dangerous condition that the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary".

Rights groups, various civil societies and political parties, especially the tribal-based parties in Northeastern states, described the law as "draconian" and have been demanding its withdrawal as



the act gave huge powers to the army and para-military forces to conduct operations anywhere in the disturbed areas without any prior notice.

The AFSPA is also in force in Manipur (excluding the Imphal municipal council area), some parts of Assam and in several districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

Manipur's Irom Sharmila Chanu

was on hunger strike since 2000 demanding the repeal of the Act but withdrew the strike in August, 2016. The Left-ruled Tripura in May, 2015 withdrew the AFSPA which gave sweeping powers and judicial immunity to security forces in conflict-hit areas. The law was enforced in the state 19 years ago to curb terrorism. The central government, various

political parties, including the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress hailed the Tripura government's decision.

The Centre and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) had entered into a ceasefire agreement in August, 1997. Around 60 rounds of talks were held to end the insurgency that was said to have claimed 25,000 lives since 1947. The central government had also appointed interlocutor RN Ravi to continue the peace process with the NSCN (IM). The NSCN (IM) has been fighting for an independent Nagaland for over six decades. But since the peace talks began, it has scaled down the demand to a "Greater Nagaland", including parts of three neighbouring states to unite areas inhabited by around 1.5 million Nagas.

Three Northeastern states — Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh — have opposed the demand.

Nagaland set to launch online ILP application

Kohima, Jan 3: Nagaland Director General of Police, DGP Rupin Sharma has said that the department would soon be launching online Inner Line Permit application centre in Dimapur district.

Interacting with media persons at PHQ Kohima yesterday, he said that launching of the Centre would

not only help people visiting the state to apply online but also check and curtail influx of illegal immigrants into Nagaland. On the growing demand of several civil societies to extend enforcement of ILP to Dimapur district, the DG said that the legal position is that Dimapur is currently not under ILP because of the Bengal Eastern

Frontier Regulation Act.

Nonetheless, he said, the department will study the legal implication of extending ILP to Dimapur, but till the time that it is being implemented the Department will try to strengthen the existing ILP mechanism throughout the state so that influx of illegal immigrants can be curtailed and

checked. The DP was optimistic that online issuance and bar-coding of the ILP will help in better checking of ILP holders. Terming that the influx of illegal immigrants has been a complicated issue for the State, Home Minister Azo said that the department needs more time to study and bring out a policy in this regard.

AR conducts awareness programme on common causes of aids and preventive measures

IT News

Imphal, Jan 3: 11 Assam Rifles of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted an awareness programme on "Common Causes of AIDS and Preventive Measures" at H Mongjang village, Tengnoupal District on New Year day.

Around 109 civilians including 23 males, 31 females and 55 children took part in the

programme as per report by PRO IGAR (South).

"The villagers were briefed regarding common causes of AIDS and preventive measures. The villagers were also encouraged to spread awareness amongst others to prevent AIDS. The villagers participated with active interest in the lecture and also put forth their queries and myths about AIDS. The same were duly clarified by the

medical staff of this unit. The villagers appreciated the awareness lecture organised during the New Year celebrations. The lecture and interaction between the villagers and Assam Rifles was a highly amicable gesture during New Year celebration. Villagers were made aware regarding preventive measures and they were also clarified regarding myths which are associated with spreading of

AIDS and socially alienate the patients who are suffering from the disease. The lecture enhanced the overall awareness of the villagers regarding the disease. The lecture was concluded by a unanimous pledge to fight against AIDS and lend essential support to unfortunate individuals suffering with the same", the PRO IGAR (South) statement added.

MP Rio clears speculations of his association with NDPP, declares his dissociation from it in every manner

NEPS

Kohima, Jan 3: Former Nagaland Chief Minister and Member of Parliament in Lok Sabha, Neiphiu Rio, has sought to clarify his political position as speculation about his dealing with the newly floated regional political party, Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), has been going on for quite some time. In a statement issued on Tuesday, the MP narrated how some like-minded people approached him to

form a new political party for which he gave his moral support. This happened when he was placed under suspension from NPF. He further even reminded that he was elected as NPF President by a "whopping majority" on September 20, 2017, at a General Convention at Dimapur under "Chief Minister TR Zeliang and his group of MLAs." He, however, decided to resign from the post of NPF President following a reconciliation process on the

suggestion of ECI and the request of various public leaders as well. After tendering his resignation as NPF President on December 8, 2017, Rio said he had extended his full support to the presidency of Dr. Shurhozelie Liezietu and also withdrew the dispute case from the ECI on December 10, 2017. Rio also narrated how he started his political career from the Cock Party, the United Democratic Party as Youth President in 1974, besides resigning from the Vamuzo's

Ministry in 1990 to accommodate fellow legislator and also his resigning from the Congress Ministry headed by SC Jamir in 2002. He also disclosed how he revived the present NPF Party by way of making numerous sacrifices and maximum contributions. "With Almighty God's blessings and people's support, I went on to become the Chief Minister of the NPF-led DAN Government for three consecutive terms," he added.

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