

The Sangai Express

When you abuse someone, you limit their perspective, and you trap them in your view of them or your view of the world.
Tara Westover

Time to read between the lines Study all possibilities

Read between the lines. Not the time to take everything at face value. The circumstances demand it, the politics at play demands it. Study all possibilities. It can be more than a rant and this is how Manipur should take the outburst of the NSCN (IM) against the 16 Point Agreement that led to the creation of Nagaland State as part of the Union of India. Even as the NSCN (IM) made known its stand to the public via the media on November 30, 2020 and went ballistic against Governor of Nagaland RN Ravi, it did not take long for the Governor to assert that there cannot be a separate flag and Constitution as demanded by the NSCN (IM). More words may be expected from the NSCN (IM) and one cannot rule out the possibility of the ongoing political dialogue getting clouded by the smoke billowing out of stand off between RN Ravi and the NSCN (IM). This is what Manipur should be on guard against. Clouding the ongoing dialogue can mean so many things to so many people but what Manipur and her people must be wary of is the possibility of the finer points of the dialogue getting clouded and not visible to the people here. This is what the people should be on guard against. This is what the BJP led Government at Imphal too should be aware of. Given the far sightedness of a leader like Thuingaleng Muivah, the CSOs of Manipur which have been batting for the political reality called Manipur should be on guard to not be caught on the wrong foot. And setting up a decoy has always been a sure shot formula to catch the adversary or someone standing in the way of one's pursuit, on the wrong foot. Now what could that decoy be to lull the people into a sense of complacency, is the question that Manipur, the BJP led Government at Imphal and the various CSOs should concentrate on, sit together and pool in their thoughts.

The very creation of Nagaland State was a treacherous act as it led to the fragmentation of 'Indian occupied Naga territories' into different administrative set ups such as Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. This was the NSCN (IM) in the statement issued to the media on November 30. Implicit and yet at the same time explicit in this observation is the stand that people who identify themselves as Nagas and settled in the three neighbouring States should come together under one administrative set up. Nagalim or Greater Nagaland has for long been one of the major demands of the NSCN (IM) and even in the recent interview given by Thuingaleng Muivah to Karan Thapar in The Wire, the NSCN (IM) leader had made it clear that the demand is still there though its realisation may come about later. A sure shot technique of first taking the 25 paise or 50 paise and then going for the one rupee later. This is where the far sightedness of Thuingaleng Muivah becomes evident. The important question is whether the present political leaders of Manipur are mentally geared up to read, study and understand the steps being charted out by the general secretary of the NSCN (IM). The same question may also be posed to the numerous civil society leaders of Manipur. The seeds for a Greater Lim of Nagalim were sown a long time back, much before the NSCN (IM) agreed to come to the negotiating table and those who were in college in the 80s and the 90s will surely remember the composition of any student bodies with the name Manipur in any cities of India, such as Delhi, Bangalore, Chandigarh etc.

Etc etc

Anchor to ending AIDS or COVID-19 is human right to health Shobha Shukla - CNS

Contd from previous issue
The 2020 World AIDS Day theme of 'Global solidarity, resilient services' underlines that communities are a unique force to reckon with, even during the times of pandemics, like Covid-19.

UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima has rightly remarked that it is the strength within communities, inspired by a shared responsibility to each other, that has contributed in great part to our victories over HIV.

There are countless examples of how community activism and solidarity have been at the forefront of providing people affected by HIV (as well as by COVID-19) with services like organizing home deliveries of medicines or providing financial assistance, food and shelter to at-risk groups.

However, such solidarity cannot be the sole responsibility of communities. Despite their best efforts many HIV related services remained beyond the reach for many, especially key populations.

Governments and donors cannot absolve themselves from their responsibility to accelerate progress on every evidence-based intervention for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Governments have no excuse to not invest fully for universal access to health.

While delivering the plenary talk at a virtual session of the 10th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive Health and Rights (APCRSHR10), Eamonn Murphy, Regional Director, UNAIDS, Asia and the Pacific, called for sustainability of services through universal health coverage, which is not just focused on issues of health financing, but is anchored in the right to health for everyone.

PMFBY: Participation of Pvt sector companies and the way ahead

Insuring crops; ensuring happiness- Rs 86,800 crore claims paid since inception

Sudhanshu Pandey

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is the largest risk mitigation program launched by Government of India for providing a protective shield for the farmers from all natural risks in the entire cropping cycle. This scheme is the first in terms of the lowest premium payable by the farmers and the highest value of crop insured. All the general insurance companies registered by IRDAI in the country which have a reasonable rural presence have been empanelled for the implementation of the scheme. Presently all the 5 Government companies and 13 private companies registered with Irda are empanelled.

Basic idea for increasing the number of companies was to leverage their cumulative network in the rural area and to take the advantage of efficiency of private sector in the scheme implementation.

The scheme is in its 5th year of its implementation and has been recently revamped to address the challenges in smooth implementation including making it voluntary for all farmers and leveraging technology for smooth implementation.

A lot has been said about participation of private sector companies and insurance companies reaping super normal profits from the scheme. In the first 3 years of scheme implementation for which complete data is available, the claim ratio at the National level for all the insurance companies combined is 89%. This would mean that for every 100 rupee collected as premium by insurance companies, 89 rupees have been paid as claims by them. Insurance companies generally incur a cost of 10-12% for reinsurance and administrative expenses. Thus insurance companies have barely broken even in the first 3 years inspite of a good monsoon in those years. Any catastrophic risk program should be evaluated at least over a 5-year horizon and at the National (aggregate) level. Arguing that a particular company had higher or lower loss ratio in a particular season/year is not the right way of looking at performance of the company or of the Scheme.

The Kharif 2019 season was particularly a good season for



crop however widespread unseasonal rains damaged the harvested crops leading to substantial claim payout in the States of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh where claim ratios were 121% and 213% respectively.

Claims payout to the farmers require timely sharing of CCE data with the insurance companies by States and the release of the State share of premium subsidy. In certain instances there has been a delay in sharing of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCE) data /release of State subsidy leading to delay in release of claims to the farmers.

There was criticism of low claim ratios and profits earned by insurance companies including private insurance companies based on incomplete data which leads to unfounded criticism of the scheme. Later when the complete data for the season was available, the claim ratio went up substantially. To address the problem of gaps in data in the public domain Agriculture Ministry has been releasing the season wise data every month to ensure that experts can do analysis of the

performance of the scheme on the basis of the most recent data.

On analysing data for Public and Private Insurers for the period of three years (2016-17 to 2018-19) for which majority of the data has been received, claim ratio stands at 98.5% and 80.3% for Public and Private companies respectively. For Kharif 2019, as CCE data has not been received from States of Gujarat, Jharkhand and Karnataka and Rabi 2019-20 data is pending from half a dozen States, final claim ratio for all companies including private companies for 2019-20 is bound to increase significantly on receipt of pending data.

In the revamped scheme effective from Kharif 2020 provision has been made to allocate work to Insurance Companies for a period of three years which will average out any volatility in terms of high/low claim ratio seasons and will act as an ideal period for the analysis of scheme in terms of claims paid by insurance companies with respect to premium collected.

The primary driver of premiums is the unavailability of historical yield data at granular level and discrepancies on account of human errors in computation /calculation and recording of yield data. Technology based yield estimation through a robust arithmetical model incorporating satellite imagery, gridded weather data and soil moisture data can go a long way in moderating the premium rates and stabilising the scheme implementation.

Agriculture Ministry has initiated large scale prominent Government, International and private technical agencies and it is expected that a technology based protocol for yield estimation would be in place in next 1 to 2 years. That would lead to a paradigm shift in implementation of crop insurance schemes and would meet the needs of small holder farmers in the long run.

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Cultivation practices of Soybean under Manipur condition

K Nandini Devi and Mukul Kumar

Soybean is an environment friendly grain legume and has now become a major source of protein, oil and health promoting phytochemicals for human nutrition and livestock feed around the globe. Soybean cultivation also improves soil health because of its atmospheric nitrogen fixing ability and deep root system. Manipur has a great potential for production and domestic utilization of soybean and its derivatives for health and economic benefits of the people of the State. It is essential to select a variety of the people of the State. It is essential to select a variety suitable for a particular region. A multilocational trial have been conducted under All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Soybean and found that Soybean variety JS 335 was found to be the best suited under Manipur condition. The recommended package of practices for Soybean variety JS 335 is given below.

Varietal Characteristics:
Duration 110-115 days

Plant height 45-60cm
Yield potential 1200-1800 kg/ha
Oil content 20%
Protein content 40%
Resistance to pod shattering and yellow mosaic virus (YMV).

SOIL AND CLIMATIC REQUIREMENT

Well drained and fertile loam soils are most suitable for the cultivation of soybean. Water-logging is injurious to crop. Soybean grows well in warm and moist climate. A temperature of 26.5 to 30 C appears to be the optimum.

CULTURAL MANAGEMENT

Land preparation
One cross ploughing with tractor just after the harvest of rabi crop followed by two cross harrowing or ploughing with cultivator are sufficient. Land should be well-leveled.

Seed Rate: 60 kg/ha
Seed Treatment : Seed should be treated before sowing with Thiram+Carbendazim (2:1) @3g/kg of seed to check seed

borne diseases.

Seed inoculation : The treated seeds should be inoculated with Bradyrhizobium japonicum @3g/kg seed at least half an hour before sowing.

Time of sowing : The optimum time of sowing for soybean is June to first week of July. It can be extended upto last week of July.

Spacing : The seeds should be sown in lines at a spacing of 45cm from row to row and 10cm from plant to plant. The seeds should be placed at a depth of 2-3cm. The seeds should be covered well with soil.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Manures and fertilizers : About 5 tones/ha of Farm Yard Manure (FYM) or compost should be applied before 15 days of sowing. The recommended dose of N:P:K:S for Manipur condition is 20:60:40:40 kg/ha. Tractor operated seed-cum fertilizer drill have been found to give good results. Fertilizer should be placed 5-

7 cm below the seed. If not possible, it should be evenly broadcast and then plough/harrowed to mix it with the soil.

Weed Management : Effective weed control during the first 30-40 days of crop growth is essential for achieving higher productivity. Early post emergence herbicide Quizalofop ethyl 15% EC should be applied @ 1ml/litre of water at 15 days after sowing. It should be followed by one hand weeding at 40 days after sowing.

PESTS AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT

(i) Major pests : Bihar hairy caterpillar, tobacco caterpillar and leaf roller are the major insect pests of soybean in Manipur. These insect pests can be effectively controlled by spraying Quinalphos 25EC @ 1.5ml/litre of water. In order to part with sole dependence on chemical insecticides, an integrated pest management (IPM) approach consisting of deep summer ploughing, appropriate sowing time,

balanced fertilizer dose, mechanical and or biological controls, pheromone/light traps etc. is suggested.

(ii) Disease : No occurrence of serious diseases in Manipur condition. But proper seed treatment with fungicide before sowing is a must.

HARVESTING

Soybean matures in about 110-115 days after sowing. When the plants are mature, the leaves turn yellow and drop. The soybean pods dry out quickly. Such plants should be cut above the ground and kept 3-4 days in the sun for drying. Delayed harvesting leading to pod-shattering is one of the major cause of poor yield of soybean. Timely harvesting also minimizes field deterioration of seed /grain quality.

THRESHING

Threshing should be done carefully and any kind of severe beating or trampling may damage the seed coat and thus reduce the seed quality and viability. Threshing by running the tractor on

the harvested crop should be avoided as it leads to seed coat cracking, breakage and splitting of seeds.

POST-HARVEST MANAGEMENT

Post-harvest technology is an integral and important component of soybean production and utilization systems and it plays a key role in minimizing post production losses of soybean and its transformation into consumable products like oil, meal and other soybean food and feed products. After threshing the seeds should be cleaned, graded and dried in the sun for 5-6 days. The optimum moisture content of seed for safe storage is 8-10%.

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2nd Dec is International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

Slavery is not merely a remnant of the past

Ranjan K Baruah

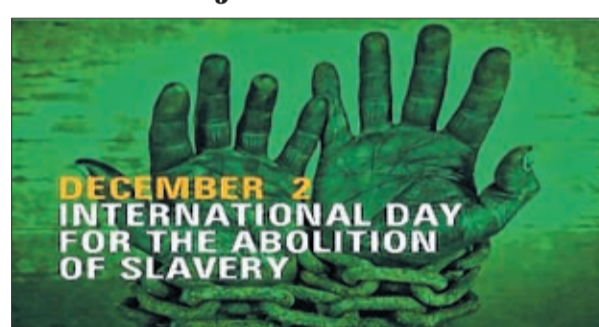
We have been hearing about slavery whenever we read history. Slavery was common in all parts of the world in the past and it is still continuing in different forms. Slavery and enslavement are the state and condition of being a slave, who is someone forbidden to quit their service for another person and is treated like property. In the course of human history, slavery was often a feature of civilisation and legal in most societies, but is now outlawed in all countries of the world, except as punishment for crime.

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) more than 40 million people worldwide are victims of modern slavery. Although modern slavery is not defined in law, it is used as an umbrella term covering practices such as forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, and human trafficking. Essentially, it refers to situations of

exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, and/or abuse of power. In addition, more than 150 million children are subject to child labour, accounting for almost one in ten children around the world.

ILO has adopted a new legally binding protocol designed to strengthen global efforts to eliminate forced labour, which entered into force in November 2016. The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, 2 December, marks the date of the adoption, by the General Assembly, of the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (Resolution 317(IV) of 2 December 1949).

This day is observed with different aims and objectives which include eradicating contemporary forms of slav-



ery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. The United Nations human rights bodies have documented the persistence of old forms of slavery that are embedded in traditional beliefs and customs. These forms of slavery are the result of long-standing discrimination against the most vulnerable groups in societies, such as those re-

garded as being of low caste, tribal minorities and indigenous peoples.

Alongside traditional forms of forced labour, such as bonded labour and debt bondage there now exist more contemporary forms of forced labour, such as migrant workers, who have been trafficked for economic exploitation of every kind in the world economy: work in domestic servitude, the construction industry, the food and garment industry, the agricultural sector and in forced

prostitution. Exploitation includes prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

The global data is alarming as we might think that slavery has directly ended. The fact remains and data tells us that out of the 24.9 million people trapped in forced labour, 16 million people are exploited in the private sector such as domestic work, construction or agriculture; 4.8 million people in forced sexual exploitation, and 4 million people in forced labour imposed by State authorities. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced labour, accounting for 99% of victims in the commercial sex industry, and 58% in other sectors.

There are many organisations and agencies working

against forced labour and for the human rights of individuals. Apart from Government there are many other voluntary societies and organisations working against this crime. Together we can make a difference against this crime against humanity. There are international instruments like Convention on the Rights of the Child: Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2000); United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000), etc which can be used for campaign and justice for all those who needs support and care.

(With direct inputs from UN publication and feedback may be sent to bkrjanjan@gmail.com)

Valley volley

Dr Robert Shimray



which have but added much to the misfortune and hardship as faced by the latter translating it into a

'hard hit target'. If not, the intended motive behind in the context of schools in the hills is but not for any sort of profit anymore, especially during such crisis, but at least in order to retain the dedicated teacher, for which the expected amount to be collected is to be given out to them to show thankfulness in return to their sacrificial commitment as entered for a year. But having tasted of somewhat-like - the indifference toward the plight of the schools under the higher

authority, when education is to be 'shaping the future' seemed to have become 'shunning the future'.

When everything is said and done who is to be blamed? Let us remember, blame game will not take us far. It will not be able to suffice the need in shaping the future generation, but at the end of the day it will only ruin the so-called 'future generation'. Hence, the Valley Volley.

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