

Editorial

Exploring the unexplored

The State of Manipur 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. 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 its 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 its 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?

More State News

Combined annual training camp of NCC group, Imphal, kicks off



IT News
Imphal, July 3: The Combined Annual Training camp conducted by 65 Manipur Girls (I) Coy, NCC Group HQ Imphal has commenced from July 1. The camp will continue for ten days. The Annual Training Camp being held at NCC Group Headquarters Imphal, DM College campus is attended by approximately 400 cadets from all over the state an addition NCC Cadets have been participating in various educational and society welfare programmes to training as such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. Awareness programmes on ill effects of drugs are AIDS, Anti Malaria Drive, women empowerment, voluntary blood donation camps etc. The cadets also assist in traffic control during major events in the state viz marathon races, Independence Day and Republic Day Parades and during religious function at the ISKCON temple, during Christmas and also during the Annual Sangai Festival. The camp will have

various activities including training and preparing the cadets for all India NCC competition. The cadets are also put through a number of competitions including debates and lectureries with an aim to improve their communication skills. Trekking and adventure activities are also planned for the cadets during the camp. Lt Col SN Thakur, OC 65 Manipur Girls (I) Coy NCC, Imphal is Camp Commandant and would be conducting the camp for the cadets from all districts of the state. The camp is being assisted by HQ IGAR (South) and its units. The NCC Imphal Group units are also actively participating in the Swachh Bharat which is an awareness campaign to spread the message of the cleanliness amongst the people of the state. The cadets of the group have been carrying out various cleanliness drive in and around Imphal City. Brig Vivek Sharma, VSM, Gp Cdr, NCC Gp Imphal is actively encouraging the cadets and supervising the training and administrative arrangements.

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GST : Great Instrument to Help Poor Move up the Ladder

By: **Prakash Chawla (PIB)**

A short and crisp video unveiled by President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the launch of the Goods and Services Tax in the majestic Central Hall of Parliament captured the clear objective behind country's most important tax reform till date. Unlike what economists and other commentators have been telling us as to how the GST would push the country's Gross Domestic Product and make life easier for the trade and industry, the launch film showed a much broader aspect of the modern taxation that has the country's people, especially those economically less privileged at its core.

In his inspirational speech at midnight of June 30, minutes before the roll out, Prime Minister, referred to GST as a life changing instrument for the poor particularly in eastern Uttar Pradesh, other eastern states and the North East. Even as they are blessed with rich natural resources, these states have not been able to fully exploit the same for their development.

On face of it, one might ask, how is GST going to be of great benefits to the poor of the country, or is it that the same old "trickle down" theory is supposed to play a role, via trade and industry. To an extent, it could be so, but the very character of the GST would ensure in realising what the Prime Minister said before the country's most distinguished audience. The country's mature polity and cooperative federalism has finally delivered a system,

which is people-centric and not necessarily manufacturer centric. Unlike the excise or other levies, the GST that subsumes seven Central and eight state taxes, is not source or manufacturer based but a destination or consumer centric. In plain and simple language, the states which have more consumers would stand to gain immensely in terms of tax buoyancy that would then be channelled in the welfare schemes for the people and overall economic development of the states. Surely, states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal and North East, which did not have much of a manufacturing base and were losing on revenue would stand to gain while the developed and manufacturing hubs would be compensated at least for five years of the GST launch. More the consumers, higher is the tax collection in a state; though the consumers need to be economically empowered!

The growth impetus to these states which could not keep pace with the states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu or Karnataka in manufacturing, would come from trade which in turn would generate huge resources for ploughing back into development efforts. Such a vibrancy would then lead to interest of investors, both domestic and global, into manufacturing and related service sectors, opening vistas for job creation for millions of people.

"GST is a system that ends the imbalances in the country's trade. It also boosts the exports of the

country. This system not only provides impetus to already developed states but also provides the opportunity to the backward states to develop. Our states are enriched with natural resources - look at Bihar, eastern UP, West Bengal, the north east, Odisha. They are all brimming with natural resources. When they will get a single tax regime I can see clearly that whatever deficiency is there those will be removed and this art of the country will move ahead. All the states of India will get equal opportunity for development", the PM put the context right.

Besides, the one nation-one-tax from "Ganga Nagar to Itanagar" in the words of Shri Modi, would surely make life easier for the industry, trade and common person in different ways, encouraging honest way for the economic transactions. This is why, the GST has been dubbed as 'Good and Simple Tax' that would bring in a new governance culture.

Both the PM and the President gave full credit to different political parties and governments at the Centre and the states in making the GST a reality. "This is not a *Siddhi* (realisation) of one government or a party; it is a fruit of common efforts", the Prime Minister said. The President, who had himself played a pivotal role in the progressive journey of the GST as Finance Minister in the previous government, had some apt words:

"The new era in taxation... is the result of a broad consensus arrived at between the Centre and States. This consensus took not only time

but also effort to build. The effort came from persons across the political spectrum who set aside narrow partisan considerations and put the nation's interests first. It is a tribute to the maturity and wisdom of India's democracy".

One of the principal advantages of the new tax regime would be doing away with the cascading effect resulting from 'tax on tax'. Through a robust IT infrastructure, the system of input credit ensures that it gets passed and adjusted against the tax liabilities. This would only help the consumers. "The prices of goods and services will come down. In the earlier system, the credit for excise duty, service tax, VAT and other indirect taxes did not get passed to the last vendor. But, in the GST, such credit goes to the supplier at the last stage of the value chain which then gets transferred to the consumers," said noted tax expert Shri Brij Bhushan.

Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley too has been impressing upon the industry to pass on any gains which accrue following the GST roll out. He hoped that the government may not have to use the powers vested in it through the Anti-Profiteering Authority to ensure that the benefits get passed on to the common citizens. While even the President Shri Mukherjee said that there could be disruptions in the initial stage, such a thing would be constructive disruption. Once we are through the teething troubles and initial period of adjustment, GST would prove to be a people-centric, capable of transforming lives.

National and International News

Cyber security to be discussed during PM Modi's Israel visit

By Harinder Mishra (PTI)
Jerusalem, July 3: India and Israel will discuss cooperation in cyber security when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits the country amid a series of cyber attacks across the globe, including by non-state actors.

"Once it was a disadvantage to say that you are from Israel. Today when you talk about cyber or advanced technology, it is an advantage to say we are an Israeli company. The whole world wants us. The whole world is coming here," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in his remarks at the Cyber Week 2017 conference in Tel Aviv University.

Terming Modi as "one of the most important prime ministers of the world", Netanyahu said the Indian leader wants close cooperation with Israel in many areas including in cyber security.

"For example, there is going to be a visit of Prime Minister of India, one of the most important Prime minister's of the world, with the third largest economy in the world

growing very fast. He wants close cooperation with Israel in many fields — water, agriculture, health and also in cyber.

And he has a good reason to do so," the Israeli Prime Minister told the gathering in Hebrew as per a video released by his office.

Modi will be on a three-day visit to Israel starting July 4 to commemorate 25 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Netanyahu stressed that Israel's growing acceptance across the world, especially as a "technology giant", is going to come to full expression during the upcoming visit of "my friend Narendra Modi".

Outlining steps taken by his government to strengthen Israel's cyber security apparatus, Netanyahu argued the need for such an investment by saying that it was not only a "serious threat", but also a "serious business". "A few years ago, I decided to establish Israel as one of the five leading powers in the world and I think by all accounts, we are there but the jury on security is always out.

Narendra Modi asks bureaucrats to discard mindset of resisting change

New Delhi, July 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has advised young IAS officers to avoid getting into a mindset that resists change. Addressing IAS Officers of the 2015 batch at the Inaugural Session of Assistant Secretaries in New Delhi this morning, Mr Modi asked them to fill India's administrative system with the energy of 'New India'.

The Prime Minister asked the young officers to bring about positive changes in the system, and the lives of the common people. He said, boldness is required to drive change, and added that a fragmented administrative

arrangement does not allow the officers to deliver to the optimum level.

Mr Modi said, dynamic change is needed to transform the system. He asserted that India has not progressed as much as it should have. The Prime Minister said countries that achieved independence after India, and faced greater resource constraints than India, have touched new heights of development. Mr Modi said, the three-month programme of Assistant Secretaries, which is now into its third year, will have a great impact.

EVMs will be used in Nagaland bye-poll

NENA Dimapur, July 3: Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) will be used in the forthcoming bye-poll to the 10th Northern Angami -I Assembly Constituency scheduled to be held on July 29.

The upcoming bye-poll will decide the fate of incumbent Chief Minister Dr Shurhozelie Liezietsi and his challenger - rookie electoral contestant Khekrie Yhome. The Election Commission of India (ECI) while informing that EVMs have been made available, stated that necessary steps have been taken to ensure smooth conduct of the bye-poll with the help of the EVMs.

As per the ECI, notification for the bye-poll will be issued on July 5. The last date of nominations has been fixed for July 12, scrutiny of nominations on July 13, last date for withdrawal of candidatures

on July 15, date of poll on July 29 and counting of votes on August 3.

The ECI stated that Electoral Photo Identification Cards (EPIC) will be the main document of identification of a voter. Further, the ECI stated that in order to ensure that no voter is deprived of his/her franchise, if his/her name figures in the Electoral Rolls, separate instruction will be issued to allow additional documents for identification of voters at the time of poll in the upcoming bye-election.

President of the Naga People's Front (NPF), Dr Liezietsi was sworn in as a non-MLA CM in February after the then CM TR Zeliang stepped down amidst widespread public dissent in the state. Dr Liezietsi's son Khrieh Liezietsi, who was representing 10th Northern Angami-IAC gave up his seat to make way for his father.

Number plate lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my IND number plate for my car (Hyundai Creta Sx) - MN01AK 2666 issued by Transport Department, Govt. of Manipur on the way between RIMS to Shija Hospital Langol on Sunday the 2nd July, 2017.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

B. Sarita Devi

Keishamthong Hodam Leirak

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