

Editorial

Imphal, Friday, February 5, 2016

The rising crescendo

An eventful and mostly controversial term of governance is drawing to a close for the state. The third term for the government with O Ibohi at the helm of affairs in the state has so far seen and experienced myriad controversies and various unpleasant and unsettling developments interspersed with spurts of positive outcomes which, much to the consternation of both the public and the government itself, are short lived and comparably insignificant that they got crowded out and pushed to the backstage by the relentless outbreak of social, financial and legal mismanagements. What the public has inferred from the last three terms of governance by the same party with pretty much the same set of political heavyweights at the core is one which smacks of opportunism, nepotism and cronyism, not necessarily in that order. The public perceived the government as one which has used and refined the system to benefit themselves and their subservient coterie at the cost of the general public, thereby resulting in widening of the chasm between the haves and the have-nots in terms of resources, connections, influence and power. The inevitable emergent social situation, a repercussion of fifteen years of suppressed ire, impotent rage and pent-up frustrations has created that much needed opportunity for those waiting along the sidelines of the political arena to rear their heads and add a toehold to the conscience and consideration of the public. Subdued whispers and indecisive murmurings have started to collect themselves into a cohesive voice of demand for change- any change- even at the risk of experiencing a worse five-year term than ever before. This turn of events is a clear manifestation of the acute disappointment and delusion being increasingly felt towards the present government and its style of governance by the general public- an increased proclivity to take risks and reject the present system which has failed to present a better future for the society. Yet the alternative- the risks which a lot of people are increasingly willing to take does not hold much promise either- at least at this juncture. Dirty infighting, mud-stinging and washing their dirty political deeds in public is more the norm rather than displaying serious efforts to convince the public of their intent to address the issues which are threatening to throw the state into perpetual turmoil right now. To make matters worse, most of the self-appointed contenders for the top spot are old horses whose mettle were tried and found wanting on several occasions. Where does that leave the public? certainly in a spot tighter and infinitely more uncomfortable than ever before. But this confusing situation also provides a vital opportunity to the people in the state to ponder over and air their views more clearly and loudly. It creates an invaluable space for the previously apolitical individuals to get themselves involve in politics- at least in analyzing and voicing their aspirations and expectations.

With just about a year to the next general election, the political scenario is witnessing increased activities with mixed feelings of extraordinary expectations and foreboding. The ultimate result should reflect the matured mentality and informed choice of the public who are connected, educated and opinionated- more than ever.

Mizoram women to fast aginst opening of wine shops

PTI

Aizawl, Feb 05: Mizoram Baptist Kohrhan Hmeiche Pawl (MBKHP) or the women wing of the Baptist Church of Mizoram, has decided to organise prayer and fasting in protest against opening of wine shops in the state.

The MBKHP's decision, taken yesterday at its annual conference attended by 460 delegates at the Mizoram-Bangladesh border town of Tlabung in Lunglei district, came after the state government allowed

opening of wine shops under the newly-legislated Mizoram Liquor Prohibition and Control Act, 2014 since March 16 last year. The Baptist women body also decided to make a formal appeal to the state government to end the sale of liquor in the state under the new law.

The Mizoram Liquor Total Prohibition Act, 1995 imposed in the state since February 20, 1997 was replaced after being in force in the state for 18 years.

Wanted Sub-Editor

Imphal Times is looking for an experience sub editor with excellent writing skill in English who can read Bengali written script. Working hour is 12 noon till 3 pm. Honorarium is Rs. 3000 p.m. Preference will be given to candidate who had already work in English daily as desk editor. Age no bar, and Imphal Times have no problem with those candidates working in other newspaper at night shift.

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(By : Chingakham Dina, Arambam Karamjit, Khwairakpam Sunita)

Self sufficiency village economy in Thailand was introduced by His Majesty the king of Thailand and the philosophy of this **Sufficiency Economy** is applied at household level. The importance of this village economy model was felt the fruitful result when there was economic crisis in Thailand in 1997. Since then, the influence came up to national level. The idea is sustainability, modernization as well as control of over-exploitation of natural resources. In sufficiency economy, land use model of 100% land is 30%-rice field, 30%-pond or reservoir, 30%-field and horticultural crops, and 10%-settlement. We will solve the water shortage problem to great extent if we take up this policy up to household level in the village.

Another village economy scheme is **One Tambon One Product (OTOP)**, meaning every sub-district (Tambon) will produce a product (agriculture, handicraft, or whatever) and this will be recognized to national level and govt promotes the products. This concept comes from Japan's **One Village One Product (OVOP)** which is very successful program in Japan. OTOP is organized in the similar way of cooperative society. There are 36,000 OTOP groups and each group has members between 30-3000 (Source: Wikipedia 28 October 2014). Only one superior product will be selected from each sub-district (Tambon), and it will be starred as branded OTOP product. Every year there is competition for product champion. OTOP groups are encouraged to improve the quality of product and marketing. The products will be rated and the highest rating is 5. Thailand makes money from hill, mountain, river, sea

Village Economy Model in Thailand

or every where. Sea beach is tourist attraction, river for resort. Hill slope, and even top of hills or mountains are used for plantation of fruit tree, rubber tree and sometimes tourist attraction and flat plain area is used for rice cultivation. There is proper well constructed road up to hill top so they drive pick up car or truck, and work comfortably.

Transfer of knowledge and skill to villages is another aspect of village economy in Thailand. Free trainings for making bio-fertilizer, making insecticide from local herbs and plants, making plant hormone from vegetables and fruits, kitchen gardening, mushroom farming, fishery, animal rearing, soap and shampoo making and other skills are transferred to the real villagers and communities; to school children, and even to primary school pupils as extra curricular activities but in our Manipur officers seem to disconnect from common people. In our culture officers work for the sake of their job, and they seem to be overburdened to maintain record on paper rather than connecting to people and transferring skills and knowledge to villagers and communities. Officers in fishery and animal husbandry, knowledgeable people in agricultural university in the state, all are on high ranking social hierarchy in our Manipur society, and they are partitioned in social connectivity with common people. This is what we are different from Thailand. In Thailand, all these mentioned institutions work closely with people rather than working only on paper. They transfer the real skills and knowledge to people. This is what we need in Manipur too. Development comes from urban economy as well as village economy in Thailand. Their production of vegetable and fruits are amazing. Our cultivation and farming is just

to fill the need of our stomach. Farming, projects, or any other schemes in Thailand are mostly for commercial purpose. Vegetables are produced from every part of Thailand in large quantity. Fruits are produced from southeast or southern provinces in plenty. Thailand produces 17% of world pineapple. Pineapple is produced from southern provinces such as Hua Hin, Chumphorn, and Ratchaburi. Rubber production is world's leading which mostly comes from southern provinces such as Hat Yai and Songkhla areas. Sting bean or Yongchak (in Manipur) is produced in large quantity in Southern part of Thailand. Central part of Thailand is famous for rice farming. In north and northeast sides, there is tree cultivation to large extent with specie of tree such as eucalyptus (Nasik tree) which is used for extracting oil, and in construction business. All these achievements are possible because state officials and knowledgeable people work closely without much gap like in our Manipur. It is high time to share all the schemes and benefits coming from central government through state mechanism, and reach out common people without any nepotism and share awareness what comes and goes. Development will achieve only when general mass population access the benefit. If people of Manipur work together we can produce high quality fruits, vegetables, medicinal plants for industrial production. Keeping in mind for our business and income scope, we need help from knowledgeable people in the following aspects.

Soil Test database: Collect soil, test and identify the nature of soil from every village, open area or hilly areas, wide and spread of Manipur

in collaboration with department of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, and agricultural university. Compile it as database record, and please send it to all the villages with name of location in and around of that village with recommended possible vegetables or plants that can be grown in that identified area.

Focus on growing perennial fruit plants or fruit trees on the open empty surface of the hill. That will produce income from fruit and at the same time it will help to maintain our environment that is over exploited day by day.

Make available nursery plants easily and affordable or free of cost to local people.

Focus on medicinal plant taking opportunity under Look East Policy of India as there is popular usage of herb for medicine in China and South East Asian nations. This will help our export.

Transfer the skills and knowledge to villagers rather than giving it to only a few smart people or students who can get enrolled to the university or work in the concerned department such as -agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry or agricultural university.

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National & International News

Sushma Swaraj leaves for two-day visit to Sri Lanka

PTI

New Delhi, Feb. 5: External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj on Friday left for Colombo on a two-day visit during which she is expected to discuss the fishermen's issue and rights of minority Tamils with the top Sri Lankan leadership.

Swaraj and her Sri Lankan counterpart Mangala Samaraweera will co-chair the 9th joint commission meeting to discuss key bilateral and regional issues in Colombo later on Friday.

The discussions will cover the entire gamut of relationship pertaining to economic cooperation, trade, power and energy, technical and maritime cooperation, social, cultural and

educational matters, science and technology, defence cooperation, health, civil aviation, tourism and people-to-people contact.

The joint commission was set up in 1992 as a mechanism to address issues of bilateral cooperation. The last meeting of the joint commission was held in New Delhi in January 2013.

Ministry of external affairs spokesperson Vikas Swarup had said yesterday that the fishermen issue is expected to figure during Swaraj's meeting with the Lankan leaders.

The fishermen issue continues to be a major irritant in the Indo-Lanka ties. Though the fishermen's associations

of the two sides are in regular touch with each other, they have not been able to reach a mutually-acceptable solution to end this problem, Swarup had said, adding that India wants a long-term solution.

Sri Lanka accuses Indian fishermen of straying into its territorial waters, while the latter maintain they are only fishing in their traditional areas, especially around Katchatheevu, an islet ceded to Colombo in 1974.

The issue of rights of minority Tamil community is also expected to come up for discussions during Swaraj's meetings.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe had last month said his government was ready to

devolve power to minority Tamils under a new Constitution, aimed at resolving the ethnic conflict and achieving reconciliation with Tamils.

Swaraj will also call on President Maithripala Sirisena, Prime Minister Wickremesinghe and former president Chandrika Kumaratunga besides meeting other top leaders. She will inaugurate a 'Rise of Digital India' exhibition tomorrow as part of 'Sangam' festival of India in Sri Lanka 2015-2016.

The exhibition will showcase the phenomenal rise of the computing sector and digital technologies in India which is positively impacting the everyday lives of people.

Pakistan seeks early resolution of Kashmir issue

ANI

Lahore, Feb. 5: Pakistan has reiterated its demand for early resolution of the dispute over Kashmir in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

According to the Dawn, Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesman Qazi Khalilullah said that the nation observed the day on February 5 every year to highlight the 'plight of Kashmiris.'

Khalilullah attacked India for 'continuing to violate human rights and "brutalise" Kashmiris in the occupied territory.'

Pakistan has always condemned these atrocities and raised voice against human rights violations by Indian forces in the occupied Kashmir," he said. Talking about talks between both nations, he added that no date had been fixed between the nations but both sides were in touch with each other in this regard Khalilullah said that the next

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Rudy lays foundation stone for ITI Dimapur

ANI

New Delhi, Feb 05: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) workers protest entered Day 10 on Friday. The workers protested in Delhi's Bhajanpura area over non-payment of dues. The protesters threatened to dump garbage at Delhi Jal Board Chairman Kapil Mishra's house if he continued to clean the roads through private cleaning staff. Till now, several protests have been lodged following the slowdown between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government and the BJP-led municipal corporations over funding of salaries.

Earlier, Nagaland State Chief Minister TR Zeliang, in his address highlighted the urgent need to address the issue of skilling the youths of Nagaland and said with change of time, the aspirations of the youths are also changing.

Zeliang also urged the Union minister to grant financial assistance to youths undergoing skill development training under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), provide skill orientation courses in schools and colleges in Nagaland and to set up a regional skilling centre of international

standard in the state. Zeliang lamented the lack of industrial activities in the state and cited this as a stumbling block for gainful employment of the youths. Meanwhile, he also announced that the Department of Labour & Employment has been renamed as Department of Labour & Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. Parliamentary Secretary for Labour and employment, Skill Development and Border Affairs, Mmonihluo Kikon also speaking on the occasion expressed excitement for transforming the North East into a natural economic zone through the Prime Minister's 'Skill India Vision.' He said Nagaland has been endowed with natural resource as well as human resource but cautioned that unless human resource is developed at par with national and international standards, natural resources will not be marketed.

Kikon also called for private parties to play a major role in creating this atmosphere. He stated that the department was willing to work hard and fast to build world class skilling the state.