

Editorial

For a little bit more

The one basic thing that could make much of almost everything much easier, simpler and smoother, yet seemingly impossible to accomplish is the act of coming clean.

It would indeed take a much greater strength of character to own up to our mistakes and shortcomings, and still greater willpower to refrain from deliberately committing acts we consciously know is wrong and false. The few fortunate ones who have the grit and will to transcend these urges are acknowledged and respected, even revered. On the other hand, a new breed of "Go-Getters" who would not stop at anything to achieve their goal is on the rise - the pressures of present day society helping in developing and pruning such mindset to perfection. They are the restless, hyperactive and aggressive ones who do not cater to emotions and aesthetics. Modern parents and guardians are increasingly urging their wards to adopt the letter approach towards life in order to carve out a place in the society that invariably results in a level of respect - respect that again is dependent on the earning capacity, the social circle adopted and living status maintained.

Increasing compulsions for security in terms of food, shelter and a step towards a more secure future could be the factors that prompted the collective thinking towards adopting such an attitude towards life. But then, does that justify the adage "All is fair and love and war"? Is our life becoming a daily struggle, a battle - if not a war, we are destined to wage every single living day of our lives? Where does that leave us with any room or opportunity for improvement - not the financial kind, but a more rounded and holistic one as a person?

The present developments in the society - particularly that of mindless atrocities and lack of considerations that is becoming rampant would be, to a large part, a spill-off of this new approach towards life. Greed takes precedence over everything else, making our lives worse off than when we started. What then could be the panacea for these aberrations that has come to plague our lives of late? The answer lies within us - common knowledge which just needs to be acknowledged, and more importantly to act on. Putting up a façade of make-believe and a show of benevolence and righteousness will not absolve anyone of the crimes and wrongs.

This is of utmost importance for everyone, and more so for those who are donning the role of public representatives. Concepts like beauty, peace and harmony can only be experienced if we can rise above our petty urges and look at life - that of ourselves and the ones around us in a different and totally new perspective - one that does not have anything to do with wealth, power or fame. But how does one explain these "abstract" concepts, even after knowing them to be true, to someone struggling to earn a square meal on a daily basis? Aren't there adequate schemes and programs to alleviate these basic sufferings being borne by a majority of the people in the State? How do these people who are consistently trying to find any menial job just to earn enough to eat come to know of these schemes if they are not informed, and more importantly, assist them in getting their fair share? Who would not want a little extra, even inspite of having more than everything they could possibly ever need in life? The best persons to validate this observation will be in the performance of those in whose hands are the reign of power and affairs of the State.

"The earth has enough to satisfy man's needs but not man's greed": Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

Lost

I, the undersigned have lost my original certificate and admit card for my HSLC Examination appeared in the year of 1982, bearing roll no 3550, issued by BOSEM on the way between Keishamthong to Paona Bazar on Sept. 13, 2017.

Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Elangbam Dilip Singh
S/o E. Raghuraj Singh
Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai
Contact No. 9774222476

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The Transformation of Rural India

By : V.Srinivas

Rapid agriculture growth and rapid rural employment growth were always the focus of India's policy makers. Mahatma Gandhi envisaged India as a Nation of self-sufficient autonomous village republics. Land - the summum bonum of rural existence, and agricultural structure was the most important determinant of India's development. Highly skewed distribution of land was responsible for agricultural backwardness. As land was the critical income generating asset of rural India, changes in agricultural holding structures were necessary to ensure prosperity of the rural population. Accordingly, India's State policy focused on State Governments formulating and implementing Land Reforms legislations. These included the Land Ceiling Act, the Tenancy Act, the Land Revenue Act and broadly adopted the land to the tiller policy. Surplus arable government lands were distributed to the poor and needy peasants for livelihoods. These policies were envisaged to promote agricultural growth and alleviate rural poverty.

After the bank nationalization in July 1969, a big push was given towards expansion of banking activities. Rapid expansion of bank branch network into rural areas and expansion of bank credit to agriculture and related activities. Priority sector lending targets and interest rates were introduced as part of a social banking approach. The rural bank branch expansion significantly lowered the rural poverty and increased non-agricultural growth. However, as time progressed, divergences emerged between the levels of development in States. The richer

and faster growing States were better at reducing rural poverty while growth was volatile in the poorer States. The faster growing States had formulated laws for amalgamation of farm holdings into viable units for investments, productivity and growth. In the poorer States, the alienation of small and marginal farmers from their lands and subsequent conversion to landless agricultural labor made them entirely dependent on the vagaries of the market. Large scale labor migration was witnessed in areas where rainfed agriculture practices were prevalent. The richer States also attracted higher investments and had better infrastructural development which resulted in higher per capita incomes as compared to the poorer States.

It was in this backdrop that the Indian State implemented a series of welfare programs for the rural population. These included the Desert Development Program, the Drought Prone Area Development Program and the Watershed Development Program. These programs were taken up in a decentralized participatory developmental model. The objective was to treat vast stretches of land areas with watershed treatment practices including construction of check dams, development of pastures and promotion of improved animal husbandry practices. A second crop in rainfed areas, essentially meant higher farm incomes and lower migration of farm labor.

The Indian State also implemented several major direct beneficiary programs for asset generation, skill development, residential housing and employment generation. The Department of Rural Development

implements the major schemes of National Rural Mission, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU GKY) and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) programs. The implementation of the MGNREGA on a pan India basis with assured employment on individual and community based programs has resulted in significant employment and asset generation in rural areas. The National Rural Mission was launched in February 2016 as a new initiative for development of a cluster of villages that preserve and nurture the essence of rural community life with focus on equity and inclusiveness without compromising with the facilities perceived to be essentially urban in nature. The DDU GKY essentially focused on youth between 15 years and 35 years from poor families, is tasked with the objective of adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and caters to the career aspirations of the rural youth.

Indian farmers were always concerned about the availability of adequate credit at reasonable cost in a timely manner. One of the major steps forward in this direction was financial inclusion. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana represents the National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services. The Jan Dhan Yojana provided the bankers with the necessary confidence to promote credit culture across the deprived population and resulted in significant increases in credit flows to rural sector.

A Nation of India's size requires

significant increases in food production. The year 2016-17 witnessed the highest ever food grain production of 273.38 million tons which is 6.37 percent higher than the last 5 years average production and 8.6 percent higher than 2015-16. Government introduced the Soil Health Card Scheme (SHC) in 2015 to be issued on a bi-annual basis to all land holders of the country with the objective to conduct farm level soil analysis. In July 2015, Government introduced the National Agricultural Market (E-NAM) to link 585 wholesale agriculture production marketing committees across the country through a common e-platform. The portal has been made available in several Indian languages and has empowered the farmers with vast information dissemination. The State continued to make rapid strides in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana covering all risks of the crop cycle and providing incentives for improved irrigation practices.

The Government's initiatives for empowering the farmers and improving the infrastructure at the village level have been largely successful in reducing poverty and enhancing education and health care indicators. The improvement in farm incomes and the transparency in subsidy transfers would enable the creation of a 21st century India that is dynamic and forward looking.

V.Srinivas is an IAS officer of 1989 batch, and is currently posted as Chairman Rajasthan Tax Board with additional charge of Chairman Board of Revenue for Rajasthan. (Courtesy PIB Feature)

International and National News

Two IAF commandos, two militants killed in J&K gunfight

IANS
Srinagar, Oct 11: Two commandos of the Indian Air Force elite Garud commando unit and two militants were killed on Wednesday in a gun battle in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district.

"The two Garud personnel were killed in action while operating with the Army for operational experience and training," Defence Ministry spokesman Colonel Rajesh Kalia said.

The gunfight between the security forces and the terrorists took place in the Hajin area, Kalia described it as an "intense operation". Earlier both the defence sources and the police had said that the security personnel killed in the Hajin encounter were from the Indian Army. At least one more soldier was also injured in the encounter.

The earlier reports said the gun battle erupted when the security

personnel surrounded the Paribal village early on Wednesday following specific inputs about the militants' presence inside a house. The hiding militants triggered the encounter firing at the security forces approaching the house. Two militants were immediately killed. "Three soldiers sustained injuries, two of whom were critical and later succumbed," the police sources said. "The Chinara Corps commander and

all ranks salute the Martyrs and offer condolences to the bereaved families," Kalia added.

The Garud commandos are a special unit of the Indian Air Force with only over a 1,000 commandos. It was formed in September 2004. The unit derives its name from Garuda, a divine bird-like creature of Hindu mythology.

The Garud commandos are trained along the lines of Navy's MARCOS and Army's para commandos.

US flies bombers over Korean peninsula as Trump discusses options

Reuters
Seoul, Oct. 11: The US military flew two strategic bombers over the Korean peninsula in a show of force late on Tuesday, as President Donald Trump met top defence officials to discuss how to respond to any threat from North Korea.

Tensions have soared between the United States and North Korea following a series of weapons tests by Pyongyang and a string of increasingly bellicose exchanges between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

North Korea has launched two missiles over Japan and conducted its sixth nuclear test in recent weeks as it fast advances towards its goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile capable of hitting the US mainland.

The two US Air Force B-1B bombers were joined by two F-15K fighters from the South Korean military after leaving their base in Guam, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement on Wednesday. After entering South Korean airspace, the two bombers carried out air-to-ground missile drills in waters off the east coast of South Korea, then flew over the South to waters between it and China to repeat the drill, the release said.

The US military said in a separate statement it conducted drills with Japanese fighters after the exercise with South Korea, making it the first time US bombers have conducted

training with fighters from both Japan and South Korea at night.

The US bombers had taken off from the Andersen Air Force Base in Guam. In August, Pyongyang threatened to fire intermediate-range missiles towards the vicinity of Guam, a US Pacific territory that is frequently subjected to sabre-rattling from the North.

Guard raised
South Korean and US government officials have been raising their guard against more North Korean provocations with the approach of the 72nd anniversary of the founding of North Korea's ruling party, which fell on Tuesday.

Trump hosted a discussion on Tuesday on options to respond to any North Korean aggression or, if necessary, to prevent Pyongyang from threatening the United States and its allies with nuclear weapons, the White House said in a statement. Trump was briefed by Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford at a national security team meeting, the statement said.

US and South Korean wartime operational plans, including a plan to wipe out the North Korean leadership, were stolen by North Korean hackers last year, a South Korean ruling party lawmaker said on Wednesday.

Some 235 gigabytes of military documents were taken from South Korea's Defence Integrated Data Centre in September last year,

Democratic Party representative Rhee Cheol-hee said in radio appearances on Wednesday, citing information from unidentified South Korean defence officials.

In May, an investigative team inside the defence ministry announced the hack had been carried out by North Korea, but did not disclose what kind of information had been taken.

Ships banned

The United Nations Security Council, which has imposed a series of ever

tighter sanctions on North Korea, has banned four ships from ports globally for carrying coal from North Korea, including one vessel that also had ammunition.

The vessels are the first to be designated under stepped-up sanctions imposed on North Korea by the 15-member council in August and September over two long-range ballistic missile launches and Pyongyang's sixth and largest nuclear test.

Name Correction

I, the undersigned, Laishram Hemochandra Meitei aged about 42 years S/o Laishram Nanda Meitei of Wangkhem Huidrom Awang Leikai, P.O Thoubal, P.S Yairipok, District Thoubal, Manipur do hereby declare that, My father's name Laishram Nanda Meitei has been wrongly recorded as Laishram Nanda Meitei in all my relevant document. That I do desire to rectify the correct name of my father in all the certificate given by the concerned authority to avoid complicity in future.

Sd/-

Laishram Hemochandra Meitei

Name Correction

I, the undersigned, Laishram Nanao Singh, aged about 26 years S/o Laishram Babu Singh of Wangkhem Mayai Leikai, P.O Thoubal P.S Yairipok, District Thoubal, Manipur do hereby declare that, My father's name Laishram Babu Singh and my mother's name Laishram Kamini Devi has been wrongly recorded as Babu Laishram and Kamini Laishram in my relevant document. That I do desire to rectify the correct name of my father and mother in all my certificate given by the concerned authority to avoid complicity in future.

Sd/-

Laishram Nanao Singh