

Editorial

Imphal, Saturday June 3, 2017

Consumers' Right

More often than not, the immediate necessity for the preservation of the self and family (read: staying alive) in these uncertain times have relegated a very vital issue which should have been of much concern for the people of this state to a mere inconvenience.

Perhaps the rising sense of desperation or the expectation of worsening social conditions has made the public alter its sense of priorities.

The issue; the rights and interests of the consumers of the state and measures to protect them. The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was enacted to provide a simpler and quicker access to redressal of consumer grievances. However, in India, it has been found from a number of independent analyses carried out over the years that the agencies at the district level are working more efficiently than those at the national and state level. Therefore, there is still need of agencies functioning at state and national level to dispose of the pending cases as early as possible by creating supplementary benches as per the provisions of Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

Consumers are very often at the receiving end of the poor, inefficient and negligent services and substandard goods on offer. Modern technological growth and complexities of the sellers techniques, existence of a vast army of middlemen and unethical and untruthful advertisements as well as hoarding and creation of artificial scarcity during difficult and troubled times in the society have aggravated the situation of consumer exploitation. And yet, these blatant exploitations can be brought down or at least curtailed only with proper awareness and involvement of the consumers about their rights.

Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, Redressal Forums have been established at three different levels namely District Forum, State Commission and National Commission or National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. A complaint can be filed with the district forum by a consumer, any recognized consumer association, a group of consumers or The Central / State Government as the case may be, either in its individual capacity or as a representative of interests of consumers in General. Moreover, any person aggrieved by an order made by the District Forum may appeal against such order to the State Commission within a period of 30 days from the date of the order. The State Commission may entertain an appeal after 30 days if it is satisfied that there was sufficient cause for not filing it within that period. The same process can be repeated with the national commission if the consumer is still not satisfied with the rulings of the state commission.

It must be said that there already exist a strong setup designed to protect the interests and rights of the consumers of the state, at least in principle. The state forum situated at the Food & Civil Supplies complex at Sangaiporou has started functioning, and the public should avail of the legal and other assistance which can be had from this centre if there is any instance where the sellers of goods or providers of services are felt to have used unfair means or cheated the consumers. It is we the consumers whose proactive ways can send a clear message saying that no one can shortchange us.

Army chief calls on J&K governor

PII Srinagar, Jun 3: Army chief General Bipin Rawat called on Jammu and Kashmir Governor NN Vohra here and discussed the internal and external security management issues in the state. Rawat met Vohra at the Raj Bhavan here last night, an official spokesman said.

The meeting comes after the Army concluded its security review and operational preparedness meetings

spanning over two days in Kashmir Valley. Rawat informed the governor about the Army operational review which concluded earlier last evening, the spokesman said. He said the governor and the Army chief discussed several important inter-related internal and external security management issues, and the steps required to be taken for dealing with terrorist activities more effectively.

Challenges to reconnect with Nature

By: Pandurang Hegde

Since 1972 World Environment Day is celebrated over the world to raise awareness about forests and wider issues of environmental protection. The theme of this year's World Environment Day is 'Connecting People to Nature'. It implores us to get outdoors and into nature, to appreciate its beauty and to take forward the call to protect the Earth that we share.

Over the years the alienation of people from nature is increasing both in urban and rural areas. The lives of modern person is ever busy and their minds are even more busier. Under such circumstances, it is very important that we reconnect with nature to calm our minds. The green spaces available in the cities, especially trees and parks provide opportunity to reconnect people to nature.

In order to reconnect with nature, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has launched National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) at national level. Under this programme financial assistance is given to NGOs, educational institutions, women and youth organisations for conducting awareness programmes on environmental issues. About 12000 organisations are involved in conducting some action programmes related to nature protection and solving environmental problems. Traditionally the pilgrimage centres are mainly located in the natural surroundings, especially in the mountains or banks of the rivers.

The Char Dham Yatra in Himalayas is an excellent living example of how our culture provided opportunity to people across the country to enjoy the beauty of nature with reverence to the trees, rivers and mountains. The bridge path that started from the banks of Ganga river in Rishikesh lead the people to the origins of Yamuna and Ganga rivers, that are the holy pilgrimage sites visited by millions of people.

Pilgrimage routes to Amarnath caves in Jammu and Kashmir, and to Kailash Mansarovar in Tibetan plateau in China are also places of extraordinary natural beauty that has deep spiritual value to common man. These pilgrimage routes are one of the main ways to reconnect with nature and reflect on the interconnectedness between man, nature and spirituality. Similarly the Narmada Parikrama is another traditional pilgrimage route on which people walk along the banks of Narmada river and learn to appreciate the beauty of the river and the natural surroundings. The existence of 166 National Parks and 515 wild life sanctuaries consisting of 2 percent of the total geographical areas of the country provides excellent opportunity for common people to enjoy and reconnect to the nature, wild life and the green space of the country.

In order to create awareness about nature conservation the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has initiated steps towards promoting greenery in public spaces in cities and reducing

waste generation of all kinds. The craze of paving the roads and open spaces with asphalt and cement in urban areas has alienated younger generation from nature. Felling old trees to broaden the roads, and allowing more space to vehicles than for those who walk or cycle leads to further alienation of urban citizen. Urban ecology can be maintained with active participation of all the stakeholders and involvement of the community.

Reconnecting with nature helps to reduce the modern day stress and brings harmony in the lives of individuals and the community. The greenery not only reduces the noise and sound pollution but it also helps to reduce the temperature, adding in mitigating climate change.

The Government of India is launching a massive waste management campaign in 4000 cities across the country on World Environment Day. Under this campaign waste bins of blue and green colours would be distributed in these cities along with the awareness drive to educate common people to adopt a life-style that inculcates the culture of cleanliness. "I have a firm belief that we will develop a culture and the new steps that we take towards achieving cleanliness will continue. Only then will we achieve the dream of Gandhiji, achieve the kind of cleanliness that he had dreamt of." Prime Minister Modi said in his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat'. The government is aiming to change the attitude of people to segregate

waste at its origin, dry and wet waste and to treat them accordingly. This will be the basis for cleaning up the cities that will be more nature friendly and provide the basic hygienic conditions for living. This is the logical follow up of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan(SBA) under which there is need to address the issue of waste generated in urban areas is creating mountains of waste that has adversely impacted the ground water and the quality of the air around the waste dumps. This is a challenging task as there is need to change the habits of people, in which they become the agents of change from each family by performing the duty or dharma of segregation of waste.

In Indian culture, the connectedness to nature is the basis for attaining wisdom and serenity in life. The sages or the Rishi, the learned men gained this wisdom from the forests or Aranya Culture. They lived in harmony with nature, and most of the knowledge was imbued from their natural surroundings.

We need to inculcate these ideas into our daily lives in order to reconnect with nature. It is essential for common man to realise the air he breathes, water he drinks, the food he eats is all directly the product of nature. And linking to nature is the basis for survival of mankind.

Author is an independent journalist and columnist based in Karnataka. (Courtesy PIB Feature)

State News

Manipur CM launched AIR News Imphal mobile app and website of AIR, Imphal

Imphal, June 3: Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh has launched yesterday afternoon an official mobile app of All India Radio News Imphal. He also launched a website of AIR, Imphal - www.airimphal.in. The mobile app - AIR News Imphal is available at Google Play Store now. Both the mobile app and the website are sponsored by Imphal based IT Company Cubeten Technologies under its corporate social responsibility activities.

Launching the mobile app and the website at the premises of AIR Imphal, the Chief Minister said, the new online and social media venture of AIR, Imphal will enable the listeners of AIR Imphal not only in Manipur but also across the globe to listen its news, news-based programmes and special programmes at any time of their convenience. He said, this Radioplus venture will give an opportunity to the most radio listening state of the country in terms of population percentage, not to miss not only information updates from the station but also popular programme genres. The Chief Minister also appealed the

concerned authorities of AIR Imphal to be more careful in imparting information and opinion particularly in the morning news analysis of the Regional News Unit(RNU), Imphal in view of the multi-ethnic composition of the state. He also congratulated the station and the RNU on the successful venture of becoming the first AIR Station of the country to launch an official mobile app and a fully fledged website. In a message to the RNU, Imphal; Sitanshu Kar, Director General of the News Services Division, All India Radio, New Delhi has also congratulated AIR Imphal on this successful venture.

Parliamentary Secretary(Home)L. Sushildro, Director of State Information and Public Relations Meghachandra Kongbam, Deputy Director General(Engineering) R P Joshi and Station Director in-charge Dilip Mayengbam of AIR, Imphal, Managing Director of Cubeten Technologies Haobam Joyremba, local newspaper editors and other senior journalists also attended the launching function of the mobile app and website.

Contd. from page 1

Imphal to host auditions for Sunsilk Mega Miss North East

Sunsilk, India's premium hair-care brand announces a one-of-its-kind association with Mega Entertainment, northeast's largest fashion and pageant event organizer. As the presenting sponsor for this much-awaited contest, Sunsilk celebrates the free-spirited, joyful and confident girl. Given the spirit that the Sunsilk girl embodies, there could not have been a better association than with Mega Miss North East where all the young girls from different walks of life write their story in their own way, with their black shiny hair by their side, be it day or night!

This season, in Mega Miss North East, it's not just about beauty but confidence as well. Irrespective of their looks, shape or size, women from across all states can showcase their unique talent at the auditions to win a direct entry to the finale by being crowned 'Rexona Miss Confidence'.

The SunsilkMega Miss North East 2017and Fair & Lovely Men Mega Mister North East 2017winners will

get a prize package will be worth Rs.1,00,000, including electronic gift hampers from Sunsilk, Panasonic, and other sponsors, opportunity to become the face of Sunsilk's print and outdoor campaigns and opportunity to walk the biggest fashion event of the country Lakmé Fashion Week for Trends in Mumbai.

Besides, winners of both the pageants will win professional representation by Mega Entertainment, and a professional grooming session, which would guide them further on how to carry themselves forward in the professional sphere. Besides, the winners also get the opportunity to walk the ramp in various national and international shows, and traveling and international representation opportunities in Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam & Cambodia.

Registration forms and details are available on www.megaentertainment.org or call: +91 84040 93936 for Mega Miss North East and +91 84040 93938 for Mega Mister North East. Registration forms are also available at Trends stores across the region.

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
Authorised Dealer : Case New Holland Construction Eqp. (I) Pvt. Ltd
&
Kirloskar Engines Oil Limited (Kirloskar Silent Generator)
Contact No. 0385-2452011/ 9862566601

'Hostel for Girls only'

PANTHOIBI HOUSE

Located at North Campus Delhi University

(Address:- New House No. 57 (62 New No.) Purani Chopal, Dhaka Gaon, GTB Nagar Metro Station . Gate No. 5, Delhi - 110009)

Facilities-

- 24x7 Electricity
- 24 hours Wi-Fi
- Geyser
- Cooler
- Mineral water

Monthly fee including Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner - Rs. 7000/- only

Run by: Khulna Laimayum

The Manipuri lady who Thrashed local goons at New Delhi single handedly for snatching gold from her

For details : Contact

Mobile No. 91-954099858; 9911846132
Email: khulnalaimayum@gmail.com

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