

Editorial

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Something is still not right

Just like the pieces of a frustrating zigsaw puzzle that has eluded solution for so long finally starting to fall into place, the real reason for the protracted sufferings and often unnecessary social and communal strains that have so far defined the life of the people of the state have slowly started to emerge.

Allowing for doubts of political conspiracy or fallacy, if the statement issued by the BJP Manipur media secretary regarding the absence of any formal communication for assistance from the centre by the state government in connection with the economic blockades along the national highways connecting the state with the rest of the country contains even an iota of truth, then the people of the state as a whole have a very big issue to deal with, and soon.

The startling disclosure by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh of the lack of any concrete proposal by the Ibbobi-led state government despite the two having met on more than one occasion and the Chief Minister even submitting a report on the economic blockade to him have more to it than meets the eye. What should one infer about the nature of administration and governance when the headlines of newspapers and trending news even on social media are about the schedule for distribution of Petrol or LPG Cylinders in the state? While the situation might possibly sound ironic and even comic for those residing outside the state, for the people in the state, the question is all about survival. Perhaps the advertisement offering a litre of petrol as incentive for buying a laptop a few years back sums up the situation beautifully.

Successive governments have waxed eloquent about their achievements and stressed on the extra efforts they have put in to bring prosperity to the state, and yet the unfortunate truth remains that in this age and day, the general public still have to scramble for the barest minimum of facilities for survival. Half the year or more is still lost to bandhs, blockades, general strikes, public curfews with unflinching regularity year in, year out. The smoothest roads, the widest highways or the 'most modern bridge' over a nullah holds little excitement for those who constantly have had to worry about the next petrol pump with enough stock of the grocery with the required provisions on offer.

The phenomena of 'Economic Blockade' is nothing new or strange, and despite the untold hardships and innumerable frustrations still continuing to be borne by the people of the state, yet the visible lack of a sustainable plan of action or initiative from the state government to put an end to the menace is a clear indication that for those in power and connection, the present predicament of the public over the availability of basic and essential commodities is of little concern or consequence.

The state government owes it to the people of the state to come out with the truth regarding its inaction on the economic blockade issue. Half-truths, concocted situations and ad-hoc measures will not cut ice with the informed public anymore. The incumbent government and any other following that will be holding the reign in the state will do well to keep in mind that the people of the state is more resilient and resourceful than they can ever imagine.

The way the general public see it, economic blockade is but a few incorrigible souls holding the state government by the balls rather than being strangled by the scruff of the neck as these souls would have everyone believe.

State News

Army Recruitment Rally

IT News
Imphal, Oct. 9

Army Recruitment Rally would be held at Bongaigaon (Assam) on December for enrolment of youths from Manipur only.

The online application has already started and will remain open till 18 Nov 2019. For registration online login to www.joinindianarmy.nic.in. Candidates who have registered in the previous rally can login directly and check eligibility and apply fresh. The Army career offers Professional Advancement, Job Satisfaction, Job Security, Economic Stability, Social Status, Quality of Life and Variety & Adventure.

The vacancies is for Soldier Nursing Assistant (10+2/ Intermediate exam

pass in Science with Physics, Chemistry, Biology and English with 50% marks in aggregate and 40% in each subject) and Sepoy Pharma (10+2/ Intermediate exam pass and qualified in D Pharma with Min 55% marks in aggregate and registered with State Pharmaceutical Council/ Pharmacy council of India. Individuals qualified in B Pharma with Min 50% marks and registered with State Pharmaceutical Council/ Pharmacy council of India) are also eligible. CEE will be conducted at Bongaigaon on 19 Jan 2020.

For any other query contact on phone No 03862-248845 & 8974958673 from 0830h to 1400h on working days for the entire duration. Last date of registration is 18 Nov 2019.

Notice

Dated: 8/10/2019

We have decided to get registered an Association call "SPLENDID JUMP ROPE Association, Thoubal District" (SJRA TD) under the Societies Registration Act. Anybody who want to join or object may please inform either the undersigned or the Deputy Register of Societies, Thoubal District, Imphal, Oct. 2019. Any complaint, if come after 15th Oct. 2019 shall no more be considered. And, the inaugural General Body meeting for the selection of Managing Committee Members shall be held on the 16th Oct. 2019 at the office of the organization.

Convenor
Md. Firoj Khan

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact - 0385-2452159 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.

Continued from page 1

Difficult days ahead for Muivah

The second attempt was in 2010 when he am – twisted the Centre to urge the Government of Manipur to provide him with security and smooth passage during his proposed visit to Manipur. Muivah had not been home for over 40 years then. Instead of just saying that he wanted to visit his home and relatives in Somdal in Ukhrul, where he could have been chopped in, he wanted to make a grand re-entry into Manipur like Julius Caesar after the conquest of Gaul. He had started his journey to Manipur at the head of a cavalcade and had planned public meetings in Senapati, Tamenglong, Chandel and Ukhrul to whip up Naga frenzy towards Naga integration. A highly alarmed Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh declared that Muivah was "persona non grata" in Manipur. He had all the entrance roads to Manipur blocked at Mao and Jessami and stationed the dreaded Mniipur Police Commandos with express orders to arrest Muivah should he dare to enter Manipur, with or without Z – level security cover. Unknown to many Naga watchers in the country, Muivah still remains a "Wanted Man" in Manipur carrying a price of Rs 1 lakh on his head.

Dejected for the second time in ten years, Muivah returned to Hebron after having reached Viswema the last village in Nagaland before entering Manipur through Mao. By this time it became clear to the Centre that the integration of Naga areas of Manipur and for that matter those of Assam or Arunachal cannot be on the agenda in the terms of reference with or without the Framework Agreement and began clearly stating that the territorial integrity of Manipur would not be compromised come what may. With Naga integration out of the question, Muivah soon dropped up the demand for a separate Constitution and Flag for Nagaland in the final settlement and has even gone to the extent that without them he will not be able to ink the final agreement. The Centre has categorically said "No" to this proposal. Muivah seems to be hemmed in by the fact that the Chief Interlocutor of the Government of India has also become the Governor of Nagaland and if after the accord, Muivah becomes the Chief Minister of Nagaland, he would still be obliged to call him "Sir". Even as the debate on a Naga constitution and Flag was going on,

the powerful United Committee Manipur (UCM) which was born out of the aftermath of the 18th June uprising in 2001, had on October 1 'summoned' an all political party meeting which included the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress. It had adopted three resolutions. That the final Agreement shall not infringe on the traditional integrity of Manipur and even if the Government of India assures that the geographical boundaries of the Northeastern States will remain intact, anything which subsequently relates to the ongoing Framework Agreement cannot be taken up inside Manipur without the prior sanction and approval of the State Government and people of Manipur.

It also said no to the proposal of setting up a Pan – Naga or Cultural Provincial – territorial council or any arrangement relating to financial or ethnic – based administrative arrangement or any structural formation in similar fashion. It warned that if any decision by the Government of Manipur was contrary to the above three resolutions, the "People of Manipur shall take its own course to determine the future of Manipur".

At 85 Muivah knows that his days are numbered and that he does not have the time to return to the jungles or the safe houses in Bangkok or the Hague. And 22 years of protracted talks have taken a heavy toll on his hardy Naga Army boys, they have turned from hungry wolves to fattened bears and have got used on the luxury of constructing and living in palatial villas and travelling in SUVs. The three – month – long gruelling trek to Yunnan Province in China which he had led in the early 1970s is but a distant and dimming memory. And even if he decides to break off the talks with India and return to the bushes, he has nowhere to go.

With Myanmar already shutting its doors on Indian insurgent groups and China a lost horizon now, Muivah seems to have been trapped. And Prime Minister Narendra Modi may even be tempted to look at a Kashmir type of solution to the Naga problem and simply surround Camp Hebron where entire who's who of NSCN (I – M) are held up. In the evening of his life, Muivah's new Nagaland may not quite see the dawn he once dreamt of.

(The writer is The Statesman's Imphalbased Special Representative.)

Continue from yesterday issue

PREPAK greets people of WASEA on 42nd Foundation Day

Questions the rationale behind living under the shadow of colonial rule

Kangleipak has become a battle ground and a graveyard for her sons today. All these are the results of Hindustan's occupation of Kangleipak. Though people of Kangleipak have all the characteristic of an independent people in terms of culture, sports and religion, we never had the opportunity to express our identity in front of the world. Instead, our society is degrading now. Today, our society is flooded with drugs; it has deviated from the path of progress and is infested with corruption. Our Kanglei society has now no respect for its women, completely dependent for necessary commodities on outsiders, our politics is controlled by foreigners, the youth of this society have no employment and we are losing our indigenous culture. Kanglei people's revolutionary army is engaged in an armed struggle against the occupational forces of India to regain the lost independence of Kangleipak at this juncture. Now, Kangleipak has become a place where incidents of human rights violation are rampant. The contradiction between India and Kangleipak has claimed lives of many, including women and children. There are many who went missing after being picked up by the Indian Occupational Forces.

Hindustan is slowly and steadily engulfing our country covertly with its malicious designs. In the name of development and democratic election, it has led the people of Kangleipak into disarray and disillusionment. Election is an important event in democracy. However, democracy is not limited to election; we also need to consider the legal system and the level of democracy that people enjoy in the country. Therefore, we cannot conclude that only holding election will necessary bring a democratic society. The elections held in Kangleipak since her occupation by India clearly shows this fact. Election is an illusion which maintains the oppression and the subjugation of our Kanglei society. Illicit drugs and substances have numbed many men and women of Kangleipak. By depriving the working people of Kangleipak, who are struggling everyday to make a living, from every happiness and subjugating them more and more and by showing

some meagre gains and trapping them to vote, the elections conducted by India create the impression that it will bestow the dignity of Kangleipak a life of dignity they deserved as human beings. However, all these are lies. The wave of Indian electoral politics has swept the indigenous people of Kangleipak, blowing away their strength and adversely affecting their lives and culture. In a place where there is anti-AFSPA movement and where there is movement for the right to self determination, anti-people code of conduct before elections effectively weakens the public sphere and silences public opinion. Along with this, no political party or individual in electoral politics have the courage to bring any issue or matter important to Kangleipak as Indian Constitution has colonised them. It would be wrong to expect that they will do anything good for the people. They act as mercenaries and work only for their personal gains. The existing electoral political class in Kangleipak has been now moulded in the image of the colonisers and this new class with its political ideology has been used as a soft power against the revolutionary liberation movement.

Using the platforms of civil society organisations which are working for the people, this electoral political class has been cleverly raised in a conspiratorial manner. This bunch is engaged in distributing illicit drugs and substances capable of destroying the bodies and lives of the people during elections. Their actions are leading the Kanglei society on the path to destruction. These people muddy the thoughts and habits of the people distributing money to the voters, spending huge sums of money prior to elections and making feasts in the name of elections a habit amongst the people. It drives the people to corruption and reduces the people in all aspects, destroying the society. The revolutionary movement not only take note of this matter with seriousness but also expresses that it will not stay silent. Those who have taken the path of electoral politics have turned themselves into parasites and have entered the veins of this society. Given this, we see a rise of criminal activities in

Kangleipak. Elections serve to diminish the strength and the courage of the people of Kangleipak. To sum up, the elections held under the supervision of India only serves to continue and strengthen the roots of colonialism. Given that, this sort of dirty political system and election is not conducive to Kangleipak, the people must stand against it and forbid it.

International Perspective:

Today, the people of the world know of WESEA as a land where movement for the right to self determination is going on. The land of WESEA, where communities with similar histories, cultures and experience of subjugation and oppression live, has become a place with most numbers of rebel organisations fighting India colonialism. The national liberation movement which began against British colonialism halted after British left Kangleipak. It again started after two years when India occupied Kangleipak and it has continued till now. The movement cannot be explained away saying that it is handiwork of armed groups.

The movement is for the national liberation of Kanglei people. History of Kangleipak's resistance against British Colonialism tells us that different communities lived together and joined hands to fight colonialism. This collective journey is made possible through their collective struggles and sufferings these communities endured together at the hand of the colonisers. Numerous battles fought between British and different communities of Kangleipak in 1891, 1917 Kuki rebellion, Haipou Jadonang and Rani Gaidinli's Zeliangrong movement, Lamyamba Hjjam Iرابot's movement in 1950 clearly show us the image of a united Kangleipak and these movements stood against British colonialism to build a united Kangleipak.

The whole of Kanglei society is facing together the suffering that has befallen them as their history, their culture and freedom have been snatched. The democratic election of 1948, in which people from both hill and valley took part, clearly shows the trust and the bond of love different communities in Manipur had for each other during that time. Since India's occupation of Kangleipak on October 15, 1949,

India has used all its strength and tried hard to completely destroy the relationship between different communities living in WESEA, spreading a narrow communal mentality amongst the people. India is pouring in huge sums of money to ferment tension between communities living in Kangleipak and also in WESEA. In the name of development, acts and laws based on communal politics are made to set new boundaries in cultural, economic and political spheres. India has been constantly constructing new physical borders based on ethnic identity. For example, encouraging the dreams of ethnic homelands which go against the aspiration of the people, India has destroyed the bond of love and trust between different communities who have been living together since time immemorial. Since 1990, the seeds of narrow ideology of demanding ethnic homeland were sown and bloody clashes between different communities have happened in WESEA. It has claimed many innocent lives.

India continues to pretend to be peace loving, signing Suspension of Operations (SoO) one after another. No one from the organisations which signed SoO has been given an adequate livelihood. There have no effort to give them a stable life. Using SoO and peace talk, Indian Occupational Forces and police forces are openly extorting money from the people in the highways. It is not only using the youth of WESEA to ferment conflicts between communities, Indian armed forces have given weapons to the youth of WESEA and turning brothers to fight brothers, making WESEA a battle ground. Indian armed forces are turning many of our youth counter-revolutionary forces against those who are waging the revolutionary national liberation movement. It has clearly trapped the WESEA society in the web of factionalism. The changing situation is a proof of how Indian armed forces are using this conflict as a source of personal income. It is important that communities of WESEA should understand this. Otherwise, there will be no peace in WESEA.

(To be continued)