

Editorial

Imphal, Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Tourism trauma

The recent controversies arising out of reports of non-completion and the subsequent failure of the state government to furnish Utilisation Certificates for various time-bound development projects in the state, as well as the counter claims of Manipur Development Society (MDS), the implementing agency alleging non-release of funds on time has proved to be yet another debilitating blow to the efforts to boost tourism in the state and a major detriment to the much awaited and needed step in the right direction as the region, lagging behind in almost every sphere of development due to the unique and difficult geographical situations, has been facing increasing number of disturbances and unrest, not to mention the deteriorating financial conditions and dwindling job opportunities with limited resources and an almost non-existent industrial atmosphere adding to the woes. Despite the overwhelming prospects favourable for development of tourism in the region as it has been endowed with an amazing variety of natural resources and favourable conditions which will positively mitigate, if not remove, a major portion of the problems the region is facing. The ugly and murky administrative mismanagements have hampered a very real and inviting prospect of alleviating the financial and social conditions of the state, as with the development of tourism, one can expect better public amenities and improvements in infrastructures, better roads and transportation systems, cleaner environment, higher and better opportunities for works and earnings, not to mention the increased interaction and connectivity with people from different parts of the world, thus broadening the understanding and tolerance of different cultures and traditions, among other things. But all these prospects need to be based on concrete steps by the Government towards building the right atmosphere and facilities. Until and unless the Government works in right earnest, the potentials will remain untapped. Planning and actual action on the groundwork has to be taken up immediately. The practice of stashing away huge portions of the funds meant for public development activities even before the commencement of the actual work on the ground have made every project or scheme, however beneficial and empowering each one of them might have proved to be if implemented properly, a mere opportunity for enriching themselves at the cost of the society at large. These blatant acts of vandalism have even spawned various groups of social parasite who takes extreme risks to snatch a bite of the loot, and having had their share, turns a blind eye to the goings-on. Enough have been written, discussed and verified about tourism in the state, with nothing much to show for it till now, except for a few haphazard, disjointed and abrupt excuses for activities. What we need is results of their long-drawn discourses on the ground. The public will not settle for anything less.

Indian army contribute to Swachh Bharat Abhiyan



IT News
Imphal, Feb 24: 2/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force) of Loktak Brigade under the aegis of Red Shield Division constructed 04 x Toilet Blocks at Govt Higher Secondary School at Khoirok village, Senapati District as part of Op Sadbhavana.
 Keeping in mind the vision of 'Clear India' by 2 Oct 2019, the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi the Army is also contributing towards Rural Sanitation Programme and Total Sanitation Campaign by constructing the toilets in the Govt School as part of Op Sadbhavana Projects. This will also ensure provision of separate toilets for girl students to ensure their dignity as well as health and hygiene.
 On the occasion, the village Chief and Secretary of Khoirok thanked the Army for providing the much needed Toilet Block at Govt Higher Secondary School at Khoirok village and expressed their gratitude on behalf of one and all for the immense contribution of the armed forces towards building a developed and clean Manipur. They also emphasized on the point that this gesture of the Army has touched the hearts of the people and will strengthen the existing bond of friendship between the Army and the villagers.

National & International News

Delhi high court adjourns hearing on Kanhaiya's bail plea

PTI
New Delhi, Feb. 24: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday adjourned the bail plea hearing of JNU Student Union president Kanhaiya Kumar, arrested on sedition charges, for February 29. As soon as the hearing on Kanhaiya's bail plea commenced before Justice Pratibha Rani, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Tushar Mehta told the court that police have a statutory right to take police custody of an accused for 15 days and due to new developments Kanhaiya's custodial remand is necessary.
 "After yesterday's development, two of the accused have surrendered and are in safe custody. Their remand is yet to be taken. In the backdrop of the new development and as per our statutory right of 15 days police custody of an accused, we will be seeking remand of Kanhaiya Kumar to confront him with Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya," Mehta submitted.
 The ASG said, "Our right cannot be curtailed and the present bail petition be deferred."
 However, during the hearing, when the court was informed about violence at Patiala House court complex during Kanhaiya's remand proceedings, the bench observed, "We have to ensure

that no one suffers even a scratch this time. The Registrar of the Delhi High Court and the police should ensure that no ruckus, as happened in the past, should take place while the accused are being produced."
 Then Mehta told the court to defer the bail petition in wake of the new development.
 The bench has now fixed February 29 for further hearing on the bail plea. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Kanhaiya, contended that as per the status report filed by Delhi Police, in pursuance to the court's direction yesterday, there was no evidence of any anti-India slogans being raised by his client.
 "I would like to tell the court that in the light of the status report filed by the police, there is no evidence of anti-India slogans raised by Kanhaiya. So he should be granted bail," Sibal said. Mehta, however, said that as per the new circumstances and evidence which have emerged, Kanhaiya is required to be confronted with the two arrested accused.
 Kanhaiya, who was arrested on February 12, was in police custody till February 17 when he was remanded in judicial custody till March 2 amidst violence at the court premises during the remand proceedings.

Rajya Sabha faces adjournments over Rohith Vemula suicide case

New Delhi, Feb. 24: The Rajya Sabha witnessed two adjournments in the Zero Hour today over the suicide of a dalit student Rohith Vemula in Hyderabad. Raising the issue, Ms. Mayawati of the BSP said it is a matter of serious concern for all. She alleged that such incidents have been taking place in parts of the country since the NDA government came to power at the Centre.
 She also said such cases had taken place during the Congress regime also. Centre. She charged the BJP government with trying to thrust the RSS ideology in the top educational institutions. She demanded that a dalit person should be included in the judicial commission probing the Hyderabad University incident.
 Responding to this, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Mukhar Abbas Naqvi said the government is ready to take up the discussion right now if the House agrees. BSP members continue to insist that the government should reply to the demand of their leader. As noisy scenes continued, Deputy Chairman Prof. P J Kurien adjourned the House till Noon.

Jat stir:

Normalcy resumes
New Delhi, Feb 24: Normal life slowly resume to trouble torn Haryana as highway and rail traffic was restored even as security forces were on alert to foil any untoward incidents. Curfew was today lifted in Hissar district and relaxed in violence-hit Rohtak and Bhiwani districts while rail and road traffic resumed on routes which had remained blocked for over a week due to the Jat stir that claimed 19 lives.
 In Bhiwani, one of the worst-affected districts in the agitation, authorities gave a four-hour relaxation in curfew. Day-long relaxation in curfew was given in Rohtak, the epicentre of the pro quota agitation, where extensive damage has been caused to property.
 Life is also returning to normal in violence-hit Sonapat, where three persons had died in a clash with security forces two days back. Security forces are patrolling sensitive areas including Bhiwani, Hissar, Sonapat and Rohtak, officials said.

Guest Column

Open Letter to Naga Students' Federation

Dear Naga Students,

Your statement carried in today's papers that if the Manipur government does not comply with your demands, you would ban the movement of all Meitei vehicles in all Naga inhabited areas is shocking. Dear students it is time for you to learn the nuances of life, if you aspire to become the leaders of your state. You must prepare yourself to take over the reins of your society's leadership. Do not get misguided by hatred and emotions, because that will lead you nowhere. And do not forget this is 21st century.

That fact that you were accosted by some rogue commandos of Manipur Police at Mantripukhri on your way to Ukhrul was only condemnable. But that did not mean that Meitei had tortured you, as you had conceived it true. Do not try to be ultra-communal, because your parents would not expect you to emulate the hated Taliban or the dreaded ISIS, or would they?

As for the O. Ibobi government of Manipur, there may be some truth in the allegation that Ibobi government is communal or may be worse than that. Because Mr. O. Ibobi do not look beyond Thoubal, as one Congress MLA have said "Manipurgi lairik heihasi Thoubalda loina leiramalle" – it seems educated people of Manipur live in Thoubal only, while pointing out that eighty percent of Ibobi government's recruits belong to Thoubal – Mr. Ibobi's hometown.

But this fact does not give you the moral authority leave aside right to brand the Meitei as communal. Because Meitei as a community is not communal. True it has its own intra-communal contradictions and conflicts, that you probably do not understand. But this has nothing to do with any other community.

Therefore, dear students please come to your senses and withdraw your threat/ban against Meitei vehicles or whatever.

Yours sincerely,
Heikrujam Nabashyam
 Singjamei Super Market Manak

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Chaoren calls on GoI to end colonial

"On another front, GoI's many sustained policies and campaigns which are all aimed at obscuring the subjugated reality of our people have been steadily overwhelming Manipur. But the main catchword that's would like to be mentioned to our fellow citizens is "All human beings want to live in a developed and peaceful social livelihood". Taking into due consideration, the inseparable connection between freedom and progress, our people need to ponder over the political and socio-economic position of Manipur in the face of the all pervasive Finance Imperialism. Understanding the objective conditions of our people's underdevelopment and GoI's roles in sustaining and promoting Finance Imperialism would definitely shed more light on the collective responsibility of our people towards bringing a successful revolution. "We may safely assume that our people are living a subjugated life under total control of Finance Imperialism. One fundamental principle of Finance Imperialism is depriving the subjugated people more and more through rampant exploitation of their land and resources and by flooding them with industrial products and giving loans and grants from time to time which only make the subjugated people more dependent on Finance Imperialism. To wage wars, terrorize people, and repress mankind for economic gains are common characters of all exponents and agents of Finance Imperialism.
 "After the British conquest of Manipur in 1891, our economic productivity was deliberately reduced. Over the years, Manipur was made dependent in all economic aspects. After the British colonial rule was taken over by India in 1949, a superstructure was imposed upon Manipur. A new comprador class who are enjoying trickle-down benefits of the new political system, education system and all socio-economic systems encompassed by the superstructure has been growing incessantly. This comprador class and their descendants have been ultimately transformed into collaborators or supporters of the colonial rule and they are looting our people. GoI has been openly supporting Finance Imperialism since 1991. They have been devising several strategies in association with multi-national companies and international monetary agencies with the sole objective of economic exploitation. "As a result our markets have been completely flooded and dominated by industrial goods manufactured outside. Everything we use in our daily life starting from food items to clothes, house construction materials, means of transport and communication, medical equipment and medicines, books and stationery goods, sports materials,

recreational items are all products of foreign countries particularly India. In the absence of adequate job opportunities which is another manifestation of the many colonial policies of economic deprivation and subjugation, a large number of our educated people are working in different metropolitan cities, far away from our homeland. At the same time, the number of underprivileged and impoverished people who are dependent on funds and grants doled out by GoI has been increasing dramatically. In the name of development, super-rich capitalist people have already started acquiring total control over our natural resources, mountains, lakes, rivers, agricultural lands, forests, underground minerals, oil and gas.
 "In this way, GoI has been deliberately keeping the productive capacity of Manipur crippled and its economy stunted. One political objective of India is to keep Manipur as a frontier, a buffer zone against external aggression and exploit its resources to the maximum. To achieve this objective, GoI has been following three strategies. First, they groomed a puppet ruling class. Second, they unleashed all kinds of repressive measures through oppressive forces like army, paramilitary forces, police, secret agents, reactionary armed groups and enactment of a number of black laws to support these oppressive forces, and third, they have been projecting glitz and luxury as development. Coupled with state terrorism, the combination of these strategies have been breeding rampant corruption, communal politics and conflicts, social evils and crimes.
 "With the beginning of the 21st century, many countries of Asia have been making rapid socio-economic progress but some other countries like Manipur have been struggling for freedom after their sovereignty was forfeited. The political history and reality about Manipur in 20th and 21st centuries is largely a narrative of freedom struggle against British colonial rulers and imperialist India. The colonial political system, super-imposed economic structure and proselytization into non-indigenous religious faiths severely mangled the integrity and sovereignty of Manipur. The colonial regime has been working consistently to destroy the interdependent relationship shared among different communities of Manipur. GoI has also been engaging itself in many piece meal peace processes which have no solution in sight. Apart from promoting factionalism and enticing many revolutionary groups with material benefits, GoI has been investing substantial amount of money in opening designated camps and misleading a large number of our youth.
 "By claiming that there are more than 70 revolutionary groups in the so called

North East region, GoI was trying to vindicate massive militarization and imposition of black laws like AFSPA in WESEA. But today more and more people across the world have started realizing that Thangjam Manorama, Rabina, Sanjit and more than 1528 other people were killed in fake encounters in Manipur. All these repressive measures have convinced our youth to take up arms and fight for freedom of the oppressed masses. But GoI is not sitting idle. They have been goading, confusing and misleading many of our youth in order to form militias which would ultimately take the form of ethnic armies.
 "The impacts and miseries of black laws, fake encounters, absence of good transport infrastructure, lack of public health care facilities, absence of good governance and trustworthy electoral system are all common experiences of our oppressed people. None of these issues are specific to either hill people or plain people. Failure to comprehend this reality is one major factor for the inability of the revolutionary groups of WESEA to achieve any progressive stride. If these common experiences are put in the foreground, one can definitely go beyond ethno-centric politics and identify the common enemics. Moreover, we will also be able to see the crucial line of division which separates religious and communal dogmatism from the liberation movement.
 "The war of liberation fought against Burmese occupation in 1826, the Anglo-Manipur War of 1891, the Khongjai War of 1917, Haipou Jadonang and Rani Gaidinli's anti-colonial movements of 1930-49 and the Nupi Lan of 1904 and 1939 transcended ethnic politics. These wars and movements stood firmly against foreign domination. These revolutionary ideas which transcended ethnic politics were visible more clearly in the far-sighted socio-political movements spearheaded by Hijam Irabot. In many of the continuous mass movements of Manipur, including the movement known as Meira Paibi movement to the world and in our brave mothers, there are ideal elements and political sagacity worthy to be emulated and carried forward.
 "It's time for our people to unite together and fight collectively against the colonial rule. All the communities settled together in Manipur can live with dignity when our people wake up and understand the political reality. People's support will enable revolutionaries to defeat and destroy the enemies and their nefarious conspiracies and set up a progressive, prosperous, egalitarian society. The liberation movement can make meaningful strides and ultimately emerge victorious only when the revolutionaries and the masses walk hand in hand."

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