

## **SITUATION OF MANIPUR THROUGH THE EYES OF A COMMON MAN**

The state of Manipur despite being one of the most gifted by nature is on a minefield. It has become a killing field. Things have gone from sad to worse during this decade. In bigger states one can find underworld Dons operating. Even then they don't surface and paralyze normal lives of common people. Petty crimes could also be observed. But here in our state with hardly a population of 30 lacs every sort of anti national activity and terrorism takes place disturbing normal lives of the common man through out the year. Surprising is the part that the Government democratically elected by its own people remains a mute spectator. In fact it's having a silent understanding with these terrorist groups. Finally that leads to a situation where ordinary citizens no longer trust the Government machinery. Any attempt to complain or highlight the problems the person is trailed and mercilessly bumped off. And that's the reason why Manipuris do not take to the streets. And the whole nation believes Manipuris have a lot of patience. Indeed sorry lives.

If at all these is a protest against the government it's turned out to be sponsored by a terrorist outfit whose relation with the Government went sour.

The state has more than 20 underground outfits. And the modus operandi of all of them is to mint money. Yes they share the same idea of anti India philosophy. Otherwise they fight among themselves to get a share of the funds centre assists. And believe it or not these groups are patronised by the ruling leaders. They are Politicians cum Contractors. It's an open secret.

The Deputy Speaker of the present Government was under bar for terrorist link. He contested and won. If not for Supreme Court intervention he would have still continued in his chair. The present Government has a couple of Cabinet ministers who had

terrorist links before. They used to patronise them. Some were even under Bars. All I'm trying to say is how can we expect them to do things against the outfit when they have been such a strong supporter for a long long time. And that's the reason why we find bloodshed in the recent past. Some of them very blood chilling.

In the name of extortion Bombs being thrown to Govt. officials residences is a daily routine. Injuries and sometimes even death result out of it. Surprise of surprises is that thousands of policeman patrol the 5 km radius of Imphal city the capital and even then all these incidences take place. There is also a whisper going around which suggest cops – terrorist links in almost all the cases. And very recently it has been proved.

A Dean of the Manipur University Shri. Md. Islamuddin was shot dead point blank at the University Campus itself under broad daylight in front of everyone. The killers were Cops from the Indian Reserve Battalion, hired by the outlaw K.Y.K.L. They allege the deceased Professor was going against them. As for the information the University is manned by Commandoes at its gates round the clock. Our Government just couldn't do anything. The fallout. Students left its hostels in droves. Fear gripped the students and parents. Bandhs and General strikes followed. Normal lives got hampered. Daily bread earners went to sleep without food. This was not just a single day. And that's one reason why Manipuri Parents send their wards to other states for studies. Mainly because of the unexpected and hostile atmosphere created by the Government. And mind you not all these parents are rich.

One of the brightest and promising officers Shri. Kishan Singh (S.D.O.) a Manipur Civil Service Officer who was posted at Kasom Khullen a very remote interior of the state was brutally hacked to death by the outlaw NSCN (I/M). The group is in talk with the centre. His head was hacked by a spade. So gruesome was the murder the state went in flames. His driver and one assistant were killed along with him. His only fault. He did not give away the N.R.E.G.S. funds the NSCN (I/M) demanded. The fund is

meant to be for the rural workers. The Government stands a mute spectator. All it did was to hand over the case to the C.B.I. The fallout. No officers from the Capital City are willing to go and work there. Whoever were there have returned.

Few days back a Special Class Contractor was brutally hacked to death over a demand of Rs.3 Crore. Family members alleged they have already paid Rs.25 lakhs. The man was whisked away at the middle of the night from his own house. Terrorist outfits claim it's the handiwork of the State Police and they have nothing to do with it. The fallout. Contractors have gone underground fearing their lives. All construction work came to a standstill. And this is one reason why any project could not complete in time in our state. The Government as usual couldn't do anything to allay the fears of the common man.

Janata Radio is the name of a electrical shop. A very old and founding electrical shop of the Capital City. It's in the heart of the town. Police personnel man the Bazar area 24 hours. Mobile Cops move around round the clock. Amidst the activity its owner was shot dead point blank for refusing to pay the outlaws. That too during the day. People say the Cops were just a few meters away. It's fallout. Big business establishment left the state. Hoping not to return.

Off late migrant labourers mainly from Bihar were technically planned and killed. And it's become a routine feature. They were even made to stand in a row and bullets were sprayed killing them on the spot. Terrorist alleged that as long as the Army kills its people they would retaliate by killing migrant labourers. The Government is not satisfactory. All it did was to bundle them in a Dharmasala. Its fallout. Students and employees from the state working outside the cream of the state are shaken. They are afraid to cross Bihar and Bengal specially, routes you can't skip. And ironically the wards of the ministers stay or study abroad in Europe and America.

State Cops have become notorious day by day. There seem to be so much fake encounters growing by day. But the reality is they have been mostly killed because of there belongings either by case or kind. And the voices of allegation seem louder by day. The C.M. who is also the Home Minister can't control his own men forget the terrorist. It's fallout. Citizens are afraid to carry any valuables. Anything more than Rs.100 or so is risky. That hampers the whole financial transaction. Two wheeler drivers are more vulnerable. As far as car owners Cops feel they belong to influential people and targeting them might give them a boomerang effect.

With all this difficulties life goes on. On top of it we hardly get 6 hours of electricity per day. I'm talking about summer days. During winter it's hardly 2 to 3 hours. There seem to be no accountability. Power theft is so common. One who pays the bill so dutifully is made to look like a joker.

I'm at the heart of the capital city and there is no drinking water. I literally buy water from tankers throughout the year.

The roads are just horrible. What to say.

By writing this note all I want is to see the Government waking up. Nothing else. I don't expect a miracle.

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