

Editorial

Imphal, Saturday, September 10, 2016

Changed profiles

The muffled whispers of rumors regarding the desertions and defections of many prominent and battle-weary politicians of the state that has been doing the rounds in various social circles for a while now has been proving to be right so far, and with it, the perception of the general public of politicians being opportunists and unscrupulous profit-seekers are steadily on the rise. That the upcoming general election which is just round the corner is expected to hold more drama and throw up surprising results has been a foregone conclusion. The wind of political change that swept the country when Narendra Modi was chosen to lead the country by an overwhelming majority two years ago reflects the yearning of the people for a change and the rising aspiration for action which was sorely lacking during the Congress administration when endless rounds discussions, deliberations and planning led to frustrations and disillusionment in the country. That the national decision was in large part due to Narendra Modi's personal charisma and decisive personality was never in doubt, and his hold on the nation has not wavered much. Cut to our present state- in stark contrast to the general feeling of positivity and elsewhere in the country, Manipur is reeling under waves of discontent and agitations, and the society is feeling hemmed in from all quarters for issues as diverse as those concerning communal identity, reservations of benefits, implementation of welfare schemes just to name a few. Right now, the mood of the state is one of uncertainty, and an all-pervading feeling of suspicion and distrust has crept in. The indifferent conduct of the state government bordering on an audacious display of reckless power-trip has made matters worse, and the image of the ruling party considered the safest bet to maintain stability till very recently have taken a heavy beating. To state that the Ibobi led congress party is floundering would not be way off the mark despite the strong show of normalcy and declarations of improvements in various fields. What is of growing concern for the general public is the fact that the tried and tested politicians, a number of them still holding their elected positions have been found wanting in the deliverance of their duties, and their increasing defections from the ruling party have signaled the deteriorating confidence and trust in the continued role of the ruling party in the governance of the state. There is also the ever-present nagging doubt about the role of these defectors or deserters in the coming days. Their motives are clear for everyone to see. It would indeed be interesting to wait and watch if the wolves in sheep's clothing can still manage to convince the disgruntled public about their expressed earnestness to continue serving the interests of the public. This event will also serve as a litmus test for the public who appears to have been jolted out of collective complacency and social inactivity which for long has been abused by the unscrupulous lot employing money and muscle to have their ruthless self-profiteering ways.

BRICS film festival- A new hope for BRICS nations

By : Pradeep Sardana

Recently concluded first BRICS film festival which was held in New Delhi in the run up to the BRICS summit to be held in Goa next month, has left a very positive impact amongst the film critique and film lovers' community. The success of the Festival can be gauged from the fact that from this year onwards, a specially curated BRICS section would form part of the India International Film Festival which would become a regular feature in the future editions of IFFI. Participants from all the five BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) who came together for the Festival were very upbeat at its success and also about the future possibilities; it might open up for forging the long-term alliances to enhance mutual cooperation amongst the participating nations in the field of films, art and culture. A jury member of the BRICS Fest and Filmmaker from South Africa, Xoliswa Sithole was visibly impressed by the format of the Festival when she said, "I have no doubt that in 15 years time, the BRICS will be at a place where everyone will be aiming for". Critics, after seeing the structure and format of the Festival, are confident that BRICS Film Festival would certainly gain credence amongst the international film-lovers and filmmakers and would soon be counted as one of the top Film events held at international level.. The format of the BRICS Fest is vastly different from the rest of the national and international film festivals. The best part of this Festival is that it did not confine itself with the showcasing of

Films but unlike other Festivals, it also included the special events on craft & sculpture, cultural presentation and even cuisines of BRICS nations. This peculiarity gives it a special place amongst other Festivals held world over. With this film festival, these countries would be connected, not only at the level of Governments, but also at the level of common people who will get the opportunity to know and appreciate each other's cinema, art and culture. It will also create awareness about each others' strengths in these fields which can be shared for further enhancing our gains through such exchanges. It may not be out of place to mention here that BRICS Film Festival is the brain child of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He had proposed this unique idea of organizing BRICS film fest, at last year's BRICS summit at Ufa in Russia. This idea was immediately accepted by all the participants and that is how we got the opportunity to hold the first Film Festival in the run up to the 8th BRICS Summit schedule to take place on October 15-16 in Goa. It has been decided that BRICS Film Festival will be organized by one of its five member nations every year, thus every nation will get the chance of organizing it after 5 years. The second BRICS Film Fest will be organized, in Chengdu, China next year. However Chengdu city has already grabbed the attention of people in First BRICS Film Fest itself, with its spectacular cultural programme at closing ceremony presented by Chengdu Performing Arts Theatre. Among other Cultural Programmes, Theatre

Leningrad too gave a stunning performance, which mesmerized the viewers during a special cultural evening on the second day of the Festival. Besides this, the cultural program by MBZ music production from South Africa was also superb. All these cultural events were greatly appreciated by the art critiques. Organized in New Delhi's Sirifort Auditorium, from 2nd to 6th September, BRICS Film Fest was successful in capturing the attention and appreciation of the common people who gathered in large numbers to watch the Films and cultural performances. In this 5-day festival, total 20 films were in competition category, which comprised of four Films from each member nation. Apart from this, the festival showcased 17 short films, which were made by Cinema Students of India and Russia. Winner of Best Feature film award for Kannada film 'Thithi', Raam Reddy told this author after the function, "I was not expecting that our film 'Thithi' will win Best Feature Film Award in BRICS, because China too had very beautiful films in this competition. But this is really nice moment for me that our film has been highly acclaimed by the audience and the jury." Additionally, a Russian film titled 'Leo Tolstoy and Mahatma Gandhi' made waves during the Festival because of the fresh treatment given by its Directors Anna Evtushenko and Dr Galina Evtushenko. This Film was not the part of competition but still keenly watched and appreciated by large number of people. The film is based on the correspondence between the two great spiritual teachers of the humanity; Leo

Tolstoy and Mahatma Gandhi who never met each other but during the last year of Tolstoy's life, there were series of letters exchanged between them. The film is based on this correspondence and covers philosophical, religious and political issues. During Film festival, Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore informed, that India has already signed co-production agreements with two of the member nations - Brazil and China. At the closing ceremony, Information & Broadcasting Minister M Venkaiyah Naidu informed that to promote India as filming destination the Government has been actively considering signing co-production agreements with Russia and South Africa, taking the process forward of having signed similar agreements with Brazil and China. Critics are rightly optimistic about BRICS Film Fest as population of BRICS nations comprises of 43% of world population and all five nations are making rapid economic progress. With this, BRICS nations will get giant market not just for their films, but for their culture, craft and cuisines as well. If BRICS nations will start co-producing the films on big canvas, it would change the current scenario of world cinema. During the Film festival, everyone focused on the co-production concept to be worked upon, so that BRICS Film Fest would be able to grow in its significance, and would quickly generate good commercial results as well. Also, this is likely to increase the tourism amongst the BRICS nations. (Courtesy PIB Feature)

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I, the undersigned, have lost my marksheet and Certificate for Class -X examination bearing Roll No. 20156 of 2011 conducted by the Board of Secondary Education Manipur (BOSEM) on the way between Kongba to Singjamei on 25/7/2016.
Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.
Sd/-
P. Ngoubichou Devi

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT NOTIFICATION
Imphal, the 8th September, 2016

No. 1/1(6)/2012-LA(E): It is hereby informed that the date for interview (Viva Voce) for direct recruitment to the post of Reporter Grade - III earlier postponed indefinitely has been re-scheduled on 14-09-2016 (Wednesday) at 11.00am in the Office Chamber of the Secretary, Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat.
All the candidates who have already appeared for speed/short hand test are, hereby, informed to appear the said interview (viva-voce) on the date, time and place mentioned above and bring their relevant documents/testimonials/admit cards for the same.
Time of Reporting : 10.30 am
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(G. Tapankumar Sharma)
Deputy Secretary (Admn),
Manipur Legislative Assembly
IT/Bill/11/09/2016

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National & International News

Cabinet approves creation of GST Council

PTI New Delhi, Sep 12: The Cabinet today approved setting up of the GST Council, which will decide on the rate of tax under the new Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, likely to kick in from April 1, 2017.
The GST Council will consist of Union Finance Minister, Minister of State in charge of Revenue Department and state finance ministers, government's official spokesperson tweeted after the Cabinet meeting headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Cabinet "approved setting up of GST Council and setting up its Secretariat," an official statement said here.
The Council will hold its first meeting on September 22 and 23, it added.
It will make recommendations on important issues related to GST, including items and rates. Its secretariat costs will be borne by the central government.
GST implementation steps are ahead of schedule so far, the government said. "The steps required in the direction of

implementation of GST are being taken ahead of the schedule so far." "The Cabinet also decided to provide for adequate funds for meeting the recurring and non-recurring expenses of the GST Council Secretariat, the entire cost for which shall be borne by the Central Government. The GST Council Secretariat shall be manned by officers taken on deputation from both the Central and State Governments," the statement said.
While the GST Council will be created as per Article 279A of the

amended Constitution, GST Council Secretariat will have its office at New Delhi.
Revenue Secretary will be the ex-officio Secretary to the GST Council, which will have Chairperson, Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) as a permanent invitee (non-voting). Also, a post of Additional Secretary to the GST Council in the GST Council Secretariat and four posts of Commissioner in the GST Council Secretariat (at the level of Joint Secretary to the Government of India) will be created.

Saudi air defence shoots down missile fired from Yemen
Riyadh, Sep 12: The Saudi-led military coalition in Yemen says Saudi air defence forces have shot down a ballistic missile fired at the kingdom from Yemen.
A statement issued by the coalition says the missile targeted the southwestern city of Khamis Mushait but was intercepted before dawn today. It says the coalition air force struck the missile's launching pad area. No damage or casualties were reported.
The Saudi-led coalition backs Yemen's internationally recognised government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi against the country's Shiite rebels known Houthis and their allies, former President Ali Abdullah Saleh's loyalists. The rebels, who control Yemen's capital, Sanaa, are known to have seized a stockpile of Soviet-era Scud missiles.

One more militant killed in Poonch gunfight
Jammu, Sept. 12: One more militant was killed by security forces in the ongoing gunfight at Poonch town.
With this the number of militants killed in the operation that started on Sunday morning has risen to four.
A senior police official said the gunfight erupted again at the under-construction mini-secretariat building after remaining militants, one or two in number, opened fire on security personnel who were sanitising the area early on Monday morning.
The police official said while carrying out room-to-room

searches in the building in Poonch town, security forces found the body of a militant, taking the toll of killed militants since Sunday to four.
"The building and adjacent areas were surrounded and exchange of fire was continuing between the security forces and some surviving militants still holed up in the building," the official said. The victims comprised three militants and a policeman, while five others — a police official, a civilian and three soldiers — were injured during Sunday's operation. With agencies inputs

Petrol bomb attack on Hindu Munnani leader's house
Coimbatore, Sept 12: A petrol bomb was hurled at the house of a Hindu Munnani leader by some miscreants in the wee hours today in neighbouring Tirupur, causing damage to the building, police said.
The attack was carried out on the house of Hindu Munnani's Tirupur treasurer, Shanmugam at around 2 AM. The portico of house suffered some damage in the incident, they said.
Protesting the attack, the outfit has called for a bandh in Tirupur

Normal life remains paralysed in Kashmir on Eid eve
PTI Srinagar, Sep 12: Normal life remained affected for the 66th consecutive day on Monday in violence-hit Kashmir, where authorities imposed restrictions on the movement and assembly of people in some areas on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha. Restrictions have been imposed in some of the towns in Kashmir as well as in three police station areas of Srinagar, a police official said here. He said restrictions have been imposed in the towns of Ganderbal, Kupwara, Baramulla, Budgam, Shopian, Kulgam, Pulwama and Anantnag.

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