

Editorial

Imphal, Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Proclivity to pollute

The state joined the observation of the World Wetlands Day as the rest of the world did yesterday. Many thought-provoking speeches were made regarding the increasingly damaging attitude of the insensitive and callous public towards the environment, and suggestions to address the same were also doled out with much finesse. The concerns of pollution and its fallout as highlighted by those prominent public figures cannot be doubted, and we are already feeling the adverse effects ourselves. What has been a source of constant consternation and indignation however, has been the lack of a sustainable and earnest effort on the part of the state government to address this very immediate issue. News, pictures and even videos of harmful fogs choking the residents in a number of places in the country has been on the air, with most of the state governments resorting to extreme and desperate measures to find a remedial measure. Delhi, with a proactive and radically thinking government at the helm stood up and despite the oppositions and cynicism about the odd-even formula, went ahead and implemented the same, albeit as a temporary measure. The result speaks for itself. While the odd-even formula cannot be solely credited for the noticeable decline in air pollutants by the end of the 15-day trial at the national capital, the efficacy of the system in helping to decrease traffic congestion, and therefore pollution cannot be downplayed. Right now, Mumbai, the financial capital of the country is engulfed in smog resulting from a fire at a waste disposal site. These two very recent incidents, if not anything else, should be considered and analysed by the think tank of the state government if we are to prevent such unnecessary and avoidable health hazards. It would also be detrimental for the future of the state if we are to turn a blind eye to the increasingly glaring signs of worsening pollution and continuing abuse of our natural resources. What the state requires is not a knee-jerk reaction or frantic chaos to salvage the broken pieces after the damage has been done. It must be prudent enough to draw up a proactive, inclusive and enduring course of action so that what has happened in the rest of the country will not happen again in Manipur. The state government should be wise enough to learn from the mistakes and follies of others. The people of the state are not the most civic or sensitive lot. That being said, the adaptive society will surely take up the good work if the state government displays resoluteness and enthusiasm in its implementation of efforts to reduce pollution. Sensitizing the public on the matter will go a long way in making positive headways. Strict enforcement of existing laws and regulations rather than long-drawn discussions and deliberations to frame new ones will definitely help in taking up the issue and acting on it earlier than later and without much further ado. Procrastinating on the issue will invite greater danger and destruction on the environment and our health. It would already be too late if the state government waits for the next World Wetlands Day to decide on a course of action.

BSF seizes 23700 contraband bottles in Tripura

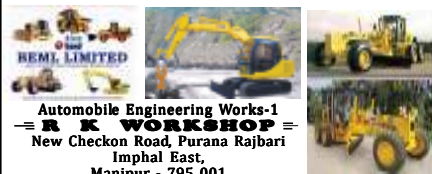
ANI
West Tripura, Feb. 3: Acting on a tip from the intelligence wing of the Border Security Force (BSF), security forces, along with customs and police officers, conducted a joint operation and seized huge quantity of banned contraband bottles meant for smuggling across the border. Led by inspector Arun Yadav of BSF (G), the joint operation was conducted in the forest area of Jirania in which a truck (with registration number HR 69-1977) was impounded. During the search, about 23700 contraband bottles were retrieved. The Bangladesh-bound contraband consisted of 4500 bottles of Phensdy and 19200 bottles of Escuf. They were hidden under sacks of potatoes that had been loaded in Punjab. The driver and co-driver of the truck have been detained and are being interrogated. The total cost of the seized goods is said to be an estimated Rs. 35,77,500. The seized items are now in the possession of the state anti-narcotics department.

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National & International News

Former LS Speaker Balam Jakhar passes away; Modi, Sonia condole death

PTI
New Delhi, Feb 3: Veteran Congress leader and former Lok Sabha Speaker Balam Jakhar passed away in New Delhi on Wednesday. He was 92. Condoling his death, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was a popular leader who enriched Parliamentary democracy. Jakhar served as Speaker of Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1989 during which he contributed to the establishment of Parliament Museum. He also served as Agriculture Minister in the Cabinet of former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. Jakhar also served as Governor of Madhya Pradesh from 30 June, 2004 to 30 May, 2009. Congress President Sonia Gandhi has expressed grief over the demise of Jakhar. In her message to the family of Jakhar, Gandhi said, "The Congress

Party as indeed the entire nation will forever remember the contributions made by him during the course of his long public life, particularly to the cause of farming community." "Be it as Legislator, Parliamentarian, Minister, Speaker or Governor, Dr Jakhar forever remained at the forefront in taking up issues concerning agriculture and farmers and his role in modernising the Parliament Secretariat was pioneering." Jakhar also served as Deputy Minister Cooperation, Irrigation and Power in Punjab between 1973-77 and then Leader of Opposition in the Assembly between 1977 and 1979. Jakhar was a four-time MP in Lok Sabha starting from his election in the seventh Lok Sabha in 1980. He was again elected in 1984, 1991 and 1998. In 1980, he became Lok Sabha

Speaker and served till 1989 for two terms during which he was instrumental in automation and computerisation of the House works. He worked extensively for promotion of Parliament Library, smartening the reference, research and documentation system of the House and streamlining information for the members. Jakhar headed Business Advisory Committee, Rules Committee; General Purposes Committee; and Standing Committee of the Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India. In the party, he became General Secretary All India Congress Committee in 1990 and from 1992 he was member, Congress Working Committee.

21-year-old student molested on Doon Express train by drunk passenger

CNN-IBN
Kolkata, Feb 3: In a shocking incident on Doon Express train, a student travelling from Varanasi to Bandel in West Bengal was allegedly molested by a drunk passenger. The alleged incident happened on Wednesday morning when a drunk passenger allegedly molested the 21-year-old girl. She raised an alarm following which IRCTC attendants and fellow passengers came to her rescue. However, the girl got no response from the railway helpline. She registered a written complaint with IRCTC, following which TT came to the bogie. The accused tried to jump off the train but was caught and handed over to railway police. He is slated to be produced in Howrah court on Wednesday. There was no TT or security personnel in B1 bogie of the train, which the accused boarded on Tuesday in a drunken state.

boarded the B1 AC two tier compartment yesterday in a drunken state from Jahnpu station and was disturbing the girl during the course of the journey. The girl tried to call the Railway helpline number but there was no response after which she wrote a complaint in the IRCTC complaints book and the attendants called upon a TT. The accused, a resident of Barabara area of Kolkata tried to jump off the moving train at Bandel station to escape but was caught by the attendants, while someone pulled the chain to stop the train. The accused was then caught by the RPF who then handed him over to the GRP. The train reached Howrah station around 7:15am where the GRP who had prior information of the incident assisted the girl in lodging a complaint and an investigating team accompanied her to destination in Bandel. The accused will be brought to Howrah by the GRP and produced in court thereafter.

Workers block major roads in Delhi; dump garbage, set tyres ablaze

PTI
New Delhi, Feb 3: The striking workers of MCD on Wednesday blocked major roads in the capital throwing peak hour traffic out of gear even as the Delhi government suggested that the continuing protests, that have brought the city to its knees, were "political" and instigated by BJP. Commuters had a harrowing time as traffic came to a standstill in various parts of the city as sanitation workers blocked major thoroughfares such as NH 24 and Vikas Marg among others. They dumped garbage and set tyres ablaze on the roads. Lt Governor Najeeb Jung, who had on Tuesday recommended to the AAP government to extend "conditional" loans to the civic bodies, is set to meet Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday. Delhi Home Minister Satyendra Jain tweeted, "If salaries are paid upto Dec than why strike". The strike entered its eighth day on Wednesday. Jain questioned the role of councillors and mayors of the BJP-ruled corporations in the protests. The three civic bodies told the Delhi

Bihar Court hears Lord Rama case....

He said as per Ramayana, Rama sent Sita to the forest after her purity was questioned by a washerman of his kingdom Ayodhya. Singh is a resident of Dumri Kala village under Majorjanj police station. "Sita, who was a devoted wife, always fulfilled her duty in good and bad times with her husband. How could such a crime be committed against her? Rama also ignored how could a lonely woman spend time in deep forest," Singh said. Stating that Sita was daughter of Mihila in Bihar and justice was not done to her by Lord Rama, Singh said the aim of his petition was to seek justice for Sita. "My petition in the court is not to hurt religious sentiments."

High Court on Tuesday that the employees have been paid salaries till December 2015. "It seems like politics now. If they have indeed paid salaries then why stage such protests? BJP is doing politics and misleading people. What explains the presence of mayors and BJP councillors in the protests otherwise?" Jain asked. Jain said that "no one" could be sure as to whether the MCD authorities had stated the truth in the court. The LG has expressed fear that further protests may cause law and order problem in the capital. The strike has crippled functioning of hospitals and schools run by civic bodies, besides garbage disposal even as the Delhi government continues to insist that it has already released the entire fund to the municipal bodies under non-plan head. The contractors of NDMC and EDMC have also extended their support to the ongoing strike, threatening they will stop all ongoing works of the two municipal corporations from February 10. Thousands of agitators on Tuesday took out a protest march from the Civic Centre to Rajghat.

Contd. from previous issue

History of Manipur as reflected in the socio-cultural ties of hills & plain

CHIKIM-MEITEI Relationship: Of all Tibeto-Burman people the Meitei of Manipur were the people linguistically closest to the CHIKIM and they settled together as one group in the Chindwin Valley. Historical materials of the Meiteis have shown the presence of CHIKIM people in the Chindwin Valley after the beginning of the Christian era. Lehman in his book - The Structure of Chin Society: Urbana, 1963, puts the CHIKIM's occupation of the area well into the middle of the first millennium A.D., in which period the Meiteis conquered the Andro-Sekmal group of people, who were inhabitants of present day Manipur. Hudson has maintained that the Meiteis were descendants of surrounding hill tribes. Their traditions have remained similar and even today they retain many customs of the hill people. He wrote, in 1900 that the organization, religion, habits and manners of the Meitei of two hundred years before were the same as the hill people of his own era. There are legends and traditions, which tell of early relationships between Meitei, Naga, and CHIKIM - the three ethnic. A Tangkhul (Naga) tradition says that Naga, Meitei and CHIKIM descended from a common ancestor who had three sons. These were the progenitors of the tribes. This tradition puts the CHIKIM as the eldest and the Meitei the youngest. Hudson wrote, "The Tangkul legend is to the effect that one day a sow, heavy with

young, wandered from the village of Hundung and was tracked to the valley by the younger of the two brothers who had migrated from the village of Maikhei Tungam, where their parents lived, and had founded the village of Hundung. Oknung, the pig's stone, where the sow was eventually found, is situated on the banks of the Irii River. The sow littered there and the young man stayed to look after her; and as he found the country to his liking, he decided to settle there. For a time he kept up friendly relations with his brother in the hills, who made a practice of sending him every year gifts of produce of the hills and in turn received presents of the manufacture of the plains. The younger brother became well-to-do and proud, and abandoned the custom of sending presents to his brother in the hills, who promptly came down and took what he had been in the habit of getting." It is also pertinent to mention that the blood brotherhood as claimed by NSCN(IM) top brass may draw our attention to the Ritual History of Manipur ancestor which claimed that Meitei were originated from a common pool of three kin brothers namely - (1) Tangkhul Saram Pakhangba (origin of Ukhlul and Valley tribes); (2) Nongda Lairen Pakhangba (wherefrom the lineage of present royal family of Manipur descended); (3) Chothe Thangmal Pakhangba (wherefrom the Kukis were believed to have descended); Two dissimilar societies emerged

from a homogeneous but complex society on account of the British manipulations who emphasised upon dissimilarities instead of similarities in cultural traditions, language and religious rites and rituals. The policy of divisiveness created a psyche for differences amidst the tribal groups. These two groups were further alienated when Hindu Vaishnavism was accepted in Manipur which gradually developed strong grip over the Meitei society under the royal patronage. Subsequently the King declared Hinduism as State religion during the reign of King Charairongba in the 17th Century and converted the Meiteis into a part of the pan-Vaishnava culture. This alienation was further aggravated when the hill people adopted Christianity in the early part of 19th Century. By this time orthodox Hinduism was firmly entrenched in the Meitei society. With the advent of Christianity the traditional belief system that had provided the hill people with a link, albeit tenuous, with Meitei society ended. The new religion discouraged the hill people from observing their traditional ceremonies and festivals as they were considered by the Christian Missionaries to be 'Paganistic and primitive'. The rich culture and traditions of the hill people became relics of the past. The role of religion in shaping the present and future of the people were denied thereafter, in one way or the other. Though Christianity did not pose any challenge to the dominant

Meitei society, the latter refused to acknowledge the new and alien religion. The 'new' ways of life of the Christianized converts among hill people was ignored by the dominant Meitei society, and these societies diverged on different parts ignoring their common traits in their cultural history. Thus, the two great world religions contributed in no small measures in the causes for 'drifting away' of the two groups of blood-fraternity. Politics, subsequently kept them at 'daggers drawn' against each other despite their inherent 'one-ness', traditionally, culturally and linguistically. Thus, culture, tradition and custom with the passage of time became part and parcel of the Meitei and other communities' social systems. It is high time to change our minds that we should realize of our being from a common origin. Our Meitei brethren should always continue to have that accommodative thinking, such as, support extended to the appointments of Yangmasho Shaiza, Mohd. Alimuddin and Rishang Keishing; Chief Ministers of Manipur. Well, as that of Rajya Sabha M.P. seat given to Rishang Keishing. Thus we can maintain the Meiteis, the Nagas and the Kukis have a common origin, they have shared the same territory and had evolved political authority, shared perception through give and take of progressive society, their future stand is not isolated but in togetherness. (Concluded)