

Editorial

Imphal Saturday, January 28, 2017

Turning the tide

The Strife torn State of Manipur, in spite 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. Indigenous condiment and herbs that has not yet been regular ingredients in Mainland India has been in use in the North Eastern states for centuries. Our elders, much to our chagrin and resentment, used to refer to the imported hybrid vegetables and fruits as those from the "Block", and still prefer 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 the population is still engaged in agriculture and other allied activities. So what do 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 most glaring 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 a couple of years back, 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 its varied and unique agricultural products after due finishing processes, but unfortunately one which has not been attempted yet. 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, more so in view of the recurring and protracted economic blockades that has besieged the state highways for years intermittently. 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?

Dichotomy of peace in Manipur: A Discourse

By : Priyadarshini M. Gangte :
"Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding" – Albert Einstein.
 Bringing peace in Manipur is concerned, we need to trace back the past historical events, that is, of course, the causes and consequences of what we are facing to-day. Moreover, deprivation of justices, particularly political, economic, social, etc. were on the high. It is an empirical fact, that Manipuris have been protesting against even the British regime, can be clearly known from events; the First and Second Nupilas, Anglo-Manipuri War, Anglo-Kuki War, Irawat's and Zeliangrong movements and others. Despite this situation, merger of Manipur to the Indian Dominion and placed as part C state also had added fuel to the fire. As a setback there came up the secessionist movements. Even, G.K. Pillai former Union Secretary of Home Affairs, said that the ancient kingdom of Manipur which had a constitution even before India wrote her own had its own proud history and was overnight turned into a C-category state in 1948. Manipur being very aloof from others was also an economic backward state. What intelligentsia and policy of our areas especially Manipur, popularly believe the future prospects of development and political stability of our regions lie in the Look East Policy, is, however, Roy has flatly refuted that it cannot be a panacea to the lingering problem of North-East, apart from the pangs of formation of an arbitrarily created nation – State with artificial borders, lies in the imposition of a system of parliamentary democracy based on the colonial legacy of constituency formation that hinges on the population logic. Moreover, absence of a smooth transition and the non-existence of a just outcome at the end of the tunnel have made our youths absolutely restless and prone to addition to drugs concentrating only on bringing to book the addicted youths through the strong hand of the law enforcing agencies would amount to addressing the substantive grievances without ever bothering at the root cause of the issues involved. And obvious

response of the UG 'taxation' to the present strategy of the Manipur Police would for it to go further underground. Likewise, women related institutions starting from prostitution, extortions, trafficking of women to other states, involving in transporting arms and ammunition are the social menace of today's society. It is pertinent to look into the cause of such activities and try to solve by the authority instead blaming or otherwise such as "selfish claiming". Human Right awareness is of course the need of the hour, every individual should be given the education of Human Right. State forces as well as the state actors are the one in their attitude towards masses. Thus Human Right should be incorporated in the text, curriculum, syllabus starting right from the grass-root level so that any discrepancy would not take place, any more by forces of different "departments" of "group" (groups). Apart from the death, the most hated Human Rights abuses committed by the security forces are the so-called "Punishment attacks" when people suspected of "antisocial behaviour" (usually young male) are shot or beaten, usually in or on the hand, kneecaps or ankles, 'Third-degree torture' methods are subjected to. In relation to a number of high profile deaths, the government has reached very slowly to calls for public inquiries to determine whether there is any collusion. Thus, State forces should have a Serious Crime Review Team looking at unsolved killing and occasionally of course, the "Police Ombudsman", perhaps (perhaps better than the CBI) can help if new evidence to such deaths comes to light. The Manipur Human Rights Commission is urged to do the utmost to persuade and the state actors, the political parties and the community and voluntary sectors to its proposal for a Bill of Rights for Manipuris. Meanwhile, the commission should endeavour to urge still improvements in a variety of more specific content such as mental care and human rights

education. Peace will prevail in Manipur when, inter alia, females are also honoured as 'Devis' (Goddesses), the apostles of peace and any attempt to touch them with carnal, pernicious, lusty, adulterous desire to enjoy with her body and spoil her sanctity and image, including dowry deaths and torture, domestic violence, mental harassment and all sorts of discrimination specially the abduction and kidnapping of women – extreme violation of human rights considered as the greatest sin and extreme violation of human rights. Manipur is passing through one of the most critical periods in its long history, and as is usual with all transitional phases, is full of stress and uncertainty. What she needs today as never before in its history is intellectual, moral and spiritual guidance if it is to survive its own destruction. "Ethnic brotherhood concept" should be applied to all fields of human activity – politics, economics, sociology, science, education, etc. and then peace and prosperity will ultimately prevail. Every individual is a unity in the makeup of family, societies, communities and nations, having being inspired and implemented their ideal into practical lives – resorted to a profound effect on the society, community and nation. Thus peace cannot be brought at all without individual peace. Basic needs are the basic things required to living human beings, in particular of course, animals, plants and trees and environmental consequences and biodiversity in general. Let us observe what have eminent scholars opined : According to Baxi "basic needs" are the human rights, if not deemed by the State, then brings "consequent anarchy", so the first and foremost duty of the authority is to consider "human rights". Jbohala also contended that, "If a government violates and suppresses basic human rights and fundamental freedom people have a legitimate right to rebellion against such a government". Pande has reiterated that an individual's basic need is his or her scheme of life. Basic needs must be treated as fundamental right.

Whereas Karl Marx contended that the primary basic need is to have companion to perform productive work. And some of the recent writings, have focused on social needs in equality basis with full access to justice. Also, Amartya Sen, prefers and stresses to add another tier which describes as a meta right making possible to achieve the right. Moreover, in prioritizing human needs, the United Nations has identified the following list of basic needs :- (i) Nutrition (ii) Shelter, (iii) health, (iv) education, (v) Leisure, (vi) Security (Physical safety and economic security and (vii) environment. And, of course, right to self-determination for "right" and basic needs are complimentary or obligatory to each other subject to fulfilments of all the need, necessities of life by the authority. However, Conrad; while in his discourses clearly asserted that fulfillment by other social welfare countries like (Germany) / unfulfillment (India) of basic needs as guaranteed by the State is not in itself sufficient or likely to produce lasting social peace. It may be mentioned here, India having not ratified the entire covenant as yet has to explain its position on the matter to the effect that the reference to right of self-determination in Article of the International Covenant on Economic, Social And Cultural Rights applied only to people under foreign domination, not to independent sovereign states or part of a people or nation. Moreover, in its report of 1991, India was to explain violation of Human Right due to enforcement of AFSPA in North-East of India particularly in Manipur though at present partly removed and Nagaland indicates that India has violated Article 1 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and so also the provisions of optional protocol. India needs to sign and ratify the protocol Additional I and II to Geneva Conventions, 1949, and 1988 Rome Treaty maintained by Pramod. In the like manner, some groups of our "freedom fighter", insurgents, etc. have also violated human rights. Apart from these, we being the citizen should also know our fundamental duties. (To be contd..)

Old Mortar Shell found near Vasant Kunj in South Delhi, NSG at spot

New Delhi, Jan. 28: An old mortar shell was found abandoned near Vasant Kunj in South Delhi this morning, leading the police to cordon off and evacuate the entire area, as per protocol. A National Security Guard (NSG) and a bomb disposal squad later secured and took away the mortar shell that weighed 2.5 kilograms. Officials said the mortar shell was corroded and old but explosive. The mortar shell was found in a dustbin in Kishangarh next to Vasant Kunj, a posh locality in Delhi. The street where the shell was found is nestled between a

residential complex and a park. Locals informed the police on spotting the shell. "At 0830 hours, a PCR call regarding a mortar shell found lying abandoned at Park Machli Wala, Samadhi Van Village, Kishan Garh in Vasant Kunj was received. The entire area has been cordoned off and evacuated as a precautionary measure as per procedure," said a police officer. As an interim measure, the shell which seems old and corroded was secured by a 'bomb blanket' to avert any accidental blast, till the NSG came in.

National & International News

BSF jawan detained for allegedly picking former IAF officer's money in Metro

PTI New Delhi, Jan. 28: A BSF jawan has been apprehended at the Indira Gandhi International Airport after he allegedly picked Rs. 22,000 cash of a retired IAF officer from an airport link station of the Delhi Metro here. Officials said the incident was reported yesterday when a CISF official noticed over CCTV that a commuter picked some cash

dropped on the floor from the New Delhi station (airport line). The official immediately alerted the CISF units and it was found that Rs. 22,000 in cash belonged to a retired Wing Commander of the Indian Air Force identified as one K Makhaia. They said soon after, based on CCTV footage, sleuths of the intelligence wing of the force intercepted the man who had picked the said cash at the ticket

counter of terminal-1D of the IGIA. "The person identified himself to be a BSF constable named as P Kumar, posted with the 152nd battalion of the force. He accepted picking the cash," they said. The cash was restored to Mr Makhaia as he said he was not desirous to lodge a police complaint into the incident and hence Mr Kumar was allowed to go, they said.

"The CISF surveillance team has cracked numerous such theft and lost cases at the Delhi Metro and the airports that it guards and in a number of small instances the affected party does not want to file a police complaint," they said, adding the force is continuously enhancing its capabilities in this domain so that travelling in the Delhi Metro and through the airports could be made more safer.

Five soldiers trapped after hit by avalanche in Kupwara

New Delhi, Jan. 28: Five soldiers were hit by a snow avalanche that struck an army post in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Saturday. "Five soldiers are trapped under the snow and rescue operation to save them is underway," Defence PRO in Srinagar Col Rajesh Kalia told TOI over phone. According to reports, the post of 56 RR was struck by an avalanche in Macchil sector early today. On January 25, two avalanches hit army personnel in Gurez sector trapping several soldiers under the debris. While seven soldiers were rescued alive by the teams on the same day, bodies of remaining soldiers were recovered yesterday. The northern state has been witnessing one of the most severe winters in recent decades, with heavy snow across the territory and

temperatures dropping to minus 7 degree celsius. Earlier in the day, the state authorities have issued a high danger avalanche warning for the hilly areas of Kashmir valley for the next 24 hours. "The warning has been issued for avalanche-prone slopes of Kupwara, Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Gulgam and Budgam and Kargil district of Kashmir division," a government official said. Over 15 soldiers were killed in snow-triggered tragedies since Tuesday in the state. On January 24, an army major lost his life in a snowslide in Kashmir's tourism destination Sonmarg and on the following day over 14 soldiers were reportedly killed after two avalanches hit the Gurez sector of the valley. Gurez and Sonmarg are the same

avalanche-prone sectors where 16 soldiers were killed and four injured in two snowslide-related incidents in March 2012. In February 2010, at

least 15 Armymen were buried in snow after an avalanche hit a military camp in the Khilnarg area near Gulmarg.

Drugs, Cash & Liquor siezed in Poll-bound Punjab

Chandigarh, Jan. 28: In Punjab, police and other agencies have seized drugs worth 12 crore rupees after the implementation of model code of conduct in the state, besides this 5 crore 90 lakh rupees cash and gold worth 26 crore rupees and liquor of 2.5 crore rupees have also been seized. Additional Chief Electoral Officer Mr. Siban said in Chandigarh that 1061 notice have been issued for violation of model code of conduct. At this time 487 flying squad

teams and 506 squad teams are working in the state to keep a vigil. Till now 12792 complaints were received out of which 12119 were resolved. Till now 50 cases of paid news have been found out of which in 19 cases paid news has been confirmed, 7 cases have been rejected while 24 cases are under consideration. VVPAT facility will be provided at 33 constituencies of Vidhan Sabha and at 2 places of Amritsar Lok Sabha seat.

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