

Editorial

Imphal, Saturday, October 3, 2015

Playing games in communal line

Now, a new political party with main agenda of demanding the Scheduled Tribe status for the Meitei community of the state has been formed and its agenda was announced yesterday to the people. It is very clear that the main purpose of this party is solely for protection of the Meitei/meitei people even though they declared that the party is meant for all the community of the state. Quite confusingly this newly formed political party said that they are only demanding for restoration of the Meitei community to the status of Scheduled Tribe. The president of this political party at one of his write up said that the Meitei were once in the scheduled tribe list in the census of 1831, the time when Manipur was an erstwhile kingdom dominated by the British Empire. When the very term Scheduled Tribe is the creation of the Indian constituency no wonder why the president is misleading the people by saying that Meitei were once a Scheduled Tribe community. The Meitei were once known for its kindness and its policy to unite all the communities in the state whether it may be the Kukis, the Nagas, the Meitei Pangal, the Thadous, the Tangkhuls, the Marings etc. This episode of coming up a new political platform with sole interest for the Meitei community only is perhaps the first of its kind in the History of Manipur. The emergence of this political party is the outcome of the ongoing impasse in the aftermath of the passing of three Bills for implementation of ILPS which is supported by the valley based JCILPS and opposed by the Hill based civil society organization.

The intensity of the agitation in valley and those of the Hill district particularly in the Churachandpur district was not due to the personnel feeling of enmity among the people in Hills or the Valley but it was the byproduct of the dead of a student at Khurai area in Imphal and dead of 9 people in Churachandpur district.

Politically there are differences among the various people of the state and some vested interests persons usually take advantage of the situation to play their own selfish game. But the game that these vested interested people are playing has gone serious both at Hills and Valley. Now the way that the new political party emerges at Valley and the pseudo intellect representing Hill based civil body are pursuing showed that the tendency to break the ties of brotherhood among the various communities of the state is very high.

It is a known fact that, before the merger of the erstwhile kingdom Manipur, to the Indian Union in 15 October, 1949, after the signing of the controversial merger agreement with the dominant of India in September 21, 1949, Manipur was then a sovereign nation having its own constitution. It is also a fact that meitei are the majority community and since the time there were many small communities whose status was not that good as compare with the then ruling community. These whole of the smaller ethnic communities are really backward that the state has to give some kind of status to improve their situation to compete with the major community. But after Manipur was merged to the dominion of India (or say annexation) the so call majority Meitei becomes a mere minority group when compare with those of the people of the mainland Indian community.

Saving Manipur of today by the present generation is the priority for all the people of the state. When the valley and Hill are separated there will be no place on earth that can be called Manipur. It is time now for all the people of the state to reconsider their any kind of move which might disintegrate the state into pieces.

Suspicious device recovered

ANI
Farrukhabad, Oct 03: A suspicious device was found at Farrukhabad's railway station in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday morning. A state of panic was created after passengers waiting at the station saw the device which somewhat looked like a bomb. It also has a timer on it. Authorities were informed about it and they immediately reached the spot. The area has been cordoned off and bomb disposal squad is reaching the spot. Further details are awaited.

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National & International News

Indonesia resumes search on Sulawesi Island for missing plane

Reuters
Jakarta, Oct 3: Indonesian authorities on Saturday resumed searching for an Aviatar airline Twin Otter turboprop aircraft with 10 people on board that went missing on Friday during a flight on Sulawesi Island. The aircraft lost contact with airport authorities on a flight from the Town of Masamba Island about 30 minutes before it was

scheduled to land in Makassar city. Ferdinand Lumintang, Aviatar's flight operations officer, said search and rescue crews were using signals from the pilot's and passengers' mobile phones on Friday night to try to locate the aircraft in a mountainous area. Indonesia has a patchy aviation safety record and has had three major crashes over the past year,

including an Air Asia flight that went down in the sea between Surabaya and Singapore on December 28, killing all 162 people aboard. In August, a passenger airliner crashed in Papua killing all 54 people aboard. More than 100 people were killed in June in the crash of a military transport plane in the northern city of Medan, prompting the

government to promise a review of the ageing air force fleet. According to Aviation-safety.net, Aviatar has had four fatal incidents, including that of an British Aerospace 146-300 aircraft in the eastern province of Papua in 2009, killing all six crew on board. Indonesia scored poorly on a 2014 safety audit by the UN aviation agency.

Indrani's lawyer not allowed to meet her in hospital

TNN
Mumbai, Oct. 3: Indrani Mukerjea's worrying health condition and her being admitted to the hospital led her lawyer Gunjan Mangala trying to meet her at the hospital on Saturday. But the jail authorities did not allow her to see Indrani. The authorities said she may have to get a court order granting her permission first. Mangala has not yet moved

court for permission but may have to since the lawyer is unaware of how Indrani's condition is or what actually happened and what or how did she take medicines which no one from outside had sent to the jail. It was learnt from sources close to Indrani that she was "not on any anti depressants or epilepsy medicines during her marriage." The fact that she took medicines while in judicial custody that led

her to become unconscious is a serious issue said lawyers. Legal experts have questioned the security at the jail and its supervisory regime. Her lawyer wants to meet her to know if her condition is stable. While in judicial custody, the jail authorities are not obliged to inform her lawyer about her hospitalization. But at the next date of remand would need to inform the court as she is

technically under the custody of the court. Sources said Indrani had made no written application for any medicines in court or to the Jailor. But it was learnt that she had wanted eye drops and multi vitamin tablets which the jail administration didn't allow from outside. That she may be suffering from any other ailment was not known to her lawyers.

Contd. from page 1

Of Oja Gautam Nongmaithem and the Mission Whiteboard

"There were only 13 students mostly Nepali as it was in Nepali dominated areas. I hold one of the school key so that I can open the school in time. If we open the school regularly children will come. I hate teachers saying students do not come to school", Guatam said. He cared to visit students personally if students fail to come to class. "I even went to meet students if they are absent for continuous days. During my days at Pangei, I visit other government school in the area and find out their problems".

In doing so, he met one teacher named Prakash at KC High School at Khundrakpam and asked for his help. He told daily evening that he was lucky to meet Prakash. Prakash shared the problem that, in the school there are number of students studying in class IX and X but they cannot buy books due to poverty.

Then he initiated to post on Facebook to donate old books and money. Finally around Rs. 13000 cost books could be handed over to the needy students. Then again in around January 2014, he and Kenedy, a friend through Facebook, who is a doctor by profession and was also a member of Youth Education Welfare Association (YEWA) visited the KC High School and Khundrakpam primary school. There they found out the incomparably poor toilet system. Kennedy was kind enough to built toilets in both schools costing around Rs. 30,000 from the Association's side.

Gautam Nongmaithem, this primary teacher has been conducting drawing competition in between, among students from 4 to 5 selected government schools. While prizes for competition were sponsored by his facebook friends Fisher Laishram, who is a computer literate and software developer working in Mumbai and Esund Khongbantabam.

Gautam joined in his present posting again in August 2015, as School Management Committee of Haoreibi Junior High School pull him back as utilization. He says, he could acquire inner peace of mind and happiness that

every teacher could get in doing such things which we cannot buy. His love and attachment to primary students could be seen personally while interacting with him. He told, as long as he is with students he forgets outer world's tented issues. He likes students considering him as a friend rather a teacher. Where ever he is posted he teaches drawing, making dustbin craftwork to the students which is not in the syllabus and for that, students love him, he said and laughs out.

Mass rally to preserve wildlife held

Range Officer Tegnoupal Y. Amumacha, Range Officer Moreh N. Tiken, Range Officer Chandell Sh. Tomba Sharma, Range Officer Chaupikarong S. Dhana Singh and other staff of the Forest Division also took part in the rally among others. Speaking to the media persons, R.K. Amarjit Singh, DFO Tegnoupal Forest Division said that the rally was organized in connection with the week-long celebration of the 60th Wildlife Week under the theme "Living with wildlife". And the objective of the rally is to give awareness about the importance of wildlife and to

inculcate love for forest and wildlife to the young students so that they can dissipate the message of wildlife to others, he added.

He further told that there are several cases of illegal smuggling of contraband wildlife products towards Myanmar along the Imphal - Moreh section of National Highway through Pallel. As such, Pallel was chosen as the venue for organizing the mass rally hoping that it will dissipate the message and awareness about the importance of wildlife to the general public of the area, said the Divisional Forest Officer.

State news

Northeast promotes itself as potential tourist destination

ANI
Kohima, Oct. 3: Rich scenic beauty, exotic flora and fauna, delicious cuisines, indigenous arts and handicrafts... the northeastern states of India have a lot to offer to every visitor. The tourism potential of the region is largely untapped. With the decline of insurgency, a lot of emphasis is being given to develop tourist destinations and attract more visitors.

Recently, on occasion of the World Tourism Day that was celebrated under the theme "One Billion Tourists, One Billion Opportunities", the northeastern states organized programmes to highlight the growth potential of the tourism sector.

In Manipur, the state tourism department, organised an event at Santhai Natural Park in Andro village. Different cultural dances, songs, and traditional activities of various tribes were showcased during the programme. The visitors had a good time enjoying the rich scenic beauty of the village and getting glimpses of the traditional tribal exhibits.

Chief Minister O Ibobi Singh stressed on the need to maintain peace to facilitate greater tourist influx into the state. O Ibobi Singh said, "We are planning seriously by taking into account everything. Most importantly transportation from Imphal to Andro and from Andro to the neighbouring villages has to be improved for tourists to come



here easily. The Indian government has also sanctioned money to develop the tourist spots here. Even our state government and tourism department is taking things seriously to develop Manipur as a tourism hub." The Manipur Tourism Forum also initiated a mass rally to promote awareness about tourism under the theme "walk-run-ride for tourism". It was flagged off from Khuman Lampak by O Ibobi Singh and concluded at the historic Kangla fort. Hundreds of people including students, members from Manipur Polo and Horse Riding Association, Manipur Cycle Association, Royal Riders Manipur, and other organizations took part in the mega event. In Nagaland, a special programme was held to commemorate the United Nations World Tourism Day at Peren. The event was marked by songs and colorful dance performances. Chief Minister T R Zeliang, who

was present at the function emphasized on the importance of peace for the tourism sector.

T R Zeliang said, "The highest tourist influx in the Northeast region is in Sikkim. Sikkim is a small state but because of peaceful atmosphere, no underground, no threat-everybody who wants to go to Sikkim doesn't have to think twice. They make a package tour from Delhi, Kolkata, or Mumbai and they go directly to Sikkim. And those who come back from Sikkim, they send a message to the whole world that this small state is the most peaceful state."

Angau Thou, Secretary of Tourism Department, Nagaland said, "Today the theme is "One Billion Tourists, One Billion Opportunities". There has to be inclusiveness. In order to achieve awareness amongst people about the importance of tourism, we should change the mindset of everyone. If you look around these hills, it's all green. Will this not attract tourists to this side? I'm sure it will."