

Editorial

Imphal, Monday, August 29, 2016

Trust deficit

The exceptional are no longer trustworthy. Man by nature first think of himself, then his near and dear one and later friends and for others (if he is willing to spare time). But there are few exceptional who breaks the natural instinct. These people think of others first and dedicated their whole life for the good and welfare of others.

Times have gone that people prefer the few exceptional people. The largest democracy now have more respect and regard for those people who take extra care for their near and dear one particularly of their children. Those who build good houses; sent their children to the most costly schools and colleges and can afford luxurious vehicles for their wards and family are the one whom people trusted. The second group of people who are being referred as exceptional have no seat in the society. They are often term unsuccessful people as they have failed in making their family - a stable life. In traditional Manipuri society, these exceptional people are called - "Leikaigi Ibungo Yumgina lemakhak" which literary means man for the locality and a hopeless one for family.

Another facet of this country, which is proud of being the largest democracy, is that those who play big game to hijack or in other words loots the public property have high respect. But some poor fellow in need of food who was caught stealing to fill his stomach are insulted, assaulted and humiliated in the most inhuman way. In Imphal, small time home made liquor traders are caught and punished by local activists when big liquor traders are left unnoticed even after seeing them selling the prohibited stuffs in open market.

Election time is knocking at the door. Peoples' mindset and small talks heard at almost every corner of the state now showed some anti-incumbency factor of Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh led congress government who is completing its third term. People now see BJP which got massive victory in the last Parliamentary election as the only alternative. It was no surprise that the party which was never popular in the state is now flooded with many heavy weight politicians, big contractors, businessmen, retired government officials aspiring to become MLA in the Manipur Legislative Assembly. The coming of the successful persons in their respective field depending upon their bank account has left the exceptional die hard political workers of BJP.

The rumours, which is at some extent believable has left some dedicated old timer workers of BJP frustrated and helpless as they had sacrificed most of their time without caring how much is left to their bank balance.

Every political party, aspiring candidates and the common people's priority for election is bank balance of the candidate fighting the election, yet they claim as crusaders of anti-corruption.

Buying of vote with a mere amount of rupees 1000 or 2000 is an open secret. Besides, the state had witness candidates spending money for election feast, tips for meira paibis etc. etc.

And for this reason it is sure that every political party are now looking for winnable candidate who have good bank balance and power. So as the BJP.

The anti-incumbency factor of Congress government has made the BJP as the choice and as election is knocking at the door, it is likely that many congress MLAs and even Ministers are likely to joined the BJP and the BJP too will welcome these MLAs or Minister as they need number.

What is needed to discussed here is the main agenda of the BJP in Manipur. It is not about banning of cow slaughter or Hindunization of the state like it happened at some fanatic states in Northern India. In Manipur it is the 'corruption' issue that pull up BJP at this issue. The party's exposures to various irregularities and fund misutilization by the Ibobo led Congress Government that people started believing in the political party.

But one thing worth noting here is that - it is the congress party that is corrupts or those in the congress that is practicing corruption? Even an illiterate person will know that it is those in the party and not the party that is spoiling the image of the party. This is why if those men or women who are with the ruling government are allowed to contest election in the forthcoming election then there is no reason that we the people have to trust the BJP as it will not make any differences with the present ruling government. It will not make any difference to the old saying - "Old Wine in the same bottle".

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National & International News

President confers Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards to PV Sindhu, Sakshi Malik, Deepa Karmakar & Jitu Rai

AIR
New Delhi, Aug 29: President Pranab Mukherjee today give away the national sports awards at Rashtrapati Bhawan on the occasion of National Sports Day. Rio Olympics Silver Medalist PV Sindhu, Bronze medalist Sakshi Malik, Gymnast Dipa Karmakar and Shooter Jitu Rai were conferred with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards. The Award is given for the most outstanding performance by a sports person over a period of four years. Six coaches have been honoured with Dronacharya Awards. They include Nagapuri Ramesh for Athletics, Sagar Mal Dhayal for Boxing and Raj Kumar Sharma for Cricket. Dipa Karmakar's coach Bishweshwar Nandi also received the award. The Dronacharya Award for Lifetime contribution has been conferred on S. Pradeep Kumar for Swimming and Mahabir Singh for Wrestling. Apart from this, 15 sports

persons were given Arjuna Awards. They include Olympian runner Lalita Babar, cricketer Ajinkya Rahane, boxer Shiva Thapa and wrestler Vinesh Phogat. Athlete Satti Geetha, hockey player Sylvanus Dung and Rower Rajendra Pralhad Shelke were given the Dhyanchand Award. National sports day is celebrated to honor legendary hockey player, Major Dhyanchand Singh who was born on 29th August, 1905. On the eve of National Sports Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met P V Sindhu, Sakshi Malik, Dipa Karmakar and Jitu Rai at his residence in New Delhi. He also met the Khel Ratna awardees, Dhyanchand awardees, Dronacharya awardees, and Tenzing Norgay awardees. Later, Mr Modi said in a tweet that every Indian is proud of these athletes. He said, a major role in the success of every athlete is the perseverance of their coaches.

PM Modi congratulates all sports lovers across country on occasion of National Sports Day

AIR
New Delhi, Aug 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated all sports lovers across India on the occasion of National Sports Day. In a tweet, Mr Modi hoped that sports and sportsmanship will always shine in the society. The Prime Minister also paid tributes to the legendary hockey player Dhyanchand. On the eve of national sports day Prime minister met Rio Olympic champions silver medallist P V Sindhu, bronze medallist Sakshi

Malik and gymnast Dipa Karmakar at his residence in New Delhi yesterday. Besides, Mr Modi also met ace shooter Jitu Rai, Khel Ratna awardees, Dhyanchand awardees, Dronacharya awardees, and Tenzing Norgay awardees. Later after the meeting, Mr Modi tweeted that every Indian is proud of them. He said, a major role in the success of every athlete is the perseverance of their coaches. During the meeting, Sports Minister Vijay Goel was also present.

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India should seize the opportunity to build ties with Myanmar



Few students from Myanmar, if any, attend Indian universities. The Indian government and educational institutions across India should do more to attract students from Myanmar, perhaps by offering scholarships or through exchange programs. Additionally, civil society organisations and the private sector should offer vocational trainings for short-term results.

Second, institution building can be accomplished in a number of ways. For example, the Indian government should invite Myanmar politicians who are new to democracy to give them first-hand experience observing how a democracy works in a diverse and pluralistic society.

Myanmar politicians should be allowed to observe parliamentary proceedings, and attend courses offered by Indian universities and think tanks on the theory and practice of democracy and federalism.

The third priority, improving people-to-people relations, should be easily achieved. Not only do India and Myanmar have a shared border, but the two countries are also home to millions of people from the same ethnic community, separated during the creation of India and Myanmar in 1947 and 1948 respectively. Examples include the Kachin, the Kuki, the Naga and the Shan, who live alongside the

India-Myanmar border. The two countries share a 1624-kilometre (1009-mile) boundary in four northeast Indian states - Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland. Despite this geographical proximity, cross-border contacts among ordinary people are relatively insignificant. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Myanmar in 2014, India agreed to build 71 bridges along the roads used by Indian buses.

Bus service between Imphal and Mandalay, a distance of about 580 kilometres, was originally planned to start in 2012-13, but Manipur Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh launched it on December 9, 2015, as a trial run, which has not been resumed.

Similarly, the first flight service between Myanmar and Manipur was introduced in November 2013, but never followed up because of immigration concerns. Though weekly direct Air India flights on the Delhi-Gaya-Yangon route and Golden Myanmar charter flights to India were launched in November 2014, the connectivity between the two countries still remains very poor. Reliable road links, bus and train services, the introduction of visa-on-arrival facilities at the border, and regular flights are some of the key areas the Indian government could easily capitalise on in order to benefit its Act East Policy.

Contd. from yesterday issue

Indian Constitution: A Comprehensive Analysis, Loopholes and More

By Sumedha Upadhyay:

Right to education needs to be given maximum importance. Even though compulsory education has been enforced till the age of 14, majority of Indians remain uneducated. Private schools are too expensive for a poor man to educate his child, and the government schools' standards are deteriorating year by year. Government schools, the only source of almost-free education to all the children, need to be renovated to provide a healthier environment and teachers with better qualifications so that even a family belonging to the middle class or upper class does not hesitate in sending their children to a government school. Kelson, a famous jurist said that every piece of legislation derives its validity from the "Grundnorm". According to him the Grundnorm is that sovereign document from which all other legislations derive their validity. Likewise is the situation in India where our Grundnorm is the constitution of India where all legislation country too derives validity from the constitution. Anything going against a provision can be challenged in the court. But when our Grundnorm itself is flawed then how will any legislation be fit for the needs of the present society.

The section 376 of the Indian Penal Code, which deals with the subject of rape, requires many changes. As per the IPC, "rape" has been categorized into different

kinds such as Marital rape, Custodial rape, Gang rape etc. Marital rape refers to a rape where the husband commits a rape on his wife & custodial rape occurs in special circumstances by a public servant. I strongly believe any sexual intercourse without a woman's consent amounts to rape then why is there a need to categorize it? Rape in itself is most heinous of the crimes whether committed by the husband, a public servant or a stranger. I think instead of having different punishments for different kinds of rape there should be a uniform punishment.

The Evidence Act requires major amendment in the definition clause of "evidence". Till date the act only mentions two kinds of evidences: oral or documentary. With the advancement of technology today we have lie detector tests, DNA proficiency tests, brain mapping and various other kinds of tests that help in extracting the truth out of the offender. The recent examples of the court relying upon these tests are Kasab's case and Arushi Murder case. These tests do not have any validity in the court of law as they amount to self-incrimination in light of Article 20 of our constitution. If they can help some innocent get justice then why not recognize them as evidence?

The Land Acquisition Act 1894 requires major changes as it still contains portions which are redundant in today's times. There is a need to redefine the term 'public purpose' for which the State can

acquire land in return of some compensation. With every judicial pronouncement the court includes something new which falls within the limits of public purpose. There are times when the government acts arbitrary and in the name of 'public purpose' acquires the land for profits. Thus in all the judicial pronouncements related to Land Acquisition Act there is a need to include all those purposes which are purely in the interest of public.

The Water (prevention and control) Pollution Act has some major defects. With majority of our rivers drying up and the sorry state of Yamuna shows the incompetence of the Act in the present times. The act still talks about wells and streams as being the sources of water. Wells and streams were the sources of water in ancient times but now we have rivers, lakes, ponds, artificial water bodies which have been totally excluded from the purview of this Act. Shockingly this act does not even define what a 'water pollutant' is. Nor does water table levels and potable water etc. find any place in the Act. Whatever amendments have taken place in this act have only been with respect to the Environment Protection Act. Thus the act is a complete failure in itself.

These are only a few glaring examples of some of our legislations that lack competency and are ineffective in today's fast

moving world. There are many many more. But what is important is that these reforms should start immediately. Running away from these problems will only make them pile on one another and make them even bigger. India is still a developing nation and if we have to shift from the agrarian economy we are today then it is time that we adopt the reformative approach and make the legislations more dynamic in nature. We need more participation of the citizens in bringing about these changes instead of leaving the change to the selfish politicians, some of whom can barely claim to be educated. All this is necessary because we need a clearer picture of our future. I would like to end by saying - "In today already walks tomorrow. Because the future is much like the present, only longer (Concluded)"

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Sd/-
Prasanjit
Takhellambam