

Editorial

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

A thought on Khomgjom Day

The people of the state today paid fitting tribute to the martyrs who had sacrificed their life fighting to safeguarding the freedom of the erstwhile kingdom at the battlefield of Khomgjom in 1891. The courage and spirit of our ancestors is worth remembering and paying tribute to those martyrs is our pride to prove the world that we the Manipuri were courageous, hardworking people who had always wanted to live life with dignity. It is a known fact that, our ancestors of that time knows well that there was no possibility of winning the war against the huge army of the British Empire, but they still fought knowing that they will defeat in that war. Those ancestors like PaonaBrajabashi, BirTikendrajit and other unknown soldiers of the erstwhile kingdom would certainly dream of a nation at which people from across the world have great respect.

Points wanted to make here is that, have we paid enough respect to our ancestors who had sacrificed for the cause of the nation's freedom. The state of Manipur at present is in the most shameful state. The so called leaders of the present state and those who had been elected with thousands of hopes have been completely depending to the money sanction from the central government for running the state. A change in the government at the centre gives so much worried to the state government that sometimes it gives all its effort to go with them using any means. Lack of sincerity among those in the government has always been a matter of reality that the present day people face.

Unfulfilled promises, threats to the free speech, threats to the existence of indigenous people VIP culture are what the people are experiencing today.

The greatest tragedy of our state is that nothing seems to move until and unless extreme measures are resorted to: be it implementing rules of law or conveying the aspirations and needs of the public. Add to it the fact that we, as a collective, have yet to realize the undeniable truth that the centre is evidently more concerned with preserving its national territory rather than improving the welfare of its citizens when it comes to affairs of the north east region of the country, in effect, reducing the importance of the region to that of a mere geographical entity.

The peculiarity of the situations confronting Manipur: from its geopolitical to socio-economic conditions needs to be tackled in ways that involves innovative and unorthodox methods. This calls for a more alert, swifter and sterner government capable of dispensing its plans and proposals more smoothly and effectively. The frustrations being felt by the public for a long time now need to be addressed. Every aspect of public life and governance has been beset with corruptions, controversies, scandals, accusations of favoritism, despotism and cronyism. The sooner the present guardians of the state admit to the allegations and own up to such aberrations, the sooner it can address and rectify itself. Bringing in a system of governance that takes into confidence its people and their needs rather than dispensing administration by tweaking the system to suit its every whim will eventually prove to be the spark that lit up the fire of frustrations trampled expectations.

People faced draught in non-rainy season and flood during rainy season. The drainage system constructed in and around Imphal city by spending huge amount of many do not serve its purpose. And every one of us knows that these moneys meant for construction of the public properties are hijacked by people who are near and dear ones with those in the government.

This situation is not what our ancestors had wanted. They might now feel shame of what we are no. A simple offering of floral tribute is really not enough to pay respect to our ancestors, we need to build a strong state if we really wanted a fitting tribute to our leaders.

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The Chowkidar May Not Be A Chor

By -Devanoora Mahadeva
Courtesy: The Wire

The phrase 'Minimum Government Maximum Governance' feels like the magical deer of today's globalisation. Prime Minister Modi says "Our government will work like a facilitator. Its focus will be on minimum government maximum governance". He proclaims, "I believe government has no business to do business."

These words sound enticing. Within the depths of these words lies a frightening underworld; where business deals of the underworld unfold. Consider an example for this: there was a protest movement against the privatisation of BEML in Mysore in May 2017. BEML, under the Ministry of Defence, has units in Bangalore, KGF and Mysore in Karnataka and in Palakkad in Kerala. This business enterprise has consistently been profit making. The units of BEML hold about 4500 acres of land collectively. The market price of this would be more than lakhs of crores. It also holds the distinction of competing in the global markets and procuring orders.

It was with the ploy of handing over a public sector enterprise to a private company that the central government was in negotiations to transfer 26% of its 54% shares to a favoured businessman. When BEML workers were on sit down strikes and protest marches against the conspiracy to privatise it, I was paying attention to public opinion. "The factory must be in loss. They must be shutting down the factory. The workers are making a noise because they would lose their jobs" – this was the opinion of several people. I didn't find a single person who thought that the workers were fighting to keep public wealth in the hands of the public. People don't think of public wealth as their own. I think this is where the tragedy of India lies.

Ever since the beginning of liberalisation, the process of transferring public wealth into the hands of the private sector has been going on. It has multiplied manifold under Modi's governance. Modi, without any shame, has been offering public wealth at the feet of the private companies. He has been projecting this as courage.



His talk and gestures sound and look like the talk and gestures of someone who is an auctioneer. It might be good here to remember the folk idiom that says it is the fool who has the most courage. If he had been mindful of this fact, then he may have avoided being the cause of the deaths of hundreds of people due to demonetisation and unemployment. One cannot expect anything from the man who thunders so much.

In order to transfer public wealth to private companies, a 'department of disinvestment' was brought into being during Vajpayee's government. In order to make the process easier, a separate Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment (CCD) was created. Later when Modi came into power in 2014, the Planning Commission was dispensed with and the NITI Aayog was brought into being. Its main work – to sell central public sector enterprises or to take back government shares in such companies. This NITI Aayog is geared up to deposit over 76 publicly owned companies at the feet of the private companies. It has hired Reliance Mutual Fund managers in order to fulfil this process of privatisation as soon as possible. Now the government has taken the very life out of its own BSNL company by strangulating it and is now making preparations to hand it over to a private company.

This is the same plight that awaits the railways. There is also the fear that the jaws of privatisation will lock around not just forests but rivers too.

What do we call a son who runs his house by selling off the properties that his ancestors had built and saved with such great difficulty? We call him a prodigal spendthrift or a degenerate. Similarly what should we call the one who runs the country by selling off what our ancestors have protected up until now?

But the Prime Minister does not think of himself as a degenerate or a prodigal spendthrift. He thinks of selling the country's wealth as a beautiful dream. This is what he understands as minimum government maximum governance. Democratic government is definitely becoming a minimum. But the governance of corporatocracy is becoming maximum. 70% of the country's wealth is in the hands of 1% of the people. As a result of this, the Election Commission, courts, media etc – in fact all the sectors – are losing their real character, their autonomy. If this is the case, will the election process be just? And democracy?

When this is so, the prime minister of a minimum democratic government is calling himself a chowkidar with pride. Rahul Gandhi says the 'chowkidar is a chor'. The

chowkidar may not be a chor. He could be the real chowkidar too. But for whom? What if a democratic prime minister becomes the chowkidar of corporatocracy? What if a visionless, prodigal landowner sells off his property for the maintenance of his family to a rich person and ends up becoming the chowkidar of the rich person's house? That watchman, in order to keep his job, will have to become complicit in all the master's underworld dealings. Is there a difference between that chowkidar and this chowkidar? It is deeply troubling to imagine the prime minister of a democracy becoming a chowkidar keeping watch over the wealth of a corporatocracy.

The very same individual who has been selling the country's wealth is being systematically publicised in Karnataka as "Deshakkaagi Modi", or "Modi for the country". A lot of naive people have also started saying "Modi for the country" with conviction. It is painful to see an innocent public regard the very man who is selling the country's wealth as "Modi for the country". In India, with faith, even an inanimate stone behaves like a God. Lots of people had great faith that Modi would be their saviour. But this living, breathing man has turned to stone. This should not have happened. This should not.

(***Devanoora Mahadeva is a Kannada writer who has been conferred with both the Padma Shri as well as the Sahitya Academy award. He returned both in protest against the growing intolerance in the country. A public intellectual and Dalit activist he has been a guiding force for various social movements within the State and the country***)

5 key strategies to prepare yourself for CLAT 2019

By : Mr. Amandeep Rajgotra,
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Law as a profession is in great demand now a days, it is because of dynamic social and economic circumstances in the country. It is one of the favorite career options among youngsters as it is neutral to all the streams (Commerce, Science, and Humanities). Lawyers hold great esteem in the society as when everything which fails, the last hope for citizens is the legal system. In India, it is a dream of every Law Aspirant to crack the Common entrance law Test. This year CLAT 2019 will be conducted on 26th May 2019 in offline mode. Apart from being financially lucrative, Law is an adventurous and competitive field. Degree in law brings great career opportunities and respect in society. National Law University is an independent body which regulates and overlooks the national level law entrance exam. This year NLU

Cuttack, Odisha will host the entrance exam. It is not going to be an easy task to secure a seat in NLU's located at various cities of the country. CLAT need focused and dedicated efforts and the right strategy. Being a lawyer adds an advantage as in the worst conditions like the recession, a lawyer will be the least affected one as same in case of doctors.

An Aspiring law student must make a clear strategy for last one month to get success in such a competitive entrance exam like CLAT. Some of the important ones are as follow.

1. **Keep track of previous year question papers** - The CLAT is very unpredictable. The students are advised to check the previous year cut offs as it will help to focus on the most important sections of the paper. To score high in an exam like CLAT one should be thorough with the basic concepts of topics asked in the paper. It becomes all the more important to brush up the fundamentals.

2. **Time Management** - It is a major factor before appearing for an exam as the limited time will be given to complete the exam. Sometimes if a student desires to attempt all the questions then it may lead him/her nowhere because the test has negative marking too which can affect the overall score and ranking of a student.

3. **Give equal importance to each section**: All sections in the exam are important, however, a smart test taker will first attempt all the questions at which he/she is confident and will come back to ones which are lengthy and time-consuming. This strategy goes with CLAT as well, there is no sectional cut off which need to be cleared.

4. **Practice is the key for Success**: Accuracy is one thing which will decide the final result for the exam. The students must aim at least 150-200 question with 90% accuracy. Practice will boost your confidence level and to get an idea of the difficulty level of questions, just try

to solve questions from previous year question papers and sample papers.

5. **Appear for Mock Test** - to analyze your strength and weakness, the students must appear for the mock test. This will help to get comfortable with the original environment which a student will face on the D-Day. This will make you familiar with the weak and strong areas as well.

It takes a lot of hard work to prepare for entrance examinations for students along with their regular studies in schools or college. But hard work, dedication and time management are well known tips to students for perform best and achieve high scores in entrance examinations to stand themselves out among all. Important last minute tips and tricks can only benefit their one year preparation or more than that. Remember one thing in mind, cracking an entrance exam is not only about hard work but about doing your best in the examination hall. Best of luck!