

Editorial

Monday, October 29, 2018

Our expectation from the government

Notwithstanding the plethora of development measures being taken up by the State Government aimed at improving the quality of life of its residents, the sense of satisfaction and achievement has been lacking in everything that has happened here in the collective minds of the majority of the population. A slew of promises have also been made on an increasing frequency, the ultimate fate of which has not yet been ascertained. The trend is not one of recent origin. Successive parties and Governments, without any exception, have carried out the same modus operandi of garnering votes and ditching the promises made afterwards. The question here is not how much the Government has done for its people, as it is a given that the Government is there for the very purpose of providing governance, utilizing the resources at its disposal for the betterment of its people.

A more important and pressing question pertains to the manner in which the precious resources at the disposal of the State Government are being utilized to maximize the rate of development and progress. It is no secret that the heads of state, entrusted with the task of overseeing and regulating the development of the state as a whole, has been playing hide and seek with their responsibilities while utilizing more than their fair share of the rights. They have evidently lost their connection with the real world, cocooned inside their own safety arrangements.

The everyday travails of the common man being a thing of make belief. The ever increasing congestion and traffic snarls being faced by the common man does not concern them, as their way has been cleared and guarded by their cronies and security guards and insulated from the grime and dirt, not to mention the deafening sound of vehicles jostling for space in the narrow roads on which shoddy repair works have been carried out in fits and starts. The inconvenience is compounded by the perennially flashing orange lights along every intersections and junctions, serving nothing in particular. The everyday ordeal does not end when an ordinary person reaches home after a hard day. Greeted with a dark and chilly welcome, the wait for one's quota of electricity becomes an all consuming obsession for those who are not fortunate enough to have the right influence or the means to afford a VIP line. And the whole cycle starts from the very moment one wakes up, with the efforts to collect the precious water which the PHED so generously provides every other day for a few minutes, the quality of which is better left unsaid. And these inconveniences are for the city dwellers. Imagine the plight of those who could only dream of being in such a place as Imphal. Without going into the details of the deficits the government has so prominently and frequently vocalized, it should be made clear that the most important thing lacking with the present government is the political will to make things happen. Providing clean water, adequate and fair distribution of available power to the people and upgradation of road and other basic infrastructures does not call for someone with qualifications of a rocket scientist.

More than anything, a proactive and transparent approach with a genuine concern for the betterment of the common man will work wonders in making a visible and positive change. That will be the greatest gift the government can give its embittered people.

Mark sheet Lost

I, the undersigned, Takhenchangbam Shadishkanta Sharma, have lost my original mark sheet for my class XII examination conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur bearing Roll No. 3365 of 2014 on the way between DM College of Arts and Bamon Leikai on October 10, 2018.

Finders are requested to hand over to the undersigned.

Sd/-

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The world's largest democracy is a lie when it occupies Manipur and Kashmir nations through its military might - MSAD

IT News
Imphal, Oct 29,

Manipuri Students Association Delhi (MSAD) in a statement said that the terming of India's democracy as the world largest democracy is a lie as long as the country forcibly occupied Kashmir and Manipur through its military might.

A statement of the students' body said that 27 October, marks the day the Indian military forces landed in the valley of Kashmir. 70 years on the run, the political conflict remains one of the world's deadliest. The purpose of the military presence is more than relevant today to those occupying the Kashmiri nation. They have already succeeded in killing more than 30 people even when this month is not over yet. Few days back 10 people were massacred on a single day by this brutal men in uniform. Of the total killed 3 were teenage students who were chasing a bright future. As we sit, write and circulate this message to the people someone is being killed somewhere in the occupied territory

of Kashmir. There seems to be no expiration to this military crush on the entire population.

What is the most disheartening of all is the utter silence of the so called progressive intellectuals of this nation. Even the upper caste Hindu left liberal students and academicians in the Indian universities have become an audible voice when it comes to the task of countering Rightwing BJP policies. Recently the BJP government came up with a plan to remove textbooks of Dalit writer Kanchallaiah from the syllabus of Delhi University and to remove the word "Dalit" from academic discourse. But one thing is for sure - they have removed long time ago the phrase "Kashmiris' Right to Self-determination." So much of their critical and vibrant space of political discourse.

The Indian progressive left should be left to their comfort cocoon when it comes to the aspiration and interest of the Kashmiris. The only time they make themselves visible as an evening star is when they are in the task of "appropriation" of everything that has to do with

Kashmiri resistance; the likes of the so called revolutionary students leaders Kanheya Kumar and Shehla Rashid are the frontrunners in this progressive competition. Looked at from a different vantage point they represent the more vicious force than the Indian right. The narratives and politics of Kashmir that is made to reach the "mainstream" through this left liberal crowd are always the bastardized voices of Kashmir's reality.

India was a signatory to the International Bill of Human Rights which the United Nations adopted in 1976. It gives legal form to the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1948. Thus, India's hypocrisy stands exposed and more so of the Indian liberals who stand for all forms of peoples' right in India but are dead silent when it comes to Manipur and Kashmir.

Nearly 70,000 people have been killed in the Kashmir-India conflict which is one of the longest and

deadliest conflict in modern history. India maintains roughly 5,00,000 soldiers to keep the dispute at its favour. Pakistan remains the favourite punching bag of India when it comes to the topic of Kashmir, but it is only Kashmiris who are blinded and killed by their pellets and bullets. All this takes place right under the benevolent watch of the Indian constitution, a constitution that gives fundamental rights to all humans that is "Indian," but is instantly suspended to the Kashmiri subject population.

The world's largest democracy is a lie when it occupies Manipur and Kashmir nations through its military might; when Kashmir and Manipur are two of the most militarized zones on earth, when Manipur University has a permanent military camp inside the campus - the only one of its kind in the world. The absence of morality and humanity cannot be invisibilized by arming itself with more and more nuclear weapons. India cannot silence a nation, nor can it annihilate the desire for justice and freedom.

Regional SARAS fair at iboyaima sumanglila shanglen from 30th October to 8th November, 2018

DIPR
Imphal Oct 29,

Manipur State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MSRLM) is organizing Regional SARAS fair from 30th October to 8th November 2018 to 8th November at Iboiyaima Sumanglila Shanglen, palace compound, Imphal.

The main objective of the SARAS Fair is to provide a platform for rural poor families to showcase and sell products made out of their talent/skills and encourage them for incremental production through organized groups as Self Help Group (SHGs). The fair is aimed to

emphasis more on their sustainable livelihoods through group and for which this SARAS fair is an avenue to showcase and sell products to enhance sustainable means of livelihoods by attracting the general market and bulk buyers.

RD & PR Minister Th. Biswajit Singh, MLAs, Joint Secretary, MoRD, Govt of India Alka Upadhyay, Additional Chief Secretary, RD & PR M.H Khan, Deputy Commissioner, Imphal East Chitra Devi, State Mission Director, MSRLM Yumnam Robita and other officials will be gracing the inaugural function of the Regional SARAS Fair, 2018.

Arrested for Sabarimala remark, Rahul Easwar was earlier in news for supporting Hadiya

Agency
New Delhi Oct 29,

Even before the Supreme Court delivered a landmark judgement overturning the ban on women of menstruating age from entering the famed Sabarimala Temple, right-wing activist Rahul Easwar persistently defended the ban, and later spearheaded protests against the verdict, blocking it from being implemented.

Days after protests against the verdict, Easwar was arrested under Section 153 (Wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). He is now out on bail.

Easwar belongs to the Thazhiamon family of Sabarimala tantris (priests) and was among those who spearheaded

the protests in Sabarimala. As the president of the 'Ayyappa Dharma Sena', Easwar had said they had a contingency plan to force the closure of the temple by spilling blood on its premises by some devotees in case any woman in the 'barred' age group managed to reach it.

Read | Sabarimala row: Activist Rahul Easwar arrested for 'ready to spill blood' remark

An alumnus of the London School of Economics, Easwar has appeared often on TV debates as a panelist, most recently to defend the ban on women between the age of 10-50 on entering the Sabarimala Temple in Kerala.

On social media, he describes himself as "Gandhian, Centre Right, Pro-Hindu, Pro-Christian, Pro-Muslim; Pro-INDIA, Proud Hindu".

How rhino project, group of former poachers revived Assam forest

Agency
Barpeta (assam) Oct 29,

IN THE 1990s, Budheswar Boro was a "poacher" at the Manas National Park (MNP), a UNESCO World Heritage Site forest stretching across 850-sq km on the Indo-Bhutan border in Assam. He lost his right hand in 1998 after an injured wild boar, which he had shot at, charged back at him.

Boro, 48, still carries a rifle and spends the day in the forest - but as a "conservation volunteer". He is a member of the NGO Manas Maozigendri Ecotourism Society (MMES) and, along with three other former poachers, assists an official forest guard in keeping vigil inside the MNP.

For Boro, and scores of rehabilitated former poachers like him, every step towards redeveloping the MNP is a significant achievement - for instance, on October 5, authorities at the MNP announced the birth of the 37th rhino in the park.

The birth is significant at Manas, which was ravaged by insurgency and political instability in the 1990s, plummeting the population of one-horned rhinoceros to zero in 2002, from around 100 before

2000.

This revival at MNP, which falls in the Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD) - is the result of a rhino translocation process that started a decade back and an effective community engagement programme that has seen scores of former poachers, like Boro, turn into conservation activists.

The 37th rhino was born to Rhino No. 6 - translocated from Pobitora on January 18, 2011 - of Bhuyanpara Range of the National Park. It was Rhino No. 6's third calf - one in 2013 and another in 2015. According to government data, six rhino calves were born in the MNP in 2017-18.

"The MNP is recovering what it had lost. Along with rhino population, tiger count is also on its way up. Currently, there are around 30 tigers (up from 20 in 2013-14) and 1,000 elephants at Manas. Last two years, there has been no poaching of rhino, elephant or tiger," says Hiranya Sarma, field director, MNP.

"The backbone of this revival has been the support from the community and the better law and order situation. There are at least six NGOs, comprising 135 conservation volunteers, many of

whom are former poachers who help the forest department in maintaining the park," says Sarma. The MNP has been the home of several rare and endangered species, including tigers, rhinos, swamp deers, and different species of birds. The MNP borders Bhutan on the north, and the forest stretches into the neighbouring country for over 1,000 square km. During the animal census, data by India and Bhutan is cross-checked and "trans-boundary" animals are indicated.

"With the formation of Bodoland Territorial Council (in 2003), student leaders of the All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) made us understand that this was our forest and we would be benefited if we protect and develop it," says ex-poacher Boro.

Kalicharan Basumatary, president of MMES, says the organisation was formed in 2003 and has 49 active conservation volunteers of which at least 10 are former "hardcore poachers" and a few illegal loggers.

"The most devastating period for the MNP was in the 1990s when political instability, militancy and disorder in administration in the region had led to a complete drop

in forest protection and conservation measures. Moreover, there was rampant corruption. Once a political solution was reached, efforts were taken to make the community understand the value of the MNP," says Basumatary, a former activist of ABSU.

"Members of the ABSU reached out to people and made them aware of the importance of the forest. People who were into poaching surrendered and at least 80 guns were deposited to officials soon after," he says.

"Manas is on its way to recovery and fast regaining lost glory," says a spokesperson of Assam's Forest and Environment Ministry.

"The process was to keep the rhinos in different places to reduce the chances of natural calamities wiping out a single population. Manas has a good grassland habitat and since the overall protection scenario has increased, putting rhinos back to Manas and other such areas in Assam was felt necessary," says Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, a member of Rhino Task Force formed by Assam in 2005 to give effect to Indian Rhino Vision 2020, and a member of the "Translocation Core Committee".