

Editorial

Imphal, Friday, April 22, 2016

Old is Gold

Old is gold so goes the much repeated and proven adage. The recent turn of events in the state prompting the senior citizens, more prominently the association aptly named "The senior Citizens for Manipur" to express their views and concerns on the developing issues of the state is a welcome and much needed participation. Age brings experience, and with experience comes wisdom. These citizens have accumulated a lifetime of experiences and wisdom which is for us to learn and benefit from. The young and busy working people does not seem to have the time or the inclination to interact and consult older people often sidelining them in various matters personal and public. They are often viewed as people who are past their productive stage therefore becoming a burden to their families and are often mistreated and abused. Their opinion does not matter much ad are often ignored and neglected. There have been instances where the old are physically abused. Their opinion does not matter much and are often ignored and neglected. There have been instances where the old are physically abused and ill-treated. They are left to fend for themselves and the few "Old Age Homes" which are being run in the state are no better and are often the last resort for these people to lead their remaining years. Government efforts in uplifting the welfare of the senior citizens have been dismal and inadequate, even negligible. A pragmatic solution to the problems plaguing the older people in the state needs to be brought out and put into action in right earnest for them to have a better life and a sense of participation. Indeed it is the society which will stand to benefit from the vast experience and wisdom these people have acquired in their lives and their studied opinion and inputs will definitely be a guiding principle in the formulation of various plans and schemes. A place to start can be recreation homes where the senior people can collect and discuss various issues with the youths and even government officials can and should consult them in their official capacity with the old who have had experienced the particular field or department. These places may be constructed as strategic locations to enable them to have easy access and be made to have a cheerful and informal atmosphere with various items of entertainment which engages and relaxes them. The steps taken up by these wise people should be appreciated and encouraged with more opportunities for the youths be made to increase interaction which will lead to mutual appreciation on both sides which in turn will enable to build a balanced and improved society. It is time to give back to these people who have contributed their lifetimes for the society.

Lost

I, the undersigned have lost my Driving Licence no. MN-0120060026024 issued by Government of Manipur on the way between Kangpokpi to Imphal on 9/3/2016. Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.

Kabi Timsina  
S/o (L) Makunda Timsina  
Village Gopibung, PO, Kalapahar  
PS, Kangpokpi

Change of name

I, Laikangbam Chinglen K Singh (new name) previously called Laikangbam Chinglen Singh (old name) as recorded at the High School Leaving Examination Certificate, residence of Khwai Nagamapal Kangjabi Leirak, Laikangbam Leikai, P.O. Lamphel and P.S. Imphal for and on behalf of myself and my wife, children and remitter issue, I wholly renounce/relinquish and abandon the use of my former name/surname of Laikangbam Chinglen Singh and in place thereof, I do hereby assume from this date the name/surname Laikangbam Chinglen K Singh, so that I and my wife, children and remitter issue may hereafter be called, known and distinguished not by my former name/surname, but assumed of Laikangbam Chinglen K Singh. For the purpose of evidencing such my determination declare that I shall at all times hereafter in all records, deeds and writings and in all proceedings, dealings and transactions, private as well as upon all occasions whatsoever, use and sign the name of Laikangbam Chinglen K Singh as my name/surname in place and in substitution of my former name/surname Laikangbam Chinglen Singh. I expressly authorize and request all persons in general and relatives and friends in particular, at all times hereafter to designate and address me, my wife, my children, and remitter issue by such assumed name/surname of Laikangbam Chinglen K Singh.

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National and International News

Arunachal welcomes spring with Mopin festival

**ANI**  
**Itanagar, April 22:** The tribes in Arunachal Pradesh strictly adhere to their age-old customs. Recently, the Galo tribe celebrated Mopin festival, which stands for social unity, purity and love, with great fervor. Mopin festival is a celebration of the harvesting season held in the Galo months of "Lumi" and "Luki". This festival is celebrated by the inhabitants of Arunachal Pradesh as they believe it brings them relief from negative things in life like diseases, calamities, evil spirits and more.

They believe celebrating Mopin also brings good luck and prosperity along with a good harvest. The festival commences with a ceremony where the people smear rice powder on each other's faces. Since rice is their staple food, this is considered a holy ritual by the Galo people. "The Galo tribe of Arunachal Pradesh celebrates Mopin festival in every corner of Arunachal Pradesh with great fervor. The significance of this day is that in our life we can at least celebrate such Jayanti and we are fortunate

enough," said a local. "Mopin festival has become a cultural identity for the Galo tribe. Such festival has been celebrated since age-old tradition," he added. Mopin festival is marked by young girls and boys dancing. They perform a special form of dance called 'Popir'. The young girls wear traditional white attire and put on colorful headgear. They also wear multi-coloured beaded ornaments. The dancers engage in rhythmic dance steps on folk songs. Another local here said the festivals are symbol of prosperity, adding

one must maintain it. "This festival reminds me and us of our responsibilities to preserve this culture because if you lost your identity everything is lost. The world today is fighting for identity," he said. "The god gifted identity which we are having with the changing time and with a permissible adaptation of changes I think we should go forward. Our culture should be an example for everyone," he added. Like any other tribal festival in the state, Mopin also includes customs related to gorging on sumptuous food and beverages.

Barack Obama arrives in UK with royal lunch, Brexit on the menu

**Courtesy AFP**  
**London, April 22:** US President Barack Obama has arrived in Britain, where he is set to wade into the poisonous Brexit debate and have lunch with Queen Elizabeth II. Air Force One touched down at London Stansted Airport, northeast of the British capital, at around 9:45 pm (local time), beginning what is Obama's fifth and likely final presidential visit to the kingdom. The president, along with First Lady Michelle Obama, will pay tribute to the queen, who turned 90 yesterday, when they meet at Windsor Castle, west of London. "The president has very much enjoyed his engagements with the queen over the years," said top Obama foreign policy aide Ben

Rhodes. The queen has reigned since 1952, during which time she has met with a string of US presidents from Harry Truman to Obama, who leaves office in June. The popular monarch has little influence on politics despite her role as head of state, but over the decades she has been a figurehead and ballast for Britons navigating imperial decline, the Cold War and political tumult. During birthday celebrations Thursday, Prime Minister David Cameron hailed her as "a rock of strength for our nation". Meanwhile her eldest son and heir Prince Charles said she was held in "love and affection" across Britain and the wider Commonwealth.

After lunch at Windsor Castle on Friday, Obama will travel to Cameron's Downing Street office for talks that come ahead of a crunch British referendum on European Union membership on June 23. Obama is sure to be asked to weigh in on the controversial issue during a joint press conference or at a town hall-style meeting with youngsters on Saturday. Britain's departure from the EU - a so-called Brexit - could have deep ramifications for Washington's "special relationship" with London, and on the stability of the 28-country bloc itself. Obama has consistently said he favours a strong Britain in a strong EU.

Seen from Washington, Cameron's decision to call a referendum was a bold - if not downright risky - gamble that could leave Britain and the EU badly weakened. "Obama is not an instinctive pro-European," said Ian Bond of the London-based Centre for European Reform think-tank. "He opposes Brexit because it risks creating more problems for America in Europe." Polls put the pro-EU and Brexit camps neck-and-neck among those who express a preference to vote, although there is a large pool of people who remain undecided. Obama's "focus is on how Brexit would affect Europe's ability to help America tackle international problems," said Bond.

Chief Minister Harish Rawat OKs 11 Decisions. Not So Fast, Says Governor

**Courtesy NDTV**  
**DehraDun, April 22:** Hours after Harish Rawat was ordered by court to get back to work as Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, he held a cabinet meeting late at night where, he reported today, "11 decisions were taken". Mr Rawat said those decisions will be fast-tracked. But Governor KK Paul has questioned Mr Rawat's right to call a cabinet meeting because of the current "it's complicated" political

status of the state. Mr Rawat's return to office was cleared by the Uttarakhand High Court which said he had incorrectly been removed last month by the centre in a blatant misuse of President's Rule, allowing the union government to manage Uttarakhand through Governor Paul. The verdict is a deep embarrassment for the Centre, not least because of the extreme criticism of its motives by

Uttarakhand judges. However, it has appealed to the Supreme Court today against the order, claiming that President's Rule was necessary because Mr Rawat has lost his majority in the legislature and therefore heads a minority government. That reasoning is attributed by the Centre to the allegation that nine Congress legislators voted against the budget presented last month by the Chief Minister. The BJP says the

budget was wrongly declared cleared, when, in fact, the majority of votes were cast against it. Mr Rawat and the Congress disagree. He has been told to take a trust vote on the 29th (next Friday). The challenge for him in winning that vote will shrink vastly if a judge decides that the nine Congress rebels are disqualified from the House for defecting. Without their participation, Mr Rawat will need much fewer votes in his favour.

China seething after India issues visa to Uyghur 'terrorist'

**Beijing, April 22:** Beijing has reacted angrily after India granted a visa to a Germany-based Uyghur activist, branded a terrorist by the Chinese government, to attend a conference on democracy in Dharamsala later this month. Munich-based Dolkun Isa, from the World Uyghur Congress (WUC), has been accused of terrorism and conspiracy to kill people in Xinjiang in China's remote northwest. The WUC is a grouping of the Uyghur community outside China. The moves comes against the backdrop of China blocking an Indian bid to sanction Pakistan-based Masood Azhar, the head of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed, at the UN Security Council. China imposed a "technical hold" on the move, saying more information is needed on the matter. "Dolkun Isa is a terrorist on red notice of Interpol and the Chinese police. Bringing him to justice is a due obligation of relevant countries," China's foreign ministry told Hindustan Times in an emailed response late on Thursday. The brief reaction was couched in diplomatic language but reflected Beijing's anger. The conference to which Dolkun Isa has been invited will be held between April 28 and May 1 at Dharamsala, the seat of the Tibetan government-in-exile, and this has added to Beijing's unease. Exiled Chinese activists from around the world will gather to discuss democratic transition in

China. Dharamsala-based Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama, labelled a "separatist" and "a wolf in sheep's clothing" by China, is expected to address the meet. The conference is being organised by US-based Citizen Power for China, which is led by Yang Jianli, who was involved in the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests. Munich-based Dolkun Isa, who was granted asylum by Germany in the late 1990s, confirmed to Hindustan Times on email that he had received an electronic visa from India and is looking forward to his first visit to the country. "Yes, I am invited one of the conference in Dharamsala which will be held between 28 April and May 1. I am planning to go, so I have got the electronic visa for India," he said. "I really want to visit India because I have never been (to) India," he said. "India is one of my dream (countries) to visit." The Xinjiang region has seen rioting and frequent violence between the local Uyghur

population and government forces. Exiled Uyghur activists say the violence is a result of Beijing's hardline policies and a reaction to the government's efforts to subsume the unique local culture. Dolkun said India and East Turkistan - the historical name of the region that China says separatist Uyghurs from Xinjiang are fighting for - had good relations. "I would like to enjoy Indian culture. East Turkistan and India had a long and very good relationship in the history. Uyghurs love India's people," he said. Talking about India and China, Dolkun said: "India is the world's largest democratic nation and second big population after China. But China is still under totalitarianism rule. India has the responsibility to teach democracy to China." Dolkun acknowledged he has to be careful about his travel plans because of the Interpol notice

against him. "The Chinese government has made me an accused with Interpol and my name is on red (corner) notice. Because of this, I have faced troubles in some countries' immigration. I was detained at the border of some countries. I have to be careful about travelling except in the European Union," he said. World Uyghur Congress spokesperson Dilxat Raxit said he hoped the Indian government was following the situation of Uyghurs in Xinjiang and would voice its "solidarity with their fight for justice". The controversy comes at a time when top Indian leaders, including external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, have raised the issue of China blocking India's bid to sanction Masood Azhar at the UN. The new row, coupled with the question of Azhar, could cast a shadow on President Pranab Mukherjee's visit to China in late May.

MCA moves SC against Bombay HC order of shifting IPL matches

**ANI**  
**New Delhi, April 22:** The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) on Friday moved the Supreme Court against the Bombay High Court order on shifting of IPL matches due to severe drought. The apex court will hear the matter on April 25. The Bombay High Court had on April 13 ordered shifting of all IPL

matches scheduled in Maharashtra after April 30 to another state. As per the High Court's order, 13 matches, including the final in Mumbai scheduled for May 29, cannot be held in Maharashtra. The High Court passed the order after hearing a petition filed by an NGO, which claimed that 60 lakh litres of water is proposed to be used for maintaining cricket

pitches in the three venues that will host the IPL matches in Maharashtra namely Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur. The High Court's direction had come despite an assurance by the BCCI that IPL franchises of Mumbai and Pune had agreed to contribute Rs. five crore each to the Chief Minister's drought relief fund.