

Editorial

Imphal Tuesday, November 22, 2016

An anticipated move anyway

Leaving aside the authority's violation of rules and regulations frame by the government (read violation of Manipur State Advertisement Policy Act, 2013) there is something needed to be anticipated. But the column here is a simple optimistic view aims to help the govt. if have little time to read this. Well, the much anticipated extravaganza conceptualized to showcase and promote the diverse socio-cultural heritage and the rich traditional wealth of the state has kicked off without a glitch. That the State Government spared no expenses and efforts to make an impression to the visiting tourists would be an understatement. The Imphal city has been transformed within an incredibly short span of time into one which can be compared to any other mid-sized or tier II cities in the country- well almost. Despite the best efforts and undoubtedly noble intentions which had made tremendous improvements in the public facilities and certain infrastructures, a closer look into the activities brings to light various clear indications of the haphazard and rushed nature of it all. A huge portion of the work initiated has remained unfinished. Now that the Sangai Festival is underway, one cannot help feeling apprehensive about the longevity of the commitment the State Government initiated towards beautification of Imphal City. If previous instances are any indications, we will be seeing a change in inertia and a visible drop in enthusiasm making the whole efforts an exercise in futility. The incredible potential for attracting tourism in the State has been well known and even documented. From the enchanting misty mountains to the incredibly beautiful ethnic handicrafts and crafts, from the inherently hospitable people to the excellent climatic condition, the unbelievably beautiful and mysterious caves and lakes- this small state has it all, and in no small measures. This naturally endowed land has been wasted and neglected for centuries, our inability to see the big picture, occupied as we are in finding ways to secure our own personal lives through means fair or foul being the main reason. With the air connectivity with our neighboring Asian countries a reality now, it would be an act of utter foolishness not to cash in on the euphoria and enthusiasm such a development has created. Without going into the details of the nitty-gritty of tourism and it's pros and cons, it is an undeniable truth that with proper planning, timely and effective checks and due diligence, tourism would only improve the economy, change the perceptions of the local people towards the visitors and their way of life, adopt a more tolerant view of things and most importantly help in propagating our cultures and traditions throughout the world. For all these to happen, basic infrastructures and basic amenities must be put in place and make the whole state a tourist friendly one. A lot more needs to be done to be where we want this State to be from where we are now. Only a dedicated, committed and sustained effort can make things possible. Working in fits and starts will get us nowhere.

Nagaland CM condoles death of over 140 people

PTI Kohima, Nov 22: Nagaland Assembly today condoled the death of over 140 people in the Indore-Patna train derailment incident near Pukhrayan in Kanpur Dehat district on November 20. Nagaland Chief Minister T R Zeliang expressed grief and sorrow over the accident on the first day of the winter session of the House, which began today. "Pukhrayan train accident is one of the worst accidents, which killed more than 140 passengers and left over 100 injured," he said while maintaining that the entire country is under shock and grief. On behalf of the people of Nagaland, the Chief Minister announced Rs 10 lakh contribution towards the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. He also conveyed deep condolences to the bereaved family members and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. The House also observed two minute silence in remembrance of the departed soul. On the first day of the session, Parliamentary Secretary for Municipal Affairs, R Tohanba introduced the Nagaland Municipal (Third Amendment) Bill 2016 and a resolution to revoke with immediate effect the resolution passed by the State Assembly under Article 371A (1)(a) of the Constitution in regard to exemption of the state from implementing 33 percent women's reservation in Municipalities. The bill and resolution would be taken up for consideration and its passage on November 24, Speaker Chotish Sazo said.

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Demonetization: Queues Getting Shorter

Farmers allowed to buy seeds in old currency notes

By : Devsagar Singh
Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bold move to demonetize high value currency notes to curb black money and corruption signals his resolve to take on high and mighty ignoring political minefield. When the Prime Minister suddenly announced demonetization of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 notes on the evening of November 8 leaving people stunned, including his staunch supporters, there were much fears and misgivings. Almost two weeks since, there is slow but steady realization among people, especially the poor and the middle class, that the move is for cleaning the mess of black money and corruption which seriously affected the nation. Queues outside banks and money dispensing ATM machines are getting shorter and frenzied reactions of people are giving way to reasoned conversations about the long term benefits of the measure. It is not to say that the Government has been able to sort out all issues concerning demonetization and that everything is falling into place. Although there are still some grievances of the common man, yet the government continues to address all the issues one by one to mitigate their difficulties. For instance, at the time of writing this article the government has announced another relief measure for the farmers who were finding it difficult to buy seeds

for the current Rabi season. Now the government has announced that farmers can now purchase the seeds in old currency notes of 500 rupees for the current Rabi crop from the Seeds centers belonging to State or Centre's PSUs. As Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had said, the initial difficulty was only to be expected because advance arrangements could not have been made on account of the highest level of secrecy involved in the move. Immediately after the announcement, however, the Government got engaged in providing necessary infrastructure like moving new bank notes to remotest places as also recalibrating the ATM machines across the country. Banks immediately got down to a massive operation of exchanging old notes and dispensing with new ones with all resources at their command. True, the exercise is gigantic in proportion to the problems that the measure is seeking to address. According to all official estimates and studies by the academic and professional bodies, there has been a parallel economy of black money in the country for a long time now. The Government loses revenue on account of this parallel economy and ordinary law abiding citizens bear the brunt in term of increased taxes and intermittent inflationary pressures. Yet another serious malaise afflicting the country was that of counterfeit currency. It aided

and abetted the terror financing from across the border. Ironically, there has been a lot of talk about the malaise of black money in the country and the resultant corruption. However, it is only now that someone has dared to take any serious action in this regard. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, therefore, needs to be complimented for daring to take the bull by the horns. He promised to take action against black money and corruption during his election campaign. Even after taking over as Prime Minister, he reiterated his resolve and finally did it. There has been all-round support for the Prime Minister for taking this bold step. However, in this article we would like to mention what Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, has said about the move. Welcoming the demonetization move, Shri Yadav termed it as a revolutionary step by the Prime Minister. Expressing his gratitude on behalf of the poor, the farmers, the labourers, the backward and Dalits, Shri Yadav, a former union minister and five-time member of Parliament said that the measure would strengthen the country's economy by better financial discipline and generate employment for the needy and the dispossessed. He said it would "create the India which Mahatma Gandhi, Ram Manohar Lohia and Deendayal

Upadhyaya had dreamt of." There may be several pro and cons of the measure and several experts may have different views about the measure but in the ultimate analysis, all seem to agree that the step in the right earnest with good intent. The enormity of the task can be gauged from the fact that the total demonetized banknote numbered 2300 crore pieces. According to estimates, the printing itself could take at least three months. Add to this the job of transporting them to all corners of the country. By all accounts, it is more than the proverbial Herculean task. The Prime Minister has sought just 50 days to bring the situation to normal. In the interest of the nation of 123 crore people and its economy, the second largest in Asia, it is time for every patriotic person to give a helping hand. This is an unprecedented situation and cannot be compared to the demonetization exercise undertaken by the Government in 1978 because of the sheer size of the economy. Parliament is in session seized of the matter. Political sagacity and maturity political parties have never been in doubt when it comes to tackling issues of national interest. (Author is a senior journalist and regularly writes in major dailies on economic issues.) (Courtesy PIB)

National & International News

Lok Sabha adjourned as uproar by opposition continued

PTI New Delhi, Nov 22: Opposition on Tuesday disrupted the proceedings of the Lok Sabha for the fourth consecutive day on Tuesday demanding discussion on demonetisation on a rule which entails voting forcing Speaker Sumitra Mahajan to adjourn the House for about 50 minutes soon after it assembled. As soon as the House met, members of Congress, TMC, Left parties and AAP rushed to the Well of the House demanding discussions on the demonetisation of Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 under Rule 56, that entails. Samajwadi Party, NCP and RJD stood in the aisles in solidarity with the other opposition members. While AIADMK members were also on the aisles raising the issue of Tamil fishermen injured allegedly in firing by Sri Lankan Navy, Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi was seen busy in his seat in an intimate discussion with AAP MP from Punjab Harinder Singh Khalsa. Ignoring the slogan shouting opposition members, Speaker allowed the Question Hour to

continue amidst noise. When some opposition members tried to bring a placard, denouncing the demonetisation move, in front of Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju, who was replying a question related to his Ministry, the Speaker tried to intervene and asked the MPs not to disturb the Minister. "This is not good. Everyone will be shown on TV, but don't disturb the Minister. If you want to discuss something, raise it before the government. People are in pain, tell the government. But this is not the way to highlight people's

grievances," Mahajan said asking them to return to their seats. However, an unrelenting opposition continued to raise slogans. The Speaker again appealed to the opposition to participate in the debate saying that the disruption of proceedings would not resolve the problem. "I am really pained. If you are people's representatives, you should stand by them," she said. As pandemonium continued, the Speaker adjourned the House till noon after 20 minutes of proceedings.

J-K: Rs 2,000 notes recovered from terrorists killed in Bandipora

ANI New Delhi, Nov 22: The Army on Tuesday recovered Rs 2,000 notes, which have been in circulation for

less than a fortnight, from two terrorists killed in Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir, news agency ANI reported. Security forces had cordoned off the area early morning after the terrorists who were holed up there opened fire. A heavy gunbattle ensued soon after. A combing operation was underway to flush out for more terrorists, if any, the agency further reported. On November 8, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while announcing the move to scrap old high currency tender, said counterfeit notes are being used to fund terrorist activities in the country. The recovery of the new notes from the terrorists will provide ammunition to the opposition which has been in a combative mood inside the Parliament. Meanwhile, a Pakistani intruder was killed in firing by Border

Security Forces (BSF) along the International Border in RS Pura sector of Jammu district. According to reports, the intruder was challenged by troops and was shot when he did not pay heed. On Monday, a BSF head constable was killed and five others were injured when Pakistani troops resorted to heavy mortar shelling on forward Indian positions and civilian areas at separate places along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. Over 290 incidents of firing and shelling along the LoC and the International Border by Pakistani troops have been witnessed since Indian army conducted surgical strikes on terrorist launch pads in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on September 29.

Chhattisgarh: CRPF Sub-Inspector killed in IED blast in Sukma

Sukma, Nov. 22: One 74 battalion Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Sub-Inspector lost his life in an IED blast in Chhattisgarh's Sukma on Tuesday. This comes after two CRPF jawans were injured in an IED blast in Sukma yesterday. The two jawans were working on the safety of road construction when the incident took place. At least one person was killed following an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) explosion at Imphal's Singjamei area earlier on Sunday. The incident took place at around 8.40 a.m. soon after a convoy of the Assam Rifles passed through the area.

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Imphal : Manipur
NOTICE
Imphal, the 21st Nov. 2016

No.2958/2013-RIMS/5984 : In partial modification of this office notice of even no. dated 15th Nov., 2016, the walk-in-interview for engagement of Executive Engineer (Civil), Assistant Engineer (Civil), Section Officer (Civil) and Supervisor (Civil) on contract basis scheduled to be held on 29th Nov. 2016 at 11:00 am in Conference Room of Jubilee Hall, RIMS, Imphal is hereby re-scheduled on 26th Nov. 2016 at 11:00 am due to administrative inconvenience.

Sd/-
(Prof. Ch. Arun Kumar Singh)
Director,
Regional Institute of Medical Sciences,
Imphal

Former UP CM Ram Naresh Yadav passes away

PTI Lucknow, Nov 22: Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Ram Naresh Yadav, whose name had cropped up in the Vyapam scam, passed away here this morning after a prolonged illness. He was 90. Yadav, who served as Madhya Pradesh Governor from 2011-September 2016, breathed his last at Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences here at 9.15 AM, Congress sources said. Yadav's name had figured in the Vyapam scam, a multi-crore scandal in the Madhya Pradesh Professional Examination Board, which involved several high-profile professionals, politicians and bureaucrats. The Madhya Pradesh High Court had later quashed the FIR filed against him in connection with the scam, holding that he enjoyed immunity while in office. His son, Shailesh, whose name had also figured in the scam, was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Lucknow in March last year.