

Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, April 14, 2016

Industrial Expo-exposed fallacies

In a bid to showcase the emerging industrial and enterprising prowess of the state, the first ever Industrial Expo is being organized in Manipur. The event is not one-off, as an international business summit was also held as part of the extravaganza to lure investors and kickstart the industrial revolution in Manipur. The ambitious term "Make in Manipur" was even coined to broadcast the firm intent of the state government, and more importantly to pique the interest of the rest of the country and the world to the positive potentials of the otherwise volatile, often troubled state. That there has been a perceptible change in the social outlook, albeit slowly, cannot be ignored anymore, and that these changes are being driven, more than anything, by the rapidly shifting focus and efforts of a rising number of private players- individuals and groups would be stating the obvious. The initial impact of the all-out effort of the state government has been felt across the state and beyond. And it must be said at this point that the impact has been a mixed one- ranging from the inexplicably confused general public to the grinning state officials and bureaucrats heaving a collective sigh of relief at a task dispensed and done with. While it would sound too judgmental and immature to comment on the events, there can be no denying the fact that everything right from the start, barring the media advertisement part for the expo that elicited unprecedented interest and curiosity, could have been handled more efficiently, given that the state government have spared no expenses and efforts to make the event a success. To add to the grouse as some might put it, the protest by the designers and beauty contestants of the state on the alleged mismanagement and backtracking of the procedures of selection whereby the opportunities of showcasing and promoting the rich traditional fabrics and costumes of Manipur on the national and international fashion arena- a real opportunity for revival of the beleaguered handloom and handicrafts industry of Manipur, has been wasted- yet again, as the incident is not the first, and going by the evidently indifferent attitude of the officials, nor the last. The choice of the venue for the expo leaves a lot to be desired and raised more questions than the organizers would care or able to answer. It would come as no surprise to anyone if details of financial irregularities and misappropriations regarding the organisation of the extravaganza come out in the future.

The recent 'Expo' exposed more lapses and lackadaisical approach to the implementation of an idea- no matter how grand or positive it might be. It is this abject failure of implementing a task that has been the stumbling block of the state government so far. Yet there is still no apparent sign of stocktaking or introspection on the part of the government in an earnest effort to improve its performance or acceptability and accountability. If that was the best the present government can do to project the emerging Manipur to the rest of the world, it is time to question our allegiance and support.

Yoga guru Ramdev booked for 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' remark

PTI
Derabad, April 14: Yoga guru Ramdev, who had earlier said that he would have beheaded lakhs of people for not chanting 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' slogan if there was no Constitution, was booked by the Hyderabad police on Wednesday.

A case was registered on a complaint by Mohd Bin Omer, a medical college student and an activist of city-based Darsagah Jihad-O-Shahadat under section 295 A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings) of the IPC, a senior police officer said.

Omer said in the complaint that he had seen a video clip on YouTube where Ramdev threatens members of a particular community. Assistant Commissioner of Police M Srinivasa Rao said. "We are investigating the matter further," Rao told PTI.

Ramdev had recently said he respects the law of the land and the Constitution, otherwise he would have "beheaded" lakhs of people for refusing to say 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'.

Hyderabad-based MIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi had earlier said he would not say the slogan.

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National & International News

Mobile internet services suspended in Kashmir, Separatists call for complete shut down today

Courtesy India Today Srinagar, April 14: In a bid to check rumour-mongering by anti-social elements, the mobile internet services were today suspended in Kashmir, officials said. Services were unavailable to subscribers in Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora and Ganderbal districts today.

Although service providers remained tight-lipped about suspension of the mobile internet services, a senior police official said

the step was taken to check spreading of rumours. Residents of Srinagar and south Kashmir also said they were unable to access mobile internet services in the morning.

Officials said the suspension was a temporary measure and services would be restored as soon as the situation returns to normal. Four civilians were killed during clashes between stone pelting mobs and security forces in north Kashmir's

Kupwara district since Tuesday. The Separatists have meanwhile called for a complete shut down today.

The trouble erupted after locals alleged that a soldier had tried to molest a school girl in Handwara town on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, toll in Tuesday's firing in Jammu and Kashmir's Handwara rose to four. Doctors at the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) in Srinagar said

Raja Begum, 54, who was admitted to the super speciality hospital on Tuesday, succumbed to a bullet injury.

22-year-old Muhammad Iqbal and Nayeem Bhat, 21 and a budding cricketer, had died on Tuesday after clashes erupted in Handwara town, 85 km from Srinagar, between the security forces and a crowd protesting the alleged molestation of a girl by the soldiers of the Indian Army.

Social boycott now a crime in Maharashtra, a first for the country

Agency
Mumbai, April 14: The state legislature unanimously passed the Maharashtra Prohibition of People from Social Boycott Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Act, 2016. Under this Act, anyone found guilty of imposing any social boycott on an individual or a group of individuals can be imprisoned up to three years and can be fined Rs1 lakh. The fine (in whole or part) will be given as compensation to the

victim.

With this, Maharashtra becomes the first state in the country to bring out a law making social boycott a crime.

If the accused is convicted, the court shall hear the victim on the quantum of sentence and only then pass the sentence, the Bill states. The sentence is compoundable. While tabling the Bill, chief minister Devendra Fadnis informed the legislative council that so far, 68 instances of

social boycott have been reported in the state and 633 people from Raigad had been identified. "This Bill will help restrain such medieval practices," he said.

The offence is cognizable and bailable as per the Bill.

A social boycott prohibition officer will also be appointed to prevent such incidents. In an exception, every rule framed for the implementation of this Act shall be approved by the legislature. As per the Bill, the

victim or any member of the victim's family may file a complaint either through the police or directly with a magistrate. To ensure speedy justice, the trial shall be completed within a period of six months from the date of filing of the chargesheet.

The enactment of the Bill will lead to the repealing of the Bombay Regulation II of 1827; the Caste Disabilities Removal Act, 1850; the Bombay Prevention of Ex-Communication Act, 1949.

13 insurgents, One civilian killed in clashes Afghanistan's Kunar region

ANI
Kabul, April 14: At least 13 insurgents and a civilian have been killed in a Taliban attack in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar province.

In addition, 28 insurgents, seven civilians and a military soldier were sustained injuries in the attack yesterday.

The fierce battle between the Taliban insurgents and security forces took place after the insurgent group attacked security outposts in the district, Provincial Police Chief Abdul Habib Sayedkhili said, reports Tolo news.

Sayedkhili added that the insurgents were driven from the

area by the security forces.

He, however, did not provide further details over the attack.

The attack came two-days after the Taliban announced their summer offensive against the Afghan government.

Jawan killed in landmine blast in C'garh

In Chhattisgarh, one police jawan

was killed in a landmine blast in Bijapur district of tribal Bastar division today. AIR correspondent reports that a team of security personnel was on a search operation near Jangla village. During the search operation one jawan stepped on a pressure bomb, planted underneath the land by Maoists. The jawan died on the spot.

Assam's popular, vibrant and ethnic Bohagi Utsav celebrated in New Delhi

ANI
New Delhi, April 14: The harvest season has begun in India and the farming community is in celebratory mode. Recently in New Delhi, Bohagi Bihu, the harvest festival of

Assam, was observed. The hymns of 'Kuli Keteeki', the rhythmic beats of 'Dhol' and 'pepa' marked the beginning of 'Rongali Bihu'. The day-long celebration at the

Delhi Haat marked the advent of spring. People of all castes and creeds celebrate Bohag Bihu by singing traditional Bihu songs and performing folk dances.

Several groups from Delhi and adjoining areas also performed Bihu dance to mark the occasion.

A participant said, "I am very happy being here and specially meeting so many people feels great. I wish all of you a very happy Rongali Bihu. It's been great being here and performing Bihu with my troupe."

Brussels attackers had experience from battle in Syria, Paris raid: ISIS in Dabiq

PTI
Paris, April 14: The Islamic State (ISIS) fighters who carried out the attacks in Brussels honed their skills through combat in Syria, and the sibling suicide bombers were also crucial to planning the Paris attacks, according to the extremist group's magazine released on Thursday.

In the English-language magazine *Dabiq*, the group drew a direct line between the two attacks and made no mention of the key suspects captured in Belgium. "All preparations for the raids in Paris and Brussels started with 'brothers Khalid and Ibrahim El-Bakraoui, the group said.

killed covering Paris attacks suspect Salah Abdeslam's escape from a hideout "during the final stages of preparation for the raid in Brussels." It said Belkaid, who had Swedish residency, took part in some of the extremist group's most important battles, including the capture of Ramadi, and decided to return to Europe with Laachraoui for an attack. Although it was light on new details, the magazine article offered a glimpse of how the attack cell was constructed and how the plot formed among supporters in Belgium and Syria.

Suchanda Gogoi, Cultural Secretary, ASA, "Through this 'Utsav' we want to show the culture of Assam, all its attire the dances all its festive mood because most of the people do not know what Bihu is, so this is one of the reason we organize such event and mostly we miss our home so much but getting connected through this we really don't miss our home."

Another participant said, "Living away from home we are missing our family. But, being here we feel highly celebrating Bihu."

Renowned Assamese film actress Barsha Rani Baishya also graced the occasion.

Brussels was home to many of the attackers who struck the French capital November 13 with suicide bombings and volleys of assault weapons fire that left 130 people dead. According to Belgian and French investigators, the same cell was behind the suicide bombings that killed 32 people in Brussels on March 22.

12 people including pilot Killed in Papua New Guinea plane crash

ANI
Sydney, April 14: At least 12 people, including the pilot, were killed after a light plane crashed into a swamp while landing at an airport in the Papua New Guinea's Western province.

According to reports, the twin-engine Britten Norman-Islander light plane suffered an engine failure mid-air before it crashed into a swamp, 1 kilometer short of the runway at Kiunga in central Papua New Guinea highlands, yesterday afternoon.

Operated by Sunbird Aviation, the aircraft was travelling back to Kiunga from the remote Okxapmin in the Star Mountains, an area accessible only by air or foot.

The Oceanian country, with rugged mountainous terrain and unpredictable weather has one of the most hazardous flying environments in the world. Many landing strips are built on sharp ridges or cut out of the dense jungle further challenging the flyers.

Meanwhile, the civil aviation authority is investigating the crash.

Debashish Kashyap, Assistant General Secretary, "We are boosting up the boys and girls and we are providing a platform to those who are talented and have the urge to perform and showcase their talent. Hopefully, we will do something better this time too."

A fusion performance by various tribes of the Northeast comprising of Assamese, Deuri, Missing, Karbi and others stole the show.

Assamese students also performed Indo-Jazz dance, which is an amalgamation of Indian classical

and western music.

Several groups from Delhi and adjoining areas also performed Bihu dance to mark the occasion.

A participant said, "I am very happy being here and specially meeting so many people feels great. I wish all of you a very happy Rongali Bihu. It's been great being here and performing Bihu with my troupe."

Another participant said, "Living away from home we are missing our family. But, being here we feel highly celebrating Bihu."

Renowned Assamese film actress Barsha Rani Baishya also graced the occasion.

She said, "I am thankful to ASA for inviting me to this celebration I am very overwhelmed and very happy being here but I think I am not a guest because wherever Bihu is going on I consider it as my Bihu I m one of them and I am very happy that students here are celebrating Bihu in such vibrant and nice way."

The three days of Bohag Bihu namely Goru Bihu, Manuh Bihu and Gohain Bihu was well presented through a dance drama act by a group of young artists.

Such events not only help to spread the rich culture of Northeast to other parts of the country, but send a message of unity and brotherhood.

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT NOTIFICATION

Imphal, the 12th April, 2016

No. 1/13(11)/2014-LA(E) : It is hereby informed to all the candidates who have applied for the post of Committee Officer in the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat that the Written Test for direct recruitment of Committee Officer will be held on 19-04-2016 (Tuesday) at 11:30 am in the Manipur Legislative Secretariat.

The list of eligible candidates of the said post can be seen in the Notice Board of the Assembly Secretariat and the candidates so eligible may collect their admit cards from the office room of the undersigned during office hour.

Sd/-
(G. Tapankumar Sharma)
Deputy Secretary (Admn),
Manipur Legislative Assembly

IT/Bill/12-4-2016