

Editorial

Imphal Wednesday, May 17, 2017

On Shirui festival

Finally! the much anticipated extravaganza conceptualized to showcase and promote the diverse socio-cultural heritage and the rich traditional wealth of the Ukhrul district has kicked off without a glitch. Credit goes to the state government led by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. Even though Ukhrul town could not be transformed within the short span of time, hopes to make town a center for tourist has been given by the Chief Minister N Biren Singh. However, every resource to attract visitors has been utilized to make Ukhrul Town and Shirui village. Despite the best efforts and undoubtedly noble intentions which had made tremendous improvements in the public facilities and certain infrastructures, a closer look into the activities brings to light various clear indications of the haphazard and rushed nature of it all. Many constructions either for protection of the state flower - the Shirui Lily are yet to be taken up. Now that the Shirui Festival is underway, one cannot help feeling apprehensive about the longevity of the commitment the State Government initiated towards protection of the state treasures and developing its surrounding. If previous instances are any indications, we will be seeing a change in inertia and a visible drop in enthusiasm making the whole efforts an exercise in futility. The incredible potential for attracting tourism in the State has been well known and even documented. From the enchanting misty mountains to the incredibly beautiful ethnic handiworks and crafts, from the inherently hospitable people to the excellent climatic condition, the unbelievably beautiful and mysterious caves and lakes- this small state has it all, and in no small measures. This naturally endowed land has been wasted and neglected for centuries, our inability to see the big picture, occupied as we are in finding ways to secure our own personal lives through means fair or foul being the main reason. With the air connectivity with our neighboring Asian countries yet to be functioned, it would be an act of utter foolishness not to cash in on the euphoria and enthusiasm such a development has created. Without going into the details of the nitty-gritty of tourism and its pros and cons, it is an undeniable truth that with proper planning, timely and effective checks and due diligence, tourism would only improve the economy, change the perceptions of the local people towards the visitors and their way of life, adopt a more tolerant view of things and most importantly help in propagating our cultures and traditions throughout the world. For all these to happen, basic infrastructures and basic amenities must be put in place and make the whole state a tourist friendly one. A lot more needs to be done to be where we want this State to be from where we are now. Only a dedicated, committed and sustained effort can make things possible. Working in fits and starts will get us nowhere.



By : Sanjoo Thangjam

The Buddha had gone beyond all worldly affairs, but still gave advice on good government. The present political scenario signifies that since the last 15 years, the citizens of Manipur have been victimized in many different ways therefore, a lot of people have said or rather felt that it's high time for a change. Manipur to vote for change and development. But who is going to change? Is it going to be BJP or CONGRESS or us, the people? Since something is better than nothing, and therefore the people cannot deny the fact that the Congress, during the last 15 years of its regime had done some good, bad and ugly works and any Tom, Dick and Henry can see and feel that therefore the Congress definitely have at least done something good, bad and ugly works and for that reason, they are not scared of the opposition at all. But, at the same time, I think it's high time that the Congress should also correspondingly start preparing answers for questions which, of course they will have no answers to answer for the uncountable

Buddhism and Politics

number of questions that are going to be thrown upon them by whom? The Buddha knows and of course, we the public too also know to some extent. Voluminous people of Manipur have stated that they have given enough chances to Congress government since independent but the Congress betrayed the people of Manipur in many ways; especially rising the corruption rate, lack of development in the state, rising of unemployment rapidly and totally breakdown of law and order situation in the state. Many citizens of Manipur are saying that BJP deserves at least one chance in Manipur for political reasons. Let the Congress prepare to accept their mistakes and move forward for a change. However, it is also said that the people of Manipur will be happy to give a chance to Congress party when they realize their mistakes and when they are ready to serve the citizens of Manipur under the law of the land. On the other hand, many people say that they will not regret for giving a chance to BJP in this election. I appeal to all the people that The Buddha bless the people of Manipur and its resources! The Buddha came from a warrior caste and was naturally brought into association with kings, princes and ministers. Despite His origin and association, He never resorted to the influence of political power to introduce His teaching, nor allowed His Teaching to be misused for gaining political power. But today, many politicians try to drag the Buddha's name into politics by introducing Him as a communist, capitalist, or even an imperialist. They have forgotten that the new

political philosophy as we know it really developed in the West long after the Buddha's time. Those who try to make use of the good name of the Buddha for their own personal advantage must remember that the Buddha was the Supreme Enlightened One who had gone beyond all worldly concerns. There is an inherent problem of trying to intermingle religion with politics. The basis of religion is morality, purity and faith, while that for politics is power. In the course of history, religion has often been used to give legitimacy to those in power and their exercise of that power. Religion was used to justify wars and conquests, prosecutions, atrocities, rebellions, destruction of works of art and culture. When religion is used to pander to political whims, it has to forego its high moral ideals and become debased by worldly political demands. The thrust of the Buddha Dhamma is not directed to the creation of new political institutions and establishing political arrangements. Basically, it seeks to approach the problems of society by reforming the individuals constituting that society and by suggesting some general principles through which the society can be guided towards greater humanism, improved welfare of its members, and more equitable sharing of resources. There is a limit to the extent to which a political system can safeguard the happiness and prosperity of its people. No political system, no matter how ideal it may appear to be, can bring about peace and happiness as long as the people in the system are dominated by greed, hatred and delusion. In addition, no matter what political system is

adopted, there are certain universal factors which the members of that society will have to experience: the effects of good and bad karma, the lack of real satisfaction or everlasting happiness in the world characterized by dukkha (unsatisfactoriness), anicca (impermanence), and anatta (egolessness). To the Buddhist, nowhere in Samsara is there real freedom, not even in the heavens or the world of Brahma. Although a good and just political system which guarantees basic human rights and contains checks and balances to the use of power is an important condition for a happy in society, people should not fritter away their time by endlessly searching for the ultimate political system where men can be completely free, because complete freedom cannot be found in any system but only in minds which are free. To be free, people will have to look within their own minds and work towards freeing themselves from the chains of ignorance and craving. Freedom in the truest sense is only possible when a person uses Dhamma to develop his character through good speech and action and to train his mind so as to expand his mental potential and achieve his ultimate aim of enlightenment. While recognizing the usefulness of separating religion from politics and the limitations of political systems in bringing about peace and happiness, there are several aspects of the Buddha's teaching which have close correspondence to the political arrangements of the present day. *The writer is a lay Buddhist. He can be reached at thangjamsanjoo42@gmail.com (To be contd.....)*

National and International News

IAS officer found dead outside VIP guest house in Lucknow

TTN Lucknow, May 17: A 35-year-old IAS officer from Karnataka Anurag Tiwari was found dead outside Meera Bai VIP guest house in Hazratganj area of Lucknow on Wednesday morning. Police says Tiwari's death was not unnatural but were waiting for postmortem examination to take place. A native of Bahraich district, Tiwari was posted as food and civil supplies commissioner in Bengaluru at present. He was visiting Uttar Pradesh for

some personal work. He stayed at the guest house in room number 19. LDA vice chairman and Tiwari's batchmate PN Singh had booked the room in his name and was with him last night. Both the officers were selected for the services in 2007. While Singh went to play badminton around 6am at a Gomtinagar stadium, Tiwari stepped out for a morning walk. He had barely covered a distance of 300 metre from his room when he collapsed on the road. Some blood was found on the road.

Police was informed and DIG range JN Singh and SSP Deepak Kumar arrived at the spot. Tiwari was taken to Civil Hospital but was declared dead upon arrival. Deepak Kumar said preliminary investigations suggest Tiwari died of seizure after he suffered from a fit. "But we are waiting for autopsy to take place," he said. Singh said that the officer's parents have been informed and are expected to arrive in Lucknow by 12pm. "We want to find out if Tiwari faced

some family issues," said Singh. A lot of IAS and IPS officers of 2007 batch had started gathering at the hospital by 10am. Tiwari, said sources had some family problems and his wife and in-laws are also on the way to Lucknow. Police said opinion of medical board will be taken on post mortem findings. "It appears his BP shot up rapidly," added Singh. Police officers rules out the possibilities of road accident or attack. Forensic team reaches civil hospital mortuary to examine the corpse.

Search operation under way in south Kashmir's Shopian

PTI Srinagar, May 17: Security forces on Wednesday launched a cordon and search operation in south Kashmir's Shopian district following information about presence of terrorists, but their efforts were being hampered by a mob pelting stones at them. The search operation was launched in Heff village falling

under Zainapora area in Shopian, an Army official said. He said a large number of security forces are involved in the search operation, which started in the early hours today. However, the operation was being hampered by local residents who are pelting stones at security forces, a police official said.

Mark Sheet lost

I, the undersigned have lost my Mark Sheet for my Higher Secondary Compartmental examination passed bearing Roll No. 13131 of 2004 issued by Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur on the way between Elangbam Likai to Paona Bazar on 16 May 2017. Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Indrakumar Singh Heisnam
C/o Binodkumar Heisnam
Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai
Lirak Macha
Ph. No. 8131812632

Pakistan violates ceasefire in Balakote, 1700 shifted to safer areas

PTI Jammu, May 17: Pakistan Rangers violated the ceasefire again today by firing on forward posts along the LoC in Balakote sector of Jammu of Kashmir. "Pakistan army resorted to firing on forward posts along the LoC in Balakote sector from 0050 hours today," a defence spokesman said. Pakistan troops also fired on forward posts and civilian areas last night along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district. The firing continued till 0130 hours, the spokesman said. He said the Pakistan army initiated indiscriminate firing of small arms, automatic weapons and 82 mm and 120 mm mortars from 1830 hours last night along the LoC in Nowshera sector. The firing continued till 2100 hours yesterday. The Pakistan Rangers fired shells on the intervening night of May 15 and 16 on forward areas and civilian belts along the LoC in three belts of Rajouri district. The firing and shelling from across the border has affected over 10,000 people. Civilian areas along the LoC in Nowshera sector were pounded with mortars, killing two civilians and injuring three others. On May 13, Pakistani troops had pounded civilian areas and forward posts in Nowshera area with mortars, killing two civilians and injuring three.

On May 15, Pakistan troops resorted to fresh ceasefire violation along the LoC in Nowshera sector since 1600 hours till late night. Four villages in Nowshera have come under small arms fire from across the LoC in Nowshera. "Shelling started in Ans Bhandhaar areas of Nowshera in Rajouri at 2255 hours night of May 15 and 16. Lam and Kalsian areas were also affected."

Rajouri Deputy Commissioner Shahid Iqbal Choudhary said. "Interdepartmental teams deputed by District Administration for damage assessment reported small arms firing begins at 4 PM on May 15 in village Sarya followed by villages Khamba, Anwas and Bhandar," Choudhary said. Nearly 1700 people have already been evacuated from the LoC hamlets hit

by shelling from Pakistani side and shifted to relief camps. Around 10,042 people from over 2,694 families have been affected by the continued shelling from across the border, the DC said. The district administration has provided an immediate relief of Rs 1 lakh each to the next of kin of the dead and financial assistance to the injured, he said.

REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, IMPHAL – 795004 (An Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of India) TENDER Imphal, the 15th May, 2017

No. 53(A)/VEH/2017-RIMS: Sealed tenders in the prescribed form are invited from genuine and capable vehicle owners for hiring of vehicles for use of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal.

1.	Car (Honda City/ Honda Civic/ Hyundai Verna/ Hyundai Creta)	1no.	(Driver and fuel to be provided by Vehicle Owner)
2.	Maruti Van	1no.	

A set of tender documents which is not transferable can be purchased by submission of a written application addressed to Director, RIMS, Imphal on payment of Rs. 500/- (Rupees five hundred) only through crossed demand draft of a national bank drawn in favour of Director, RIMS, Imphal payable at Imphal or by cash payment through the cashier, RIMS, Imphal in the Administrative Block, RIMS, Imphal along with earnest money of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand). Further details of the tender may be seen from the RIMS website www.rims.edu.in.

Sd/-
R.K Dinesh Singh
Director,
Regional Institute of Medical Sciences,
Imphal

WHENEVER YOU SEE CONSTRUCTION AND MINING EQUIPMENTS, JUST THINK OF US
A SOLUTION FOR EVERY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

Automobile Engineering Works-1 R K WORKSHOP
New Checkon Road, Purana Rajbari
Imphal East, Manipur - 795 001

Authorised dealer **BEML Limited**
(A Government of India Mini Ratna Company under Ministry of Defence)

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