

Editorial

Imphal Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Politicking the politics

“LIES” no matter how big or small always crack the foundation of “TRUST”. There were times when the candidates made false promises during election time and fooled the people to woe the voter. The moment they were elected they often forgot what they had promised to the people often led a live thinking that the general public who elected them are bunch of ignorant fools who can be driven at any direction. The sinister concept become phenomenon and now people (almost all) now started thinking that there is no true leader who deserve victory in any of the election. But as the hangover system still has to be followed and continue there cannot be a full stop to the ongoing process. Election is mandatory for a democratic country. And for that candidates are required. In-order to form government there again need political party and those candidates need to be attached to any of the political party to render their service with effective power.

We are not sure if God frequently surfaces in the form of man, as is commonly believed. But what we can be dead certain is the fact that his arch enemy Satan often manifests himself, especially in Manipur, in the form of politicians. These incarnations of Satan, who are now running amok with the people’s sensibilities, have cast such a nasty spell on the state that it is well nigh impossible for the people who elected them in the first place, to retain even a semblance of sanity. There could be no other logical explanation to the goings on in the political arena than taking refuge in the unnatural and the irrational. And for the teeming millions who had inflicted this handful of pests on themselves, there could be no other option but to bemoan their fate. The curse, call it the millenium curse, is well and truly upon us.

It would be an understatement to say that there is something very basically wrong with our polity. Things have now come to such a pass that our state of Manipur can neither move forward nor backward but remain painfully suspended in a maze of anarchy and disorder.

The scourge of politicians have indeed taken a heavy toll, not only of the riches but also of its psyche. The epidemic is now all pervading and has invaded the very roots of the country’s integrity and well being thereby impeding its prosperity and peace. Whatever the party, whatever their ideology and hue, when it comes to pursuit of power and pelf, our politicians are at their very best and very united too in their mission.

If only these characters demonstrate the same solidarity and zeal in nation building, things would have been much different. But alas, their penchant for self-preservation has always won over patriotism, their quest for wealth has always been at the nation’s expense and above all their instinct for survival has always prevailed over the nation’s.

They have always prospered even as the state disintegrated, and they are always in a position of strength, be it ‘secularism or communalism’ that is at play. But what about the 25 lakhs people who elected them? They are never in the reckoning.

Bank pass book, ATM lost

I, the undersigned have lost my State Bank of India (SBI) pass book along with the ATM card, account no. 32338023879 issued by the SBI Chanchipur branch, on the way between Lilong to Singjamei on March 18, 2017. Finders are requested to kindly hand over the items to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Konhoujam Sanayai Singh
Lilong Arapati Mayai Leikai.

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I have lost my gas card bearing customer number 3710000003615237 (7103615237) issued by M/S RBD INDANE SERVICE on 19/03/2017 on the way between Wangkhei and Manipur University. If anybody found it please contact the undersigned.

Sd/-
Sagolsem Porieton Meitei
Contact No. 9856071292

Mark Sheet lost

I, the undersigned have lost my original mark sheet and Admit Card for my class XII passed examination bearing Roll No. 13975 of 1999 issued by Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur and original mark sheet and Admit Card for my Class X bearing roll no 39592 of 1997 issued by Board of Secondary Education, Manipur on the way between Lilong to Singjamei on 19th March, 2017. Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Ningombam Surjit Singh
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Manipur Governor’s addressed the first session of the 11th Manipur legislative assembly session

DIPR

Addressing the first session of the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly yesterday, Hon’ble Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla said the Government is fully committed to establishing a pro-people government for the service and welfare of the people of Manipur. Towards this end, the Government will make efforts to ensure a bandh and blockade free Manipur for unhindered all-round development of the State. During her address, the Governor asserted that her government will make all out efforts to make Manipur one of the most developed states in the region by harnessing the potential benefit of ‘Act East Policy’ of the Government of India which will lead to peaceful and prosperous State with all the communities living harmoniously.

“To address the issues of unemployment and insurgency faced by the State, my government will utilise resources of the state in creation of employment for the youth through skill development and capacity building in both the organised and unorganised sectors,” said the Governor.

On Planning and Finance, the Governor said that the state had a tentative plan size of Rs 4,349.55 crore and based on the likely availability of additional resources, it has been revised to Rs 5,255.27 crore including Rs 2,613.77 crore as Central share for various centrally sponsored schemes.

“Priority continues to be accorded to development of infrastructure, particularly economic infrastructure,” the Governor added. To ensure inclusive growth, due importance is accorded to all round development and reducing regional imbalance, the Governor said while adding, “Ministry of Development of North East has supported projects in the areas of health, power, roads and bridges, sports, water supply, etc.” In addition to the efforts of the State government for infrastructure development in border villages of Ukhrul, Churachandpur and Chandel, various infrastructure projects focusing on road connectivity, health infrastructure, school education, drinking water,

sanitation and livelihood activities in agriculture and allied sectors are taken up Border Area Development Programme.

“With the merger of plan and non-plan from 2017-18 onwards, the State Government has decided to prepare the Budget Document, 2017-18 on the basis of Capital and revenue expenditure/outlay,” she said. Pointing out that, the fiscal deficit and outstanding debt during 2015-16 as a percentage of Gross State Domestic Product stood at 1.71 % and 39.14 % respectively, the Governor said that the fiscal deficit was within the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act ceiling of 3% of GSDP. However, the State’s fiscal situation has come under severe stress during the current year, she said.

“We shall take all measures that are necessary to restore fiscal balance so that the process of growth and development can be accelerated to a higher level,” she said.

Emphasising that a network of good and all weather roads is vital for the socio-economic development of the State, the Governor said that her government will work towards improving the road network and making them all weather roads in every district of the State. Improvement of NHs is the priority of the government. MoRTH will be impressed upon to execute the improvement works with full earnestness.

In order to improve regional air connectivity in the State, a MoU was signed between the GoM and Ministry of Civil Aviation for introduction of helicopter Services, she said while adding, “There is good progress in construction of Jiribam-Tupul railway line.”

On the law and order front, the Governor expressed happiness to the State police for extending support for the successful and peaceful conduct of the State Assembly election this month. She added that her government will make all out efforts to ensure that blockades and bandhs are brought to an end.

Manipur police has achieved commendable results on the counter-insurgency front despite

immense problems like shortage of man-power, infrastructure and other logistic constraints. The Governor said her government will focus its efforts to enhance the specialised skills of the police force to deal with the present situation effectively.

The Governor also said that her government will ensure effective implementation of NFSA in the State and the selection of beneficiaries will be made in a transparent manner as per norms of the Act.

The Governor said her government will work towards providing free education to women till graduation. The Government is also in the process of establishing a new Govt Polytechnic in every district of Manipur under Central government assistance and an Engineering college under RUSA, she said.

On Power Reforms, the Governor said that 24x7 power for all with quality, reliability and affordability is committed by her government. Out of 2,582 villages in Manipur as per 2011 census, 2,424 villages are electrified as on December 2016 and remaining 158 villages will be covered in the near future, the Governor said and added that all the urban households and 80 % of rural households have access to power and the rest shall be covered by 2019.

On Agriculture and Allied Sector and Natural Resources, the Governor said her government is committed to improving agricultural productivity by promoting modern technology and techniques, encouraging use of sustainable methods, inputs and supporting the farmers under various schemes.

In order to facilitate effective implementation of Mission Organic Value Chain Development, the Manipur Organic Mission Agency has been created in the State under which farmers are mobilised to promote production of certified organic commodities focussing on specific crops.

Guinness world record was created by the State by fitting 3,911 persons with hearing aids in the first 8 hours on November 5, 2016 and enabling many people to lead normal life.

Under SBM (U), four towns of the State have been declared Open

Defecation free till date and the target is to declare all the urban areas of Manipur as Open Defecation free before the end of the mission period, ie, October 2, 2017.

Payment through banks for MGNREGA is now 100 % in the six valley districts. However, in the hill districts, due to non-availability of bank/post offices, payment of wages is made through Village Authority. Providing financial assistance, unemployment allowance, scholarship, dietary allowances and grant-in-aid to differently-abled persons; protecting the interests of minority communities through various schemes; improving socio-economic conditions of OBC, SC and ST communities through various schemes; providing job opportunities to lakhs of unemployed youth; promoting the welfare of workers; promoting trade and industries are amongst other commitments of the government as highlighted by the Governor.

Besides making commitment to develop tourist destinations in the State, the government has encouraged various local festivals in order to boost the tourism sector.

Promotion and preservation of rich Manipur cultural, to promote artists and enhance technical quality and content of films produced in the State are some achievements of the government as highlighted by the Governor. Also, under e-District project, citizens can now avail services like issue of birth certificate, ST/SC/OBC certificate etc without having to go physically to the concerned offices. “My government is committed to improve the digital or internet connectivity all over the State,” the Governor said.

Besides handing over land for establishment of National Sports University, the government will make available the sports infrastructure in the State and commence the courses as early as possible in a temporary university campus.

Hon’ble Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla then solicited the whole-hearted support, cooperation and understanding of the MLAs towards the realisation of the goals and fulfilling the expectations of the people.

National & International News

Former Congress leader SM Krishna to join BJP today

HI Bengaluru, March 22: Former Karnataka chief minister and Union external affairs minister SM Krishna is scheduled to formally join the Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday at its headquarters in New Delhi in the presence of party president Amit Shah. Krishna, 84, had ended his four-decades-old association with the Congress on January 29, citing a shift from its core ideology and a lack of respect for senior leaders as reasons for the decision.

There had been much speculation on his likely move, and it had been widely anticipated that he would join the BJP after he ruled out joining the Janata Dal (Secular). “Krishna is a very senior politician with experience both at the Centre and in the state,” senior state BJP leader KS Eshwarappa said. “Apart from his personal influence in the Mandya region, he is liked by the educated class for his developmental work in Bengaluru,” Eshwarappa said.

Political analysts, though, are not convinced about the influence he will have and his ability to pull votes. Also, given the BJP virtually sidelining every leader over 75 years of age, it is not clear how the party can capitalize on Krishna joining its ranks.

Krishna, who was the Karnataka Chief Minister from 1999 to 2004, had returned to state politics after stepping down as then external affairs minister in 2012. He has also

served as the governor of Maharashtra

CS Dwarakanath, former chairman of the state’s Backward Classes Commission, said Krishna was not a big leader even among Vokkaligas, the caste he belongs to. “He has never been the leader of the Vokkaligas in the same way as former prime minister HD Deve Gowda.”

Dwarakanath said the BJP had some way to go to win seats in the Mysuru and Mandya regions of the state, and was doubtful of Krishna’s influence in the primarily agrarian district. “Krishna’s tenure as chief minister is viewed only as benefiting Bengaluru,” Dwarakanath added. “Krishna’s inclusion might help boost morale among party workers in the region, but is unlikely to

significantly impact voters,” Dwarakanath said.

Narendranth Panji, a political analyst, said it would be difficult for the BJP to bank just on Krishna. “He is not a mass leader, but there are no mass leaders in Karnataka. Success in the state’s politics has always been based on the ability to enlist support from a coalition of groups, and Krishna might help in this.”

The Mysuru and Mandya regions have traditionally been tough places for the BJP. In the assembly elections of 2013, the BJP did not win even a single seat in the three districts of Mandya, Mysore and Chamarajanagar, which account for 22 of the 225 seats in the state. In 2008 it won three seats. However, the BJP is not just

banking on one disgruntled former Congress politician. It has managed to get into its fold former state minister V Sreenivas Prasad, who resigned his seat and is contesting the by-elections in Nanjangud constituency as a BJP candidate.

In another constituency in the area, Gundlupet, too, the BJP is aiming to make inroads before the assembly polls next year. However, in this constituency the BJP candidate faces off against Geetha Mahadev Prasad, wife of former minister HS Mahadev Prasad, who passed away in January.

The BJP was able to make inroads during the Lok Sabha elections when the party won the Mysore Lok Sabha seat on the back of the ‘Modi wave’.

Punjab and Uttarakhand Chief Ministers to call on PM Narendra Modi, President Pranab Mukherjee today

PTI New Delhi, March 22: The new Chief Ministers of Punjab and Uttarakhand are in New Delhi today in their maiden visit to the capital after assuming office. On separate appointments, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat will meet PM Narendra Modi at his Parliament House office this afternoon and President Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhawan in the evening. Mr Rawat met Union Home Minister Rajanth Singh in the morning.

The former ‘Maharaja’ of the erstwhile princely state of Patiala will also call on the top central leadership, including Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley at his residence in the afternoon. He is likely to seek help and cooperation of the Centre in granting more funds to Punjab. The Captain, as he is popularly known, led the victory of the Congress in Punjab, netting 77 of 117 seats in the assembly elections. Soon after taking charge last Saturday, he ordered the removal of red beacons from all government vehicles, including his own. The

Punjab Cabinet announced an end to the use of red beacons on official vehicles by the Chief Minister, ministers, legislators and officers. Mr Rawat, who was sworn-in as the ninth Chief Minister of Uttarakhand last Saturday after BJP’s landslide win in the assembly polls, arrived here yesterday evening. The BJP won 57 of the 70 seats in assembly. On Tuesday, it was the turn of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to meet the PM and the President. CM Adityanath also met BJP chief Amit Shah. The duo discussed allotment of ministries.