

Editorial

Saturday, December 16, 2017

Mismanaging natural resource

“Be very careful what you wish for; they might come true”- ironic as the saying might sound, the people of the state have had the unfortunate experience of living this statement for a number of years now.

What was a fervent wish for the people only a couple of days back have materialized, only to add more worries and cause much discomfort and inconvenience. The frantic rush for water, made more serious by the forecast of a prolonged spell of dryness had the public worried, with much of the days preoccupied with the process of looking for and stocking up on any available source of water. Neglected and stagnant bodies of water which have hitherto been left untouched suddenly became precious. Social organizations and public bodies were suddenly awakened to the necessity of keeping the environment clean and the waters hygienic. The jolt did our society a world of good, and hopefully the heightened civic sense prevails for years to come.

But the irony of the situation is that only a few days of rain have left the state in danger of being inundated. Roads and lanes became unusable as water everywhere was flowing on the streets, with the newly constructed drains and drainage systems either being too high off the road or disconnected with the rest of the drainage system, if there still exist such a system worth the name.

Incidentally, there is an apparent realization on the part of the Government of the increasingly worsening situation of floods and droughts in the state, with reports of a plan to set up a plan to tackle the situation. But it's easier said than done and it would take much more than a mere plan, however practical or efficient it might be, to make things work at the ground level. There needs to be a radical change in the system as well as in the mindset of those running the system. Welfare of the public does not necessarily mean huge expenditures and never ending construction activities, nor does progress entail unimaginable inconvenience to the public.

Timely execution and strict conformity to the quality and schedule of activities could produce better results. A concerted effort needs to be taken up- a proposal that is in all probability an impossible feat given the present circumstances. It is rather unfortunate that a state like Manipur, endowed with abundant resources and favorable conditions have remained largely underdeveloped, not for want of assistance from the centre, but as a result of the haphazard implementation of policies and programs, not with the best intention and welfare of the public in mind, but apparently with personal interests and private gains in sight. To say that the state is prone to droughts and floods would be stretching things beyond acceptability. It is rather the absence of an efficient system of utilizing these natural resources such as water and natural drainage system, compounded by haphazard unplanned populist measures of doling out contracts such as for drains and culverts without proper planning.

The Government needs to take up measures to harness and preserve resources such as rain water and address the issue of disconnected drainage system along with a system to keep these resources and structures functional and clean. Involving the multitude of social organizations and making them partners in the process of development instead of doling out contracts to the cronies of the powerful and the influential will go a long way in mitigating the various social inconveniences and inefficiencies plaguing the system at present.

Aadhaar Card lost

I have lost my Aadhaar Card issued by D.C. Imphal West on the way between my residence and Khwai on 25/11/2017.

Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

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Framework Agreement: Alternative and Needs

The deal is difficult, the stake is high. And fixed ideas and preoccupied propositions of the stakeholders especially the Meeteis and Nagas don't help either. Why do they fail to find a new alternative mutually?

Is New Delhi happy to make it catch-22 situation - pulling others in a bargaining trap? If something is given to NSCN-IM there will be fire to burn Manipur. If IM gains nothing- what on earth an ever lengthy peace talk for?

The majority of the Meeteis and Nagas cannot see the Win-Win experience. In fact, they care for a cousin's Win only, never concern over the other cousin's Lose.

Owing to the complex challenges attaching to the Nagas' neighbors in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur, it is much suspicious that the crying Naga conflict may not be resolved with the existing approaches and manners. The engagement of the other Political Armed Oppositions (PAOs) and concerns of the communities of the North East (NE), are the prerequisite for just peacebuilding.

If Government of India (GoI) is affirmative towards the accomplishment of Naga peace deal, and if all Naga political armed organizations and communities involve themselves in the endeavor, there may be a redrawing of the territory or may be a layout of a new economic-cultural administrative landscape out of current North East. In fact, very likely it will come along with an escalation of violence from the communities of the neighbors.

If NSCN-IM resolves or compromises the Naga issue with GoI somehow without participation of other Naga PAOs and communities, it may prolong the feud in Nagaland and around.

If there is accommodation for NSCN officers, other Naga PAOs in the Indian electoral activities and in the likewise engagement, it may

contribute limited harm and tension to the existing NE conflict.

It is important to be keen on process-driven orientation focusing on dialogue rather than advocacy. There is a critical importance of the dialogue among the peoples at various levels. So far, most of the communication have been of the advocacy in the local media, and unfortunately this communication is predominant with pre-determined solutions, articulated demands, rigid stances and limited awareness of real needs.

If look forward to a favorable future, be little way to avoid the conflict or to compromise it either. Either the Meeteis or the others will lose or win or all will lose if the conflict mode continues in contesting one another with their interests or positions but some other third parties from far and near will gain in terms of extractive industries, controlling water, other natural resources and utilization of political economic conditions.

Have to realize that it will enjoy the Win-Win experience out of this conflict if stakeholders are able to adopt the Collaborative Approaches.

Therefore intensify the endeavor of sitting together, continue dialogue, not debate about the needs and values, awareness and appreciation of complexity-complex needs, challenges, emotions; and openness to negotiation and flexibility are prerequisite.

Looking at a meaningful resolution or transformation, together it can re-identify the Needs, Interests or Positions and Causes if this is a case of conflict involving the peoples of the soil.

Has New Delhi, being the bigger stake holder of the conflict, shown meaningful and sincere response to the political armed organizations in the region? Does the situation demand a conducive atmosphere and Confidence Building Measures

in initiating productive dialogue? Why there fails collaborative approach to enjoy the win-win experiences?

The following can be a rough architecture for transforming the structural violence and resolving the multifaceted conflicts.

1. A unification of the (principal) Political Armed Oppositions of North East India by investing all their resources, drives and sincerity towards giving birth to a new (Nation) State sharing negotiable configuration with the Republic of India.

2. The other NE states which have low intensity of armed conflict or absence of PAOs will also be invited to. Those have not joined at the inception may be considered in the aftermath. Thus, it will capacitate a desired inclusiveness of the communities of NE and even beyond. [Necessarily all the present seven/eight states may not be part of.]

3. The name of the new State may be called the United Peoples Land of Indo-Myanmar-UPLIM or New Sub-Himalayan Land-NESHLAND or Western Southeast Asia-WESEA.

4. In order to legislate for and govern the UPLIM/NESHLAND/WESEA, and to practice a good socialism, and to deliver fundamental rights of life, liberty, equality and dignity to the peoples of the new State, there will be a Parliament that may be called Peoples House-PH. [The structure and modus operandi of the PH may be considered and derived from the other parliamentary practices of the world.]

5. Currency may be retained with the Republic of India with validating the Euro and US dollar in the region; Communication, Defense, External Affairs, Natural Resources may be negotiated for a concurrent list; and the rest could be better in the realm of the PH affairs.

6. The key members or leaders of

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the PAOs, and from the other states where PAOs do not exist, political/social leaders will be member-representatives in the Parliament/PH [whom may be called People Representative-PR]

7. The modality of how and what number of PRs may be determined by considering various bases and will be settled democratically among PAOs in consultation with the NE communities/peoples by considering the optimum economic-political space of ethnic/indigenous minority. [Will Bodo, Karbi, Naga, Kuki, Meetei, etc., have one PR for each of them or will drop down to ancestral tribal communities and clans or will it based on the population ratio?]

8. The first five year tenure of the PRs will be reserved and compensated for the PAOs, afterwards PRs will be elected through universal franchise by their respective peoples/communities or otherwise.

9. The existing State Assemblies will remain, so do the participation of the MLAs in the UPLIM provincial governing activities in two houses setting. However it will be with the reformation of power division and functional sharing and in conjunction with PH structure. [It may minimize the outward dismay and eventual turbulent of the existing political personalities and parties.]

10. A wider candidature in the existing constituent assemblies election will be validated to accommodate the members and leaders of PAOs by migrating their organizations into electoral political parties or joining existing parties or floating new ones. Thus it may extend a meaningful participation to the governing activities for the new (Nation) State.

National & International News

Constable aims gun at Congress's Kamal Nath at MP airport, suspended

AIANS
Chhindwara, Dec. 16: A small airport near Chhindwara on Friday was witness to a huge commotion as a policeman "dangerously" trained his rifle at Kamal Nath, former central minister and nine-time Congress MP from Chhindwara.

Nath, who was in his constituency, was boarding his private plane for Delhi from the Imli Khera airstrip when the incident took place, taking aback one and all present on the scene. According to GK Pandey, Chhindwara deputy inspector general of police (DIG), policeman Ramesh Pawar has been put under suspension and an inquiry

ordered against him. Unable to make out what was happening there, dumbstruck Congress workers and leaders just watched the goings-on unfolding before their eyes.

Pandey said as the 71-year-old lawmaker was boarding his plane around 4.00 p.m., Pawar suddenly pointed his INSAS rifle at him. But he was immediately overpowered by the other security personnel there.

According to informed sources, during interrogation Pawar said that he was only trying to shift his rifle from one shoulder to the other. The police is getting his health examination done and also checking his previous record.

Disabled people have right to get higher education: SC

PTI
New Delhi, Dec 15: People with disability have a right to get higher education and not making adequate provisions to facilitate their proper education would amount to "discrimination", the Supreme Court said today.

It directed the government institutions of higher education and other such institutions, which were receiving aid from the government, to comply with the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

The Act provides for reservation of not less than five per cent seats for persons with benchmark disabilities. A bench of justices A K Sikri and

Ashok Bhushan said that appropriate consequential action under the provisions of the Act would be initiated against the defaulting educational institutions.

It asked the University Grants Commission (UGC) to constitute a committee to consider the feasibility of having guidelines for accessibility of students with disabilities in universities and colleges.

It said the committee would undertake a detailed study to make provisions in respect of accessibility and facilities of teaching for disabled persons and would also suggest the modalities for implementing those suggestions, their funding and monitoring.

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