

Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, November 26, 2015

Standing up to the challenges

The greatest tragedy of our state is that nothing seems to move until and unless extreme measures are resorted to: be it implementing rules of law or conveying the aspirations and needs of the public. Add to it the fact that we, as a collective, have yet to realize the undeniable truth that the centre is evidently more concerned with preserving its national territory rather than improving the welfare of its citizens when it comes to affairs of the north east region of the country, in effect, reducing the importance of the region to that of a mere geographical entity. Death, destruction and tragedy continue to be the only means of drawing attention of the high and mighty at the centre to the region. None of the national media considers it relevant to highlight the improvements, or whatever activities and changes that can be attributed as such that has occurred in the state. Even the landmark decision by its government which led to the removal of AFSPA from Tripura was mentioned in the passing, even as the collective mind of the rest of the north east states still remain occupied and fascinated with the development, and the tantalizing possibility of it unfolding in their own states. Despite the blatant indifference and continued ignorance of the centre, it remains an intriguing issue as to the question of why the state government still remains a passive bystander at best and a perceived stooge for the centre, while pressing issues needing immediate attention has been put on the backburner or dismissed altogether. While it must be said in its defence that the governance of a volatile and inherently unpredictable state as Manipur is easier said than done, this very situation cannot be used as an excuse to shy away from the challenges that is staring it in the face. The peculiarity of the situations confronting Manipur: from its geopolitical to socio-economic conditions needs to be tackled in ways that involves innovative and unorthodox methods. This calls for a more alert, swifter and sterner government capable of dispensing its plans and proposals more smoothly and effectively. The frustrations being felt by the public for a long time now need to be addressed. Every aspect of public life and governance has been beset with corruptions, controversies, scandals, accusations of favoritism, despotism and cronyism. The sooner the present guardians of the state admit to the allegations and own up to such aberrations, the sooner it can address and rectify itself. Bringing in a system of governance that takes into confidence its people and their needs rather than dispensing administration by tweaking the system to suit its every whim will eventually prove to be the spark that lit up the fire of frustrations trampled expectations. The state government needs to stand with its people and work in synergy rather than to cloak its intentions and actions with the shroud of suspicion and mystery.

PM greets the people of India, on the historic occasion of 1st Constitution Day

PIB
New Delhi, Nov 26: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has greeted the people of India, on the historic occasion of 1st Constitution Day. The Prime Minister saluted Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar for his contribution to Indian Constitution. "Greetings to people of India on the historic occasion of 1st Constitution Day. May this day inspire you to know more about our Constitution. This day is a tribute to all those great women and men who worked tirelessly to give India a Constitution we are very proud of. No mention of our Constitution is complete without remembering the stellar contribution of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. I salute him. Let us always uphold the ideals and values of our Constitution and create an India that would make our founding fathers very proud", the Prime Minister said.

Wanted Sub-Editor

Imphal Times is looking for an experience sub editor with excellent writing skill in English who can read Bengali written script. Working hour is 12 noon till 3 pm. Honorarium is Rs. 3000 p/m. Preference will be given to candidate who had already work in English daily as desk editor. Age no bar, and Imphal Times have no problem with those candidates working in other newspaper at night shift.

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A governor's strange wisdom

The Governor of Assam and Nagaland, PB Acharya gives the Assam Rifles-Naga Press controversy a fresh lease of life.

Strange and stranger things happen across the globe but it appears that the strangest happen only in Nagaland. By now, the Assam Rifles-Nagaland Press "stand-off" is well known even globally and it appeared that the ubiquitous fickle public attention was beginning to divert elsewhere but none less than our Governor himself has given it another fresh lease of life. Apparently, Governor of Nagaland and Assam, PB Acharya, has stated that Assam Rifles had done what is prescribed under law vis-à-vis its notification to five Nagaland newspapers. According to *The Times of India* report, our Governor has said: "As per the law, the Assam Rifles had done the right thing. Any banned organization will not get the publicity in our newspapers. If they (armed outfits) are in peace agreement with the Government, their statements can come in the newspapers", adding "There is a Central law which prohibits publicity of banned outfits. Let law takes its own course", at Guwahati on November 22, 2015, while contending that as NSCN-IM is a banned organization, the Assam Rifles had to send the notification. The question that must be posed to the Governor is: "what law?" Which

law empowers the Assam Rifles or any other security force and paramilitary force to issue dicta to the Fourth Estate, as well as to the State Government? The Indian Constitution is very clear on the freedoms and duties of the Press, as much as it is clear about the Central and State Government's roles and responsibilities ~ perhaps our Governor needs to refresh his memory as regards our Constitution? Or are we to understand that seeing that till now our State Government, for that matter even the Central Government, especially the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, under which the Assam Rifles operate across the country, has remained silent on the issue, perhaps our Governor has been entrusted to speak of the two Governments' behalf? The Nagaland Press, as indeed the Press in India, also has the right to know whether our Governor is speaking on behalf of the Central and Nagaland Governments. Besides, as the Governor has reportedly stated: "There is a Central law which prohibits publicity of banned outfits..." does he, as well as the Central and Nagaland Government, believe that the Assam Rifles or any

other security force in the country is the right agency with the mandate to "...prohibits publicity of banned outfits..."? Both the Central and Nagaland Government must clarify this matter at the earliest because it is only then the exact position and status of the State of Nagaland and all the Estates of democratic Estates thereof ~ the legislature, the executive, the judiciary and the Fourth Estate ~ would be revealed, notwithstanding Article 375 (A) of the Indian Constitution. In fact, this is crucial for it would reveal to the world exactly where Nagaland, and indeed the rest of the Northeastern states, stand in the larger scheme of the Indian narrative, which is making so much wave and gaining so much global attention as an investment destination and as an heir to endowments the 21st century. Then again, does our Constitution empower Governors to speak, or even usurp, the power, and the roles and responsibilities of a democratically-elected Government(s); in the event Governors do that without clarifying that s/he is merely stating personal opinion(s), and is not the opinion of the Government(s) or reflect the opinion of the Government(s)? In this particular instance, it appears

that our Governor is not averse to para-military and security forces attempting to muzzle the press under the guise of "prohibiting publicity of banned outfits", which could generally mean "curbing and containing insurgency, militancy, and even terrorism. Doesn't this sort of give the impression that our Constitution could be relegated to the background under certain circumstance evoking the spectre of the Emergency proclaimed in the mid-1970s? Clearly, the issue here is much more than merely the "stand-off" between the Assam Rifles and the Press in Nagaland ~ the issue here is of the very status and position of the Fourth Estate in India, seeing that conflict, in whatever form, is increasingly the hallmark of the country's political spectrum. The other thought that need to be expressed at the risk of inviting further censure ~ sensitive states like Nagaland and others Northeastern states, and other conflict-ridden states, need heads of states that are well-versed with the Constitution, as also sensitive to the sensitivities of the people, although political compulsions may dictate otherwise.

(Courtesy The Hoot)

National & International News

Film festival is all about promoting cinema: Festival Director

We will be preparing for next IFFI from December, 2015 onwards: CEO, ESG

PIB
Goa, Nov 26: The response of delegates and viewers at the on-going IFFI has been encouraging. All the theatres are receiving good presence which shows that IFFI has succeeded to a great extent in achieving its objective of showcasing good international films to Indian viewers and good Indian films to foreign delegates. This was stated by Shri C. Senthil Rajan, Director, DFF while addressing the Mid Fest Press conference here today. He said that film festival is all about promoting cinema, both Indian and International. IFFI's objective is to showcase quality films and promote

India as a destination for shooting films in general and Goa in particular, he added. Briefing the media about the on-going activities at IFFI 2015, Shri Rajan said that more than 8000 registrations have been made so far, which included those of 24 FTII students. Referring to the preparation for closing ceremony of IFFI 2015, he said that the ceremony will showcase the rich and splendid tradition of Indian cinema through the medium of music and dance. Speaking to the media, Shri Ameya Abhyankar, CEO, ESG said that preparation for IFFI 2016 will be started soon after the conclusion of the on-going festival. The CEO also



emphasised the need to make the festival IT enabled and said that efforts will be made to enhance the

overall quality of the festival, so that IFFI can be at par with other famous film festivals across the world.

Rationalization of Allotment of Berths under Physically Handicapped Quota with a View To Ensure Optimum Utilization

PIB
New Delhi, Nov 26: As per extant instructions, handicapped quota of 2 berths in sleeper class (one lower and one middle) is earmarked for physically handicapped persons travelling on concession. There are two types of handicapped persons who can book berth under this quota; one for whom it is compulsory to travel along with escort and the second for whom it is optional. Recently instances were brought to the notice of this office where the handicapped persons for whom it is optional to take an escort were not allowed to book single berth against this quota by some Railways since the second berth will go vacant as middle berth cannot be allotted to physically handicapped persons. This issue has now been examined by the Ministry of Railways and further rationalization has been done to ensure optimum allotment and utilization of handicapped quota. The revised decisions taken are given as under :-
(i) There will be two types of handicapped quota of two berths each (one lower and one middle) in the same cabin; one for physically handicapped persons who can utilize concession only when accompanied by an escort and the

second for those handicapped persons for whom it is optional to take an escort with them.
(ii) As for the former category it is compulsory to be accompanied by an escort, these berths can be booked by such category of handicapped persons booking tickets on concession on first come first serve basis.
(iii) For the later, where it is optional to be accompanied by an escort, if the first handicapped person intends to book berth along with escort, both the berths will be booked. However if the first handicapped person books without escort, the second berth will not be booked under handicapped quota and will be released to RAC/waitlisted passengers at the time of preparation of reservation charts.
(iv) Further, at the time of preparation of reservation charts, the unutilized lower berths under this quota can be released to physically handicapped passenger (of either category who were kept in general waiting list due to exhaustion of their quota), single senior citizen travelling alone on priority and thereafter to waitlisted passengers as per priority. In case a single berth i.e. middle berth is left vacant in this quota of second category it will be released to RAC/waitlisted

passengers.
(v) It has also been decided that whenever a physically handicapped person books ticket on concession and if no berth is available in handicapped quota, the system will

automatically try to allot the lower berth to him/her and middle berth to escort subject to availability of same at the time of booking. These new provisions will be effective by 22nd December, 2015.

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Imphal War Museum, most visited.....

Few months back 87 graves of Manipuri who serve during the I World War at the Indian Labour Coy as Indian Labour Corps were also discovered and expecting to discover many other graves of those Manipuri who could not return back to their homeland, he added. World War-II Imphal Campaign Foundation which collected the artifacts of the war by excavating different areas was set up by Yumnam Rajeshwor and Arambam Angamba Singh and the Museum is set up at the residence of Arambam Angamba Singh at Tera Amudon Leirak, Imphal-West. Items being displayed by the War Museum were not for sales, it was only for public viewing but the visitors were so excited that they even asked for the price of the items which are being displayed as they are so eager to have it. Staff stalls were having a hard time reminding

the visitors from taking of pictures and touching of the displayed items which were strictly prohibited and against the rule of Museum. Imphal War Museum stall open from 10:30 am of the morning till 7:00 pm of the evening. Many visitors who do not have any idea about the closing time of the stall use to throng only just to have a glimpse of the items even after the stall gate has been close. Many return with a disappointed face and many stayed at the stall gate expecting the gate might be open even if it were just for a few minutes. Among the displayed items, the item which attracts the eye of the visitors was the BSA Bike which was used by the British forces during II World War. More visitors and more foreign delegates are expected at the War Museum stall till the end of Sangai Festival, 2015.