

Sunday Musings

Manipur Civil Services Combined Competitive Exam has really become a waiting Game

Anonymous
Our state has lagged far behind unimaginably as compared to other states of our country with regards to Civil Service Examination. The long awaited exam for the aspirants which was supposed to have been conducted last year i.e. 2015 is ultimately conducted this year 2016 (with a delay of about 2 ½ months after the cancellation of the first advertisement notice), but no wonder with lots of controversial issues. It is hard to digest the fact that despite conducting exams for so many years, many errors have once again surfaced leading to further delay.

At this juncture, the competency of the Commission members has become questionable. It is an utter failure on the Commission's part that the top most exam of the state has conducted very carelessly and negligently. Any rectifications/clarifications in the instructions and questions amidst the exam should not have happened in the first place. If it had so happened, then it was the duty of the concerned higher authority to keep a vigil on their respective officials whether the announcement has been equally

communicated to all the exam centres. Who should be held accountable for such a gross miscommunication??? One should be thoughtful that for any controversy, there could be three opinions- yours, the others and the right one. As the candidates look up to the Commission for fair conduct of exam, they are right from their perspective and the Commission should be held accountable from all the angles. Meanwhile, the demands from the unfortunate candidates that a special arrangement should be made for them to recuperate their losses is unfair because the other candidates who has wished to clear this exam has also put an enormous effort like them. The demand should not be about asking for equality but a timely justice for all the candidates.

Therefore, it is now the responsibility of the Commission to find an amicable solution to wind up this controversial issue without any further delay otherwise Manipur Civil Services Combined Competitive Exam will once again become a waiting Game leaving the dreams of many aspirants unfulfilled and all their hard work drained.

Short Story

Money Can't Buy Everything

Nick is a 10 year old boy. He was the only son to his parents. His father was a hard-working business man and he could hardly spend time with his son. Nick's father would reach home after he slept, and leave home, before he woke up, or sleep until he left for school. His father hardly had any time for Nick or his family. He could not accompany him or the family. Just like any other boy, Nick wanted to go outdoors with his father and have fun.

One day, Nick was surprised to see his father at home in the evening. "Dad, it is a big surprise to see you at home", Nick said.

"Yes son, my meeting was cancelled and my next flight is delayed by 2 hours. So I'm at home", his father replied.

The conversation between Nick and father:

Dad, may I please ask you a few questions?

Yes, my dear son, please proceed.

When will you be back?

Tomorrow noon!

Dad, how much do you earn a year?

Dear, it's a very big amount and you won't be able to understand it.

Ok dad, are you happy with the amount you earn?

Yes my dear. I'm very happy, and in fact I'm planning to launch our new branch and a new business in a few months. Isn't that great?

Yes, dad. I'm happy to hear that.

So, do you have any other questions Nick?

Yes, father. I do have one more question.

Ask me then!

Dad, you don't want to tell me how much you earn a year or a month. But can you tell me what you earn a day or even half a day?

Nick, why are you asking this question? I have provided you with all the possible luxuries.

No dad, you have always given the best to me, but please answer me. It would be really nice if you can tell me how much you earn in an hour?

Nick, this is not fair and you should not be questioning your father about his income.

Nick asked his mother to support him. Nick and his mom requested to answer his hourly income, if not the daily income.

Nick's father replied, it will be around Rs. 1000/- per hour.

Nick ran to his room upstairs, and came down with his piggy bank that contained his savings.

Dad, I have Rs. 3000/- in this box. Can you spare three hours with me? I want to go to beach and have dinner with you tomorrow evening. Can you please mark this in your schedule?

Nick's father was speechless!

Running behind money makes children deprived of love and care from parents. Money can't buy everything!

Our common crisis : What are we to do?

By Niketu Iralu
"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood": Marie Curie

Arambam Lokendra and I were together in Madras Christian College, Tambaram, way back in the last century, almost in the first half of it! So when he phoned me a few months back I was so happy we were picking up the threads again. He invited me to give this lecture as part of the series in memory of his brother, Arambam Somorendra. I told him he was giving me an assignment I am not qualified enough to handle, but I was accepting the invitation because I regarded neighbours reaching out to one another to be more important than anything else. So with deepest appreciation I am standing before this distinguished gathering in Imphal today believing we share the same perception. Needless to say I feel highly honoured to be given the privilege to be associated with the lecture series that seeks to pay homage to the enduring memory of a rare son of Manipur who was a patriot, a poet, a thinker and a writer who passionately loved his people and fought for what he believed to be important and right for them and himself. I was very grateful that Lokendra said I could invite others also to come with me. So taking advantage of the kind offer I urged some of my close colleagues, youth leaders and relations to consider coming to this occasion, not to listen to my talk, but to meet, listen to, and get to know you, our neighbours. On behalf of all of us who have come from Kohima I do want to thank you most sincerely for giving us this opportunity. I should add here that we have come keenly conscious of the well-known caution that love is blind but neighbours are not, and we do not

see ourselves as others see us! The Arambam Somorendra Trust has made possible this coming together. If we will thus learn to listen and think together, we may find the way to evolve the wider common stability we now need for this region. If our commonsense and wisdom will not do it because it is still tied to the comfort zones of the past, although they are no longer comfortable, our dire needs are compelling us to develop mutual good will, compassion and understanding to nurture the future we must bring about together. What I will say today will not be adequate to do justice to this occasion. I propose therefore that before I go further, we observe a moment of shared silence to try and discern the potential of this occasion. In addition let us also think of all who have died in Manipur and Nagaland over the past decades in the upheavals of our desperate struggles for our aspirations. For if we will learn to shed tears for one another we will shed less blood of one another.

I would like to start by describing the wider setting of which we are a part. I think it gives a helpful perspective to what we will be discussing this afternoon.

We are on the edge of the infamous and dreaded Golden Triangle of Burma, Thailand and Laos, one of the two main sources of heroin in the world. But we are on the edge of another triangle that is even more extraordinary which we need to become aware of.

If we connect Kolkata, Lhasa and Rangoon with three straight lines, we discover this other triangle! The Lhasa - Rangoon line cuts across where we are. No name has been given to this triangle yet. But one of these days it is going to get one because 7 Nobel Prize winners have

come from within this triangle. 4 of them are for Peace: Mother Teresa of Kolkata, the Dalai Lama of Lhasa, Aung San Suu Kyi of Rangoon, and Mohamed Yunus of Dhaka. The other three are CV Raman for Physics, Rabindranath Tagore for Literature and Amartya Sen for Economics!

I shall leave it to you decide what the thinking, values and achievements of these great men and women from our part of Asia should mean to us as we search for ways to solve our problems. I personally think we are very fortunate indeed to share with them the mental and moral environment they have created for our part of the Continent and the world by their steadfast loyalty to their values. The theme suggested to me for this talk was "(my) concerns about the strategic challenges facing the Naga polity today and the foreseeable future", and "the Naga people's response", whether it is "adequate or otherwise." As these are issues I do try to understand I welcomed the suggestion.

I realize to say something adequate on this occasion, I should be a highly qualified professor of history, who is knowledgeable also in a host of other subjects! Alas, I am nothing of the sort by any shot. Therefore, I regret that a scholarly paper of the kind you are right to expect from such a lecture is not what you will be getting from me today.

So bear with me, and let us see where this discussion may take us? After reflecting on the points suggested to me and the society we have produced I decided to call my talk "Our Common Crisis: What Are We To Do?" After seeing the title some perhaps have felt that for me to say we have a common crisis is presumptuous

and unjustified. Some may feel I am too naive and out of touch with reality to think that anything can be done about our crisis and problems. When we have the time for interaction at the end of my talk, I hope what you feel will be expressed and discussed.

I have tried to understand what "the strategic challenges facing the Naga Polity today and the foreseeable future" means. I take it to be referring to the struggle by the Nagas from about 70 years ago till today. It represents their decision to construct their history on their consciousness of themselves and known facts of their roots, rather than on what others thought they should be or not be, and their struggle to get India and the world to recognize that position. Trying to understand the struggle of the Dalits in modern India, James Massey writes, "...only historical roots can provide the clue to the lost identity of the Dalits". ("A Concise History of the Dalits"). The same perception has, I believe, operated with the Nagas also. It was an instinctive struggle to get the foundation right first. This has I think resulted in the foundation becoming permanently set and rigid, tending to paralyze the future. The sub-title of author Nanthubuiyang Pamei's last book on the Naga struggle ("Naga Crucible") is - "A movement in search of its people". This seems to aptly describe what this crisis is at this stage. This happens in all human struggles. What we need to do is to find the way out by understanding it together first instead of blaming one another, or denying there is any crisis at all.

(The write up was presented by the author on 4th Annual Arambam Somorendra Memorial Lecture held at Imphal on 10/06/09). (To be contd.....)

National & International News

BJP victory in Assam vote against Cong's obstructionism

PTI New Delhi, May 29: The victory of BJP-led coalition in Assam indicates that "obstructionist" politics does not succeed, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Rathore said today while debunking Congress' charge that the Modi government has not achieved much.

The youths feel that such an approach can take away the window of opportunity from India to turn into a developed nation, he told PTI. "In crop insurance, we reduced the premium and removed the cap. But we did not work (according to

opposition). For last 10 years, not a single weapon for the army was imported and whenever any attempt to import was made, Augusta scam happened there.

"We placed an order of around Rs 1 lakh crore out of which 60 to 70 per cent are going to be made in India. But we did nothing. And what did they do?" Rathore said hitting out at the Congress.

He claimed the change was visible in decision making, policy making and policy implementation in the last two years.

"These are happening for schemes for women, youths, infrastructure, marginalised sections, in governance, in overall economy. Through Direct Benefit Transfer, we saved crores of rupees of money by detecting fake accounts. This was public money. It's (money) not simply going to the treasury. It's going to the right people," the minister said.

Replying to a question about what is the takeaway from the results in Assam elections, Rathore said, "People of north east have also seen the obstructionism of Parliament and therefore they see hope in NDA and the leadership of the Prime Minister."

Congress' obstructionism in Parliament is because the party has run out of ideas, Rathore said, adding but not letting the government implement its ideas cannot be a policy.

The Union Minister said with young people constituting a very big chunk of population, the country has got a window of opportunity for growth and people say the 21st century could be the century of India.

"Youths feel that the country can lose this window of opportunity if obstructionism happens where laws are made (Parliament) and outside," Rathore said.

Militants planning attacks in Kabul, warns US embassy

ANI Kabul, May 29: The U.S. embassy in Afghanistan's capital city Kabul has issued a security alert warning of its citizens regarding militants planning attacks in the city.

"The U.S. embassy in Kabul continues to receive reports of militants planning unspecified attacks in Kabul City and elsewhere in Afghanistan against locations and individuals with potential American connections," Khaama Press quoted the alert statement by the embassy as saying.

The statement also said the militants

are looking to attack Afghan and U.S. government facilities, foreign embassies, foreign guest houses, restaurants, hotels, airports, civilian institutes, and educational centers. The latest security alert by the U.S. embassy comes as the anti-government armed militant groups have been planning to expand their attacks in the region, specifically following the death of Taliban chief Mullah Akhtar Mansoor in U.S. drone strike last Saturday.

The Afghan Government has also stepped up its preparations to counter the militants.

12 killed as violence mars local body polls in B'desh

PTI Dhaka, May 29 At least 12 people, including two candidates and two children, were killed and over 200 injured in Bangladesh in violence during the 5th phase of voting, the deadliest so far in the local body polls being held on party lines for the first time in the country, media reports said today.

Deaths were reported from Jamalpur, Chittagong, Noakhali, Comilla, Panchagarh and Narayanganj, according to the Daily Star.

More than 200 people were also injured, many of them received bullet injuries, as the supporters of chairmen and member candidates clashed yesterday, when 717 unions under 45 districts went to polls for Union Parishads (councils) amid allegations of rigging and other malpractices.

Jamalpur saw the worst violence in which at least four people, including two children, were killed. They died after police opened fire to put an end to a clash between supporters of two candidates.

District police chief Md Nizamuddin said, "Police resorted to firing to bring the situation under control".

Jamalpur Deputy Commissioner Md Shahabuddin Khan said a committee had been formed with Additional District Magistrate Md Alamgir as its head to probe the incident.

The two candidates killed in the violence were Kamal Uddin, BNP rebel chairman aspirant at Comilla's Titas, and Md Yasin, who was vying for the post of member at Chittagong's Kamaphuli.

Before the fifth-phase polls, the highest number of people killed in election-day violence was 10, and it was in the first of the six phases of the staggered polls.

More than 100 people have died in election-related violence in the three and a half months since the announcement of the election schedule.

Most of the casualties were the results of clashes between supporters of ruling Awami League candidates and party rebels in around 60 unions.

5 killed, 9 missing in floods, landslides in China

PTI Beijing, May 29: At least five people were killed and nine others went missing after heavy floods and landslides triggered by torrential rains hit two different provinces in China.

At least five people were killed and another three remained missing following a flash flood in south China's Guangdong Province yesterday.

The incident took place at the Fenghuangxia scenic area in Jiangmen City where some tourists were enjoying rafting yesterday afternoon, according to the local emergency office.

Six people were saved by rescuers. In another incident, six people in a village in east China's Zhejiang Province went missing after their houses were buried by landslides early today.

The landslides hit shortly after midnight in Jiande City, following heavy downpour in the area, local government said, adding that rescuers are searching for the missing people.

According to the Met Department, heavy rain will lash south and east China in the coming days after storms brought floods to several regions in the past week.

China's meteorological authority has advised the public to stay alert for hazards.

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