

Editorial

The wrath of Mother Nature

Mother Nature is not so cruel. The moment when the people of this land started crying for water, she pours it from the sky. But we are so cruel to her that the blessing was sabotage by wasting it at streets and other filthy potholes. In a world where technology had reached its height, where leaders of the western nations talk about building modern cities under the sea or somewhere at the sky, we in this portion of the earth do not know how to make good use of what Mother Nature has gifted us. It is a known fact that during dry season people of this region faced acute shortage of water and during rainy season the place is normally flooded with the rain water. This time the flood situation is worrisome. The N. Biren Singh government declare natural calamities as more people continue to be affected. This phenomenon has been experiencing by the people for the past few decades. No people of this generation have ever heard our great great grandfather facing such a disastrous phenomenon.

This clearly shows that the present flood is the creation of this generation. One cannot simply blame on the mass deforestation as a result of the drastic situation being faced by the people. Politicians and those who are running the government cannot make their way out of this by blaming the citizens for not following the orders of the government. Draughts and floods which were once only learnt through geography books and newspapers have now become routine event of this little state since the last two three decades. As for the Imphalites from a small child who can read and write to those who hold top post in the government departments or those doing doctoral degree in any discipline, everyone knows that the kind of flood or draught that we the people of Manipur are facing every years is a man made one created by lack of proper planning on water management. Every time when the people faced such a situation there will be hue and cry from the side of the general public demanding the government for a proper water policy for the state. Even at the state assembly, some of the MLAs had brought up the issue and drew the attention of the government for proper management of water by framing a water policy. Concerned Ministers in the government every time assured to look into it but nothing visible action was seen taken up. This is perhaps those in power responsible or looking after this section of department - say, for example the Irrigation and Flood Control Department (IFCD) and Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) seems to be deliberately waiting for occurrence of flood or draught. Everyone knows that when there is flood the Ministers or the authority of the government department looking after it are entitled to spend huge amount of money in the name of taking up relief measures. This fund utilized, only benefitted to those who are actually assigned to utilize it. So, if no draught or flood no special package or huge fund to utilize it at which they can manage to arrange to get their share. Which means that those in the government never wanted a solution to flood or draught in this state which have adequate amount of rainfall every year.

More State News

Diploma course in Journalism and Mass Communication

DIPR
Imphal, July 3: In a press release issued by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, the State Institute of Journalism, DIPR is conducting a 1-Year course in Journalism and Mass Communication commencing from July 24, 2017.

Candidates who have Bachelor Degree in any discipline and is not above the age of 30 years as on 1st August, 2017 may apply for the Course. For ST/SC candidates, age relaxation will be as per Rules. Course material will be provided to participants. Selected Candidates have to deposit a course fee of Rs.

3000/- (Three Thousand Only) by cash at the Directorate of Information & Public Relations, Imphal.

Willing candidates may submit their application along with attested copies of educational certificates/ documents and 2 (two) recent passport photographs to the Director, Information & Public Relations in the prescribe form available at the State Institute of Journalism, DIPR, Moirangkhom, Imphal on or before 15th July, 2017. Detailed information can be had from the State Institute of Journalism, DIPR, Moirangkhom, Imphal.

CM hands over appointment order to Kario Issac Maheo

DIPR
Imphal, July 03: In recognition of the immense talent of Super Fight League champion Kario Issac Maheo, the Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh handed over the appointment order of Sub-Inspector in the Manipur Police Department to Shri Kario Issac Maheo in the presence of Minister for Tribal and Hill Areas Development Shri N. Kayasii at CM's Secretariat today. On the occasion, Chief Minister also handed over a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs to the Organising Committee of the Barak Spring Festival 2016. Mentioning that the Government has kept its promises, Chief Minister

stressed that taking into the account in the interest shown by the people of the State, the Barak Spring Festival would be organised to the level of State tourism festival from next year to attract more National and Foreign tourists.

It may be mentioned that Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh announced and assured at the inaugural function of the Barak Spring Festival 2017 that the State government would offer a job of Sub-Inspector to Shri Kario Issac Maheo and to organise the Barak Spring Festival at the level of State tourism festival from next year.

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“Bhagirathi Ganga” highlights the importance of sincerity & honesty

By - Ashok, DIPR

“Bharathi Ganga” a new dance drama based on Mahakavi Vyas's 81st Adhyay - Banprava of Mahabharata was presented yesterday by Lianda Folk and Classical Dance Academy, Imphal at the auditorium of Progressive Artiste Laboratory (PAL), located at Lamboi khongnangkhang, Imphal. The new production dance drama is choreographed by A. Raseswori Devi, founder of the Lianda Folk and Classical Academy and directed by L. Shanti Meitei, a senior artiste & teacher of the Academy. The dance drama is based on the story of king Sagar of Ekshaku dynasty, who felt so proud for excellent reward and return of the Ashmeda Yagya performed by him where a yagya horse was sent to many countries guarded by his strong 6000 sons that had conquered many countries. In order to die out the pride of king Sagar, God and Goddesses of Heaven sent Kapil, the incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Kapil stole the Yagya horse of king Sagar and reduced his 6000 sons to ashes. After many attempts by several descendents of king Sagar, Bhagirath, a grand



descendents of king Sagar could fulfill the wish to bring down Ganga to earth for the salvation of 6000 grand ancestors of king Sagar. The message of the dance drama is that to perform a good service, sincerity and honesty is needed. The dance drama performed by 11 main and 9 chorus artistes. The dance drama is penned by T. Dijamani Sharma and music is composed by N. Tiken Singh.

Lianda's new production “Bhagirathi Ganaga” is being produced with the financial assistance of Ministry of Culture, Govt of India. Lianda Folk and Classical Academy has exposed several forms of Manipuri Classical and Folk dances at many national and international stages like Khajuraho Festival, Lok Tarang Festival, Octave Festival, International Cultural Mart, Indian

Cultural Evening at Mandalay, Surin International Festival of Folklore, Congo Folk Festival, etc. The release function was graced by Padmasree S. Thanil Singh and State Awardee and NEZCC Member Shri N. Tiken Singh as Chief Guest and President respectively. The performance was also witnessed by Gurus, artistes, students of several cultural institutions and art lovers of the state.

National and International News

North Korea Says Successfully Tested Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile

AFP
Seoul, July 4: North Korea proclaimed Tuesday that it had successfully tested an intercontinental ballistic missile — a watershed moment in its push to develop a nuclear weapon capable of hitting the United States. US experts said the device could reach Alaska, and the launch, which came as the United States prepared to mark its Independence Day, triggered a Twitter outburst from US President Donald Trump who urged China to “end this nonsense once and for all”.

The North has long sought to build a rocket capable of delivering an atomic warhead to the continental United States — something that Trump has vowed “won't happen”. Its possession of a working ICBM will force a recalculation of the strategic threat it poses.

The “landmark” test of a Hwasong-14 missile was overseen by leader Kim Jong-Un, an emotional female announcer said on state Korean Central Television.

It reached an altitude of 2,802 kilometres and flew 933 kilometres, she added.

The North was “a strong nuclear power state” and had “a very powerful ICBM that can strike any place in the world” she said.

There are still doubts whether the North can miniaturise a nuclear weapon sufficiently to fit it onto a missile nose cone, or whether it has mastered the technology needed for it to survive the difficult re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere. But the isolated, impoverished country has made great progress in its missile capabilities since the ascension to power of Kim, who has overseen three nuclear tests and multiple rocket launches.

In response to the launch but before the announcement, Trump asked on Twitter: “Does this guy have anything better to do with his life?” The United Nations has imposed multiple sets of sanctions on Pyongyang over its weapons programmes, which retorts that it needs nuclear arms to defend itself against the threat of invasion.

“All of Alaska” The “unidentified ballistic missile” was fired from a site in North Phyonngan province, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a

statement, and came down in the East Sea, the Korean name for the Sea of Japan.

US Pacific Command confirmed the test and said it was a land-based, intermediate range missile that flew for 37 minutes, adding the launch did not pose a threat to North America.

It was estimated to have reached an altitude that “greatly exceeded” 2,500 kilometres, Japan said, prompting arms control specialist Jeffrey Lewis to respond on Twitter: “That's it. It's an ICBM. An ICBM that can hit Anchorage not San Francisco, but still.”

David Wright, of the Union of Concerned Scientists, wrote on the organisation's althingnuclear blog that the available figures implied the missile “could reach a maximum range of roughly 6,700 km on a standard trajectory”.

“That range would not be enough to reach the lower 48 states or the large islands of Hawaii, but would allow it to reach all of Alaska.”

Growing threat The device came down in the Sea of Japan within the country's exclusive economic zone, Tokyo's defence ministry said in a statement, waters extending 200 nautical miles from its coast.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters: “This launch clearly shows that the threat has grown.” The US, Japan and South Korea will hold a summit on the sidelines of this week's G20 meeting on the issue, he added. “Also I will encourage President Xi Jinping and President Putin to take more

constructive measures.” South Korea's President Moon Jae-In, who backs both engagement with the North to bring it to the negotiating table and sanctions, and met Trump for a summit in Washington at the weekend, strongly condemned what he called an “irresponsible provocation”.

‘Not wise’ Washington, South Korea's security guarantor, has more than 28,000 troops in the country to defend it from its communist neighbour, and fears of conflict reached a peak earlier this year as the Trump administration suggested military action was an option under consideration.

There has also been anger in the United States over the death of Otto Warmbier, an American student detained in North Korea for around 18 months before he was returned home in a coma in June.

Trump has been pinning his hopes on China — North Korea's main diplomatic ally — to bring pressure to bear on Pyongyang.

Last week he declared that Beijing's efforts had failed, but returned to the idea on Twitter following the launch: “Perhaps China will put a heavy move on North Korea and end this nonsense once and for all!” But a former foreign policy adviser to Hillary Clinton warned that his comments risked undermining the credibility of both the US deterrent, and its assurances to its allies in Seoul and Tokyo.

She added: “Picking a twitter fight with a nuclear-armed dictator is not wise - this is not reality TV anymore.”

Cong demands roll back of GST on domestic LPG

PTI
New Delhi, Jul 4: The Congress today demanded that the five per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) levied on domestic LPG cylinder be removed as it was burdening the poor.

“The price of domestic LPG cylinder has gone up by Rs 32 in parts of the country after the GST became effective. This is affecting common people, the poor especially. We demand that the GST on domestic LPG cylinder be removed immediately,” senior AICC spokesperson Ajay Maken told reporters here.

LPG has been put in the five per cent GST slab. Earlier a two to four per cent VAT was imposed on LPG in some states. Maken accused the government of not passing on the benefits of drop in global crude oil prices to people of the country.

“The government is making profits to the tune of Rs 3 lakh crore every year by not slashing prices of fuel here. On the one hand, it is making profits and on the other, it is burdening the poor by imposing GST on the LPG cylinder,” Maken

added. He claimed food and beverages, helmets, hair oil, tooth paste, tea, coffee, butter, curd, cement and mineral water are some of the items prices of which have shot up, notwithstanding the government's assurance that their rates will drop once the GST is in force. Maken also described the GST as ‘Gayi Savings Tumhari’ (your savings have vanished).

The GST came into force on July 1.

Ruckus in J&K assembly over GST

New Delhi, July 4: The Jammu and Kashmir assembly witnessed an uproar over the passage of GST on Tuesday. The assembly proceedings were adjourned till 2.30pm after ministers created a ruckus over the GST Bill. Jammu and Kashmir is the only state which is yet to implement the GST.

Various trade organisations along with civil society groups in Jammu and Kashmir had on Monday formed a coordination committee to oppose implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the state in its present form.

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