

Editorial

Imphal, Tuesday, August 23, 2016

The world will laugh - When India, the largest democracy is without Manipur

In the beginning the motive was crystal clear. It was about strengthening the bandage of brotherhood among the various communities inhabiting in the state. Protection and preservation of the distinct identity of the various indigenous people of this erstwhile kingdom was every concern citizen's top priority. The virtue of patriotism runs through the blood of some far sighted intellectuals of this region had well established a platform for the people of this region to collectively fight for a common cause, which is to preserve, safeguard and protect the identity of the people of this erstwhile kingdom called Manipur.

An organisation called CIRCA has rightly pointed out. Merger of the erstwhile kingdom to the dominion of India on Oct 15, 1949 is the root of the crisis that is prevailing till today. Yes it is rightly pointed out. It was the 'merger' which some historians term it as forceful annexation that made some of our forefather wage war opposing the merger agreement. One more things that is coming up is that, those content in the merger agreement at which the then Maharaja Bodhachandra signed with the Dominion of Indian authority in September 21 at Shillong is not respected by the Indian authority. That is why it can rightly pointed out that Manipur, the erstwhile kingdom was forcibly occupied and not merely added as a part of the Indian Union. The status provided to this erstwhile kingdom soon after its merger with the Indian union make some far sighted intellectual of those time worried and prompted them to implant the culture of mass movement. But those have nothing to lose as it was demand about statehood and then later it was about inclusion of our language to the 8th scheduled of the Indian constitution. The early part agitation can be termed as the people's desires to become more Indian and the unfortunate thing is that the then Indian authority bought much time to make sure that Manipuri are Indian too.

Now, too peoples' demand for repeal of AFSPA is also other movement of the people to make Manipuri a real citizen of India. It is a fact, that the world community will certainly make fun of the country if two laws are applied to different citizens of the country. So, the movement for repeal of AFSPA is nothing but to consider people living in this part of India as no difference from those citizens living in other part of the country.

The question of ILPS may sound like as anti Indian movement. But it is not. The beauty of India is its diverse character, resided by various ethnic communities. And to make India beautiful ever it is a much required that each and every community need to be protected. There land, culture, language and identity needs to be protected. If the indigenous Manipuri are perished then the India - which is known to the world for its diverse ethnicities will lost its significance. So implementation of ILP like legislation is a must to keep India shines in the world.

Now, the past one and half decades shows unabated attempt to fail Manipur. For reason which is being understand by even a layman, some force is force is trying hard to segregate the history of this erstwhile kingdom.

A brute force is now trying to make genuine movement of the people as a self destructive move. The strong bondage of brotherhood among the various people has now been shattered. The good intention is easy for someone to turn into an evil mindset for mere gain of some big players who always think of themselves and never bother of how we the people need to live united.

One thing reminding here is that India without Manipur will be a laughing stock of the world community.

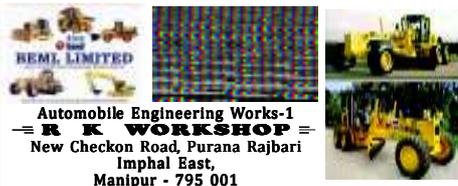
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National & International News

Mizoram designer showcased collections at 2nd North East India Fashion Week by ARL

Itanagar, Aug. 23: Emphasizing on the importance of promoting weavers across the state by introducing their outputs to the fashion world and to promote Khadi movement, the 2nd edition of North East India Fashion Week in association with Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh held here at Multipurpose Culture Centre from August 19 to 21, 2016. Hollywood/Bollywood actor Adil Hussain, Mr. Earth India 2011 and Mr. India International 2012 Opang Jamir, International pro-wrestler/ Director/Actor Koombang - The Storm, among others, walked the ramp of this illustrious fashion extravaganza.

The Fashion Week, conceptualized by acclaimed fashion designer Yana Ngoba, witnessed the participation of over 20 young designers and weavers from the region who believe in showcasing their traditional fabric and patterns and have successfully carved a niche for themselves in the fashion industry. The designers who showcased their collection over the three day gala fashion event were **Arita Kashyap and Rohila Engtipi from Assam; Nana Gona, Milli Indira Dangngo, Techi Yapar and Minu Mara, jewellery designer Renu Logum from Arunachal Pradesh; Lalthabiki Chawngthu from Mizoram; Rupert W. Lynrah from Meghalaya; Gloria Ovung and Ongtong Kichu from Nagaland; Archana Kabra from Rajasthan and Vanshala Mishra from Bihar.**

Apart from this, the weavers who got the platform to showcase their work at the event were **Dimbeswari Kherkatary, Sammar Das and Kabita Pegu from Assam; Weavers of Upper Dibang Valley, N. Tsomu**



and Sapna Sidosow, Apatani Weavers from Hong village of Ziro from Arunachal Pradesh; Meitei weavers from Manipur and Naga weavers.

Speaking on the grand success of the festival **Chief Operating Officer and founder of Affluent Ray of Light**, fashion designer Yana Ngoba said, "Northeast has an immense artistic potential. It is sad to see that weavers today are giving up their age old tradition in search of jobs which pays them better. With North East India Fashion Week we want to promote the weavers of the region who lives in disguise but are so important for the designers across the world. At NEIFW, our focus is to support weavers of Northeast and brilliant emerging designers. I understand the concept, hard work and dedication involved to create designs. We also offer weavers and designers the opportunity to retail through our online boutique connection and to showcase their designs in international platform and in dealing with manufacturers and buyers."

For **Lalthabiki Chawngthu** from Aizawl, designing was an inborn talent. As a child, she used to dress her dolls with dresses that she made out of paper and small pieces of fabric. She also used to make knitted caps and socks for babies. By the time she reached 4th standard, she wore dresses that she made herself.

Regarding her collections in North East India Fashion Week, Lalthabiki focuses on fusion of the region's traditional fabrics and handlooms to prepare garments with an entire different look. She says, "There are so many talented designers and weavers in the region who are unable to showcase their talent, and their skills remain unnoticed for lack of a proper platform. North East India Fashion Week will help promote these designers and pave the way for a bright future for these talented people."

North East India Fashion Week is a concept created and implemented by Affluent Ray of Light (ARL) to promote weavers, designers and craftsmen of the region in the

Renowned faces like Adil Hussain, Opang Jamir, Koombang and Tine Mine adorned the ramp as show stoppers. Over 20 young designers and weavers share the platform for creative cultural exchange

national as well as international market and to empower talent of northeast by providing them a networking opportunity and by facilitating buyers for their products. This event is a platform provided to all accomplices within northeast Indian industry, with a special focus on weavers and handicrafts, with a motive to build network and alliance with partners & markets across the globe.

ARL believes that it is very important to preserve the northeastern region's rich fabrics, traditional handlooms and handicrafts, and very few of the designers from the region are making an effort to do so. Their mission is to promote and preserve the vast variety of indigenous textiles and crafts that are slowly losing popularity amongst the younger generation, through fashion shows and help create business and branding opportunities for industries directly or indirectly engaged in retailing handloom, textile fashion and life.

Curfew lifted from parts of Srinagar

PTI Srinagar, Aug 23: Curfew was today lifted from most areas of Srinagar in view of the improving situation, even as normal life in the Valley remained affected for the 46th straight day due to restrictions and strike in the wake of violence following killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani.

Curfew has been lifted from most areas of Srinagar district. However, it will remain in force in five police station areas of downtown city and Batamaloo, Maisuma and Kralkhud in the uptown, a police official said. He said curfew was also in force in Anantnag town of south Kashmir. The official said the restrictions on the movement of people in many areas of the Valley were lifted following improvement in the situation. The authorities yesterday relaxed

curfew for eight hours in the jurisdiction of 12 police stations in Srinagar from 9AM and the relaxation period passed off peacefully, without any untoward incident.

Barring five incidents of stone-pelting, the situation in the Valley remained by and large peaceful throughout the day yesterday, the official said.

The lifting of the curbs allowed movement of people in the city as there was increased movement of private cars and auto-rickshaws in and around Lal Chowk city centre today.

However, the official said, restrictions on the assembly of four or more persons under Section 144 Crpc will continue to remain imposed in the entire Valley to maintain law and order.

The separatist camp, which is spearheading the agitation in the Valley over the civilian killings during

the protests against Wani's killing, has asked women to hold peaceful protests today.

65 persons, including two cops, have been killed and several thousand others injured in the clashes that began on July 9, a day after Wani was killed in an encounter with security forces in Kokernag area of Anantnag district.

Meanwhile, normal life remained paralysed for the 46th consecutive day due to curfew, restrictions and separatist sponsored strike.

Shops, private offices, educational institutions and petrol pumps remained closed while public transport continued to be off roads. The attendance in government offices and banks was also affected. Mobile Internet also continued to remain suspended in the entire Valley, where the outgoing facility on prepaid mobiles remained barred.

Assam CM appeals for release of abducted boy

PTI Guwahati, Aug 23: Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today appealed to the Paresh Barua-led faction of the ULFA to release the boy it had abducted on August 1 on humanitarian grounds.

"I appeal to the abductors to release the boy as a humanitarian gesture. Our government believes that violence will achieve nothing and we are committed to the peace process," he told PTI.

Kuldeep Moran, son of local BJP leader and Tinsukia Zilla Parishad vice-president Lakshewar Moran, was kidnapped from Tinsukia district by the hardline faction of ULFA. It had yesterday released an ISIS-style video that purportedly showed the boy surrounded by armed and masked militants and appealing to the Chief Minister and his family to secure his early release.

50 Cong MLAs suspended from Guj Assembly after ruckus on Una

PTI Gandhinagar, Aug 23: Fifty Congress MLAs were today evicted and suspended for a day from the Gujarat Assembly after they staged a demonstration and disrupted the House proceedings over the Una Dalit flogging incident.

During a discussion on atrocities on Dalits in Una, Congress members rushed to the Well of the House displaying placards saying the BJP government was "anti-Dalit" and also threw bangles towards ruling party ministers.

At least 20 of the members wore body suit banners as they continued with their protest despite repeated warnings by Speaker Ramanlal Vora on the second and last day of the Monsoon session here.

As the din refused to die down, the Speaker ordered marshals to evict

them from the House. Then he named and suspended them for a day. Subsequently, Congress MLAs were forcefully taken out of the House.

The Speaker then remarked that the Opposition came with a pre-planned strategy to protest over Dalit issues as more than their concern for Dalits, they were trying to garner political mileage out of it.

Two leaders—Congress leader of Opposition Shanksinh Vaghela and senior leader Mohansinh Rathwa—remained seated during the ruckus. The Speaker had not suspended them but later they too walked out protesting the action of Vora.

Earlier, the Assembly session began with a heated debate over the issue of Dalit atrocity in the state, with senior Congress leader Raghavji Patel raising the issue of attack on

Dalits at Samter village after the Dalit Asmita rally on August 15 as a matter of urgent public interest under Gujarat Assembly Rule 116. He sought answer from the government as to what actions were taken to provide security to Dalits in the event of the attack.

Minister of State for Home, Pradipsinh Jadeja in his reply said that Dalits were attacked at Samter village when they were returning from the rally on Independence Day. He said police fired 51 teargas shells and several rounds in the air to protect them. In the process, 7 police personnel including one DySP and a police inspector, were injured, Jadeja said.

Following this, Congress leader Vaghela demanded a judicial inquiry by a sitting High Court judge into the Una incident of beating Dalits over skinning of a dead cow on July 11.

Deaf driver shot dead by US police during traffic stop

Miami, Aug. 23: Authorities in the southern US state of North Carolina said on Monday they are investigating the death of a deaf man who was fatally shot after a trooper tried to pull him over for speeding.

Daniel Harris, 29, who used sign language to communicate, led trooper Jermaine Saunders on an eight-mile (13-kilometer) chase on Thursday that started on an interstate highway and ended outside his home in Charlotte, local television station WSOE reported. The driver exited his vehicle in the neighborhood and an "encounter took place" that led to a shot being fired, North Carolina State Highway Patrol spokesman Sergeant Michael Baker said in a statement.