

Editorial

Imphal Wednesday, January 18, 2016

Future perfect

Hope and ambition are an intrinsic part of human beings. People almost always find a way to wriggle out of any situation however difficult or seemingly hopeless it might seem. This irrepressible human trait can most vividly be witnessed and experienced in our state. Beset with problems and disappointments in every sphere of life- be it the crony politics and contract culture pervading every public development projects and schemes taking precedence over concepts of progress and development , the duality and conflicts on culture and increasingly alienating stands, artistic constraints and vigilantism that is slowly yet surely chocking freedom of artistic expression and individuality, or worse still, the rise of a breed of human parasites and opportunists ready to pounce on and capitalize upon the slightest hint of weakness of anybody or anything, employing any and every means at their disposal- connections, coercions, threat or even violence to have their way. The perfect ingredients for a superhit blockbuster, one might even summarise with enthusiasm, only if it isn't for the grim reality of the situation. Just as the darkest hour precedes the dawn, so does the seemingly endless feeling of gloom and despondency in the society gives rise to an undying flicker of hope and expectations, for as things stand now, things couldn't get any worse than it already is, and that we can only go forward, for the uncomfortable fact remains that our society as a whole is standing with its back against the wall at the moment. And so we move, or at least we hope to. The Imphal-Dimapur national highway has been assured of upgrading to make it withstand the vagaries of nature throughout the year which will translate to increased efficiency in connectivity, decrease in disruptions in transportation of essential commodities thereby stabilizing prices, increase in comfort and safety to travelers, among others. The Thoubal Multipurpose Project is scheduled to be made operational from this year onwards, and efforts are being made to complete the project in the shortest timeframe possible, never mind the fact that the project commenced more than three and half decades earlier. After completion, and on operation of the multipurpose project, acres of fields and arable lands will be provided water for irrigation thereby helping in increasing production while thousands will have access to safe drinking water thereby improving sanitation and decreasing instances of water-borne diseases. The project also proposes to help generate electricity which will add to the available resource at present and help make the state less dependent on others. The Solid Waste Treatment Plant at Lamdeng is scheduled to begin operation by October this year. This will clear the city and adjoining areas of the filth and stench that is proving to be a big hindrance in the efforts to beautify the state, not to mention the clogging of drainages causing flooding and water stagnation raising the threat of spreading vector-borne diseases such as Malaria, Dengue, Japanese Encephalitis etc. A host of other developmental works are either in the offing or are already in various stages of completion. While the increasing pace and seemingly increasing amount of developmental activities bodes well for the state which has been reeling under numerous forms of disruptions mainly due to the lack of opportunities for development and infrastructures that could make it so, past experiences has put a huge question mark on the end result of these efforts. Those entrusted with the projects should take a proactive role in seeing that these vital activities are carried out according to specifications and in time for the people of this state to stand a fighting chance of catching up with the rest of the world. It is the end result which will ultimately prove the intentions of the leaders true- or otherwise.

Documents lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my bag containing the following documents on the way between Lamphel to Manipur University, Canchipur on October 4, 2016. The documents are original certificate, admit card, mark sheet and registration certificate for class X examination conducted by Board of Secondary Education Manipur (BSEEM) bearing roll no. 15009 for 2000; certificate, admit card, mark sheet and registration certificate for my class XII examination conducted by Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur (COHSEM); Mark sheet, Admit card for Graduate (BA) 1st Semester, Mark sheet, Admit card for Graduate (BA) 2nd Semester, Mark sheet, Admit card for Graduate (BA) 3rd Semester, Mark sheet, Admit card for Graduate (BA) 4th Semester, Mark sheet, Admit card for Graduate (BA) 5th Semester, and Registration certificate bearing Roll No. 3211636 of 2016 (May) along with my voter card and Driving License. Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Khaidem Surjit Singh
Nungei Mayai Leikai.

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Open Letter to the Secretary MPSC, Manipur

Dear Sir,

I would like to lay down some bare facts regarding the horrible functioning of MPSC, Manipur to which you are also a part. Sir, Manipur stands higher in Literacy rate which is above than the national average. However due to corrupt politicians and bureaucrats, we remain underdeveloped. The situation is made more worst with the compounding problems of unemployment. Nobody can deny the fact that every job in Manipur comes with a price tag. Even Candidates who fail in written test find their names in final merit list ?? In such situation, literate, efficient and capable minds go out of Manipur in search of better avenues and results in brain drain. Tostop it, MPSC has been entrusted with the recruitment of best talents of Manipur to serve the State. But since its establishment, MPSC has been in news only for wrong reasons. In 2013, 2014 people breathe a sigh of relief during the regime of previous Chairman. But now, MPSC is again in news due to its sorry state of affairs. Corruption, Bribery and Nepotism has entangled MPSC.

Sir, in MCSCCE-2016 Mains examination, MPSC violated the instructions of extra paper. In almost PSC exams extra paper has been discontinued only to remove corruption and to stop manipulation. Why MPSC allowed candidates to use extra sheets, when its usage has already been stopped in the examination instructions? There is no accountability of extra sheets. Even some candidates have brought blank Extra answer sheets to their homes ?? in such situation, there are high chances of manipulation of answer sheets during evaluation process. Some answersheets may be written at home and brought to Evaluation Centre. In Manipureverything is possible.

In General Studies Paper II, there were arithmetic questions which was out of Syllabus. Questions should be framed according to the syllabus. It can be asked from anywhere. One of the questions relating to pipes and cisterns was printed wrong. MPSC never came out with clarification on these questions. MPSC never clarified on the evaluation of these questions. In Telangana PSC exam, one question related to Data Interpretation was asked, which was out of syllabus. The matter reached Supreme Court. Finally Telangana PSC, ordered re-evaluation of General Studies Answer Sheets excluding the Statistics Questions. It seems that our Secretary is not aware of happenings in other Public Service Commissions.

Main issue is the evaluation process. What made you to evaluate the answerpapers hastily ? If your mains answer sheets of UPSC exams were evaluated by MPSC evaluators, i bet that, you would not have become an IAS Officer ? Answersheets should have been evaluated under CCTV surveillance. But in case of MPSC, answer sheets were evaluated at the residences of Examiners. Every line of answers should be read. But MPSC only glanced the answer sheets. Why the evaluators are paid ? To read carefully or to glance ? More than 80 answer sheets were evaluated on a single day by an Examiner. Such speedy evaluation happens nowhere except in Manipur. When 2 or more examiners were involved for a single subject, there should have been discussions before the evaluation process. How is the question ? How much marks should be given ? But in case of MPSC, there were independent evaluation process resulting in marks given by

different examiners. Besides, some optional subjects were high scoring and some other less scoring. The rules and procedure of MPSC clearly states that Moderation shall be carried out for all playing field amongst various Optional Subjects. It is also the norm of UPSC. But MPSC never did it. It is sheer negligence. There are high chances of multiple evaluation. An examiner might have evaluated more than one Optional Subject. But a proper enquiry by an independent committee will only verify it.

The Syllabus and Scheme of examination was outdated. UPSC and various State PSCs have changed their Scheme of examination. But MPSC is in mood to change. The Scrutiny of Answer Sheets was also not done. The Das Enquiry Commission of 1997 pointed out the same mistake. But MPSC is adamant.

MPSC is a constitutional body. It is an independent commission. MPSC should function under its Chairman and Members. The E Suraj v/s MPSC of 1997 clearly stated that Officials of MPSC should not interfere in its working. But there are cases disclosed that Secretary and other Officials are involved in the Question Setting, Coding, Decoding, Evaluation process. There is no confidentiality in the Examination process. We can easily conclude that Members were not appointed since last 01 year because functions of MPSC can be easily carried out by its Officials.

In case of MCSCCE 2016, an independent enquiry committee was formed to look into the matter. But the members of enquiry committee and Officials of MPSC are on same side. The enquiry committee never looked into the whole examination process. The committee never scrutinised the Answer scripts properly. If that be the case then they should know the actual number of pages. I don't know whose answersheets they verified. The report of enquiry commission is being manipulated by Officials of MPSC in their favour.

With such blunders in the recruitment process, how can we believe in MPSC and its Officials? It is very clear that MPSC is working under the guidance of Politicians. The role of Secretary is only administrative work. But, you interfered in the functioning of MPSC thereby degrading its constitutional obligations. You even don't dare to submit your mistakes. You are so adamant in manipulating the enquiry committee report. On moral ground, you should submit your letter and go out of MPSC until the Court Case is disposed off. When the case is finally settled in High Court or Supreme Court, I believe that, you will be reprimanded and never comeback to MPSC.

Dear Sir, if you have really worked in good faith without any prejudice and bias in upholding the duties and functions of MPSC, then please re-consider the whole examination process of MCSCCE-2016. If you committed mistakes, please accept it for a better Manipur. Present disputes have disheartened us. We have lost faith. When young minds and students lose faith then what can be the future of Manipur? Only Chaos! We will surely help in dismantling MPSC. Its functions can be carried out by UPSC.

Sd/-Yours,
Mohd Anir
Yairipok Bamoneleikai
Thoubal Manipur

National & International News

Police arrest gang who tried to blow up railway track in Bihar, suspect ISI links

Patna, Jan. 18: Police on Tuesday arrested three local criminals from Raxaul, bordering Nepal, who are suspected to be part of an international gang that could have links with the ISI. The trio have confessed that they unsuccessfully tried to blow up a railway track at Ghorasahan in East Champaran district on October 1, 2016, the police said. It is suspected that they could have played a role in the Kanpur Dehat train derailment last November.

East Champaran SP Jitendra Rana said: "We arrested Umashankar Patel, Moti Paswan and Mukesh Yadav in connection with the murders of Arun Ram and Deepak Ram. The three accused revealed that the gang killed Arun and Deepak because of their failure to blow up the railway track at Ghorasahan on October 1." Three members of the gang, including kingspin Brajkishore Giri, Munahid Ansari and Shambhu, have already been arrested by Nepal Police, while two other members — Gajendra Jha and Rakesh Yadav — are absconding.

SP Rana said the arrested trio was given Rs 3 lakh by Giri, who had been in touch with a Dubai gang. "Preliminary investigation suggests the involvement of an intelligence agency from across the border. We have passed on our inputs to the ATS in Patna and intelligence agencies," he said. Asked about the gang's alleged involvement in the Kanpur Dehat derailment, in which more than 140 people were killed, Rana said the police suspected their involvement in this and other such cases, and these are being probe. "We have been in touch with Nepal Police to trace the main link of the gang, who could have been funding them," he said.

Terrorism, most pervasive and serious challenge to international security: Foreign Secy

New Delhi, Jan. 18: New Delhi says terrorism remains the most pervasive and serious challenge to international security. Addressing the second day of Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi today, Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar said, serious global response should be developed to deal with the menace of terrorism. Mr Jaishankar said, there is a lack of purpose in confronting global challenges like terrorism, though some important exceptions should be acknowledged. In an apparent attack on Pakistan, the Foreign Secretary said SAARC has been made ineffective due to the insecurity of one member. Mr Jaishankar said there is a need to

become more sensitive to regional cooperation, collaborating with other regional groupings and making growing commitments to broader connectivity efforts. He said, while trade and other economic activities has led the resurgence of the continent, progress on connectivity and security have lagged behind. Mr Jaishankar said, in the absence of an agreed security architecture and the continuation of significant territorial disputes, the Asian landscape has been more than a little uncertain. The ASEAN's centrality and unity is an asset for the entire continent as it has acted as an anchor of stability at its eastern end and its continuance in that role is critical.

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