

Editorial

Potential of our state

The Strife torn State of Manipur, inspite of the unenviable tag of a disturbed area, has much more potential and unexplored potential than that of being one with the most prolific and industrious system for churning out militant groups, thought the tag is unlikely to come off anytime soon in the foreseeable future.

On a brighter note, we have some of the most diverse and varied vegetables, fruits, pulses, cereals and grains. Condiments that has not yet been regular ingredients in Mainland India has been in use in the North East for centuries. The introduction of various South East Asian TV Channels like Arirang, KBC etc revealed an astonishing similarity, both in the ingredients as well as in the methods of preparations, in the diets of the two regions. Our elders, much to our chagrin and resentment, used to refer to the imported hybrid vegetables and fruits as those from the "Block", and preferred the local varieties of everything.

That preference has now started to make sense, more than ever, with the perceptible difference in the aroma and taste between the imported hybrids and the local varieties. Anyone who had a friend or near one from outside as a guest in Manipur will surely have received compliments on the distinct aroma and taste of the dishes of the state.

All these has been a clear indication of the unique qualities of the plants and vegetables grown on the soil of the State whose more than 70% of it's population is still engaged in agriculture and other allied activities. So what does all these discussions point to? And how do we utilize these to the fullest? There is no doubt that the distinct aroma, varieties and extent of availability of these plants, herbs and vegetables has been confined to the local market. While the reasons are many and varied, yet it is pretty clear that there is an apparent lack of enthusiasm and earnestness on the part of the Government to explore and exploit markets outside the State and beyond.

The latest confirmation of the interest shown by people outside the State for products grown in the State is the report about a certain person from the United States inquiring about the possibility of exporting the black rice (Chak Hao) through a processing factory in India, and this is just one instance. This positive development should be an eye opener of the potential the State holds for earning through exporting of it's varied and unique agricultural products after due finishing processes. It would be a blunder and a shame for everyone if the State is reduced to a supplier of raw products only.

The need of the hour is for developing a tertiary sector that provides value addition to the products and thus provides double benefit to those involved. The products are there. The steps to mass produce them, to process them and to market them needs a systematic approach that coordinates and complements each of the components in the chain of process. It is time to make a radical change in the approach towards agriculture from that of a subsistence one to that of a highly rewarding, financially lucrative and emotionally fulfilling occupation. That change needs to be initiated by those who are assigned just to do that, else our people will just be the farmers who produce the things others outside the State will buy who will then convert these raw materials into finished products who will then sell it to the State at an exorbitant price.

Heard the story before? Got the drift?

RC book, ATM, Adhaar Pan card lost

I, the undersigned have lost my two wheeler vehicle blue colour Maestro Honda bearing registration No. MN 0L 0939 at around 11.30 pm of July 30 while parking at the entry point of Raj Medicity. Later after complaining about the matter at Imphal West Police station, the my wallet containing the RC book of the vehicle as well as my ATM card issued by the Vijaya Bank, Pan Card No. BUPPK7143C, Adhaar Card No. 206251224568 and Press Identity Card issued by DIPR (No. E/31) Government of Manipur was lost on the way between Imphal Police station to Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai, Imphal at around 12 midnight. Finders are requested to kindly handle it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Rinku Khumukcham
Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai, Imphal
Mobile. No 9862860745

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National and International News

BJP serious on the absent of party MPs during voting on 123rd Constitutional amendment Bill

IT News

New Delhi, Aug 1: BJP today said it has taken seriously the absent of party MPs during the voting on 123rd Constitutional Amendment Bill on National Commission for Backward Castes (NCBC) in Rajya Sabha despite whip. Briefing media after Party's Parliamentary party meeting in New Delhi, Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Anant Kumar said all members of the party should be present in the House from 11 AM till end of the day.

He said, Party President Amit Shah will talk to those MPs who were absent during the voting in the House. The minister also alleged that NCBC could not be passed in the Rajya Sabha due to conspiracy of Congress.

Oppn protests NOTA option for RS elections

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 1: The Rajya Sabha was today rocked by opposition protests over an Election Commission (EC) notification that provides the MLAs the 'None of the Above' (NOTA) option in the vote for the elections to the Upper House.

Angry members of the Congress and other opposition parties forced adjournments of the proceedings as they questioned the NOTA provision for these elections.

Significantly, the protests come at a time when a high profile battle for Rajya Sabha seats from Gujarat is round the corner involving heavyweights like BJP chief Amit Shah, HRD minister Smriti Irani and veteran Congressman Ahmed Patel. As soon as the House Assembled at noon, deputy leader of the Congress Anand Sharma said the decision to provide the NOTA option had been made without amending the Constitution or the law as per the direction of the Election Commission.

"It vitiates the election... Constitution has not been amended. Representation of People Act has not been amended. NOTA has been introduced... unless Constitution is amended, how can this be done," Sharma asked.

He said the vacancies are notified by the House and asked how could a new provision be introduced in between.

Chairman M Hamid Ansari suggested that the matter be taken up with the Election Commission and tried to proceed with the Question Hour. However, the opposition kept on raising the issue.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who is the Leader of the House, said that from what he understood, there was a Supreme Court judgement which provided for the NOTA option.

"The judgement came several years before this government came to power. The Election Commission pursuant to that judgement had issued some notification under Article 324.

Article 324 covers all election in this country and therefore that's a circular which they issued, not now, but earlier," Jaitley said.

He said if somebody is aggrieved with the circular, he has his own options.

Educational institutes closed in Kashmir after protests

PTI

Srinagar, Aug 1: Authorities today suspended class work in all educational institutions across Kashmir in the wake of protests after the killing of top Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) commander Abu Dujana in an encounter with security forces.

All schools, colleges and universities have been closed for the day, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Baseer Ahmad Khan told PTI. Khan said he issued the order for the closure of educational institutions as a precautionary

measure in view of the prevailing situation.

Clashes broke out in many parts of the Valley following killing of two LeT militants, including Dujana, in south Kashmir's Pulwama district this morning.

A civilian was killed and several others injured today as security forces opened fire on stone-pelting protestors near the encounter site where two militants were killed.

The authorities have also suspended mobile Internet services across the Valley

22 Ways to Stop Violence Against Women



By: Michelle Schoffro Cook.

1. "No" means No. Not "maybe." Not "I'm just playing hard to get." Not "later." Not anything but NO. This isn't rocket science so I'm not sure why so many men aren't getting the message. Start listening to what women are saying not what you want them to be saying. And, if a woman is too drunk, stoned, drugged, or medicated, that means NO too. And, having sex with a woman in that condition is RAPE and a CRIME.

2. Stop supporting movies and television that depict women in subordinate roles and as sex objects. Avoid movies and television that glorify rape and other sexual abuses.

3. Don't support porn. Not only is the porn industry engaged in violence against women, research in *Psychology Today* found that **people who watch porn are:** 1) more likely to be desensitized to violence against women; 2) more likely to blame the victim of rape and violent crimes against women; and 3) **more likely to rape a woman.**

4. Avoid strip clubs and don't accept a partner who supports these places. I was reading an article recently that indicated many female strippers are threatened with or subjected to violence and are also often the victims of human trafficking.

5. Stop demeaning the feminine by saying things like "you run like a girl," "you throw like a girl," or "he cried like a little girl." That includes referring to men or boys as "girls" when you are meaning something derogatory. Don't refer to a woman as a "bitch," "ho" or "whore."

6. Speak up against violence against women. Years ago I overheard a guy I went to school with say to his buddies, "I'd love to rape her" and motion in the direction of a waitress. No one said anything to him. There is no excuse for violence against women or even language that condones or promotes it.

7. If you know a victim of abuse get the police involved. This woman's life may be at risk.

8. Be a hero. Reach out to show your support and assistance to women who are victims of violence.

9. Speak up against sexism, sexist comments and sexist jokes. Devaluing women or valuing them for sex is at the root of violent crimes against women. Sexist comments and jokes devalue women.

10. Learn the law and use it. Ask for police support. Press charges against a man who is violent toward you or one who threatens violence against you.

11. Don't buy from sexist companies and don't support sexist organizations. They're only profiting from sexism or from promoting women as sex objects. A colleague told me her partner bought a "Wife Beater" T-shirt. Astounded, I asked her why she accepted that her partner was sexist and promoting violence against women, not to mention demeaning a serious crime that causes thousands of women's deaths every year.

12. Donate to legitimate organizations and charities that advocate for women, support them when they've been victimized by violence, or help them overcome difficult circumstances.

13. Teach your daughters and sons about fair and respectful treatment of girls and women, including rape myths (the disturbing notion that a woman actually wants to be raped or somehow deserves to be raped). Teach them that **date rape is a serious crime,** making any man who pushes or forces a woman to have sex a rapist and a criminal.

14. Don't engage in revenge porn—posting naked pictures of a partner on websites after she breaks up with you. And, women, if he loves you he doesn't need to exploit you through naked photos.

15. Recognize that the way a woman is dressed or not dressed has nothing to do with whether she "deserved it" or "had it coming." No matter how a woman is dressed, it is not an invitation to any man to mistreat her.

16. Expect more from the men in your life. Men: expect more from yourself. Don't accept or engage in language or actions that condone or promote sexism or violence against women.

17. Think before you speak. Next time you say something about "girls" or "women" imagine how the same expression would sound if you substituted the name of an ethnic, cultural or religious group. If it sounds racist or prejudiced then you know it will be sexist and equally unacceptable if you say the same comment against women or girls.

18. Stop prematurely sexualizing young girls. Parents don't let your kids dress in micro-miniskirts, high heels, and makeup. I was in a café where a girl about 9 or 10 kept falling on the ground. It was obvious that her high heels were the issue. She can make these choices for herself when she's older.

19. If you're involved in an abusive relationship, reach out to a shelter or women's group for help. You don't need to remain isolated. Most abusive men attempt to keep their abused partners isolated and controlled. **If you're subjected to verbal abuse tell yourself you deserve better (you do!) and get out.** With 7 billion people on the planet, you really can do better than someone who abuses you.

20. Share articles and information about ending sexism and violence against women through social media like Facebook and Twitter. Raising awareness helps overcome the problem.

21. Write to your political representatives making them accountable for sexist legislation, including insufficient sentences for men who commit crimes against women.

22. Take a self defense or martial arts course. When I was 17, my mom asked me to take a self defense course with her. I not only came out feeling more capable of protecting myself, I felt empowered. Most men who commit crimes against women are cowards who frequently back down when they suspect they'll be challenged.