

Editorial

Imphal, Friday, July 15, 2016

A matter of facts and Acts.

At the backdrop of the incessant and prolonged agitations that has wreaked havoc to the normalcy and peace in the state, the most debated and discussed issue at present is on whether a confession to membership of a proscribed group or picture is reason enough for an individual to be awarded legal punishment or declared legal offender? Perhaps a Supreme Court ruling on Arup Bhuyan Vs State of Assam made on 3 February 2011 could shed more light and help to settle the matter better. In the particular case, a TADA court awarded imprisonment to Arup Bhuyan on the premise of his confession of being a member of the proscribed group ULFA. The accused filed an appeal against the judgment at the apex court. In its ruling, the apex court states that the appellant has been accused of being a member of a proscribed armed group and the only evidence submitted by the prosecution was the confession made in front of the Superintendent of Police. According to the Evidence Act, 1872 (Section 25), a confession made in front of a police officer cannot be used as an evidence, whereas according to the Prevention Act, 1987 under TADA (Section 15), the very same confession is admissible as evidence.

The apex court continues thus:- Confessions are in itself a very weak form of evidence. Various unlawful methods are known to be deployed to elicit confessions in India, including but not limited to third-degree methods. Courts should, therefore be wary of admitting confessions given by the accused to the police. It is unfortunate that unlike the policemen in the western countries equipped with modern gadgets and instruments along with well-trained investigating force to carry out scientific investigation, the police force in our country, as a result of the absence of all these facilities resorts to the shortest route to elicit confessions- torture and intimidation as a rule rather than the exception. And more often than not, even falsely accused individuals often make confessions unable to bear such physical torture and intimidation.

Regarding the appeal made by Arup, the Supreme Court ruled that the provisions of TADA prevention Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 should be read concurrently with the fundamental rights enshrined in the articles of the Indian Constitution else they violate the articles of the constitution. The Constitution of India is the supreme law of India. It lays down the framework defining fundamental political principles, establishes the structure, procedures, powers and duties of government institutions and sets out fundamental rights, directive principles and the duties of citizens. If any law is in contradiction with the constitution, then the law has to be amended to comply with the provisions of the constitution. Without proper evidence of conducts of violence, inciting violence, disturbing law and order etc, mere evidence of an individual being a member of a proscribed group does not make him/her a criminal. So where does Khomdram Ratan fit in? Is the state government's decision to announce him as "Wanted" on the mere and circumstantial evidence of a photograph circulated on a social media site be read as a result of the ignorance of law or a politically motivated one? Time to lay the bare truth on the table, or else the state government should revoke its hasty and ill-adviced decision which is bound to fall flat over legal scrutiny.

Document Lost

I have lost my Original HLSC Certificate-cum-Marksheet, issued by the Board of Secondary Education, Manipur and Original HSSLC Mark Sheet, issued by the Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur on the way between Yaishkul to Paona Bazar on 25th June. This is true to the best of my knowledge.

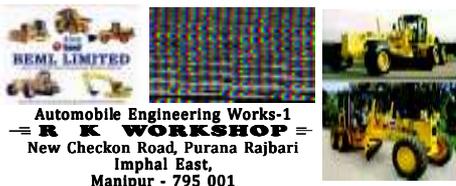
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MANIPUR GOVERNMENT SPEAKS OUT Towards revitalising Development Communication

By : Seram Neken

Development Communication is a modern concept indispensable to healthy democratic set-ups across the human society. Everyone realizes that the ruled and the rulers should be in constant touch in order to fulfill the principles of democracy. Then, what should be the smoothest bridge between the two poles? It is the media, also known as the fourth estate of the nation, which is to serve as a link between the governed (people) and the governors (representatives). Media promotes understanding and involvement of people in the socio-economic changes and developmental activities taking place in a society. Media can well quicken the process of development. The more freedom and effectiveness media enjoys, the lesser will be the chaos and disorder in society which ultimately assist in development in all aspects. While trying to establish a rapport between the government and the people, government publicity must be utilized as a strong and effective tool by the information agencies of the establishment. Now at the fag end of the third edition of Shri Ibobi Singh regime, the state government seems slightly awakened as it has recently started acknowledging the importance of government publicity in the state. The credit goes to the state Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) which has recently launched an initiative to inform the people of the

development activities of various government departments through a series of press conferences. Since July 4 last, the state information directorate has begun organizing press conferences attended by heads of state government departments on daily basis at its premises at Moirangkhom, Imphal. It is indeed a laudable initiative on the part of the government to let the heads of departments speak out their achievements. On the basis of the information received via the media, the people can well judge the performance of the existing dispensation and the inherent gaps. People may now react and feed their comments back to the government through the media. Thus, the theory of development communication tends to apply in Manipur. In this modern world, information has become the fourth basic necessity of life, others being food, clothing and shelter. The pace of human civilization becomes faster with up-to-date information reaching the eyes and ears of its inhabitants. The development of a nation can be gauged on the basis of the quantum of information flow to its people, the government and the various organizations. The need for accurate and timely information is felt most in the democratic form of government, where people have to take important decisions on governance

so as to bring participatory democracy coupled with a responsive and responsible governance. An effective two-way communication system is the foundation on which democracy is built up. Representative democracy has no meaning without effective media organizations. The power of the media in a modern state gives room for its privileges. Nature and quality of the government are manifested in the amount of freedom vested in the media. Likewise, the longevity of a certain government depends on the importance it pays on the media. A government may do lots of development works for its people. If such activities do not reach the eyes and ears of the people, the government will ever be portrayed as dormant. In the same way, if the government does not collect feedbacks from the people on its various activities, its popularity will be diminished. Media is in fact a bridge between the people and its representatives. As both the government and the people have faith in the media, any person or organization or government may take the due advantage to expose its activities. The present government of Manipur has taken up a number of popular programmes and policies for its people during the last few years of its tenure. Numerous development projects have been taken, flagship programmes have

been implemented. The government, via the various communication channels, needs to inform the people of such activities and collect feedbacks from them for future rectifications and further developmental actions. Hence, it may very well gain popularity, when it utilizes the available media judiciously. The government and political parties need not worry for huge election campaigns, whenever they resort to routine exposure through media. Election campaigns should not be limited to the few weeks or days ahead of polls. It must be throughout the year and throughout the period of governance. Of late, the state government has now apparently realized the importance of media in reaching out to the people. Earlier the activities of the Publicity Department were limited to media coverage of functions, VIP visits, VIP's press conferences and observances of national press days and Information days only. The department did not intend to take up effective measures to inform the people of its development policies and programmes. However, with recent improvements in the working of the Information and Publicity Department of state government, the information needs of the people will be catered to. The credit for the same will automatically go to the state government's wisdom of appointing a media professional to head the department.

National News

Curfew clamped in Kashmir ahead of Friday prayers

PTI
Srinagar, July 15: Curfew was today clamped in Kashmir in view of Friday prayers which see large congregations as authorities apprehended fresh violence in the Valley where 36 persons have died and over 3,100 injured in clashes following the killing of Hizbul militant Burhan Wani last week. "Curfew has been imposed in all 10 districts of Kashmir Valley today as a precautionary measure for maintaining law and order," a police official said. No major clash was reported yesterday from anywhere in Kashmir where uneasy calm prevailed with normal life remaining disrupted since last Saturday.

The official said the decision to impose curfew was taken as there were apprehensions that vested interests might exploit the large gatherings at Friday prayers to instigate fresh violence. Police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed in strength across the Valley for strict implementation of the prohibitory orders, the official said. Authorities have also pulled the plug on mobile telephone services in the Valley to prevent any rumour-mongering. "Only postpaid connections of BSNL are working," the official

said. Although the official did not assign any reason for allowing the BSNL postpaid connections, it is believed that the comparatively small number of mobile phones were kept functional as most of the government and police officials use this service. Mobile Internet services continued to remain suspended for the seventh day today while trains are also off the tracks in the Valley. Violent protests rocked Kashmir last weekend following killing of Burhan Wani and two of his associates in an encounter with security forces on July 8 in Kokernag area of Anantnag district.

In the ensuing clashes with security forces, 36 persons including a policeman have been killed while 3,140 persons including 1,500 security personnel. Normal life has remained paralysed since Saturday in Kashmir on account of separatist sponsored-strike and curfew-like restrictions imposed by authorities.

The separatists groups — both factions of Hurriyat Conference and JKLF — have been issuing strike calls two days at a time, as they did during the 2010 summer agitation which left 120 people dead.

More State News

Red Shield Division constructs Community Hall

PIB DEFFENCE,

Imphal, July 15: Aina Battalion of Churachandpur Assam Rifles Sector, under the aegis of Red Shield Division, constructed Community Hall at Phaijiang village on 13 July 2016. Phaijiang is remote village in Thanlon sub division, located in

Churachandpur district of Manipur and one of the underdeveloped regions of the state. Villagers took part whole heartedly in the construction and it was result of mutual help and harmony. The villager thanked Aina Battalion for their help and assistance.

Free ENT Camp

IT News

Imphal, July 15: Department of ENT, Shija Hospitals organized a Free ENT Camp on Thursday, the 14th July 2016 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Kshetrikeikai Laibung, Thoubal. Free OPD consultation and screening for problems related to ENT were provided by Dr. Dhaneshwor Naorem, Consultant ENT Surgeon, Shija Hospitals and Mr. Sunder Khangembam,

Audiologist & Language Speech Pathologist, Shija Hospitals. Altogether 75 patients were examined and 45 patients underwent Audiometry test during the camp. Distribution of Information Booklet related to ENT problems was the main highlight of the camp. Staffs of Shija Clinic Thoubal supported the camp. The camp was jointly organized with Kshetrikeikai Rising Club, Thoubal Kshetrikeikai.

Letter to the Editor

"MOST URGENT PLEASE"

Dear Editor,

The pride of Indians has recently got a booster in the comity of Nations. This boost has naturally been accompanied by a rising tide of pride in nationality while at the same time enhancing the significance of self in the society. The new government at the Centre under Prime Minister Modi has brought into play a sense of Competitive Efficiency in every region and province of the country. This is the moment the print and electronic media should also become alive to the rising tide of pride in capabilities. In this light, the reporting by the TOI of Susila Chanu, Captain of the Women Hockey Team for the Rio Olympics, as a player and person from Madhya Pradesh is unfortunate enough to cause unwarranted misunderstanding and avoidable inter-regional tension. There is no harm but rather right in reporting that she got the recent training in the game in Madhya Pradesh. But this by no means mitigate the reality that she is a girl from Manipur. Manipur has by the way produced the maximum number of sportspersons of significance vis-a-vis other States. Since the misreporting in Susila Chanu's case comes in the backdrop of recent racist remarks by an Immigration official on a Manipuri girl at Delhi Airport, it has added insult to the injury of the Manipuris' pride in being a major contributor to the country's sporting strength. This being so, I request the daily to correct the mistake in right earnest such that the shared best wishes of the people of India for the Olympics is not jeopardised. I look forward .

With Regards
Asnikumar Singh
State Vice President
BJP Manipur Pradesh

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR MEDICAL DIRECTORATE TENDER NOTICE

Imphal, the 8th July, 2016

No.II-E-Tender/Procur-DHS/2015 : e-Tender for procurement of No-Medicine items for use of Medical Institutions. Details may be seen in NIC e-Portal <http://manipur tenders.gov.in>. Tender Value is Rs. 95.00 Lakh. Last date of receipt of Tender 4.00 pm of 01/08/16 and Date & Time of opening Tender 2.00 pm of 03/08/16.

Sd/-

Dr. O. Ibomcha Singh
Director of Health Services, Manipur