

Left leaning CSOs observe “Che” Guevara’s birth anniversary

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Manipur Proletariat Peoples’ Democratic Union (MPPDU), Proletarian Feminist Movement Manipur (POFM), Socialist Students’ Union Manipur (SSUM), Young Communist League (YCL) and Socialist Women Association (SWA) today observed the 91st Birth Anniversary of Che Guevara at Manipur Press Club.



S. Bijenti, President SWA, W. Kameshew, Convenor YCL, Rinku Khumukcham, Editor Imphal Times attended as Presidium members.

Speaking on the occasion Rinku khumukcham said that Ernesto “Che” Guevara, a major figure of Cuban revolutionary movement, a doctor by profession, but later radicalized by the poverty, hunger and disease he after personally encountering them, is today a world figure, who inspire youths of today’s generation. He was born on June 14, 1928 to middle class family at Rosario of Argentina, to Ernesto Guevara Lynch and Celia de la Serna y Llosa. He further said that everyone knows Che Guevara was an Argentine Marxist revolutionary, physician, author, guerrilla leader, diplomat and military theorist. And the rise of his popularity day after another among the youths of today’s generation showed that his ideology of fighting the capitalist group/regime will be considered as the one and the only option of a better world where people will live without disparities. A Dhananjay, Assistant Editor of Imphal Free Press, popularly known as Paojel Chaoba also elaborated on the life of “Che” Guevara. He compares today’s leaders of Manipur with Che saying that there is none like Che in the state of Manipur. He was the Finance Minister in Fidal Castro

government of Cuba. He died in October 9, 1967, but he is still alive to the thousands of people across the world. Many youngster who are conscious of the quality of this left ideology leaned leader, are proud of wearing T-Shirt with his photo printed. The symbolic

cap he wore has now become the favorite of many young people across the globe. In Manipur too there seems rise of Che Guevara fans.

Bamboo plantation can be an alternative to Jhum cultivation: Forest Minister Th. Shyamkumar

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Forest and Environment Minister Thounaojam Shyamkumar today opined that bamboo plantation can be an alternative to Jhum cultivation in the State and it can result in socio-economic upliftment of the bamboo growers/farmers and artisans. He was addressing the gathering as the chief guest at the State level workshop on the theme ‘Bamboo Resource and Product Development’ held at the City Convention Centre, Imphal organised by National Bamboo Mission, Manipur under the aegis of

Forest Department. Stating that bamboo products like bamboo shoot is one the most popular delicacies in the State. Bamboo is also used in making other infrastructures and high quality bamboo plantation will improve the financial condition of the farmers and artisans.

He further lauded the Forest officials for presenting bamboo saplings instead of bouquet in the function and opined that if different types of saplings are presented to the dignitaries at functions then definitely people will inculcate the habit of planting which will help in environment conservation. He further advised the participants to make note of the key points from resource persons/experts and practically implement for the success of the workshop as well as the mission. He advised the Forest officials to review regarding the trees/plants which were planted in previous years for successful implementation of achieving the goal by the department.

Suhel Akhtar, Additional Chief Secretary observed that although bamboo resource is abundantly available in the State, the quality of bamboo is not commercially viable. Therefore to gain the benefits, he said we need to grow high quality varieties of bamboo. He informed that the National Bamboo Mission, Manipur is working to get quality planting material and special units to process it and ultimately showcase the final products in the country and in foreign countries like Myanmar.

He said to make the products commercially viable we can add value addition to the products which is of high quality, focusing on durability, longevity and maintaining quality standards. If the production of good quality bamboos are produced here and sold then the State and bamboo

growers/artisans will benefit, he added.

Dr. DD Haokip, Additional PCCF (NBM & MP), State Mission Director, National Bamboo Mission said that Manipur is one of the most important bamboo growing states in India with bearing area of 10,687 sq km. The State has immense potential for bamboo resource and product development. For activities for bamboo product development activities like treatment, value addition and waste management of bamboo are important, he said.

He said that National Bamboo Mission, Manipur has started establishment of one high tech nursery in Imphal, 10 big nurseries in all the districts of the State to produce quality product material. For product development National Bamboo Mission, Manipur and Forest Department have started work for establishment of primary processing unit in Sawbung (Imphal East), Noney, Churachandpur and Tengnoupal districts which are the maximum bamboo growing districts of the State to facilitate supply of raw materials and benefit bamboo growers and artisans. Stating that National Bamboo Mission, Manipur has proposed 4 treatment plants and 4 bamboo waste units this year to facilitate these processing units, he said that the bamboo growing districts can benefit from the processing units and common facility centers where growers can sell raw materials and artisans can profit from skill development and training programmes.

The workshop was also attended by officials and staffs of Forest Department including Kereihouvi Angami, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF), experts, artisans from different districts among others

Overdraft is due to the failure of State government’s policies : ACOAM LUP

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ACOAM LUP Kangleipak in a statement in connection with the state government’s overdraft said that the consecutive governments which ruled the state after it gained statehood have been promising the people that they will improve the economic condition of the state. In every election the political parties have promised this to the people. The promises include the reform of industrial policy, how the state will help the poor of the state. The time has come to ask whether the consecutive governments are able to deliver the promises they made to people, it added. The statement urged that people need to ask that how the policies and programs taken up by consecutive governments and leaders have impacted the gross domestic product of the state. Manipur became a full-fledged state in 21st January 1972, since then the state has faced the crisis of over draft.

Out of 10 states which were given special status, in the year 1997-1998 Manipur faced overdraft and RBI banned Manipur along with Assam and Mizoram from withdrawing more money as they couldn’t clear the overdraft. Again the state face overdraft and the payments were stopped in the year 1998-1999 along with Nagaland, Assam and Mizoram. The same problem has resurfaced again this year. We need to discuss how the situation is going to impact the people of Manipur and what the government is going to improve the state financially, given the crisis.

The state can borrow money from RBI under Ways and Means Advances (WMA) even while the state waits for receipts and bills for its financial activities. The state can use this credit policy according to RBI Act 1934 Section 17(5). The government must pay the credit it has taken availing WMA within three months. The RBI has written to State

Bank of India that all the payments to the government of Manipur must be stopped as the government has breached the understanding it has with RBI. The situation has come up either because the state has failed to collect its revenues and taxes on time or there is a mismatch between the sum collected, it added.

If we observe carefully then we see that many states suffer from overdraft but due to the skilled financial management, they are able to clear the money they borrowed from RBI. Hence, the financial crisis is avoided in other states. Here, we need to ask how the state government of Manipur is managing the finances that the state is faced with such a crisis now and then. We must ask how much the financial condition of the state has improved. The statement asked whether it is the state government’s policies and programs which are actually harming the financial situation of Manipur. According to data, Gross State Development Income which is

an indicator for the financial health of Manipur has decreased. In the year 2010-2011, it was 10.70 percent, it shot up to 17.70 percent in 2013-2014. However in the year 2015-16, it was 7.70 percent and was 7.90 in 2017-2018. This clearly indicates the failure in state policies.

The state is filled with youths who are well educated. They are now going outside the state to find livelihood working for private companies. 25 percent of Human resource in Information and Technology sector consists of youths from North East. Instead of looking forward to bring FDI and generate revenue, it is still asking for funds from the centre. The government should create business and jobs where these youths could be employed. Given the financial situation of Manipur, if the government is still announcing financial policies and programs then it is clear that the government has no financial accountability, according to the statement.

ATRPFM to hold State level consultative meeting for Village Chief/ Headman/ Chairman under Six Autonomous Districts of Manipur

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ATRPFM is convening a State level Village Chief under Six Autonomous District Manipur meeting on 17th June 2019 at Nagaram Community Hall, Opposite to Khuman Lampak, Imphal for discussion on an issue pertaining to Creation of Districts, Sub-divisions, Tehsils, Villages Recognition and alteration of boundaries which are allocated to Revenue Dept. Govt of Manipur.

A statement said that the Principal Secretary (Revenue), Government of Manipur issued an Office Memorandum (O.M.) dated 26.08.2008 vide No. 16/2

MISC/2008-Com(Rev.) where all matters relating to the creation of Districts, Sub-Divisions, Tehsils, Villages Recognition and alteration of boundaries are allocated to the Revenue Department in violation of Article 371C of the Constitution. It was further mentioned in the said O.M. that any order issued under the provisions of the Manipur (Village Authorities in Hill Areas) Act, 1956 in regard to recognition of hill villages be void ab-initio which is illegal, arbitrary, bias, unconstitutional and discriminatory against the Hill people. All matters relating to recognition of villages in valley areas are to be dealt by the Revenue Department but

not the hill villages as the Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act, 1960 are not extended to hill areas of the State. The operation of the said Act is confined to valley areas only as per Section 2 of the Act, 1960. All matters relating to hill areas are to be dealt with by the Hill Areas Committee of the Manipur Legislative Assembly, and the Revenue Department has no jurisdiction at all. The matter in question have been dealing with by the Tribal Affairs and Hills, Government of Manipur for all the past years but to the surprised of all, the Revenue Department issued the said impugned O.M. which is not sustainable in the eyes of law. It is only a means to exploit and

suppress the peaceful living of tribal people under their own governance. That, the impugned O.M. has to be set aside and revoke in the interest of justice, failing which the tribal hill people would be deprived of their right to life and equality under Article 21 and 14 of the Constitution of India. The tribal people have their own governance under their respective customary laws and their lands, which are absolutely, belong to them and Revenue Department shall have no right to interfere in recognition and creation of new villages in hill areas. In this regard ATRPFM has sought justice from the Govt. by way of submitting a representation with a personal

interview with the Hon’ble Governor of Manipur, T&Hills Minister, HAC Chairman and its Members several times so as to revoke the impugned Order. In spite of our repeated approached the State Govt. has fail to fulfil our demand.

he HAC said that all matters related to hills are within the purview of HAC. As being a representative of the people it’s your duty to revoke the order, despite keep on postponing the HAC meeting which Scheduled on 14 June 2019 just for political gain and vested interest is not a wish of Hill people.

The statement also expressed shock and surprise to hear from the “HAC Chairman’s statement that HAC have

nothing power, nothing to do with in this regard, it’s useless and baseless” when we meet him personally at his quarter.

It said Such statement really hurts the interest of the Tribal people. As being a people representative how he claimed such undemocratic statement, if he fails and reluctant to do his duty why not he resign voluntarily from HAC chairman? So such immature and selfish politician should be avoided marked in the future and appeal the public that such politician should be restrained and aware in the future, if he refuses to perform his duty and work for the people interest as people representative. Again, taking advantage of the prevailing

internal political conflict within the ruling coalition government, the HAC meeting which was scheduled on 14-06-2019 has been postponed indefinitely which clearly reveals the incapable and irresponsible representative who habitually attempts to escape his responsibilities and constitutional duties towards the Hills peoples. Such immature statement given by the Chairman of HAC is shameful and unbecoming. The callous and insensitive response of the HAC Chairman without application of mind and his willful denial to take up the relevant issue of the hills people and further delaying the HAC meeting has gravely hurts the sentiment of all the tribal.