

Editorial

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Krishi Karman Award for Manipur !

Manipur's Chief Minister received Krishi Karman Award, 2017-18 for the highest production of food grains amongst those states who produce less than ten lakh tonnes of food grain. The award should have made us feel that Manipur is doing better now in agriculture. However, the devil lies in the details of the latest economic survey report of Manipur. When we look closely at the details of food grain production and the crop production of the past years, we not only see an increase in production but also an increasing amount of suffering for the producers who actually toiled for this award.

The food grain production has increased by 3.14 percent, from 504.78 to 520.65 thousand tonnes. 98 percent of food grain that the state produced in 2017-18 is rice. If we go in the details of the matter, we see that the farm price, which the cultivator in the villages get for settling their paddy, has declined for both autumn and winter paddy between 2016-17 and 2017-18. For autumn paddy, it declined from Rs. 1550 per quintal and from Rs. 1636 to Rs. 1612 per quintal for winter paddy. It reveals that the increase production of paddy coincides with a decline in farm prices. More production means more supply; therefore we should expect a decline in the retail prices. However, on the contrary the average retail price of local rice increased from Rs. 3200 per quintal in 2017 to Rs. 3300 per quintal in 2018, reaching upto Rs 3800 in the month of December 2018. We gain more clarity on the matter when we look at the wholesale prices of milled rice, it increased from Rs. 2875 in 2017 to Rs. 3117 to 2018 per quintal. This indicates that those who are trading in rice have benefited more than the consumers who are buying the rice from the retail shops, even with increased production. It shows that the increased production is not bringing the price of the milled rice down.

If we want to look at the situation of the farmers and cultivators, we should look at the gross state domestic product data and net state domestic product data at constant prices for crop production for 2016-17 and 2017-18 in the latest economic survey report. The principal crops which the economic survey mentions are paddy, maize, mustard seeds, chillies, ginger, potato, cabbage, cauliflower, banana, pineapple, papaya and sugarcane. Prices at which farmers sell only potato, cabbage, cauliflower and maize have increased for the respective years. For mustard seeds, ginger, banana, pineapple, papaya and sugarcane, the prices which farmers get for selling these crops have declined between 2016-17 and 2017-18. The prices which farmers get for selling banana between 2016-17 and 2017-18 have declined, from Rs. 3356 per quintal to Rs 2844. We see a sharp decline in mustard seed farm prices also, from Rs. 4200 to Rs 3000 per quintal. Given this, the gross state domestic product at constant prices, which saw a steady increase between 2011 and 2015, has declined from 144305 Lakhs in 2016-17 to 137804 Lakhs in 2017-18. The negative growth in GDP for crop production is more than 4.5 percent. And, the NSDP at constant prices declined more than 6 percent between 2016-17 to 2017-18. However, it was steady increasing between 2011 to 2015.

These numbers clearly reveals that even though there is an increased production of food grains for which the state gets the Krishi Karman Award, there is negative growth in GDP and NSDP for crop production. Further, it does not make sense to attribute the decline in net and gross state domestic product for crops to either surging or declining armed conflict given the numbers. So, we must look for the answer in some other direction.

Krishi Karman Award should not cover the things which the recent Good Governance Index revealed. Manipur came last in the good governance index amongst the NE and Hill state. If we look at the methodology for preparing the index, performance in agriculture and allied sectors is one indicator. In agriculture and allied sectors performance, Manipur came last according to the Good Governance Index. The performance in agriculture and allied sector is prepared using the data of growth in the sector, food grain production, horticulture production, milk and meat production and crop insurance which the cultivators and farmers get from the government. The agriculture and allied sector has seen negative growth when we see the GSDP and NSDP data at constant prices. On top of that, the national crop insurance scheme, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, does not cover Manipur at all along with Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. We have more to worry about. As per report published by the Hindu on its May 17, 2019, it seems that the scheme has failed. The central government has only spent Rs. 8 crores out of Rs. 1400 crores earmarked for this scheme till the mid of 2019. The state is facing huge problems in agriculture and allied sectors given these issues. The people of Manipur should be intelligent enough to understand that we need to do a lot more in agriculture and allied sector so that we can appreciate ourselves. We need to produce more than 1 lakh tonnes of food grain in order to become self sufficient in food grain production, according to economic survey data. We should first cast away the devil in the details, then we should go for thabal chongba. Otherwise, it is not very intelligent.

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The Brutal Annihilation of 'Lidice'

The World first learned about Lidice via a brutally detached Nazi radio announcement broadcast the day after the attack. "All male inhabitants have been shot. The women have been transferred to a concentration camp. The children have been taken to educational centres. All houses of Lidice have been leveled to the Ground, and the names of this community have been obliterated". In 2nd World War, in Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia, the Lidice massacre was the complete destruction of the village of Lidice, in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, now in Czech Republic.

Operation Anthropoid- Operation Anthropoid was the code name for the assassination of Schutzstaffel (SS)-Obergruppenfuhrer and Reinhard Heydrich, head of the Reich Main Security office, the combined security service of Nazi Germany. The British trained Czech resistance fighters attempted assassination of Reinhard Heydrich and later successful in doing so, killing the 'Right Hand' of Hitler- the fuhrer.

Lidice - a Scapegoat? Lidice was chosen as a target for reprisals in the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, because it's residents were suspected of harbouring local resistance partisans and were falsely associated with aiding team members of Operation Anthropoid. On 10 June 1942, Nazi soldiers entered Lidice and all men of the village were rounded up. The shooting of the men commenced at about 7.00 a.m. At first the men were shot in groups of five, but later proceeded slowly and ordered that ten men be shot at a time. This continued until the afternoon hours when there were

173 dead. Altogether, about 340 people from Lidice were murdered because of German reprisal (192 men, 60 women and 88 children). Determined to obliterate Lidice, the Nazis destroyed every building in sight and even dug up the town's cemetery. They dumped massacre victims in a mass grave dug by the massacred victims themselves. Pregnant women and babies under the age of one were separated from the others, as were several children with Germanic facial features. German doctors measured the children's facial features, identifying those with "Aryan" characteristics as candidates for Germanization - a

In June 1942, the Czechoslovakian town of Lidice was destroyed by Nazi occupying forces in retaliation for the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, a high ranking Nazi official. The men of the town were killed, most of the children were sent to gas chambers and the women were sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp. Chalamba Kshetri revisit the brutal annihilation of the town by Nazis.



process where suitably feature non - German children were adopted by German families. The village of Lidice was set on fire and the remains of the building destroyed with explosive. All the animals in the village were slaughtered. Lidice was razed to the ground in order to wipe it off the map for ever. News of the tragedy soon reached the rest of the world as it was filmed and broadcast by the Nazis.

Aftermath of the Massacre- After the war ended, only 153 women and 17 children returned. They were re-housed in a new village of Lidice that was built overlooking the original site, built using money raised by the 'Lidice Shall Live' campaign. An art gallery, which displays permanent and temporary exhibitions, is in the new village 500 metres from the museum. The annual children's art competition attracts

entries from around the world. Today, Lidice- a small town of about 540 residents, rebuilt alongside a memorial and museum commemorating the tragedy- stands in defiance of the Nazis attempted extermination: 82 larger than life bronze statues, each representing a lost child of Lidice, greet visitor. More than 25,000 roses are planted at the Lidice Memorial rose garden to give new life to the 'Departed Soul'.

The Greatest Achievement of Humanity

By- Maneesh GUPTA

We live in the era of modern technology and have made many impossible things possible. We reached the moon; climbed the highest mountain peak and measured the depth of the ocean; invented aircraft and many more machines to make our life happier and more comfortable. But are we content with what we have achieved? What is the Greatest Achievement of Humanity? Prem Rawat says "It is contentment; it is to be in peace. Peace is not a luxury which can be purchased. It is not a thing that can be found on a mountain peak or deep inside the ocean. It's a feeling within us. Contentment is a feeling that emanates from within you. If someone asks you, "Are you satisfied?" You can say, "Yes, I have a good family, good job, good car, great friends, even my pets listen to me, hence I am satisfied." But are you content? Have you sown the seed of contentment?" There is a story. Once, there was a remote village. The people in this village were very simple. One day a tourist arrived and stayed for a night. The next morning, he took out his mirror and put it up on a wall so he could shave. He cleaned up and shaved, but forgot to take the mirror off the wall before he travelled on. An elderly villager with grey hair, bright eyes and shiny face saw the mirror on the wall and looked into it. He had never seen a reflection of himself, so when he saw his face in the mirror, he was mesmerized, and said to himself, "Today, I have seen the face of God." He left - completely happy, saying "I have seen God". Then along came a young girl.

When she saw herself in the mirror, she was taken aback and exclaimed "I have seen the most beautiful woman! Since I grew up, this is how I wanted to look like. And then came along a man who had lost his father not too long before. He looked into the mirror and said, "Oh, my god! I have seen my father again." Now, each of these three people wanted to keep this mirror with them because they had their own reasons to it. The older man wanted the mirror because he had seen the face of God. The young girl wanted the mirror, because into it she has seen, how she wanted to look like. And the third man wanted the mirror because into it he had seen his father again. They started arguing and long fights were breaking out all over the village, because whoever looked into the mirror and whatever they saw - they liked and they all wanted the mirror for themselves. Finally, a wise man happened to come there. When he saw the fights, he asked, "Why are you all fighting? Different people answered, "I want this thing because this is my God," or "this is who I want to be," or "this is my father" or "this is my this; this is my that." He asked for the mirror to be brought to him. He looked at it and said, "Don't you know what this is? This is a young girl and the third man and told them that they have seen themselves into the mirror. It reflects the image of anything that is in front of it." How does this story relate to peace and contentment? You see, peace begins with each one of us; but we have forgotten our own self, our own need. What is the face of peace? Some people will tell you



Mr. Prem Rawat, an International Speaker addresses global audiences on the topic of Humanity and Peace. He is also known by the honorary title "Ambassador of peace". His message is recognized and admired globally by various forums i.e. European Parliament, United Nations, Oxford University, Harvard University, IIT Delhi and many more.

that the face of peace is the absence of war, but that doesn't mean the presence of peace! The face of peace is none other than your own face when you are in contentment when you are in peace - when peace dances upon your face. Look at how much money governments spend on trying to make society amiable; but when we are content, that happens automatically. We have spent so much money, time and energy; however we need to also realize this simple and basic human quality that when you are content, you are nice and when you are not content, whew! Forget it. If somebody is in your lane and just looks at you implying, "Can I come in front?" you will drive your car a little further ahead, "Don't even think about it!" because you are no longer stable. You become different. This is the importance of contentment; this is the importance of peace. Without contentment, we are unrecognizable. With contentment and peace, everything begins to dance in the sweetest and the most beautiful

way." Mr. Prem Rawat, an International Speaker addresses global audiences on the topic of Humanity and Peace. He is also known by the honorary title "Ambassador of peace". His message is recognized and admired globally by various forums i.e. European Parliament, United Nations, Oxford University, Harvard University, IIT Delhi and many more. He is closely involved in various humanitarian programs and projects. In recognition to his Nobel work and dedication towards humanity, he has also received several awards like Life Time Achievement Award, Brand Laureate Award, Keys to Cities etc. In 2001, he started The Prem Rawat Foundation (TPRF), with a mission to address the fundamental human needs of food, water and peace. TPRF's - Food for People, is an innovative program that provides nutritious meals to children and ailing adults in India, Nepal and Ghana. The excerpts of Prem Rawat's message are available online at www.ravidyakender.org and www.premrawat.com.