

# Editorial

Friday August 24, 2018

## Caring the future

Tragic is not the word to describe the present state of affairs of our state, even though the feeling in the hearts of the general public cannot be far from it.

The Government has shown, in fits and spurts, that things can and does happen if the rulers so put their hearts to any task, which begs the very relevant and necessary question: is the Government deliberately keeping the state on tenterhooks with engineered chaos and calculated mayhem?

Nothing that has been done for the development of the State so far looks and feels systematic or sustainable- from the various infrastructures being constructed with shoddy workmanship and dubious results, to the haphazard and stop-gap measures in terms of the essential services being provided, mostly on paper to dispense off with the official requirements without ever taking the trouble or the initiative to check on the efficacies of such schemes and welfare measures. The reality we are undergoing today is a far cry from the trumped up reports and statistics that make up the records meant for display at the centre, the most obvious result being the promotion of Manipur from the least developed state category to the less developed one without having nothing to show for it.

Yet the Government, in its quest to sustain the reign, have failed to address the situation with pragmatic solutions and progressive steps that would steer the state in the right direction of inclusive growth- the most prominent shortcoming being the failure to harness the potential of the youths- the future of the state. According to house listing and housing census data, the number of youths between ages 18-22 in the country is over 149.36 million. That's about one-fifth of the total electorate of 725 million estimated by the Election Commission. This is based on data of some few years back. Stating that almost, if not all, the problems ailing the present society can be remedied by molding the youths of today to bring about the still elusive change and progress would not be an exaggeration. No amount of resources or materials can effect change or usher in progress unless those who are to direct and utilize these resources be prepared and groomed to take on the responsibilities and challenges with confidence and determination.

A radical mental revolution based on progressive thinking and broadened outlook beyond self preservation and personal enrichment, tempered with the spirit of equality and infused with the dignity of labour is the panacea for our society long festered with enmity, greed, doubts and subdued mindset. The Government should make the most and invest in the one true asset it ever has- the teeming youths.

## Transcending Patriots' Day(s)

Contd. from Yesterday

By-Yengkhom Myrtle-Zest

8) We as citizens, still hope against hope that association of politics with favouritism, charlatanism, deceptive and hypocritical traits need to be promptly ceased at the earliest for the betterment of motley of deficits at present and naturally future generations to come if digested with vision the pros and cons in any of your passive or active moves. Probable? Impossible? Reflecting yourselves the pragmatism of Patriotic-day and public speeches, leadership responsibility decide the answer.

In many of these issues; masses, Meirapaibis, civil societies and clubs, human rights groups, student and various organisations, effective JACs have played a great role of patriotism even though there is lapse of patriotism and bravery from political leaders and concerns. Also, we can't deny, lot of black sheep and imposters are strewn, being part of this society if we are to speak of ground realities.

I hazarded a lot of scattered guess, suspicions, insinuations, possibilities and doubts which stink to hold on and majorly are of macabre nature but lace through us magically in daydreams and nightmares for events and incidents sharply dented and etched in our memory, psyche, emotions and relationships; may be such that through digesting, understanding, unravelling and exploring collectively and responsibly evolve to find solutions. Taking resolute stands on this Patriots' Day before the vibe ends atleast, of these alarming present situations will the time come to dissolve and root out those avoidable or unnecessary lot of loads, which is what bravery and love for people and land is about. It's time we asked ourselves and brave out the necessities and possibilities in tune with the present. So too the case for many dear compatriots who celebrate and adore patriotism to take unflinching stand and resolution, apart from celebration and narrating historic moments only! Won't that be the needful tribute for Patriots' Day celebration? Therefrom and henceforth, days ahead invite us the clarion call to sustain and show the patriotic readiness.

### Generally Ivory-tower Commemoration Ways

Just commemoration sake-like without substantial considering of present day enemies and threats, lacking currently contextual ideas and discourses with fitting relevant applications highlight something of now-generation and some-back, scarcity of much needed commensurate patriotic spirit and zeal taught by our patriots whom we revered. Many celebration are of ritual-esque and monotonous whereby political rhetoric, redundant anecdotes and stories are parroted. Appears strongly 'complacent just', remain proud-pleased as we are their descendants and pass on the celebration by investing time, money and energy mostly on programmes that indocently fantasies, projections and 'old is always gold kind' that too filled with redundant hindustani-based songs as a contagious norm in many venues, concomitantly amounts to unsafe conceits. Don't want to bring in those celebrated names of hindustani-music-based 'old is gold' tag follows. No doubt, beautifully enormous but highly hindustani-based reflects the image of their times— influenced and dear adoption, also themselves were/are part in perpetrating the hegemony of alien culture and music. What consequential influences has penetrated deep in our conscious and unconsciousness in many art-forms and films can't be another scented story. Does it sound inclusive and conservative or of question of identity crises? What has happen has happened regardless of varied perspectives. Ok let's cut short considering music is universal and

they were globalized ahead! Unmissably and very unfortunately, any of 30-plus communities' folk or indigenous music and songs hardly accentuated except some few Leiteng-thangs and Ta-khousarol, which are taken for granted by majority because of the ways of presentation without inculcating the philosophies and spiritualities involved to the intended audience due negligence or ignorance in effectively organising which we see as a norm ubiquitous in many celebrations, praying if not all. Another thing whether important or notis for readers to decide, why should we loan words when we have precise vocabularies? Mention can be made of Bir, Neta, Pandit, Shahid Mimar, etc. Whether you like/accustom or not, we have ample vocabularies to express them say Athoubarel, Luchingpurel, Lamjinglen, Maichou, Mainou, Athou-Yumbiren/ Khubmlen, etc. We have already and also many can coin indigenous punching vocabularies to replace them. For more information, I don't meant to say we can translate, coin or have better or sufficient words in advance or now for any discipline. Who can replace Phane-kmayeknaibi, Singu, etc. exactly in other language with suffice, similarly we better not attempt in case of others' origin which we don't have at all before, say graphene, robot, Hubble-constant, many scientific terms, etc. Explaining and interpreting is another matter. If I am not mistaken, language evolve by importing what we don't have but not at the cost of replacing what we already have precisely. Ignorance, habits and certain indulgences and influences plays humongous role in moulding certain unwanted vortex. Learning other languages is not an issue but boasting, replacing or unnecessary substitution or sometimes even out of ignorance is unhealthy. Exchange, interaction and globalisation has its beautiful side but we can't always go on imitating, importing or neglecting our roots or assets for certain impulses. What props-up our patriotic pride and bravery today as descendants of those patriots? Just to mention a few- 1891 Anglo-Manipuri war, Nupi-Lals, Gaidinglui & Jadonang Resistances, Kuki-Rebellion, etc. are our remarkable incidents that continue to imbibe, impart and motivate eliciting us to continue and go beyond those legacies of patriotism whenever demanded and required, for more visionary extra miles. Often, isn't it fair to be suspicious or umbrageous at our govt. in the prevailing atmosphere and certain episodes?

On Patriots' Day, not redolent with present context and burning issues is a damning flaw! Shouldn't this vantage platform be utilise for present contextual application of patriotism too? Organisers hardly or not-at-all invest time-slot for substantial discussion, consultation and finding ingenious practical ways and approaches or stand firm resolutions to defend present threats, enemies and designs for bringing effective solution shows our lack of true sense in patriotism, myopic vision and superficial nature in celebrating. I don't mean to question their patriotism nor mine holier-than-thou. Just stating the facticity.

On this day, the state govt. needless rhetoric speeches and dabbling initiatives but emphasise and pursue out of conviction rather than compulsion form public on rejuvenating Thang-ta (not only martial, but for its spiritual and philosophical values) which is of paramount importance in regard to this day and revitalise innumerable dying traditional games, exercises and disciplines which shapes our ethos, culture, identity and varied art-forms. Further new-

technologies and possible improvements through scientific applications be inculcated and boosted. Perhaps, traits that inherit through those art-forms are the key to our virtuoso towering sport-persons and artists ever-mushrooming till this day even though infrastructure, timely support and grants are pitiable as per global standards. Stamps and books need be released, various competitions and timely relevant constructive debates be organised.

Importantly, brave patriots meant, not only those recognised, known and sung ones; we need room and also revered our offerings to those "Unknown and Unsung heroes/patriots" atleast by writing this words enframe and keep among those ubiquitously celebrated known heroes' portraits. That will encompass atleast some justice, the needful deep reverence that can highlight our inclusiveness. Effective measures to boost locally compatible projects and revitalise what is organic to us but with rational, scientific and far-sighted approach defining our uniqueness is a must. As the adage goes- Think globally, Act locally; development with identity indeed needed and here lies our thrust concerns.

This day calls forth for voluntary yet co-ordinate efforts to thwart influx divisive policies and strategies in varied facets which exacerbate in depriving our overall developments and rights to live together and gnawed by piling stacks of accumulating suppressed unsolved problems which lies dormant that can erupt any time if not careful and vigilant. Otherwise it amounts to passive self-sabotage if we skip and neglect to digest the hindsight and actuate the foresights to its fullest potential and commitment possible by converging prevailing misalignments to melt trust-deficits and regain concord. Hope it is not only about celebration and preservation of history; we learn and go beyond to transcend and transform barriers of any form into bridges.

We as a composite society nurture by this state and resources, should jump in to collaborate for rapprochement and progressive co-existence but not jump in or out to defend each other at the cost of further unwanted continuances. Sometimes unbridled emotions guided jerky reactions; mismanagement or disregard from any group or any authority should be tackle rationally and humanely with proper law-enforcement and if needed give enough-room to self-correct and wane. No doubt, need sincere, judicious and rational approaches from the concerns. By open-mindedness and open heartedness, mutual understanding and consonant co-existence can be winnowed from discontentment and unholy conditionings but calls-for ground-reality based concerted efforts to understand the differences through interactions in various spheres as the aphorism goes expansion is life, and contraction is dead. As history taught us, we should also never forget and vigilant all-the-time that almost cent percent of the political promises and speeches many gossip-likethat harangue about benefits, commitment, fanciful delusions and music-to-ear for 'Certain Sections, Divisions or Partisans' to the extent of boosting adrenalin for revenge, past grievances, hatred and stupefying victories for their targeted audiences' manipulating emotional chemistry and as if nearing heaven-hopes create unnecessary overall chaos by pulling our strings. Many are sycophants at its best, speciousness their skill, and in fact their commitments and promises untimely gutter. They hardly connect or bamboozle people when it comes to needed holistic development, magnanimity, judiciousness, possible forgiveness,

compassion, rationality, mutual understanding, cooperation, universal harmony, embracing of constant self-correcting, practical possibilities and open-mindedness; for by partisanship and creating enemies they gain votes and satiate their selfish or unpatriotic motives. But strangely or by conditions, we feel our hope against hopes and hardly learned from unsought past for better politicians and leaders. Of course, it's painful, disheartening and angst-filled to acknowledge later who they are after elected while we realised quite late for being swayed and disposed to status-quo, and have been so credulous.

### Changing dynamics and Unavoidable flexibilities:

Laws have been added and amended around the world; ethical issues go on adapting to changing systems; trend of mixed-up lifestyles, exchanges among socio-cultural entities and science influencing go on changing; outlook and approaches in various spheres and disciplines is a flux in itself; system of govts. debatably evolve or devolve, security and strategic relations still in dynamics of blocs; religions, doctrines, zealotry and anthropocentricity hardly changed; monopolies, forms of domineering tactics, crimes and violation too manifested in intricate new-facets. New and strange ways of deprivation, hostilities and censorship borne out. Pockets of ignorances reseeded and more perplexing questions, quest and wonders open-up in unimaginable ways. Comforts, conveniences and communication improved at large but climate, ecology and environment is changing for worse though there are concerted efforts while less collective in responsibilities as of now.

Merits and demerits, pros and cons, uses and misuse/abuses, advances in healthcare and technology but severe side-effects and mortality of adverse drug-reactions (ADR), muddling of brand-products between quality-based and bogus with deceptive information and precarious motives, questionable judicious utilization of resources becomes the flummoxing normal at large. Not to be mistaken as pessimist, since lot of befudding grey-areas are coming up. Some scientific finding rebuff or modified the other in various disciplines too. But that's the way how science progress by continuously modifying, self-correcting and rebuffing. Obnoxiously, some scientist are blighted by corruption and affected large population mainly in medical and consumable industry by advertising misleading information.

Awareness in whatever we are influenced, collective responsibilities and convergence of rational attitudes by accepting differences and amenable exchanges to bring lasting peaceful co-existence as one humanity and needed enriching ecology prerequisites flexible 'holistic being'. So sense of bravery and patriotism have to go beyond or demands paradigm shift. How?

Ok, for the time-being, we shall simulate ourselves or wander a bit with few quest. Some facts, fantasies, fictions and whatever between. It may look like a dreamland! Ok let that be, we all daydream and dream at night!

How many generations will we wait for the concept of borderless world and humanity to thrive? In reality there is no naturally defining borders or demarcations. All are concepts which became useful in the course of human evolution, also seenin some other species, which can become useless or old-fashioned when we evolve further appertaining how effective or it creates unnecessary blocks if we go on rationalising to this concepts in respect to changing settings. (Contd. on page 3)

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