

Khuga battalion felicitated Ex-Servicemen

PIB (DW)
Imphal, May 13,

Khuga Battalion organized an Ex-servicemen rally at District Training Center, Toubong, Churachandpur yesterday under the aegis of Churachandpur Sector Assam Rifle. The rally was inaugurated by the Commander 27 Sector Assam Rifles in the presence of Chief Guest, Mr V Hangkhanlian, Minister of Agriculture, Veterinary & Animal Husbandry and Guest of Honour Mr Shyam Lal Poonia, IAS, DC, Churachandpur. The rally was attended by about 1200 Ex-Servicemen to including 08 Disabled Soldiers, 15 War widows and 09 Veer Naris alongwith their dependents from various parts of Churachandpur district, Manipur.

The aim of this rally was to resolve the problems faced by veterans and War widows and to acquaint them with various existing and upcoming policies of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India. This rally is being organized in the district once in quarter



so that the problems of our Ex-Servicemen can be resolved on regular basis. In order to help the veterans and their families, Stalls for Suvigya Cell (to resolve pension related issues), Career Counseling Cell, Free Medical Checkup, Canteen Facilities, Telecommunication services and Gyandeep NGO to provide employment opportunity to Youth were also established. In addition, Khuga Battalion has also

detected and prepared claims of 346 Ex-Servicemen amounting to Rs 3,05,72,136/- to rectify the anomalies in their pensions, out of which 235 Ex-Servicemen have received the arrears for a sum of Rs 2,12,48,941/- assisting them in realising many of their unfulfilled dreams. As a precursor towards Army Recruitment Rally to be held in Churachandpur from 15 Oct to 23 Oct 2018, 'Mobile Interactive Terminal for Rural

Area' (MITRA) vehicle was also placed in the rally where 141 boys were registered and 65 girls documents as per their qualification and aptitude. The efforts were lauded by all the Ex-Servicemen who exhibited their gratitude towards Indian Army for providing them with a platform to voice their concerns and get assistance in redressal of their problems even after retirement.

Air India records 20% growth in revenue

Agency
New Delhi, May 13

Air India has recorded a 20 per cent growth in revenue in March-April 2018 and has embarked on a route analysis exercise, focusing on increasing flying hours of each of its aircraft, to add more trips, the airline's chairman-cum-managing director, Pradeep Singh Kharola, said. The airline is focusing on improving the operational efficiency both in the domestic and international sectors even as it is buoyed over the load factor, on time performance and revenue growth, Kharola told news agency.

"During March-April, the revenue has increased by about 20 per cent as compared to the same period last year at roughly about Rs 3,000 crore, though expenses continue to remain high," he said, adding that the airline has benefitted from the overall growth in the aviation market.

He pinned high hopes on international routes, generating 70 per cent of Air India's total revenue, stating that the new destinations such as Tel Aviv is giving good returns to the carrier. The increase of frequency to the San Francisco route to nine days a week is expected to give the airline Rs 90 crore a month. "We are focusing on improving on the operational efficiency. We are doing our route analysis all, finding out which are the more yielding routes and we are focusing on those routes. "At the same time, we want to increase the flying hours of each aircraft, we are trying to push the number of hours so that with the same aircraft we can do more trips," Kharola said.

According to the Director General of Civil Aviation, Air India had a market share of 13.4 per cent in March 2018. With a fleet of over 150 aircraft, Air India currently

boasts of over 2,500 international prime-time slots per week in 43 destinations and 3,800 domestic slots in 54 destinations.

Kharola, however, did not elaborate about the network analysis exercise or the new routes the airline is eyeing, especially in the international sector. However, he hinted that the African continent promises to hold a better future for the airline.

In February, the civil aviation ministry said Air India has been "consistently improving" its overall performance and more than doubled its operating profit to Rs 298.03 crore in 2016-17. During the same period, the airline's net loss widened to Rs 5,765.16 crore. In 2015-16, Air India had an operating profit of Rs 105 crore, while the net loss stood at Rs 3,836.77 crore. The ailing airline has been put on the block with the government proposing to divest 76 per cent of its stake in the airline.

Continued from yesterday's issue

Sovereignty Struggles in Northeast India: Where are They Going?

Sometime in 1990 or 1991 when it was clear that the Soviet Union was unravelling, I had a conversation with an important functionary of the United Liberation Front, Assam (ULFA). Talking of this and that, we naturally talked about the developments in the Soviet Union about which I could not hide my sadness. He on the other hand was very positive, for according to him, such unravelling would also 'inevitably' follow in India, which was all the good for ULFA's objective of securing sovereignty for Assam. I have come across similar 'optimism' among others who are not actively engaged in securing sovereignty for Assam, but are sympathetic to ULFA's objectives.

When I read about the near celebratory welcome accorded to the developments in Montenegro, which drove the final nail into the coffin of the remnants of Republic of Serbia and Montenegro, I was reminded of this perspective

of sections of ULFA who too, twenty years ago, saw the unravelling of the Soviet Union as the curtain raiser for the 'inevitable' unravelling of India, and so a 'good thing' for the people of this region striving to 'throw off the yoke of Indian colonialism'. I wonder how he sees the situation two decades later, when the unravelling Soviet Union, now the Russian Republic, and the yet unravelling India are both stronger than ever. To diminish is not necessarily to weaken, a lesson that India has learnt after actively assisting in the dismemberment of Pakistan. Let me end this rambling discourse with an anecdote, actually something that I was an unwilling and rather disgusted witness to and participant in when I was living in Bombay, working with Economic and Political Weekly. This was during the days of the Janata Party government under Morarji

Desai, sometime after the Morarji-Phizo meeting in London (June 1977). A senior journalist from Delhi had dropped by at the office, a common event, and since this gentleman was supposed to 'specialise' in developments in this region, perhaps meaning that he wrote those execrable editorials in that paper that always upset me, and since I had joined EPW after working at GU for fourteen years during which period I began to write seriously on developments in Assam and the NE region, Editor Krishna Raj asked me to join him at his corner in the Office when this gentleman arrived. I was for the most part a silent listener, Raj was always the silent listener, but our visitor made up for our silence with his confident loquacity. Sure enough, Morarji Desai's meeting with Phizo and the situation in Nagaland came up, as also the situation in Manipur whose restiveness was evident even in those days, even in Bombay. This

gentleman said he had the solution to all these problems, the conversation was in the peculiar Hindi spoken by most Delhi journalists, with a strong Punjabi touch, so this account does not catch that flavour. Liberally sprinkling spittle all over me in his passionate patriotic intensity, the gentleman said: Corrupt them, year, corrupt them. Send more money. Corrupt them. Insurgency khatam ho jayega, or something like that. I did not even try to contradict him, though everyone knows that pouring money has never solved any problem, including what in those was beginning to be identified as Moneypower. Now few speak such language, perhaps a small advance; but whether such thinking has changed, I do not know.

Initially I had planned to speak of the sovereignty struggles in Assam, Manipur and Nagaland, and had made elaborate notes. However, when one begins to write, ideas

sometimes take control of the writer who is only notionally in control of what she or he is writing. If this essay has dealt, even if superficially, only with the situation in Manipur, this is natural. For the sovereignty struggles in Manipur that have persisted so long have yet to define and resolve the serious contradictions arising out of the classic views of the land and its people, and the challenges these are facing from within. There are, as is the case with other, apparently more internally coherent Indian nationalities, varieties of Manipur and its people whose nationalist and territorial imaginations are not always in harmony. I think I will leave it at that.

Permit me, Sir, to end this disorganised discourse with a tribute to two women of this land: Thongjam Manorama, raped and killed, after being taken away from her home in the dead of night on 11 July 2004 three havildars of Assam Rifles. A few hours later her dead body was found not far from her house. Four days later was the famous public demonstration by twelve women who had bared their

bodies, protesting the rape and murder, challenging the security forces to do the same to them, an event that shamed the nation (one hopes). Whatever be the procedural wrangles at the level of the government and the courts, the Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur) Special Powers Act, 1958 (AFSPA) is now fully in the national public domain. As I write this, I read in the paper that yesterday, 24 May, there was a demonstration in Bangalore against AFSPA calling for its repeal. The dialogue from Christopher Marlowe's 'The Jew of Malta' that I have used as the epigraph to this section may not be actually used as part of the defence of the accused if they ever come to trial, though such rationalisation of fornication and murder would be legitimate for that odious person from Delhi that ruined my working afternoon in Bombay. Indeed, such defence could well be the most explicit validation of the demand for Manipur's sovereignty and independence. And what can I say about

from Sharmila that has not been said before, that I myself have not said and written before. Persons at the highest levels of the government have expressed their 'concern', retired army and police officers have said that AFSPA is not necessary, for India has other laws covering the same areas and providing similar immunities to armed personnel; but AFSPA stays. Irom Sharmila, like the dead Thangjam Manorama, shames this nation state that is India, my and your India. As in much of what I have spoken earlier, I end with more questions for myself than answers for my audience. But I am sure no one here expected me to provide any answers. I thank you, friends, for your generosity in inviting me, and for your patience in listening to me articulate my inchoate thoughts. (Concluded)

(The write up published here is the paper presented by M. S. Prabhakara on the Sixth Arambam Somendra Singh Memorial Lecture held in Imphal on June 10, 2011)

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A Reflection on the Tour of Dubai and Abu Dhabi.....

There are many more places to see, to study and enjoy oneself in Dubai. It may not be possible to have a good look of those places even in one month. Dubai is made in a such way that one may call it the country of Amusements and Enjoyments of life of all sorts available from all possible countries of the earth. One of the things that impress me is the Gold Market or Gold Souk where rows of gold and silver ornaments and jewelers are endlessly extended throughout the areas of the gold market. I just like to add my view on the observation in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. The Bruj Khalifa areas is the Center for business and financial port. Maximum use of modern technology and technique to explore and extract the sea water. Water channels are well developed and linked in all

possible ways within the area of the city. Hotel industry is one of the best developed and earning is good enough for the country. Income from establishment of Amusements and other associated ones might have added a sizeable amount to the country exchequer. One interesting observation is that we don't feel we are in a foreign country as we can speak both Hindi and English for communication with those people there. I think many Indians are settled there as we find easily Indian food stuffs and other things easily from Indian shops here and there. Philippines young men and girls are found working at the shops and other establishments in Dubai. Their facial appearance and physical structure and even gaits are very much resemble to that of Meitei Manipuri.

I find most of local people are neat and clean, well dressed up in their own traditional attires both men and women. It appears that people are mostly honest and hard working. The Arabian sea is the base of the beauty of the city both Dubai and Abu Dhabi as we find water wherever we go and feel the gentle sea breeze. The mosque in Abu Dhabi may be one of excellent places, the fine and biggest structure in white marbles with domes made at a very high cost in the world to offer your prayer to Allah, the beautiful and attractive place of the modern world. It may be funny when I mention that those things and situations are not much attractive to me, maybe I am matured and aged enough to be impressed by the so called high class material

development. Of course, I did enjoy the facilities of amusement offered to the mankind for sensual pleasures. There are thousands of plants in the desert land which are nurtured by Electricity Water irrigation system. I did not find out for I think it is not my domain at this stage of like. I simply feel happiness and satisfaction at their growth and development. The taxi service in Dubai is excellent, one could stop and hop on to a taxi and then give direction as to where you would like to go. During one of my conversation with a driver I am told that refusal to ferry the passenger or taking an undue diversion would lead to cancellation of the Driving permit. All the taxis are owned by the government and the drivers get paid accordingly.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Shri Holkhotong Touthang, aged about 62 yrs. S/o (L) Khaihol Touthang of Y. Langkhong Village, Saikul Sub-Division, Kangpokpi District, Manipur do hereby solemnly affirm and oath as under: That I am a citizen of India and permanent resident of the above mentioned address. This is true to the best of my knowledge. That, my correct name is Holkhotong Touthang. This is true to the best of my knowledge. That, my name is wrongly entered/recorded as 'Holkhotong Touthang Chongthu Kuki' in some relevant documents. This is true to the best of my knowledge. That, I desire to change my name as Holkhotong Touthang instead of Holkhotong Touthang Chongthu Kuki. This is true to the best of my knowledge. Verified and signed this affidavit on this the 10th day of May, 2018. Sd/- Holkhotong Touthang

AFFIDAVIT

I, Smt Lamkhochin Touthang, aged about 62 yrs. W/o Holkhotong Touthang of Y. Langkhong village, Saikul Sub-Division, Kangpokpi District, Manipur do hereby solemnly affirm and oath as under: That, I am a citizen of India and permanent resident of the above mentioned address. This is true to the best of my knowledge. That, my correct name is Lamkhochin Touthang. This is true to the best of my knowledge. That, my name is wrongly entered/recorded as 'Lamkhochin Touthang Chongthu Kuki' in some relevant documents. This is true to the best of my knowledge. That, I desire to change my name as Lamkhochin Touthang instead of Lamkhochin Touthang Chongthu Kuki. This is true to the best of my knowledge. Verified and signed this affidavit on this the 10th day of May, 2018. Sd/- Lamkhochin Touthang