

Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, March 10, 2016

Few minutes rains flooded roads in front of school-

Isn't this violations of the students' right

Only recently PHED Minister Hemochandra in the state assembly had said that Manipur's source of Drinking water is the rain. When the state is in need of water, nature showed its kindness that it sprinkle water last evening or perhaps wee hour today. Now the road which was constructed only some 2 years back with proper drainage by spending huge amount of fund is flooded. Incidentally the front road of Keishamthong Model school is worst affected. Students had to put out their shoes and walk to their school. The few rains also flooded many portion of the road at many area of the newly constructed road. It is known to everyone that road stretch between Wahengbam leikai till Heirangothong has been widen by evicting various houses. But as those in the government seem little interest to make the developed infrastructure into a perfect one, the wide road no more is providing convenient to the people.

Crime against humanity deserves the worst form of punishment. Interest of different nations has different legal system to protect the interest of their country. The enforcement of certain laws - like capital punishment; Special powers act to armed forces may have strong and supportive argument as it is about the security of their respective nations. Gross violation of human rights at certain parts of the country and other part of the world may receive severe criticisms from many who are concerned for Human values. Arguments may continue for certain human causes permitting each sides to stand tight with their act. But what about the kind of problems that the students of these government schools are facing?

We can't predict rains. So as the nature's wrath. In January 4, 2016 early morning a tremor had damage many assets of the government including the khwairamband ima Keithel. But the nature's gift like rains can be well managed for human needs. It is fact and everyone knows that the state which have adequate rainfall annually now face acute shortage of water since the last couple of decades. Interestingly, during this period the state had also witnessed flood many times. In short the state suffer the ugly face of flood during rainy season while they had to bear drought in the remaining days. In view of the arising situation that we are facing right now, there is an urgent need to ponder on what went wrong?

Is it the people or is it the government who is responsible for the present crisis?

Deforestation that has been taking place illegally at different part of the state has been often blamed - both by government and the many social activists which is universally accepted by all. One thing we in the Imphal Times suggest is that we cannot completely blame to the people who are responsible for cutting the trees for their livelihood. It is the government which is responsible and why shouldn't it be? It was all about their survival and mind it some people do not have any alternative for survival. In paper work government had passed many schemes to substitute the livelihood but it is an open secret that none of this schemes meant for the poor people had never been benefitted as the money meant by them had been pocketed by government authority who were assigned for implementation of the project.

Another matters, at which we in the IMPHAL TIMES is concerned is the poor understanding of the government department about the needs for storage of natural water underneath the earth. There seems to be complete lack of knowledge to the government authority about the need to let the earth absorbed any short of water. Clear example is the drain constructed under huge funding from the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNURM). The cubical shape drainage construction has no mechanism to let the drain water absorbed underneath the earth. This is not only the case at any government infrastructural development work there is no signed of the government authority showing concerned about the importance harvesting the rain water. Harvesting rain water does not mean that it should be stored in a tank or some man-made water storage tank. It is about harvesting inside the earth core which can be reused using other means.

The flooding of street in front Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai is a warning. Govt. need immediate attention and find a solution before they are being blamed for another man made flood which is expecting soon.

Tax and Investment planning by senior citizens

By : Subhash Lakhotia, Tax & Investment Consultant Tax Guru CNBC Awaaz

The average age of human being is expected to be 100 to 125 years as a result of advancement of the nano technology. It is, therefore, a challenging time right now for each and every senior citizen about tax to think about tax & investment planning so as to achieve bliss, peace and happiness during the golden years of life. Some of the salient and important practical tips as mentioned in this article will help senior citizens to definitely save their income-tax by adopting tax planning and also they will be able to adopt investment planning so as to achieve better result on their investments.

Tax Planning for Senior Citizens

Knowing little more about the prevalent Income Tax Law will help senior citizens to save income-tax by planning. It is recommended that every senior citizen should plan for a separate income-tax file for every member of their family so as to save income-tax file for every member of their family so as to save income-tax by taking advantage of the maximum exemption limit under the income-tax Law. Presently, no income-tax is payable by an individual on income upto Rs. 1,50,000 per annum, similarly for ladies no income upto Rs. 1,80,000 while for senior citizen the exemption limit is Rs. 2,25,000 upto which senior citizen pay no income-tax at all. The benefit of higher exemption limit for a senior citizen is available only when a person has completed 65 years of age. It is also time now to start separate income-tax file for your wife which is possible through the concept of gift & loans. Do remember that the husband, the father-in-law and the mother-in-law of your wife should not make any gift to her from tax angle. If you do not have a separate

income-tax file for your Hindu Undivided Family then surely it is time now to even think of this tax entity for tax saving. If a senior citizen is getting salary income he should ask his employer to provide him tax free allowances & perquisites. Similarly, if a senior citizen is deriving income from business or profession then all expenses incurred by him in earning such income will be fully allowed as a deduction without any upper limit. The senior citizen should also take full advantage of section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961 whereby deduction upto Rs.1.00 lakh is available for investment by way of insurance premium, repayment of the housing loan or investment in Senior Citizens Saving Scheme as also the Bank Fixed Deposit. Similarly, the citizen can also take advantage of the deduction of section 80-D by make payment for Mediclaim Policy. In case senior citizen or any member of his family suffers from serious medical problem or suffers from some disability he can claim certain other deductions under the tax law.

Investment planning

Investment planning is really very important for the senior citizen. The first thing to be remembered is that they should never be a copycat. Similarly, the entire money available for investment should never be invested in one single investment, however, lucrative it may be. The senior citizen should also adopt the theme that where there is liquidity there is mobility. This will help him to plan his investments in a better manner. Safe & Secure investment should be the guiding theme for senior citizens. Always jot down your money supply demands out of the investments made by you to achieve better investment results. Make investments as a senior citizen in joint names. Never invest in lucrative but risky investment

proposals. It is time now to think of investments in Senior Citizens Savings Scheme as also Bank fixed deposit. The investment by a senior citizen in these two items is strongly recommended so as to get yearly yield between 9% to 10.5%. Post Office Savings Account may be considered for tax free interest income. As far as possible the senior citizen should not make investment in shares but the investment in mutual funds could be considered so as to receive tax free income. It is recommended that the senior citizen may make investment mainly in those mutual funds where the fund invests money in equity and debt. In the field of real estate investment it is better if joint investments in names of different family members are made. Also it is time for you now to think of relocation of real estate whereby you may shift from very big residential house of yours to a more compact property for hassle free retirement. Also do think of assigning real estate management activities to different family members who will ultimately inherit your assets. It is also time now to take advantage of the concept of reverse mortgage on your immovable property. The big advantage of reverse mortgage concept is that the amount received from bank for reverse mortgage is not subjected to capital gains tax. Like wise whatever money you receive on monthly basis from the bank is also not subjected to income-tax.

Planning through will It is recommended that all senior citizens should prepare their will. It will be worthwhile to note that once a person prepares his will he/she can change such will as many times as he/she desires. The salient features of the preparation of the will are as under:-

1. Will is on plain white paper.

2. No stamp paper is required.
3. Will may be registered or unregistered but better to register it.
4. Registration of Will is not a costly affair.
5. Change your Will as often as you need.
6. Video Recording of Will.
7. Appoint Executor to the Will.
8. Two Witnesses.

The following are the important tips on tax planning through the Will-

1. It's time to write down your Will to pass on the assets as per your own desire and not as per law.
2. You save money for legal heirs by Will so that future income-tax liability of the heirs is reduced.
3. Create family trust and HUFs in family through Will.
4. Continue I.T. file after death if there is a Will sec. 168.
5. Will enables you to equalize assets of family members

Conclusion

Every senior citizen must plan his tax & investment related matters during the period when he attains the status of being a senior citizen. The Government should fix uniform age for senior citizen for different purposes. The Government should also consider reforms in Mediclaim Policy to be available to senior citizen freely as also tax free bonds should be introduced exclusively for senior citizens to avoid inflation tension faced by a senior citizen. The Finance Ministry should think of exempting from the clutches of income tax the bank interest and bank fixed deposit interest received by senior citizens. Innovative ideas like setting up of special retirement villages for senior citizens to improve their quality of life should be considered by the Government. The senior citizen pension plan should be more realistic and should be linked with inflation; similarly tax deduction for medical treatment of a senior citizen should increase.

National & International News

Nagaland CM asks NPGs for 'permanent peace'

PTI Dimapur, March 10: Nagaland chief minister T R Zeliang has given a clarion call to all Naga Political Groups (NPGs) to come together for an early solution to the protracted Naga political problem.

"The Naga political problem is not a factional, tribal or any political party's problem it is a problem of all Nagas and we must all come

Udhampur attack wanted Abu Okasha killed in encounter

PTI Srinagar, March 10: A Pakistani militant carrying a bounty for his role in Udhampur attack last year, Abu Okasha, has been killed in an encounter in Pulwama district but a top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander and four other ultras managed to escape the security ring due to alleged connivance of locals.

NIA had announced a reward of Rs five lakh on information leading to arrest of Okasha, a resident of Khyber Pakhtkwa in Pakistan. It had recovered his photograph during raids at various terror hideouts in the Valley in connection with his involvement in the Udhampur terror attack in which a Pakistani LeT terrorist Mohammed Naved Yakub was arrested.

The sources said LeT's Kashmir chief Abu Dujana was among those who managed to escape from the encounter site as local residents allegedly diverted the attention of security forces by pelting stones at them.

The encounter broke out as security forces were conducting search operations in Puchal area of Awantipora and shots were heard from nearby Goripora village, an official said.

together to find permanent peace," Zeliang said during a meeting of Nagaland Legislators' Forum on Naga political issue yesterday, an official statement said.

Zeliang called upon the leaders of various NPGs to have more consultations on how best to solve the protracted Naga problem so that the sacrifices made by generations of Nagas "may bear fruit for the future generations". "Nagas have suffered for too long and we must find a solution that is honourable, acceptable to all

sections of the society. We know only how to criticise each other and not how to protect each other", he added.

The chief minister said as elected representatives of the people, they have sworn allegiance to the Constitution of India and therefore, "we cannot take part in the negotiations table. We have made it very clear to the Government of India that we can only facilitate early solution of the problem; we can only suggest and ask that the interests of all are taken into consideration while bringing out a

final solution". He expressed confidence that government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi "is sincere and determined to solve the Naga political issue".

"We have also made it clear to the Government of India that Naga people do not want piece-meal solution, but a one-time solution that is applicable to all Nagas regardless of where they live," he said.

The meeting was attended by representatives of NNC, NSCN (Kholi-Kitovi) and NSC(Reformation) groups.

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MASAD shows solidarity o JNU; supports critique on Nationalism

He puts that there has not even been any changes in the structure of state institutions like the police, military, bureaucracy which works on the colonial structure. Further, he says that the transfer of power took place from the British to the Indian elites, that Indian state is a result of the colonial rule and there has not been much changes for the oppressed and the unprivileged.

The MASAD advisor further points out that while JNU, Hyderabad Central University and Jadavpur University has seen the rise against authoritarianism, we must not forget Manipur University where an army camp stands right in the middle of the university. While the army camp is too much in itself, it is put right behind the women's hostel and army convoys are a regular sight there. So, he expressed the idea that it is not only the physical oppression but also the thought oppression that we must fight; because university where thought formulation in the academia takes

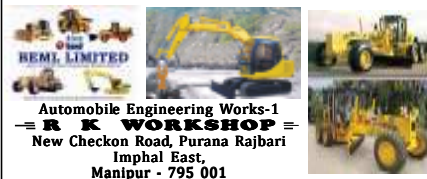
place is also under supervision of the military. The JNU crowd was asked if they are ready to fight for Manipur University as well. The crowd shouted YES!

He said there is no left, right or center when politicians reach the parliament, there are only nationalists. Many JNU alumni proclaim themselves as "left" but it becomes a different story when they start practicing electoral politics. Therefore, he condemns the attempt to link the JNU issue with electoral politics e.g. the news that JNU Leader Kanhaiya will campaign for Bengal elections for CPI. The hypocrisy of the intellectuals was also put under question. He exclaimed that there are less than 10 scholars in India ready to talk about the history and politics of the turbulent "North east". All intellectuals, he says "left" or "right", be it historians, or social scientists run away from the issue claiming that they are not the expert of "North east"; that it was a

subject to be discussed by the military. It was bluntly rejected that the idea of the former speaker of the event, Prabhat Patnaik (the Marxist economist) who claims Indian state to be a result of Social contract. Rojesh brings out the idea that the marriage of Manipur and India was a forced marriage and that there was no social contract. It was further reminded that Manipur was the First country in South East Asia to have Universal adult franchise and adopt a popular democratic elected government in 1948 in response to Patnaik's statement that Adult Franchise took place for the first time in 1952 inside what we now know as the boundary of the Indian state. He ended the talk with full support for freedom to dissent and fight against oppression; that the fight must be expanded to all universities and beyond its wall. The talk ended with huge applause by the JNU crowd and shouts of solidarity to "Comrade Rojesh" (to put the word of the JNU crowd).

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