

Editorial

Imphal, Tuesday, June 27, 2017

Armed Forces Special Powers Act- a push to arms?

The Armed forces Special Powers Act which was enacted by the Parliament on 11th September 1958 is a replacement of the four ordinances issued by the Government of India in 1947 designed to be a temporary statute initially enacted for a period of one year but retained till 1957, the ordinances being: 1) The Bengal Disturbed Areas (Special Powers of the Armed Forces), 2) Assam Disturbed Areas (Special Powers of the Armed Forces), 3) East Punjab & Delhi Disturbed Areas (Special Powers of the Armed Forces) and 4) United Provinces Disturbed Areas (Special Powers of the Armed Forces). The present act was extended to the State of Jammu & Kashmir in July 1990 as the Armed Forces (Jammu & Kashmir) Special Powers Act 1990. Ever since, countless experts have expressed their views and on the technicalities of this very act, not to mention the plethora of debates and discussions being carried out. However, in all these years of these so called experts reviewing and analyzing the pros and cons of the act, enconced as they are in the comforts of their couches, have failed to address the one vital point which should have been the focal point- the human factor. Despite more than six decades of implementation of the act, armed insurgents and extremist organizations have not let up in their activities- on the contrary, the entire region of North-East India and the State of Jammu & Kashmir are proving to be a very fertile breeding ground for them. It is then time for the policy makers to experience the ground realities and admit the mistakes made rather than to press on with an obsolete, outdated and impotent act that only serves to alienate the people of these regions away from mainland India and foment the movement for cessation of Indian authority. What needs to be done is to scrap off this farce of an act and instead work on the human side to bridge the mental and emotional chasm existing between the people of the region and the personals of the armed forces. The fear psychosis developed over the years cannot be erased at the whims of those at the Centre by sugar-coated empty assurances and shows of concern. It will take as long- perhaps longer to for the long tormented people to begin to trust and confide to the various armed forces and paramilitary personals deployed in these regions - how would it feel if the people entrusted to protect one's freedom and life turns the barrel of their guns to the ones who are supposed to be protected? One needs to sit back and contemplate on this just to get a gist of the matter. Not all youths in Delhi are rapists any more than the inhabitants of the whole of the North-East of India, and that of J&K for that matter, being armed insurgents and extremists. Ironically, the very fear psychosis so successfully created by the armed forces is proving to be the one stumbling block preventing them from getting them anywhere remotely near their proposed objective of controlling and reducing armed insurgency movements in these regions. Presuming all inhabitants as insurgents and law-breakers, and worse- treating them as such cannot be the means to achieve their goal. Understanding the dilemma of these people caught between the high-handed attitude of the armed forces and the mushrooming groups of self-proclaimed harbingers of social changes, and working in harmony and unison with a sense of mutual trust and respect will pave the way out of this quagmire. Till then the vicious cycle of distrust, oppression, rebellion and more confrontations will only spiral up pushing more to take to arms to assert themselves.

Condolence Message

I, Thoudam Tombi and my wife Thoudam Ongbi Rk Binosana Devi of Tera Loukrakpam leikai, Imphal West, express our profound remembrance to our departed son Thoudam Binod Singh who had left us all for heavenly abode on March 7, 2017.

Even though you left us all we still feel your presence and you will be always in our heart. May our son's soul rest in peace in the heaven.

With Love From
Pabung & Ema

WHENEVER YOU SEE CONSTRUCTION AND MINING EQUIPMENTS, JUST THINK OF US

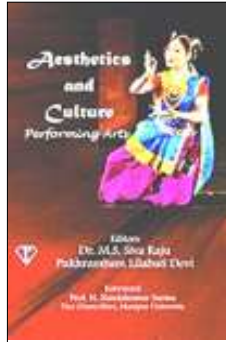
Faster and Fuel Efficient Construction Solutions Are Here.

Automobile Engineering Works
New Checkon Road Purana Rajbari, Imphal East
Authorized Dealer : Case New Holland Construction Expt. (I) Pvt. Ltd &
Kirkolkar Engines Oil Limited (Kirkolkar Silent Generator)
Contact No. 8385-2452151 / 9862596601

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail : imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (0)

A review on "Aesthetics and Culture (Performing Arts)"

Reviewer - S. Bhubol



Title of the Book :

"Aesthetics and Culture (Performing Arts)"

Edited by :

Prof. Dr. M.S. Siva Raju, Head, Dept. of SN School, University of Hyderabad and Pukhrabam Lilabati Devi, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Dance & Music, Manipur University.

Published by :

Ruby Press & Co., New Delhi- 17
Foreword by : Prof. H. Nandakumar Sharma
Past Vice-Chancellor, Manipur University

No. of Article : 16 (Sixteen)

No. of Pages : 161 (One hundred and Sixty one)

The edited volume of M.S. Siva Raju, Professor in the Dance Department, S.N. School of Arts and Communication, University of Hyderabad, and Smt. Pukhrabam Lilabati, Assistant Professor in the Department of Dance & Music, Manipur University, entitled as "Aesthetic and Culture (Performing Arts)" is indeed a well bodied book

of well scrutinized articles being contributed by hardworking academic and intellectuals with tirelessly fishing in the pool of aesthetic culture by catching up the abound in beautiful ingredients the wonders of aesthetic and Culture that only human being can sense with towards differentiating self from other living beings.

The book which is more than a readable one is introduced by Prof. H. Nandakumar Sharma as a work of "commendable beginning" by making his epithet as "The present book ... is an attempt to explore the diverse cultural trends of the country and the state" adding that "..... the standard of development of a society can be known from its achievements in culture as culture is an indispensable part of the social life and the embodiment of the aesthetic values".

Agreeing to the forwarding remark, the editors, Prof. M.S. Siva Raju and P. Lilabati Devi readily attempt to defined what actually the Aesthetic and Culture are and the strings resembling those of the Bina (Sitar) fusing both to resonating the nightingale's tunes in the dancing blossoms celebrating the full moon's emanating the spring -rays signifying nature's outward forms representation its inners sanctity. It is highlighted with prefacing quote of Yuri Bovev "Man leaves life forever, Death in transforming living into non-living and death continues to live through the living, culture preserves all that has possessed, it is mankind's non-genetic memory". Professor Arambam Lokendra asks, in his article, what constitute the role of artists and cultural producers at this critical movement in our history, where it is impossible to reflect in detachment the regression in our societal values and morals. While Prof. Amitta Dutt

(Mookerjee) tactfully sketching the technicalities of "Kathak", Makholmani Mangsaba skillfully depicts the wonderful instrumental music of Manipur with specially focusing on "the Pena"; and it is enliven again by Elam Indira Devi by her article "Lai Haraoba Wanguon" with interpreting the 384 dance steps embodied in it.

Dr Siva Raju is ably elaborating how the musical knowledge is shaping dance vision with emphasizing the innate beauty of 'Raga' and its being rendezvous by choreographic talents, performances and their pedagogy. In the meantime, Shri Rajkumar Jhaljit Singh beautifully put up the evolution of the Ras Leela of Manipur grasping the emergence of Vaishnavite cult in the history of Manipur and then Smt. Pukhrabam Lilabati Devi, an editor of the book brings forth the aesthetic values and its unfulfilling relationship to the performances and the artists ushering in the lines of Dyanaslok conveying meanings as 'bodily movement is the universe, speech is its language and the ornaments are the moon and the stars and the artists do verse them to define purity'. It is soon followed by W. Loken', illustration of 'Pas Khela', the Manipuri Performing Arts taking as the background of Manipur culture with its essentially appeared outs in 1900s A.D. Encompassing another regional perspectives, Deepasree Das Sankar puts in the descriptive views of performing arts in respect of the aesthetic and cultural aspects of 'Bihu Dance' the national festival of Assam, that is comprised of three types such as (1) The Rangalibihu (Spring festival in month of April), (2) the Kangalibihu (in the month of October) and (3) the Voogalibihu (in the month of January). Another

contributor A. Lakshmi Devi is expressing her views under the title "Aspect of Manipur Classical dance stating that the essential characteristics of a good artist as good looking posture, pleasing personality, talams' synchronizing with song, movements, abhinaya etc. Elangbam Rojita skillfully describes the "Art of Classical Dance" under three sub-headings Classical, Manipuri Dance and Solo Dance. Huidrom Rakesh Singh writes on 'Art Education the accompanied framework curriculum, Laipubam Surchandra Sharma clearly sketches Manipuri 'Khol' which is followed by Dr. S. Shantibala's 'The Inner meaning of Laiharaoba, Dr. R.K. Bhumisana Devi particularly examines what 'Music' is all about and the last but not the least article is 'Life of Maibi, Reflection in the film Ishanou' written by Longjam Meena Devi is equally interesting to go through. Most articles contained in this edited volume are essentially inclined on exploring the aesthetic knowledge taking as historically essence of human values, their creation, perception, appreciation and assimilation and their manifestations in the contemporary performing arts of the nation. And the goal of a performing artist is all round development of a socially significant and intrinsically valuable individual. I conclude that Dr. M.S. Siva Raju and P. Lilabati Devi, have rightly chosen the articles to fulfill their objective of editing the volume now the volume is handed over to the readers for justification and judgment. It will certainly be worth reading at once

(The reviewer is the former Chairman of National Research Centre (NRC) Manipur and also the past editor of the 'Orion Vision', a quarterly English Journal)

National and International News

China lodges protest with India over Sikkim 'incursion', hints Mansarovar yatra off till troops are withdrawn

By: Sutirho Patranobis
Courtesy: *Hindustan Times*,

Beijing, June 27: China on Tuesday lodged protests in Beijing and New Delhi against Indian soldiers "trespassing" into its territory and indicated the Mansarovar Yatra would remain suspended till India "withdrew" its troops. The ministry of foreign affairs made it clear it would leverage the annual Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, a major confidence-building measure between the two often-bickering neighbours, in the standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Sikkim.

"As to the Indian pilgrims' journey through Nathu La pass in the Sikkim section, I think the Indian side is very clear about it. For a long time, the Chinese government has made enormous efforts to provide necessary convenience for those Indian pilgrims. But recently, the Indian border personnel trespassed the Chinese border to obstruct construction so we have taken necessary actions," ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said on Tuesday.

China had put the pilgrimage on hold out of security concerns, he said.

"So for the upcoming actions we have to depend on what the Indian side will do. They have to take actions to improve the security situation," Lu said, spelling out the bargain.

A few days ago, China didn't allow a batch of Indians to go through the Nathu La pass on way to Mount Kailash, held sacred by the Buddhists, Hindus and Jains. They were to cross over on June 19 but failed to do so due to inclement weather and had to wait at the base

camp. Four days later, China denied entry to them citing damage to roads.

Earlier in a statement, the ministry accused the Indian military of incursion into its territory along the LAC and obstructing its personnel from carrying out routine work.

It also said because of the trouble in the area, Beijing suspended the 21-day pilgrimage through Nathu La.

It's rare for China to officially accuse India of incursion across the LAC but the face-off between the forces in Sikkim - and the media reports and reaction in India - would have convinced Beijing to come out with not one but two statements within hours.

It is also the first time that Beijing has specified the reason for suspending the annual pilgrimage after a weekend of silence.

At a regular ministry briefing on

Tuesday, Lu said Beijing had lodged protests with the Indian embassy and with relevant authorities in New Delhi.

"We have lodged solemn representations in Beijing and New Delhi to elaborate on our solemn position. Our position to uphold our territorial sovereignty is unwavering. We hope the Indian side can work with China in the same direction and take immediate withdraw the personnel who have overstepped and trespassed into Chinese border," Lu said.

Earlier news agency PTI reported from New Delhi that Indian and Chinese troops scuffled near the Doka La area in the first week of June before soldiers from Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) damaged bunkers on the Indian side.

Both the PLA and the Chinese foreign ministry gave a different version of events.

Recently, Indian border guards in Sikkim section crossed into China, obstructed Chinese border troops in the Donglong area and "China has taken long corresponding measures", the ministry had said in a terse statement. It came soon after the PLA released a statement on Monday night, blaming the Indian military of creating trouble along the Sikkim LAC.

Inaugurated in June 2015, the Nathu La route - administered by the Tibet Autonomous Region government on the Chinese side - cut short the trekking time, allowing pilgrims to make the journey on bus. Till then, every year 18 batches of 60 Indians undertook the journey through the Lipu Lekh pass in Uttarkhand, close to Nepal border. The route, which is still operational, is tougher.

One-Day Mega Event Awareness Programme on Various Workers' Welfare Schemes

To be held on 29- 06-2017 from 9.30 A.M to 2 . 00 P.M

At Iboyaima Sumang Lila Sanglet, Palace Compound, Imphal East

With

Shri N. Biren Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur.

Shri Y. Joykumar Singh, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Manipur

Shri Th. Radheshyam Singh, Hon'ble Minister (Labour & Employment), Manipur

Department of Labour, Government of Manipur

& Manipur Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board

Cordially invite your kind presence at the programme