

Editorial

Imphal Thursday, May 11, 2017

Beginning of a new era; but let there be no mistakes

So far so good, but beware, let there be no room for criticism. Yes, Mr. Chief Minister, your government is in the right track and there is reason for appreciation to the kind of service your government has rendered in this very short period. Finding a solution to the 2 years old unsettled dispute with the JAC of Churachandpur district by bridging the gap of misunderstanding as well as making rooms for the hill brethren to directly expressed their grievances to the Chief Minister is perhaps the best policy to strengthen the brotherhood relationships among various communities of the state. The once upon a time, broken ties, has been fixed in time and we see light at the end of the tunnel. Indeed, in this short span of nearly 2 months, your government has been doing all you can to heal the wound. The setting up of 'anti corruption cell' and the streamlining of the defunct administration has won the heart of many people who had been waiting for justice for decades. But one thing worth remembering is that - let there be no mistakes committed by your government knowingly or unknowingly. For there will be another lot of criticisms from the other end. Your government had started a good initiative but if the kind of good work turns out to be another political gimmick then the feeling of guilt will ruin the future of the erstwhile nation state. This is being stated as there are rumours spreading around about juggling to the similar regalia that the earlier government had did. One opposition MLA of the Congress had now started taking the public platform to openly criticized the so called anti corruption cell and for sure there will be more opposition taking the public platform who will criticized more if those works you had announced in public are not converted into action. In the bygone month there was no room for criticism to your government but there is a fear that we pen warrior may too started writing against your government if your government fails to prove that you are indeed working for the people of the state. We wait for more good news for we are also fed up of criticism to the government.

PM hails Vajpayees courage on Pokhran test anniversary

PIT
New Delhi, May 11: On Pokhran nuclear test anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today hailed the "courage" shown by the then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Since 1999, May 11 is commemorated as the National Technology Day to mark Indias scientific prowess and technological advancements. "Greetings to everyone, especially our industrious scientists and those passionate about technology, on National Technology Day," Modi tweeted. "We remain grateful to our scientists & the then political leadership for the courage shown in Pokhran in 1998," he added. It was the same date in 1998 when

India successfully conducted the first among the five nuclear tests in Pokhran under the leadership of Vajpayee. The tests showcased Indias might to the entire world. A write-up on Narendramodi.in website refers to an earlier speech of Modi in which he had said, "The world is well aware of the Pokhran tests. Under Ataljis leadership, successful tests were carried out and the entire world was witness to India's might. The scientists made the nation proud." Recalling the nearly two-decade-old development, Modi said, "After the first series of tests the world community placed sanctions on India. On 13th May 1998, Atalji again called for tests, thus showing that he was made of a different mettle.

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Green Pathway to Development

By : Pandurang Hegde

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has initiated several measures in past three years towards achieving sustainable development through green pathway.

Forests: Adhering to the objectives of the National Forest Policy the MoEFCC has set out the road map to increase the forest cover to 33 per cent of the geographical area. Green India Mission aims to reforest barren land with the annual target of increasing the forest quality and cover in 5 million hectares.

In order address the problem of decreasing forest cover, and to compensate the forests lost for the development purposes, Compensatory Afforestation Bill was passed in the Parliament in 2016 to utilise Rs 42,000 crore. This fund was accumulated from the levies realised from the forests diverted for non forestry purposes.

This facilitates utilisation of the funds for conservation, improvement of forests in a transparent manner. The central government has initiated steps to converge various forestry activities with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. This will generate 15 crore man days of direct employment in the tribal dominated interior forest areas of the country.

These programmes will be implemented through participation of people, especially joint forest management programmes and village forest committees or van suraksha samitis.

As the country is getting urbanised, the central government has launched novel scheme of creating urban forestry known as Nagar Vana Udyan Yojana. A minimum of 25 hectares of forests will be created in the city. This will meet the recreational needs as well as act as the lungs by purifying the air from vehicular pollution. This is also linked to the Schools

Nursery Yojana that aims to build lasting bond between students and nature.

The Protected Areas of National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries play very important role in conservation of biodiversity and securing the habitat of wild life. In order to reduce the pressure on these protected areas, 275 Eco Sensitive Zones (ESZs) have been approved and accordingly notification has been issued to implement the policy.

Climate Change: India is facing the brunt of climate change on a large scale. The severe weather conditions with rise of temperatures above normal during the month of March in 2017 and severe water shortages have adversely affected the food production.

One of the main drivers of climate change is the emission of carbon due to the increased use of fossil fuel energy sources. It is predicted that the country may lose up to 1.7 per cent of GDP if the temperature increases by 1 degree Celsius. In order to arrest this trend India has voluntarily agreed to reduce the carbon emission intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 at 2005 level.

While launching India's Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) on Gandhi Jayanti Day on 2nd October 2015 Prime Minister gave a call for 'convenient action' in order to deal with 'inconvenient truth' of climate change.

India is faced with the double challenge of meeting the demands of the development to reach its poorest groups and follow the low carbon emission pathway. In order to achieve this it is anchored on the premise of sustainable lifestyles and climate justice to protect the interests of vulnerable groups.

What is the roadmap to reach this goal? A low carbon economy will require a paradigm shift in the way energy is produced and used in different sectors of the economy. The INDC set the target of

producing 40 per cent of electric power from non fossil fuel based sources.

The formation of Rs 3500 million or US Dollar 56 million 'National Adaptation Fund' will initiate policies towards renewable energy through multiple initiatives to achieve the target of reducing carbon emissions. The main focus is to revisit the National Missions under National Action for Climate Change (NAPCC) with additional missions on wind, health, water and redesigning missions on sustainable agriculture. While policies are geared towards clean and renewable energy sources, it also calls for energy efficiency, promotion of waste to wealth, green transportation and enhancing carbon sink through increase in the forest cover.

Green India mission under NAPCC is implementing the plan to plant 10 million hectares by 2030. This will create additional carbon sinks to the tune of 2.5 billion tons. A National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change has been established to assist state level activities to meet the cost of adaptation. A sum of Rs 331 crores has been allocated for sixteen states to implement the adaptation programmes.

River Conservation
To initiate steps to conserve the river ecosystems National River Conservation Plans (NRCP) has been launched that aims to clean the polluted rivers. Tripartite Memorandum of Agreements has been signed between state governments and local bodies, independent professional bodies and independent project inspectors to control the pollution levels in the rivers.

Physical targets of more than 50 percent in installation of pollution treatment plants have been achieved in Rivers Satluj, Ghaggar in Punjab, Sabarmati conservation project phase II is launched in Gujarat. The MoEFCC is implementing NRCP across numerous states in India including hill states of Sikkim and Nagaland.

In order to aid appraisal of the development projects river basin cumulative impact analysis and carrying capacity studies were done for Subansari, Tawang, Bichom and Siang in North Eastern India.

Wetland ecosystem plays crucial role in purifying the water. Management Action Plans for 40 major wetlands across India is taken up at the cost of Rs 13.43 crores.

Tackling solid waste and air pollution: In addition to these actions, the MoEFCC has notified rules for Solid, Plastic, Biomedical, and E Waste Management to tackle different kind of non bio degradable wastes being generated in the country.

In order to create a transparent system to reach common people about the health hazards of air pollution, Air Quality Index is launched in 16 cities. This indicates the level of air pollution in a real time on daily basis. With this data the citizens can monitor the air quality in the cities.

The MoEFCC has reached out to 11 lakh youth participants in tree plantation, water conservation and awareness on low carbon lifestyles, and solid waste management.

India is moving ahead with shifting away from HFCs by providing domestic innovation in developing new generation refrigerants and related sustainable technologies that harm the ozone layer.

The Ministry has developed "Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India" with Department of Space. This provides detailed information on the present land use, and the severity of land degradation in different states from 2005 to 2013. This consolidated statistics will provide the basis for future land use in the country.

Author is an independent journalist and columnist based in Karnataka.
(Courtesy PIB Feature)

National and International News

Northwestern China hit by 5.5 magnitude quake: 8 dead, 23 injured

PIT
Beijing, May 11: Eight people were killed and 23 others injured on Thursday after a 5.5-magnitude earthquake jolted China's northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. So far, the quake has affected lives of more than 12,000 people. A total of 9,200

people have been relocated, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. More than 1,000 soldiers and police officers, and 1,500 civilians have rushed to the quake-stricken areas for rescue operations, according to the quake emergency response headquarters. Wang Fuyou, the ruling Communist Party

chief of the county seat, said the quake was followed by aftershocks which were also felt strongly.

Cracks appeared on the walls of houses in the county. Some people were buried after adobe houses near the epicenter collapsed. Wang was quoted as saying by the report. The county government has sent security personnel to carry out search operations in Quzgun village, the worst-hit village in the quake having a population of 449 people, Wang said.

In Quzgun village, 820 heads of livestock were injured or killed and 1,520 homes collapsed. The power supply network across the county seat, including the quake-hit areas

is operating normally, the local power company said.

So far, the Xinjiang seismological bureau recorded 82 aftershocks following the quake. The epicentre, with a depth of about 8 km, was monitored in the southeast part of the Pamir Plateau.

The average altitude within 5-km around the epicenter is 4,347 metres. The population within a radius of 20 km and 50 km from the epicenter is estimated at 580 and 6,200 respectively. The area within a radius of about 200 kilometers from the epicenter has recorded 226 earthquakes above 3 magnitude over the past five years, including a 6.7-magnitude quake on November 25, 2016 in Akto County.

OFFICE OF THE RETURNING OFFICER FOR BYE-ELECTION BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE COUNCIL OF STATES
FORM 1
See rule 3
NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that:-

- (1) An election is to be held of a member(s) to the Council of States by the elected members of the Manipur Legislative Assembly;
- (2) Nomination papers may be delivered by a candidate or by any of his proposers to the Returning Officer or to Shri Rohit Sapam, Assistant Returning Officer, at Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat, Imphal between 11.00am and 3.00pm on any day (other than public holiday) not later than the 15th May, 2017;
- (3) Forms of nomination paper may be obtained at the place and time aforesaid;
- (4) The nomination papers will be taken up for scrutiny at Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat on Tuesday, 16th May, 2017 at 11.00am;
- (5) Notice of withdrawal of candidature may be delivered either by a candidate or by any of his proposers or by his election agent who has been authorised in writing by the candidate to deliver it to either of the officers specified in paragraph (2) above at his office before 3.00 pm on Thursday, 18th May, 2017;
- (6) In the event of the election being contested, the poll will be taken on Thursday, 25th May, 2017 between 9.00am to 4.00pm.

Sd/-
M. Ramani Devi
Returning Officer
&
Secretary,
Manipur Legislative Assembly
Imphal, the 8th May, 2017

OFFICE OF THE RETURNING OFFICER FOR BYE-ELECTION BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE COUNCIL OF STATES
NOTIFICATION
Imphal, the 8th May, 2017

No.3/4(2)/2017-LA(Leg.): In pursuance the provision of sub-section (1) of section 29 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, I, M. Ramani Devi, Returning Officer for the Bye-Election to fill the vacancy in the Council of States, hereby fix, with the previous approval of the Election Commission, the Committee Room, Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat, Chingmeirong, Imphal as the place at which a poll shall be taken in pursuance of the Election Commission's Notification No. 1/16/ELEC/BE/CS/Gazette/2017 dated 8th May 2017.

Sd/-
M. Ramani Devi
Returning Officer
&
Secretary,
Manipur Legislative Assembly
Imphal, the 8th May, 2017