



Sunday, January 20, 2019

No baab tree

By :- Dr. Nunglekpm Premi Devi

Still I remember, straight and branchy tall tree;
To those far off corner, corner of those courtyard square;
Slander as it stands, its bark so ugly and crunchy;
A homeland to chameleon variety; up and down
No naked eyes watch upon them: so quickly moved
A sucking field to bugs and moths and leaf miners;
No naked eye catches them so easily, too silently:
Green Leafy as she grows swings as she moves around;
With rhythmic gestures welcoming spring pat- pat-patter;
Oh! Its time spring her; let her wear 'phanek',
let her bloom flowers let her bear 'fruits';
she adores a piece "a piece of clothe"
She's painted and she's cherished, with all her full bloom.

Flowers and her petals scattered, as I swipe
Alluring and attracting and sizing their duties;
Buzzing and buzzing and never forgets Bee and bees;
Clustering and gathering; talking and helping;
Her scents sweeter as she grows decaying scattering;
Fallen echoing the breeze, one and ten and hundred;
She branched too strong, her leaves too green tight;
She's born with bulging eyes; round and swelling and spongy;
Amongst and between the twigs interlocking, brotherly and sisterly;
Week after week, it holds hugging tight her 'mother';
Week after week and after month; she falls that easily,
Happy I jumped; Alas! It's too scary; it's bitten and sucked out;
Never the bold ripe fruit; as it falls off
Now better the juicy one; as all open it out.

As she drops one and two no- baabs, I enjoy picking up;
Carving through hunger; cutting it pieces by pieces;
And smashing and smearing; salt and sugar and chillies;
And bowl and plates; I taste better as I prepared;
Ah! Its sour, it's deeply sour and bitter and acidic;
My tongue's so disrespectful; bitter, moody and grumpy;
Thickening and touchy and scratchy and uneasy;
'She bears no man's fruit' exclaimed my father
She's been cut down; her arms too short
Still she stands straight single, tall and weary;
Weird as she's been marked; her no-baabs thrown away;
Decaying and Rotten; a hand reaches it selected and chosen;
Her 'no-baabs' not lesser than ground ball;
A great battle to watch upon played.

The Gift

By Lise Kunkel

Gina and Billy came to dinner Saturday
Bringing pictures of our daughter:
Three weeks old, hooked to machines,
A fine hair covering her stick-like body,
Her thin arm draped across ventilator tubing.
Images of a wizened old woman
Rice paper skin over bone.
Zoe, born fifteen weeks early wild and feisty
In her aboriginal days
Revealed infinite more patience than I.
Yet sometime that first week she caught me aware
Of her tiny fingers pressed together
One hand open, palm up, the other gently fisted.
She made slow ritual movements.
Surely born to the art of magic,
She seduced me conjured a spell
So charming, I was able to meet her.
Recognition of my voice, my touch
To bend limber beyond my stretch.
I opened to her then
Finally present.
Here at home, as I cradle Zoe safe and whole,
I am aware of the spell,
A contract now between us.
These black and white images,
Placed before me, stark, enlarged
Buck against my memory.
I cannot recall that child.

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

Amidst praise and criticism, the present Government of Manipur has taken up few gigantic Missions for the welfare of people like Go To Hills, Go To Villages, CMHT etc. After these two Missions with mixed results the next Mission Go To Schools has been launched on 17th January 2019 at Yumnang Huidrom High school by the honorable Chief Minister. Regardless of what will be the result of the Mission, it's a bold & great step taken by the Government to correct the yearlong backlog in education sector in Manipur. In fact, there should be a vision, Mission and Action; otherwise nothing can be done successfully. So far we don't have any clear vision though we talk a lot about Mission. At the same time there is no clear cut action also. Unless these three key factors vision, mission & action are given equal emphasis, we will not achieve the objectives of the mission. Therefore it's necessary to consider these three points very clearly. i.e. how far we have to go for a particular destination, where do we stand now, how to & how fast we have to go. There are three D's i.e. discipline, dedication & determination. How and where these three D's are to be kept and inserted should be explained in the vision of the Mission. Now it's better to stop or eliminate the word Education, because now is the time of human capital and human resource, because

education is not the end of teaching-learning process rather it is thing to go forever. We need to rethink and observe where to put & insert the three important components for everlasting human capitals i.e. useful, relevant and lasting which we call Mission. The word model which is very often used by our CM is very important and unique. It has to come from grass-root level including model of teachers, model of students, model of schools or Institutions, so many models call role models put together we have to achieve our objectives of the mission. So it's necessary to discuss it and need to emphasize to have a clear vision, e.g. it was that in that year, it is this now and it should be like that in the time to come. So we need to emphasize what should be the useful quality of human being at that time which is the necessary relevant for tackling the contemporary issues. Therefore a clear cut vision should be kept how to build up the assets of our nation. According to this, the three D's i.e. discipline, dedication & determination needs to address properly in the mission. To address this, a team or a group is required, it may be among the teachers, may be the management or may be the government. Without this it will be useless. After achieving all these, there should be actions. Actions should be: what are the programs, how to construct the school building, how to develop ground, how to keep teachers and what about the

transport etc. Aboveall, in all the countries of the world, Education should not be isolated. Education is social output and institutional outputs. Therefore to form it we should clearly see food, health and education. It's highly necessary to go these three together. Food is very important from nutritional point of view and health. Without health, what is the meaning of education? An integrated program of food, health and education should be formulated. As of now, this integrated program is not seen in our state. As we see, these three important factors i.e. food, health & education are going in different directions of their own. But it should be brought to a concurrent point. This concurrent point will be the origin to build up the human capitals, which will produce what is call role model. The inclusion of excesses to already exist should be a part of a role model. So a good team is needed how to go about this. However there is failure in institutional parenting in any initiatives of government. In fact all the issues in Manipur are due to the failure of this institutional parenting. Government is an institute, any department is an institute, and family is also an institute. But the most important part is the government. One time intervention will never do anything, it has to go all along. There is a British saying that "Education never ends, Educationist never retired". Therefore to make a model we need to include all these components.

To use the word model, it's necessary to do something useful; otherwise there is no meaning of model. It is mentioned in the "Go To School Mission" that all the local MLAs will be the vice-chairman of school management committee. So far no school management committee in Manipur functioned properly (known by everyone). If the school management committee functions properly, we will have a good result or out puts in this regards. Therefore a proper guideline to evaluate or monitor the functions of school management committee is highly necessary. But, as of now who is looking after the functions of the school management committee is still a miracle. Head Master will do in his own way, secretary will do as he wishes and sometimes there is no guardians representatives also. Somehow there is always a hot-spot. The concept is good but how to go is the question. At the same time, it's really fearful to see the role of private sectors players in school education. They do everything as they wish like a lawless market. If we don't know public laws, private sector will never develop rather it will create problems. So it's high time to implement a powerful public law to the school management committee for their proper functioning as they are the custodians of school education. That's why people started asking what happened to the private school regulation Bill passed in Manipur State Assembly?

GST – A game-changer for India

By : Prakash Chawla

The 122nd Amendment to the Constitution will go down in India's political-economic history as a watershed, as it is about to give the country the most progressive tax reforms till date in the form of Goods and Services Tax (GST) which should make life easier for the trade and industry and more importantly reduce the cost of goods and services for the consumer, without compromising on the revenues of either the Centre or the States. In fact, the GST should lead to a tax buoyancy and push to the Gross Domestic Product between 1-1.5 per cent with clearance of the cob web of taxes. The excitement among the industry, trade and investors is justified. By a single measure, India would move up the World Bank ranking of ease of doing business by several notches. It is true the GST Bill has been pending for over a decade but the fact that the NDA Government has been able to build a wide political consensus on, what has been the most contentious issue, has conveyed a huge positive signal to the rest of the world that India enjoys a broad political support for the economic reforms, crucial for over a billion people. **What is GST?** It is a plethora indirect taxes which contribute to bulk of revenues of the states and just about half of the tax kitty of about Rs 16 lakh crore of the Central Government. While direct taxes like the personal income tax concern a small fraction of the population, the indirect taxes affect every Indian. Since the indirect taxes are on consumption, rich and poor, both have to pay the same amount.

Presently, the Constitution gives mandate to the Centre and the States to levy indirect taxes ranging from excise duty, customs, service tax, Value Added Tax or sales tax, entertainment tax, octroi, entry tax, purchase tax, luxury tax and different surcharges. Both the Centre and the States have their own official machineries to collect these taxes. But for Central excise and VAT, most of the taxes get calculated on a base which itself has been subjected to taxation at some or the other stage of manufacturing value chain. So, it is a tax on tax making goods and services rather expensive for the ultimate consumer while making life hard for the trade and industry. The most visible example of inefficiencies of the system can be seen at inter-state borders with long queues of trucks being subjected to different kind of tax inspection and payment of octroi and entry tax, blocking traffic on the highways for hours together. With the roll out of the GST, expected from April 1, 2017, all these taxes would be subsumed into a single tax for the consumer. The Centre would levy and collect Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST), and States would levy and collect the State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) on all transactions within a State. The input tax credit of CGST would be available for discharging the CGST liability on the output at each stage. Similarly, the credit of SGST paid on inputs would be allowed for paying the SGST on output. Services and goods would be subjected to taxes only on value addition at each stage, thus bringing down the overall tax burden for the consumers. **From manufacturing to destination** As against the present system

where the taxes like excise and Central sales tax are levied on manufacturing at the factory gate or on inter-state movement of goods, the GST involves taxation at the destination level. This could mean gains for the consuming state and loss for the manufacturing state. This is why the state with a good manufacturing base like Tamil Nadu was opposed to the GST and consuming states like Bihar, West Bengal and Odisha favoured the same. But, the GST Bill provides for fully compensating the losses to the states for five years. The earlier provision of additional one per cent levy for the losing states has now been done away with. **Impact on inflation** Analysts feel that in the short term, there could be some impact on prices of services which now attract an average service tax of around 14 per cent only at the Central level. However, in the case of manufactured products like automobile, the standard GST could be much lower than the combined present effect of excise and state levies. However, in the medium to long term, this should play out. On the whole, GST should be antidote to inflation and would thus be people-friendly along with trade/industry friendly. It would also bring in a lot of unorganized sector of the economy within the mainstream. **GST Rate** There would be about three rates – Standard rate in the form of X which will cover bulk of the items, X-minus for the items of mass consumption and X-plus for the luxury goods or the so-called "sin goods". In the Constitutional Amendment, there is no mention of the GST rates, which would be decided by the GST Council comprising

of Union Finance Minister as the Chairman and Finance ministers of the states. Any decision of the GST Council would require three-fourth approval of the Council. The states would have two-third of the voting powers and the Centre one-third. The Congress Party has demanded a ceiling of 18 per cent on GST standard rate while the government is called upon to ensure the revenue neutral rate (RNR). Any major deviation from RNR could be counter-productive either for inflation or for fiscal prudence. Getting the right RNR both for the Centre and the states would be a major challenge. **Left out** Petroleum products and alcoholic beverages have been left out of the GST, for now, on concerns of the states which feared these major revenue heads could not be bargained for. For the sake of wider political consensus, these heads have been left for the future reforms. **What Next?** After approval of Parliament, the GST Bill would go for ratification by at least half the states. The process is expected to be completed very soon. Afterwards, Parliament will have to again pass two enabling bills – one for the Central GST and the other for the Integrated GST. Besides, the state legislatures will have to pass the enabling law of State GST. In the meantime, work on the central IT backbone being prepared by a non-profit organisation is being done on a war-footing for the possible roll out from the next financial year. **(Courtesy PIB Feature)** Prakash Chawla is a senior journalist and commentator. He mostly writes on political-economy and global economic issues.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail : imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.