

Mission Young Entrepreneurs

By - Dr. Pyum Rakesh Singh

Every stakeholder in Manipur must acknowledge the importance of right ecosystem for entrepreneurship in the state. The world knows that grooming young entrepreneurs is the best policy. Development of local industries, education, skill, health and hygiene, and welfare measures to support the poor must be undertaken beyond the skewed vision of electoral politics.

Cosmetic efforts to please the electorate and some self-styled social workers in particular area cannot help the aspiring entrepreneurs who need credit support to expand their enterprises. Market research and potential for expansion of certain trade and craftsmanship should be the basis to render credit support to develop local productivity.

The Manipur State Rural Livelihoods Mission has stated that training programmes in 17 fields of skilled labour have been initiated in the state for the unemployed youths. The issue is how many unemployed youths in the state are aware about such training programmes to avail the opportunity. Concerned departments can think of ways to reach out to potential candidates to impart training programmes.

Recently, a total of 50 youths trained in the fields of apparel and hospitality left the state to join KITEK in Kerala. Training programme organised under the 'Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)' scheme became dreams come true for those youths who wanted to get employment and have better livelihood. However, imparting training to our youths for job opportunities elsewhere does not go well with the spirit of 'Make in Manipur'. 'Make in Manipur' and poverty alleviation efforts in the state must go hand in hand. In a brief interaction with Prof. Wang Chunguang, Institute of Sociology,

Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), he underscores the importance of stopping children inheriting poverty from their parents. Based on China's poverty alleviation measures, he emphasised education, agriculture advancement, skill development, social security coverage, basic infrastructures and development of Township and Village Enterprises (TVEs) to fight against poverty.

Besides promoting education and imparting skills, Manipur should explore potential for development of privately-owned TVEs covering local industries. In fact, targeted poverty alleviation drive can be based on farming, tourism, handloom clusters and handicraft production. Development of orchards, floriculture, fishery, and plantation of profitable crops could support poverty alleviation.

Again, breweries producing variants of local rice beer is an untapped source of income. The Japanese can organise 'Sake Night' ('Sake' is Japanese rice wine) while we are debating about alcohol consumption without addressing the issue of adulteration. Drinking alcohol is widespread in the state and the best way is to promote healthy drinking culture (yuthak chumba). May be in future 'Yu Night' will become a popular festival in the state.

Marketing the vegetables, flowers and fruits produced in the state is another example. The stores can source the farm produce from every household with a plot of land. Thus the seasonal vegetables from the kitchen garden and bigger farm land can be marketed through proper stores. The excess produced in the state can be exported elsewhere. Here comes the importance of logistics and its cost.

This change in our approach can create a generation of enterprises who own shops and those

who generate extra income through small scale farming. But it requires a community spirit to engage in work culture, healthy living and eating habits of locally grown vegetables, fruits and other agro-products. In addition to income generation, productivity of the land can be enhanced through household cultivation of vegetables, fruits and flowers in demand.

Part of the logistics issues is the poor state of inter-village and inter-district roads. The government can boost poverty alleviation efforts around Sangathel Park, Kakching Garden, Langol Peak Garden, Andro Santhel Natural Park and Sadu Chiru Waterfalls by maintenance of roads leading to such tourist hotspots. Such positive and timely intervention by the concerned authorities can promote tourism and other economic activities in such places.

Naturally, enterprising individuals are sure to create livelihood on their own in such attractive places. The government should consider developing tourist infrastructure in such areas to promote privately-owned or community-based tourism. The integration of public investment on tourism and hospitality sector with that of private efforts can do good things in the economically underdeveloped state.

The initiative can help unemployed youths, women and persons with disabilities directly and also generate revenue. The basic infrastructure could be parking space, small food stalls, eco-friendly inns, and beautification works to enhance the attractiveness of the place. In the process, the society will find new dreams and aspirations. The state should work as facilitator and do its best to avoid becoming a barrier to entrepreneurship that contributes to socio-economic advancement of the state.

WAD condemns detention of journalist, custodial killing of Abdul Gaffar and shooting of a youth

IT News
Imphal, Dec 29,

Women Action for Development expressed strong condemnation to the detention of Wangkhem Kishorchandra under NSA 1980 for posting a video on Social Media on 26th November 2018 expressing his criticism the Centre and the state Government as well as the RSS. WAD humbly appeals the honourable Chief Minister of Manipur to kindly release Mr Kishorchandra

for the sake of the two minor children and his family member and for the best interest of his children. Children are our future generation, children should be protected from being trauma and fear psychosis by detaining their father, separating from their father is the violation of child Rights.

The WAD also expressed condemnation to the extra judicial killing of Mr Abdul Gaffer on 20th December 2018 by 26th Assam Rifle and Thoubal

Police Commando, living his young wife as widow and five children as father less under the impunity of Armed Forces special Power Act 1958. We demand the immediate arrest of perpetrators who are involved in such crime and deliver justice to the victim family.

WAD further expressed shocked to the incident occurred on the eve of Christmas day the 25th December 2018 at which an innocent youth Mr. Prashanta of Changanggei was shot

dead by Chabungbam Budhachandra of Naoremthong by using a licence gun.

"It is fact that in these two weeks two young women are widowed and seven children are forcibly made father less. It is very unfortunate as a women organisation working for the cause of Women and Children, we are very much concern on the increasing rate of widow and traumatising the nine children by killing their fathers and detaining under NSA", WAD

statement said.

It further added that the state need to review how the licence gun are issued and what are the criteria etc in order to prevent such incident in the future. WAD appealed the Chief Minister of Manipur Mr. N Biren Singh to release the Journalist Mr. Kishorchandra Wangkhem without delayed and we also give solidarity to the two untimely demise souls and the unfortunate children who left behind by their father.

Union Cabinet approves amendment to POC SO Act

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 29,

Union Cabinet has approved amendments to the POC SO Act to make punishment more stringent for committing sexual crimes against children.

To discourage the trend of child sexual abuse by acting as a deterrent, Section-4, Section-5 and Section-6 are proposed to be amended to provide the option of stringent punishment, including the death penalty, for committing aggravated penetrative sexual assault crime on a child.

The amendments are also proposed in section-9 to protect children from sexual offences in times of natural calamities and disasters. The amendment is expected to discourage the trend of child sexual abuse by acting as a deterrent due to strong penal provisions incorporated in the Act. It may protect the interest of vulnerable children in times of distress and ensure their safety and dignity.

The amendment aims to establish clarity regarding the aspects of child abuse and punishment.

Cabinet has approved setting up of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill,

2018 which seeks to replace the existing regulator Central Council for Indian Medicine with a new body to ensure transparency.

The draft bill provides for the constitution of a National Commission with four autonomous boards entrusted with conducting overall education of Ayurveda under the board of Ayurveda and Unani, Siddha and Sowaigpa under the board of Unani, Siddha and Sowaigpa.

It also proposes a common entrance exam and exit exam, which all graduates have to clear to get practising licenses. Cabinet has also approved setting up of the National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill, 2018 which seeks to replace the existing regulator Central Council for Homoeopathy with a new body to ensure transparency.

The draft Bill provides for the construction of a National Commission with three autonomous boards entrusted with conducting overall education of homoeopathy by Homoeopathy Education Board.

The government has also given its nod to Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 2018.

BSF distributes Solar Street Lights to villagers



IT News
Imphal, Dec 29,

182 Bn BSF under the overall guidance of Shri N. Diaho Mao Commandant of the Battalion distributed solar street lights to the villagers/clubs/local organizations of Nongdam Laikoching and Oksu-

Ningthemchakul village under Lamai PS of Imphal East District.

During the distribution function today, the 29th Dec, 2018, Shri Thokchom Binot Singh, Officiating Commandant of the unit interacted with the villagers and a total of 06 sets of solar lights were distributed to the

villagers. Officiating Commandant also assured to carry out many more such good works in future also. Local public appreciated this good gesture of BSF in a press note released by Shri A. Sasikanta Singh, Deputy Commandant OF 182 Bn BSF, Koirengai, Imphal East.

Assam rifles celebrates christmas in chakpikarong Sub-division

IT News
Imphal, Dec 29,

Kakching Battalion of 28 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) celebrated Christmas with local people of Chakpikarong sub-division with great pomp and splendour. Company Operating Base of Salluk reached

out to all the villages of Chakpikarong sub-division during Christmas celebration. Gifts and sports items were distributed to various villagers and a friendly volley ball match was also organised between Salluk Company and Chakpikarong sub-division team at Tampi

village. The match was witnessed by the locals of various villages, sports being a major event of Christmas celebration. The local people acknowledged the efforts of Assam Rifles and promised that this cohesiveness and bonding will continue to strengthen in future as well.

Contd. from page 2

The Lion of Manipur

The Manipur monarchy was suspicious of the land hunger of the imperial power and their meticulous insistence on sheer graphic knowledge of the hills, mountains and rivers, their hunger of conquest of routes, villages and ethnic settlements to ensure security and safety to the future health of the empire, their postures and manners of their military officials towards the native aristocracy of Manipur became indeed sour notes in the relationship between the powerful empire and their officials with the elder warrior statesmen of Manipur. Though in the later stages of Maharajah Chandrakirti's rule in 1870s, most of the warrior tribes like the Angamis and the Lushais were being pacified through force of arms as well as renewed pledges of trust and ritual. Even though in 1874, there was a historic moment of British and Manipur friendship through the famous meeting with Lord Northbrook by Maharajah Chandrakirti over a yacht on the Barak river at Cachar, the latter days were not healthy days for Manipur-British relations. A political agent like James Johnstone could utilize the service of the Manipur Army for his pacification of the Angamis in 1878, as well as help in the final conquest of Burma in 1885, it could be noticed that the martial energy of the Manipur army and the service of men like Thangal, Balram and Col. Shamu Singh were utilised to suppress dissident tribal communities, clear jungles and routes for the imperial army for the ultimate conquest of Burma, and the last few years in the life of Maharajah

Chandrakirti Singh, the services of the native army were maximally utilized for the sheer cause of the British empire without any substantial returns for the cause of the state. The enormous tribal migrations from Burma to Manipur in latter periods of the 19th century were sympathetically settled in the southern and south western hills of Manipur. The suppression of the Angamis in 1878 by the Manipur army by Major Thangal and Major Shamu were accompanied by the eldest son of Maharajah Chandrakirti, Surchandra Singh, the Yubaraj of the state. Tikendrajit himself participated in this expedition. James Johnstone was no admirer of the young talent in the princes of the royal family. His concerns for British subjects in Manipur at the expense of the native sons of the soil were matters of cultural and demographic related tensions and the silent activities of companies like the Bombay-Burma Trading Co-operation in their extensive exploitation of timber and other forest resources of Burma, and their deals for connectivity and profit making concerns became matters of deep suspicion by the patriotic native elite. They encouraged surveillance over the activities of these British subjects. The sense of cultural difference developing under the practical processes of empire making, the frictions in boundary issues and difference of British Indian subjects, their culture and economic practices with those of the natives were conflictual in the freshly expanding networks in human movements, migrations and flows of goods and services, which the traditional Manipur nobility experienced as irritable

and disturbing of their cherished equilibrium of life. The quantum of Manipur activity in connection with movement of soldiers and suppression of tribal disturbances in Manipur's eastern frontiers which were necessitated by British requests for help in arms and logistics, which were not considered difficult in the heydays of Manipur independence were felt to be wearisome and suspicious in the latter periods of Maharajah Chandrakirti's life. Rebellions amidst clan aspirants for the Manipur throne were too not infrequent, and immediately after the death of the king in 1886, his eldest son Surchandra had to suppress the rising of Sana Borachaoba, and Tikendrajit took a prominent part in suppressing the rebellion. Tikendrajit's post in the new hierarchy rose, and he was made the Senapati or Commander of the army when Surchandra reigned (1886-1890).

Contemporary historians of Manipur did not ponder the reality of the British occupation of the entire sub-continent of Burma through Manipur support in 1885 and its impact on the nature of British relations with native states in South Asia. It must be mentioned that the post 1885 British conquest of Burma and the fall of the Konbaung dynasty had its impact on the defeated psyche of the Burmese patriots and there were furious resistances in upper Burma for nearly four years, and the British took harsh measures to quell them. The Burmese insurgency after the annexation of Burma lasted till 1890, and the British took severe measures like massacres, hangings of leaders of

the rebellion in the roadsides, and women and children were not spared. The insurgents too murdered Scottish doctors, the hanging of the rebels on the roadsides did not receive international attention, but it became a scandal at the end of Anglo-Manipur war through the sacrifice of Tikendrajit and his freedom fighters.

A British captain wrote a poem on the hangings in post-annexation Burma and its message was very clear.

*Under a spreading mango tree
A Burmese Chieftain stands
His hour has come; a captive he
Within the conqueror's hands
And they fasten around his sturdy neck
A noose of hempen strands.
Under a spreading mango tree
A lifeless body swings
Though bound its limbs a soul is free
And spreads on joyful wings
To solve the perplexing mysteries of
Ten Thousand hidden things.
Under a spreading mango tree
A Buddhist chapel stands,
Where children pray on bended knee.
Amidst the smirking sands.
That the seeds of Western culture may
Take root in eastern lands!*

(Quoted by Maung Htin Aung, 1967).
(.....to be contd.)