

# Editorial

Thursday, November 23, 2017

## Prime focus: Thanks Dr. Nirala Sinha for highlighting Manipur and Sangai Festival

People of the state are soured with the trend of VIP or VVIP culture. Men in the government had promised to abolish these cultures and at the beginning some sort of initiatives. But there are still lots to change.

November 21 incident at Bir Tikendrajit International Airport here in Imphal at which a lady doctor confronted Union Minister of State for Tourism over the delay of her flight scheduled is the factual revelation of the present state of Indian citizen. What is more interesting is that - the incident happened in Manipur, a state which most people of the country have failed to consider it as a very integral part of the country. This part of the Indian sub-continent has never been in the mainstream National Media for any good reason, yet people have brought laurels many a time for the country in the field of sports, culture and of course at many other fields.

For reason best known to those running mainland media houses particularly the electronic medium TV channels, a tourism festival which showcases all the rich traditional heritage of the region, which invites people from across the globe to take a view of the beautiful landscape of the state, is of no interest to them. Most time events which picture the ugly truth of the state has been what is important to the mainstream National Media. It is no wrong to say that Manipur has been portrayed as a place of bloodshed many a times by national media.

Now coming to the November 21 incident of Bir Tikendrajit International Airport, the incident is in one way a blessing to the state of Manipur.

It serves two purposes - 1) immediate needs of the govt. attention over the kind of inconveniences being faced by common people while making arrangement for full prove security of VVIPs locomotion; 2) The Sangai Tourism Festival, Manipur's biggest tourism festival, which had never find room for publicity at National Media has been enabled to reach out to almost all states of the country.

On a deeper look to the incident, there are certain things that immediately come to the mind of every Manipuri. If supposed Dr. Nirala Sinha, the lady doctor who confronted the Tourism Minister, happen to be from among the communities of the state, what would have been the fall out of that incident? Will the National Media takes up the issue? Will she be treated as a concern citizen of the country?

This is being questioned as there is a case of a young Meitei Manipuri lady detained in police custody for voicing against the airport security force (CISF) some months back. Fortunately no charges had been leveled against that Manipuri lady, but she had to cancel her flight the day she was scheduled to board besides staying a night at Singjamei police station.

With this facts and circumstances, if Dr. Nirala Sinha happens to be a Manipuri, she would be now in police custody and no national media will picked her story. This is not just assumption but reality.

On the other hand, the Manipur Sangai Festival which the Govt. of Manipur is organizing with much enthusiasm by even inviting the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, still fails to draw any special attention from the National Media, especially the giant electronic media of the country.

The incident, though in about citizens concern and their rights, it is definitely related with the visit of President Ram Nath Kovind, who had inaugurated the Manipur Sangai Tourism Festival.

So by picking up this specific issue of a young lady doctor confronting a Union Minister at Imphal Airport, the National Media had in one way tells the country that Manipur's largest tourism festival is being underway.

## Original Mark Sheet, Certificate lost

I have lost my original mark sheet and certificate of class XII bearing Roll No. 7014 of 2008 issued by COHSEM in the way between my residence to Keishampat Bus Parking on 9/10/2017.

Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Heikham Lenin Luwang  
S/o H. Rupachandra Luwang  
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## National and International News

### 'Conducive situation for growth of tourism in the state'

IT News

**Imphal, Nov. 23:** Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution Minister Karam Shyam said the overall situation in the State has improved which is conducive for growth of Tourism.

The Minister was speaking during the Lakeview Cultural show at Takmu, Loktak as part of Manipur Sangai Festival 2017. He said the State has witnessed visible improvement in law and order situation and progress in basic infrastructures which is accelerating the growth in Tourism sector. The Government is committed to not only to sustain the change but also to consolidate it further, he added. Minister Karam Shyam also stated that Manipur Sangai Festival offers a glimpse of the rich culture and tradition of Manipur. He also said that enormous amount of investments is required to reap the potentials. He said the cultural diversity, long civilization history, attractive historical places, heritage sites and beautiful landscapes makes our State a unique natural tourist destination.



The Government is taking up large number of tourism projects with the financial assistance from the Centre. Major tourists circuits have been developed across the State and more projects are in the pipeline. Minister Karam Shyam appealed to large business houses particularly from outside the State to invest and take advantage of the huge potential that exists in tourism, real estate and hospitality sectors. Dr Sapam Ranjan Chairman, Tourism Corporation of Manipur Limited said

Manipur is melting pot of culture and ethnic diversity. We must maintain and strengthen the bond of love and brotherhood through the vehicle of tourism. As part of the cultural show, the laser show enthralled the audience. Boat rally with torches highlighting the daily lifestyle of fishing community of Loktak drew the attention of the audience. Music and dance performances were also presented during the Lakeview cultural show.

### Assam minister Himanta Biswa Sarma says sins cause cancer, draws criticism

HI

**Guwahati, Nov. 23:** Assam health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has said a person's sins accumulate to cause cancer, attracting criticism. Opposition parties accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader of airing "karmic views" to "cover up his failures in the health sector".

Addressing a group of newly appointed schoolteachers on Tuesday, Sarma said, "It is a sin to shirk responsibilities. No one can go unpunished in God's court if a member of his or her family does some injustice. Some people suffer from cancer, some die in accidents. This is all because of sins."

He was referring to a section of teachers in state government schools notorious for bunking classes. The All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), a party that bats for minorities, said such a statement was unbefitting of a minister in this age of science and technology.

"Sarma introduced anti-tobacco laws a few years ago primarily to combat cancer. His philosophical interpretation now will hurt cancer patients more than anyone else," said AIUDF spokesperson Aminul Islam. "It is perhaps his failure to improve the health sector in the state," he added.

Congress leader P Chidambaram too denounced Sarma, saying "that is what switching parties does to a

person", news agency PTI reported. Sarma, who was with the Congress, had last year switched loyalties ahead of the assembly elections that the BJP won. Congress MLA Debabrata Saikia, the leader of the opposition in the state's 126-member assembly, too criticised Sarma for his "karmic conclusion".

The minister stood by his views. "I have nothing to say if anyone compares science with philosophical views. Karma is the basis of Hindu philosophy, and I cannot change this. As a Hindu, I will adhere to it. My father must have committed sin too, because he died of cancer," Sarma said over WhatsApp on Wednesday.

### US Calls Myanmar Moves Against Rohingya 'Ethnic Cleansing'

NDTV

**Washington, Nov. 23:** The United States on Wednesday called the Myanmar military operation against the Rohingya population "ethnic cleansing" and threatened targeted sanctions against those responsible for what it called "horrendous atrocities". "The situation in northern Rakhine state constitutes ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya," U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said in a statement, using a term he avoided when visiting Myanmar, also known as Burma, last week.

"The United States will also pursue accountability through U.S. law, including possible targeted sanctions" against those responsible for the alleged abuses, which have driven hundreds of thousands of Rohingya into neighbouring Bangladesh, he said. The United States shifted its stance in part to raise pressure on Myanmar's military and civilian leaders, who have shared power for the past two years under an uneasy arrangement after decades of military rule, to address the crisis.

Rights monitors accused Myanmar's military of atrocities, including killings, mass rape and arson, against the stateless Rohingya during so-called clearance operations after Rohingya militants' Aug. 25 attacks on 30 police posts and an

army base. More than 600,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Rakhine state in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, mostly to neighbouring Bangladesh, since the crackdown, which followed the insurgent attacks.

"These abuses by some among the Burmese military, security forces, and local vigilantes have caused tremendous suffering and forced hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children to flee their homes," Tillerson said. While repeating U.S. condemnation of the insurgent attacks, he added: "No provocation can justify the horrendous atrocities that have ensued."

Myanmar's 2-year-old government, led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, has faced heavy international criticism for its response to the crisis, though it has no control over the generals with whom it shares power.

"It's not a situation that is completely under her authority, but certainly we are counting on her to show leadership and also to work through the civilian government with the military to address the crisis," a senior U.S. official told reporters in a conference call.

The term "ethnic cleansing" is not defined in international or U.S. law and does not inherently carry specific consequences, a second senior U.S. official said on the call. Mladic Convicted Murray Hiebert, a Southeast Asia

analyst with the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank in Washington, said the State Department's use of the term and threat of sanctions "will likely have limited to no impact on the ground." "It is likely to create more distrust between the United States and Myanmar's military and government and push them closer to China, Russia, and its more authoritarian neighbors in Southeast Asia," he added.

The U.S. move came the same day as a U.N. tribunal convicted former Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic of genocide and crimes against humanity for massacres of Bosnian Muslims and ethnic cleansing campaigns, and imprisoned him for life.

The second U.S. official said Washington was analyzing whether genocide or crimes against humanity had occurred in Myanmar, which would violate international law, but has made no determination on either and that this would take time to assess.

"In the end it's a court that has to decide that, as we've just seen with the verdict against Mladic," he said. A top U.N. official in September described the military actions as a textbook case of "ethnic cleansing," but the United States until Wednesday had avoided the term. Washington has sought to balance its wish to nurture the civilian government in Myanmar, where it competes for influence with China,

### Chilly winds in Delhi, mercury plummeting to 9.4 degrees Celsius

PTI

**New Delhi, Nov 23:** Delhiites braved chilly winds in the city this morning with mercury plummeting to 9.4 degrees Celsius, two notches below the normal.

The minimum temperature, in areas falling under Lodhi Road and Ridge weather stations, however, was recorded at 8 and 8.7 degrees Celsius respectively, a MeT Department official said. "The weather is quite chilly and the minimum temperature tomorrow is predicted to dip to 9 degrees Celsius, which will be the lowest of the season here so far."

"Also, it will be the coldest November since 2014, when that year the mercury had last plummeted to 9 degrees Celsius in the same month. In November month of 2012 and 2013 also, the minimum temperature had fallen to 9 degrees Celsius," he said. The reading of 9.4 degrees Celsius, two notches below the normal, was recorded at Safdarjung Observatory, considered the official reading of the city. Palam and Ayanagar Observatories recorded 9.3 and 9.6 degrees Celsius respectively, the official said. Relative humidity was 55 per cent at 8.30 AM.

Schoolchildren, office-goers and sanitation staff braved the inclement weather in the morning, even as the sun shone bright, offering some comfort. The weatherman has forecast mainly clear sky with mist in the morning for the next 24 hours.

"The minimum and maximum temperatures for tomorrow are likely to be 9 and 24 degrees Celsius," the MeT official said. Yesterday the minimum temperature was recorded at 9.6 degrees Celsius.