

Editorial

Imphal, Friday, December 4, 2015

Festival of gimmicks

If there is one thing that the people of the state can predict without the slightest of doubt, it has to be the knack of the state government to stir up controversies and criticisms; even for the noblest of intentions. Hardly has the dust settled after the Sangai Festival after weeks of frantic arrangements and haphazard touch-ups, the murmurs and rumours of misappropriations, allegations of siphoning of funds and even theories of deliberate stalling of decisions till the last minute to create confusion and omissions in accounts and other financial procedures that would have to be followed otherwise have started doing the rounds. If reports are to be believed, as of today, there are more than a hundred RTI applications seeking details regarding various aspects of the just concluded festival which will very well stir up further dirt and unwanted news later. Perhaps, the clearest and undeniable example of the style of working and administering of the state can be had from the long stretch of green screen which have been put up around the Kangla moat after weeks of last-minute show of efforts which are doomed to prove useless right from the start. It would be naive for one to think that the state government and all the think tank that drew up the concept of 'beautifying' the moat would have expected the job done before the inauguration day, and yet with a show of urgency, the work was taken up anyway, much to the inconvenience and physical risk to the public owing to the littered mud and spewing dust resulting from the work. Now that the event have come and gone, work on the moat has come to a screeching halt. It would no longer come as a surprise to anyone anymore if we are to see the same state of completion of Kangla moat this time of the year next, or the year after for that matter. The management of the event also still leaves a lot to wish for, especially for the old and the infirm who have no chance of witnessing the greatest tourist show in the state. Are they, as well as the differently abled, not part of the consideration in the larger scheme of things? Turned out, the festival is a gimmick to portray a rosy picture of things to the visiting dignitaries and for the amusement for the VIPs and the well-connected, while it continues to be an exercise in desperation for the general public who have to undergo undue difficulties and suffer manhandling by the security who are supposed to be guarding the public. If those who are in charge of organizing and managing the festival have done sincere retrospection, things could have improved dramatically over each editions, and the fact that that has not happened till now is evidence enough that the enjoyment and accessibility of the general public to the festival is the furthest thing from their minds. One thing is certain though: a few in the inner circle would have made a windfall, and judging by the turn of events, the gimmick is sure to continue without any real benefit or fillip to the proposed development of tourism in Manipur so long as the intent to provide meaning to the whole exercise is absent.

Salary hike: Youth Congress protests outside Kejrival's residence

ANI
New Delhi, Dec. 4: The members of Indian Youth Congress (IYC) staged a protest in front of Chief Minister Arvind Kejrival's residence here on Friday, over the approval of 400 percent pay hike for the Delhi MLAs.
"We won't let the public money go into the pockets of Kejrival and his MLAs. We won't let the implementation of the salary hike approved by the Kejrival Government," Amit Malik, the president of Delhi unit of IYC, told ANI.
The protestors shouted slogan against the Delhi Chief Minister and his government.

The Congress party has taken a strong exception to the approval of 400 percent pay hike for the Delhi MLAs, saying AAP supremo and Chief Minister Kejrival has acted against the promises made to the people. The Delhi Assembly had yesterday approved a 400 per cent pay hike for MLAs and ministers, by passing the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Government of NCT of Delhi (Salaries, Allowances, Pension) Amendment Bill 2015. The House accepted the recommendations made by an independent committee of three experts.

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National & International News

Chennaiites wade through flood waters to flee, rescue loved ones

in the city of six million, known families seeking safety on hit areas. Drinking water and

Army flood rescue in Chennai

PRO (DEFENCE)

Imphal, Dec. 4: The Army has 40 Rescue and Relief teams and 5 Engineer teams carrying out rescue operations in the most critical areas of Chennai. These teams have been operating in areas which are the worst hit by the floods in the areas of Tambaram, Madichur, Kothurpuram, Pallavaram, Thiruneeermalai, Urappakkam, Manipakkam, T Nagar and Gudvancheri towards the outskirts of Chennai and also along areas adjacent to the Adyar River. The Rescue teams have successfully rescued over 4000 stranded people. Military Hospital at St Thomas Mount has been made functional and treatment is being given to many flood affected patients.

for its automobile industry and flyovers. Waters were not fuel were in short supply, IT outsourcing, with some receding in some of the hardest officials said.

Southern Command exercise 'Drad Sankalp' under way in Rajasthan

PRO (Defence)

Imphal, Dec. 4: The Southern Command of the Army is undergoing a Command level exercise 'DradSankalp' in the deserts of Rajasthan, wherein capabilities of the Army in a Tri-Service environment are being practiced and validated on a Capability based approach, while relying on the adoption of new age technologies, transformed war fighting and integrated theatre battle concepts. The exercise is also focusing on the aspect of jointmanship between the three services and in developing the required synergy in order to achieve operational effectiveness. The exercise has commenced with an aim to achieve perfection in basic battle drills & procedures with emphasis on exceptional standards of training and exploiting our doctrine through Manoeuvre Warfare and Directive Style of Command. The scope of



the exercise includes decisive manoeuvres by mechanized forces on ground in harmony with utilization of the Third Dimension to ensure complete dominance of the battlefield. This training exercise is also being used as a test bed to validate synergetic application of all forces in a tri services environment, enhancing Jointmanship. Indian

Army undertakes exercises at regular intervals at different levels to ensure that the forces are given a real war like situations and the equipment is kept in battle readiness state. The formations and units have been undergoing this exercise for over two months now and the final phase of the exercise along with the validation is underway.

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Centre defends Manipur killings

"These killings are part of efforts to combat insurgency as the country is threatened by anti-national forces. Such an exercise cannot be treated as a law and order problem," Rohatgi told the court.
The Attorney-General iterated that the government does not accept the Justice Santosh Hegde committee report on the alleged

extra-judicial killings. The committee, set up by the court in 2013, was asked to probe six encounters in which seven people were killed. The panel said in its preliminary findings that all the six encounters were stage-managed. Amicus curiae Menaka Guru today told the court that as most of the encounters had taken place several years ago, court martial

proceedings could not be conducted in these cases. Section 125 of the Army Act has fixed a limitation period of three years. As a natural corollary, she said, the officers who carried out the extra-judicial killings must be prosecuted in regular criminal courts. Justice Lalit observed: "When Parliament was attacked, security forces killed some terrorists. Did we

have an FIR? Was any inquiry ordered at that time?" The security forces and the government have been insisting that the encounters were genuine and they were fighting several guerrilla and insurgent groups against severe odds. The arguments will continue in the apex court on December 8, 9 and 10

NSCN-IM imbroglio revealed by three scholars.....

The Manipuri Naga of NSCN (IM) has constructed the Naga territory with no foundation and merely on painting/drawing/cartography disregarding the existence of other communities in the areas so claimed by them. This was the root cause of ethnic conflict in Manipur. Even after NSCN (IM) has entered into political dialogue with the Government of India, leadership of the outfit maintains that their demand includes sovereignty, integration and Cultural Council. This is in contrast to the documents that are circulated by the NSCN (IM). The situation drifted to a level that it is culminating in bargaining than a process for honourable settlement. The GoI has ruled out sovereignty and integration of contiguous Naga areas to hammer out a solution. It has reportedly offered greater autonomy to Nagas living in states outside Nagaland, an arrangement that has been opposed by non-Naga organisations in Manipur. This has initiated the silent demand of the Manipuri Nagas of NSCN (IM) to the GoI to settle their case as

they are quite aware that the GOI has now succeeded in separating Manipur and Nagaland for giving separate solutions. NSCN (IM) with the help of RN Ravi is lobbying with the Government of Manipur to create a space for honourable exit as the Manipuri Nagas has and will have no place in Nagaland. This was revealed time and again during interactions with public intellectuals of Manipur and RN Ravi. The elected representatives in Manipur particularly the cohorts of NSCN (IM) have so far not antagonise anyone in Manipur politics. They become adept in circumstantial politicking. The Nagas have represented as member of Lok Sabha (Outer) continuously from 1952 till 1967 and out of the 19 representatives elected so far, nine of them belong to the Nagas. What is interesting is that the first representatives are Tangkhul from Ukhrul district. Besides, at no point in time the Naga have not contested in any election of Manipur. However, after NSCN (IM) gained prominence in the hill areas of

Manipur, they started dictating their mandates to the elected representatives (sic. Nagas) and they supported the movement openly by submitting memorandums to the GoI. But as their hold weakened, the elected Naga leaders are also withdrawing from the movement. This is enough indication of their becoming insignificant. Muivah, then, in consultation with Nephru Rio attempted to expand the NPF in Manipur by amending the constitution of NPF which jurisdiction was limited to Nagaland alone. However, they could not make much influence. This is in addition to the resolutions taken by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA), demanding integration of all contiguous Naga inhabited areas under one administrative umbrella, and to urge the GoI to fulfill the same. The Manipur Legislative Assembly also had taken resolution to safeguard the territorial integrity of Manipur. The resolution taken by the NLA was taken as a continuation of the 9th point agreement signed between

GoI and NNC, where the territorial aspiration or contiguous Naga inhabited areas was towards Assam only. However, with the formation of NSCN (IM), the resolution was misinterpreted to include the territories of Manipur. This is necessary as the Manipuri Nagas of NSCN (IM) including Th Muivah is well aware that they are considered outsiders or Katcha Naga (Impure Naga) and they could never have a space in Nagaland. The resolutions of NLA may not be considered seriously by the Nagas of Nagaland, Manipuri Nagas and by the GoI as in spite of the numerous resolutions in the last few decades, the government of Nagaland is recognising only the 16 tribes of Nagaland and are not ready to give any recognition to the Nagas which they claims as Nagas in other areas or territory. Dissent and controversy over recognition to 'Romngmei' and 'Mao' and opposition to glorifying 'Rani Gaidingliu' as the spiritual leader can be cited as an example.

(To be contd.....)