

Editorial

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Forgotten pledge - a reminder

"Where a society has chosen to accept democracy as its creedal faith, it is elementary that the citizens ought to know what their government is doing." - Justice P N Bhagwati

Easier is said than done - the saying still stands true. Like the nail float in water with the plank, a rowdy sometimes saves his or her life from being spoiled with the kind of companion he or she had. Discipline and responsibility is what has been required to make the ship flow to the right direction and it is always the wisdom of the captain of the ship that the crew managed to sail their ship to the destiny amidst storms and whirlpools.

It was perhaps the leadership quality of Columbus the captain of that ship and the trust and loyalty of his crew member that he landed to America's soil make this rich country to everyone across the globe which which is now the most powerful country in the world today.

The state is more like a ship in the vast stormy ocean. In democratic state like Manipur, Chief Minister is similar to the captain of the ship. It is his wisdom that will sail towards a better direction. It is his command and qualities that will make his crew member follow rules and regulations frame by him. It is only at the time that all the crew members go by their respective assignment that the ship will reach destination. Similar, is with the running of the state, whether it goes upwards or falls, depends on the wisdom of the Chief Minister and his team.

The recent differences arose among the ruling BJP MLAs had indicated crystal clear that it is either the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh that lacks administrative skill to put all his party colleague under his control or is it an intentional uproar instigated by some vested people to put the state under serious crisis. From a school student to persons holding the top post knows that Manipur today is at crucial juncture with multiple problems. More importantly, the issue of Territorial Integrity, safeguarding of the Indigenous people in the backdrop of the BJP's intention to introduce the contentious Citizenship Amendment Bill. These issues requires complete chaos in the state with other issue which is ironically related but not visible to anyone. Now the crisis for leadership change in BJP led government in the state of Manipur has been settled and that Chief Minister N. Biren Singh will now continue till the end of this legislative Assembly. It would be wrong to blame the dissident MLAs for the act against the Chief Minister, but the Chief Minister should welcome them with friendly gestures and showed them love and compassion so that they stand to every policy and programme taken up for the welfare of the people. In our earlier editorial we had opined the need to change anybody in the government who would stand as obstacle to the N. Biren Singh government, but a second thought, the idea may bring catastrophe. In democracy tolerance and wisdom is the only means to run the government. After all the Chief Minister is the best among the equals and has been chosen to lead the government.

Saying so it is still pertinent to understand the Indian electoral system that stands as a hurdle to decide on which way to chose for a better society. Every elected representative needs a second thought to say no to his electorate. Particularly, the system practice in India showed that without some clique of strong supporters, it will become difficult for one to become Chief Minister as first thing that is important is to get elected as an MLA.

Good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development. But sometimes the effort to bring good governance remains as a dream with the kind of hurdles from his supporters whom the man in the top post cannot deny as without them it will be difficult to get elected again.

Numbers of middle men including relatives are now the talk every people of the state. What more prove is required than checking the bank balance and the properties of these people in this couple of years? We have seen it many times.

Good leader falls, not because of his personality but because of those around him.

It is time that the elected representatives, instead of defending better check the middlemen to insure their pledge for the state.

Let's make our state free from corruption.

Name correction

I, the undersigned, Priya Yumlembam, wife of Naoshram Herojit Singh of Chingroibi Maning, Khurai Konsam Leikai, P.O. Lamlong, P.S. Porompat, Imphal East, do hereby declare that my name has been mistakenly recorded as Naoshram Ongbi Priya Devi, in the service book of my husband. And that I hereby declare that my name should be recorded as Priya Yumlembam and not as Naoshram Ongbi Priya Devi.

Sd/-
Priya Yumlembam
W/o. Naoshram Herojit Singh

DOCUMENT LOST

I, the undersigned, have lost my original certificate of my class - X Exam bearing Roll No. 44328 of 1991, conducted by Board of Secondary Education Manipur (BOSEM) on the way between Yaiskul to Keishamthong on November 2, 2019.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Oinam Ajitkumar Singh
Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai
Phone 8837203711

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Sand War - A deadly war against mother Earth



By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh Faculty, NIELIT, Imphal

Sand is one of the most consumed natural resources on the planet. The United Nations estimates that mining of sand and gravel may exceed 40 billion tons a year. Due to high demand for sand that planet's resources are now being threatened, then-quarries of the World's beaches are already in declined. Sand is used in our daily life in numerous ways. Houses, skyscrapers, bridges, airports and sidewalks are all partially comprised of sand, making it an essential requirement for the construction booms happening around the World. Sand is also the source of silicon dioxide or silica, a mineral found in our wines, cleaning products and the detergent, paper, toothpaste and astounding variety of other products we use on daily basis. Sand is also required for manufacturing the microchips inside our computers & smartphones. It's almost like air we breathe. But the sector swallowing up the most sand is the construction industry. More than half of the World's population now lives in city. By 2030, the UN expects 60% of the people to live in urban settlements. Building and expanding cities requires concrete and asphalt, both made with sand. We don't think too much about it, but you can't live without it.

In parts of the World, scarcity of sand has triggered smuggling band or sand mafias to plunder beaches and rivers for this highly prized commodity. A lot of people who control the sand mafia also control a lot of the construction materials business in Bombay as well as construction itself. They also control the administration through their political contacts so that just completes the whole Nature chain-right from extraction to construction, the profits in each part of it, the administration and the police. As a result, the mafias are just adding to the pressure facing the world's beaches. Sand war investigates the ramifications of the depletion of sand as a resource, taking as around the world to witness this new gold rush first hand. Sand and gravel are the most extracted materials in the world.

The UN believes that sand and gravel or aggregates account for up to 85% of all mining activity around the world measured in weight. While sand might seem like an abundant resource, it is being mined at a pace much faster than its natural renewal rate. A 2014 report by UN estimated that globally more than 40 billion tons of sand and gravel are extracted every year. Singapore is just one example of a metropolis with a sand addiction. Between 1990 to 2017, the city state's population nearly doubled from three million to 5.6 million. Meanwhile the city's land area has grown through extensive land reclamation from 581.5 sqkm in 1960 to 719 sqkm in 2016-a 24% increase. Reclaiming 1sqkm of land from the sea cost up to 37.5 million cubic meters of sand is required. In 2016 alone, Singapore imported 35 million metric tons of sand. In July 2017, Cambodia banned all sales of sand to Singapore, citing environmental ground. Malaysia in 1997, Indonesia, Cambodia and Vietnam in 2007 had already put restriction on sand export to Singapore. But these restriction have given rise to a flourishing smuggling trade. So called Sand-mafias have proliferated elsewhere. According to Times of India, illegal sand mining is worth 2.3 billion US dollars in Tamil Nadu alone. Not all kinds of sands are suitable for use in construction. Desert sand is considered too fine. As a result, sand is taken from beaches and dredged up from rivers and seabed on industrial scale adversely affecting ecological system.

Poyang Lake in China's Jiangxi province is thought to be the World's biggest sand mine. An estimated 236 million cubic meters of sand is taken out of the Lake every year. Satellite images taken by NASA show how this has changed the landscape of the northern reaches of Poyang Lake. The NASA reported that sand mining affected the Lake's ecological integrity by contributing to less predictable seasoned water fluctuations and to a series of recent low water events according to ecologists. Dredging sand from sea bed is destroying local flora and fauna. Mining of Ocean and beach sand is contributing to the erosion of beaches. In Indonesia, two dozen Islands are believed to have disappeared due to sand mining. Negative effects on the Environment are unequivocal and are occurring around the World; the UN noted in its 2014 report. Meanwhile, policymakers have been slow to respond to the depletion of sand. The

current level of political concern clearly does not match the urgency of the situation; the UN stated. The World is only slowly waking up to the fact that another finite resources is slipping through our fingers. In India sand is now almost as valuable as gold. A massive construction boom is driving demand for concrete- and sand is the essential ingredient. But a shortage of legal sand means there is plenty of unmet demand. Organized criminals are seizing the opportunities, pillaging millions of tons of sand from nation's beaches, rivers and hillsides. Farmers in the US say booming sand-mining industry is threatening their future. The sand is vital to help extract oil and gas from deep underground. However, environmental activists say the mining is having disastrous effects on the environment.

In India, sand mafias runs rampant. In Singapore, sand is more costly than oil and the desert city of Dubai needs to import sand from Australia. Dubai is a fairytale world. Nearly 6,000km to the south east of Dubai is Singapore which stockpiles sand. It imports massive amount of this resource and keeps it as a reserve, comparable to a strategic stock of oil. Singapore needs to continue to grow -the city state has increased its land mass by 22% in the 50 years. Initially it was easy. Its neighbors sold their sand but now it has been either stopped or banned. The entire international sand business became a political mine field. Populations tends to dislike the idea of selling pieces of their country for the purpose of expanding another country especially if violence against them and their environment is involved. In some cases, the export went underground. According to anti-corruption watchdog "Transparency International", in Cambodia, (the most corrupt country in South-East Asia) -contracts worth millions were still ongoing with official involvement. In practice companies dig sand in vulnerable natural areas and local fishermen lose their key capital: fish. Investigation reporting has shown that this happened in Vietnam also for the illegal export of sand to Singapore. The sand mafia also swept 24 Indonesian Islands off the map to sell the sand in Singapore. **This caused a dispute over the exact location of the International border between Singapore and Indonesia like that of Sand war in 1963 between Algeria and Morocco.** Today it become ever more obvious that the scarcity of

sand across the World is spreading and affecting all of us. The growing sand shortage is putting sand in the machine called "Industrialized Civilization". The shortage is already leading to deadly conflicts in some areas of the World.

The effect of sand extraction in India are soil erosion, landslides, water table loss, infertility of farmland, disturbances of ecosystem and marine life, beach disappearing- all the way to clapping bridges. With more than 20 million inhabitants, Mumbai is also one of the 10 largest cities in the world-with a huge appetite for sand by its Construction Industry. In 2010, Bombay High Court banned sand mining in Mumbai and Maharashtra. **The Manipur High Court on 2nd July 2019, as an interim measures has imposed a total ban on unauthorized sand mining stone quarrying and other polluting activities near all rivers of the state. The only exception will be in cases where a license or lease is granted prior to such activities. The interim order was passed following a PIL by the Thoubal River Conservation Committee against the Government inaction to stop the deterioration of Thoubal River -caused by mining of sand and stone from the riverbed recklessly. Even in our tiny state Manipur also, the sand business has become talk of the day now, as we all witnessed, sand being brought from Dimapur or Moreh or from elsewhere for construction purpose at very high cost.** To reduce the demand for new sand, we need to evolve into a circular economy. Big cities in India crush many old buildings to make room for new but the debris end up at landfills. In some countries, the use of primary materials is only allowed after the demolition waste is used up. In the Netherlands 90% of all demolition waste is recycled. Even poorer countries like Vietnam are now reusing demolition waste. We can build roads with a lot less sand by recycling plastic as a resource. We have to do that. There's so much demand for sand that river beds and beaches are being stripped bare, Ocean beds denuded and landscapes devastated. Government are cracking down in response-which in turn has spawned a worldwide black market in sand, and still the amount of sand being mined worldwide is increasing- at terrible cost to people and the planet. If we continue like this, we will dig a grave for our self and pay a very expensive price.

(The writer can be reached to: sjugeshwor7@gmail.com)

WFI announces 30-member squad for Asian U-15 Wrestling Championships

By a Correspondent New Delhi, Nov. 13

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has announced a 30-member squad to represent India at the Asian Under-15 Wrestling Championship to be held in

The Squad:

Free Style		Greco Roman Style		Women Wrestling	
38 Kg.	Yogesh	38 Kg.	Mahadev	33 Kg.	Saloni
41 Kg.	Aman	41 Kg.	Dinesh	36 Kg.	Babli
44 Kg.	Ravi	44 Kg.	Harsh	39 Kg.	Komal
48 Kg.	Aakash	48 Kg.	Harikesh	42 Kg.	Komal
52 Kg.	Kapil	52 Kg.	Anil	46 Kg.	Sheetal
57 Kg.	Udit	57 Kg.	Sohit	50 Kg.	Dhanshri
62 Kg.	Vishal	62 Kg.	Sumith	54 Kg.	Aarti
68 Kg.	Sagar	68 Kg.	Ankit	58 Kg.	Nitika
75 Kg.	Deepak Chahal	75 Kg.	Chirag	62 Kg.	Deepika
85 Kg.	Jatin	85 Kg.	Arshdeep	66 Kg.	Riya

Taichung City of Chinese Taipei from November 22-24. The squad has been selected after WFI conducted trials for boys in Sonapat and girls in Lucknow. Following an inspiring show last year from both the boys and girls, India will be keen to

continue its medal-winning spree. Last year, India finished third in freestyle after collecting a rich haul of eight medals with Aman (52kg) bringing home the solitary gold from Iran. The girls did an equally impressive job in Japan, bagging seven medals,

highlighted by three gold medals from Pooja Rani (33kg), Komal (36kg) and Sweety (43kg). The stellar display from the girls helped them log in 181 points to finish in second position behind the hosts Japan.

This year, boys and girls will be competing simultaneously at the same tournament, where India will be banking on 2019 Cadet World Championships bronze medallists Udit Kumar (57kg) and Deepak Chahal (75kg), both of whom will be making their debut at the Asian U-15 Wrestling Championships. "The boys have undergone rigorous training, where we have worked hard on every aspect of the game. We are confident of a good show and are hoping to bring back medals," said National U-15 freestyle coach, Ranveer Singh Rahal.

Among the girls, the one to watch out for will be Komal (39kg), who clinched gold at the Cadet World Championships in 40kg earlier in the year.