

Procrastinations and protests

IT Desk

The build-up to the 48 hours general strike called by MUSU and staunchly supported by various student's organizations which began from midnight of 17 July have been long and gradual in the making. After a considerable lull in protests and social disruptions after the BJP-led coalition government snatched power from the Congress, the state is now truly back to its familiar albeit uncomfortable social scenario, with uncertainty, suspicion and a general air of pessimism pervading the entire state. Meanwhile, the adamancy of the BJP-appointed Vice Chancellor whose resignation is being demanded by every quarter of Manipur University without exception clearly manifests the collective attitude of total disregard and disdain of the BJP at

the centre for the concerns and demands of the people of the state to the point where even the Chief Minister has to almost plead with the power at the centre to take up the issue with right earnestness. If the issues and concerns raised by the people of a state under BJP rule is neglected and dismissed, the thought of the plight of the people in states under non-BJP rule is scary to put it mildly.

The escalating tension and social disruptions is an avoidable tragedy. The Chief Minister have finally found the wisdom to take steps to settle the issue by knocking at the corridors of power at the centre and appraising them of the developments in the state to those who matter. Meanwhile, the call for the resignation of N Biren as Chief Minister is getting shriller. His image of a proactive and decisive leader has taken a huge dent, more so after the determined and orchestrated portrayal as a leader with a

radical and hands on approach which raised the expectations of the people to unrealistic heights during the initial euphoria of maneuvering into power. Promising the moon and delivering mediocrity will definitely prove to be the perfect recipe for social disaster and chaos, and if the present government of the state has enough wit about itself, there should not be another next time of disruptions and social unrest to force it into action. It would be pertinent to point out that the state government failed to correctly feel and read the pulse of the society- whether from overconfidence or from lack of foresight and finesse is anybody's guess.

The most important- or perhaps the only question that matters is -what now? If our opinions and suggestions would have any impact on the thoughts and actions of the power that be in the state, then the following points might provide some

food for thought and action. First off, taking proactive steps to settle issues before things spin out of control and become a grave issue affecting the lives of the public. Use of public posts and positions for other political or personal gain should be discouraged and publicly dealt with without further ado. The state force should be sensitized on the matter of handling protests and public demonstrations as ruthless gagging would only make matters worse- for themselves and everybody, what with the already not-so-favorable perceptions of the general public of their integrity and dedication towards duty. But above all, a strict delegation of rights and responsibilities towards the authorities will ensure things will not get out of hand and issues will get resolved in a more pleasant and amicable manner.

ICAR Manipur centre bagged prestigious National Award



IT News
Imphal, July 18,

Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India conferred the Prestigious "Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Award- 2017 for Outstanding Research in Tribal Farming Systems" to a team of scientists of ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Manipur Centre, Lamphelpat Imphal. The team comprised of Dr. N. Prakash (Director, ICAR RC NEH, Umiam), Dr. Sushree Saikot Roy (Scientist in Horticulture), Dr. Meenu Anansi (Scientist in Entomology) and Dr. Susheela Sharma (Scientist in Pathology). The award was conferred on the eve of the foundation day of Indian Council of

Agricultural Research held on 16th July, 2018 at NASC Complex, New Delhi. The Award consists with the value of ₹ 1.00 lakh in cash and citation and provision of equal amount for study on related subject in tribal areas of Manipur. The award was presented by Shri Radha Mohan Singh, the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India in the presence of Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India; Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR, New Delhi; Shri Chhabendra Roul, Special Secretary DARE and Secretary, ICAR and Shri B. Pradhan, Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, DARE/

ICAR, New Delhi. The team had successfully accomplished multi-disciplinary R&D activities on "Livelihood improvement of the farming community of Manipur through adoption of farming system approach and allied activities" which led in achieving higher productivity-profitability-sustainability of hill farming system as well as ensuring food-nutritional-livelihood security for farming community in Manipur. The delegates of ICAR Foundation day complemented the Awardees for the hard core efforts in taking the developed technologies from Lab to Land of Manipur, which will be instrumental in realizing doubling of farmers income in the region and achieving sustainability in agriculture production.

Conversion into Hinduism

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may cult brought life in the Meiteis. In this generation, Khongmei Meiteis to be worn as lowest and stitch them together to show elements of man and way

of life viz. Hinduism and Meiteism. The new practice since then is continuing till date. So, Hinduism in Manipur is an interesting field for study. During the long reign of 40 years, Pamheiba changed his faith so frequently. From 1709-1717 the king followed Rudra Sampradaya, from 1717-1724, he fell to Goudya Vaisnavism. Then he changed to Ramayet cult from 1724 and continued it upto

1736AD. Then he got baptised to Nimandi cult and professed the same from 1736- 1739. In the fag end of his life, the king adopted Goudya Vaisnavism once again till he breathe his last but he could not influenced his subjects much. Thus, Manipur became an arena for testing different religious cults from 1709- 1748 under Pamheiba alias Garbinwaz which made untold misery to his subjects.

The 3rd Manipur State Conference of AILU held at Imphal with a note to strengthen justice system in the State

IT News
Imphal, July 17,

The 3rd Manipur State Conference of All India Lawyers' Union (AILU) was held at Cheirap Court Hall, Imphal this Sunday.

The Inaugural Session of the conference was addressed by AILU National President Bikashranjan Bhattacharya, CPI(M) State Secretary Kshetrimayum Santa, AILU Tripura President Haribal Debnath, Columnist Advocate Chongtham Narendra, Uma Chandra from AILU Tripura and Puyam Tomcha Meetei, AILU Manipur President.

After floral tributes to the martyrs and welcome address by state Vice President of AILU Mainsam Jagajit Singh a condolence resolution was adopted and a two minutes silent was observed as a homage to the departed members of the union specifically mentioning the name of Comrade Hashim Abdul Halim, who was instrumental in the launching of AILU Manipur State unit. Bikashranjan Bhattacharya, in his speech talked about the Vishwa Kavi Rabindranath Tagore's contribution to the Manipuri dance and the influences on him by the Manipuri culture and traditions for his writings on Chitraganda and the opening of Manipuri Dance Department in Viswabarhati at Shantiniketan. Coming to the legal system, he further said that our issues in this country is concerning the justice delivery system to the people irrespective of caste, creed, colour and class. He, pinpointing the Constitution of India, said that our people should have equal justice on social, economic and political life but the present legal practice in the country denied the rights of the people enshrined in the Constitution which was framed by the Constituent Assembly. He further said that the AILU, as a legal practitioners' united movement, sought to impart justice to the millions of people by expanding and strengthening AILU organisation to each and every nook and corner of India with uniting all legal professionals.



Emphasising the conditions of the masses Bikashranjan Bhattacharya pointed out that the 70 years of injustices meted out to the toiling masses steeled the lawyers and justices and enabled them to stand against the dictates of the ruling class administration for a better legal practice and system. He continued by noting that the rise of the far right forces, the Hindutva forces, coincide with the coming of BJP led NDA Government at the centre which is on the onslaught to the people in the name of capitalist development. The development cannot but be effected by neoliberalism and the rise of the divisive Hindutva communal forces. He concluded that we have to defend the independence of judiciary from the tyranny of fundamentalists Hindutva ruling combination and this can be achieved only through a united struggle and called for a people centric alternative policy. Greeting the delegates and participants to the inaugural function of the conference Kshetrimayum Santa, the State Secretary of CPI(M), reminded the contributions to the establishment of AILU unit in Manipur made by the AILU leadership led by Comrade Hashim Abdul Halim, since deceased, including D K Aggarwal, former General Secretary of AILU, Bharati Mukherjee, K Parthasarathi and S P Singh in 2009. He said that we should live to the expectations of those leaders who moulded the AILU to become one of the leading

democratic legal practitioners' organisations in the country. Addressing the gathering columnist advocate Chongtham Narendra said that India as a vast country has a diverse legal systems of its own to deliver justice to the different communities who practices different culture and traditions. Time and situations also explained our laws in different ways to suit the ruling classes. He mentioned that the A K Gopalan vs State of Madras case was a landmark case for study. He said that, now, the honourable Supreme Court by its decision on Rights to Privacy not only restated the liberties and values outlined in the Preamble, but also corrected some past judicial wrongs. Narendra continued that the AILU should have the best unit in Manipur as the union has a membership of 220 lawyers, most of them are young men and women in their 30s. He concluded that a strong union of lawyers in Manipur is the need of the hour during this conflict situation. Haribal Debnath delivering his speech expressed his firm belief that AILU will become a force to reckon with in the North Eastern Region of India as shown by the Manipur unit of AILU. He said that the AILU has units in Assam, Manipur and Tripura in the region and he appeals to the delegates to help in the expansion of the union in neighbouring states viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland etc. Puyam Tomcha Meetei in his presidential speech highlights the importance of legal profession for the upliftment and betterment of our society.

He concluded his address by giving a positive note that AILU will become stronger in the days to come to serve the people. The delegate session of the conference begin with the presentation of a Draft Report to the delegates by Salam Pari Luwang, State Secretary of AILU. Introducing the Draft Report he said that the Manipur unit of AILU took up issues concerning the common people of the state and the movement of the union attracted lots of young lawyers to the AILU fold. He further said that the Cheirap Court authority allowed the union to hold the conference in the Court campus indicated that the union has the respect of the legal fraternity. The Draft Report was adopted after discussion. The conference adopted the following resolutions: on the recruitment of legal services, on filling up of vacant staff, on Manipur University movement, on the unity and integrity of Manipur, on infrastructure development of the court premises in Manipur, on safeguarding of boundaries etc. The conference elected a 21 members Manipur State Committee with Puyam Tomcha Meetei as President, Salam Pari Luwang as Secretary, Mainsam Jagajit Singh, Wahengbam Harendra and Phurailatpam Jibita Devi as Vice-Presidents, Th. Ashok Kumar, Waikhom Sushil and Atekpasu Ashabala Devi as Joint Secretaries, Moirangthem Dhanajit as Treasurer and K. Kirankumar as Office Secretary.