

# Editorial

Imphal, Monday, June 20, 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 Ibobi 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 get 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- even a 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-slinging 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 less than 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.

## INDUCTION INTO OFFICERS CADRE OF INDIAN AIR FORCE

Applications for entry in Air Force as officers, for men and women, in various branches are invited. The various branches are Flying Branch, Technical Branch, Ground Duty Branches and Ground Duty Branches (Meteorology). For Meteorology branch, Offline applications are to be forwarded. For the rest only online applications are valid through Indian Air Force website [www.careerairforce.nic.in](http://www.careerairforce.nic.in). Last date of applying is 30 Jun 2016. Details of terms and conditions and eligibility can be found in the website. Further details of the same can be obtained from 'DISHA' Cell, Air Headquarters (VB), Motilal Nehru Marg, New Delhi or can be checked on telephone No 011-23013690. The same is also displayed on notice board, PIB (Defence), M Sector, Imphal.

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# TANGENTIAL THOUGHTS:

## Why not consider owning a 'business' as a career option by young graduates?

By- *Shanjoy Mairambam*

Availability of government jobs has almost dried up in Manipur. There are almost no industry jobs within Manipur. Young graduates have to leave Manipur to look for jobs. So, the question is - 'isn't there any other career option for young graduates in Manipur? How about planning to own a business and become the 'Boss of own life'. Anyone who just passed 12<sup>th</sup> standard (i.e. 17/18 years of age) is already sufficient to be in the world of business. By that age and qualification, one has got the basic education (reading, writing, calculation, social common sense and knowledge of the world we live in) and also, the physical and mental strength to lead. May be what's still missing for running/owning a business is the will power and extra guidance/tips on the business setup. The ultimate formula for a business is based on the simple mathematics equation of 'Profit/Loss - Selling Price - Cost Incurred'. By

considering how to maneuver the parameters on right hand side of the equation, the result on the left hand can be impacted accordingly. To understand the concept of a business; try to imagine how a local shop operates, how a school functions, how a rickshaw driver works, how elderly women at Keithel (i.e. Potpham Phambi) make a living, etc.

If a Business is to be demystified, it can be viewed as activities happening in three aspects;

(1) Legal/Financial According - A business needs to be a legal entity thereby requiring a registration to operate and show financial statements annually for Income Tax filing. The government lays down specific regulations (including tax benefits and supports) for doing business in the industry sector and the region where it operates.

(2) Continued Justification of a Business Case - The logic behind the purpose of doing a business has to be appropriate at any point of time throughout the lifespan of

the business. A business can't continue to run if it incurs losses beyond a permissible limit of operation or business has failed to achieve minimum targets as expected by promoters or shareholders.

(3) Sales-Production-Procurement Logic - Any business goes with this concept of get something, 'add value to that something', and then sell off that modified something by making some benefits (e.g. money).

While studying a degree course in a college within Manipur, a youth can focus on how to set up a business ingredient that may be helpful to the business setup - such as access to libraries, buildings, high bandwidth internet, academic staff, like minded friends, local communities, industry professionals and govt. officials, etc. Also, similar resources in Manipur University, Central Agricultural University and other higher education institutes in Manipur can be utilized for a

business setup support. There are development grants provided by various government ministries in each district which youths can apply for filling up a business. Also, youth can avail training support provided by state govt. departments (e.g. Manipur Skill Development Society) are central govt. departments (e.g. ministry of DoNER) from time to time.

What's worth reminding herein is 'Life is not a SPRINT, but a MARATHON'. Graduating from a college is not the end of life or the start of a career. Youth is a time to try to find out the purpose of life and what one's calling. One may always fall back on parents to restart a life/career again till the age of 20-25 years. All the big businesses and organizations we treasure today (e.g. Facebook, Microsoft, Apple) were built by the young people in the age of 15-30 years. So, why not try and take the chance when feasible? Get a business mentor today and start thinking now.

*(Shanjoy Mairambam (B.E., MBA) is a Business Strategy Consultant based in London (UK). He supports mentoring of young entrepreneurs in 'conceptualization of ideas into a business case, and offers the role of a 'Business Doctor' to local NGOs/SMEs in Manipur. He wrote this articles last year)*

## PIB Feature

## Yoga for a healthy nation

By : *Abhishek Dayal*

A serious health time-bomb is ticking for the nation. To give but one example: experts recently warned that more than 10 crore people are likely to be affected by Diabetes in India in the next ten years. Diabetes not only leads to fall in quality of life and productivity, it is also life threatening. Falling health standards in adult population in India is evident from increase in all types of non-infectious illnesses like cancer, kidney, lung and heart failures, spinal problems and many others.

Fighting for the health of the nation has become a collective challenge for the individual, families and the society. Although there is no one cause leading to this depressing scenario, but three main culprits can easily be identified: poor lifestyle choices, pollution, and lack of preventive healthcare and remedies at the onset of illness.

The nation suffers from falling health of its citizen through fall in productivity and huge amounts of money that has to be spent on public health care. A healthy citizen makes for a healthy nation.

Going to the root of the problem, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

identified practice of Yoga as a solution for restoring the health of the citizens. This solution is unique as it seeks to involve each and every Indian in fight against ill-health. The cost to the society for adopting a healthier life through Yoga is virtually zero. The allied benefits of sharper mind, a peaceful mind and possible spiritual benefits makes the solution even more unique!

In a recent interview, AYUSH Minister Shri Shripad Yasso Naik was asked why Indians are not fit if they know of benefits of Yoga since centuries. His answer was simple and straightforward- he said "because Indians don't do it!"

The benefits of Yoga are known and proven. Yoga has been a part of our culture and folklore for ages. Simple Yogic exercises are known by a large chunk of our people. Its acceptance cuts across all sectarian and class divides. Still it requires a massive government effort for spreading the awareness, simply because like many other things traditional, Yoga had lost out by not being fashionable for a long period.

This author was in Colombo, Sri Lanka, during the celebration of the first International Yoga Day last

June. A big, curious crowd had gathered at the picturesque Galle Face Greens to participate in the event, including a group of journalists who had come to cover the event. They seemed bemused: they felt it was like another rock music event, where one comes for entertainment and to be 'seen' with the happening crowd. These journalists were also invited to participate in the 45 minute long session led by a local Yoga expert. The results were amusing and instructive.

The journals were first impressed by the strain that their bodies showed when they did the 'simple' Yoga exercises. During the next few days almost all of them discussed among themselves how their bodies had reacted after the session and by the weekend some of them had joined the Yoga classes at the Indian Cultural Centre in the city. A year on, this group has become Yoga enthusiasts and have made Yoga an integral part of their life.

Why is this anecdote important? It shows two things: One, that Yoga is universal, effective and easy to communicate, and two, that it requires an initial push to take it to a community, after which a

momentum builds around it and it spreads its roots.

There has been any number of studies to show the direct benefits of Yoga for people suffering from many life-threatening disorders like falling lung or kidney functions. To the patients of these illnesses, medical practitioners need to prescribe exercises for improvement in quality of life. But for a modern, relatively healthy citizen, whose lifestyle is such that he or she is susceptible to these diseases, it needs a social awareness campaign to take the message of benefits of Yoga.

It has only been a year since the first Yoga day was globally celebrated. In this one year, the tremendous increase in the number of instructors who have learnt Yoga, the thousands of resident communities that have started morning Yoga classes across the country and the general awareness of the diverse benefits of Yoga to the citizen, and hence the nation, shows that a fire has been lit, and that it is spreading like wildfire. By giving a place to Yoga in our daily lives, we can look forward to a healthier and happier India in years to come.

## National & International News

## Govt to block PAN details of tax defaulters

**New Delhi, June 20:** The income tax department is considering blocking PAN cards of tax defaulters and evaders. Besides, the violators will not be eligible to receive government subsidy on facilities like cooking gas. The issue was discussed during last week's Revenue Gyan Sangam where Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked tax officials to broaden the country's tax base to 10 crore from the five crore at present.

The move is aimed at checking the generation of black money and route of illegal income to safe havens, an official said.

According to the action plan, the IT department will be alerted by the Credit Information Bureau of India and bank each time a tax defaulter uses his PAN card for any bank transaction or purchase using the credit card.

The authorities are also planning to share blocked PAN card information with registration offices to debar the defaulter from buying immovable property.

Starting this year, furnishing PAN details is mandatory for cash

transactions made for hotel bills or foreign travel exceeding Rs 50,000. It is also a must for all transactions, including the purchase of jewellery, above Rs 2 lakh in cash or through a card.

Providing PAN details is also

mandatory on the purchase of immovable property of over Rs 10 lakh and term deposits exceeding Rs 50,000 at one go or Rs 5 lakh in a year with banks, post offices and non-banking financial companies. It is also a must for opening bank accounts, except

those that come under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana scheme.

According to official estimates, only 3% of the country's 1.2 billion people pay taxes. Tax revenue amounts to only 17% of GDP as against the 25% in the US and 33% in the UK.

## Taliban suicide blast kills 14 Nepalese guards in Kabul

**Kabul, June 20:** A Taliban suicide bomber killed 14 Nepalese security guards in a blast targeting their Kabul minibuses, officials said, the first claimed attack in the capital since Washington expanded the US military's authority to strike the insurgents.

The attack, which police said was carried out by a suicide bomber on foot, came shortly before 6:00 am on a main road leading east out of the capital towards the city of Jalalabad. "As a result 14 foreigners were killed, all Nepalese nationals," the interior ministry said in a statement, adding it "strongly condemns" the attack. The guards were employed by a company that provides security to

Western embassies in Kabul, a security official who asked to remain anonymous told AFP. Nine other people were wounded, including five Nepalese and four Afghans, the ministry said.

The sound of the explosion could be heard across Kabul and a plume of smoke could be seen above the site of the blast on the Jalalabad road, a main route that houses many foreign compounds and military facilities. More than two dozen ambulances rushed to the scene, an AFP journalist said, with police blocking off the road. Children watched as the yellow, blood-spattered bus was taken away. There was also damage to shops near the explosion site with windows

shattered. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack on social media, saying it was "against the forces of aggression" in Afghanistan.

The attack comes days after Washington announced an expansion of the US military's authority to conduct air strikes against the Taliban, significantly boosting Afghan forces who have limited close air-support capacities. It was the first attack in the capital since the start of the holy fasting month of Ramadan two weeks ago. The Taliban have rejected the government's call for a ceasefire over the month.