

Editorial

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Publicity doing good but Garbage filth continue to haunt Imphalites

Swaach Bharat Mission, which was launched with great enthusiasm by the Prime Minister of India, is fading away without doing much good when it comes to the state of Manipur. When it comes about the matter of cleanliness no one including the common people and the men in the government had ever taken seriously. The "Zero Garbage Campaign" which was launched with much fanfare a few years ago had already receded from public memory. What was it all about anyway? - one can't help but wonder. What is so special about keeping one's own city clean? Isn't it a necessity? - a normal thing to be done anyway? Cleanliness is a force of habit and not a one-off act. The sheer inability to communicate between the various Government Departments when it comes to taking up public sanitation works sends one in a tizzy. Foreign funded schemes (read Imphal sewage project) have made our roads a daily nightmare to be negotiated. The Imphal Municipality- entrusted with the job of keeping the city neat and tidy has been rendered obsolete- the staffs employed embroiling themselves in agitations and protests for various issues to the point where their duties are relegated to the least important of priorities. These inefficiencies necessitated and gave rise to various private and non-governmental agencies rushing in to fill the void. Mechanized equipments and tools purchased at huge amounts for use in keeping the city clean- which were paraded in front of the public to show the Government's serious efforts and resolution on the matter turned out to just what it was- a show. What the public needs, and are waiting for right now, is a total and effective cleansing of the lethargic Government department responsible for the cleanliness of the city and start afresh in a concerted manner. The state of the waste management plant set up almost a decade ago is not known- whether it has started operation or if there is any missing work to be done to make it operational. The sooner things get going, the better off our city will be, else for all the tall claims of achievements, our efforts will go down the drain- amongst the ever increasing pile of waste. For now it is zero in garbage management.

As we gear up to meet the challenges staring everyone in the face with the rapidly increasing pace of development and industrialization, one glaring lapse that hits us in the face- in the nose to be more precise- is the sight, and worse- the smell that assaults one's senses as we walk through the crowded heart of the city. The plight in the suburbs and in the villages isn't any better. All the upcoming infrastructures and glittering paints cannot stop anyone from cringing their nose at the all permeating stench that assaults through the whole of the city.

Indians are an unhappy lot, but Pakistanis get more joyful: UN report

Agency
New Delhi, March 15: Indians, it appears, are getting unhappier by the year, while their not-so-well-off neighbours in Pakistan are becoming more joyful, shows the latest United Nations ranking of the world's happiest countries. India, which dropped four places in the 2017 World Happiness Report, fell a further 11 places in the 2018 report. It now ranks a low 133 on the list of 156 countries monitored by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Solutions Network for its annual 'joy' report. By comparison, terror-ravaged Pakistan, which was already 'happier' than India in the 2017 rankings, is shown as being even happier in the 2018 rankings. It's on number 75, up five spots from last year. Not just Pakistan, all of India's immediate neighbours are more

joyful than Indians, despite many of them not being nearly as well-off economically or even socially. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka are all ahead of India in the Happiness rankings. Even state-controlled China is happier than India. The World Happiness Report published yesterday put Finland at the top among 156 countries ranked by happiness levels, based on factors such as life expectancy, social support and corruption. What explains Finland being happiest despite it getting little sun and despite its frigid temperatures? "Well, our politics and our economics. I think the basics are quite good in Finland. So, yes, we have the perfect circumstances to have a happy life here in Finland," said Sofia Holm, a 24-year-old resident of Helsinki, the Nordic country's capital, to the Associated Press.

PLEASE DO NOT BECOME SLAVES TO ANY HOLY BOOKS

Please kindly read the message and not the messenger

Vice is easily learnt without a master.

Whereas virtue requires a tutor. Good habits are difficult to acquire but easy to live with.

Bad habits are easy to engrave but difficult to live with.

Therefore mere book knowledge without common sense and understanding is of no use to overcome our problems.

There was once a man who formed a religious cult and people regarded him as a very learned person. He had a few followers who recorded his instructions in a book. Over the years the book became voluminous with all sorts of instructions recorded therein. The followers were advised not to do anything without first consulting the holy books.

However the followers went and whatever they did, they would consult the book which served as the manual in guiding their lives. One day when the leader was crossing a timber bridge, he fell into the river. The followers were with him but none of them knew what to do under the circumstances. So they consulted the book.

'Help! Help!' The Master shouted, 'I can't swim'

'Please wait a while Master. Please don't get drowned, they pleaded. 'We are still searching in our holy book. There must be an instruction on what to do if you fell off from a wooden bridge into a river.'

While they were thus turning over the pages of the holy book in order to find out what to do if you fell off from a wooden bridge into the river.'

While they were thus turning over the pages of the holy books in order to find out the appropriate instruction, the teacher disappeared in the water and drowned.

The important message of the story is that we should not take the enlightened approach and not slavishly follow outdated conservative ideas, nor resort to any holy books without using our coming sense. One the face of changing circumstances, new discoveries and knowledge, we must learn to adapt ourselves accordingly and respond to them by using them for the benefit of everybody.

The Buddha said: 'When the ruler of a country is just

and good, the ministers will become just and good. When the ministers are just and good, the higher officials will become just and good, the rank and file will become just and good. When the rank and file are just and good, the people will become just and good..

CONCLUSION:

Morality is the first step in the path towards eternal bliss. It is basic spiritual foundation. Without this base, there can be no progress and spiritual advancement. Even worse is a person without virtue for he or she not only endangers himself or herself but also others around him or her. After establishing the moral foundation, a person can proceed to develop his or her mind and wisdom. This practice will lead him or her from lower level to the progressively higher levels of mental development, and finally, to the summit of all attainments - Enlightenment.

Mere learning is no avail without actual practice. There is a great need for the teaching of virtue by precepts and examples. According to the Buddha, the learned man who does not practice the Dharma is like a colourful flower without scent.



By Sanjoo Thangjam

There is a great need for the teachings of virtue by precepts and examples, as shown by the Master himself who served humanity with great compassion. The moral and philosophical teachings of the Buddha are to be studied and practiced and above all, to be realised. Therefore mere book knowledge without common sense and understanding is of no use to overcome our problems. (The writer is a lay Buddhist & Human Rights Activist of People Who Use Drugs (PUDs))

More State News

Is Assam Rifles given duty of frisking all persons passing through Imphal Moreh Road? : K. Bhabananda Singh

New Delhi, March 15: On frequent frisking of passengers by Assam Rifles along Imphal Moreh Road near Khudenthabi, the Member of Parliament K. Bhabananda Singh in the Rajya Sabha raised the question whether Assam Rifles has been given duty of frisking all persons passing through Imphal Moreh road including common man, patients, tourists, and others both national and international yesterday.

He also stated that this has gravely caused inconvenience to common people and negatively impacted connectivity, business and Act East Policy. Large number of vehicles and people including women wait in queues to be frisked by Assam

Rifles on Imphal Moreh road, which has fuelled unhealthy relation between people and security forces.

K. Bhabananda Singh asked the details of actions of the Government which proposes to better unwanted situation at highway connecting ASEAN countries.

Replying to his question listed as unstarred question in the Rajya Sabha today, Union Minister of State of Home Affairs Shri Kiren Rijju replied that Assam Rifles has been assigned the duty of frisking persons passing through Imphal Moreh road to prevent smuggling of war like stores and contraband items. During checking by Assam Rifles, since January, 2016,

recoveries worth Rs.69 crores have been made, including of gold, contraband / drugs, wildlife / forests products and weapons.

The Union Minister further stated that the frisking does cause some inconvenience to people when the volume of traffic is very large. There is no impact of checking on connectivity, business and 'Act East Policy'.

He expressed that heavy volume of traffic leads to long queues of persons and vehicles. However, cases like medical emergency, movement of families etc. are being given requisite priority. Common people are regularly sensitized about necessity of frisking and

checking in the light of prevailing security situation of the state. Healthy relations exist between the Security Forces and local citizens.

To ease the situation, plans are already in place to install modern scanning equipment at the Vehicle Check Post at Khudenthabi. Stores worth Rs.12 crore have been procured by Assam Rifles for quick scanning of vehicles, cargo and human beings. Provision of land is being worked out by all state holders, namely State Government, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), the Union Minister added.

National & International News

Telangana man identified as third terrorist killed in Anantnag encounter

Agency

Hyderabad, March 15: A 26-year-old man hailing from Telangana has been identified as the third terrorist killed in an encounter with security forces in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on March 12, the police said on Wednesday. He was allegedly radicalized into the ideology of terrorist group ISIS.

"It is learnt that MD Toufeeq, a native of Manguru died in an encounter with security forces on the intervening night of March 11-

12 in Hakura area of Anantnag district along with two other Kashmir militants," the release from Telangana police said.

The three terrorists were killed by security forces following an encounter that started late on March 11 and carried on till pre-dawn of the next day. Schools and colleges in the area were closed as a precautionary measure. Two of the terrorists were identified as Eesa

Fazli of Soura in Srinagar and Syed Owais of Kokernag in south Kashmir, while the police at the time had said the identity of the third terrorist was being ascertained. Toufeeq, according to the police statement, was radicalized into the ISIS ideology through social media and went to Kashmir to participate in the group's terrorist activities. The police said that Toufeeq was not wanted in any criminal cases in

Telangana although all details were being verified.

The police had launched a search operation based on information about the presence of terrorists in Anantnag's Hakoora area. "While the search was on, the hiding militants fired upon the party ensuing an encounter during which three militants were killed," they had added. AF 47 rifles, pistols and hand grenades were recovered after the encounter and no collateral damage was reported.

Taliban suicide attack near Nawaz Sharif's residence kills 9

Agency

Lahore, March 15: A teenaged Taliban suicide bomber attacked a police check-post near the residence of Pakistan's ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif in Lahore, killing nine people, including five policemen, police said.

According to rescue officials, the blast took place last night close to a police check post, a few kilometers from the palatial residence of the Sharif family, and next to the congregation of the Tableeghi Jamaat centre.

"Five policemen - two inspectors and three constables - are among nine persons killed in the blast," Rescue 1122 spokesman Jam Sajjad told PTI.

Around 14 policemen are among 25 injured. The condition of four policemen is stated to be critical,

Sajjad said. The Rescue ambulances have shifted the injured to the Sharif medical complex and other nearby hospitals.

Inspector General Police Punjab Arif Nawaz confirmed that the blast was a suicide attack carried out by a teenaged boy who blew himself up near the checkpost.

Deputy Inspector General Police Lahore Dr Haider Ashraf said: "A teenaged boy blew himself up at the check post set up close to the Tableeghi centre where at least 14 or so cops were present".

However, he did not give the exact age of the boy. He said the "police personnel" were the target of the blast. "The condition of some policemen is critical," he said. "The body parts of the bomber have also been recovered," the officer

said. It was such a powerful blast that its sound was heard several kilometers from the site. A fire ball was seen after the blast at the Nisar Police Check Post.

Abid Hussain, an injured constable, told journalists that he had been deputed at the entry point of the check-post to frisk those passing through the area.

"I saw a young boy who was trying to enter (the venue) and as soon as my colleague stopped him, I heard a powerful blast," Hussain said, adding that he had lost consciousness after that and came to later at a hospital. Some reports said the Tahreek-i-Taliban Pakistan has claimed the responsibility of the blast and the banned outfit has threatened more attacks on police. The suicide attack took place a week

before the semi-finals of the Pakistan Super League in Lahore.

"The PSL semi-finals will be held in Lahore as per schedule as we have made all security arrangements in this regard," Ashraf said.

Pakistan Rangers quick response force has reached the spot and cordoned off the area along with the police.

President Mamnoon Hussain condemned the attack, saying such cowardly acts could not deter the government's resolve to fight terrorism.

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif sought a report from the IGP and vowed to take the terrorists and their facilitators to task.

This is the first explosion targeting the provincial capital in 2018. Lahore experienced multiple terror attacks in 2017 that killed more than 60 people.

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