

Editorial

Imphal, Friday, October 30, 2015

The flop show

Swaach Bharat Mission, which was launched with great enthusiasm by the Prime Minister of India, is fading away without doing much good when it comes to the state of Manipur. When it comes about the matter of cleanliness no one including the common people and the men in the government had ever taken seriously. The "Zero Garbage Campaign" which was launched with much fanfare a few years ago had already receded from public memory. What was it all about anyway? one can't help but wonder. What is so special about keeping one's own city clean? Isn't it a necessity? a normal thing to be done anyway? Cleanliness is a force of habit and not a one-off act. The sheer inability to communicate between the various Government Departments when it comes to taking up public sanitation works sends one in a tizzy. Foreign funded schemes (read Imphal sewage project) have made our roads a daily nightmare to be negotiated. The Imphal Municipality- entrusted with the job of keeping the city neat and tidy has been rendered obsolete- the staffs employed embroiling themselves in agitations and protests for various issues to the point where their duties are relegated to the least important of priorities. These inefficiencies necessitated and gave rise to various private and non-governmental agencies rushing in to fill the void. Mechanized equipments and tools purchased at huge amounts for use in keeping the city clean- which were paraded in front of the public to show the Government's serious efforts and resolution on the matter turned out to just what it was- a show. What the public needs, and are waiting for right now, is a total and effective cleansing of the lethargic Government department responsible for the cleanliness of the city and start afresh in a concerted manner. The state of the waste management plant set up almost a decade ago is not known- whether it has started operation or if there is any missing work to be done to make it operational. The sooner things get going, the better off our city will be, else for all the tall claims of achievements, our efforts will go down the drain- amongst the ever increasing pile of waste. For now it is zero in garbage management. As we gear up to meet the challenges staring everyone in the face with the rapidly increasing pace of development and industrialization, one glaring lapse that hits us in the face- in the nose to be more precise- is the sight, and worse- the smell that assaults one's senses as we walk through the crowded heart of the city. The plight in the suburbs and in the villages isn't any better. All the upcoming infrastructures and glittering paints cannot stop anyone from cringing their nose at the all permeating stench that assails through the whole of the city.

SP leader shot at, BSP members booked in UP

PTI Amethi, Oct. 30: A Samajwadi Party leader was seriously injured after he was shot at on Friday allegedly over election rivalry in Sultanpur village here. Rakesh Yadav, who is president of SP's Amethi Assembly constituency unit, was rushed to trauma centre in Lucknow and a case has been lodged against three persons including a BSP leader and Bhetua block pramukh Jaiprakash Tewari, Amethi Superintendent of Police (SP) Hira Lal said. "Yadav was shot at and seriously injured while he had gone on morning walk in his Sultanpur village in Munshiganj area," he said. The SP leader was earlier involved in a clash with Tewari a week ago in which the latter's vehicles were damaged, Lal added. Both the leaders have rivalry over the ongoing Panchayat Elections in UP, he said. Panchayat Elections in Uttar Pradesh are in the last leg and counting of votes is on November 1-2.

What would Indira Gandhi ask Narendra Modi today?

By : Ningomban Bupenda Meitei
The writing, which is presented here, is a creative imagination of the writer who makes an attempt to understand the mind and philosophy of the former Prime Minister of India Smt. Indira Gandhi ji from her public and parliamentary speeches, India's Independence Day speeches, interviews, addresses and replies to questions. In this writing, there is a representation of Smt. Indira Gandhi ji sharing her views and questioning the present Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi ji. The representation, produced by the writer's creation, here is based on authenticated official references published by Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. The representation is not in the direct speech uttered originally by Smt. Indira Gandhi ji and it is the writer's creation but the sources, which are given in italics inside a square bracket - except such square bracket is not used in the concluding line - after every representation, of the representation is in the form of original direct speech narration of Smt. Indira Gandhi ji. The writer speaks in the voice of Smt. Indira Gandhi ji and questions from her perspective, her mind and her philosophy. It is a testimony of the living significance of Smt. Indira Gandhi's ideas and thoughts till today. Remembering her today, born as Indira Priyadarshini Gandhi and fondly called 'Indu' by her father Jawaharlal Nehru, the nation pays honour and tribute to Indira Gandhi on her 31st death anniversary, the 31st of October, 2015.

Introducing Smt. Indira Gandhi
If Indira Gandhi were alive today, then Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence on intolerance cannot stand even for a minute. Narendra Modi's examples, 'I believe that the glass is full. One half with water and the other half

with air.' or 'acting in school plays' or 'his courage in his childhood by taking a baby crocodile or being attacked while swimming in a crocodile-infested lake,' or 'his riding of horse,' have indeed become a talking point last year. Indira Gandhi, on the other hand, narrated the example of the glass half filled with water and said that the way one looks at it depends on one's attitude towards life. Indira Gandhi was fond of dancing like Manipuri classical dance at Tagore's Santiniketan. She had acted in a play about Harishchandra before the Kashmiri Samaj. Besides her fondness of running and swimming, she was very fond of climbing a tree. In today's world, can Narendra Modi climb a tree like Indira Gandhi? ["It is said that you can look in two ways at a glass which is half filled with water. Some people will say that the glass is half empty, some will say it is half full. It depends on your attitude towards life." (Nehru and children, from Indira Gandhi's speech at the Children's Day function, New Delhi, November 14, 1980) "I was very fond of running. I used to be fond of swimming, too... I was very fond of climbing trees. Many years ago, I had acted in a play about Harishchandra before the Kashmiri Samaj. I learnt dancing at Santiniketan." (Childhood reminiscences, from English rendering of an interview of Indira Gandhi in Hindi with Ms. Uma Chakrabarti, New Delhi, November 14, 1983)]

On intolerance and atrocities against SCs and STs
Indira Gandhi, on intolerance and atrocities against SCs and STs, would ask, "Can you, Mr. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ensure that the guilty must and should be punished? Can you protect the weakest who had no voice, and who had no organization? Can you speak to those neighbours, who were silent spectators on an act of intolerance, that it is they - the neighbours - who are to protect the group of people affected by

intolerance? Do not you consider that it is the responsibility of your Government in New Delhi to assure the brothers and sisters of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes full protection?" ["It is the responsibility of the Government to assure our Harijan and tribal brothers and sisters of full protection. Also, the guilty must and should be punished. In our independence struggle, we did not fight merely for political independence; we did this, but part of the struggle was against economic injustice, against social humiliation of all Indians, especially of Harijans, Advaitis and the weakest who had no voice, and who had no organization. If a group of people have to be protected, basically it is the neighbours who are going to protect them." (Acts against Harijans and Advaitis, from Indira Gandhi's speech in Lok Sabha, March 13, 1980)]

On Mahabharata and Ancient India and unity in diversities
Indira Gandhi, bringing Mahabharata and Ancient India and unity in diversities, would ask, "Do you, Mr. Prime Minister Modi, believe or think that it is your party and philosophy only that take pride in Mahabharata and Ancient India? If your philosophy itself is based on Mahabharata and Ancient India, then, have you forgotten the grand philosophical message of Mahabharata which is the message of the unity of India? Have you deliberately chosen to forget or not to state that Ancient India believed in its diversity with its implied acceptance and co-existence? Is your understanding of Ancient India different from that in Ancient India which believed that all people should not be confined to a single interpretation of Reality? Why do you rigidly make many attempts to enforce one single interpretation of Reality in India which is born out of that Ancient India which rejects the single interpretation of Reality? Have you approved, from your silence on intolerance, that the fact



that humanity's survival depends on the tolerance and the rejection of any conformity, which destroys India or any Indian, is very much wrong and untenable today in 2015? Have you decided firmly that India's greatness is only possible because of one culture and one idea, and not because of her genius for synthesis of many cultures and ideas?" ["Delhi is the Indraprastha of the Mahabharata Age. The dominant impression emanating from the Mahabharata, even more than its grand philosophical message and its grasp of the main issues of life, is the message of the unity of India. Even in those days of pre-history, there was full appreciation of diverse elements bound together in a common destiny. From the remotest times our diversity has implied acceptance and co-existence. Ancient India believed, as we do, that diversity itself can be a source of strength and that all people should not be confined to a single interpretation of Reality. Humanity's survival depends on the tolerance of people living their own lives and on the rejection of any conformity, which would negate the personality of nations, groups and individuals. India's greatness has been her genius for synthesis of cultures and ideas." (What makes an Indian, from Indira Gandhi's Convocation address at the University of Delhi, April 1, 1980)]

(To be contd.....)

National & International News

Govt for tax incentives to airlines, regional connectivity

PTI New Delhi, Oct 30: Unveiling the much-awaited draft civil aviation policy, the government on Friday proposed tax incentives for airlines, maintenance and repair works of aircrafts besides mooting 2 per cent levy on all air tickets to fund regional connectivity scheme. In a significant move, the Civil Aviation Ministry has pitched for over 50 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in domestic carriers in case the open skies policy is implemented. Under open skies policy, overseas airlines can operate unlimited number of flights into and out of India. Present FDI limit is 49 per cent. At presenting the revised draft national aviation policy here, Civil Aviation Secretary R N Choubey said the ministry has proposed 2 per cent levy on all domestic and international tickets for regional connectivity scheme. "The government expects about Rs 1,500 crore annually from charging 2 per cent levy" Choubey added. The policy has mooted various measures to boost regional connectivity including setting up of no-frills airports and providing viability gap funding for airlines. Another proposal is to cap fare at Rs 2,500 for one-hour flight under regional connectivity scheme. To make MRO (Maintenance Repair, Overhaul) cheaper, the government has proposed to exempt such activities from service tax net and not levy any VAT. However, the government has decided to seek more comments from stakeholders before taking a final call on 520 norms - whereby local airlines can fly overseas only when they have five years operational experience and at least a fleet of 20 aircraft. The policy has now mooted three options - abolish the norm completely, continue with it or link overseas flying rights with domestic flying credits. The draft policy would be put up for comments from stakeholders for three weeks.

Myanmar opposition candidate hurt in knife attack on rally

AFP Yangon, Oct. 30: A candidate for Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition was wounded in a knife attack while canvassing in Yangon, his party said today, just over a week before Myanmar holds key elections. Naing Ngan Linn, a sitting MP for the National League for Democracy, was wounded as his campaign group toured Yangon's Tharketa township, where he is contesting, late yesterday. "(A man) started punching an NLD member. Then the people tried to make him go home because he was drunk. But he came back with a large knife," said Thet Htar Nwe Win, another NLD candidate, who witnessed the incident. "Naing Ngan Linn tried to stop him... That's why he sustained many injuries," he told AFP, adding three other NLD members suffered minor wounds. It was not clear what motivated the attack. The Htar Nwe Win said at least two people had been arrested. Political tensions are high in former junta-run Myanmar, where Suu Kyi's opposition is contesting nationwide elections for the first time in a quarter of a century. The party is likely to make major gains in the vote, potentially tipping the balance of power away from the military and its ruling party allies for the first time in generations. Myanmar's elections are set to reform more than four years of reforms that have seen the nation open its doors to the world under a quasi-civilian regime that replaced quasi rule in 2011. The colourful election campaign has largely been calm, although the NLD has complained that its rivals have used religion as a political tool. Those concerns carry weight in a nation that has seen waves of anti-Muslim violence in recent years. NLD spokesman Nyan Win told AFP that the attack on Naing Ngan Linn was "the worst case during our campaign so far" and called for immediate action from police. His wife Khin Sandar Win said he suffered wounds on his forehead, hands and wrists and had undergone an operation late yesterday. His condition was not life threatening. "It happened in front of my eyes. The man who attacked was shouting abusive words against NLD when our vehicle arrived," she told. **J&K govt identifies 27 new heritage sites** **PTI Jammu, Oct. 30:** Twenty-seven new heritage sites have been identified by the state government for preservation in Jammu and Kashmir. "27 new heritage sites of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh region have been identified for preservation and listing under J&K Heritage Conservation and Preservation Act 2010". Minister for Culture Priya Sethi said. She said it was an earnest effort of the state government to preserve heritage assets for future generations. The Minister said Jammu region has a great historical importance as used to be a hub of economic activities during Dogra rule.

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