

Editorial

Imphal Wednesday, November 23, 2016

Violating Govt. rules by Govt. Machineries

Once more, the Imphal Times have brought up the issue of State Tourism Department authority violating Manipur State Government Advertisement Policy, 2013. Incidentally, Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, the Minister in-charge of the DIPR is also the Minister in-charge of the State Tourism department. This paper highlighted the issue not because this paper has not been given any advertisement for publication but because we wanted to let the people know how the government machineries are functioning whether or not on the behalf of their superior. Imphal Times, being an evening daily can't go for competition with the high quality newspaper published in the morning but the management did try its best to promote the quality of journalism through unbiased reporting.

Recently, the DIPR authority had cancelled the empanelment of this newspaper on certain ground and since then the department has stopped listing this news paper for government advertisement. We know that even if the State Tourism department follow the procedure of advertising the Sangai festival through print media, Imphal Times will not get the opportunity to publish it. So highlighting the issue of a State Government Department violating the government rules and regulations, the Imphal Times gains no benefit. It is only an attempt to correct what is wrong in the system. But the question now is who will bell the cat? Chief Minister Okram Ibobi, who always talks about strengthening the Directorate of Information and Public Relation, is in charge of the department as well the State Tourism Department which had violated the Manipur State Advertisement Policy 2013. For sure a mere apology to mend the mistake may end the matters without awarding any sort of punishment, even as it is in complete violation of the rules framed by his government.

As according to the Manipur State Advertisement policy, it is mandatory for every government department or agency under the state government to publish any form of advertisement through the DIPR. Clause 9 of the Manipur State Advertisement Policy says that All Government advertisements, both classified and display shall be released through DIPR only. And clause 24 of the state advertisement policy clearly mention that if any Government advertisement is issued in violation of the provisions of clause 9, the head of Department /Office concerned will be personally responsible for payment of advertisement bills from his/her personal account. Again the clause 25 of the advertisement policy also said that Treasury officers/Sub-Treasury Officers shall withhold bills for payment of govt. advertisement which have not been routed through DIPR. So as per the rules all advertisement published in print media by skipping the DIPR shall have to bear the cost of the advertisement by the head of department themselves without affecting the budget allocated.

Budget allocation for the year 2016-17 for the Department of Tourism is only 3752.44 lakhs. Here at this point we would like to draw the attention of the Accountant General Office which audited the account statement of every department.

The issue Imphal Times takes up is not for any personal beneficiary but for the benefit of all small medium newspapers in the region.

Jharkhand: CoBRA commandos kill 6 Naxals, recover 600 bullets, ammunition

PIT
Ranchi, Nov. 23: Six Naxals were killed on Wednesday over 600 bullets and a dozen IEDs recovered after a gunbattle with CRPF commandos in the jungles of Jharkhand's Maoist hotbed of Latehar district.

Officials said the encounter began at about 7:00 a.m. in the Karamdih-Chhipadohar jungles on the banks of North Koel river of the said district where a squad of CoBRA commandos of the CRPF was out for operations. "We have recovered six male bodies of Naxals in uniform, 600 bullets of various calibre, about 12 improvised

Explosive Devices, an INSAS rifle, an SLR, a carbine and three other firearms. Search operations are still on," CRPF Inspector General (Operations) in Jharkhand Sanjay A Lathkar said.

The IG added some more explosives and cordex wires, used to trigger IEDs, has also been recovered from the spot, over 130 km from here. Officials said the team of 209th battalion of the CoBRA along with other units was out for operation since last two days and the encounter started when the squad received fire from the Maoists side.

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National & International News

Rs 3.5 crore in old notes flown into Nagaland goes missing

Guwahati, Nov. 23: Central intelligence and income tax agencies are grappling with a peculiar situation with Rs 3.5 crore of cash in scrapped Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes "vanishing" after being seized on a private chartered flight at Dimapur in Nagaland. The cash was seized by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel at Dimapur after a tip-off from the Intelligence Bureau and the local income tax staff was summoned to take further action with regard to the unaccounted wealth.

But to the surprise of CISF

personnel, the cash disappeared and the local I-T officer is understood to have claimed that it had been with the security personnel all along. CISF officers who had alerted their headquarters about the seizure were shocked, but could do little as the I-T officer insisted he had nothing to do with the cash. CISF, which does not have the power to carry out arrests, has reported the matter to IB and Central Board of Direct Taxes. The plane's "main passenger" was one Amarjit Kumar Singh, a businessman from Bihar who was

carrying the cash. The flight VTCP, which had taken off from Hisar in Haryana, was sent back to New Delhi. A source said Singh told CISF that "someone big" in Delhi had allegedly sent the cash for a Naga businessman. He also named another Naga businessman. The aircraft landed in Dimapur with Singh and an unidentified woman among those on board. The CISF identified four suspects on the basis of the alert by IB that they were on a mission to launder old currency notes in the state where I-T

exemptions offered to Scheduled Tribes offer a window for money laundering. The exemption is not unique to Nagaland. STs in North Cachar Hills, Karbi Anglong, Bodoland Territorial Autonomous District in Assam, Jaintia and Garo Hills in Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura are exempted from income tax subject to certain conditions. Dimapur deputy commissioner of income tax A Kitto Zhimomi refused to comment on the haul. He said only the CBDT was authorized to talk to the media.

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UNLFC Central Committee greets the people on occasion

Divide and rule is another classic strategem used by colonial rulers to devastating effect to sustain colonial rule and poisoning relations between and amongst the subject people. Increasing inter and intra ethnic animosities amongst Meiteis, Nagas and Kukis attest to the havoc created by the colonial master's deadly pastime of divide and rule. Not all ethnic antipathies are, however, the handiwork of the colonial rulers. Much of it can also be traced to the respective insensitivities of the ethnosense themselves to one another's aspirations. Though the indigenous peoples of WESEA (Western South East Asia) have superficial and temporary issues of difference and petty contradictions, these people share the same social systems, long historical journey together, and mutually interdependent economic systems, and also from sheer topographic and physical geographical features which could not separate one from another, and our close kin settlements make us inseparable, and this strand of a collective life, we are now facing the urge to be united together, and we are experiencing this necessity all the more. Therefore as we envision our future, all indigenous peoples of Western South East Asia, we have entered an age where we cannot but see things collectively, in our future historical development. This sole aspect of our collective vision UNLFC had always placed before the indigenous communities of the region. So the collective of indigenous people who are suffering the alien subjugation of India Annual Statement - Central Committee 2016 (3) should, instead of fighting for independence and separate communities, should struggle together for our collective freedom in order to defeat the Indian Colonial power. This very struggle is necessitated by the objective conditions of the true realities of the region. In order to achieve victory we need to build up the Regional Unity Thesis collectively, all of us in WESEA should altogether have a collective struggle on the path of self-determination of WESEA which should be true to the soil of the region, with sheer respect to the

culture and traditions of the communities and we shall design collectively the approaches and systems of understanding to enable us to envision and join in the United Struggle much more effectively for our common goal of self-determination. Unfortunately, for all of us, when some of the groups with their individual struggle against the stronger force of Indian colonialism find the going tough, they opt for "peace-talks" and "SoO". With their ethno-exclusive outlooks, they compromise their earlier stance of sovereignty and independence to gain some petty political and administrative privileges which causes more squabbles amongst the ethnic brethren. Not only this hampers the progress of "Our United Struggle", but this also makes a "heyday" of the enemy's Divide and Rule. With the overwhelming enemy propaganda the common people is thrown into confusion and disappointment, with their confidence in the independence struggle waning. In this situation, some sections amongst the meiteis who have been taking major historical responsibility in paving a composite history of the thousands of year old Manipuri nation are beginning to waver; lacking courage and self-confidence to face the challenge of time. The worries and anxieties of these sections that the survival of the meiteis is slim without the prop of some Articles of the Indian Constitution, thus seeking some Constitutional privileges is quite an irony as the ulterior motive of India is nothing but to assimilate Manipur. Since we became India's colony, there had been a non-stopping influx of outsiders which had become a demographic and economic threat to the existence of the indigenous peoples. This syndrome is affecting not only Manipur but the whole Western South East Asia (WESEA). This has become a matter of life and death for all the indigenous peoples of our Region, as our distinct identities, culture and racial origin can not survive, let alone develop if we remained subjugated within Indian Colonial Rule. Today, keeping the region under socio-political and economic suppression, India is

pursuing a hidden agenda of racial assimilation process in the region by giving permanent citizenship to all the influx populations from within India as well as from the neighbouring countries so that the region can be a part and parcel of India forever. Annual Statement - Central Committee 2016 (4) To realize this, with their "Hindutva dream", the hindu chauvinist BJP govt. in Delhi is preparing to floor "Citizenship Amendment Bill - 2016" in Indian Parliament to naturalize all the influx in the region from within India and abroad having the same racial and religious affinity with mainland Indians. This clearly proves that within Indian system the indigenous peoples of the region with their small populations can not safeguard their ethnic identities and survive. This is the same life and death situation faced by all the indigenous peoples of WESEA. Therefore, for the indigenous peoples of our region to seek their ethno-exclusive solutions within India's colonial framework is just like putting our "common future" into oblivion. This is just like the fate of the sacrificial lamb waiting for its time at the altar of India's racial assimilation. As we negotiate Manipur's collective future, the influential actors on the world stage has multiplied manifold with increasing globalization. Gone are the days when size, inhospitable location or backwardness tended to reinforce isolation. Ironically, for the rich nations and their multinational companies, backwardness and geographically difficult locations offers them mouth-watering opportunities for extraction of resources — physical and human. This new rush for the fast vanishing Shangrillas inevitably brings in its wake roads, dams, bridges and other infrastructures. The recent announcement of investment by the international financial institutions in Manipur and WESEA is an illustrative example. Obviously, globalization will bring many opportunities, economic and otherwise. All these opportunities have, however, a dark side. As experience in other countries has shown, they tend to be entrepreneur friendly rather than people friendly. In plain terms it means that they

tend to benefit those who can help the global investors extract more per unit of time and labour. In the eventuality, the advent of global investment may translate into greater pauperization of a people not yet acculturated into the discipline of industrial labour. The danger of further fragmenting our collective life and its implications for our identity is worrisome. Then there is the additional threat of influx of labour from outside destabilizing our collective life and identity further. We would therefore like to call on the middle class to rise above the seductive opportunism that increasing global investment may stir in them and help devise ways and means to limit the disruptive character of globalization. This struggle will be equally important as the ongoing politico-military struggle against Indian colonial rule. Lastly, the UNLFC Central Committee would like to share our thoughts and happy messages to the indigenous peoples of Manipur — that Our National Independence, with Autonomy at all levels, and to create a democratic system in tune with our native genius, a respect for identities and traditions, and respectful co-existence of all communities, and to prosper together in equality, justice and freedom shall be our motto and let us all work together towards this end", the statement added.

The UNLFC Central Committee paid revolutionary salute to their Chairman, officers and ranks of the freedom struggle and to those who suffered indignities through torture by India. Besides, the UNLFC Central Committee also extended its heartfelt greetings to the fraternal member parties of the CorCom, which is fighting for the restoration of Manipur's freedom, as well as to the other fraternal revolutionary parties of Western South East Asia (WESEA) and to other kinkeminded ethnic revolutionary groups as well. And we extend our special greetings and are grateful to our civil societies and student bodies who are spearheading our people's movements against the tyranny of Indian oppressive regime bearing its full impact and highlighting the plight of Manipuri people.

Supreme Court notice to petitioners challenging demonetisation

He told the bench that government has set up a committee which will take stock of the ground situation across the country on demonetisation move. Rohatgi told the apex court that general rule is that the cash transactions in the market should not be more than four per cent of the GDP but it is 12 per cent in India. Rohatgi told the bench that various petitions have been filed challenging the demonetisation move before different high courts across the country and these matters should be transferred to the apex court or one of the high courts. The bench has fixed the matter for December 2 and has directed the

persons who are petitioners before different high courts to file their response on Centre's transfer plea by then. The apex court had on November 18 dubbed as a "serious issue" the long queues outside banks and post offices and expressed its reservation on the Centre's plea seeking a direction that no other court in the country should entertain petitions challenging the November 8 notification demonetising Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 currency notes. It had made the remarks after the AG submitted that any matter relating to challenge to the demonetisation issue be heard by the apex court only. However, the bench noted that

people were facing difficulties saying, they are affected and have the right to approach the courts. The bench had questioned the relief measures undertaken by the Centre and asked why it had squeezed the exchange limit to Rs 2,000. The AG had then explained the situation by stating that after printing, the currency has to be moved to thousands of centres across the country and ATMs have to be re-calibrated. He had also said that Rs 100 notes are in circulation and the ATMs needed to be re-calibrated to issue new currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 2,000. The Centre had moved the apex court on November 17 seeking a

stay on the proceedings before various high courts and other courts except the apex court against demonetisation issue, saying otherwise it will create a lot of confusion. The apex court had on November 15 refused to stay the government's demonetisation notification, but asked it to spell out the steps taken to minimise public inconvenience. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a televised address to the nation on November 8, had announced that Rs 500 and Rs 1000 notes will no longer be legal tender from November 9. He had said the government has declared a "decisive war" against black money and corruption.